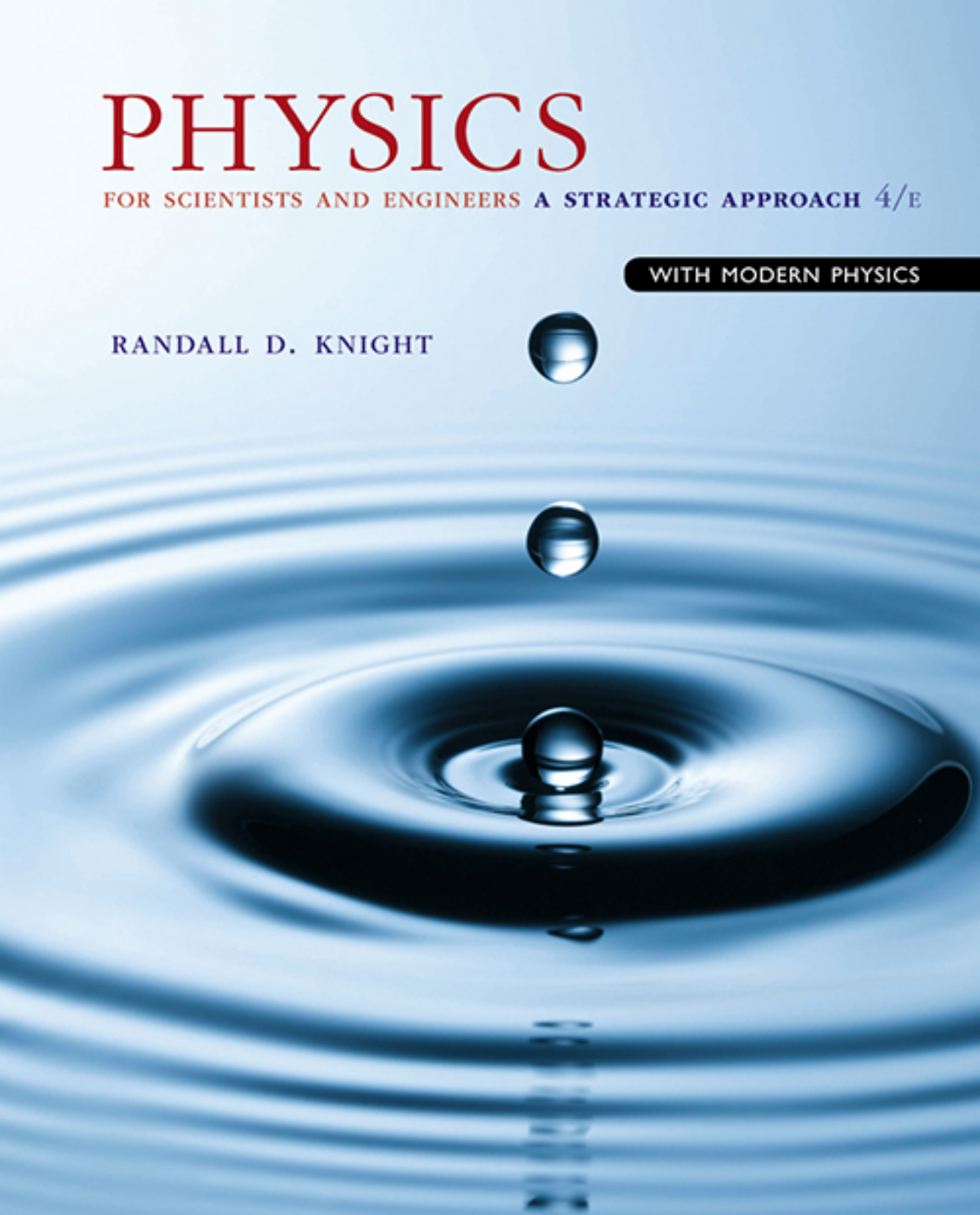
# PHYSICS

## FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS A STRATEGIC APPROACH 4/E

WITH MODERN PHYSICS

RANDALL D. KNIGHT



# Physics for Scientists and Engineers

A Strategic Approach 4/E with Modern Physics

**Randall D. Knight**

California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

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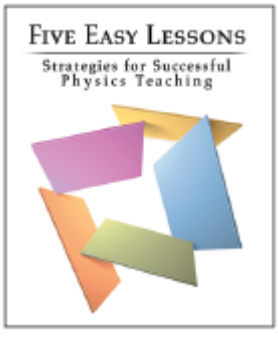
# Preface to the Instructor 

This fourth 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 move key 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.

These goals and the rationale behind them are discussed at length in the *Instructor's Guide* and in my small 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

For this fourth edition, we continue to apply 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. These include:

- **Chapter ordering changes** allow instructors to more easily organize content as needed to accommodate labs, schedules, and different teaching styles. Work and energy are now covered before momentum, oscillations are grouped with mechanical waves, and optics appears after electricity and magnetism.
- **Addition of advanced topics** as optional sections further expands instructors' options. Topics include rocket propulsion, gyroscopes, the wave equation (for mechanical and electromagnetic waves), the speed of sound in gases, and more details on the interference of light.
- **Model boxes** enhance the text's emphasis on modeling—analyzing a complex, real-world situation in terms of simple but reasonable idealizations that can be applied over and over in solving problems. These fundamental simplifications are developed in the text and then deployed more explicitly in the worked examples, helping students to recognize when and how to use recurring models.
- **Enhanced chapter previews** have been redesigned, with student input, to address the questions students are most likely to ask themselves while studying the material for the first time. The previews provide a big-picture overview of the chapter's key principles.
- **Looking Back pointers** enable students to look back at a previous chapter when it's important to review concepts. Pointers provide the

specific section to consult at the exact point in the text where they need to use this material.

- **Focused Part Overviews and Knowledge Structures** consolidate understanding of groups of chapters and give a tighter structure to the book as a whole. Reworked Knowledge Structures provide more targeted detail on overarching themes.
- **Updated visual program** that has been enhanced by revising over 500 pieces of art to increase the focus on key ideas.
- **Significantly revised end-of-chapter problem sets** include more challenging problems to expand the range of physics and math skills students will use to solve problems. A new icon for calculus-based problems has been added.

At the front of this book, you'll find an illustrated walkthrough of the new pedagogical features in this fourth edition.

## Textbook Organization

The 42-chapter extended edition (ISBN 978-0-133-94265-1 / 0-133-94265-1) of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* is intended for a three-semester course. Most of the 36-chapter standard edition (ISBN 978-0-134-08149-6 / 0-134-08149-8), ending with relativity, can be covered in two semesters, although the judicious omission of a few chapters will avoid rushing through the material and give students more time to develop their knowledge and skills.



The full textbook 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 Physics*. 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*, but optics can be taught either before or after electricity and magnetism.

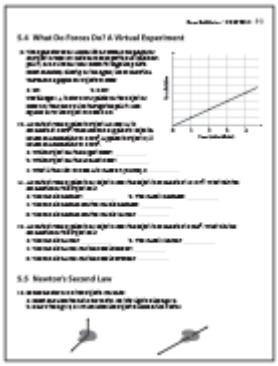
There's a growing sentiment that quantum physics is quickly becoming the province of engineers, not just scientists, and that even a two-semester course should include a reasonable introduction to quantum ideas. The *Instructor's Guide* outlines a couple of routes through the book that allow most of 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.

- **Extended edition,** with modern physics (ISBN 978-0-133-94265-1 / 0-133-94265-1): Chapters 1–42.
- **Standard edition** (ISBN 978-0-134-08149-6 / 0-134-08149-8): Chapters 1-36.
- **Volume 1** (ISBN 978-0-134-11068-4 / 0-134-11068-4) covers mechanics, waves, and thermodynamics: Chapters 1–21.
- **Volume 2** (ISBN 978-0-134-11066-0 / 0-134-11066-8) covers electricity and magnetism and optics, plus relativity: Chapters 22–36.
- **Volume 3** (ISBN 978-0-134-11065-3 / 0-134-11065-X) covers relativity and quantum physics: Chapters 36–42.

## 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.



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. **New to the fourth edition workbook** are exercises that provide guided practice for the textbook's Model boxes. The workbook exercises can be used in class as part of an active-learning teaching strategy, in recitation sections, or as assigned homework. More information about effective use of the *Student Workbook* can be found in the *Instructor's Guide*.

## Instructional Package

*Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach*, fourth edition, provides an integrated teaching and learning package of support material for students and instructors. **NOTE** For convenience, most instructor supplements can be downloaded from the "Instructor Resources" area of MasteringPhysics® and the Instructor Resource Center (www.pearsonhighered.com/educator).

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|---|---|---|---|---|
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| **Instructor's Solutions Manual**<br>ISBN 0-134-09246-5 | | ✓ | Instructor Supplement | This comprehensive solutions manual contains complete solutions to all end-of-chapter questions and problems. All problem solutions follow the Model/Visualize/Solve/Assess problem-solving strategy used in the text. |
| **Instructor's Guide**<br>ISBN 0-134-09248-1 | | ✓ | Instructor Supplement | Written by Randy Knight, this resource provides chapter-by-chapter creative ideas and teaching tips for use in your class. It also contains an extensive review of results of what has been learned from physics education research and provides guidelines for using active-learning techniques in your classroom. |
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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.

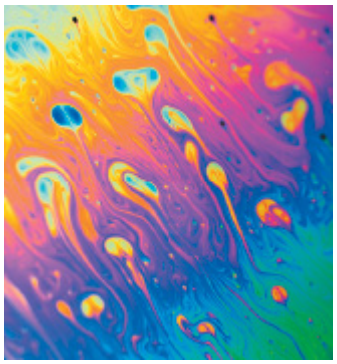
What's your reaction to taking physics? Fear and loathing? Uncertainty? Excitement? All the above? Let's face it, physics has a bit of an image problem on campus. You've probably heard that it's difficult, maybe impossible unless you're an Einstein. Things that you've heard, your experiences in other 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[vi]

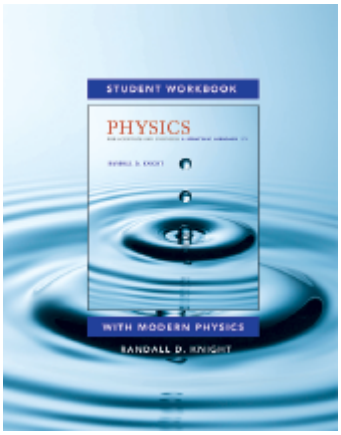
Many of you, I suspect, would like to know the "best" way to study for this course. There is no best way. People are different, and what works for one student is less effective for another. But I do want to stress that *reading the text* is vitally important. The basic knowledge for this course is written 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.

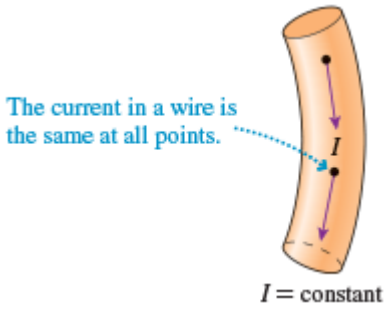
Many of you, I know, will be tempted to go straight to the homework problems and then thumb through the text looking for a formula that seems like it will work. That approach will not succeed in this course, and it's guaranteed to make you frustrated and discouraged. Very few homework problems are of 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, ASSESS**.
- 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

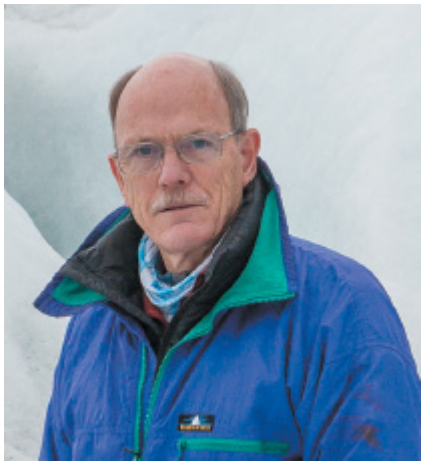
received from thousands of students like you, and their instructors, who used the first three editions of this book.

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.

# About the Author





**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 Ph.D. 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. It was at Ohio State that he began to learn about the research in physics education that, many years later, led to *Five Easy Lessons: Strategies for Successful Physics Teaching* and this book, as well as *College Physics: A Strategic Approach*, co-authored with Brian Jones and Stuart Field. 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, sea kayaking, playing the piano, or spending time with his wife Sally and their five cats.

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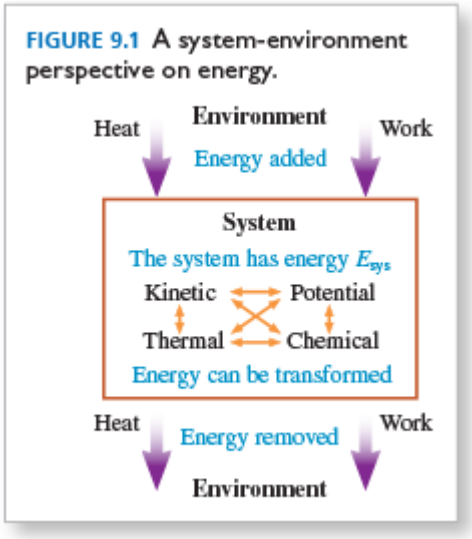


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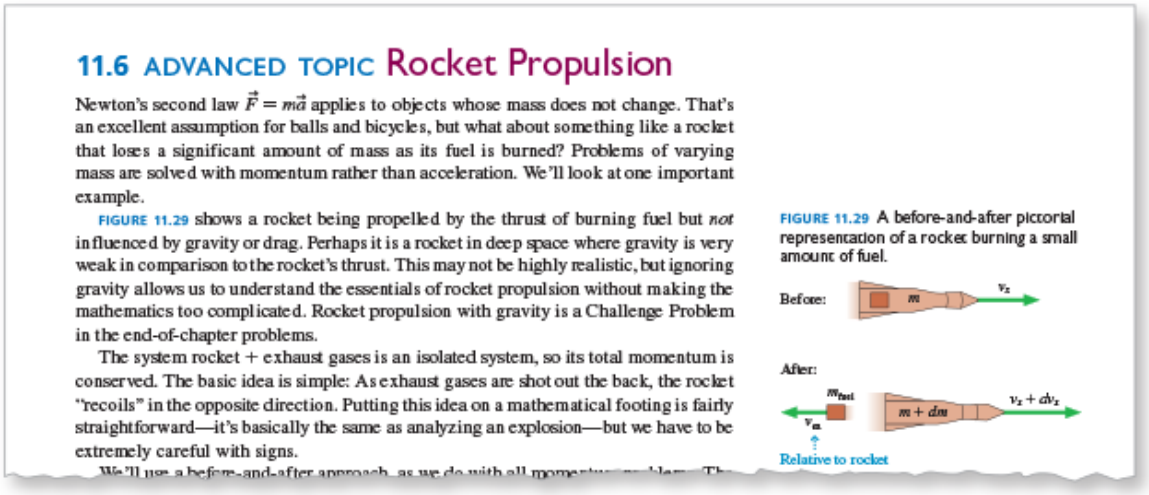

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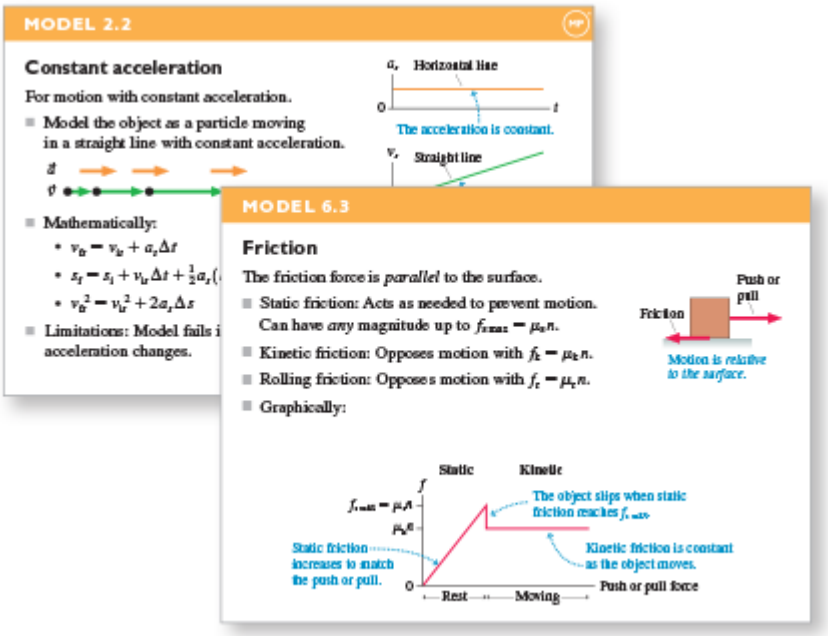
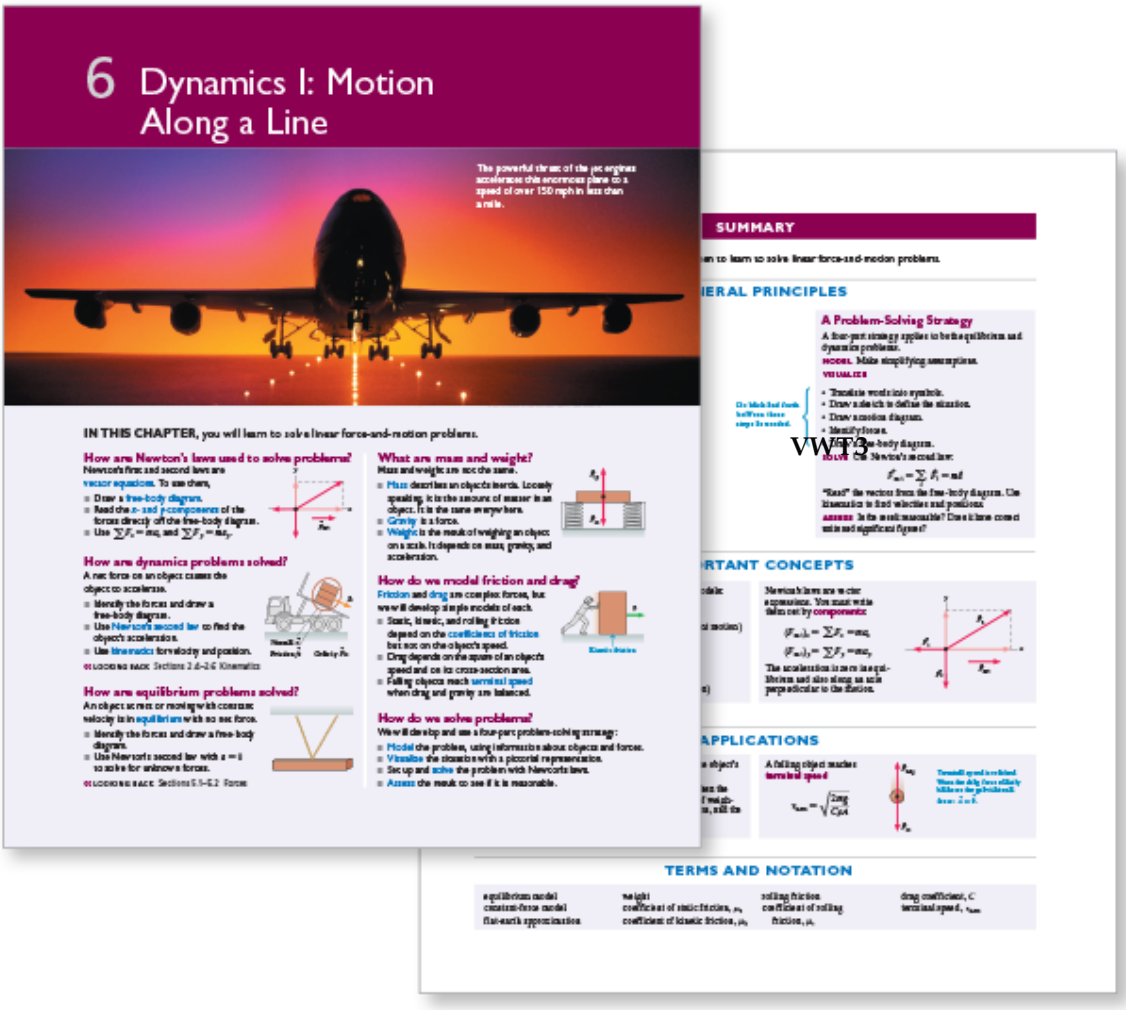



**NEW! MODEL BOXES** enhance the text's emphasis on modeling—analyzing a complex, real-world situation in terms of simple but reasonable idealizations that can be applied over and over in solving problems. These fundamental simplifications are developed in the text and then deployed more explicitly in the worked examples, helping students to recognize when and how to use recurring models, a key critical-thinking skill.

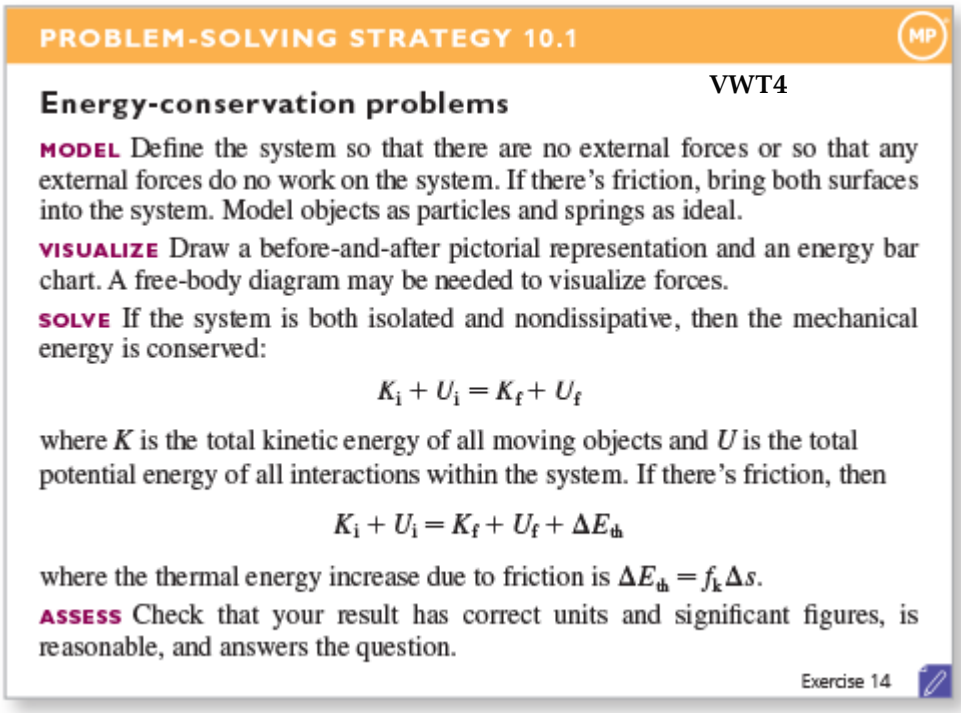



**REVISED! ENHANCED CHAPTER PREVIEWS**, based on the educational psychology concept of an "advance organizer," have been reconceived to address the questions students are most likely to ask themselves while studying the material for the first time. Questions cover the important ideas, and provide a big-picture overview of the chapter's key principles. Each chapter concludes with the visual Chapter Summary, consolidating and structuring understanding.

## A Structured and Consistent Approach Builds Problem-Solving Skills and Confidence

With a research-based 4-step problem-solving framework used throughout the text, students learn the importance of making assumptions (in the MODEL step) and gathering information and making sketches (in the VISUALIZE step) before treating the problem mathematically (SOLVE) and then analyzing their results (ASSESS).

Detailed **PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES** for different topics and categories of problems (circular-motion problems, calorimetry problems, etc.) are developed throughout, each one built on the 4-step framework and carefully illustrated in worked examples.



**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 10.1** MP

**VWT4**

**Energy-conservation problems**

**MODEL** Define the system so that there are no external forces or so that any external forces do no work on the system. If there's friction, bring both surfaces into the system. Model objects as particles and springs as ideal.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart. A free-body diagram may be needed to visualize forces.

**SOLVE** If the system is both isolated and nondissipative, then the mechanical energy is conserved:

$$K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f$$

where $K$ is the total kinetic energy of all moving objects and $U$ is the total potential energy of all interactions within the system. If there's friction, then

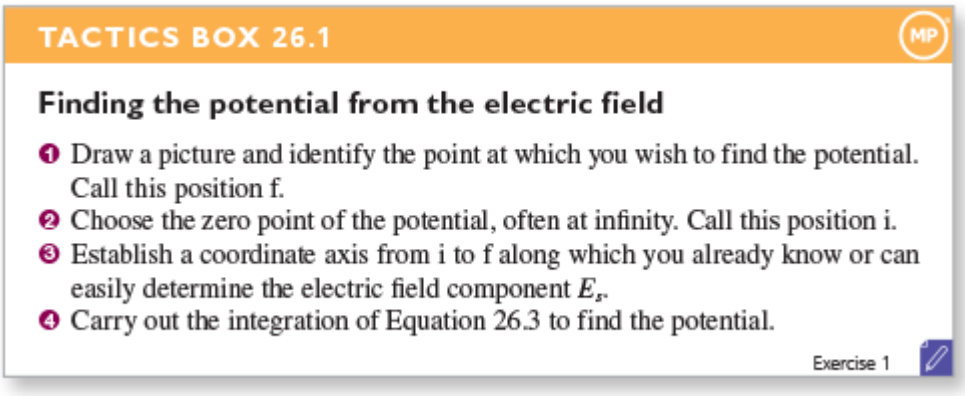
$$K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f + \Delta E_{th}$$

where the thermal energy increase due to friction is $\Delta E_{th} = f_k \Delta s$.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Exercise 14

**TACTICS BOXES** give step-by-step procedures for developing specific skills (drawing free-body diagrams, using ray tracing, etc.).



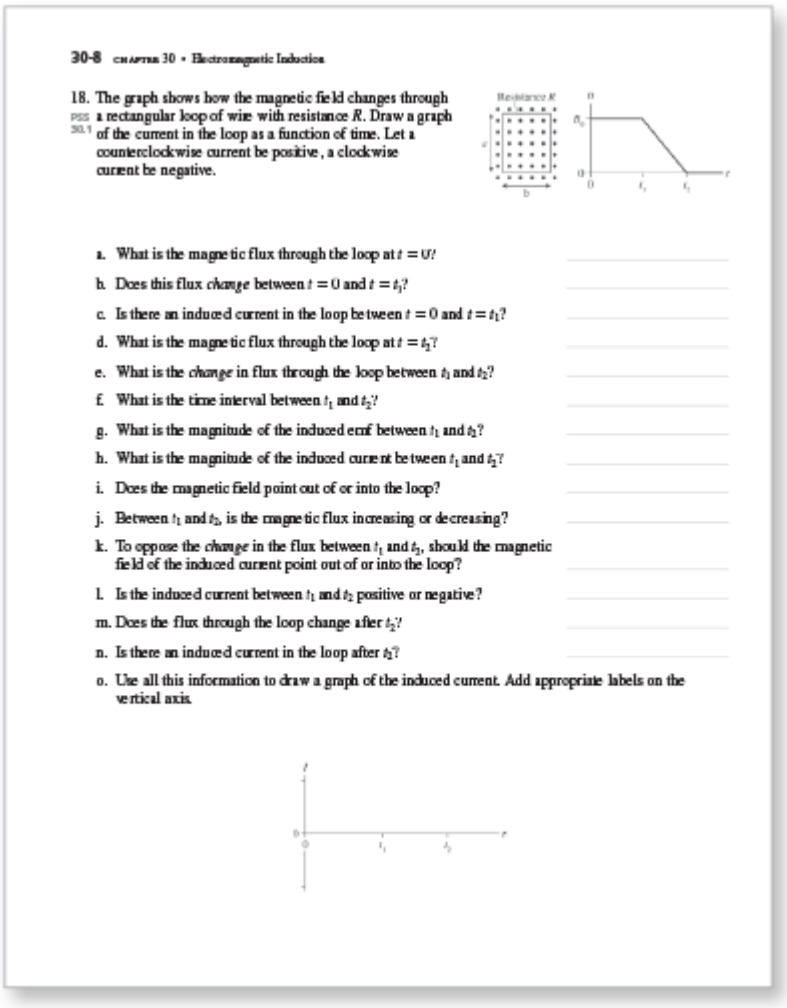
**TACTICS BOX 26.1**

**Finding the potential from the electric field**

1. Draw a picture and identify the point at which you wish to find the potential. Call this position f.
2. Choose the zero point of the potential, often at infinity. Call this position i.
3. Establish a coordinate axis from i to f along which you already know or can easily determine the electric field component $E_s$.
4. Carry out the integration of Equation 26.3 to find the potential.

Exercise 1

The **REVISED STUDENT WORKBOOK** is tightly integrated with the main text–allowing students to practice skills from the text's Tactics Boxes, work through the steps of Problem-Solving Strategies, and assess the applicability of the Models. Specific workbook exercises are referenced throughout the eText in the lower left corner at the end of these features. In the printed text, there is also a pencil icon: .



30-8 CHAPTER 30 • Electromagnetic Induction

18. The graph shows how the magnetic field changes through a rectangular loop of wire with resistance $R$. Draw a graph of the current in the loop as a function of time. Let a counterclockwise current be positive, a clockwise current be negative.

PSS 30.1

a. What is the magnetic flux through the loop at $t = 0$?

b. Does this flux *change* between $t = 0$ and $t = t_1$?

c. Is there an induced current in the loop between $t = 0$ and $t = t_1$?

d. What is the magnetic flux through the loop at $t = t_2$?

e. What is the *change* in flux through the loop between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

f. What is the time interval between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

g. What is the magnitude of the induced emf between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

h. What is the magnitude of the induced current between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

i. Does the magnetic field point out of or into the loop?

j. Between $t_1$ and $t_2$, is the magnetic flux increasing or decreasing?

k. To oppose the *change* in the flux between $t_1$ and $t_2$, should the magnetic field of the induced current point out of or into the loop?

l. Is the induced current between $t_1$ and $t_2$ positive or negative?

m. Does the flux through the loop change after $t_2$?

n. Is there an induced current in the loop after $t_2$?

o. Use all this information to draw a graph of the induced current. Add appropriate labels on the vertical axis.

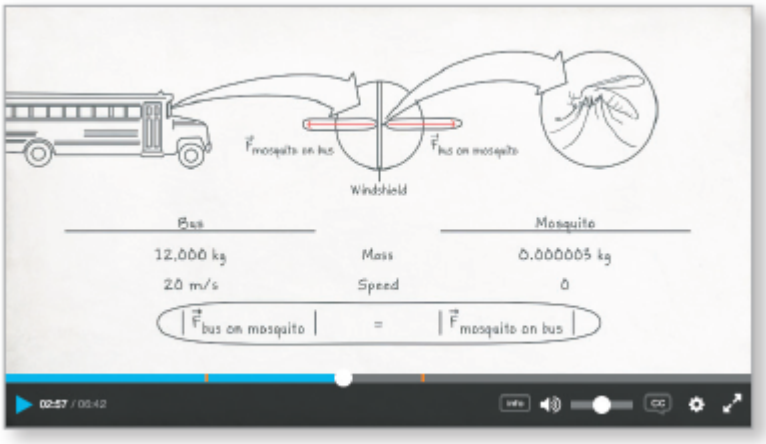
# Mastering Physics

## The Ultimate Resource Before, During, and After Class

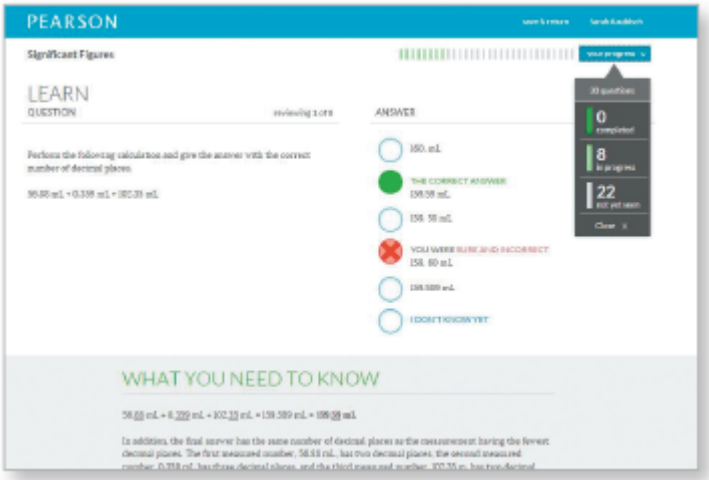
### Before Class

**NEW! INTERACTIVE PRELECTURE VIDEOS** address the rapidly growing movement toward pre-lecture teaching and flipped classrooms. These whiteboard-style animations provide an introduction to key topics

with embedded assessment to help students prepare and professors identify student misconceptions before lecture.



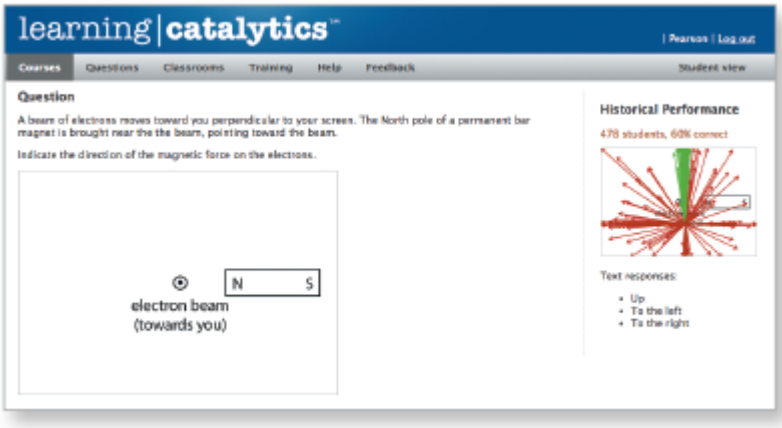

**NEW! DYNAMIC STUDY MODULES (DSMs)** continuously assess students' performance in real time to provide personalized question and explanation content until students master the module with confidence. The DSMs cover basic math skills and key definitions and relationships for topics across all of mechanics and electricity and magnetism.




## During Class

**NEW! LEARNING CATALYTICS™** is an interactive classroom tool that uses students' devices to engage them in more sophisticated tasks and

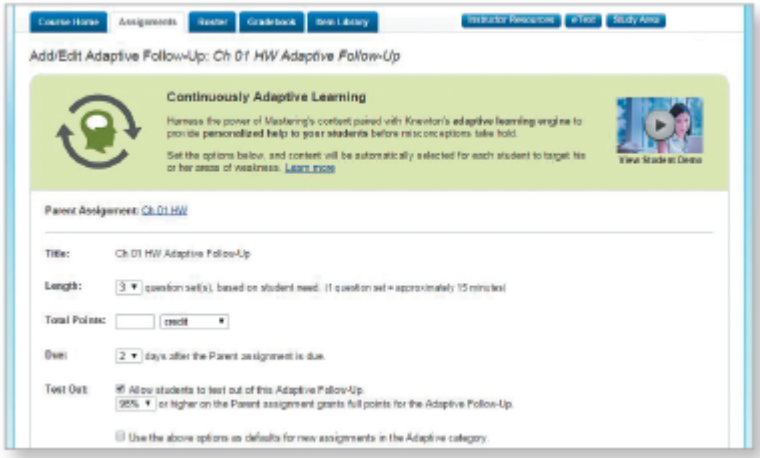
thinking. Learning Catalytics enables instructors to generate classroom discussion and promote peer-to-peer learning to help students develop critical-thinking skills. Instructors can take advantage of real-time analytics to find out where students are struggling and adjust their instructional strategy.




## After Class

**NEW! ENHANCED END-OF-CHAPTER QUESTIONS** offer students instructional support when and where they need it, including links to the eText, math remediation, and wrong-answer feedback for homework assignments.

**ADAPTIVE FOLLOW-UPS** are personalized assignments that pair Mastering's powerful content with Knewton's adaptive learning engine to provide individualized help to students before misconceptions take hold. These adaptive follow-ups address topics students struggled with on assigned homework, including core prerequisite topics.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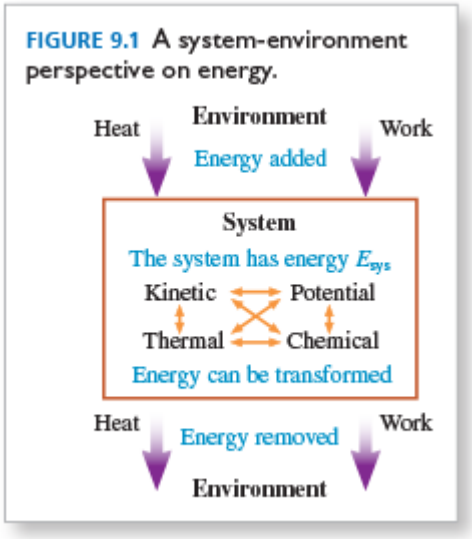


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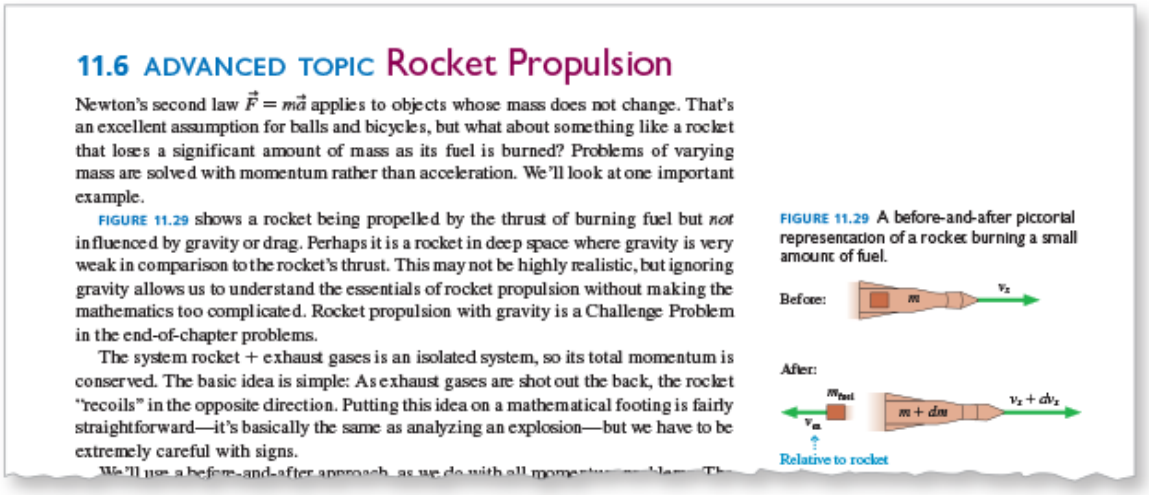

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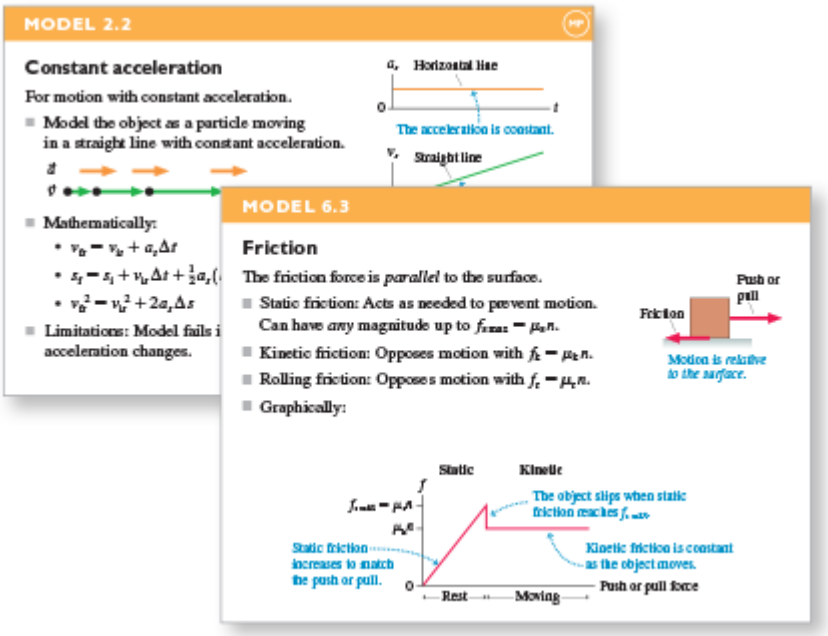
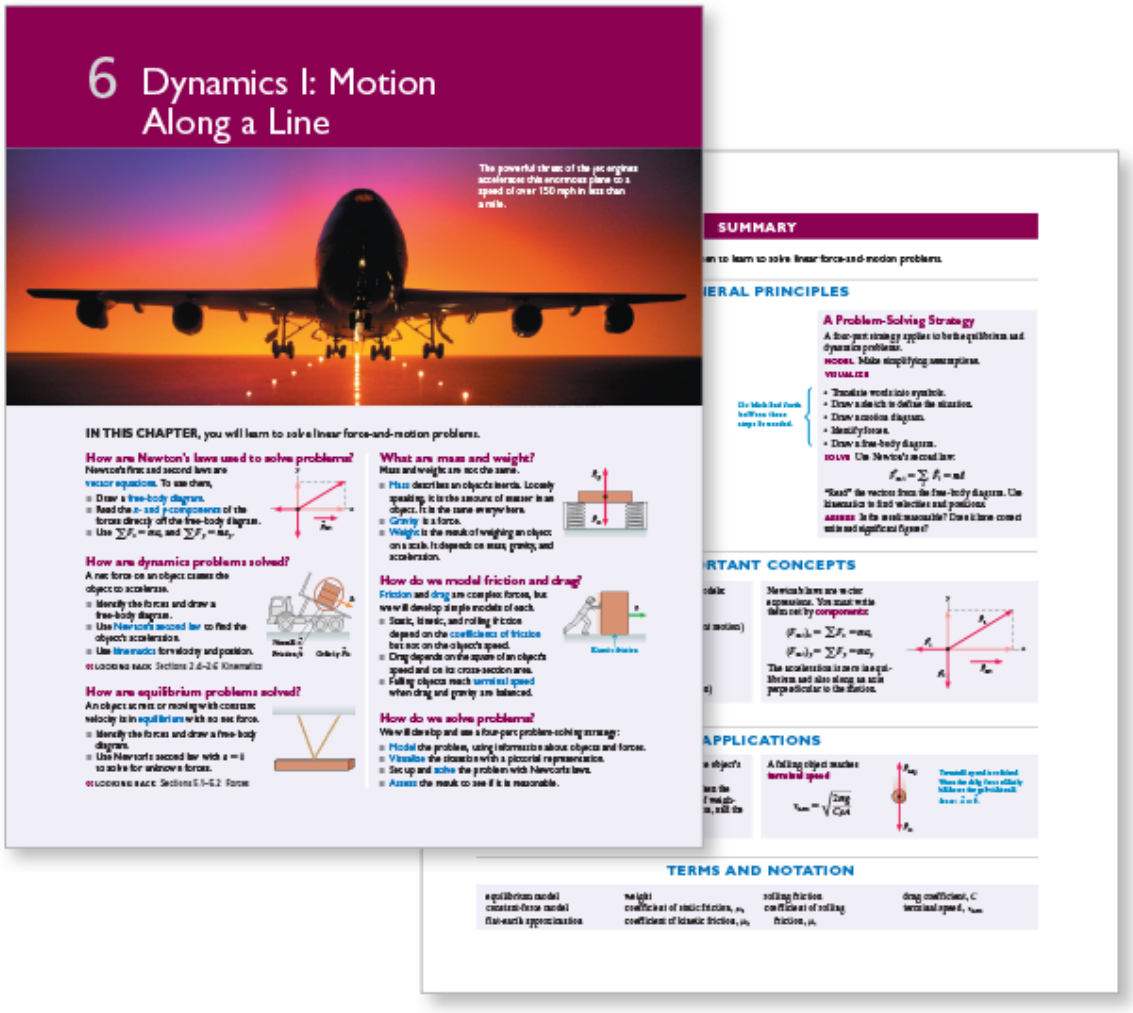
## New and Updated Learning Tools Promote Deeper and Better-Connected Understanding




**NEW! MODEL BOXES** enhance the text's emphasis on modeling—analyzing a complex, real-world situation in terms of simple but reasonable idealizations that can be applied over and over in solving problems. These fundamental simplifications are developed in the text and then deployed more explicitly in the worked examples, helping students to recognize when and how to use recurring models, a key critical-thinking skill.



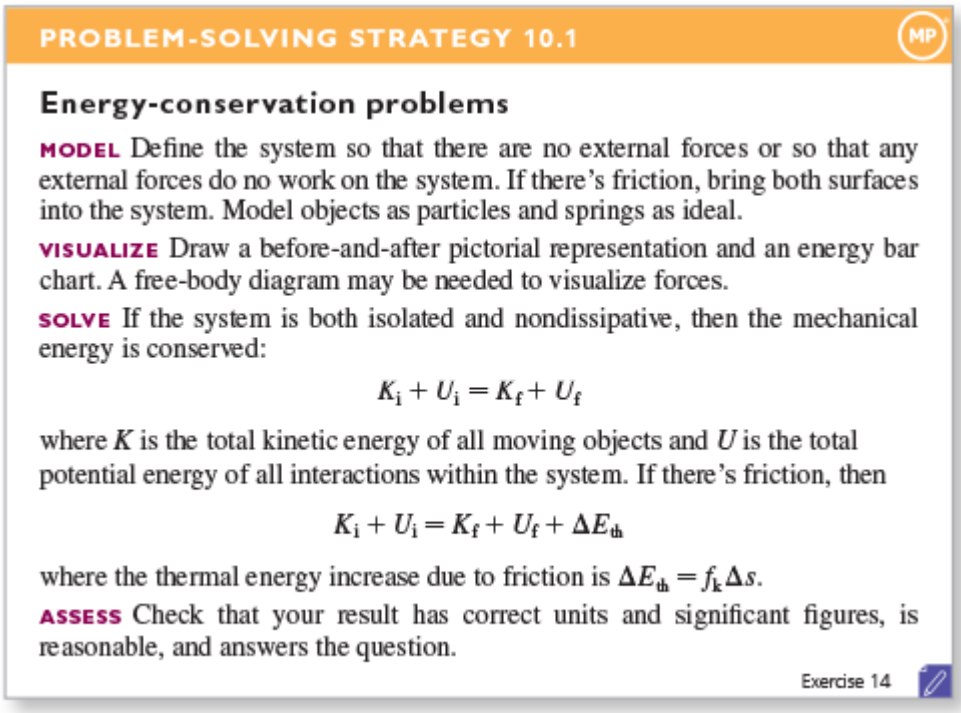

**REVISED! ENHANCED CHAPTER PREVIEWS**, based on the educational psychology concept of an "advance organizer," have been reconceived to address the questions students are most likely to ask themselves while studying the material for the first time. Questions cover the important ideas, and provide a big-picture overview of the chapter's key principles. Each chapter concludes with the visual Chapter Summary, consolidating and structuring understanding.

**VWT3**

## A Structured and Consistent Approach Builds Problem-Solving Skills and Confidence

With a research-based 4-step problem-solving framework used throughout the text, students learn the importance of making assumptions (in the MODEL step) and gathering information and making sketches (in the VISUALIZE step) before treating the problem mathematically (SOLVE) and then analyzing their results (ASSESS).

Detailed **PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES** for different topics and categories of problems (circular-motion problems, calorimetry problems, etc.) are developed throughout, each one built on the 4-step framework and carefully illustrated in worked examples.



**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 10.1** MP

### Energy-conservation problems

**MODEL** Define the system so that there are no external forces or so that any external forces do no work on the system. If there's friction, bring both surfaces into the system. Model objects as particles and springs as ideal.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart. A free-body diagram may be needed to visualize forces.

**SOLVE** If the system is both isolated and nondissipative, then the mechanical energy is conserved:

$$K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f$$

where $K$ is the total kinetic energy of all moving objects and $U$ is the total potential energy of all interactions within the system. If there's friction, then

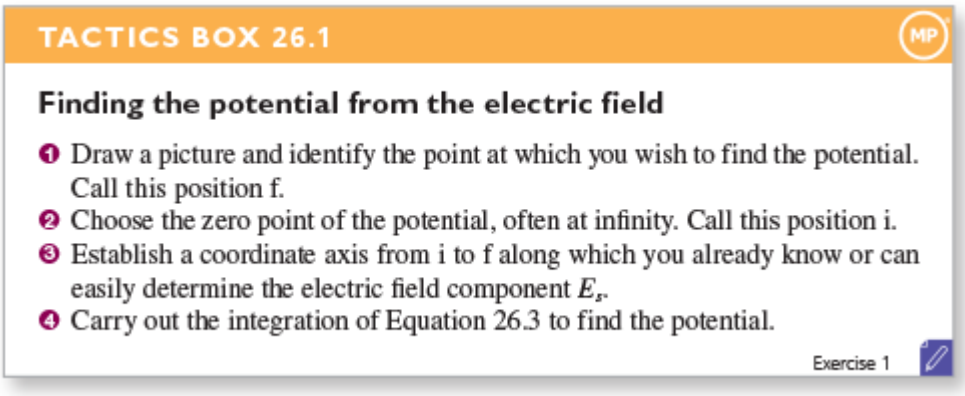
$$K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f + \Delta E_{th}$$

where the thermal energy increase due to friction is $\Delta E_{th} = f_k \Delta s$.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Exercise 14

**TACTICS BOXES** give step-by-step procedures for developing specific skills (drawing free-body diagrams, using ray tracing, etc.).



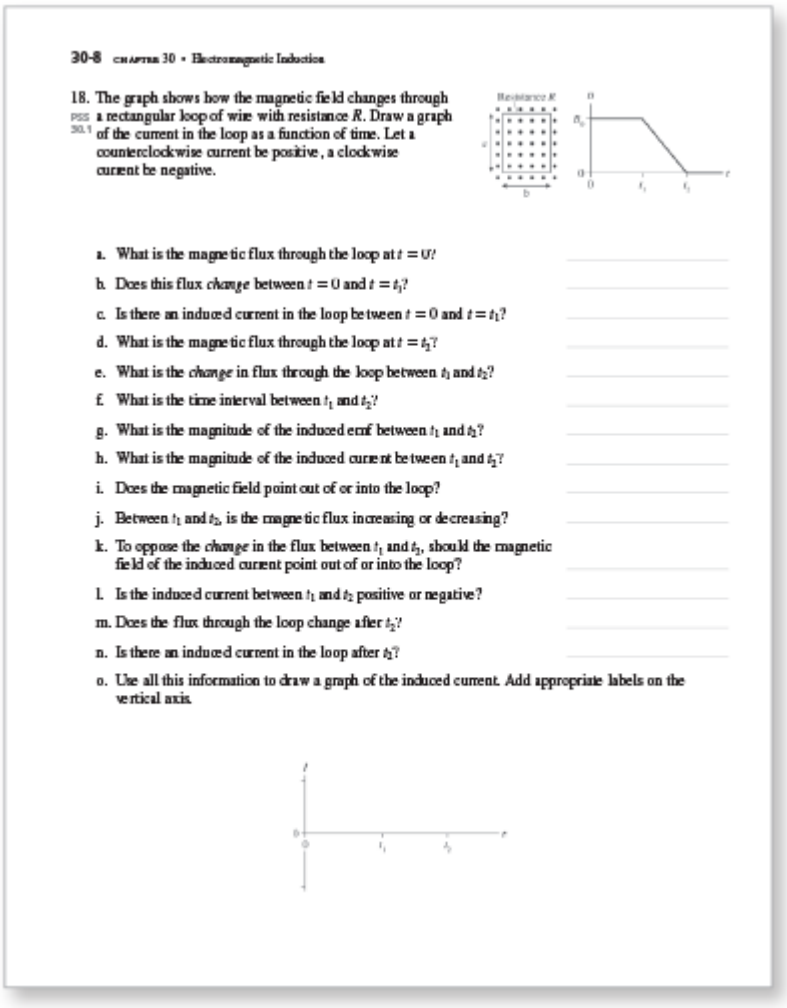
**TACTICS BOX 26.1**

**Finding the potential from the electric field**

1. Draw a picture and identify the point at which you wish to find the potential. Call this position f.
2. Choose the zero point of the potential, often at infinity. Call this position i.
3. Establish a coordinate axis from i to f along which you already know or can easily determine the electric field component $E_s$.
4. Carry out the integration of Equation 26.3 to find the potential.

Exercise 1

The **REVISED STUDENT WORKBOOK** is tightly integrated with the main text–allowing students to practice skills from the text's Tactics Boxes, work through the steps of Problem-Solving Strategies, and assess the applicability of the Models. Specific workbook exercises are referenced throughout the eText in the lower left corner at the end of these features. In the printed text, there is also a pencil icon: .



30-8 CHAPTER 30 • Electromagnetic Induction

18. The graph shows how the magnetic field changes through a rectangular loop of wire with resistance $R$. Draw a graph of the current in the loop as a function of time. Let a counterclockwise current be positive, a clockwise current be negative.

PSS 30.1

a. What is the magnetic flux through the loop at $t = 0$?

b. Does this flux *change* between $t = 0$ and $t = t_1$?

c. Is there an induced current in the loop between $t = 0$ and $t = t_1$?

d. What is the magnetic flux through the loop at $t = t_2$?

e. What is the *change* in flux through the loop between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

f. What is the time interval between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

g. What is the magnitude of the induced emf between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

h. What is the magnitude of the induced current between $t_1$ and $t_2$?

i. Does the magnetic field point out of or into the loop?

j. Between $t_1$ and $t_2$, is the magnetic flux increasing or decreasing?

k. To oppose the *change* in the flux between $t_1$ and $t_2$, should the magnetic field of the induced current point out of or into the loop?

l. Is the induced current between $t_1$ and $t_2$ positive or negative?

m. Does the flux through the loop change after $t_2$?

n. Is there an induced current in the loop after $t_2$?

o. Use all this information to draw a graph of the induced current. Add appropriate labels on the vertical axis.

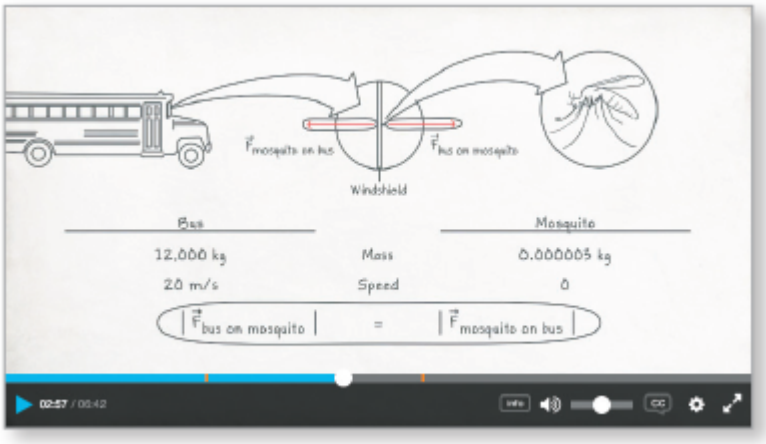
# Mastering Physics

## The Ultimate Resource Before, During, and After Class

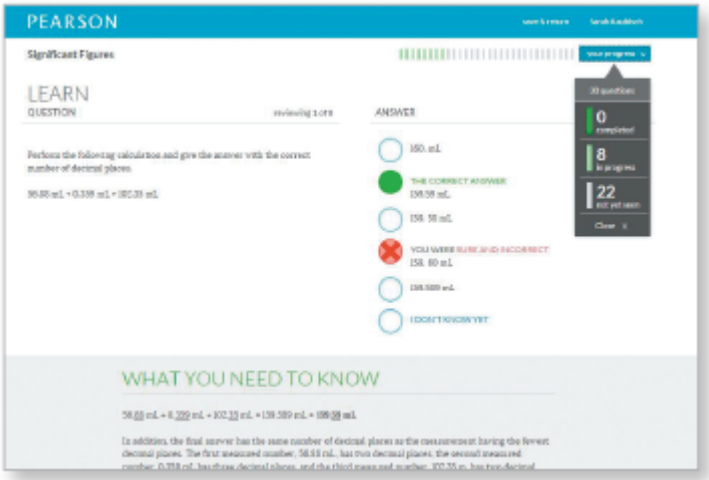
### Before Class

**NEW! INTERACTIVE PRELECTURE VIDEOS** address the rapidly growing movement toward pre-lecture teaching and flipped classrooms. These whiteboard-style animations provide an introduction to key topics

with embedded assessment to help students prepare and professors identify student misconceptions before lecture.



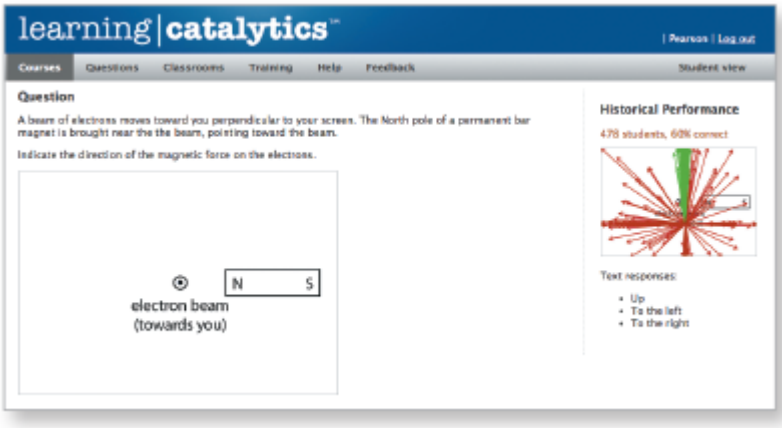

**NEW! DYNAMIC STUDY MODULES (DSMs)** continuously assess students' performance in real time to provide personalized question and explanation content until students master the module with confidence. The DSMs cover basic math skills and key definitions and relationships for topics across all of mechanics and electricity and magnetism.




## During Class

**NEW! LEARNING CATALYTICS™** is an interactive classroom tool that uses students' devices to engage them in more sophisticated tasks and

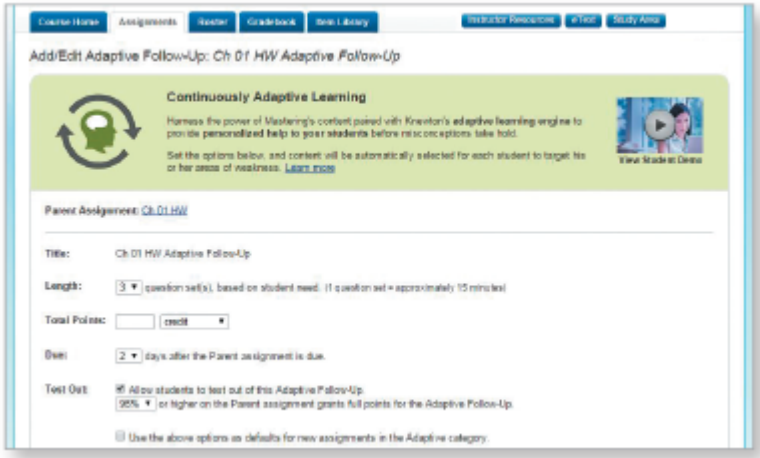
thinking. Learning Catalytics enables instructors to generate classroom discussion and promote peer-to-peer learning to help students develop critical-thinking skills. Instructors can take advantage of real-time analytics to find out where students are struggling and adjust their instructional strategy.




## After Class

**NEW! ENHANCED END-OF-CHAPTER QUESTIONS** offer students instructional support when and where they need it, including links to the eText, math remediation, and wrong-answer feedback for homework assignments.

**ADAPTIVE FOLLOW-UPS** are personalized assignments that pair Mastering's powerful content with Knewton's adaptive learning engine to provide individualized help to students before misconceptions take hold. These adaptive follow-ups address topics students struggled with on assigned homework, including core prerequisite topics.


Course Home
Assignments
Roster
Gradebook
Item Library
Instructor Resources
eText
Study Area
Add/Edit Adaptive Follow-Up: Ch 01 HW Adaptive Follow-Up
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Set the options below, and content will be automatically selected for each student to target his or her areas of weakness. Learn more
View Student Demo
Parent Assignment: Ch 01 HW
Title:
Ch 01 HW Adaptive Follow-Up
Length:
3
question set(s), based on student need. (1 question set = approximately 15 minutes)
Total Points:
credit
Due:
2
days after the Parent assignment is due.
Test Out:
Allow students to test out of this Adaptive Follow-Up.
95%
or higher on the Parent assignment grants full points for the Adaptive Follow-Up.
Use the above options as defaults for new assignments in the Adaptive category.

# Problem-Solving Strategies and Model Boxes



*Note for users of the three-volume edition:*

Volume 1 (pp. 1–600) includes Chapters 1–21.

Volume 2 (pp. 601–1062) includes Chapters 22–36.

Volume 3 (pp. 1021–1240) includes Chapters 36–42.

Chapters 37–42 are not in the Standard Edition.

## Problem-Solving Strategy

1.1 Motion diagrams

1.2 General problem-solving strategy

2.1 Kinematics with constant acceleration

4.1 Projectile motion problems

6.1 Newtonian mechanics

7.1 Interacting-objects problems

8.1 Circular-motion problems

10.1 Energy-conservation problems

11.1 Conservation of momentum

12.1 Rotational dynamics problems

17.1 Interference of two waves

19.1 Work in ideal-gas processes

19.2 Calorimetry problems

21.1 Heat-engine problems

22.1 Electrostatic forces and Coulomb's law

23.1 The electric field of multiple point charges

23.2 The electric field of a continuous distribution of charge

24.1 Gauss's law

25.1 Conservation of energy in charge interactions

25.2 The electric potential of a continuous distribution of charge

28.1 Resistor circuits

29.1 The magnetic field of a current

30.1 Electromagnetic induction

36.1 Relativity

40.1 Quantum-mechanics problems

## Model

2.1 Uniform motion

2.2 Constant acceleration

4.1 Projectile motion

4.2 Uniform circular motion

4.3 Constant angular acceleration

5.1 Ball-and-spring model of solids

6.1 Mechanical equilibrium

6.2 Constant force

6.3 Friction

8.1 Central force with constant $r$

9.1 Basic energy model

11.1 Collisions

12.1 Rigid-body model

12.2 Constant torque

12.3 Static equilibrium

14.1 Molecular model of gases and liquids

14.2 Ideal fluid

15.1 Simple harmonic motion

16.1 The wave model

18.1 Solids, liquids, and gases

19.1 Thermodynamic energy model

22.1 Charge model

22.2 Electric field

23.1 Four key electric fields

26.1 Charge escalator model of a battery

29.1 Three key magnetic fields

33.1 Wave model of light

34.1 Ray model of light

38.1 Photon model of light

38.2 The Bohr model of the atom

# Part I: Newton's Laws

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.

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

There are two big questions we must tackle:

- **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, 2, 3 and 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? Are there "laws of nature" that 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, 6, 7 and 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, 2, 3, 4 and 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, 6, 7 and 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.

# Part I: Newton's Laws

1

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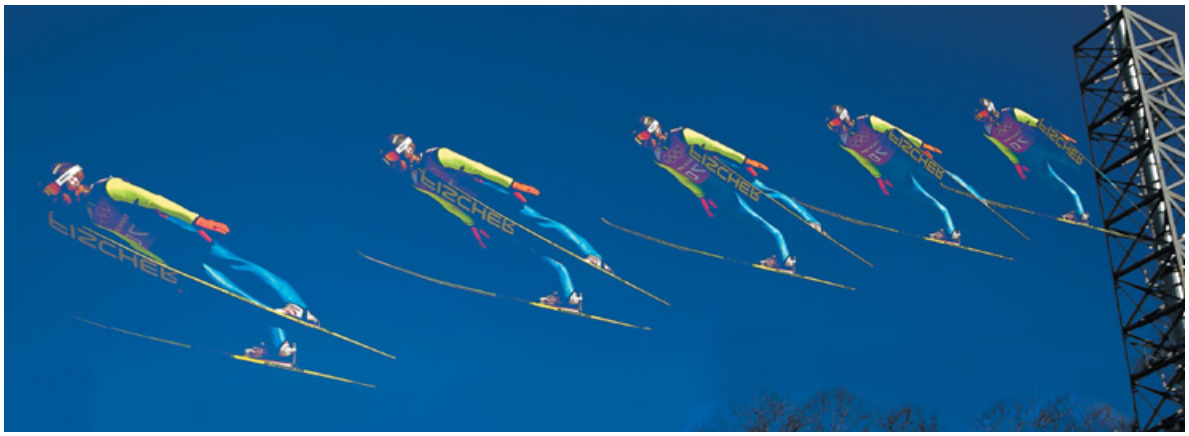
# Chapter 1
# Concepts of Motion



Motion takes many forms. The ski jumper seen here is an example of translational motion.

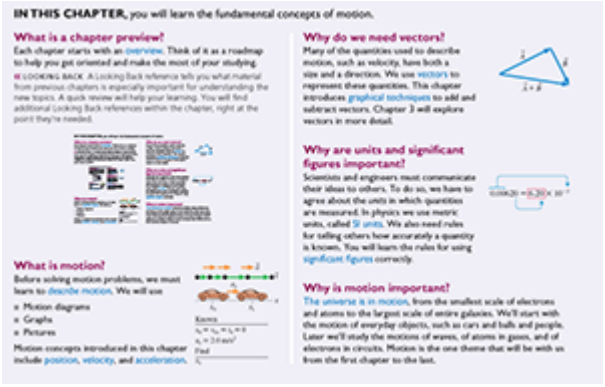
**In This Chapter**

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.

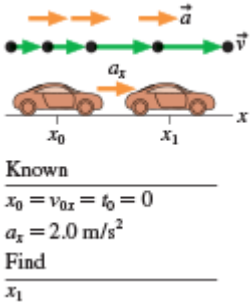



## What is motion?

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.




Known

$x_0 = v_{0x} = t_0 = 0$

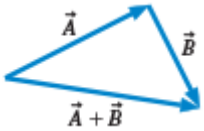
$a_x = 2.0\ \text{m/s}^2$

Find

$x_1$

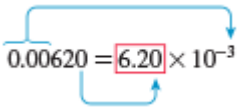
## Why do we need vectors?

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.

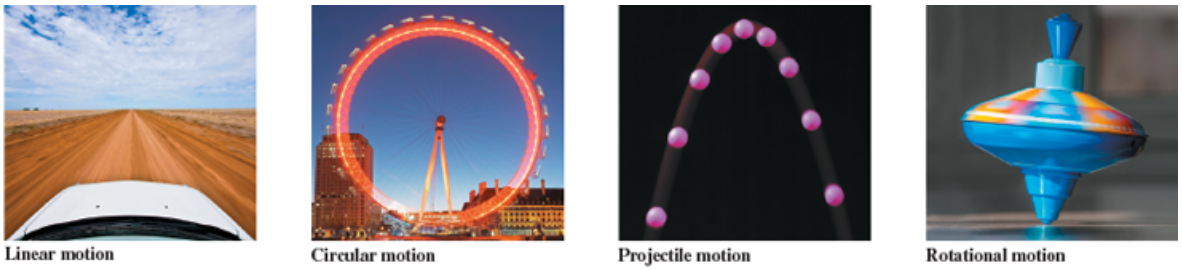
# 1.1 Motion Diagrams



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.

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 1.1**

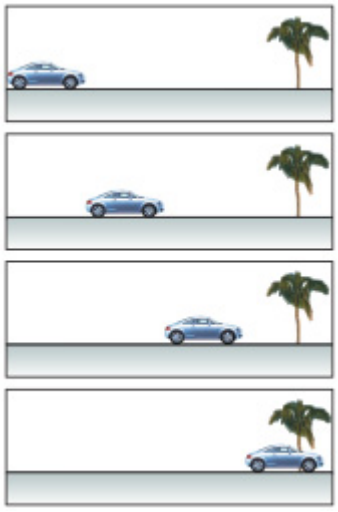



Four basic types of motion.

# 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.

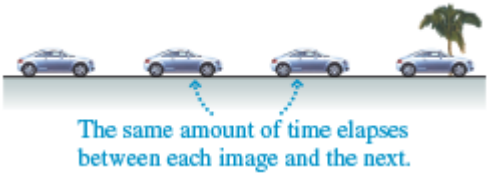
**Figure 1.2**



Four frames from a video.

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.*

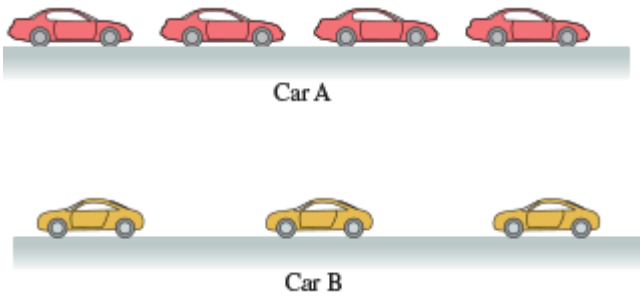
An *increasing distance* between the images shows that the object is *speeding up.*

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.

# 1.2 Models and Modeling[5]

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).

---

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:

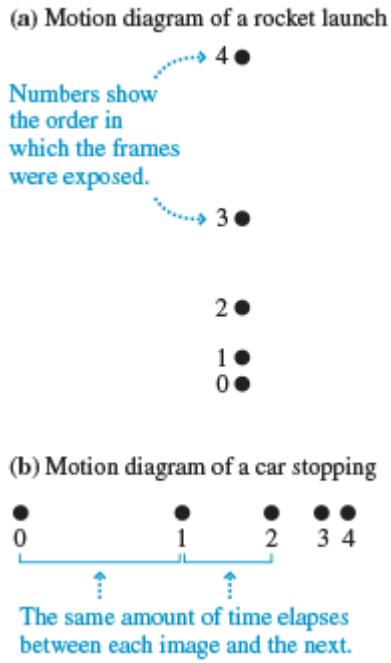
- *Descriptive models:* What are the essential characteristics and properties of a phenomenon? How do we describe it in the simplest possible terms? For example, the mass-on-a-spring model of an oscillating system is a descriptive model.
- *Explanatory models:* Why do things happen as they do? Explanatory 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.

## 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 exposed.

## Figure 1.4




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

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

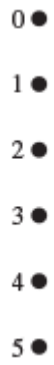
all while each tooth is moving in a different direction. We'll need to develop new models when we get to new types of motion, but the particle model will serve us well throughout Part I of this book.

## 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?

**a.**

**b.**



**c.**

0 ●

1 ●

2 ●

3 ●

4 ●

5 ●

# 1.3 Position, Time, and Displacement



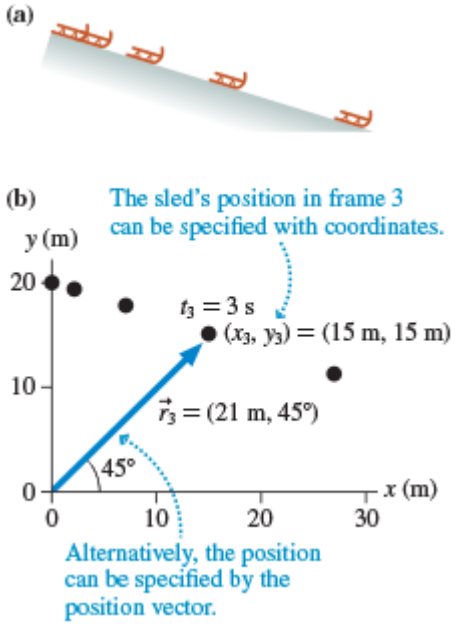
To use a motion diagram, you would like to know *where* the object is (i.e., its *position*) and *when* the object was at that position (i.e., the *time*). Position measurements can be made by laying a coordinate-system grid over a motion diagram. You can then measure the $(x, y)$ coordinates of each 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.

## Figure 1.5




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

> **Note**
>
> The frame at $t = 0$ 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.

# 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.

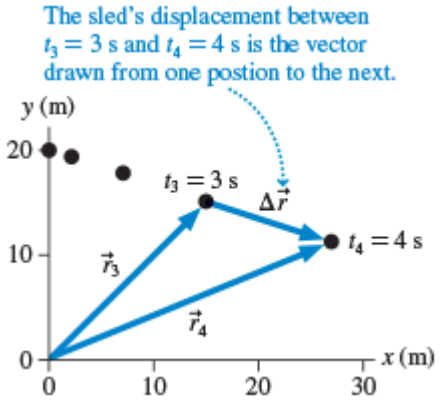
Many other quantities, however, have a directional aspect and cannot be described by a single number. To describe the motion of a car, for example, you must specify not only how fast it is moving, but also the *direction* in which it is moving. A quantity having both a *size* (the "How far?" or "How 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

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, $t_3 = 3\,\text{s}$ and $t_4 = 4\,\text{s}$, 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.

## Figure 1.6




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

> **Note**
>
> $\Delta\vec{r}$ is a *single* symbol. 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

**(1.1)**

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

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 shown in Tactics Box 1.1.

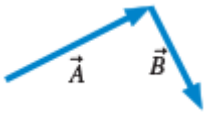
TACTICS BOX 1.1 **Vector addition**

**Mastering Physics**

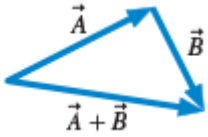
To add $\vec{B}$ to $\vec{A}$:

**1.** Draw $\vec{A}$.

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




**3.** 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 an initial position $\vec{r}_\text{i}$ to a final position $\vec{r}_\text{f}$ is**

**(1.2)**

$$\Delta\vec{r} = \vec{r}_\text{f} - \vec{r}_\text{i}$$

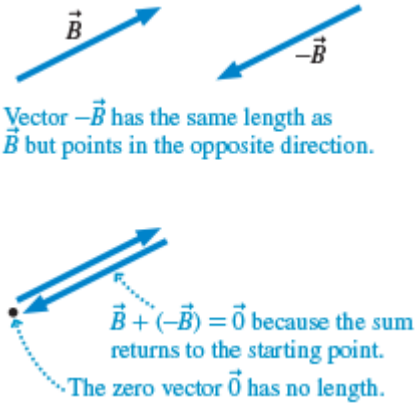
**Graphically, $\Delta\vec{r}$ is a vector arrow drawn from position $\vec{r}_\text{i}$ to position $\vec{r}_\text{f}$.**

> **Note**
>
> To be more general, we've written Equation 1.2 in terms of an *initial position* and a *final position,* indicated by subscripts i and f. We'll frequently use i and f when writing general equations, then use specific numbers or values, such as 3 and 4, when working a problem.

This definition of $\Delta\vec{r}$ involves *vector subtraction*. With numbers, subtraction is the same as the addition of a negative number. That is,

$5 - 3$ is the same as $5 + (-3)$. Similarly, we can use the rules for vector addition to find $\vec{A} - \vec{B} = \vec{A} + (-\vec{B})$ if we first define what we mean by $-\vec{B}$. As Figure 1.7 shows, the negative of vector $\vec{B}$ is a vector with the same length but pointing in the opposite direction. This makes sense because $\vec{B} - \vec{B} = \vec{B} + (-\vec{B}) = \vec{0}$, where $\vec{0}$, a vector with zero length, is called the **zero vector**.

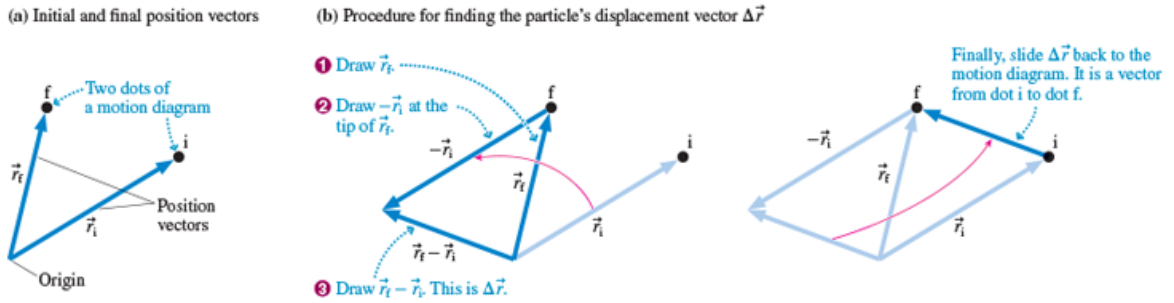
## Figure 1.7




The negative of a vector.

Figure 1.8 uses the vector subtraction rules of Tactics Box 1.2 to prove that the displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$ is simply the vector connecting the dots of a motion diagram.

## Figure 1.8




Using vector subtraction to find $\Delta\vec{r} = \vec{r}_f - \vec{r}_i$.

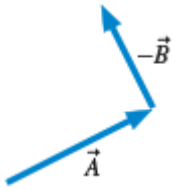
TACTICS BOX 1.2 **Vector subtraction**

**Mastering Physics**

To subtract $\vec{B}$ from $\vec{A}$:

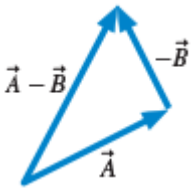
**1.** Draw $\vec{A}$.

**2.** Place the tail of $-\vec{B}$ at the tip of $\vec{A}$.




**3.** Draw an arrow from the tail of $\vec{A}$ to the tip of $-\vec{B}$.

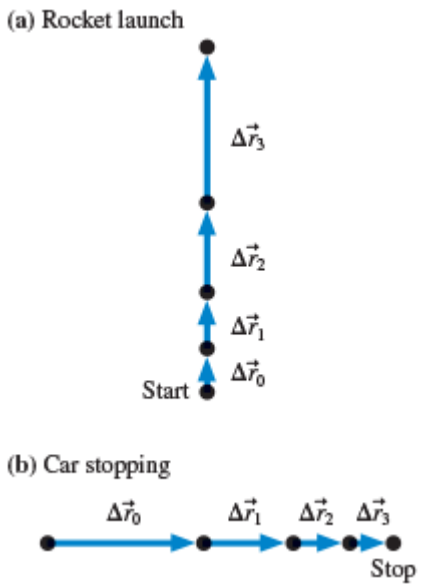
This is vector $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$.



# Motion Diagrams with Displacement Vectors

The first step in analyzing a motion diagram is to determine all of the displacement vectors. As Figure 1.8 shows, the displacement vectors 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 1.9 shows the motion diagrams of Figure 1.4 redrawn to include the displacement vectors. You do not need to show the position vectors.

## Figure 1.9




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.

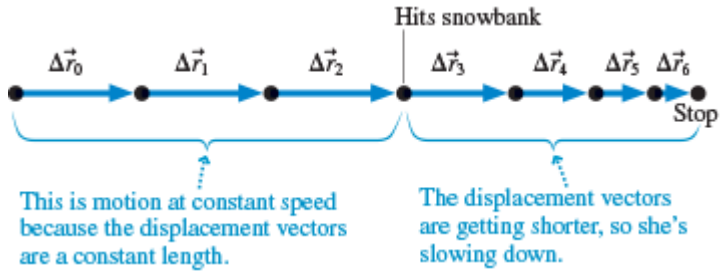
**Example 1.1 Headfirst into the snow**

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 1.10 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 1.10**




The motion diagram of Alice and the sled.

# Time Interval

It's also useful to consider a *change* in time. For example, the clock readings of two frames of film 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 $\Delta t = t_f - t_i$ measures the elapsed time as an object moves from an initial position $\vec{r}_i$ at time $t_i$ to a final position $\vec{r}_f$ at time $t_f$. The value of $\Delta t$ is independent of the specific clock used to measure the times.**

A stopwatch is used to measure a time interval.

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 $\Delta t$ because these are independent of the specific coordinate system used to measure them.

# 1.4 Velocity



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

**(1.3)**

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

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

**(1.4)**

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

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 boat's speed is 20 mph is not enough information!

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

---

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 $\vec{v}_{\text{avg}}$. **The average velocity of an object during the time interval $\Delta t$, in which the object undergoes a displacement $\Delta \vec{r}$, is the vector**

**(1.5)**

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

**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

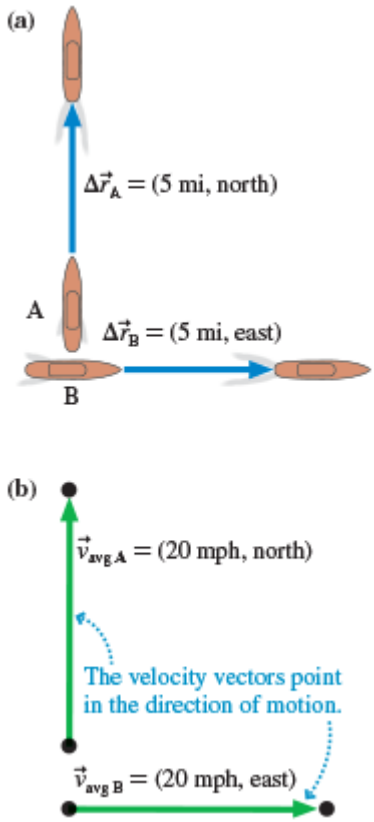
> we will be giving other words more precise meanings in physics than they have in everyday language.

As an example, Figure 1.11a shows two ships that move 5 miles in 15 minutes. Using Equation 1.5 with $\Delta t = 0.25$ h, we find

**(1.6)**

$$\overrightarrow{v}_{\text{avg A}} = (20 \text{ mph, north})$$
$$\overrightarrow{v}_{\text{avg B}} = (20 \text{ mph, east})$$

## Figure 1.11




The displacement vectors and velocities of ships A and B.

Both ships have a speed of 20 mph, but their velocities are different. Notice how the velocity *vectors* in Figure 1.11b point in the direction of motion.

**Note**

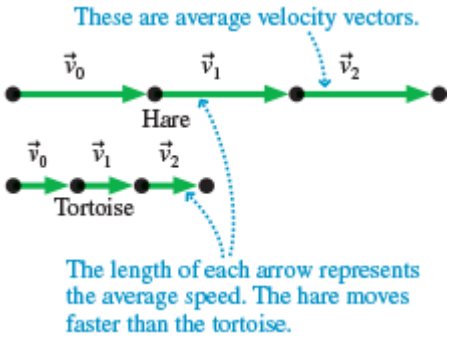
Our goal in this chapter is to *visualize* motion with motion diagrams. Strictly speaking, the vector we have defined in Equation 1.5, and the vector we will show on motion diagrams, is the *average* velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{avg}}$. But to allow the motion diagram to be a useful tool, we will drop the subscript and refer to the average velocity as simply $\vec{v}$. Our definitions and symbols, which somewhat blur the distinction between average and instantaneous quantities, are adequate for visualization purposes, but they're not the final word. We will refine these definitions in Chapter 2, where our goal will be to develop the mathematics of motion.

## Motion Diagrams with Velocity Vectors

The velocity vector points in the same direction as the displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$, and the length of $\vec{v}$ is directly proportional to the length of $\Delta\vec{r}$. Consequently, the vectors connecting each dot of a motion diagram to the next, which we previously labeled as displacements, could equally well be identified as velocity vectors.

This idea is illustrated in Figure 1.12, which shows four frames from the motion diagram of a tortoise racing a hare. The vectors connecting the dots are now labeled as velocity vectors $\vec{v}$. **The length of a velocity vector represents the average speed with which the object moves between the two points.** Longer velocity vectors indicate faster motion. You can see that the hare moves faster than the tortoise.

**Figure 1.12**




Motion diagram of the tortoise racing the hare.

Notice that the hare's velocity vectors do not change; each has the same length and direction. We say the hare is moving with *constant velocity*. The tortoise is also moving with its own constant velocity.

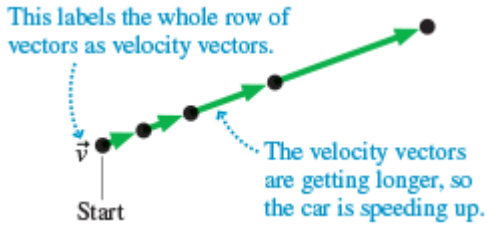
### Example 1.2 Accelerating up a hill

The light turns green and a car accelerates, starting from rest, up a 20° hill. Draw a motion diagram showing the car's velocity.

**MODEL** Use the particle model to represent the car as a dot.

**VISUALIZE** The car's motion takes place along a straight line, but the line is neither horizontal nor vertical. A motion diagram should show the object moving with the correct orientation—in this case, at an angle of 20°. Figure 1.13 shows several frames of the motion diagram, where we see the car speeding up. The car starts from rest, so the first arrow is drawn as short as possible and the first dot is labeled "Start." The displacement vectors have been drawn from each dot to the next, but then they are identified and labeled as average velocity vectors $\vec{v}$.

**Figure 1.13**




Motion diagram of a car accelerating up a hill.

### Example 1.3 A rolling soccer ball

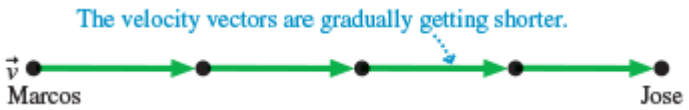
Marcos kicks a soccer ball. It rolls along the ground until stopped by Jose. Draw a motion diagram of the ball.

**MODEL** This example is typical of how many problems in science and engineering are worded. The problem does not give a clear statement of where the motion begins or ends. Are we interested in the motion of the ball just during the time it is rolling between Marcos and Jose? What about the motion *as* Marcos kicks it (ball rapidly speeding up) or *as* Jose stops it (ball rapidly slowing down)? The point is that *you* will often be called on to make a *reasonable interpretation* of a problem statement. In this problem, the details of kicking and stopping the ball are complex. The motion of the ball across the ground is easier to describe, and it's a motion you might expect to learn about in a physics class. So our *interpretation* is that the motion diagram should start as the ball leaves Marcos's foot (ball already moving) and should end the instant it touches Jose's foot (ball still moving). In between, the ball will slow down a little. We will model the ball as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** With this interpretation in mind, Figure 1.14 shows the motion diagram of the ball. Notice how, in contrast to the car of

Figure 1.13, the ball is already moving as the motion diagram video begins. As before, the average velocity vectors are found by connecting the dots. You can see that the average velocity vectors get shorter as the ball slows. Each $\vec{v}$ is different, so this is *not* constant-velocity motion.

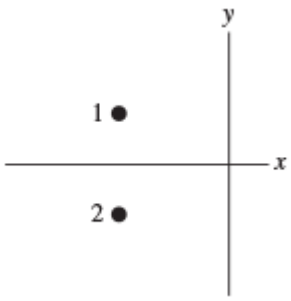
**Figure 1.14**




Motion diagram of a soccer ball rolling from Marcos to Jose.

## Stop to Think 1.3

A particle moves from position 1 to position 2 during the time interval $\Delta t$. Which vector shows the particle's average velocity?




**a.**

**b.**

c.

d.

e.

# 1.5 Linear Acceleration [12]

Position, time, and velocity are important concepts, and at first glance they might appear to be sufficient to describe motion. But that is not the case. Sometimes an object's velocity is constant, as it was in Figure 1.12. More often, an object's velocity changes as it moves, as in Figures 1.13 and 1.14. We need one more motion concept to describe a *change* in the velocity.

Because velocity is a vector, it can change in two possible ways:

1. The magnitude can change, indicating a change in speed; or
2. The direction can change, indicating that the object has changed direction.

We will concentrate for now on the first case, a change in speed. The car accelerating up a hill in Figure 1.13 was an example in which the magnitude of the velocity vector changed but not the direction. We'll return to the second case in Chapter 4.

When we wanted to measure changes in position, the ratio $\Delta \vec{r}/\Delta t$ was useful. This ratio is the *rate of change of position*. By analogy, consider an object whose velocity changes from an initial $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{i}}$ to a final $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{f}}$ during the time interval $\Delta t$. Just as $\Delta \vec{r} = \vec{r}_{\mathrm{f}} - \vec{r}_{\mathrm{i}}$ is the change of position, the quantity $\Delta \vec{v} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{f}} - \vec{v}_{\mathrm{i}}$ is the change of velocity. The ratio $\Delta \vec{v}/\Delta t$ is then the *rate of change of velocity*. It has a large magnitude for objects that speed up quickly and a small magnitude for objects that speed up slowly.

The ratio $\Delta\vec{v}/\Delta t$ is called the **average acceleration**, and its symbol is $\vec{a}_{\text{avg}}$. **The average acceleration of an object during the time interval $\Delta t$, in which the object's velocity changes by $\Delta\vec{v}$, is the vector**

The Audi TT accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in 6 s.

---

**(1.7)**

$$\vec{a}_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\Delta\vec{v}}{\Delta t}$$

**The average acceleration vector points in the same direction as the vector $\Delta\vec{v}$.**

Acceleration is a fairly abstract concept. Yet it is essential to develop a good intuition about acceleration because it will be a key concept for understanding why objects move as they do. Motion diagrams will be an important tool for developing that intuition.

> **Note**
>
> As we did with velocity, we will drop the subscript and refer to the average acceleration as simply $\vec{a}$. This is adequate for visualization purposes, but not the final word. We will refine the definition of acceleration in Chapter 2.

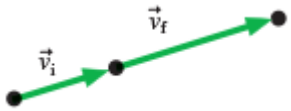
# Finding the Acceleration Vectors on a Motion Diagram

Let's look at how we can determine the average acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ from a motion diagram. From its definition, Equation 1.7, we see that $\vec{a}$ **points in the same direction as** $\Delta\vec{v}$, the change of velocity. This critical idea is the basis for a technique to find $\vec{a}$.

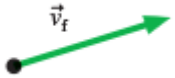
TACTICS BOX 1.3 **Finding the acceleration vector**

**Mastering Physics**

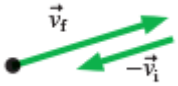
To find the acceleration as the velocity changes from $\vec{v}_i$ to $\vec{v}_f$, we must determine the *change* of velocity $\Delta\vec{v} = \vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i$.




**1.** Draw the velocity vector $\vec{v}_f$.

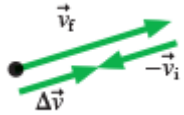



**2.** Draw $-\vec{v}_i$ at the tip of $\vec{v}_f$.

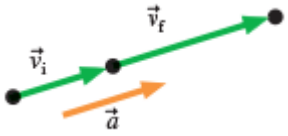



**3.** Draw $\Delta\vec{v} = \vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i = \vec{v}_f + (-\vec{v}_i)$

This is the direction of $\vec{a}$.




**4.** Return to the original motion diagram. Draw a vector at the middle dot in the direction of $\Delta\vec{v}$; label it $\vec{a}$. This is the average acceleration at the midpoint between $\vec{v}_i$ and $\vec{v}_f$.




Workbook Exercises 21, 22, 23, 24

Many Tactics Boxes will refer you to exercises in the *Student Workbook* where you can practice the new skill.

---

Notice that the acceleration vector goes beside the middle dot, not beside the velocity vectors. This is because each acceleration vector is determined by the *difference* between the *two* velocity vectors on either side of a dot. The length of $\vec{a}$ does not have to be the exact length of $\Delta\vec{v}$; it is the direction of $\vec{a}$ that is most important.

The procedure of Tactics Box 1.3 can be repeated to find $\vec{a}$ at each point in the motion diagram. Note that we cannot determine $\vec{a}$ at the first and last points because we have only one velocity vector and can't find $\Delta\vec{v}$.



## The Complete Motion Diagram

You've now seen several *Tactics Boxes* that help you accomplish specific tasks. Tactics Boxes will appear in nearly every chapter in this book. We'll also, where appropriate, provide *Problem-Solving Strategies*.

### PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 1.1 Motion diagrams

**Mastering Physics**

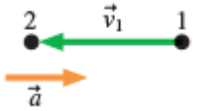
**MODEL** Determine whether it is appropriate to model the moving object as a particle. Make simplifying assumptions when interpreting the problem statement.

**VISUALIZE** A complete motion diagram consists of:

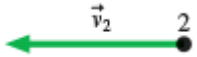
- The position of the object in each frame of the video, shown as a dot. Use five or six dots to make the motion clear but without overcrowding the picture. More complex motions may need more dots.
- The average velocity vectors, found by connecting each dot in the motion diagram to the next with a vector arrow. There is *one* velocity vector linking each *two* position dots. Label the row of velocity vectors $\vec{v}$.
- The average acceleration vectors, found using Tactics Box 1.3. There is *one* acceleration vector linking each *two* velocity vectors. Each acceleration vector is drawn at the dot between the two velocity vectors it links. Use $\vec{0}$ to indicate a point at which the acceleration is zero. Label the row of acceleration vectors $\vec{a}$.

### Stop to Think 1.4

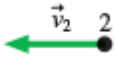
A particle undergoes acceleration $\vec{a}$ while moving from point 1 to point 2. Which of the choices shows the most likely velocity vector $\vec{v}_2$ as the particle leaves point 2?



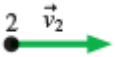

**a.**



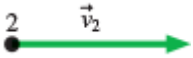

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**




## Examples of Motion Diagrams

Let's look at some examples of the full strategy for drawing motion diagrams.

**Example 1.4 The first astronauts land on Mars**

A spaceship carrying the first astronauts to Mars descends safely to the surface. Draw a motion diagram for the last few seconds of the

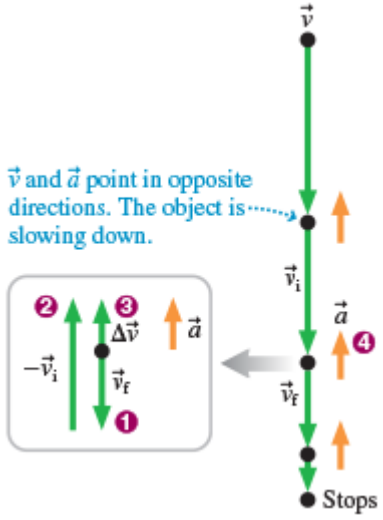
descent.

**MODEL** The spaceship is small in comparison with the distance traveled, and the spaceship does not change size or shape, so it's reasonable to model the spaceship as a particle. We'll assume that its motion in the last few seconds is straight down. The problem ends as the spacecraft touches the surface.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 1.15 shows a complete motion diagram as the spaceship descends and slows, using its rockets, until it comes to rest on the surface. Notice how the dots get closer together as it slows. The inset uses the steps of Tactics Box 1.3 (numbered circles) to show how the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ is determined at one point. All the other acceleration vectors will be similar because for each pair of velocity vectors the earlier one is longer than the later one.



## Figure 1.15




Motion diagram of a spaceship landing on Mars.

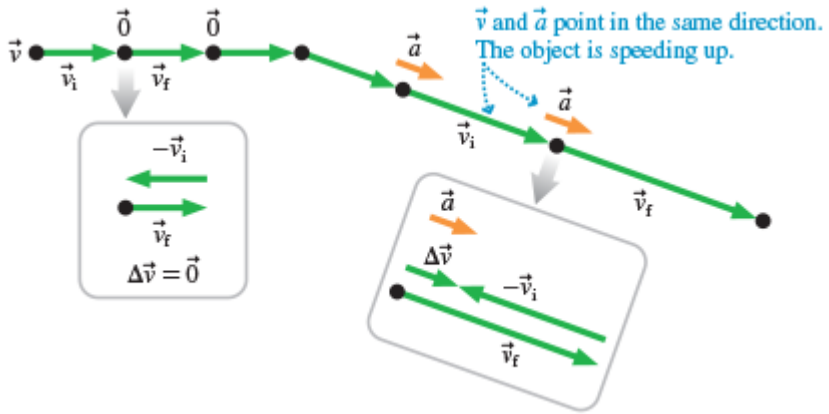
### Example 1.5 Skiing through the woods

A skier glides along smooth, horizontal snow at constant speed, then speeds up going down a hill. Draw the skier' motion diagram.

**MODEL** Model the skier as a particle. It's reasonable to assume that the downhill slope is a straight line. Although the motion as a whole is not linear, we can treat the skier's motion as two separate linear motions.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 1.16 shows a complete motion diagram of the skier. The dots are equally spaced for the horizontal motion, indicating constant speed; then the dots get farther apart as the skier speeds up going down the hill. The insets show how the average acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ is determined for the horizontal motion and along the slope. All the other acceleration vectors along the slope will be similar to the one shown because each velocity vector is longer than the preceding one. Notice that we've explicitly written $\vec{0}$ for the acceleration beside the dots where the velocity is constant. The acceleration at the point where the direction changes will be considered in Chapter 4.

**Figure 1.16**



Motion diagram of a skier.

Notice something interesting in Figures 1.15 and 1.16. Where the object is speeding up, the acceleration and velocity vectors point in the *same direction*. Where the object is slowing down, the acceleration and velocity vectors point in *opposite directions*. These results are always true for motion in a straight line. **For motion along a line:**

- **An object is speeding up if and only if $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ point in the same direction.**
- **An object is slowing down if and only if $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ point in opposite directions.**
- **An object's velocity is constant if and only if $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$.**

> **Note**
>
> In everyday language, we use the word *accelerate* to mean "speed up" and the word *decelerate* to mean "slow down." But speeding up and slowing down are both changes in the velocity and consequently, by our definition, *both* are accelerations. In physics, *acceleration* refers to changing the velocity, no matter what the change is, and not just to speeding up.

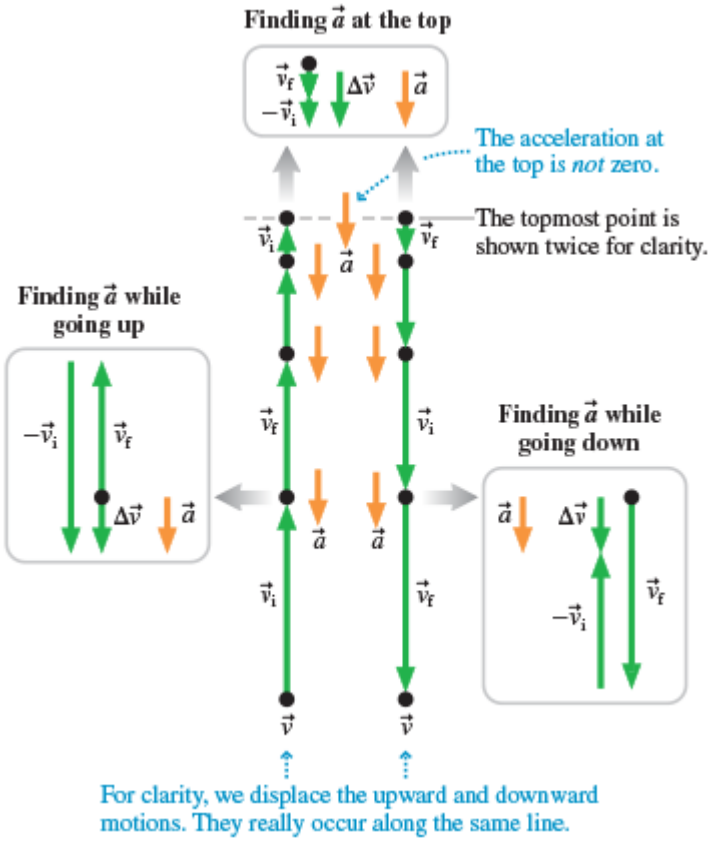
**Example 1.6 Tossing a ball**

Draw the motion diagram of a ball tossed straight up in the air.

**MODEL** This problem calls for some interpretation. Should we include the toss itself, or only the motion after the ball is released? Should we include the ball hitting the ground? It appears that this problem is really concerned with the ball's motion through the air. Consequently, we begin the motion diagram at the instant that the tosser releases the ball and end the diagram at the instant the ball hits the ground. We will consider neither the toss nor the impact. And, of course, we will model the ball as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** We have a slight difficulty here because the ball retraces its route as it falls. A literal motion diagram would show the upward motion and downward motion on top of each other, leading to confusion. We can avoid this difficulty by horizontally separating the upward motion and downward motion diagrams. This will not affect our conclusions because it does not change any of the vectors. Figure 1.17 shows the motion diagram drawn this way. Notice that the very top dot is shown twice—as the end point of the upward motion and the beginning point of the downward motion.

**Figure 1.17**




Motion diagram of a ball tossed straight up in the air.

The ball slows down as it rises. You've learned that the acceleration vectors point opposite the velocity vectors for an object that is slowing down along a line, and they are shown accordingly. Similarly, $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{v}$ point in the same direction as the falling ball speeds up. Notice something interesting: The acceleration vectors point downward both while the ball is rising *and* while it is falling. Both "speeding up" and "slowing down" occur with the *same* acceleration vector. This is an important conclusion, one worth pausing to think about.

Now let's look at the top point on the ball's trajectory. The velocity vectors point upward but are getting shorter as the ball approaches the top. As the ball starts to fall, the velocity vectors point downward and are getting longer. There must be a moment—just an instant as $\vec{v}$ switches from pointing up to pointing down—when

the velocity is zero. Indeed, the ball's velocity *is* zero for an instant at the precise top of the motion!

But what about the acceleration at the top? The inset shows how the average acceleration is determined from the last upward velocity before the top point and the first downward velocity. We find that the acceleration at the top is pointing downward, just as it does elsewhere in the motion.

Many people expect the acceleration to be zero at the highest point. But the velocity at the top point *is* changing—from up to down. If the velocity is changing, there *must* be an acceleration. A downward-pointing acceleration vector is needed to turn the velocity vector from up to down. Another way to think about this is to note that zero acceleration would mean no change of velocity. When the ball reached zero velocity at the top, it would hang there and not fall if the acceleration were also zero!

# 1.6 Motion in One Dimension

An object's motion can be described in terms of three fundamental quantities: its position $\vec{r}$, velocity $\vec{v}$, and acceleration $\vec{a}$. These are vectors, but for motion in one dimension, the vectors are restricted to point only "forward" or "backward." Consequently, we can describe one-dimensional motion with the simpler quantities $x$, $v_x$, and $a_x$ (or $y$, $v_y$, and $a_y$). However, we need to give each of these quantities an explicit *sign*, positive or negative, to indicate whether the position, velocity, or acceleration vector points forward or backward.

## Determining the Signs of Position, Velocity, and Acceleration

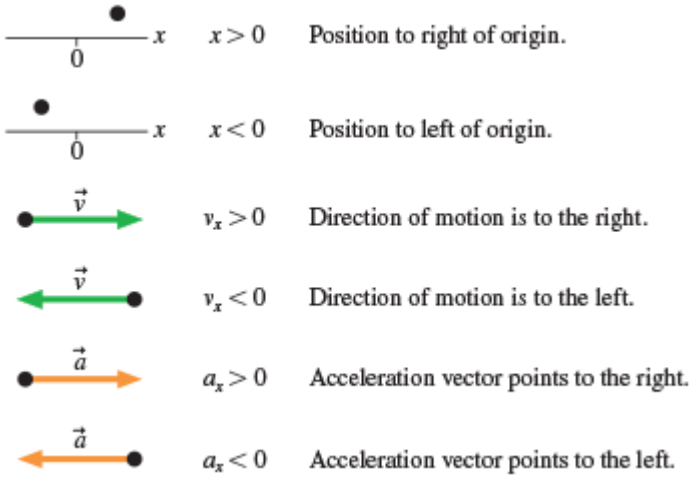
Position, velocity, and acceleration are measured with respect to a coordinate system, a grid or axis that *you* impose on a problem to analyze the motion. We will find it convenient to use an $x$-axis to describe both horizontal motion and motion along an inclined plane. A $y$-axis will be used for vertical motion. A coordinate axis has two essential features:

1. An origin to define zero; and
2. An $x$ or $y$ label (with units) to indicate the positive end of the axis.

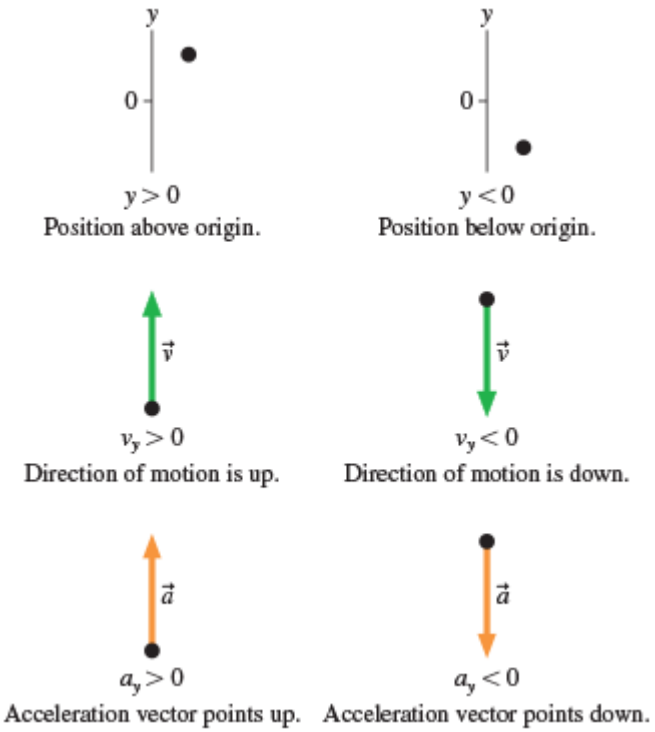
In this textbook, we will follow the convention that **the positive end of an $x$-axis is to the right and the positive end of a $y$-axis is up**. The signs of position, velocity, and acceleration are based on this convention.

TACTICS BOX 1.4 **Determining the sign of the position, velocity, and acceleration**

**Mastering Physics**




- The sign of position ($x$ or $y$) tells us *where* an object is.
- The sign of velocity ($v_x$ or $v_y$) tells us *which* direction the object is moving.
- The sign of acceleration ($a_x$ or $a_y$) tells us which way the acceleration vector points, *not* whether the object is speeding up or slowing down.




Workbook Exercises 30, 31

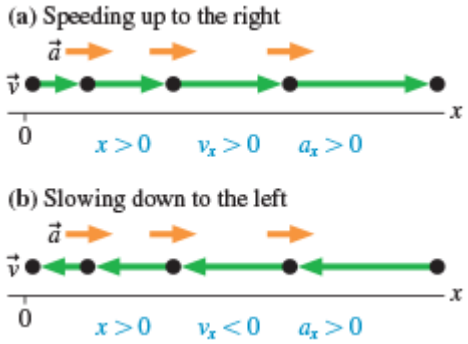
Acceleration is where things get a bit tricky. A natural tendency is to think that a positive value of $a_x$ or $a_y$ describes an object that is speeding up while a negative value describes an object that is slowing down (decelerating). However, this interpretation *does not work*.

Acceleration is defined as $\vec{a}_{\text{avg}} = \Delta\vec{v}/\Delta t$. The direction of $\vec{a}$ can be determined by using a motion diagram to find the direction of $\Delta\vec{v}$. The one-dimensional acceleration $a_x$ (or $a_y$) is then positive if the vector $\vec{a}$ points to the right (or up), negative if $\vec{a}$ points to the left (or down).

Figure 1.18 shows that this method for determining the sign of $a$ does not conform to the simple idea of speeding up and slowing down. The object in Figure 1.18a has a positive acceleration $(a_x > 0)$ not because it is speeding up but because the vector $\vec{a}$ points in the positive direction.

Compare this with the motion diagram of Figure 1.18b. Here the object is slowing down, but it still has a positive acceleration ($a_x > 0$) because $\vec{a}$ points to the right.

**Figure 1.18**




One of these objects is speeding up, the other slowing down, but they both have a positive acceleration $a_x$.



In the previous section, we found that an object is speeding up if $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ point in the same direction, slowing down if they point in opposite directions. For one-dimensional motion this rule becomes:

- An object is speeding up if and only if $v_x$ and $a_x$ have the same sign.
- An object is slowing down if and only if $v_x$ and $a_x$ have opposite signs.
- An object's velocity is constant if and only if $a_x = 0$.

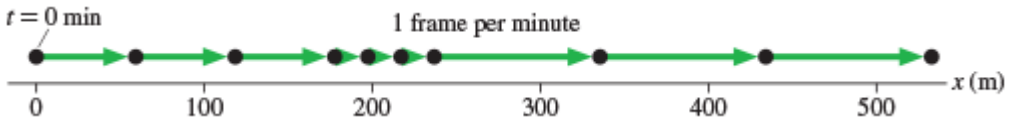
Notice how the first two of these rules are at work in Figure 1.18.

# Position-versus-Time Graphs

Figure 1.19 is a motion diagram, made at 1 frame per minute, of a student walking to school. You can see that she leaves home at a time we choose to call $t = 0$ min and makes steady progress for a while. Beginning at $t = 3$ min there is a period where the distance traveled

during each time interval becomes less—perhaps she slowed down to speak with a friend. Then she picks up the pace, and the distances within each interval are longer.

## Figure 1.19




The motion diagram of a student walking to school and a coordinate axis for making measurements.

Figure 1.19 includes a coordinate axis, and you can see that every dot in a motion diagram occurs at a specific position. Table 1.1 shows the student's positions at different times as measured along this axis. For example, she is at position $x = 120\,\text{m}$ at $t = 2\,\text{min}$.

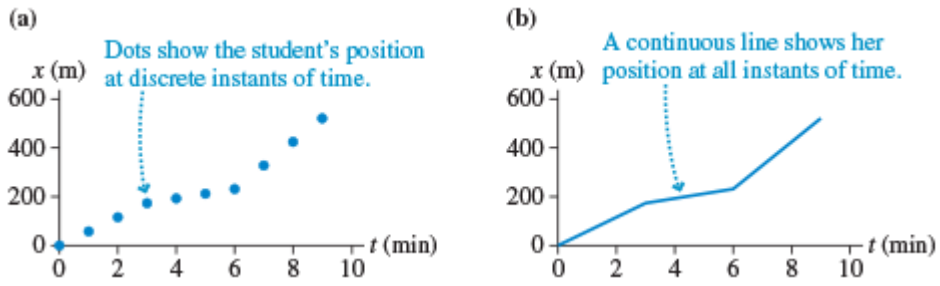
## Table 1.1

| Time $t$ (min) | Position $x$ (m) | Time $t$ (min) | Position $x$ (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 5 | 220 |
| 1 | 60 | 6 | 240 |
| 2 | 120 | 7 | 340 |
| 3 | 180 | 8 | 440 |
| 4 | 200 | 9 | 540 |

Measured positions of a student walking to school

The motion diagram is one way to represent the student's motion. Another is to make a graph of the measurements in Table 1.1. Figure 1.20a is a graph of $x$ versus $t$ for the student. The motion diagram tells us only where the student is at a few discrete points of time, so this graph of the data shows only points, no lines.

Figure 1.20




Position graphs of the student's motion.

> **Note**
>
> A graph of "*a* versus *b*" means that *a* is graphed on the vertical axis and *b* on the horizontal axis. Saying "graph *a* versus *b*" is really a shorthand way of saying "graph *a* as a function of *b*."

However, common sense tells us the following. First, the student was *somewhere specific* at all times. That is, there was never[18] a time when she failed to have a well-defined position, nor could she occupy two positions at one time. (As reasonable as this belief appears to be, it will be severely questioned and found not entirely accurate when we get to quantum physics!) Second, the student moved *continuously* through all intervening points of space. She could not go from $x = 100\,\text{m}$ to $x = 200\,\text{m}$ without passing through every point in between. It is thus quite reasonable to believe that her motion can be shown as a continuous line passing through the measured points, as shown in Figure 1.20b. A continuous line or curve showing an object's position as a function of time is called a **position-versus-time graph** or, sometimes, just a *position graph*.

> **Note**
>
> A graph is *not* a "picture" of the motion. The student is walking along a straight line, but the graph itself is not a straight line. Further, we've graphed her position on the vertical axis even though her motion is horizontal. Graphs are *abstract*

*representations* of motion. We will place significant emphasis on the process of interpreting graphs, and many of the exercises and problems will give you a chance to practice these skills.

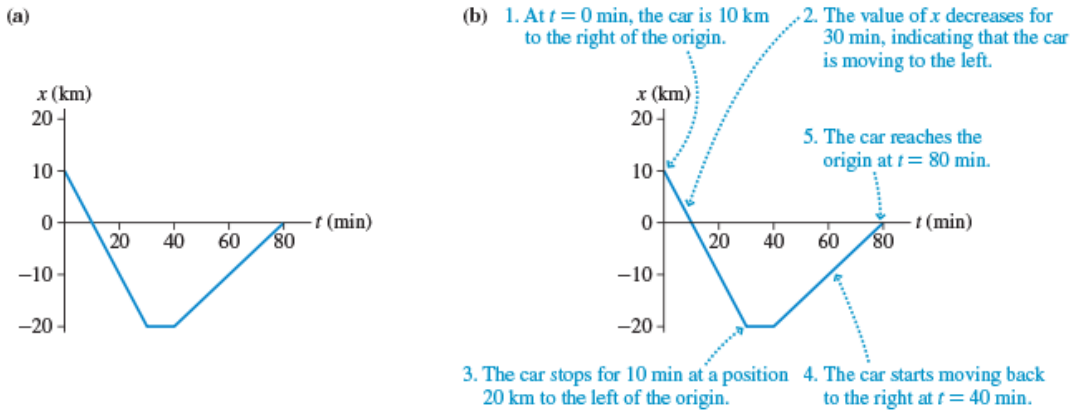
### Example 1.7 Interpreting a position graph

The graph in Figure 1.21a represents the motion of a car along a straight road. Describe the motion of the car.

**MODEL** We'll model the car as a particle with a precise position at each instant.

**VISUALIZE** As Figure 1.21b shows, the graph represents a car that travels to the left for 30 minutes, stops for 10 minutes, then travels back to the right for 40 minutes.

**Figure 1.21**




Position-versus-time graph of a car.

# 1.7 Solving Problems in Physics

Physics is not mathematics. Math problems are clearly stated, such as "What is $2 + 2$?" Physics is about the world around us, and to describe that world we must use language. Now, language is wonderful—we couldn't communicate without it—but language can sometimes be imprecise or ambiguous.

The challenge when reading a physics problem is to translate the words into symbols that can be manipulated, calculated, and graphed. **The translation from words to symbols is the heart of problem solving in physics**. This is the point where ambiguous words and phrases must be clarified, where the imprecise must be made precise, and where you arrive at an understanding of exactly what the question is asking.

## Using Symbols

Symbols are a language that allows us to talk with precision about the relationships in a problem. As with any language, we all need to agree to use words or symbols in the same way if we want to communicate with each other. Many of the ways we use symbols in science and engineering are somewhat arbitrary, often reflecting historical roots. Nonetheless, practicing scientists and engineers have come to agree on how to use the language of symbols. Learning this language is part of learning physics.

We will use subscripts on symbols, such as $x_3$, to designate a particular point in the problem. Scientists usually label the starting point of the problem with the subscript "0," not the subscript "1" that you might

expect. When using subscripts, make sure that all symbols referring to the same point in the problem have the *same numerical subscript*. To have the same point in a problem characterized by position $x_1$ but velocity $v_{2x}$ is guaranteed to lead to confusion!

## Drawing Pictures

You may have been told that the first step in solving a physics problem is to "draw a picture," but perhaps you didn't know why, or what to draw. The purpose of drawing a picture is to aid you in the words-to-symbols translation. Complex problems have far more information than you can keep in your head at one time. Think of a picture as a "memory extension," helping you organize and keep track of vital information.

Although any picture is better than none, there really is a *method* for drawing pictures that will help you be a better problem solver. It is called the **pictorial representation** of the problem. We'll add other pictorial representations as we go along, but the following procedure is appropriate for motion problems.

TACTICS BOX 1.5 **Drawing a pictorial representation**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Draw a motion diagram**. The motion diagram develops your intuition for the motion.
2. **Establish a coordinate system**. Select your axes and origin to match the motion. For one-dimensional motion, you want either the $x$-axis or the $y$-axis parallel

to the motion. The coordinate system determines whether the signs of $v$ and $a$ are positive or negative.

3. **Sketch the situation**. Not just any sketch. Show the object at the *beginning* of the motion, at the *end*, and at any point where the character of the motion changes. Show the object, not just a dot, but very simple drawings are adequate.
4. **Define symbols**. Use the sketch to define symbols representing quantities such as position, velocity, acceleration, and time. *Every* variable used later in the mathematical solution should be defined on the sketch. Some will have known values, others are initially unknown, but all should be given symbolic names.
5. **List known information**. Make a table of the quantities whose values you can determine from the problem statement or that can be found quickly with simple geometry or unit conversions. Some quantities are implied by the problem, rather than explicitly given. Others are determined by your choice of coordinate system.
6. **Identify the desired unknowns**. What quantity or quantities will allow you to answer the question? These should have been defined as symbols in step 4. Don't list every unknown, only the one or two needed to answer the question.

---

It's not an overstatement to say that a well-done pictorial representation of the problem will take you halfway to the solution. The following

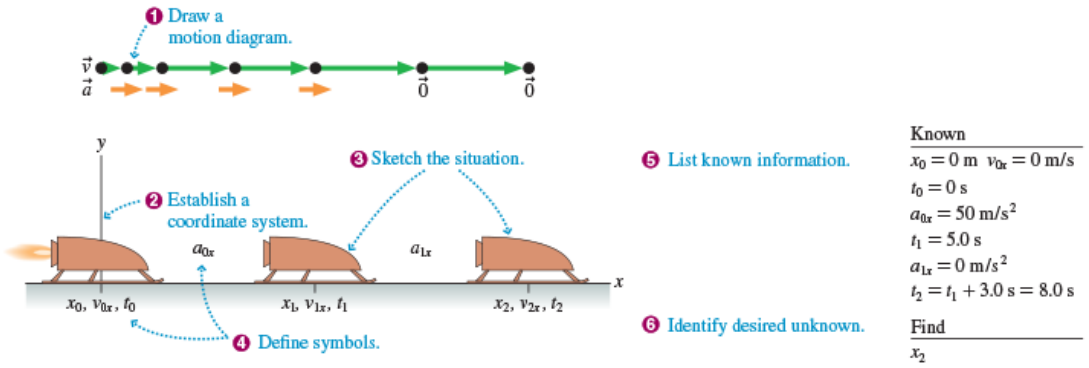
example illustrates how to construct a pictorial representation for a problem that is typical of problems you will see in the next few chapters.

### Example 1.8 Drawing a pictorial representation

Draw a pictorial representation for the following problem: A rocket sled accelerates horizontally at 50 m/s² for 5.0 s, then coasts for 3.0 s. What is the total distance traveled?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 1.22, on the next page, is the pictorial representation. The motion diagram shows an acceleration phase followed by a coasting phase. Because the motion is horizontal, the appropriate coordinate system is an $x$-axis. We've chosen to place the origin at the starting point. The motion has a beginning, an end, and a point where the motion changes from accelerating to coasting, and these are the three sled positions sketched in the figure. The quantities $x$, $v_x$, and $t$ are needed at each of three *points*, so these have been defined on the sketch and distinguished by subscripts. Accelerations are associated with *intervals* between the points, so only two accelerations are defined. Values for three quantities are given in the problem statement, although we need to use the motion diagram, where $\vec{a}$ points to the right, and our choice of coordinate system to know that $a_{0x} = +50\ \text{m/s}^2$ rather than – 50 m/s². The values $x_0 = 0$ m and $t_0 = 0$ s are choices we made when setting up the coordinate system. The value $v_{0x} = 0$ m/s is part of our *interpretation* of the problem. Finally, we identify $x_2$ as the quantity that will answer the question. We now understand quite a bit about the problem and would be ready to start a quantitative analysis.

## Figure 1.22




A pictorial representation.

We didn't *solve* the problem; that is not the purpose of the pictorial representation. The pictorial representation is a systematic way to go about interpreting a problem and getting ready for a mathematical solution. Although this is a simple problem, and you probably know how to solve it if you've taken physics before, you will soon be faced with much more challenging problems. Learning good problem-solving skills at the beginning, while the problems are easy, will make them second nature later when you really need them.

# Representations

A picture is one way to *represent* your knowledge of a situation. You could also represent your knowledge using words, graphs, or equations. Each **representation of knowledge** gives us a different perspective on the problem. The more tools you have for thinking about a complex problem, the more likely you are to solve it.

A new building requires careful planning. The architect's visualization and drawings have to be complete before the detailed procedures of construction get under way. The same is true for solving problems in physics.

---

There are four representations of knowledge that we will use over and over:

1. The *verbal* representation. A problem statement, in words, is a verbal representation of knowledge. So is an explanation that you write.
2. The *pictorial* representation. The pictorial representation, which we've just presented, is the most literal depiction of the situation.
3. The *graphical* representation. We will make extensive use of graphs.
4. The *mathematical* representation. Equations that can be used to find the numerical values of specific quantities are the mathematical representation.



> **Note**
>
> The mathematical representation is only one of many. Much of physics is more about thinking and reasoning than it is about solving equations.

# A Problem-Solving Strategy

One of the goals of this textbook is to help you learn a *strategy* for solving physics problems. The purpose of a strategy is to guide you in the right direction with minimal wasted effort. The four-part problem-solving strategy shown on the next page—**Model, Visualize, Solve, Assess**—is based on using different representations of knowledge. You will see this problem-solving strategy used consistently in the worked examples throughout this textbook, and you should endeavor to apply it to your own problem solving.

Throughout this textbook we will emphasize the first two steps. They are the *physics* of the problem, as opposed to the mathematics of solving the resulting equations. This is not to say that those mathematical operations are always easy—in many cases they are not. But our primary goal is to understand the physics.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY General Problem-Solving Strategy**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** It's impossible to treat every detail of a situation. Simplify the situation with a model that captures the essential features. For example, the object in a mechanics problem is often represented as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** This is where expert problem solvers put most of their effort.

- Draw a *pictorial representation*. This helps you visualize important aspects of the physics and assess the information you are given. It starts the process of translating the problem into symbols.

- Use a *graphical representation* if it is appropriate for the problem.
- Go back and forth between these representations; they need not be done in any particular order.

**SOLVE** Only after modeling and visualizing are complete is it time to develop a *mathematical representation* with specific equations that must be solved. All symbols used here should have been defined in the pictorial representation.

**ASSESS** Is your result believable? Does it have proper units? Does it make sense?

Textbook illustrations are obviously more sophisticated than what you would draw on your own paper. To show you a figure very much like what *you* should draw, the final example of this section is in a "pencil sketch" style. We will include one or more pencil-sketch examples in nearly every chapter to illustrate exactly what a good problem solver would draw.

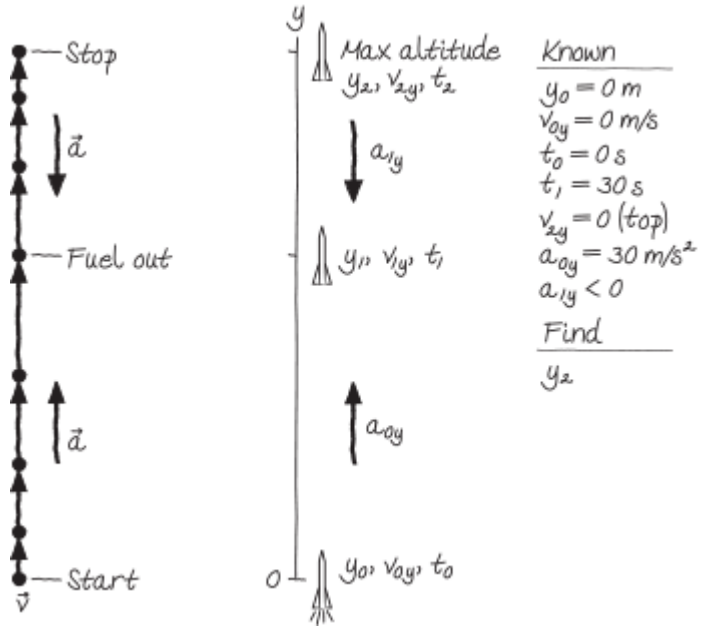
### Example 1.9 Launching a weather rocket

Use the first two steps of the problem-solving strategy to analyze the following problem: A small rocket, such as those used for meteorological measurements of the atmosphere, is launched vertically with an acceleration of 30 m/s$^2$. It runs out of fuel after 30 s. What is its maximum altitude?

**MODEL** We need to do some interpretation. Common sense tells us that the rocket does not stop the instant it runs out of fuel. Instead, it continues upward, while slowing, until it reaches its maximum altitude. This second half of the motion, after running out of fuel, is like the ball that was tossed upward in the first half of Example 1.6. Because the problem does not ask about the rocket's descent, we conclude that the problem ends at the point of maximum altitude. We'll model the rocket as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 1.23 shows the pictorial representation in pencil-sketch style. The rocket is speeding up during the first half of the motion, so $\vec{a}_0$ points upward, in the positive $y$-direction. Thus the initial acceleration is $a_{0y} = 30\,\text{m/s}^2$. During the second half, as the rocket slows, $\vec{a}_1$ points downward. Thus $a_{1y}$ is a negative number.

## Figure 1.23




Pictorial representation for the rocket.

This information is included with the known information. Although the velocity $v_{2y}$ wasn't given in the problem statement, it must—just like for the ball in Example 1.6—be zero at the very top of the trajectory. Last, we have identified $y_2$ as the desired unknown. This, of course, is not the only unknown in the problem, but it is the one we are specifically asked to find.

**ASSESS** If you've had a previous physics class, you may be tempted to assign $a_{1y}$ the value –9.8 m/s$^2$, the free-fall acceleration. However, that would be true only if there is no air resistance on the rocket. We will need to consider the *forces* acting on the rocket during the second half of its motion before we can determine a value for $a_{1y}$. For now, all that we can safely conclude is that $a_{1y}$ is negative.

Our task in this section is not to *solve* problems—all that in due time—but to focus on what is happening in a problem. In other words, to make the translation from words to symbols in preparation for subsequent mathematical analysis. Modeling and the pictorial representation will be our most important tools.

# 1.8 Units and Significant Figures

Science is based upon experimental measurements, and measurements require *units*. The system of units used in science is called *le Système Internationale d'Unités*. These are commonly referred to as **SI units**. In casual speaking we often refer to *metric units*.

All of the quantities needed to understand motion can be expressed in terms of the three basic SI units shown in Table 1.2. Other quantities can be expressed as a combination of these basic units. Velocity, expressed in meters per second or m/s, is a ratio of the length unit to the time unit.

**Table 1.2**

| Quantity | Unit | Abbreviation |
|---|---|---|
| time | second | s |
| length | meter | m |
| mass | kilogram | kg |

The basic SI units

## Time

The standard of time prior to 1960 was based on the *mean solar day*. As time-keeping accuracy and astronomical observations improved, it became apparent that the earth's rotation is not perfectly steady. Meanwhile, physicists had been developing a device called an *atomic clock*. This instrument is able to measure, with incredibly high precision, the frequency of radio waves absorbed by atoms as they move between

two closely spaced energy levels. This frequency can be reproduced with great accuracy at many laboratories around the world. Consequently, the SI unit of time—the second—was redefined in 1967 as follows:

An atomic clock at the National Institute of Standards and Technology is the primary standard of time.

> One *second* is the time required for 9,192,631,770 oscillations of the radio wave absorbed by the cesium-133 atom. The abbreviation for second is the letter s.

Several radio stations around the world broadcast a signal whose frequency is linked directly to the atomic clocks. This signal is the time standard, and any time-measuring equipment you use was calibrated from this time standard.

## Length

The SI unit of length—the meter—was originally defined as one ten-millionth of the distance from the north pole to the equator along a line passing through Paris. There are obvious practical difficulties with implementing this definition, and it was later abandoned in favor of the distance between two scratches on a platinum-iridium bar stored in a special vault in Paris. The present definition, agreed to in 1983, is as follows:

> One *meter* is the distance traveled by light in vacuum during 1/299,792,458 of a second. The abbreviation for meter is the letter m.

This is equivalent to defining the speed of light to be exactly 299,792,458 m/s. Laser technology is used in various national laboratories to implement this definition and to calibrate secondary standards that are easier to use. These standards ultimately make their way to your ruler or to a meter stick. It is worth keeping in mind that any measuring device you use is only as accurate as the care with which it was calibrated.

## Mass

The original unit of mass, the gram, was defined as the mass of 1 cubic centimeter of water. That is why you know the density of water as 1 $g/cm^3$. This definition proved to be impractical when scientists needed to make very accurate measurements. The SI unit of mass—the kilogram—was redefined in 1889 as:

> One *kilogram* is the mass of the international standard kilogram, a polished platinum-iridium cylinder stored in Paris. The abbreviation for kilogram is kg.

The kilogram is the only SI unit still defined by a manufactured object. Despite the prefix *kilo*, it is the kilogram, not the gram, that is the SI unit.

By international agreement, this metal cylinder, stored in Paris, is the definition of the kilogram.

## Using Prefixes

We will have many occasions to use lengths, times, and masses that are either much less or much greater than the standards of 1 meter, 1 second, and 1 kilogram. We will do so by using *prefixes* to denote various powers of 10. Table 1.3 lists the common prefixes that will be used frequently throughout this book. Memorize it! Few things in science are learned by rote memory, but this list is one of them. A more extensive list of prefixes is shown inside the front cover of the book.

**Table 1.3**

| Prefix | Power of 10 | Abbreviation |
|---|---|---|
| giga- | $10^{9}$ | G |
| mega- | $10^{6}$ | M |
| kilo- | $10^{3}$ | k |
| centi- | $10^{-2}$ | c |
| milli- | $10^{-3}$ | m |
| micro- | $10^{-6}$ | $\mu$ |
| nano- | $10^{-9}$ | n |

Common prefixes

Although prefixes make it easier to talk about quantities, the SI units are seconds, meters, and kilograms. Quantities given with prefixed units must be converted to SI units before any calculations are done. Unit conversions are best done at the very beginning of a problem, as part of the pictorial representation.

## Unit Conversions

Although SI units are our standard, we cannot entirely forget that the United States still uses English units. Thus it remains important to be able to convert back and forth between SI units and English units. Table 1.4 shows several frequently used conversions, and these are worth memorizing if you do not already know them. While the English system was originally based on the length of the king's foot, it is interesting to note that today the conversion $1\,\text{in} = 2.54\,\text{cm}$ is the *definition* of the inch. In other words, the English system for lengths is now based on the meter!

**Table 1.4**

| |
|---|
| $1\ \text{in} = 2.54\ \text{cm}$ |
| $1\ \text{mi} = 1.609\ \text{km}$ |
| $1\ \text{mph} = 0.447\ \text{m/s}$ |
| $1\ \text{m} = 39.37\ \text{in}$ |
| $1\ \text{km} = 0.621\ \text{mi}$ |
| $1\ \text{m/s} = 2.24\ \text{mph}$ |

Useful unit conversions

There are various techniques for doing unit conversions. One effective method is to write the conversion factor as a ratio equal to one. For example, using information in Tables 1.3 and 1.4, we have

$$\frac{10^{-6}\ \text{m}}{1\ \mu\text{m}} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{2.54\ \text{cm}}{1\ \text{in}} = 1$$

Because multiplying any expression by 1 does not change its value, these ratios are easily used for conversions. To convert 3.5 $\mu$m to meters we compute

$$3.5 \cancel{\mu\text{m}} \times \frac{10^{-6}\ \text{m}}{1\ \cancel{\mu\text{m}}} = 3.5 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{m}$$

Similarly, the conversion of 2 feet to meters is

$$2.00 \cancel{\text{ft}} \times \frac{12\ \cancel{\text{in}}}{1\ \cancel{\text{ft}}} \times \frac{2.54\ \cancel{\text{cm}}}{1\ \cancel{\text{in}}} \times \frac{10^{-2}\ \text{m}}{1\ \cancel{\text{cm}}} = 0.610\ \text{m}$$

Notice how units in the numerator and in the denominator cancel until only the desired units remain at the end. You can continue this process of multiplying by 1 as many times as necessary to complete all the conversions.

## Assessment

As we get further into problem solving, you will need to decide whether or not the answer to a problem "makes sense." To determine this, at least until you have more experience with SI units, you may need to convert from SI units back to the English units in which you think. But this conversion does not need to be very accurate. For example, if you are working a problem about automobile speeds and reach an answer of 35 m/s, all you really want to know is whether or not this is a realistic speed for a car. That requires a "quick and dirty" conversion, not a conversion of great accuracy.

Table 1.5 shows several approximate conversion factors that can be used to assess the answer to a problem. Using 1 m/s $\approx$ 2 mph, you find

that 35 m/s is roughly 70 mph, a reasonable speed for a car. But an answer of 350 m/s, which you might get after making a calculation error, would be an unreasonable 700 mph. Practice with these will allow you to develop intuition for metric units.

**Table 1.5**

| |
|---|
| 1 cm $\approx \frac{1}{2}$ in |
| 10 cm $\approx$ 4 in |
| 1 m $\approx$ 1 yard |
| 1 m $\approx$ 3 feet |
| 1 km $\approx$ 0.6 mile |
| 1 m/s $\approx$ 2 mph |

Approximate conversion factors. Use these for assessment, not in problem solving.

> **Note**
>
> These approximate conversion factors are accurate to only one significant figure. This is sufficient to assess the answer to a problem, but do *not* use the conversion factors from Table 1.5 for converting English units to SI units at the start of a problem. Use Table 1.4.

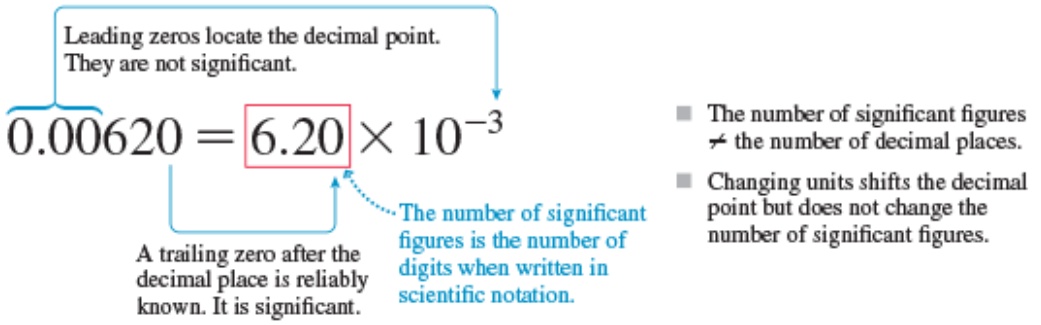
## Significant Figures

It is necessary to say a few words about a perennial source of difficulty: significant figures. Mathematics is a subject where numbers and relationships can be as precise as desired, but physics deals with a real world of ambiguity. It is important in science and engineering to state clearly what you know about a situation—no less and, especially, no more. Numbers provide one way to specify your knowledge.

If you report that a length has a value of 6.2 m, the implication is that the actual value falls between 6.15 m and 6.25 m and thus rounds to 6.2 m. If that is the case, then reporting a value of simply 6 m is saying less than you know; you are withholding information. On the other hand, to report the number as 6.213 m is wrong. Any person reviewing your work—perhaps a client who hired you—would interpret the number 6.213 m as meaning that the actual length falls between 6.2125 m and 6.2135 m, thus rounding to 6.213 m. In this case, you are claiming to have knowledge and information that you do not really possess.

The way to state your knowledge precisely is through the proper use of **significant figures**. You can think of a significant figure as being a digit that is reliably known. A number such as 6.2 m has *two* significant figures because the next decimal place—the one-hundredths—is not reliably known. As Figure 1.24 shows, the best way to determine how many significant figures a number has is to write it in scientific notation.[25]

## Figure 1.24




Determining significant figures.

What about numbers like 320 m and 20 kg? Whole numbers with trailing zeros are ambiguous unless written in scientific notation. Even so, writing $2.0 \times 10^1$ kg is tedious, and few practicing scientists or engineers would do so. In this textbook, we'll adopt the rule that *whole numbers always have at least two significant figures*, even if one of those is a trailing zero. By

this rule, 320 m, 20 kg, and 8000 s each have two significant figures, but 8050 s would have three.

Calculations with numbers follow the "weakest link" rule. The saying, which you probably know, is that "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link." If nine out of ten links in a chain can support a 1000 pound weight, that strength is meaningless if the tenth link can support only 200 pounds. Nine out of the ten numbers used in a calculation might be known with a precision of 0.01%; but if the tenth number is poorly known, with a precision of only 10%, then the result of the calculation cannot possibly be more precise than 10%.

TACTICS BOX 1.6 **Using significant figures**

**Mastering Physics**

1. When multiplying or dividing several numbers, or taking roots, the number of significant figures in the answer should match the number of significant figures of the *least* precisely known number used in the calculation.
2. When adding or subtracting several numbers, the number of decimal places in the answer should match the *smallest* number of decimal places of any number used in the calculation.
3. Exact numbers are perfectly known and do not affect the number of significant figures an answer should have. Examples of exact numbers are the 2 and the $\pi$ in the formula $C = 2\pi r$ for the circumference of a circle.

4. It is acceptable to keep one or two extra digits during intermediate steps of a calculation, to minimize rounding error, as long as the final answer is reported with the proper number of significant figures.
5. Examples and problems in this textbook will normally provide data to either two or three significant figures, as is appropriate to the situation. **The appropriate number of significant figures for the answer is determined by the data provided**.

Workbook Exercises 38, 39

**Note**

Be careful! Many calculators have a default setting that shows two decimal places, such as 5.23. This is dangerous. If you need to calculate 5.23/58.5, your calculator will show 0.09 and it is all too easy to write that down as an answer. By doing so, you have reduced a calculation of two numbers having three significant figures to an answer with only one significant figure. The proper result of this division is 0.0894 or $8.94 \times 10^{-2}$. You will avoid this error if you keep your calculator set to display numbers in *scientific notation* with two decimal places.



**Example 1.10 Using significant figures**

An object consists of two pieces. The mass of one piece has been measured to be 6.47 kg. The volume of the second piece, which is made of aluminum, has been measured to be $4.44 \times 10^{-4}$ $\mathrm{m}^3$. A

handbook lists the density of aluminum as $2.7 \times 10^3\ \text{kg/m}^3$. What is the total mass of the object?

---

**SOLVE** First, calculate the mass of the second piece:

$$\begin{aligned} m &= (4.44 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}^3)\,(2.7 \times 10^3\ \text{kg/m}^3) \\ &= 1.199\ \text{kg} = 1.2\ \text{kg} \end{aligned}$$

The number of significant figures of a product must match that of the *least* precisely known number, which is the two-significant-figure density of aluminum. Now add the two masses:

$$\begin{array}{r} 6.47\ \text{kg} \\ +1.2\ \ \text{kg} \\ \hline 7.7\ \ \text{kg} \end{array}$$

The sum is 7.67 kg, but the hundredths place is not reliable because the second mass has no reliable information about this digit. Thus we must round to the one decimal place of the 1.2 kg. The best we can say, with reliability, is that the total mass is 7.7 kg.

---

Proper use of significant figures is part of the "culture" of science and engineering. We will frequently emphasize these "cultural issues" because you must learn to speak the same language as the natives if you wish to communicate effectively. Most students know the rules of significant figures, having learned them in high school, but many fail to apply them. It is important to understand the reasons for significant figures and to get in the habit of using them properly.

## Orders of Magnitude and Estimating

Precise calculations are appropriate when we have precise data, but there are many times when a very rough estimate is sufficient. Suppose you see a rock fall off a cliff and would like to know how fast it was going when it hit the ground. By doing a mental comparison with the speeds of familiar objects, such as cars and bicycles, you might judge that the rock was traveling at "about" 20 mph.

This is a one-significant-figure estimate. With some luck, you can distinguish 20 mph from either 10 mph or 30 mph, but you certainly cannot distinguish 20 mph from 21 mph. A one-significant-figure estimate or calculation, such as this, is called an **order-of-magnitude estimate**. An order-of-magnitude estimate is indicated by the symbol ~, which indicates even less precision than the "approximately equal" symbol ≈. You would say that the speed of the rock is $v \sim 20$ mph.

A useful skill is to make reliable estimates on the basis of known information, simple reasoning, and common sense. This is a skill that is acquired by practice. Many chapters in this book will have homework problems that ask you to make order-of-magnitude estimates. The following example is a typical estimation problem.

Tables 1.6 and 1.7 have information that will be useful for doing estimates.

---

**Table 1.6**

| | Length (m) |
|---|---|
| Altitude of jet planes | 10,000 |
| Distance across campus | 1000 |
| Length of a football field | 100 |
| Length of a classroom | 10 |
| Length of your arm | 1 |
| Width of a textbook | 0.1 |
| Length of a fingernail | 0.01 |

Some approximate lengths

## Table 1.7

| | Mass (kg) |
|---|---|
| Small car | 1000 |
| Large human | 100 |
| Medium-size dog | 10 |
| Science textbook | 1 |
| Apple | 0.1 |
| Pencil | 0.01 |
| Raisin | 0.001 |

Some approximate masses

### Example 1.11 Estimating a sprinter's speed

Estimate the speed with which an Olympic sprinter crosses the finish line of the 100 m dash.

**SOLVE** We do need one piece of information, but it is a widely known piece of sports trivia. That is, world-class sprinters run the 100 m dash in about 10 s. Their *average* speed is $v_{\text{avg}} \approx (100\ \text{m}) / (10\ \text{s}) \approx 10\ \text{m/s}$. But that's only average. They go slower than average at the beginning, and they cross the finish line at a speed faster than average. How much faster? Twice as fast, 20 m/s, would be ≈ 40 mph. Sprinters don't seem like they're running as fast as a 40 mph car, so this probably is too fast. Let's *estimate* that their final speed is 50% faster than the average. Thus they cross the finish line at $v \sim 15\ \text{m/s}$.

## Stop to Think 1.5

Rank in order, from the most to the least, the number of significant figures in the following numbers. For example, if b has more than c, c has the same number as a, and a has more than d, you could give your answer as b > c = a > d.

**a.** 82

**b.** 0.0052

**c.** 0.430

**d.** $4.321 \times 10^{-10}$

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 1 has been to learn the fundamental concepts of motion.

## General Strategy

### Problem Solving

**MODEL** Make simplifying assumptions.

**VISUALIZE** Use:

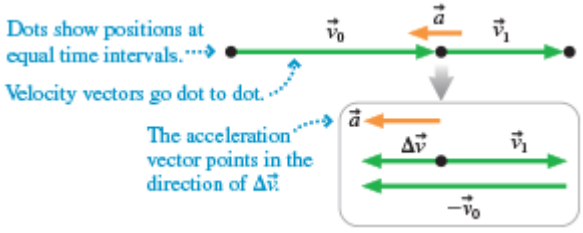
- **Pictorial representation**
- **Graphical representation**

**SOLVE** Use a **mathematical representation** to find numerical answers.

**ASSESS** Does the answer have the proper units and correct significant figures? Does it make sense?

### Motion Diagrams

- Help visualize motion.
- Provide a tool for finding acceleration vectors.



These are the *average* velocity and acceleration vectors.

# Important Concepts

The **particle model** represents a moving object as if all its mass were concentrated at a single point.

**Position** locates an object with respect to a chosen coordinate system. Change in position is called **displacement**.

**Velocity** is the rate of change of the position vector $\overrightarrow{r}$.

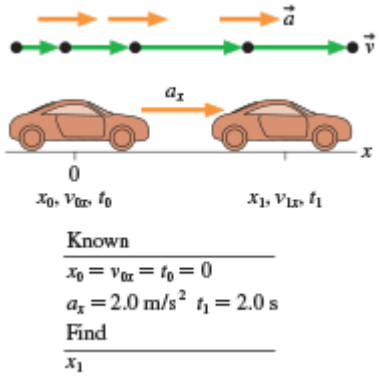
**Acceleration** is the rate of change of the velocity vector $\overrightarrow{v}$.

An object has an acceleration if it

- Changes speed and/or
- Changes direction.

## Pictorial Representation

1. Draw a motion diagram.
2. Establish coordinates.
3. Sketch the situation.
4. Define symbols.
5. List knowns.
6. Identify desired unknown.




Known

$x_0 = v_{0x} = t_0 = 0$

$a_x = 2.0\ \text{m/s}^2$ $t_1 = 2.0\ \text{s}$

Find

$x_1$

# Applications

For **motion along a line:**

- Speeding up: $\overrightarrow{v}$ and $\overrightarrow{a}$ point in the same direction, $v_x$ and $a_x$ have the same sign.
- Slowing down: $\overrightarrow{v}$ and $\overrightarrow{a}$ point in opposite directions, $v_x$ and $a_x$ have opposite signs.
- Constant speed: $\overrightarrow{a} = \overrightarrow{0}\,, a_x = 0.$

Acceleration $a_x$ is positive if $\overrightarrow{a}$ points right, negative if $\overrightarrow{a}$ points left. The sign of $a_x$ does *not* imply speeding up or slowing down.

**Significant figures** are reliably known digits. The number of significant figures for:

- **Multiplication, division, powers** is set by the value with the fewest significant figures.
- **Addition, subtraction** is set by the value with the smallest number of decimal places.

The appropriate number of significant figures in a calculation is determined by the data provided.

# Terms and Notation

motion

translational motion

trajectory

motion diagram

model

particle

particle model

position vector, $\vec{r}$

scalar

vector

displacement, $\Delta \vec{r}$

zero vector, $\vec{0}$

time interval, $\Delta t$

average speed

average velocity, $\vec{v}$

average acceleration, $\vec{a}$

position-versus-time graph

pictorial representation

representation of knowledge

SI units

significant figures

order-of-magnitude estimate

# Conceptual Questions [28]

1. How many significant figures does each of the following numbers have?
    a. 0.73
    b. 7.30
    c. 73
    d. 0.073
2. How many significant figures does each of the following numbers have?
    a. 290
    b. $2.90 \times 10^4$
    c. 0.0029
    d. 2.90
3. Is the particle in Figure Q1.3 speeding up? Slowing down? Or can you tell? Explain.

**Figure Q1.3**



4. Does the object represented in Figure Q1.4 have a positive or negative value of $a_x$? Explain.

**Figure Q1.4**

5. Does the object represented in Figure Q1.5 have a positive or negative value of $a_y$? Explain.

**Figure Q1.5**

**6.** Determine the signs (positive, negative, or zero) of the position, velocity, and acceleration for the particle in Figure Q1.6.

**Figure Q1.6**

**7.** Determine the signs (positive, negative, or zero) of the position, velocity, and acceleration for the particle in Figure Q1.7.

**Figure Q1.7**

**8.** Determine the signs (positive, negative, or zero) of the position, velocity, and acceleration for the particle in Figure Q1.8.

**Figure Q1.8**

# Exercises and Problems

## Exercises

### Section 1.1 Motion Diagrams

**1.** • A car skids to a halt to avoid hitting an object in the road. Draw a basic motion diagram, using the images from the video, from the time the skid begins until the car is stopped.

**2.** • A rocket is launched straight up. Draw a basic motion diagram, using the images from the video, from the moment of liftoff until the rocket is at an altitude of 500 m.

**3.** • You are watching a jet ski race. A racer speeds up from rest to 70 mph in just a few seconds, then continues at a constant speed. Draw a basic motion diagram of the jet ski, using images from the video, from 10 s before reaching top speed until 10 s afterward.

### Section 1.2 Models and Modeling

**4.** •

**a.** Write a paragraph describing the particle model. What is it, and why is it important?

**b.** Give two examples of situations, different from those described in the text, for which the particle model is appropriate.

**c.** Give an example of a situation, different from those described in the text, for which it would be inappropriate.

### Section 1.3 Position, Time, and Displacement

## Section 1.4 Velocity

**5.** • You drop a soccer ball from your third-story balcony. Use the particle model to draw a motion diagram showing the ball's position and average velocity vectors from the time you release the ball until the instant it touches the ground.

**6.** • A baseball player starts running to the left to catch the ball as soon as the hit is made. Use the particle model to draw a motion diagram showing the position and average velocity vectors of the player during the first few seconds of the run.

**7.** • A softball player slides into second base. Use the particle model to draw a motion diagram showing his position and his average velocity vectors from the time he begins to slide until he reaches the base.

## Section 1.5 Linear Acceleration

**8.** •

**a.** Figure EX1.8 shows the first three points of a motion diagram. Is the object's average speed between points 1 and 2 greater than, less than, or equal to its average speed between points 0 and 1? Explain how you can tell.

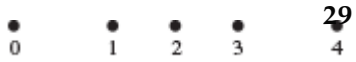
**Figure EX1.8**

**b.** Use Tactics Box 1.3 to find the average acceleration vector at point 1. Draw the completed motion diagram,

showing the velocity vectors and acceleration vector.

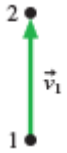
**9.** • Figure EX1.9 shows five points of a motion diagram. Use Tactics Box 1.3 to find the average acceleration vectors at points 1, 2, and 3. Draw the completed motion diagram showing velocity vectors and acceleration vectors.

**Figure EX1.9**



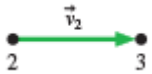

**10.** •• Figure EX1.10 shows two dots of a motion diagram and vector $\vec{v}_1$. Copy this figure, then add dot 3 and the next velocity vector $\vec{v}_2$ if the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ at dot 2 (a) points up and (b) points down.

**Figure EX1.10**




**11.** •• Figure EX1.11 shows two dots of a motion diagram and vector $\vec{v}_2$. Copy this figure, then add dot 4 and the next velocity vector $\vec{v}_3$ if the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ at dot 3 (a) points right and (b) points left.

**Figure EX1.11**




**12.** • A speed skater accelerates from rest and then keeps skating at a constant speed. Draw a complete motion diagram of the

skater.

**13.** • A car travels to the left at a steady speed for a few seconds, then brakes for a stop sign. Draw a complete motion diagram of the car.

**14.** • A goose flies toward a pond. It lands on the water and slides for some distance before it comes to a stop. Draw the motion diagram of the goose, starting shortly before it hits the water and assuming the motion is entirely horizontal.

**15.** • You use a long rubber band to launch a paper wad straight up. Draw a complete motion diagram of the paper wad from the moment you release the stretched rubber band until the paper wad reaches its highest point.

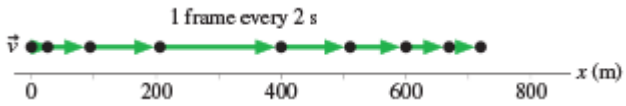
**16.** • A roof tile falls straight down from a two-story building. It lands in a swimming pool and settles gently to the bottom. Draw a complete motion diagram of the tile.

**17.** • Your roommate drops a tennis ball from a third-story balcony. It hits the sidewalk and bounces as high as the second story. Draw a complete motion diagram of the tennis ball from the time it is released until it reaches the maximum height on its bounce. Be sure to determine and show the acceleration at the lowest point.

## Section 1.6 Motion in One Dimension

**18.** •• Figure EX1.18 shows the motion diagram of a drag racer. The camera took one frame every 2 s.

**Figure EX1.18**

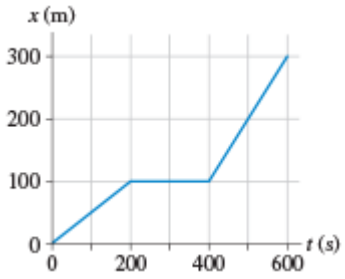


**a.** Measure the $x$-value of the racer at each dot. List your data in a table similar to Table 1.1, showing each position and the time at which it occurred.

**b.** Make a position-versus-time graph for the drag racer. Because you have data only at certain instants, your graph should consist of dots that are not connected together.

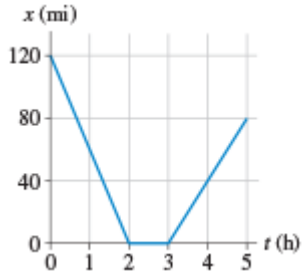
**19.** • Write a short description of the motion of a real object for which Figure EX1.19 would be a realistic position-versus-time graph.

**Figure EX1.19**




**20.** • Write a short description of the motion of a real object for which Figure EX1.20 would be a realistic position-versus-time graph.

**Figure EX1.20**




## Section 1.7 Solving Problems in Physics

**21.** •• Draw a pictorial representation for the following problem. Do *not* solve the problem. The light turns green, and a bicyclist starts forward with an acceleration of 1.5 m/s$^2$. How far must she travel to reach a speed of 7.5 m/s?

**22.** •• Draw a pictorial representation for the following problem. Do *not* solve the problem. What acceleration does a rocket need to reach a speed of 200 m/s at a height of 1.0 km?

## Section 1.8 Units and Significant Figures

**23.** • How many significant figures are there in the following values?

**a.** $0.05 \times 10^{-4}$

**b.** 0.00340

**c.** $7.2 \times 10^{4}$

**d.** 103.00

**24.** •• Convert the following to SI units:

**a.** 8.0 in

**b.** 66 ft/s

**c.** 60 mph

**d.** 14 in$^2$

**25.** • Convert the following to SI units:

**a.** 75 in

**b.** $3.45 \times 10^{6}$ yr



**c.** 62 ft/day

**d.** $2.2 \times 10^{4}$ mi$^2$

**26.** •• Using the approximate conversion factors in Table 1.5, convert the following SI units to English units *without* using your calculator.

**a.** 30 cm

**b.** 25 m/s

**c.** 5 km

**d.** 0.5 cm

**27.** • Using the approximate conversion factors in Table 1.5, convert the following to SI units *without* using your calculator.

**a.** 20 ft

**b.** 60 mi

**c.** 60 mph

**d.** 8 in

**28.** • Compute the following numbers, applying the significant figure rules adopted in this textbook.

**a.** $33.3 \times 25.4$

**b.** $33.3 - 25.4$

**c.** $\sqrt{33.3}$

**d.** $333.3 \div 25.4$

**29.** • Perform the following calculations with the correct number of significant figures.

**a.** $159.31 \times 204.6$

**b.** $5.1125 + 0.67 + 3.2$

**c.** $7.662 - 7.425$

**d.** $16.5/3.45$

**30.** • Estimate (don't measure!) the length of a typical car. Give your answer in both feet and meters. Briefly describe how you arrived at this estimate.

**31.** • Estimate the height of a telephone pole. Give your answer in both feet and meters. Briefly describe how you arrived at this estimate.

**32.** • **BIO** Estimate the average speed with which the hair on your head grows. Give your answer in both m/s and $\mu$m/hour. Briefly describe how you arrived at this estimate.

**33.** • **BIO** Motor neurons in mammals transmit signals from the brain to skeletal muscles at approximately 25 m/s. Estimate how long in ms it takes a signal to get from your brain to your hand.

## Problems

For Problems 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, draw a complete pictorial representation. Do *not* solve these problems or do any mathematics.

**34.** • A Porsche accelerates from a stoplight at 5.0 $m/s^2$ for five seconds, then coasts for three more seconds. How far has it traveled?

**35.** • A jet plane is cruising at 300 m/s when suddenly the pilot turns the engines up to full throttle. After traveling 4.0 km, the jet is moving with a speed of 400 m/s. What is the jet's acceleration as it speeds up?

**36.** • Sam is recklessly driving 60 mph in a 30 mph speed zone when he suddenly sees the police. He steps on the brakes and slows to 30 mph in three seconds, looking nonchalant as he passes the officer. How far does he travel while braking?

**37.** • You would like to stick a wet spit wad on the ceiling, so you toss it straight up with a speed of 10 m/s. How long does it take to reach the ceiling, 3.0 m above?

**38.** • A speed skater moving across frictionless ice at 8.0 m/s hits a 5.0-m-wide patch of rough ice. She slows steadily, then continues on at 6.0 m/s. What is her acceleration on the rough ice?

**39.** • Santa loses his footing and slides down a frictionless, snowy roof that is tilted at an angle of 30°. If Santa slides 10 m before reaching the edge, what is his speed as he leaves the roof?

**40.** • A motorist is traveling at 20 m/s. He is 60 m from a stoplight when he sees it turn yellow. His reaction time, before stepping on the brake, is 0.50 s. What steady deceleration while braking will bring him to a stop right at the light?

**41.** • A car traveling at 30 m/s runs out of gas while traveling up a 10° slope. How far up the hill will the car coast before starting to roll back down?

**42.** •• Ice hockey star Bruce Blades is 5.0 m from the blue line and gliding toward it at a speed of 4.0 m/s. You are 20 m from the blue line, directly behind Bruce. You want to pass the puck to Bruce. With what speed should you shoot the puck down the ice so that it reaches Bruce exactly as he crosses the blue line?

**43.** •• David is driving a steady 30 m/s when he passes Tina, who is sitting in her car at rest. Tina begins to accelerate at a steady 2.0 m/s$^2$ at the instant when David passes. How far does Tina drive before passing David?

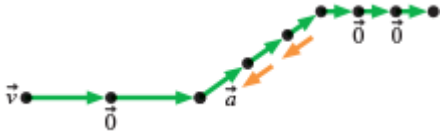
Problems 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 show a motion diagram. For each of these problems, write a one or two sentence "story" about a *real object* that has this motion diagram. Your stories should talk about people or objects by name and say what they are doing. Problems 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 are examples of motion short stories.

**44.** •

**Figure P1.44**

45. •

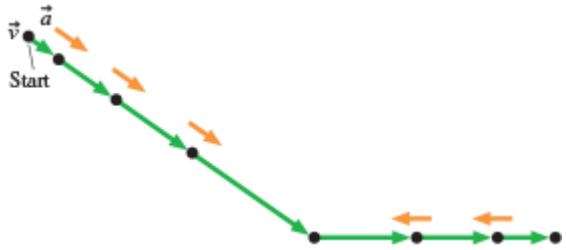
Figure P1.45





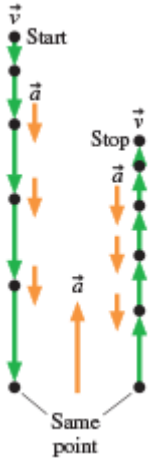

46. •

Figure P1.46




47. •

Figure P1.47




48. •

**Figure P1.48**

Problems 49, 50, 51, 52 show a partial motion diagram. For each:

**a.** Complete the motion diagram by adding acceleration vectors.

**b.** Write a physics *problem* for which this is the correct motion diagram. Be imaginative! Don't forget to include enough information to make the problem complete and to state clearly what is to be found.

**c.** Draw a pictorial representation for your problem.

**49.**

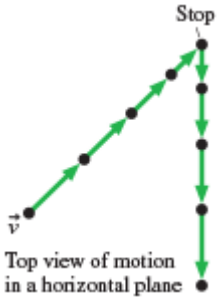
**Figure P1.49**

**50.**

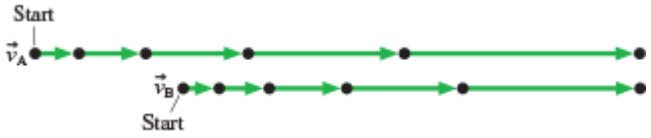
**Figure P1.50**

**51.**

**Figure P1.51**




**52.** **Figure P1.52**




**53.** • A regulation soccer field for international play is a rectangle with a length between 100 m and 110 m and a width between 64 m and 75 m. What are the smallest and largest areas that the field could be?

**54.** • As an architect, you are designing a new house. A window has a height between 140 cm and 150 cm and a width between 74 cm and 70 cm. What are the smallest and largest areas that the window could be?

**55.** •• A 5.4-cm-diameter cylinder has a length of 12.5 cm. What is the cylinder's volume in SI units?

**56.** • **BIO** An intravenous saline drip has 9.0 g of sodium chloride per liter of water. By definition, $1\,\text{mL} = 1\,\text{cm}^3$. Express the salt concentration in $\text{kg/m}^3$.

**57.** •• The quantity called *mass density* is the mass per unit volume of a substance. What are the mass densities in SI units of the following objects?

**a.** A 215 $\text{cm}^3$ solid with a mass of 0.0179 kg.

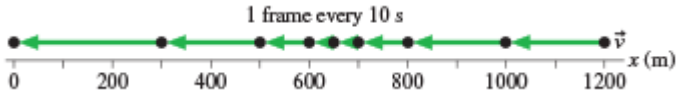
**b.** 95 $\text{cm}^3$ of a liquid with a mass of 77 g.

**58.** • Figure P1.58 shows a motion diagram of a car traveling down a street. The camera took one frame every 10 s. A distance scale is provided.

**a.** Measure the $x$-value of the car at each dot. Place your data in a table, similar to Table 1.1, showing each position and the instant of time at which it occurred.

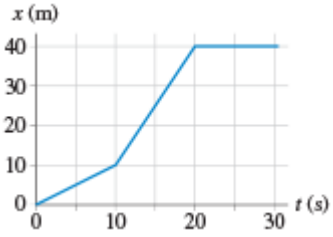
**b.** Make a position-versus-time graph for the car. Because you have data only at certain instants of time, your graph should consist of dots that are not connected together.

**Figure P1.58**



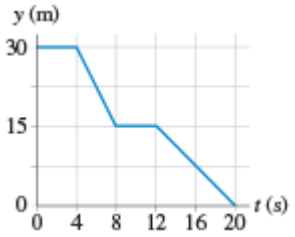

**59.** • Write a short description of a real object for which Figure P1.59 would be a realistic position-versus-time graph.

**Figure P1.59**




**60.** • Write a short description of a real object for which Figure P1.60 would be a realistic position-versus-time graph.

**Figure P1.60**


y (m)
30
15
0
0
4
8
12
16
20
t (s)

# Chapter 2
# Kinematics in One Dimension

This Japanese "bullet train" accelerates slowly but steadily until reaching a speed of 300 km/h.

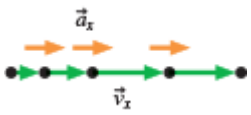
**In This Chapter**

you will learn to solve problems about motion along a straight line.

## What is kinematics?

Kinematics is the mathematical description of motion. We begin with motion along a straight line. Our primary tools will be an object's position, velocity, and acceleration.

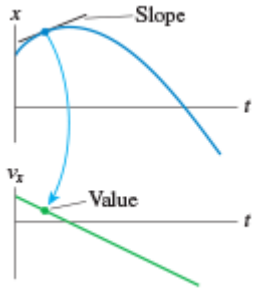
Looking Back Sections 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 Velocity, acceleration, and Tactics Box 1.4 about signs




## How are graphs used in kinematics?

Graphs are a very important visual representation of motion, and learning to “think graphically” is one of our goals. We’ll work with graphs showing how position, velocity, and acceleration change with time. These graphs are related to each other:

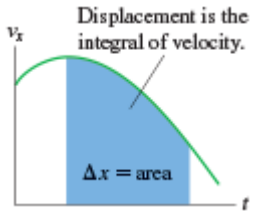
- Velocity is the slope of the position graph.
- Acceleration is the slope of the velocity graph.




## How is calculus used in kinematics?

Motion is change, and calculus is the mathematical tool for describing a quantity’s rate of change. We’ll find that

- Velocity is the time derivative of position.
- Acceleration is the time derivative of velocity.




## What are models?

A model is a simplified description of a situation that focuses on essential features while ignoring many details. Models allow us to make sense of complex situations by seeing them as

variations on a common theme, all with the same underlying physics.

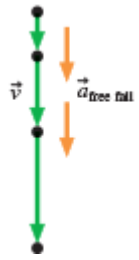
**MODEL 2.1**

Look for model boxes like this throughout the book.

- Key figures
- Key equations
- Model limitations

## What is free fall?

Free fall is motion under the influence of gravity only. Free fall is not literally "falling" because it also applies to objects thrown straight up and to projectiles. Surprisingly, all objects in free fall, *regardless of their mass*, have the same acceleration. Motion on a frictionless inclined plane is closely related to free-fall motion.

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The equations of motion that you learn in this chapter will be used throughout the entire book. In Part I, we'll see how an object's motion is related to forces acting on the object. We'll later apply these kinematic equations to the motion of waves and to the motion of charged particles in electric and magnetic fields.

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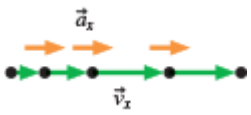


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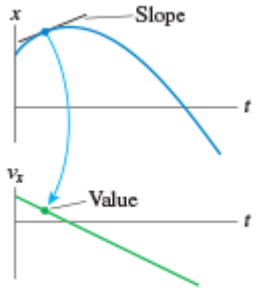


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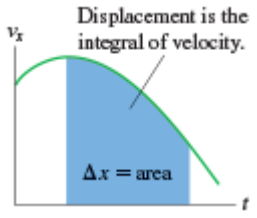


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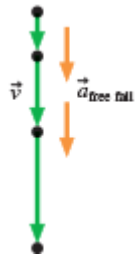


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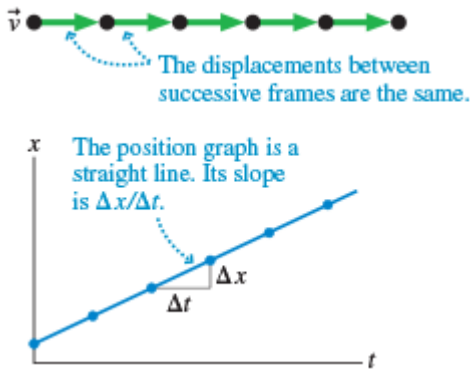
# 2.1 Uniform Motion



The simplest possible motion is motion along a straight line at a constant, unvarying speed. We call this **uniform motion**. Because velocity is the combination of speed and direction, **uniform motion is motion with constant velocity**.

Figure 2.1 shows the motion diagram of an object in uniform motion. For example, this might be you riding your bicycle along a straight line at a perfectly steady $5\,\text{m/s}$ ($\approx 10\,\text{mph}$). Notice how all the displacements are exactly the same; this is a characteristic of uniform motion.

**Figure 2.1**




Motion diagram and position graph for uniform motion.

If we make a position-versus-time graph—remember that position is graphed on the *vertical* axis—it's a straight line. In fact, an alternative definition is that **an object's motion is uniform if and only if its position-versus-time graph is a straight line.**

Section 1.4 defined an object's **average velocity** as $\Delta\vec{r}/\Delta t$. For one-dimensional motion, this is simply $\Delta x/\Delta t$ (for horizontal motion) or

$\Delta y/\Delta t$ (for vertical motion). You can see in Figure 2.1 that $\Delta x$ and $\Delta t$ are, respectively, the "rise" and "run" of the position graph. Because rise over run is the slope of a line,

**(2.1)**

$$v_{\text{avg}} \equiv \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} = \text{slope of the position-versus-time graph}$$

That is, **the average velocity is the slope of the position-versus-time graph**. Velocity has units of "length per time," such as "miles per hour." The SI units of velocity are meters per second, abbreviated m/s.

> **Note**
>
> The symbol ≡ in Equation 2.1 stands for "is defined as." This is a stronger statement than the two sides simply being equal.

The constant slope of a straight-line graph is another way to see that the velocity is constant for uniform motion. There's no real need to specify "average" for a velocity that doesn't change, so we will drop the subscript and refer to the average velocity as $v_x$ or $v_y$.

An object's **speed** $v$ is how fast it's going, independent of direction. This is simply $v = |v_x|$ or $v = |v_y|$, the magnitude or absolute value of the object's velocity. Although we will use speed from time to time, our mathematical analysis of motion is based on velocity, not speed. The subscript in $v_x$ or $v_y$ is an essential part of the notation, reminding us that, even in one dimension, the velocity is a vector.

**Example 2.1 Relating a velocity graph to a position graph**

Figure 2.2 is the position-versus-time graph of a car.

FIGURE 2.2 Position-versus-time graph.

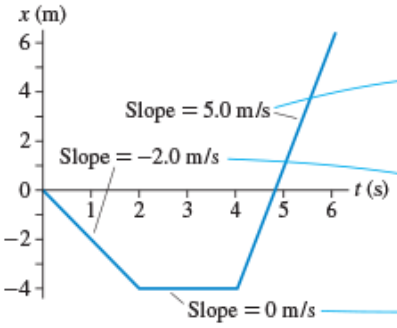
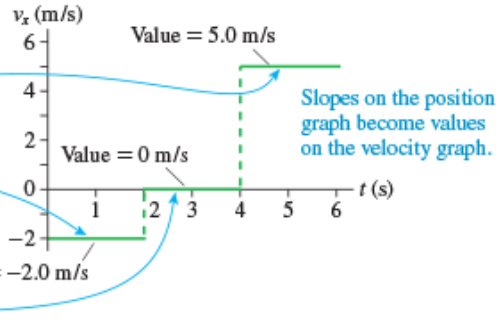



FIGURE 2.3 The corresponding velocity-versus-time graph.




**a.** Draw the car's velocity-versus-time graph.

**b.** Describe the car's motion.

---

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle, with a well-defined position at each instant of time.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.2 is the graphical representation.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The car's position-versus-time graph is a sequence of three straight lines. Each of these straight lines represents uniform motion at a constant velocity. We can determine the car's velocity during each interval of time by measuring the slope of the line.

The position graph starts out sloping downward—a negative slope. Although the car moves a distance of 4.0 m during the first 2.0 s, its *displacement* is

$$\Delta x = x_{\text{at } 2.0\text{ s}} - x_{\text{at } 0.0\text{ s}} = -4.0\text{ m} - 0.0\text{ m} = -4.0\text{ m}$$

The time interval for this displacement is $\Delta t = 2.0\,\text{s}$, so the velocity during this interval is

$$v_x = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{-4.0\,\text{m}}{2.0\,\text{s}} = -2.0\,\text{m/s}$$

The car's position does not change from $t = 2\,\text{s}$ to $t = 4\,\text{s}$ ($\Delta x = 0$), so $v_x = 0$. Finally, the displacement between $t = 4\,\text{s}$ and $t = 6\,\text{s}$ is $\Delta x = 10.0\,\text{m}$. Thus the velocity during this interval is

$$v_x = \frac{10.0\,\text{m}}{2.0\,\text{s}} = 5.0\,\text{m/s}$$



These velocities are shown on the velocity-versus-time graph of Figure 2.3.

**b.** The car backs up for 2 s at 2.0 m/s, sits at rest for 2 s, then drives forward at 5.0 m/s for at least 2 s. We can't tell from the graph what happens for $t > 6$ s.

**ASSESS** The velocity graph and the position graph look completely different. The *value* of the velocity graph at any instant of time equals the *slope* of the position graph.

Example 2.1 brought out several points that are worth emphasizing.

TACTICS BOX 2.1 **Interpreting position-versus-time graphs**

**Mastering Physics**

1. Steeper slopes correspond to faster speeds.
2. Negative slopes correspond to negative velocities and, hence, to motion to the left (or down).

**3.** The slope is a ratio of intervals, $\Delta x/\Delta t$, not a ratio of coordinates. That is, the slope is *not* simply $x/t$.

Workbook Exercises 1, 2, 3

---

**Note**

We are distinguishing between the *actual* slope and the *physically meaningful* slope. If you were to use a ruler to measure the rise and the run of the graph, you could compute the actual slope of the line as drawn on the page. That is not the slope to which we are referring when we equate the velocity with the slope of the line. Instead, we find the *physically meaningful* slope by measuring the rise and run using the scales along the axes. The "rise" $\Delta x$ is some number of meters; the "run" $\Delta t$ is some number of seconds. The physically meaningful rise and run include units, and the ratio of these units gives the units of the slope.

## The Mathematics of Uniform Motion

The physics of the motion is the same regardless of whether an object moves along the $x$-axis, the $y$-axis, or any other straight line. Consequently, it will be convenient to write equations for a "generic axis" that we will call the $s$-axis. The position of an object will be represented by the symbol $s$ and its velocity by $v_s$.

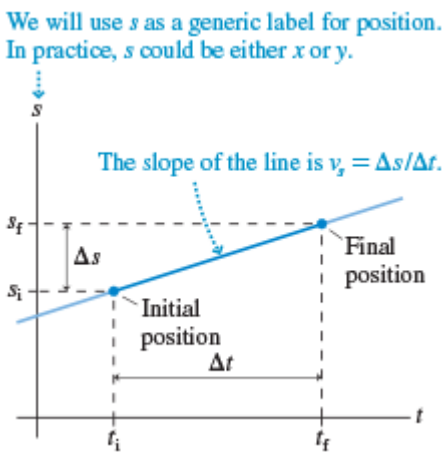
**Note**

In a specific problem you should use either $x$ or $y$ rather than $s$.

Consider an object in uniform motion along the $s$-axis with the linear position-versus-time graph shown in Figure 2.4. The object's **initial position** is $s_i$ at time $t_i$. The term *initial position* refers to the starting point of our analysis or the starting point in a problem; the object may or may not have been in motion prior to $t_i$. At a later time $t_f$, the ending point of our analysis, the object's **final position** is $s_f$.

## Figure 2.4






The velocity is found from the slope of the position-versus-time graph.

The object's velocity $v_s$ along the $s$-axis can be determined by finding the slope of the graph:

**(2.2)**

$$v_s = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = \frac{s_f - s_i}{t_f - t_i}$$

Equation 2.2 is easily rearranged to give

**(2.3)**

$$s_f = s_i + v_s\,\Delta t \qquad \text{(uniform motion)}$$

Equation 2.3 tells us that the object's position increases linearly as the elapsed time $\Delta t$ increases—exactly as we see in the straight-line position graph.

## The Uniform-Motion Model

Chapter 1 introduced a *model* as a simplified picture of reality, but one that still captures the essence of what we want to study. When it comes to motion, few real objects move with a precisely constant velocity. Even so, there are many cases in which it is quite reasonable to model their motion as being uniform. That is, uniform motion is a very good approximation of their actual, but more complex, motion. The **uniform-motion model** is a coherent set of representations—words, pictures, graphs, and equations—that allows us to explain an object's motion and to predict where the object will be at a future instant of time.

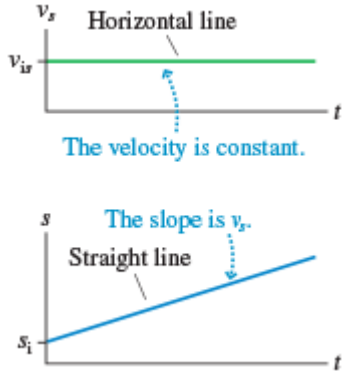
MODEL 2.1 **Uniform motion**

For motion with constant velocity.

- Model the object as a particle moving in a straight line at constant speed:

- Mathematically:
  - $v_s = \Delta s/\Delta t$
  - $s_\mathrm{f} = s_\mathrm{i} + v_s \Delta t$

- Limitations: Model fails if the particle has a significant change of speed or direction.






Workbook Exercise 4

**Example 2.2 Lunch in Cleveland?**

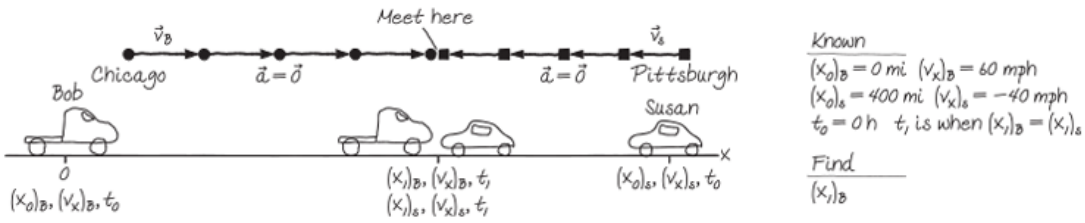
Bob leaves home in Chicago at 9:00 A.M. and drives east at 60 mph. Susan, 400 miles to the east in Pittsburgh, leaves at the same time and travels west at 40 mph. Where will they meet for lunch?

**MODEL** Here is a problem where, for the first time, we can really put all four aspects of our problem-solving strategy into play. To begin, we'll model Bob's and Susan's cars as being in uniform motion. Their real motion is certainly more complex, but over a long drive it's reasonable to approximate their motion as constant speed along a straight line.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.5 shows the pictorial representation. The equal spacings of the dots in the motion diagram indicate that the motion is uniform. In evaluating the given information, we recognize that the starting time of 9:00 A.M. is not relevant to the

problem. Consequently, the initial time is chosen as simply $t_0 = 0$ h. Bob and Susan are traveling in opposite directions, hence one of the velocities must be a negative number. We have chosen a coordinate system in which Bob starts at the origin and moves to the right (east) while Susan is moving to the left (west). Thus Susan has the negative velocity. Notice how we've assigned position, velocity, and time symbols to each point in the motion. Pay special attention to how subscripts are used to distinguish different points in the problem and to distinguish Bob's symbols from Susan's.

## Figure 2.5




Pictorial representation for Example 2.2.

One purpose of the pictorial representation is to establish what we need to find. Bob and Susan meet when they have the same position at the same time $t_1$. Thus we want to find $(x_1)_B$ at the time when $(x_1)_B = (x_1)_S$. Notice that $(x_1)_B$ and $(x_1)_S$ are Bob's and Susan's *positions*, which are equal when they meet, not the distances they have traveled.

**SOLVE** The goal of the mathematical representation is to proceed from the pictorial representation to a mathematical solution of the problem. We can begin by using Equation 2.3 to find Bob's and Susan's positions at time $t_1$ when they meet:

$$(x_1)_B = (x_0)_B + (v_x)_B(t_1 - t_0) = (v_x)_B t_1$$
$$(x_1)_S = (x_0)_S + (v_x)_S(t_1 - t_0) = (x_0)_S + (v_x)_S t_1$$

Notice two things. First, we started by writing the *full* statement of Equation 2.3. Only then did we simplify by dropping those terms known to be zero. You're less likely to make accidental errors if you follow this procedure. Second, we replaced the generic symbol $s$ with the specific horizontal-position symbol $x$, and we replaced the generic subscripts i and f with the specific symbols 0 and 1 that we defined in the pictorial representation. This is also good problem-solving technique.

The condition that Bob and Susan meet is

$$(x_1)_\mathrm{B} = (x_1)_\mathrm{S}$$

By equating the right-hand sides of the above equations, we get

$$(v_x)_\mathrm{B}\, t_1 = (x_0)_\mathrm{S} + (v_x)_\mathrm{S}\, t_1$$

Solving for $t_1$ we find that they meet at time

$$t_1 = \frac{(x_0)_\mathrm{S}}{(v_x)_\mathrm{B} - (v_x)_\mathrm{S}} = \frac{400\,\text{miles}}{60\,\text{mph} - (-40)\,\text{mph}} = 4.0\,\text{hours}$$

Finally, inserting this time back into the equation for $(x_1)_\mathrm{B}$ gives

$$(x_1)_\mathrm{B} = \left(60\frac{\text{miles}}{\text{hour}}\right) \times (4.0\,\text{hours}) = 240\,\text{miles}$$

As noted in Chapter 1, this textbook will assume that all data are good to at least two significant figures, even when one of those is a trailing zero. So 400 miles, 60 mph, and 40 mph each have two significant figures, and consequently we've calculated results to two significant figures.

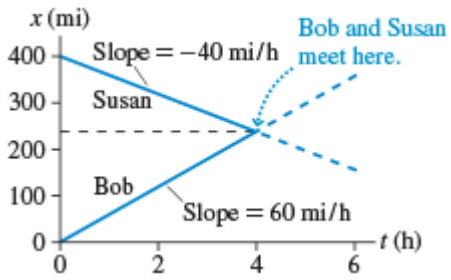
While 240 miles is a number, it is not yet the answer to the question. The phrase "240 miles" by itself does not say anything

meaningful. Because this is the value of Bob's *position*, and Bob was driving east, the answer to the question is, "They meet 240 miles east of Chicago."

**ASSESS** Before stopping, we should check whether or not this answer seems reasonable. We certainly expected an answer between 0 miles and 400 miles. We also know that Bob is driving faster than Susan, so we expect that their meeting point will be *more* than halfway from Chicago to Pittsburgh. Our assessment tells us that 240 miles is a reasonable answer.

It is instructive to look at this example from a graphical perspective. Figure 2.6 shows position-versus-time graphs for Bob and Susan. Notice the negative slope for Susan's graph, indicating her negative velocity. The point of interest is the intersection of the two lines; this is where Bob and Susan have the same position at the same time. Our method of solution, in which we equated $(x_1)_B$ and $(x_1)_S$, is really just solving the mathematical problem of finding the intersection of two lines. This procedure is useful for many problems in which there are two moving objects.

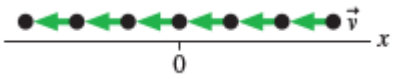
## Figure 2.6




Position-versus-time graphs for Bob and Susan.

## Stop to Think 2.1

Which position-versus-time graph represents the motion shown in the motion diagram?




**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

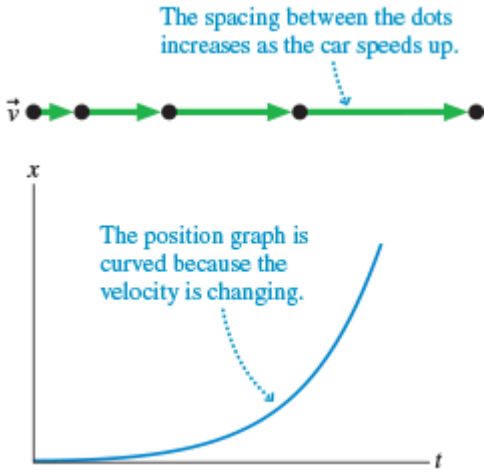
**e.**

# 2.2 Instantaneous Velocity



Uniform motion is simple, but objects rarely travel for long with a constant velocity. Far more common is a velocity that changes with time. For example, Figure 2.7 shows the motion diagram and position graph of a car speeding up after the light turns green. Notice how the velocity vectors increase in length, causing the graph to curve upward as the car's displacements get larger and larger.

**Figure 2.7**



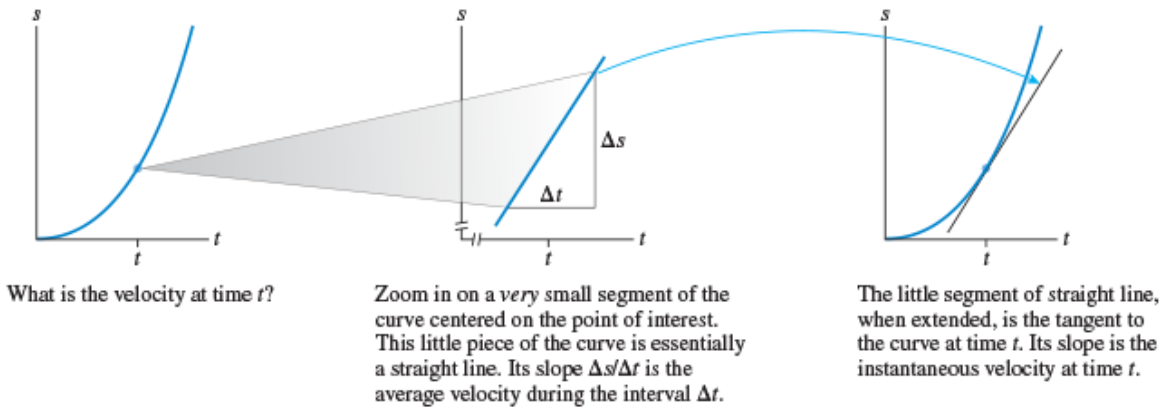

Motion diagram and position graph of a car speeding up.

If you were to watch the car's speedometer, you would see it increase from 0 mph to 10 mph to 20 mph and so on. At any instant of time, the speedometer tells you how fast the car is going *at that instant*. If we include directional information, we can define an object's **instantaneous velocity**—speed and direction—as its velocity at a single instant of time.

For uniform motion, the slope of the straight-line position graph is the object's velocity. Figure 2.8 shows that there's a similar connection

between instantaneous velocity and the slope of a curved position graph.

## Figure 2.8




Instantaneous velocity at time $t$ is the slope of the tangent to the curve at that instant.

What we see graphically is that the average velocity $v_{\text{avg}} = \Delta s/\Delta t$ becomes a better and better approximation to the instantaneous velocity $v_s$ as the time interval $\Delta t$ over which the average is taken gets smaller and smaller. We can state this idea mathematically in terms of the limit $\Delta t \to 0$:

**(2.4)**

$$v_s \equiv \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = \frac{ds}{dt} \qquad (\text{instantaneous velocity})$$

As $\Delta t$ continues to get smaller, the average velocity $v_{\text{avg}} = \Delta s/\Delta t$ reaches a constant or *limiting* value. That is, **the instantaneous velocity at time $t$ is the average velocity during a time interval $\Delta t$, centered on $t$, as $\Delta t$ approaches zero**. In calculus, this limit is called *the derivative of $s$ with respect to $t$*, and it is denoted $ds/dt$.

Graphically, $\Delta s/\Delta t$ is the slope of a straight line. As $\Delta t$ gets smaller (i.e., more and more magnification), the straight line becomes a better and

better approximation of the curve *at that one point*. In the limit $\Delta t \to 0$, the straight line is tangent to the curve. As Figure 2.8 shows, **the instantaneous velocity at time *t* is the slope of the line that is tangent to the position-versus-time graph at time *t*.** That is,

**(2.5)**

$$v_s = \text{slope of the position-versus-time graph at time } t$$

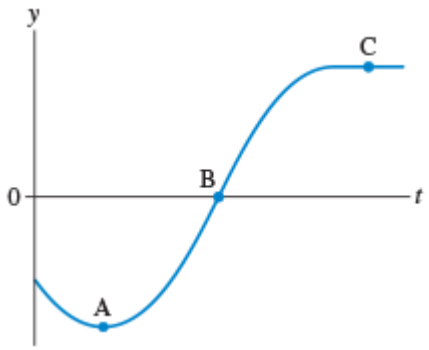
The steeper the slope, the larger the magnitude of the velocity.



**Example 2.3 Finding velocity from position graphically**

Figure 2.9 shows the position-versus-time graph of an elevator.

**Figure 2.9**




Position-versus-time graph.

**a.** At which labeled point or points does the elevator have the least velocity?

**b.** At which point or points does the elevator have maximum velocity?

**c.** Sketch an approximate velocity-versus-time graph for the elevator.

---

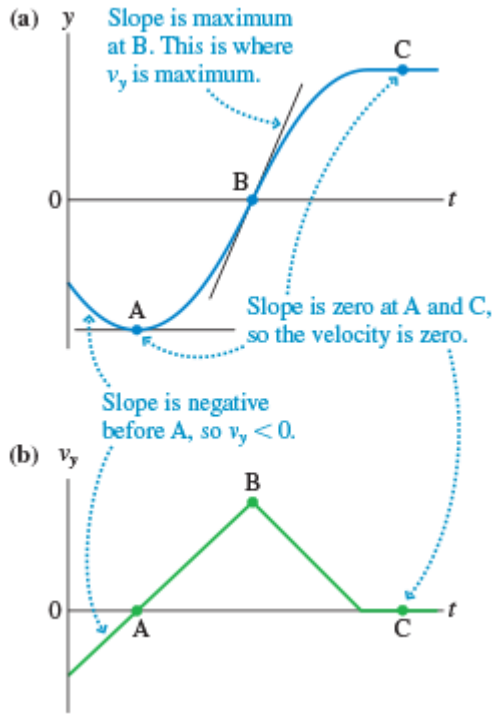
**MODEL** Model the elevator as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.9 is the graphical representation.

**SOLVE**

**a.** At any instant, an object's velocity is the slope of its position graph. Figure 2.10a shows that the elevator has the least velocity—no velocity at all!—at points A and C where the slope is zero. At point A, the velocity is only instantaneously zero. At point C, the elevator has actually stopped and remains at rest.

## Figure 2.10




The velocity-versus-time graph is found from the slope of the position graph.

**b.** The elevator has maximum velocity at B, the point of steepest slope.

**c.** Although we cannot find an exact velocity-versus-time graph, we can see that the slope, and hence $v_y$, is initially negative, becomes zero at point A, rises to a maximum value at point B, decreases back to zero a little before point C, then remains at zero thereafter. Thus Figure 2.10b shows, at least approximately, the elevator's velocity-versus-time graph.

**ASSESS** Once again, the shape of the velocity graph bears no resemblance to the shape of the position graph. You must transfer *slope* information from the position graph to *value* information on the velocity graph.

## A Little Calculus: Derivatives

Calculus—invented simultaneously in England by Newton and in Germany by Leibniz—is designed to deal with instantaneous quantities. In other words, it provides us with the tools for evaluating limits such as the one in Equation 2.4.

Scientists and engineers must use calculus to calculate the orbits of satellites.

The notation $ds/dt$ is called *the derivative of s with respect to t*, and Equation 2.4 defines it as the limiting value of a ratio. As Figure 2.8 showed, $ds/dt$ can be interpreted graphically as the slope of the line that is tangent to the position graph.

The most common functions we will use in Parts I and II of this book are powers and polynomials. Consider the function $u(t) = ct^n$, where $c$ and $n$ are constants. The symbol $u$ is a "dummy name" to represent any function of time, such as $x(t)$ or $y(t)$. The following result is proven in calculus:



**(2.6)**

$$\text{The derivative of } u = ct^n \text{ is} \frac{du}{dt} = nct^{n-1}$$

For example, suppose the position of a particle as a function of time is $s(t) = 2t^2$ m, where $t$ is in s. We can find the particle's velocity $v_s = ds/dt$ by using Equation 2.6 with $c = 2$ and $n = 2$ to calculate

$$v_s = \frac{ds}{dt} = 2 \cdot 2t^{2-1} = 4t$$

This is an expression for the particle's velocity as a function of time.

Figure 2.11 shows the particle's position and velocity graphs. It is critically important to understand the relationship between these two graphs. The *value* of the velocity graph at any instant of time, which we can read directly off the vertical axis, is the *slope* of the position graph at that same time. This is illustrated at $t = 3$ s.

---

**Figure 2.11**

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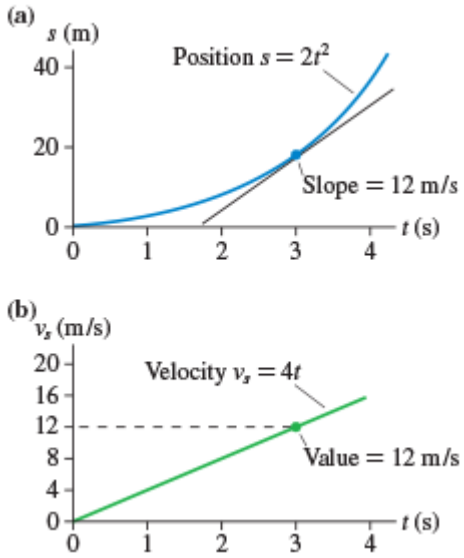



Position-versus-time graph and the corresponding velocity-versus-time graph.

---

A value that doesn't change with time, such as the position of an object at rest, can be represented by the function $u = c =$ constant. That is, the exponent of $t^n$ is $n = 0$. You can see from Equation 2.6 that the derivative of a constant is zero. That is,

**(2.7)**

$$\frac{du}{dt} = 0 \text{ if } u = c = \text{constant}$$

This makes sense. The graph of the function $u = c$ is simply a horizontal line. The slope of a horizontal line—which is what the derivative $du/dt$ measures—is zero.

The only other information we need about derivatives for now is how to evaluate the derivative of the sum of two functions. Let $u$ and $w$ be two separate functions of time. You will learn in calculus that

**(2.8)**

$$\frac{d}{dt}(u + w) = \frac{du}{dt} + \frac{dw}{dt}$$

That is, the derivative of a sum is the sum of the derivatives.

> **Note**
>
> You may have learned in calculus to take the derivative $dy/dx$, where *y* is a function of *x*. The derivatives we use in physics are the same; only the notation is different. We're interested in how quantities change with time, so our derivatives are with respect to *t* instead of *x*.

**Example 2.4 Using calculus to find the velocity**

A particle's position is given by the function $x(t) = (-t^3 + 3t)\,\text{m}$, where *t* is in s.

**a.** What are the particle's position and velocity at $t = 2\,\text{s}$?

**b.** Draw graphs of *x* and $v_x$ during the interval $-3\,\text{s} \le t \le 3\,\text{s}$.

**c.** Draw a motion diagram to illustrate this motion.

**SOLVE**

**a.** We can compute the position directly from the function *x*:

$$x(\text{at } t = 2\,\text{s}) = -(2)^3 + (3)(2) = -8 + 6 = -2\,\text{m}$$

The velocity is $v_x = dx/dt$. The function for *x* is the sum of two polynomials, so

$$v_x = \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(-t^3 + 3t) = \frac{d}{dt}(-t^3) + \frac{d}{dt}(3t)$$

The first derivative is a power with $c = -1$ and $n = 3$; the second has $c = 3$ and $n = 1$. Using Equation 2.6, we have

$$v_x = (-3t^2 + 3)\ \text{m/s}$$

where $t$ is in s. Evaluating the velocity at $t = 2$ s gives

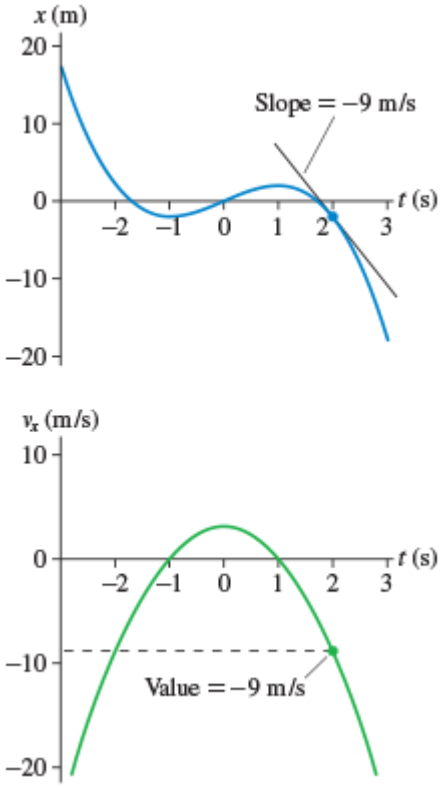
$$v_x(\text{at } t = 2\text{s}) = -3(2)^2 + 3 = -9\,\text{m/s}$$

The negative sign indicates that the particle, at this instant of time, is moving to the *left* at a speed of 9 m/s.

**b.** Figure 2.12 shows the position graph and the velocity graph. You can make graphs like these with a graphing calculator or graphing software. The slope of the position-versus-time graph at $t = 2$ s is –9 m/s; this becomes the *value* that is graphed for the velocity at $t = 2$ s.



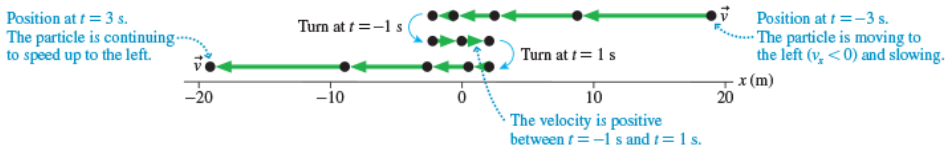
**Figure 2.12**



Position and velocity graphs.

**c.** Finally, we can interpret the graphs in Figure 2.12 to draw the motion diagram shown in Figure 2.13.

## Figure 2.13




Motion diagram for Example 2.4.

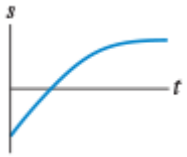
- The particle is initially to the right of the origin ($x > 0$ at $t = -3\,\text{s}$) but moving to the left ($v_x < 0$). Its *speed* is slowing ($v = |v_x|$ is decreasing), so the velocity vector arrows are getting shorter.
- The particle passes the origin $x = 0\,\text{m}$ at $t \approx -1.5\,\text{s}$, but it is still moving to the left.
- The position reaches a minimum at $t = -1\,\text{s}$; the particle is as far left as it is going. The velocity is *instantaneously* $v_x = 0\,\text{m/s}$ as the particle reverses direction.
- The particle moves back to the right between $t = -1\,\text{s}$ and $t = 1\,\text{s}$ ($v_x > 0$).
- The particle turns around again at $t = 1\,\text{s}$ and begins moving back to the left ($v_x < 0$). It keeps speeding up, then disappears off to the left.

A point in the motion where a particle reverses direction is called a **turning point**. It is a point where the velocity is instantaneously zero while the position is a maximum or minimum. This particle

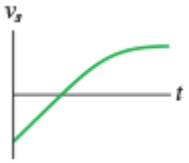
has two turning points, at $t = -1\,\text{s}$ and again at $t = +1\,\text{s}$. We will see many other examples of turning points.

## Stop to Think 2.2

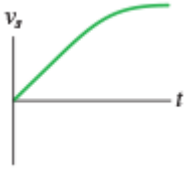
Which velocity-versus-time graph goes with the position-versus-time graph on the left?



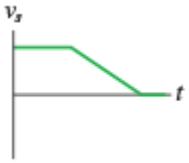

**a.**



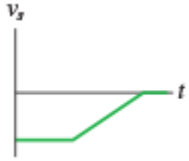

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**



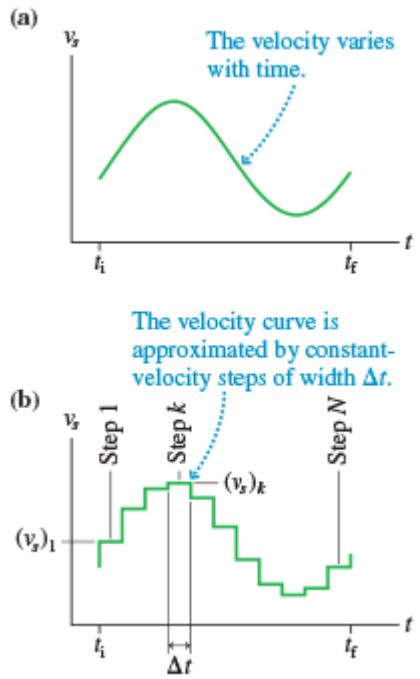
# 2.3 Finding Position from Velocity



Equation 2.4 allows us to find the instantaneous velocity $v_s$ if we know the position $s$ as a function of time. But what about the reverse problem? Can we use the object's velocity to calculate its position at some future time $t$? Equation 2.3, $s_f = s_i + v_s \Delta t$, does this for the case of uniform motion with a constant velocity. We need to find a more general expression that is valid when $v_s$ is not constant.

Figure 2.14a is a velocity-versus-time graph for an object whose velocity varies with time. Suppose we know the object's position to be $s_i$ at an initial time $t_i$. Our goal is to find its position $s_f$ at a later time $t_f$.

**Figure 2.14**




Approximating a velocity-versus-time graph with a series of constant-velocity steps.

Because we know how to handle constant velocities, using Equation 2.3, let's *approximate* the velocity function of Figure 2.14a as a series of constant-velocity steps of width $\Delta t$. This is illustrated in Figure 2.14b. During the first step, from time $t_\text{i}$ to time $t_\text{i} + \Delta t$, the velocity has the constant value $(v_s)_1$. The velocity during step $k$ has the constant value $(v_s)_k$. Although the approximation shown in the figure is rather rough, with only 11 steps, we can easily imagine that it could be made as accurate as desired by having more and more ever-narrower steps.

The velocity during each step is constant (uniform motion), so we can apply Equation 2.3 to each step. The object's displacement $\Delta s_1$ during the first step is simply $\Delta s_1 = (v_s)_1 \Delta t$. The displacement during the second step $\Delta s_2 = (v_s)_2 \Delta t$, and during step $k$ the displacement is $\Delta s_k = (v_s)_k \Delta t$.

The total displacement of the object between $t_\text{i}$ and $t_\text{f}$ can be approximated as the sum of all the individual displacements during each of the $N$ constant-velocity steps. That is,

**(2.9)**

$$\Delta s = s_\text{f} - s_\text{i} \approx \Delta s_1 + \Delta s_2 + \cdots + \Delta s_N = \sum_{k=1}^{N} (v_s)_k \Delta t$$

where Σ (Greek sigma) is the symbol for summation. With a simple rearrangement, the particle's final position is

**(2.10)**

$$s_\text{f} \approx s_\text{i} + \sum_{k=1}^{N} (v_s)_k \Delta t$$

Our goal was to use the object's velocity to find its final position $s_f$. Equation 2.10 nearly reaches that goal, but Equation 2.10 is only approximate because the constant-velocity steps are only an approximation of the true velocity graph. But if we now let $\Delta t \to 0$, each step's width approaches zero while the total number of steps $N$ approaches infinity. In this limit, the series of steps becomes a perfect replica of the velocity-versus-time graph and Equation 2.10 becomes exact. Thus

---

**(2.11)**

$$s_f = s_i + \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \sum_{k=1}^{N} (v_s)_k \Delta t = s_i + \int_{t_i}^{t_f} v_s \, dt$$

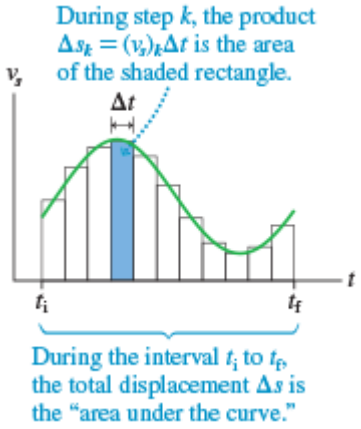
The expression on the right is read, "the integral of $v_s\,dt$ from $t_i$ to $t_f$." Equation 2.11 is the result that we were seeking. It allows us to predict an object's position $s_f$ at a future time $t_f$.

We can give Equation 2.11 an important geometric interpretation. Figure 2.15 shows step $k$ in the approximation of the velocity graph as a tall, thin rectangle of height $(v_s)_k$ and width $\Delta t$. The product $\Delta s_k = (v_s)_k \Delta t$ is the area (base $\times$ height) of this small rectangle. The sum in Equation 2.11 adds up all of these rectangular areas to give the total area enclosed between the $t$-axis and the tops of the steps. The limit of this sum as $\Delta t \to 0$ is the total area enclosed between the $t$-axis and the velocity curve. This is called the "area under the curve." Thus a graphical interpretation of Equation 2.11 is

---

(2.12)
$$s_{\mathrm{f}} = s_{\mathrm{i}} + \text{area under the velocity curve } v_s \text{ between } t_{\mathrm{i}} \text{ and } t_{\mathrm{f}}$$

## Figure 2.15




The total displacement $\Delta s$ is the "area under the curve."

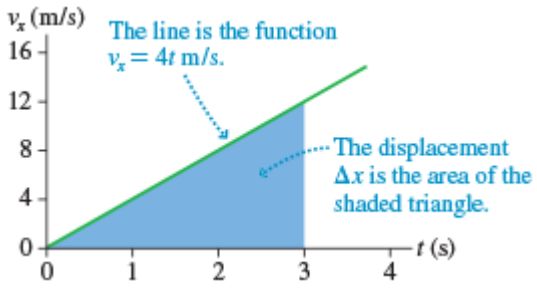
### Note

Wait a minute! The displacement $\Delta s = s_{\mathrm{f}} - s_{\mathrm{i}}$ is a length. How can a length equal an area? Recall earlier, when we found that the velocity is the slope of the position graph, we made a distinction between the *actual* slope and the *physically meaningful* slope? The same distinction applies here. We need to measure the quantities we are using, $v_s$ and $\Delta t$, by referring to the scales on the axes. $\Delta t$ is some number of seconds while $v_s$ is some number of meters per second. When these are multiplied together, the *physically meaningful* area has units of meters.

### Example 2.5 The displacement during a drag race

Figure 2.16 shows the velocity-versus-time graph of a drag racer. How far does the racer move during the first 3.0 s?

**Figure 2.16**




Velocity-versus-time graph for Example 2.5.

**MODEL** Model the drag racer as a particle with a well-defined position at all times.



**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.16 is the graphical representation.

**SOLVE** The question "How far?" indicates that we need to find a displacement $\Delta x$ rather than a position $x$. According to Equation 2.12, the car's displacement $\Delta x = x_f - x_i$ between $t = 0\,\text{s}$ and $t = 3\,\text{s}$ is the area under the curve from $t = 0\,\text{s}$ to $t = 3\,\text{s}$. The curve in this case is an angled line, so the area is that of a triangle:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta x &= \text{area of triangle between } t = 0\,\text{s and } t = 3\,\text{s}\\ &= \tfrac{1}{2} \times \text{base} \times \text{height}\\ &= \tfrac{1}{2} \times 3\,\text{s} \times 12\,\text{m/s} = 18\,\text{m}\end{aligned}$$

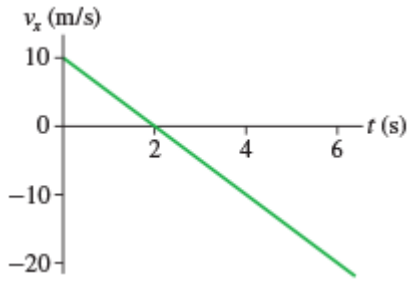
The drag racer moves 18 m during the first 3 seconds.

**ASSESS** The "area" is a product of s with m/s, so $\Delta x$ has the proper units of m.

### Example 2.6 Finding the turning point

Figure 2.17 is the velocity graph for a particle that starts at $x_i = 30\,\text{m}$ at time $t_i = 0\,\text{s}$.

**Figure 2.17**




Velocity-versus-time graph for the particle of Example 2.6.

**a.** Draw a motion diagram for the particle.

**b.** Where is the particle's turning point?

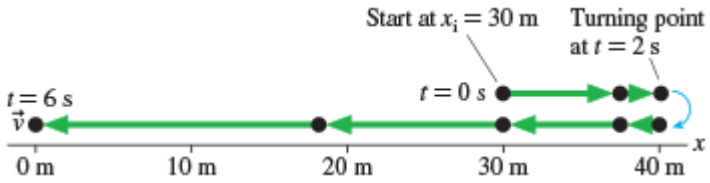
**c.** At what time does the particle reach the origin?

**VISUALIZE** The particle is initially 30 m to the right of the origin and moving *to the right* $(v_x > 0)$ with a speed of 10 m/s. But $v_x$ is decreasing, so the particle is slowing down. At $t = 2\,\text{s}$ the velocity, just for an instant, is zero before becoming negative. This is the turning point. The velocity is negative for $t > 2\,\text{s}$, so the particle has reversed direction and moves back toward the origin. At some later time, which we want to find, the particle will pass $x = 0\,\text{m}$.

**SOLVE**

**a.** Figure 2.18 shows the motion diagram. The distance scale will be established in parts b and c but is shown here for convenience.

**Figure 2.18**




Motion diagram for the particle whose velocity graph was shown in Figure 2.17.

**b.** The particle reaches the turning point at $t = 2\,\text{s}$. To learn *where* it is at that time we need to find the displacement during the first two seconds. We can do this by finding the area under the curve between $t = 0\,\text{s}$ and $t = 2\,\text{s}$:

$$\begin{aligned} x(\text{at } t = 2\,\text{s}) &= x_\text{i} + \text{area under the curve between } 0\,\text{s} \text{ and } 2\,\text{s} \\ &= 30\,\text{m} + \tfrac{1}{2}(2\,\text{s} - 0\,\text{s})(10\,\text{m/s} - 0\,\text{m/s}) \\ &= 40\,\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

The turning point is at $x = 40\,\text{m}$.

**c.** The particle needs to move $\Delta x = -40\,\text{m}$ to get from the turning point to the origin. That is, the area under the curve from $t = 2\,\text{s}$ to the desired time $t$ needs to be –40 m. Because the curve is below the axis, with negative values of $v_x$, the area to the right of $t = 2$ s is a *negative* area. With a bit of geometry, you will find that the triangle with a base extending from $t = 2$ s to $t = 6$ s has an area of –40 m. Thus the particle reaches the origin at $t = 6$ s.

## A Little More Calculus: Integrals

Taking the derivative of a function is equivalent to finding the slope of a graph of the function. Similarly, evaluating an integral is equivalent to finding the area under a graph of the function. The graphical method is very important for building intuition about motion but is limited in its practical application. Just as derivatives of standard functions can be evaluated and tabulated, so can integrals.

The integral in Equation 2.11 is called a *definite integral* because there are two definite boundaries to the area we want to find. These boundaries are called the lower ($t_\text{i}$) and upper ($t_\text{f}$) *limits of integration*. For the important function $u(t) = ct^n$, the essential result from calculus is that

**(2.13)**

$$\int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} u\,dt = \int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} ct^n\,dt = \frac{ct^{n+1}}{n+1}\bigg|_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} = \frac{ct_\text{f}^{n+1}}{n+1} - \frac{ct_\text{i}^{n+1}}{n+1} \qquad (n \neq -1)$$

The vertical bar in the third step with subscript $t_\text{i}$ and superscript $t_\text{f}$ is a shorthand notation from calculus that means—as seen in the last step—the integral evaluated at the upper limit $t_\text{f}$ *minus* the integral evaluated at the lower limit $t_\text{i}$. You also need to know that for two functions $u$ and $w$,

**(2.14)**

$$\int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} (u + w)\,dt = \int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} u\,dt + \int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} w\,dt$$

That is, the integral of a sum is equal to the sum of the integrals.

**Example 2.7 Using calculus to find the position**

Use calculus to solve Example 2.6.

**SOLVE** Figure 2.17 is a linear graph. Its "$y$-intercept" is seen to be 10 m/s and its slope is –5(m/s)/s. Thus the velocity can be described by the equation

$$v_x = (10 - 5t)\ \text{m/s}$$

where $t$ is in s. We can find the position $x$ at time $t$ by using Equation 2.11:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x_\text{i} + \int_0^t v_x\, dt = 30\,\text{m} + \int_0^t (10 - 5t)\, dt \\ &= 30\,\text{m} + \int_0^t 10\, dt - \int_0^t 5t\, dt \end{aligned}$$

We used Equation 2.14 for the integral of a sum to get the final expression. The first integral is a function of the form $u = ct^n$ with $c = 10$ and $n = 0$; the second is of the form $u = ct^n$ with $c = 5$ and $n = 1$. Using Equation 2.13, we have

$$\int_0^t 10\, dt = 10t\Big|_0^t = 10 \cdot t - 10 \cdot 0 = 10t\,\text{m}$$

and

$$\int_0^t 5t\, dt = \tfrac{5}{2}t^2\Big|_0^t = \tfrac{5}{2} \cdot t^2 - \tfrac{5}{2} \cdot 0^2 = \tfrac{5}{2}t^2\,\text{m}$$

Combining the pieces gives

$$x = (30 + 10t - \tfrac{5}{2}t^2)\,\text{m}$$

This is a general result for the position at *any* time $t$.

The particle's turning point occurs at $t = 2\,\text{s}$, and its position at that time is

$$x(\text{at } t = 2\,\text{s}) = 30 + (10)(2) - \tfrac{5}{2}(2)^2 = 40\,\text{m}$$

The time at which the particle reaches the origin is found by setting $x = 0\,\text{m}$:

$$30 + 10t - \tfrac{5}{2}t^2 = 0$$

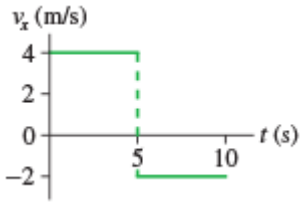
This quadratic equation has two solutions: $t = -2\,\text{s}$ or $t = 6\,\text{s}$.

When we solve a quadratic equation, we cannot just arbitrarily select the root we want. Instead, we must decide which is the *meaningful* root. Here the negative root refers to a time before the problem began, so the meaningful one is the positive root, $t = 6\,\text{s}$.

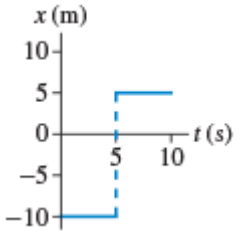
**ASSESS** The results agree with the answers we found previously from a graphical solution.

## Stop to Think 2.3

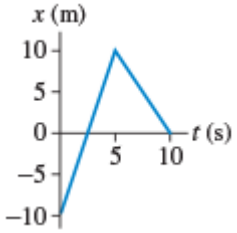
Which position-versus-time graph goes with the velocity-versus-time graph on the left? The particle's position at $t_\text{i} = 0\,\text{s}$ is $x_\text{i} = -10\,\text{m}$.



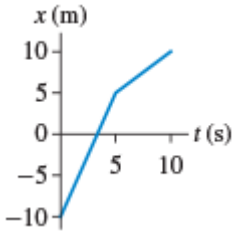

**a.**


x (m)
10
5
0
−5
−10
5
10
t (s)

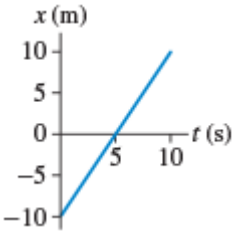
**b.**


x (m)
10
5
0
−5
−10
5
10
t (s)

**c.**


x (m)
10
5
0
−5
−10
5
10
t (s)

**d.**


x (m)
10
5
0
−5
−10
5
10
t (s)

# 2.4 Motion with Constant[44] Acceleration

We need one more major concept to describe one-dimensional motion: acceleration. Acceleration, as we noted in Chapter 1, is a rather abstract concept. Nonetheless, acceleration is the linchpin of mechanics. We will see very shortly that Newton's laws relate the acceleration of an object to the forces that are exerted on it.

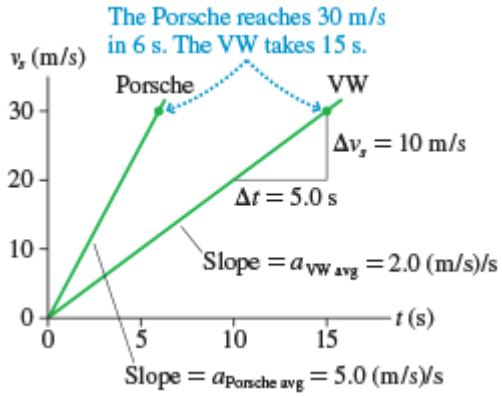
Let's conduct a race between a Volkswagen Beetle and a Porsche to see which can achieve a velocity of 30 m/s (≈60 mph) in the shortest time. Both cars are equipped with computers that will record the speedometer reading 10 times each second. This gives a nearly continuous record of the *instantaneous* velocity of each car. Table 2.1 shows some of the data. The velocity-versus-time graphs, based on these data, are shown in Figure 2.19 on the next page.

**Table 2.1**

| $t$ (s) | $v_{\text{Porsche}}$ (m/s) | $v_{\text{VW}}$ (m/s) |
|---|---|---|
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| 0.2 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.6 |
| ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |

Velocities of a Porsche and a Volkswagen Beetle

**Figure 2.19**




Velocity-versus-time graphs for the Porsche and the VW Beetle.

How can we describe the difference in performance of the two cars? It is not that one has a different velocity from the other; both achieve every velocity between 0 and 30 m/s. The distinction is how long it took each to *change* its velocity from 0 to 30 m/s. The Porsche changed velocity quickly, in 6.0 s, while the VW needed 15 s to make the same velocity change. Because the Porsche had a velocity change $\Delta v_s = 30\ \text{m/s}$ during a time interval $\Delta t = 6.0\,\text{s}$, the *rate* at which its velocity changed was

**(2.15)**

$$\text{rate of velocity change} = \frac{\Delta v_s}{\Delta t} = \frac{30\,\text{m/s}}{6.0\,\text{s}} = 5.0\,(\text{m/s})/\text{s}$$

Notice the units. They are units of "velocity per second." A rate of velocity change of 5.0 "meters per second per second" means that the velocity increases by 5.0 m/s during the first second, by another 5.0 m/s during the next second, and so on. In fact, the velocity will increase by 5.0 m/s during any second in which it is changing at the rate of 5.0 (m/s)/s.

Chapter 1 introduced *acceleration* as "the rate of change of velocity." That is, acceleration measures how quickly or slowly an object's velocity

changes. In parallel with our treatment of velocity, let's define the **average acceleration** $a_{\text{avg}}$ during the time interval $\Delta t$ to be

**(2.16)**

$$a_{\text{avg}} \equiv \frac{\Delta v_s}{\Delta t} \qquad (\text{average acceleration})$$

Equations 2.15 and 2.16 show that the Porsche had the rather large acceleration of 5.0 (m/s)/s.

Because $\Delta v_s$ and $\Delta t$ are the "rise" and "run" of a velocity-versus-time graph, we see that $a_{\text{avg}}$ can be interpreted graphically as the *slope* of a straight-line velocity-versus-time graph. In other words,

---

**(2.17)**

$$a_{\text{avg}} = \text{slope of the velocity-versus-time graph}$$

Figure 2.19 uses this idea to show that the VW's average acceleration is

$$a_{\text{VW avg}} = \frac{\Delta v_s}{\Delta t} = \frac{10\,\text{m/s}}{5.0\,\text{s}} = 2.0\,(\text{m/s})/\text{s}$$

This is less than the acceleration of the Porsche, as expected.

An object whose velocity-versus-time graph is a straight-line graph has a steady and unchanging acceleration. There's no need to specify "average" if the acceleration is constant, so we'll use the symbol $a_s$ as we discuss motion along the *s*-axis with constant acceleration.

# Signs and Units

An important aspect of acceleration is its *sign*. Acceleration $\vec{a}$, like position $\vec{r}$ and velocity $\vec{v}$, is a vector. For motion in one dimension, the sign of $a_x$ (or $a_y$) is positive if the vector $\vec{a}$ points to the right (or up), negative if it points to the left (or down). This was illustrated in Figure 1.18 and the very important Tactics Box 1.4, which you may wish to review. It's particularly important to emphasize that positive and negative values of $a_s$ do *not* correspond to "speeding up" and "slowing down."

**Example 2.8 Relating acceleration to velocity**

**a.** A bicyclist has a velocity of 6 m/s and a constant acceleration of 2 (m/s)/s. What is her velocity 1 s later? 2 s later?

**b.** A bicyclist has a velocity of –6 m/s and a constant acceleration of 2 (m/s)/s. What is his velocity 1 s later? 2 s later?

**SOLVE**

**a.** An acceleration of 2 (m/s)/s *means* that the velocity increases by 2 m/s every 1 s. If the bicyclist's initial velocity is 6 m/s, then 1 s later her velocity will be 8 m/s. After 2 s, which is 1 additional second later, it will increase by another 2 m/s to 10 m/s. After 3 s it will be 12 m/s. Here a positive $a_x$ is causing the bicyclist to speed up.

**b.** If the bicyclist's initial velocity is a *negative* –6 m/s but the acceleration is a positive +2 (m/s)/s, then 1 s later his

velocity will be –4 m/s. After 2 s it will be –2 m/s, and so on. In this case, a positive $a_x$ is causing the object to *slow down* (decreasing speed $v$). This agrees with the rule from Tactics Box 1.4: An object is slowing down if and only if $v_x$ and $a_x$ have opposite signs.

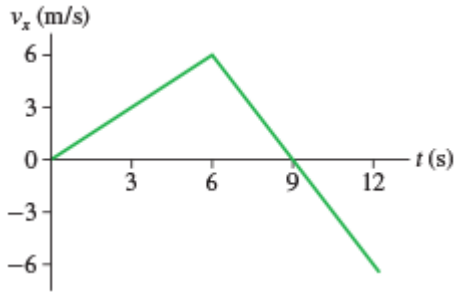
**Note**

It is customary to abbreviate the acceleration units (m/s)/s as $m/s^2$. For example, the bicyclists in Example 2.8 had an acceleration of 2 $m/s^2$. We will use this notation, but keep in mind the *meaning* of the notation as "(meters per second) per second."

### Example 2.9 Running the court

A basketball player starts at the left end of the court and moves with the velocity shown in Figure 2.20. Draw a motion diagram and an acceleration-versus-time graph for the basketball player.

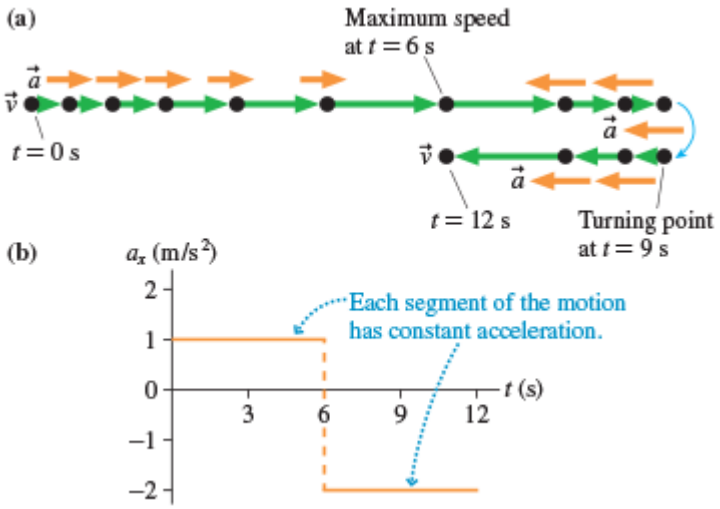
**Figure 2.20**




Velocity-versus-time graph for the basketball player of Example 2.9.

**VISUALIZE** The velocity is positive (motion to the right) and increasing for the first 6 s, so the velocity arrows in the motion diagram are to the right and getting longer. From $t = 6$ s to 9 s the motion is still to the right ($v_x$ is still positive), but the arrows are getting shorter because $v_x$ is decreasing. There's a turning point at $t = 9$ s, when $v_x = 0$, and after that the motion is to the left ($v_x$ is negative) and getting faster. The motion diagram of Figure 2.21a shows the velocity and the acceleration vectors.

## Figure 2.21




Motion diagram and acceleration graph for Example 2.9.

**SOLVE** Acceleration is the slope of the velocity graph. For the first 6 s, the slope has the constant value

$$a_x = \frac{\Delta v_x}{\Delta t} = \frac{6.0 \text{ m/s}}{6.0 \text{ s}} = 1.0 \text{ m/s}^2$$

The velocity then decreases by 12 m/s during the 6 s interval from $t = 6$ s to $t = 12$ s, so

$$a_x = \frac{\Delta v_x}{\Delta t} = \frac{-12 \text{ m/s}}{6.0 \text{ s}} = -2.0 \text{ m/s}^2$$

The acceleration graph for these 12 s is shown in Figure 2.21b. Notice that there is no change in the acceleration at $t = 9$ s, the turning point.

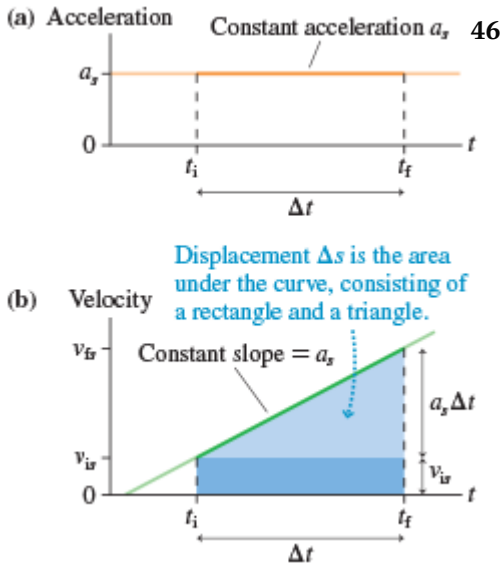
**ASSESS** The *sign* of $a_x$ does *not* tell us whether the object is speeding up or slowing down. The basketball player is slowing down from $t = 6$ s to $t = 9$ s, then speeding up from $t = 9$ s to $t = 12$ s. Nonetheless, his acceleration is negative during this entire interval because his acceleration vector, as seen in the motion diagram, always points to the left.

## The Kinematic Equations of Constant Acceleration

Consider an object whose acceleration $a_s$ remains constant during the time interval $\Delta t = t_f - t_i$. At the beginning of this interval, at time $t_i$, the object has initial velocity $v_{is}$ and initial position $s_i$. Note that $t_i$ is often zero, but it does not have to be. We would like to predict the object's final position $s_f$ and final velocity $v_{fs}$ at time $t_f$.

The object's velocity is changing because the object is accelerating. Figure 2.22a shows the acceleration-versus-time graph, a horizontal line between $t_i$ and $t_f$. It is not hard to find the object's velocity $v_{fs}$ at a later time $t_f$. By definition,

**Figure 2.22**




Acceleration and velocity graphs for constant acceleration.

---

**(2.18)**

$$a_s = \frac{\Delta v_s}{\Delta t} = \frac{v_{fs} - v_{is}}{\Delta t}$$

which is easily rearranged to give

**(2.19)**

$$v_{fs} = v_{is} + a_s \, \Delta t$$

The velocity-versus-time graph, shown in Figure 2.22b, is a straight line that starts at $v_{is}$ and has slope $a_s$.

As you learned in the last section, the object's final position is

**(2.20)**

$$s_f = s_i + \text{area under the velocity curve } v_s \text{ between } t_i \text{ and } t_f$$

The shaded area in Figure 2.22b can be subdivided into a rectangle of area $v_{is} \, \Delta t$ and a triangle of area $\frac{1}{2} \, (a_s \, \Delta t)(\Delta t) = \frac{1}{2} \, a_s (\Delta t)^2$. Adding these gives

**(2.21)**

$$s_{\mathrm{f}} = s_{\mathrm{i}} + v_{\mathrm{i}s}\,\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\,a_s(\Delta t)^2$$

where $\Delta t = t_{\mathrm{f}} - t_{\mathrm{i}}$ is the elapsed time. The quadratic dependence on $\Delta t$ causes the position-versus-time graph for constant-acceleration motion to have a parabolic shape, as shown in Model 2.2.

Equations 2.19 and 2.21 are two of the basic kinematic equations for motion with *constant* acceleration. They allow us to predict an object's position and velocity at a future instant of time. We need one more equation to complete our set, a direct relation between position and velocity. First use Equation 2.19 to write $\Delta t = (v_{\mathrm{f}s} - v_{\mathrm{i}s})/a_s$. Substitute this into Equation 2.21, giving

**(2.22)**

$$s_{\mathrm{f}} = s_{\mathrm{i}} + v_{\mathrm{i}s}\left(\frac{v_{\mathrm{f}s} - v_{\mathrm{i}s}}{a_s}\right) + \tfrac{1}{2}\,a_s\left(\frac{v_{\mathrm{f}s} - v_{\mathrm{i}s}}{a_s}\right)^2$$

With a bit of algebra, this is rearranged to read

**(2.23)**

$$v_{\mathrm{f}s}{}^2 = v_{\mathrm{i}s}{}^2 + 2a_s\,\Delta s$$

where $\Delta s = s_{\mathrm{f}} - s_{\mathrm{i}}$ is the *displacement* (not the distance!). Equation 2.23 is the last of the three kinematic equations for motion with constant acceleration.

## The Constant-Acceleration Model

Few objects with changing velocity have a perfectly constant acceleration, but it is often reasonable to model their acceleration as being constant. We do so by utilizing the **constant-acceleration model**. Once again, a model is a set of words, pictures, graphs, and equations that allows us to explain and predict an object's motion.

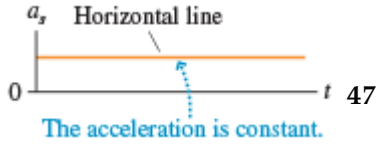
---

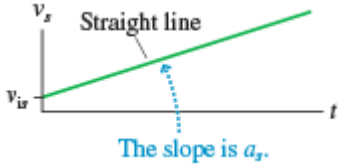
MODEL 2.2 **Constant acceleration**

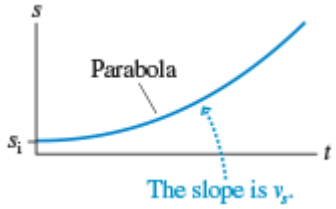
For motion with constant acceleration.

- Model the object as a particle moving in a straight line with constant acceleration.

- Mathematically:
  - $v_{\mathrm{fs}} = v_{\mathrm{is}} + a_s\,\Delta t$
  - $s_{\mathrm{f}} = s_{\mathrm{i}} + v_{\mathrm{is}}\,\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{s}}(\Delta t)^2$
  - ${v_{\mathrm{fs}}}^2 = {v_{\mathrm{is}}}^2 + 2a_s\,\Delta \mathrm{s}$
- Limitations: Model fails if the particle's acceleration changes.






Workbook Exercise 16

In this text, we'll usually model runners, cars, planes, and rockets as having constant acceleration. Their actual acceleration is often more complicated (for example, a car's acceleration gradually decreases rather than remaining constant until full speed is reached), but the mathematical complexity of dealing with realistic accelerations would detract from the physics we're trying to learn.

The constant-acceleration model is the basis for a problem-solving strategy.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 2.1 Kinematics with constant acceleration**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the object as having constant acceleration.

**VISUALIZE** Use different representations of the information in the problem.

- Draw a *pictorial representation*. This helps you assess the information you are given and starts the process of translating the problem into symbols.

- Use a *graphical representation* if it is appropriate for the problem.
- Go back and forth between these two representations as needed.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on the three kinematic equations:

$$v_{\mathrm{f}s} = v_{\mathrm{i}s} + a_s \, \Delta t$$
$$s_{\mathrm{f}} = s_{\mathrm{i}} + v_{\mathrm{i}s} \, \Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2} a_s \, (\Delta t)^2$$
$$v_{\mathrm{f}s}{}^2 = v_{\mathrm{i}s}{}^2 + 2 a_s \, \Delta s$$

- Use $x$ or $y$, as appropriate to the problem, rather than the generic $s$.
- Replace i and f with numerical subscripts defined in the pictorial representation.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has the correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

**Note**

You are strongly encouraged to solve problems on the Dynamics Worksheets found at the back of the Student Workbook. These worksheets will help you use the Problem-Solving Strategy and develop good problem-solving skills.

**Example 2.10 The motion of a rocket sled**

A rocket sled's engines fire for 5.0 s, boosting the sled to a speed of 250 m/s. The sled then deploys a braking parachute, slowing by 3.0

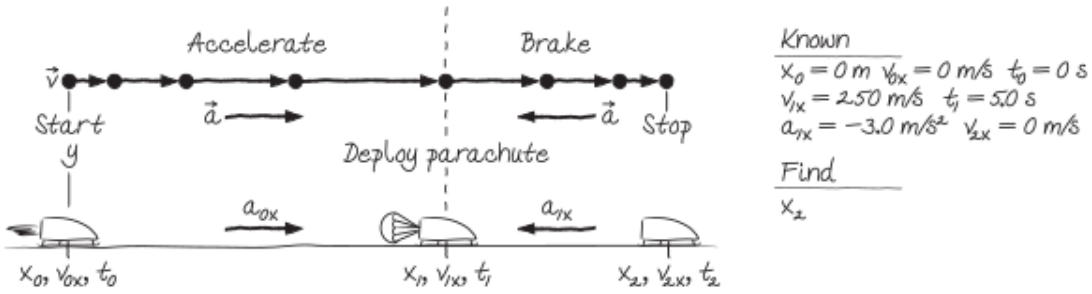
m/s per second until it stops. What is the total distance traveled?

**MODEL** We're not given the sled's initial acceleration, while the rockets are firing, but rocket sleds are aerodynamically shaped to minimize air resistance and so it seems reasonable to model the sled as a particle undergoing constant acceleration.



**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.23 shows the pictorial representation. We've made the reasonable assumptions that the sled starts from rest and that the braking parachute is deployed just as the rocket burn ends. There are three points of interest in this problem: the start, the change from propulsion to braking, and the stop. Each of these points has been assigned a position, velocity, and time. Notice that we've replaced the generic subscripts i and f of the kinematic equations with the numerical subscripts 0, 1, and 2. Accelerations are associated not with specific points in the motion but with the intervals between the points, so acceleration $a_{0x}$ is the acceleration between points 0 and 1 while acceleration $a_{1x}$ is the acceleration between points 1 and 2. The acceleration vector $\vec{a}_1$ points to the left, so $a_{1x}$ is negative. The sled stops at the end point, so $v_{2x} = 0$ m/s.

## Figure 2.23




Pictorial representation of the rocket sled.

**SOLVE** We know how long the rocket burn lasts and the velocity at the end of the burn. Because we're modeling the sled as having uniform acceleration, we can use the first kinematic equation of Problem-Solving Strategy 2.1 to write

$$v_{1x} = v_{0x} + a_{0x}(t_1 - t_0) = a_{0x}t_1$$

We started with the complete equation, then simplified by noting which terms were zero. Solving for the boost-phase acceleration, we have

$$a_{0x} = \frac{v_{1x}}{t_1} = \frac{250\ \text{m/s}}{5.0\ \text{s}} = 50\ \text{m/s}^2$$

Notice that we worked algebraically until the last step—a hallmark of good problem-solving technique that minimizes the chances of calculation errors. Also, in accord with the significant figure rules of Chapter 1 , 50 m/s² is considered to have two significant figures.

Now we have enough information to find out how far the sled travels while the rockets are firing. The second kinematic equation of Problem-Solving Strategy 2.1 is

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= x_0 + v_{0x}(t_1 - t_0) + \tfrac{1}{2}a_{0x}(t_1 - t_0)^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}a_{0x}{t_1}^2 \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}(50\,\text{m/s}^2)(5.0\,\text{s})^2 = 625\,\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

The braking phase is a little different because we don't know how long it lasts. But we do know both the initial and final velocities, so we can use the third kinematic equation of Problem-Solving Strategy 2.1:

$${v_{2x}}^2 = {v_{1x}}^2 + 2a_{1x}\,\Delta x = {v_{1x}}^2 + 2a_{1x}(x_2 - x_1)$$

Notice that $\Delta x$ is *not* $x_2$; it's the displacement $(x_2 - x_1)$ during the braking phase. We can now solve for $x_2$:

$$\begin{aligned} x_2 &= x_1 + \frac{{v_{2x}}^2 - {v_{1x}}^2}{2a_{1x}} \\ &= 625\ \text{m} + \frac{0 - (250\ \text{m/s})^2}{2(-3.0\ \text{m/s}^2)} = 11,000\ \text{m} \end{aligned}$$

We kept three significant figures for $x_1$ at an intermediate stage of the calculation but rounded to two significant figures at the end.

**ASSESS** The total distance is 11 km ≈ 7 mi. That's large but believable. Using the approximate conversion factor 1 m/s ≈ 2 mph from Table 1.5, we see that the top speed is ≈ 500 mph. It will take a long distance for the sled to gradually stop from such a high speed.

**Example 2.11 A two-car race**

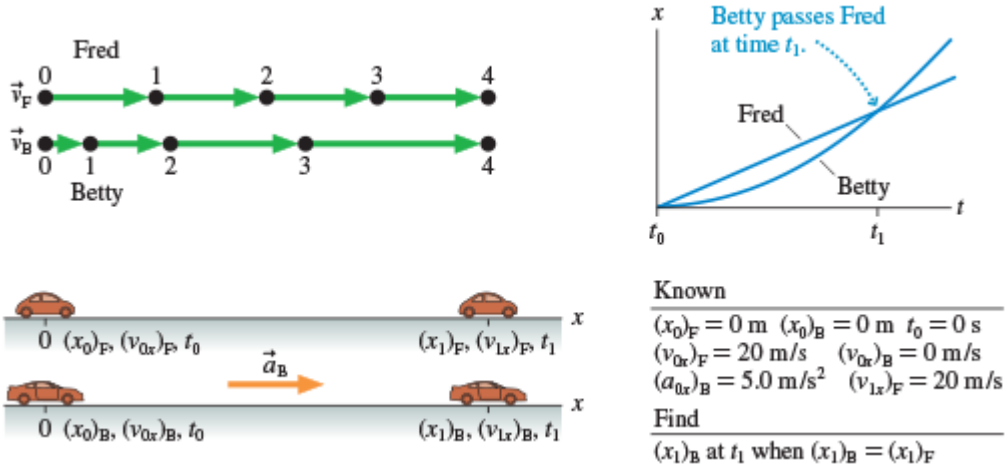
Fred is driving his Volkswagen Beetle at a steady 20 m/s when he passes Betty sitting at rest in her Porsche. Betty instantly begins accelerating at 5.0 m/s². How far does Betty have to drive to overtake Fred?

**MODEL** Model the VW as a particle in uniform motion and the Porsche as a particle with constant acceleration.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.24 is the pictorial representation. Fred's motion diagram is one of uniform motion, while Betty's shows uniform acceleration. Fred is ahead in frames 1, 2, and 3, but Betty

catches up with him in frame 4. The coordinate system shows the cars with the same position at the start and at the end—but with the important difference that Betty's Porsche has an acceleration while Fred's VW does not.

## Figure 2.24




Pictorial representation for Example 2.11.

**SOLVE** This problem is similar to Example 2.2, in which Bob and Susan met for lunch. As we did there, we want to find Betty's position $(x_1)_B$ at the instant $t_1$ when $(x_1)_B = (x_1)_F$. We know, from the models of uniform motion and uniform acceleration, that Fred's position graph is a straight line but Betty's is a parabola. The position graphs in Figure 2.24 show that we're solving for the intersection point of the line and the parabola.

Fred's and Betty's positions at $t_1$ are

$$(x_1)_F = (x_0)_F + (v_{0x})_F(t_1 - t_0) = (v_{0x})_F t_1$$
$$(x_1)_B = (x_0)_B + (v_{0x})_B(t_1 - t_0) + \tfrac{1}{2}(a_{0x})_B(t_1 - t_0)^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(a_{0x})_B {t_1}^2$$

By equating these,

$$(v_{0x})_F\, t_1 = \tfrac{1}{2}\,(a_{0x})_B\, {t_1}^2$$

we can solve for the time when Betty passes Fred:

$$t_1\left[\tfrac{1}{2}(a_{0x})_{\rm B}t_1 - (v_{0x})_{\rm F}\right] = 0$$

$$t_1 = \begin{cases} 0\,\text{s} \\ 2(v_{0x})_{\rm F}/(a_{0x})_{\rm B} = 8.0\,\text{s} \end{cases}$$

Interestingly, there are two solutions. That's not surprising, when you think about it, because the line and the parabola of the position graphs have *two* intersection points: when Fred first passes Betty, and 8.0 s later when Betty passes Fred. We're interested in only the second of these points. We can now use either of the distance equations to find $(x_1)_{\rm B} = (x_1)_{\rm F} = 160$ m. Betty has to drive 160 m to overtake Fred.

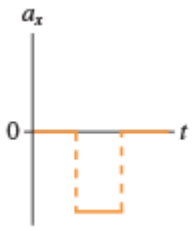
**ASSESS** $160\,\text{m} \approx 160\,\text{yards}$. Because Betty starts from rest while Fred is moving at $20\,\text{m/s} \approx 40\,\text{mph}$, needing 160 yards to catch him seems reasonable.

**Note**

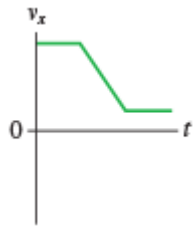
The purpose of the Assess step is not to prove that an answer must be right but to rule out answers that, with a little thought, are clearly wrong.

## Stop to Think 2.4

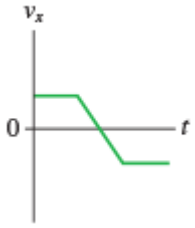
Which velocity-versus-time graph or graphs go with the acceleration-versus-time graph on the left? The particle is initially moving to the right.



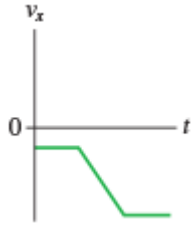

**a.**



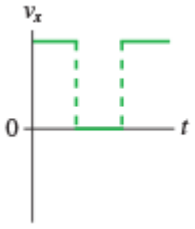

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**

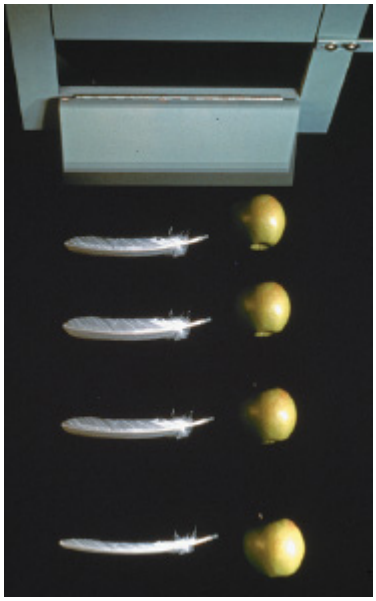


# 2.5 Free Fall



The motion of an object moving under the influence of gravity only, and no other forces, is called **free fall**. Strictly speaking, free fall occurs only in a vacuum, where there is no air resistance. Fortunately, the effect of air resistance is small for "heavy objects," so we'll make only a very slight error in treating these objects *as if* they were in free fall. For very light objects, such as a feather, or for objects that fall through very large distances and gain very high speeds, the effect of air resistance is *not* negligible. Motion with air resistance is a problem we will study in Chapter 6. Until then, we will restrict our attention to "heavy objects" and will make the reasonable assumption that falling objects are in free fall.

Galileo, in the 17th century, was the first to make detailed measurements of falling objects. The story of Galileo dropping different weights from the leaning bell tower at the cathedral in Pisa is well known, although historians cannot confirm its truth. Based on his measurements, wherever they took place, Galileo developed a *model* for motion in the absence of air resistance:

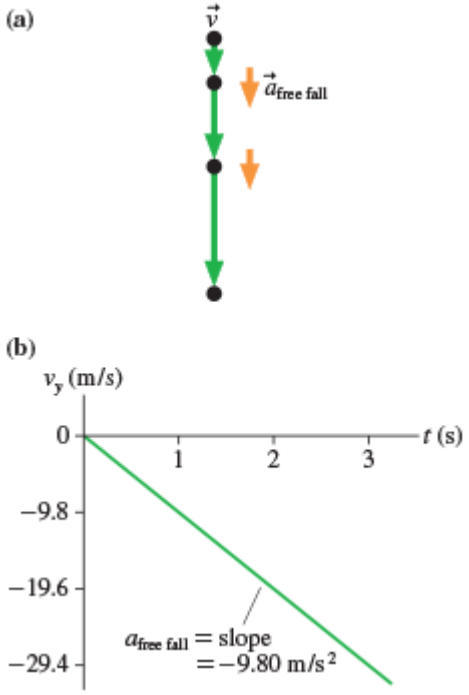


In a vacuum, the apple and feather fall at the same rate and hit the ground at the same time.

- Two objects dropped from the same height will, if air resistance can be neglected, hit the ground at the same time and with the same speed.
- Consequently, **any two objects in free fall, regardless of their mass, have the same acceleration** $\vec{a}_{\text{free fall}}$.

Figure 2.25a shows the motion diagram of an object that was released from rest and falls freely. Figure 2.25b shows the object's velocity graph. The motion diagram and graph are identical for a falling pebble and a falling boulder. The fact that the velocity graph is a straight line tells us the motion is one of constant acceleration, and $a_{\text{free fall}}$ is found from the slope of the graph. Careful measurements show that the value of $\vec{a}_{\text{free fall}}$ varies ever so slightly at different places on the earth, due to the slightly nonspherical shape of the earth and to the fact that the earth is rotating. A global average, at sea level, is

## Figure 2.25




Motion of an object in free fall.

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**(2.24)**

$$\overrightarrow{a}_{\text{free fall}} = (9.80\,\text{m/s}^2, \text{ vertically downward})$$

*Vertically downward* means along a line toward the center of the earth.

The length, or magnitude, of $\overrightarrow{a}_{\text{free fall}}$ is known as the **free-fall acceleration**, and it has the special symbol $g$:



$$g = 9.80\ \text{m/s}^2 \text{ (free-fall acceleration)}$$

Several points about free fall are worthy of note:

- $g$, by definition, is *always* positive. **There will never be a problem that will use a negative value for $g$.** But, you say, objects fall when you release them rather than rise, so how can $g$ be positive?
- $g$ is *not* the acceleration $a_{\text{free fall}}$, but simply its magnitude. Because we've chosen the $y$-axis to point vertically upward, the downward acceleration vector $\overrightarrow{a}_{\text{free fall}}$ has the one-dimensional acceleration

(2.25)

$$a_y = a_{\text{free fall}} = -g$$

It is $a_y$ that is negative, not $g$.

- We can model free fall as motion with constant acceleration, with $a_y = -g$.
- $g$ is not called "gravity." Gravity is a force, not an acceleration. The symbol $g$ recognizes the influence of gravity, but $g$ is *the free-fall acceleration*.
- $g = 9.80\ \text{m/s}^2$ only on earth. Other planets have different values of $g$. You will learn in Chapter 13 how to determine $g$ for other planets.

> **Note**
>
> Despite the name, free fall is not restricted to objects that are literally falling. Any object moving under the influence of gravity only, and no other forces, is in free fall. This includes objects falling straight down, objects that have been tossed or shot straight up, and projectile motion.

**Example 2.12 A falling rock**

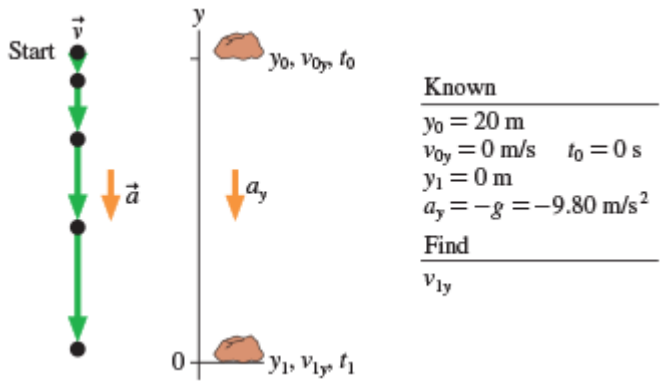
A rock is dropped from the top of a 20-m-tall building. What is its impact velocity?

**MODEL** A rock is fairly heavy, and air resistance is probably not a serious concern in a fall of only 20 m. It seems reasonable to model the rock's motion as free fall: constant acceleration with $a_y = a_{\text{free fall}} = -g$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.26 shows the pictorial representation. We have placed the origin at the ground, which makes $y_0 = 20\ \text{m}$.

Although the rock falls 20 m, it is important to notice that the *displacement* is $\Delta y = y_1 - y_0 = -20\ \text{m}$.

## Figure 2.26




Pictorial representation of a falling rock.

**SOLVE** In this problem we know the displacement but not the time, which suggests that we use the third kinematic equation from Problem-Solving Strategy 2.1:

$$v_{1y}{}^2 = v_{0y}{}^2 + 2a_y\,\Delta y = -2g\,\Delta y$$

We started by writing the general equation, then noted that $v_{0y} = 0\ \text{m/s}$ and substituted $a_y = -g$. Solving for $v_{1y}$:

$$v_{1y} = \sqrt{-2g\,\Delta y} = \sqrt{-2(9.8\,\text{m/s}^2)(-20\,\text{m})} = \pm 20\,\text{m/s}$$

A common error would be to say, "The rock fell 20 m, so $\Delta y = 20\ \text{m}$. " That would have you trying to take the square root of a negative number. As noted above, $\Delta y$ is a *displacement*, not a distance, and in this case $\Delta y = -20\ \text{m}$.

The ± sign indicates that there are two mathematical solutions; therefore, we have to use physical reasoning to choose between them. The rock does hit with a *speed* of 20 m/s, but the question

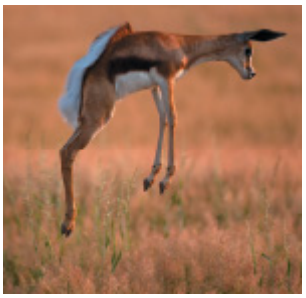
asks for the impact *velocity*. The velocity vector points down, so the sign of $v_{1y}$ is negative. Thus the impact velocity is –20 m/s.

**ASSESS** Is the answer reasonable? Well, 20 m is about 60 feet, or about the height of a five- or six-story building. Using $1\ \text{m/s} \approx 2\ \text{mph}$, we see that $20\ \text{m/s} \approx 40\ \text{mph}$. That seems quite reasonable for the speed of an object after falling five or six stories. If we had misplaced a decimal point, though, and found 2.0 m/s, we would be suspicious that this was much too small after converting it to ≈ 4 mph.



### Example 2.13 Finding the height of a leap

The springbok, an antelope found in Africa, gets its name from its remarkable jumping ability. When startled, a springbok will leap straight up into the air—a maneuver called a "pronk." A springbok goes into a crouch to perform a pronk. It then extends its legs forcefully, accelerating at 35 m/s$^2$ for 0.70 m as its legs straighten. Legs fully extended, it leaves the ground and rises into the air. How high does it go?

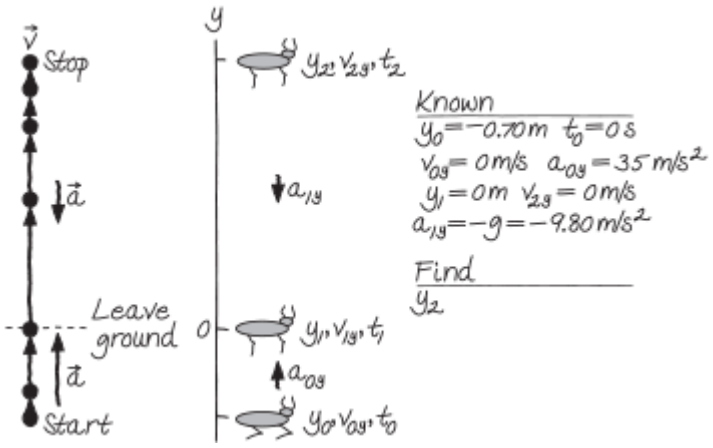


**MODEL** The springbok is changing shape as it leaps, so can we reasonably model it as a particle? We can if we focus on the body of

the springbok, treating the expanding legs like external springs. Initially, the body of the springbok is driven upward by its legs. We'll model this as a particle—the body—undergoing constant acceleration. Once the springbok's feet leave the ground, we'll model the motion of the springbok's body as a particle in free fall.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.27 shows the pictorial representation. This is a problem with a beginning point, an end point, and a point in between where the nature of the motion changes. We've identified these points with subscripts 0, 1, and 2. The motion from 0 to 1 is a rapid upward acceleration until the springbok's feet leave the ground at 1. Even though the springbok is moving upward from 1 to 2, this is free-fall motion because the springbok is now moving under the influence of gravity only.

## Figure 2.27




Pictorial representation of a startled springbok.

How do we put "How high?" into symbols? The clue is that the very top point of the trajectory is a *turning point*, and we've seen that the instantaneous velocity at a turning point is $v_{2y} = 0$. This was not explicitly stated but is part of our interpretation of the problem.

**SOLVE** For the first part of the motion, pushing off, we know a displacement but not a time interval. We can use

$$v_{1y}{}^2 = v_{0y}{}^2 + 2a_{0y}\,\Delta y = 2(35\,\mathrm{m/s^2})(0.70\,\mathrm{m}) = 49\,\mathrm{m^2/s^2}$$
$$v_{1y} = \sqrt{49\,\mathrm{m^2/s^2}} = 7.0\,\mathrm{m/s}$$

The springbok leaves the ground with a velocity of 7.0 m/s. This is the starting point for the problem of a projectile launched straight up from the ground. One possible solution is to use the velocity equation to find how long it takes to reach maximum height, then the position equation to calculate the maximum height. But that takes two separate calculations. It is easier to make another use of the velocity-displacement equation:

$$v_{2y}{}^2 = 0 = v_{1y}{}^2 + 2a_{1y}\,\Delta y = v_{1y}{}^2 - 2g(y_2 - y_1)$$

where now the acceleration is $a_{1y} = -g$. Using $y_1 = 0$, we can solve for $y_2$, the height of the leap:

$$y_2 = \frac{v_{1y}{}^2}{2g} = \frac{(7.0\,\mathrm{m/s})^2}{2(9.80\,\mathrm{m/s^2})} = 2.5\,\mathrm{m}$$

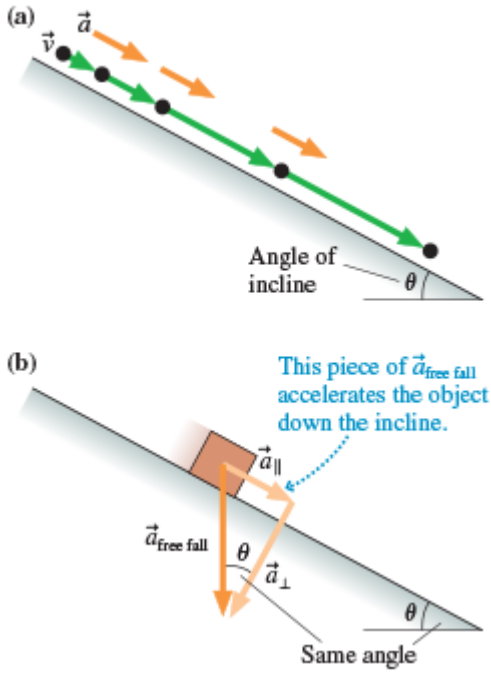
**ASSESS** 2.5 m is a bit over 8 feet, a remarkable vertical jump. But these animals are known for their jumping ability, so the answer seems reasonable. Note that it is especially important in a multipart problem like this to use numerical subscripts to distinguish different points in the motion.

# 2.6 Motion on an Inclined Plane



Figure 2.28a shows a problem closely related to free fall: that of motion down a straight, but frictionless, inclined plane, such as a skier going down a slope on frictionless snow. What is the object's acceleration? Although we're not yet prepared to give a rigorous derivation, we can deduce the acceleration with a plausibility argument.

**Figure 2.28**




Acceleration on an inclined plane.

Figure 2.28b shows the free-fall acceleration $\vec{a}_{\text{free fall}}$ the object would have if the incline suddenly vanished. The free-fall acceleration points straight down. This vector can be broken into two pieces: a vector $\vec{a}_{||}$ that is parallel to the incline and a vector $\vec{a}_{\perp}$ that is perpendicular to the incline. The surface of the incline somehow "blocks" $\vec{a}_{\perp}$, through a

process we will examine in Chapter 6, but $\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ is unhindered. It is this piece of $\vec{a}_{\text{free fall}}$, parallel to the incline, that accelerates the object.

By definition, the length, or magnitude, of $\vec{a}_{\text{free fall}}$ is $g$. Vector $\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ is opposite angle $\theta$ (Greek *theta*), so the length, or magnitude, of $\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ must be $g$ sin $\theta$. Consequently, the one-dimensional acceleration along the incline is

**(2.26)**

$$a_s = \pm g \sin\theta$$

The correct sign depends on the direction in which the ramp is tilted. Examples will illustrate.

Equation 2.26 makes sense. Suppose the plane is perfectly horizontal. If you place an object on a horizontal surface, you expect it to stay at rest with no acceleration. Equation 2.26 gives $a_s = 0$ when $\theta = 0^\circ$, in agreement with our expectations. Now suppose you tilt the plane until it becomes vertical, at $\theta = 90^\circ$. Without friction, an object would simply fall, in free fall, parallel to the vertical surface. Equation 2.26 gives $a_s = -g = a_{\text{free fall}}$ when $\theta = 90^\circ$, again in agreement with our expectations. Equation 2.26 gives the correct result in these *limiting cases*.

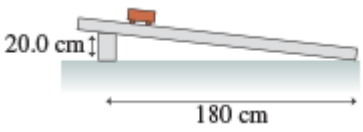
**Example 2.14 Measuring acceleration**

In the laboratory, a 2.00-m-long track has been inclined as shown in Figure 2.29. Your task is to measure the acceleration of a cart on the ramp and to compare your result with what you might have expected. You have available five "photogates" that measure the cart's speed as it passes through. You place a gate every 30 cm from

a line you mark near the top of the track as the starting line. One run generates the data shown in the table. The first entry isn't a photogate, but it is a valid data point because you know the cart's speed is zero at the point where you release it.

| Distance (cm) | Speed (m/s) |
|---|---|
| 0 | 0.00 |
| 30 | 0.75 |
| 60 | 1.15 |
| 90 | 1.38 |
| 120 | 1.56 |
| 150 | 1.76 |

**Figure 2.29**




The experimental setup.

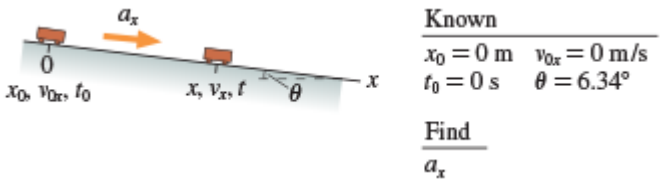
> **Note**
>
> Physics is an experimental science. Our knowledge of the universe is grounded in observations and measurements. Consequently, some examples and homework problems throughout this book will be based on data. Data-based homework problems require the use of a spreadsheet, graphing software, or a graphing calculator in which you can "fit" data with a straight line.

**MODEL** Model the cart as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.30 shows the pictorial representation. The track and axis are tilted at angle $\theta = \tan^{-1}(20.0\,\text{cm}/180\,\text{cm}) = 6.34^\circ$. This is motion on an inclined

plane, so you might expect the cart's acceleration to be $a_x = g \sin\theta = 1.08\ \text{m/s}^2$.

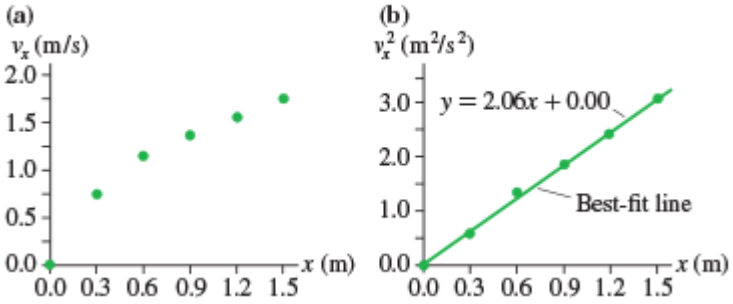
## Figure 2.30




The pictorial representation of the cart on the track.

**SOLVE** In analyzing data, we want to use *all* the data. Further, we almost always want to use graphs when we have a series of measurements. We might start by graphing speed versus distance traveled. This is shown in Figure 2.31a, where we've converted distances to meters. As expected, speed increases with distance, but the graph isn't linear and that makes it hard to analyze.

## Figure 2.31




Graphs of velocity and of velocity squared.

Rather than proceeding by trial and error, let's be guided by theory. *If* the cart has constant acceleration—which we don't yet know and need to confirm—the third kinematic equation tells us that velocity and displacement should be related by

$$v_x{}^2 = v_{0x}{}^2 + 2a_x \Delta x = 2a_x x$$

The last step was based on starting from rest ($v_{0x} = 0$) at the origin ($\Delta x = x - x_0 = x$).

Rather than graphing $v_x$ versus $x$, suppose we graph ${v_x}^2$ versus $x$. If we let $y = {v_x}^2$, the kinematic equation reads

$$y = 2a_x x$$

This is in the form of a linear equation: $y = mx + b$, where $m$ is the slope and $b$ is the $y$-intercept. In this case, $m = 2a_x$ and $b = 0$. So if the cart really does have constant acceleration, a graph of ${v_x}^2$ versus $x$ should be linear with a $y$-intercept of zero. This is a prediction that we can test.

Thus our analysis has three steps:

1. Graph ${v_x}^2$ versus $x$. If the graph is a straight line with a $y$-intercept of zero (or very close to zero), then we can conclude that the cart has constant acceleration on the ramp. If not, the acceleration is *not* constant and we cannot use the kinematic equations for constant acceleration.
2. If the graph has the correct shape, we can determine its slope $m$.
3. Because kinematics predicts $m = 2a_x$, the acceleration must be $a_x = m/2$.

Figure 2.31b is the graph of ${v_x}^2$ versus $x$. It does turn out to be a straight line with a $y$-intercept of zero, and this is the evidence we need that the cart has a constant acceleration on the ramp. To proceed, we want to determine the slope by finding the straight line that is the "best fit" to the data. This is a statistical technique, justified in a statistics class, but one that is implemented in spreadsheets and graphing calculators. The solid line in Figure

2.31b is the best-fit line for this data, and its equation is shown. We see that the slope is $m = 2.06\ \text{m/s}^2$. **Slopes have units**, and the units come not from the fitting procedure but by looking at the axes of the graph. Here the vertical axis is velocity squared, with units of $(\text{m/s})^2$, while the horizontal axis is position, measured in m. Thus the slope, rise over run, has units of $\text{m/s}^2$.

Finally, we can determine that the cart's acceleration was

$$a_x = \frac{m}{2} = 1.03\ \text{m/s}^2$$

This is about 5% less than the $1.08\ \text{m/s}^2$ we expected. Two possibilities come to mind. Perhaps the distances used to find the tilt angle weren't measured accurately. Or, more likely, the cart rolls with a small bit of friction. The predicted acceleration $a_x = g \sin\theta$ is for a *frictionless* inclined plane; any friction would decrease the acceleration.

**ASSESS** The acceleration is just slightly less than predicted for a frictionless incline, so the result is reasonable.

## Thinking Graphically

A good way to solidify your intuitive understanding of motion is to consider the problem of a hard, smooth ball rolling on a smooth track. The track is made up of several straight segments connected together. Each segment may be either horizontal or inclined. Your task is to analyze the ball's motion graphically.

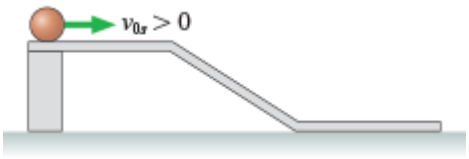
There are a small number of rules to follow:

1. Assume that the ball passes smoothly from one segment of the track to the next, with no abrupt change of speed and without ever leaving the track.
2. The graphs have no numbers, but they should show the correct *relationships*. For example, the position graph should be steeper in regions of higher speed.
3. The position $s$ is the position measured *along* the track. Similarly, $v_s$ and $a_s$ are the velocity and acceleration parallel to the track.

**Example 2.15 From track to graphs**

Draw position, velocity, and acceleration graphs for the ball on the smooth track of Figure 2.32.

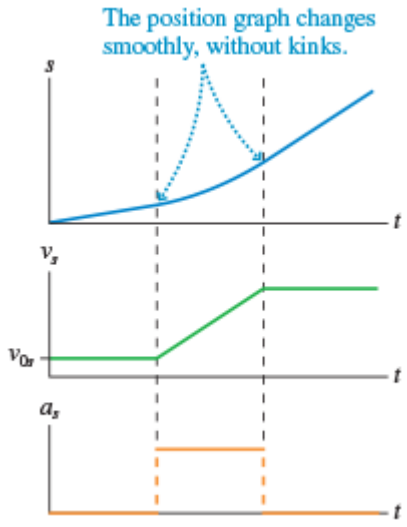
**Figure 2.32**




A ball rolling along a track.

**VISUALIZE** It is often easiest to begin with the velocity. There is no acceleration on the horizontal surface ($a_s = 0$ if $\theta = 0^\circ$), so the velocity remains constant at $v_{0s}$ until the ball reaches the slope. The slope is an inclined plane where the ball has constant acceleration. The velocity increases linearly with time during constant-acceleration motion. The ball returns to constant-velocity motion after reaching the bottom horizontal segment. The middle graph of Figure 2.33 shows the velocity.

## Figure 2.33




Motion graphs for the ball in Example 2.15.

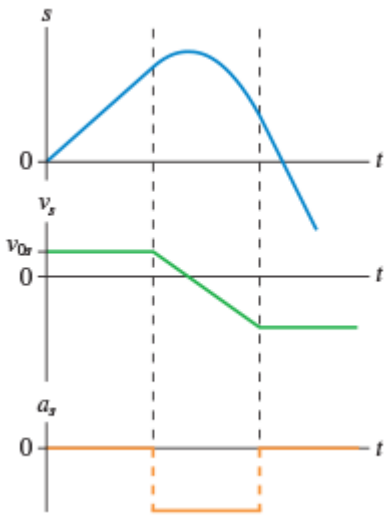
We can easily draw the acceleration graph. The acceleration is zero while the ball is on the horizontal segments and has a constant positive value on the slope. These accelerations are consistent with the slope of the velocity graph: zero slope, then positive slope, then a return to zero. The acceleration cannot *really* change instantly from zero to a nonzero value, but the change can be so quick that we do not see it on the time scale of the graph. That is what the vertical dotted lines imply.

Finally, we need to find the position-versus-time graph. The position increases linearly with time during the first segment at constant velocity. It also does so during the third segment of motion, but with a steeper slope to indicate a faster velocity. In between, while the acceleration is nonzero but constant, the position graph has a *parabolic* shape. Notice that the parabolic section blends *smoothly* into the straight lines on either side. An abrupt change of slope (a "kink") would indicate an abrupt change in velocity and would violate rule 1.

### Example 2.16 From graphs to track

Figure 2.34 shows a set of motion graphs for a ball moving on a track. Draw a picture of the track and describe the ball's initial condition. Each segment of the track is *straight,* but the segments may be tilted.

**Figure 2.34**

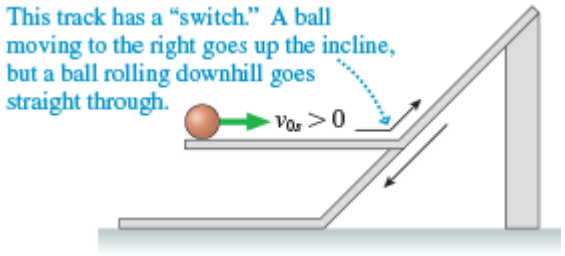



Motion graphs of a ball rolling on a track of unknown shape.

**VISUALIZE** The ball starts with initial velocity $v_{0s} > 0$ and maintains this velocity for awhile; there's no acceleration. Thus the ball must start out rolling to the right on a horizontal track. At the end of the motion, the ball is again rolling on a horizontal track (no acceleration, constant velocity), but it's rolling to the *left* because $v_s$ is negative. Further, the final speed ($|v_s|$) is greater than the initial speed. The middle section of the graph shows us what happens. The ball starts slowing with constant acceleration (rolling uphill), reaches a turning point ($s$ is maximum, $v_s = 0$), then speeds up in

the opposite direction (rolling downhill). This is still a negative acceleration because the ball is speeding up in the negative *s*-direction. It must roll farther downhill than it had rolled uphill before reaching a horizontal section of track. Figure 2.35 shows the track and the initial conditions that are responsible for the graphs of Figure 2.34.

**Figure 2.35**

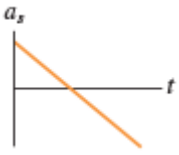



Track responsible for the motion graphs of Figure 2.34.

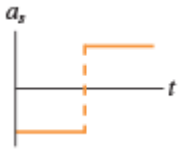
## Stop to Think 2.5

The ball rolls up the ramp, then back down. Which is the correct acceleration graph?

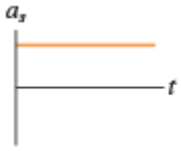
**a.**



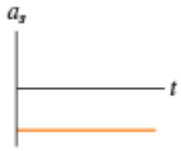

**b.**



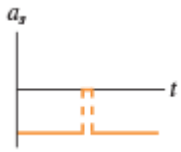

**c.**




**d.**




**e.**

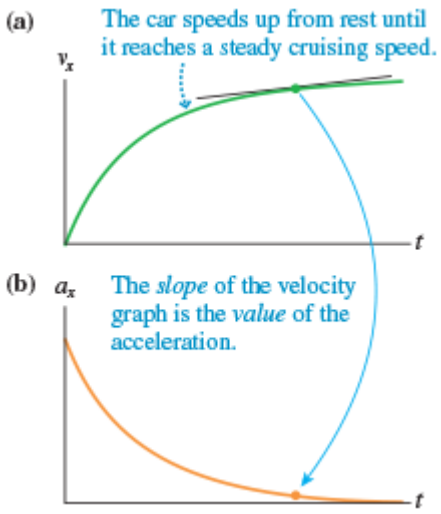


# 2.7 Advanced Topic: Instantaneous Acceleration



Although the constant-acceleration model is very useful, real moving objects only rarely have constant acceleration. For example, Figure 2.36a is a realistic velocity-versus-time graph for a car leaving a stop sign. The graph is not a straight line, so this is *not* motion with constant acceleration.

## Figure 2.36




Velocity and acceleration graphs of a car leaving a stop sign.

We can define an instantaneous acceleration much as we defined the instantaneous velocity. The instantaneous velocity at time $t$ is the slope of the position-versus-time graph at that time or, mathematically, the derivative of the position with respect to time. By analogy: The **instantaneous acceleration $a_s$ is the slope of the line that is tangent to the velocity-versus-time curve at time $t$.** Mathematically, this is

(2.27)

$$a_s = \frac{dv_s}{dt} = \text{slope of the velocity-versus-time graph at time } t$$

Figure 2.36b applies this idea by showing the car's acceleration graph. At each instant of time, the *value* of the car's acceleration is the *slope* of its velocity graph. The initially steep slope indicates a large initial acceleration. The acceleration decreases to zero as the car reaches cruising speed.

The reverse problem—to find the velocity $v_s$ if we know the acceleration $a_s$ at all instants of time—is also important. Again, with analogy to velocity and position, we have

(2.28)

$$v_{fs} = v_{is} + \int_{t_i}^{t_f} a_s dt$$

The graphical interpretation of Equation 2.28 is

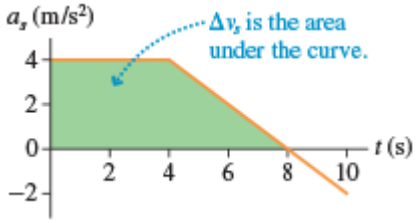
(2.29)

$$v_{fs} = v_{is} + \text{area under the acceleration curve } a_s \text{ between } t_i \text{ and } t_f$$

**Example 2.17 Finding velocity from acceleration**

Figure 2.37 shows the acceleration graph for a particle with an initial velocity of 10 m/s. What is the particle's velocity at $t = 8\,\text{s}$?

**Figure 2.37**




Acceleration graph for Example 2.17.

**MODEL** We're told this is the motion of a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.37 is a graphical representation of the motion.

**SOLVE** The change in velocity is found as the area under the acceleration curve:

$$v_{fs} = v_{is} + \text{area under the acceleration curve } a_s \text{ between } t_i \text{ and } t_f$$

The area under the curve between $t_i = 0\ \text{s}$ and $t_f = 8\ \text{s}$ can be subdivided into a rectangle ($0\ \text{s} \le t \le 4\ \text{s}$) and a triangle ($4\ \text{s} \le\ t \le 8\ \text{s}$). These areas are easily computed. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} v_s(\text{at } t = 8\,\text{s}) &= 10\,\text{m/s} + (4\,(\text{m/s})/\text{s})\,(4\,\text{s}) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}(4\,(\text{m/s})/\text{s})\,(4\,\text{s}) \\ &= 34\,\text{m/s} \end{aligned}$$

## Example 2.18 A realistic car acceleration

Starting from rest, a car takes $T$ seconds to reach its cruising speed $v_{max}$. A plausible expression for the velocity as a function of time is

$$v_x(t) = \begin{cases} v_{max}\left(\frac{2t}{T} - \frac{t^2}{T^2}\right) & t \le T \\ v_{max} & t \ge T \end{cases}$$

**a.** Demonstrate that this is a plausible function by drawing velocity and acceleration graphs.

**b.** Find an expression for the distance traveled at time $T$ in terms of $T$ and the maximum acceleration $a_{max}$.

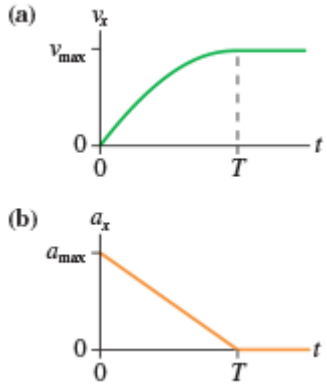
**c.** What are the maximum acceleration and the distance traveled for a car that reaches a cruising speed of 15 m/s in 8.0 s?

---

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.38a shows the velocity graph. It's an inverted parabola that reaches $v_{max}$ at time $T$ and then holds that value. From the slope, we see that the acceleration should start at a maximum value $a_{max}$, steadily decrease until $T$, and be zero for $t > T$.

**Figure 2.38**




Velocity and acceleration graphs for Example 2.18.

**SOLVE**

**a.** We can find an expression for $a_x$ by taking the derivative of $v_x$. Starting with $t \leq T$, and using Equation 2.6 for the derivatives of polynomials, we find

$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt} = v_{\max}\left(\frac{2}{T} - \frac{2t}{T^2}\right) = \frac{2v_{\max}}{T}\left(1 - \frac{t}{T}\right) = a_{\max}\left(1 - \frac{t}{T}\right)$$

where $a_{\max} = 2v_{\max}/T$. For $t \geq T$, $a_x = 0$. Altogether,

$$a_x\,(t) = \begin{cases} a_{\max}\left(1 - \frac{t}{T}\right) & t \leq T \\ 0 & t \geq T \end{cases}$$

This expression for the acceleration is graphed in Figure 2.38b. The acceleration decreases linearly from $a_{\max}$ to 0 as the car accelerates from rest to its cruising speed.

**b.** To find the position as a function of time, we need to integrate the velocity (Equation 2.11) using Equation 2.13 for the integrals of polynomials. At time $T$, when cruising speed is reached,

$$\begin{aligned} x_T &= x_0 + \int_0^T v_x\,dt = 0 + \frac{2v_{\max}}{T}\int_0^T t\,dt - \frac{v_{\max}}{T^2}\int_0^T t^2\,dt \\ &= \frac{2v_{\max}}{T}\,\frac{t^2}{2}\Big|_0^T - \frac{v_{\max}}{T^2}\,\frac{t^3}{3}\Big|_0^T \\ &= v_{\max}T - \tfrac{1}{3}v_{\max}T = \tfrac{2}{3}v_{\max}T \end{aligned}$$

Recalling that $a_{\max} = 2v_{\max}/T$, we can write the distance traveled as

$$x_T = \frac{2}{3}\,v_{\max}T = \tfrac{1}{3}\left(\frac{2v_{\max}}{T}\right)T^2 = \frac{1}{3}\,a_{\max}T^2$$

If the acceleration stayed constant, the distance would be $\frac{1}{2}aT^2$. We have found a similar expression but, because the acceleration is steadily decreasing, a smaller fraction in front.

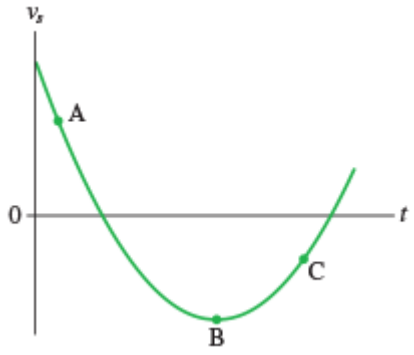
**c.** With $v_{\max} = 15\ \text{m/s}$ and $T = 8.0\ \text{s}$, realistic values for city driving, we find

$$a_{\max} = \frac{2v_{\max}}{T} = \frac{2\,(15\,\text{m/s})}{8.0\,\text{s}} = 3.75\,\text{m/s}^2$$
$$x_T = \tfrac{1}{3}a_{\max}T^2 = \tfrac{1}{3}(3.75\,\text{m/s}^2)\,(8.0\,\text{s})^2 = 80\,\text{m}$$

**ASSESS** 80 m in 8.0 s to reach a cruising speed of $15\,\text{m/s} \approx 30\,\text{mph}$ is very reasonable. This gives us good reason to believe that a car's initial acceleration is $\approx \tfrac{1}{3}g$.

## Stop to Think 2.6

Rank in order, from most positive to least positive, the accelerations at points A to C.

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**a.** $a_A > a_B > a_C$

**b.** $a_C > a_A > a_B$

**c.** $a_C > a_B > a_A$

**d.** $a_B > a_A > a_C$

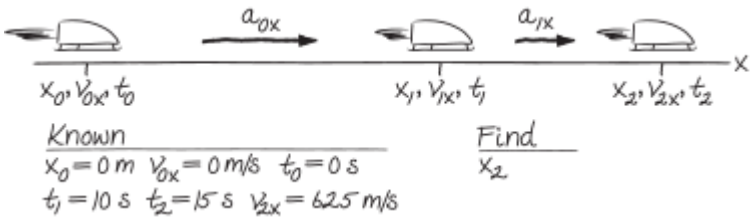
## Challenge Example 2.19 Rocketing along

A rocket sled accelerates along a long, horizontal rail. Starting from rest, two rockets burn for 10 s, providing a constant acceleration. One rocket then burns out, halving the acceleration, but the other burns for an additional 5 s to boost the sled's speed to 625 m/s. How far has the sled traveled when the second rocket burns out?

**MODEL** Model the rocket sled as a particle with constant acceleration.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 2.39 shows the pictorial representation. This is a two-part problem with a beginning, an end (the second rocket burns out), and a point in between where the motion changes (the first rocket burns out).

### Figure 2.39




The pictorial representation of the rocket sled.

**SOLVE** The difficulty with this problem is that there's not enough information to completely analyze either the first or the second part of the motion. A successful solution will require combining information about both parts of the motion, and that can be done only by working algebraically, not worrying about numbers until the end of the problem. A well-drawn pictorial representation and clearly defined symbols are essential.

The first part of the motion, with both rockets firing, has acceleration $a_{0x}$. The sled's position and velocity when the first rocket burns out are

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= x_0 + v_{0x}\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}\,a_{0x}(\Delta t)^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}\,a_{0x}{t_1}^2 \\ v_{1x} &= v_{0x} + a_{0x}\,\Delta t = a_{0x}t_1 \end{aligned}$$

where we simplified as much as possible by knowing that the sled started from rest at the origin at $t_0 = 0\text{ s}$. We can't compute numerical values, but these are valid algebraic expressions that we can carry over to the second part of the motion.

From $t_1$ to $t_2$, the acceleration is a smaller $a_{1x}$. The velocity when the second rocket burns out is

$$v_{2x} = v_{1x} + a_{1x}\,\Delta t = a_{0x}t_1 + a_{1x}(t_2 - t_1)$$

where for $v_{1x}$ we used the algebraic result from the first part of the motion. Now we have enough information to complete the solution. We know that the acceleration is halved when the first rocket burns out, so $a_{1x} = \tfrac{1}{2}a_{0x}$. Thus

$$v_{2x} = 625\,\text{m/s} = a_{0x}(10\,\text{s}) + \tfrac{1}{2}a_{0x}(5\,\text{s}) = (12.5\,\text{s})a_{0x}$$

Solving, we find $a_{0x} = 50\text{ m/s}^2$.

With the acceleration now known, we can calculate the position and velocity when the first rocket burns out:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= \tfrac{1}{2}\,a_{0x}{t_1}^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}\,(50\text{ m/s}^2)(10\text{ s})^2 = 2500\text{ m} \\ v_{1x} &= a_{0x}t_1 = (50\text{ m/s}^2)(10\text{ s}) = 500\text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the position when the second rocket burns out is

$$\begin{aligned} x_2 &= x_1 + v_{1x}\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2} a_{1x} (\Delta t)^2 \\ &= 2500\ \text{m} + (500\ \text{m/s})(5\ \text{s}) + \tfrac{1}{2}\,(25\ \text{m/s}^2)(5\ \text{s})^2 = 5300\ \text{m} \end{aligned}$$

The sled has traveled 5300 m when it reaches 625 m/s at the burnout of the second rocket.

**ASSESS** 5300 m is 5.3 km, or roughly 3 miles. That's a long way to travel in 15 s! But the sled reaches incredibly high speeds. At the final speed of 625 m/s, over 1200 mph, the sled would travel nearly 10 km in 15 s. So 5.3 km in 15 s for the accelerating sled seems reasonable.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 2 has been to learn to solve problems about motion along a straight line.

## General Principles

**Kinematics** describes motion in terms of position, velocity, and acceleration.

General kinematic relationships are given **mathematically** by:

**Instantaneous velocity** $v_s = ds/dt = \text{slope of position graph}$

**Instantaneous acceleration** $a_s = dv_s/dt = \text{slope of velocity graph}$

**Final position** $s_\text{f} = s_\text{i} + \displaystyle\int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} v_s \, dt = s_\text{i} + \begin{Bmatrix} \text{area under the velocity} \\ \text{curve from } t_\text{i} \text{ to } t_\text{f} \end{Bmatrix}$

**Final velocity** $v_{\text{f}s} = v_{\text{i}s} + \displaystyle\int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} a_s \, dt = v_{_{is}} + \begin{Bmatrix} \text{area under the acceleration} \\ \text{curve from } t_\text{i} \text{ to } t_\text{f} \end{Bmatrix}$

## Solving Kinematics Problems

**MODEL** Uniform motion or constant acceleration.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation.

**SOLVE**

- Uniform motion $s_\text{f} = s_\text{i} + v_s \, \Delta t$

- Constant acceleration $v_{fs} = v_{is} + a_s \, \Delta t$

$$s_f = s_i + v_s \, \Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2} a_s (\Delta t)^2$$

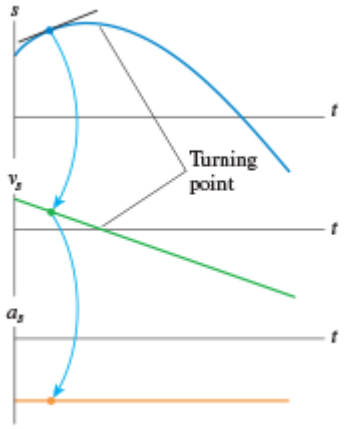
$$v_{fs}{}^2 = v_{is}{}^2 + 2 a_s \, \Delta s$$

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

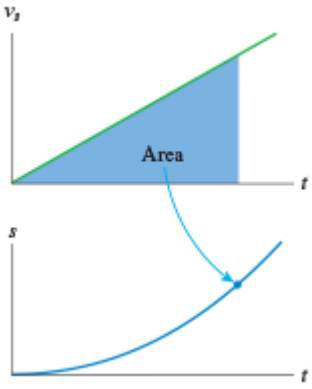
# Important Concepts

Position, velocity, and acceleration are related graphically.

- The slope of the position-versus-time graph is the value on the velocity graph.
- The slope of the velocity graph is the value on the acceleration graph.
- $s$ is a maximum or minimum at a turning point, and $v_s = 0$.




- Displacement is the area under the velocity curve.



# Applications

The **sign of** $v_s$ indicates the direction of motion.

- $v_s > 0$ is motion to the right or up.
- $v_s < 0$ is motion to the left or down.

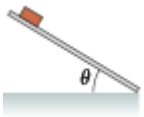
The **sign of** $a_s$ indicates which way $\vec{a}$ points, *not* whether the object is speeding up or slowing down.

- $a_s > 0$ if $\vec{a}$ points to the right or up.
- $a_s < 0$ if $\vec{a}$ points to the left or down.
- The direction of $\vec{a}$ is found with a motion diagram.

An object is **speeding up** if and only if $v_s$ and $a_s$ have the same sign.

An object is **slowing down** if and only if $v_s$ and $a_s$ have opposite signs.

**Free fall** is constant-acceleration motion with




$$a_y = -g = -9.80\,\mathrm{m/s^2}$$

**Motion on an inclined plane** has $a_s = \pm g \sin\theta$. The sign depends on the direction of the tilt.

# Terms and Notation

kinematics

uniform motion

average velocity, $v_{\text{avg}}$

speed, $v$

initial position, $s_{\text{i}}$

final position, $s_{\text{f}}$

uniform-motion model

instantaneous velocity, $v_s$

turning point

average acceleration, $a_{\text{avg}}$

constant-acceleration model

free fall

free-fall acceleration, $g$

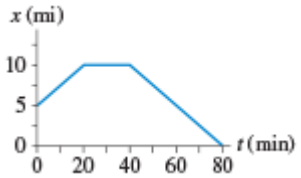
instantaneous acceleration, $a_s$

# Conceptual Questions 58

For Questions 1, 2, 3, interpret the position graph given in each figure by writing a very short "story" of what is happening. Be creative! Have characters and situations! Simply saying that "a car moves 100 meters to the right" doesn't qualify as a story. Your stories should make *specific reference* to information you obtain from the graph, such as distance moved or time elapsed.

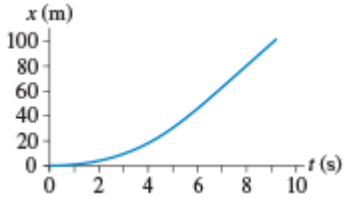
**1.**

**Figure Q2.1**



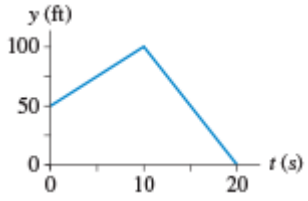

**2.**

**Figure Q2.2**




**3.**

**Figure Q2.3**

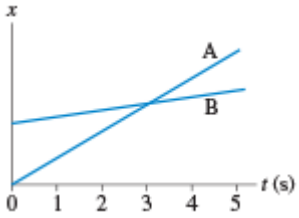



**4.** Figure Q2.4 shows a position-versus-time graph for the motion of objects A and B as they move along the same axis.

**a.** At the instant $t = 1$ s, is the speed of A greater than, less than, or equal to the speed of B? Explain.

**b.** Do objects A and B ever have the *same* speed? If so, at what time or times? Explain.

**Figure Q2.4**

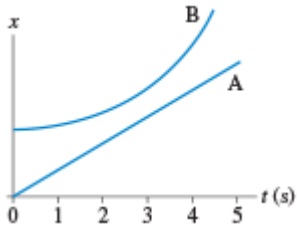



**5.** Figure Q2.5 shows a position-versus-time graph for the motion of objects A and B as they move along the same axis.

**a.** At the instant $t = 1$ s, is the speed of A greater than, less than, or equal to the speed of B? Explain.

**b.** Do objects A and B ever have the *same* speed? If so, at what time or times? Explain.

**Figure Q2.5**



6. Figure Q2.6 shows the position-versus-time graph for a moving object. At which lettered point or points:

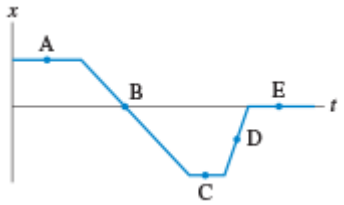
   **a.** Is the object *moving* the slowest?

   **b.** Is the object moving the fastest?

   **c.** Is the object at rest?

   **d.** Is the object moving to the left?

**Figure Q2.6**




7. Figure Q2.7 shows the position-versus-time graph for a moving object. At which lettered point or points:

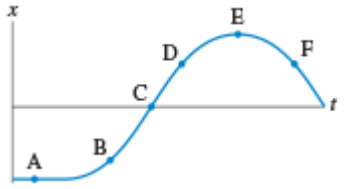
   **a.** Is the object moving the fastest?

   **b.** Is the object moving to the left?

   **c.** Is the object speeding up?

   **d.** Is the object turning around?

**Figure Q2.7**




8. Figure Q2.8 shows six frames from the motion diagrams of two moving cars, A and B.

   **a.** Do the two cars ever have the same position at one instant of time? If so, in which frame number (or numbers)?

**b.** Do the two cars ever have the same velocity at one instant of time? If so, between which two frames?

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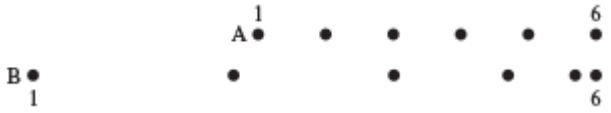
Figure Q2.8




**9.** You're driving along the highway at a steady speed of 60 mph when another driver decides to pass you. At the moment when the front of his car is exactly even with the front of your car, and you turn your head to smile at him, do the two cars have equal velocities? Explain.

**10.** A bicycle is traveling east. Can its acceleration vector ever point west? Explain.

**11.** (a) Give an example of a vertical motion with a positive velocity and a negative acceleration. (b) Give an example of a vertical motion with a negative velocity and a negative acceleration.

**12.** A ball is thrown straight up into the air. At each of the following instants, is the magnitude of the ball's acceleration greater than $g$, equal to $g$, less than $g$, or 0? Explain.

**a.** Just after leaving your hand.

**b.** At the very top (maximum height).

**c.** Just before hitting the ground.

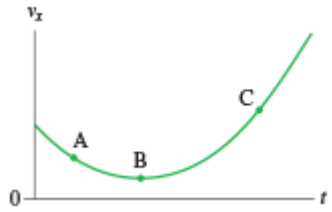
**13.** A rock is *thrown* (not dropped) straight down from a bridge into the river below. At each of the following instants, is the magnitude of the rock's acceleration greater than $g$, equal to $g$, less than $g$, or 0? Explain.

**a.** Immediately after being released.

**b.** Just before hitting the water.

**14.** Figure Q2.14 shows the velocity-versus-time graph for a moving object. At which lettered point or points:

**Figure Q2.14**




**a.** Is the object speeding up?

**b.** Is the object slowing down?

**c.** Is the object moving to the left?

**d.** Is the object moving to the right?



# Exercises and Problems

## Exercises

### Section 2.1 Uniform Motion

**1.** •• Alan leaves Los Angeles at 8:00 A.M. to drive to San Francisco, 400 mi away. He travels at a steady 50 mph. Beth leaves Los Angeles at 9:00 A.M. and drives a steady 60 mph.

**a.** Who gets to San Francisco first?

**b.** How long does the first to arrive have to wait for the second?

**2.** •• Julie drives 100 mi to Grandmother's house. On the way to Grandmother's, Julie drives half the distance at 40 mph and half

the distance at 60 mph. On her return trip, she drives half the time at 40 mph and half the time at 60 mph.

**a.** What is Julie's average speed on the way to Grandmother's house?

**b.** What is her average speed on the return trip?

**3.** •• Larry leaves home at 9:05 and runs at constant speed to the lamppost seen in Figure EX2.3. He reaches the lamppost at 9:07, immediately turns, and runs to the tree. Larry arrives at the tree at 9:10.

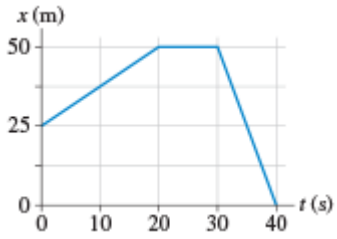
**Figure EX2.3**

**a.** What is Larry's average velocity, in m/min, during each of these two intervals?

**b.** What is Larry's average velocity for the entire run?

**4.** •• Figure EX2.4 is the position-versus-time graph of a jogger. What is the jogger's velocity at $t = 10$ s, at $t = 25$ s, and at $t = 35$ s?

**Figure EX2.4**

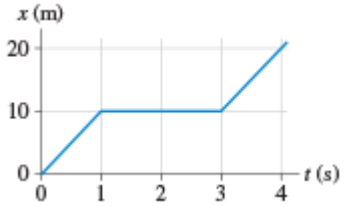



## Section 2.2 Instantaneous Velocity

## Section 2.3 Finding Position from Velocity

**5.** • Figure EX2.5 shows the position graph of a particle.

**Figure EX2.5**

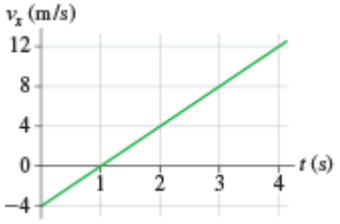



**a.** Draw the particle's velocity graph for the interval $0\text{ s} \leq t \leq 4\text{ s}$.

**b.** Does this particle have a turning point or points? If so, at what time or times?

**6.** •• A particle starts from $x_0 = 10\text{ m}$ at $t_0 = 0\text{ s}$ and moves with the velocity graph shown in Figure EX2.6.

**Figure EX2.6**

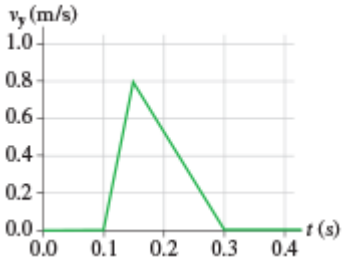



**a.** Does this particle have a turning point? If so, at what time?

**b.** What is the object's position at $t = 2\text{ s}$ and 4 s?

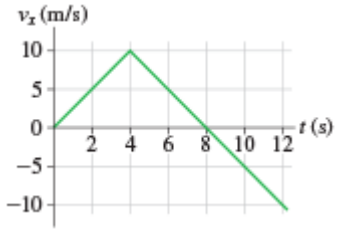
**7.** •• **BIO** Figure EX2.7 is a somewhat idealized graph of the velocity of blood in the ascending aorta during one beat of the heart. Approximately how far, in cm, does the blood move during one beat?

**Figure EX2.7**




**8.** • Figure EX2.8 shows the velocity graph for a particle having initial position $x_0 = 0$ m at $t_0 = 0$ s. At what time or times is the particle found at $x = 35$ m?

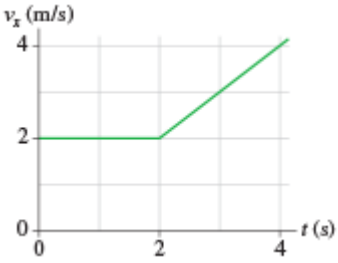
**Figure EX2.8**




## Section 2.4 Motion with Constant Acceleration

**9.** •• Figure EX2.9 shows the velocity graph of a particle. Draw the particle's acceleration graph for the interval $0\text{ s} \leq t \leq 4\text{ s}$.

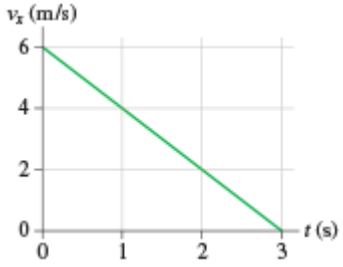
**Figure EX2.9**




**10.** •• **BIO** Figure EX2.7 showed the velocity graph of blood in the aorta. What is the blood's acceleration during each phase of the motion, speeding up and slowing down?

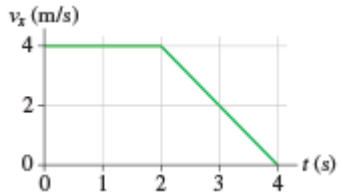
**11.** •• Figure EX2.11 shows the velocity graph of a particle moving along the $x$-axis. Its initial position is $x_0 = 2.0$ m at $t_0 = 0$ s. At $t = 2.0$ s, what are the particle's (a) position, (b) velocity, and (c) acceleration?

**Figure EX2.11**




**12.** •• Figure EX2.12 shows the velocity-versus-time graph for a particle moving along the $x$-axis. Its initial position is $x_0 = 2.0$ m at $t_0 = 0$ s.

**Figure EX2.12**




**a.** What are the particle's position, velocity, and acceleration at $t = 1.0$ s?

**b.** What are the particle's position, velocity, and acceleration at $t = 3.0$ s?

**13.** •

**a.** What constant acceleration, in SI units, must a car have to go from zero to 60 mph in 10 s?

**b.** How far has the car traveled when it reaches 60 mph? Give your answer both in SI units and in feet.

**14.** •• A jet plane is cruising at 300 m/s when suddenly the pilot turns the engines up to full throttle. After traveling 4.0 km, the jet is moving with a speed of 400 m/s. What is the jet's acceleration, assuming it to be a constant acceleration?

**15.** ••

**a.** How many days will it take a spaceship to accelerate to the speed of light ($3.0 \times 10^8$ m/s) with the acceleration $g$?

**b.** How far will it travel during this interval?

**c.** What fraction of a light year is your answer to part b? A light year is the distance light travels in one year.

> **Note**
>
> We know, from Einstein's theory of relativity, that no object can travel at the speed of light. So this problem, while interesting and instructive, is not realistic.

**16.** •• **BIO** When you sneeze, the air in your lungs accelerates from rest to 150 km/h in approximately 0.50 s. What is the acceleration of the air in m/s$^2$?

**17.** •• A speed skater moving to the left across frictionless ice at 8.0 m/s hits a 5.0-m-wide patch of rough ice. She slows steadily, then continues on at 6.0 m/s. What is her acceleration on the rough ice?

**18.** •• A Porsche challenges a Honda to a 400 m race. Because the Porsche's acceleration of 3.5 m/s$^2$ is larger than the Honda's 3.0 m/s$^2$, the Honda gets a 1.0 s head start. Who wins? By how many seconds?

**19.** •• A car starts from rest at a stop sign. It accelerates at 4.0 m/s$^2$ for 6.0 s, coasts for 2.0 s, and then slows down at a rate of

3.0 m/s$^2$ for the next stop sign. How far apart are the stop signs?

## Section 2.5 Free Fall

**20.** • Ball bearings are made by letting spherical drops of molten metal fall inside a tall tower—called a *shot tower*—and solidify as they fall.

**a.** If a bearing needs 4.0 s to solidify enough for impact, how high must the tower be?

**b.** What is the bearing's impact velocity?

**21.** •• A student standing on the ground throws a ball straight up. The ball leaves the student's hand with a speed of 15 m/s when the hand is 2.0 m above the ground. How long is the ball in the air before it hits the ground? (The student moves her hand out of the way.)

**22.** •• A rock is tossed straight up from ground level with a speed of 20 m/s. When it returns, it falls into a hole 10 m deep.

**a.** What is the rock's velocity as it hits the bottom of the hole?

**b.** How long is the rock in the air, from the instant it is released until it hits the bottom of the hole?

**23.** •• **BIO** When jumping, a flea accelerates at an astounding 1000 m/s$^2$, but over only the very short distance of 0.50 mm. If a flea jumps straight up, and if air resistance is neglected (a rather poor approximation in this situation), how high does the flea go?

**24.** •• As a science project, you drop a watermelon off the top of the Empire State Building, 320 m above the sidewalk. It so happens that Superman flies by at the instant you release the watermelon. Superman is headed straight down with a speed of

35 m/s. How fast is the watermelon going when it passes Superman?

**25.** ••• A rock is dropped from the top of a tall building. The rock's displacement in the last second before it hits the ground is 45% of the entire distance it falls. How tall is the building?

## Section 2.6 Motion on an Inclined Plane

**26.** •• A skier is gliding along at 3.0 m/s on horizontal, frictionless snow. He suddenly starts down a 10° incline. His speed at the bottom is 15 m/s.

**a.** What is the length of the incline?

**b.** How long does it take him to reach the bottom?

**27.** •• A car traveling at 30 m/s runs out of gas while traveling up a 10° slope. How far up the hill will it coast before starting to roll back down?

**28.** •• Santa loses his footing and slides down a frictionless, snowy roof that is tilted at an angle of 30°. If Santa slides 10 m before reaching the edge, what is his speed as he leaves the roof?

**29.** •• A snowboarder glides down a 50-m-long, 15° hill. She then glides horizontally for 10 m before reaching a 25° upward slope. Assume the snow is frictionless.



**a.** What is her velocity at the bottom of the hill?

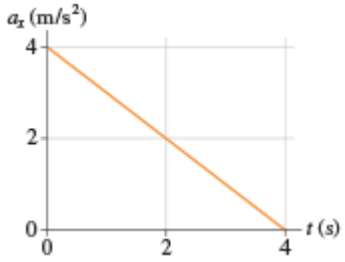
**b.** How far can she travel up the 25° slope?

**30.** •• A small child gives a plastic frog a big push at the bottom of a slippery 2.0-m-long, 1.0-m-high ramp, starting it with a speed of 5.0 m/s. What is the frog's speed as it flies off the top of the ramp?

## Section 2.7 Instantaneous Acceleration

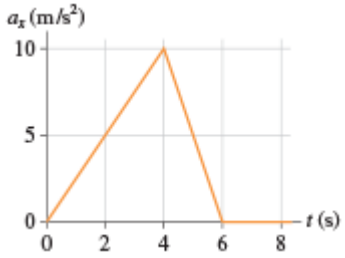
**31.** •• Figure EX2.31 shows the acceleration-versus-time graph of a particle moving along the $x$-axis. Its initial velocity is $v_{0x} = 8.0\,\text{m/s}$ at $t_0 = 0\,\text{s}$. What is the particle's velocity at $t = 4.0\,\text{s}$?

**Figure EX2.31**




**32.** •• Figure EX2.32 shows the acceleration graph for a particle that starts from rest at $t = 0\,\text{s}$. What is the particle's velocity at $t = 6\,\text{s}$?

**Figure EX2.32**




**33.** • **CALC** A particle moving along the $x$-axis has its position described by the function $x = (2t^3 + 2t + 1)\,\text{m}$, where $t$ is in s. At $t = 2\,\text{s}$ what are the particle's (a) position, (b) velocity, and (c) acceleration?

**34.** •• **CALC** A particle moving along the $x$-axis has its velocity described by the function $v_x = 2t^2\,\text{m/s}$, where $t$ is in s. Its initial position is $x_0 = 1\,\text{m}$ at $t_0 = 0\,\text{s}$. At $t = 1\,\text{s}$ what are the particle's (a) position, (b) velocity, and (c) acceleration?

**35.** • **CALC** The position of a particle is given by the function $x = (2t^3 - 9t^2 + 12)$ m, where $t$ is in s.

**a.** At what time or times is $v_x = 0$ m/s?

**b.** What are the particle's position and its acceleration at this time(s)?

**36.** •• **CALC** The position of a particle is given by the function $x = (2t^3 - 6t^2 + 12)$ m, where $t$ is in s.

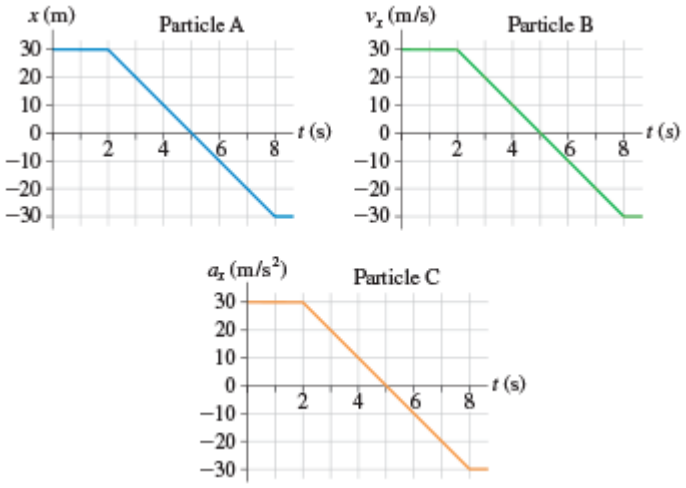
**a.** At what time does the particle reach its minimum velocity? What is $(v_x)_{\text{min}}$?

**b.** At what time is the acceleration zero?

# Problems

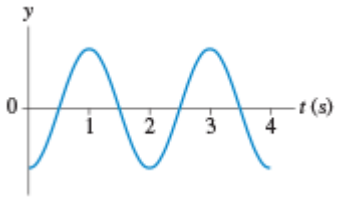
**37.** •• Particles A, B, and C move along the x-axis. Particle C has an initial velocity of 10 m/s. In Figure P2.37, the graph for A is a position-versus-time graph; the graph for B is a velocity-versus-time graph; the graph for C is an acceleration-versus-time graph. Find each particle's velocity at $t = 7.0$ s.

**Figure P2.37**



**38.** • A block is suspended from a spring, pulled down, and released. The block's position-versus-time graph is shown in Figure P2.38.

**Figure P2.38**




**a.** At what times is the velocity zero? At what times is the velocity most positive? Most negative?

**b.** Draw a reasonable velocity-versus-time graph.

**39.** •• **CALC** A particle's velocity is described by the function $v_x = (t^2 - 7t + 10)\ \text{m/s}$, where $t$ is in s.

**a.** At what times does the particle reach its turning points?

**b.** What is the particle's acceleration at each of the turning points?

**40.** ••• **CALC** A particle's velocity is described by the function $v_x = kt^2\ \text{m/s}$, where $k$ is a constant and $t$ is in s. The particle's position at $t_0 = 0$ s is $x_0 = -9.0$ m. At $t_1 = 3.0$ s, the particle is at $x_1 = 9.0$ m. Determine the value of the constant $k$. Be sure to include the proper units.

**41.** •• **CALC** A particle's acceleration is described by the function $a_x = (10 - t)\ \text{m/s}^2$, where $t$ is in s. Its initial conditions are $x_0 = 0$ m and $v_{0x} = 0$ m/s at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** At what time is the velocity again zero?

**b.** What is the particle's position at that time?

**42.** •• **CALC** A particle's velocity is given by the function $v_x = (2.0\ \text{m/s})\sin(\pi t)$, where $t$ is in s.

**a.** What is the first time after $t = 0\,\text{s}$ when the particle reaches a turning point?

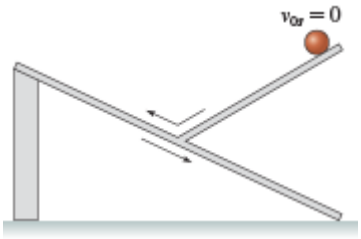
**b.** What is the particle's acceleration at that time?

**43.** •• A ball rolls along the smooth track shown in Figure P2.43. Each segment of the track is straight, and the ball passes smoothly from one segment to the next without changing speed or leaving the track. Draw three vertically stacked graphs showing position, velocity, and acceleration versus time. Each graph should have the same time axis, and the proportions of the graph should be qualitatively correct. Assume that the ball has enough speed to reach the top.

**Figure P2.43**

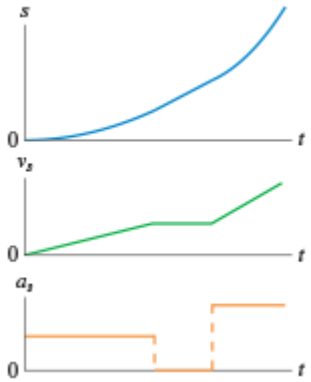
**44.** •• Draw position, velocity, and acceleration graphs for the ball shown in Figure P2.44. See Problem 43 for more information.

**Figure P2.44**



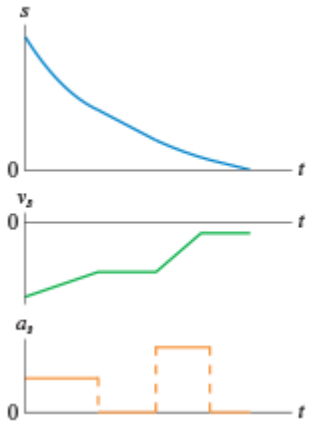

**45.** •• Figure P2.45 shows a set of kinematic graphs for a ball rolling on a track. All segments of the track are straight lines, but some may be tilted. Draw a picture of the track and also indicate the ball's initial condition.

## Figure P2.45




**46.** •• Figure P2.46 shows a set of kinematic graphs for a ball rolling on a track. All segments of the track are straight lines, but some may be tilted. Draw a picture of the track and also indicate the ball's initial condition.

## Figure P2.46




**47.** •• The takeoff speed for an Airbus A320 jetliner is 80 m/s. Velocity data measured during takeoff are as shown.

| $t$ (s) | $v_x$ (m/s) |
|---|---|
| 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 20 | 46 |
| 30 | 69 |

**a.** Is the jetliner's acceleration constant during takeoff? Explain.

**b.** At what time do the wheels leave the ground?

**c.** For safety reasons, in case of an aborted takeoff, the runway must be three times the takeoff distance. Can an A320 take off safely on a 2.5-mi-long runway?

**48.** • You are driving to the grocery store at 20 m/s. You are 110 m from an intersection when the traffic light turns red. Assume that your reaction time is 0.50 s and that your car brakes with constant acceleration. What magnitude braking acceleration will bring you to a stop exactly at the intersection?

**49.** •• You're driving down the highway late one night at 20 m/s when a deer steps onto the road 35 m in front of you. Your reaction time before stepping on the brakes is 0.50 s, and the maximum deceleration of your car is 10 $m/s^2$.

**a.** How much distance is between you and the deer when you come to a stop?

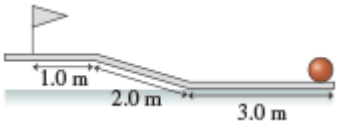
**b.** What is the maximum speed you could have and still not hit the deer?

**50.** •• Two cars are driving at the same constant speed on a straight road, with car 1 in front of car 2. Car 1 suddenly starts to brake with constant acceleration and stops in 10 m. At the instant car 1 comes to a stop, car 2 begins to brake with the same acceleration. It comes to a halt just as it reaches the back of car 1. What was the separation between the cars before they starting braking?

**51.** •• You are playing miniature golf at the golf course shown in Figure P2.51. Due to the fake plastic grass, the ball decelerates at 1.0 $m/s^2$ when rolling horizontally and at 6.0 $m/s^2$ on the slope. What is the slowest speed with which

the ball can leave your golf club if you wish to make a hole in one?

**Figure P2.51**




**52.** •• The minimum stopping distance for a car traveling at a speed of 30 m/s is 60 m, including the distance traveled during the driver's reaction time of 0.50 s. What is the minimum stopping distance for the same car traveling at a speed of 40 m/s?

**53.** •• **BIO** A cheetah spots a Thomson's gazelle, its preferred prey, and leaps into action, quickly accelerating to its top speed of 30 m/s, the highest of any land animal. However, a cheetah can maintain this extreme speed for only 15 s before having to let up. The cheetah is 170 m from the gazelle as it reaches top speed, and the gazelle sees the cheetah at just this instant. With negligible reaction time, the gazelle heads directly away from the cheetah, accelerating at 4.6 m/s$^2$ for 5.0 s, then running at constant speed. Does the gazelle escape? If so, by what distance is the gazelle in front when the cheetah gives up?



**54.** •• You are at a train station, standing next to the train at the front of the first car. The train starts moving with constant acceleration, and 5.0 s later the back of the first car passes you. How long does it take after the train starts moving until the back of the seventh car passes you? All cars are the same length.

**55.** ••• A 200 kg weather rocket is loaded with 100 kg of fuel and fired straight up. It accelerates upward at 30 m/s$^2$ for 30 s, then

runs out of fuel. Ignore any air resistance effects.

**a.** What is the rocket's maximum altitude?

**b.** How long is the rocket in the air before hitting the ground?

**56.** ••• A 1000 kg weather rocket is launched straight up. The rocket motor provides a constant acceleration for 16 s, then the motor stops. The rocket altitude 20 s after launch is 5100 m. You can ignore any effects of air resistance. What was the rocket's acceleration during the first 16 s?

**57.** ••• A lead ball is dropped into a lake from a diving board 5.0 m above the water. After entering the water, it sinks to the bottom with a constant velocity equal to the velocity with which it hit the water. The ball reaches the bottom 3.0 s after it is released. How deep is the lake?

**58.** •• A hotel elevator ascends 200 m with a maximum speed of 5.0 m/s. Its acceleration and deceleration both have a magnitude of 1.0 $m/s^2$.

**a.** How far does the elevator move while accelerating to full speed from rest?

**b.** How long does it take to make the complete trip from bottom to top?

**59.** •• A basketball player can jump to a height of 55 cm. How far above the floor can he jump in an elevator that is descending at a constant 1.0 m/s?

**60.** •• You are 9.0 m from the door of your bus, behind the bus, when it pulls away with an acceleration of 1.0 $m/s^2$. You instantly start running toward the still-open door at 4.5 m/s.

**a.** How long does it take for you to reach the open door and jump in?

**b.** What is the maximum time you can wait before starting to run and still catch the bus?

**61.** •• Ann and Carol are driving their cars along the same straight road. Carol is located at $x = 2.4$ mi at $t = 0$ h and drives at a steady 36 mph. Ann, who is traveling in the same direction, is located at $x = 0.0$ mi at $t = 0.50$ h and drives at a steady 50 mph.

**a.** At what time does Ann overtake Carol?

**b.** What is their position at this instant?

**c.** Draw a position-versus-time graph showing the motion of both Ann and Carol.

**62.** •• Amir starts riding his bike up a 200-m-long slope at a speed of 18 km/h, decelerating at 0.20 m/s$^2$ as he goes up. At the same instant, Becky starts down from the top at a speed of 6.0 km/h, accelerating at 0.40 m/s$^2$ as she goes down. How far has Amir ridden when they pass?

**63.** •• A very slippery block of ice slides down a smooth ramp tilted at angle $\theta$. The ice is released from rest at vertical height $h$ above the bottom of the ramp. Find an expression for the speed of the ice at the bottom.

**64.** •• Bob is driving the getaway car after the big bank robbery. He's going 50 m/s when his headlights suddenly reveal a nail strip that the cops have placed across the road 150 m in front of him. If Bob can stop in time, he can throw the car into reverse and escape. But if he crosses the nail strip, all his tires will go flat and he will be caught. Bob's reaction time before he can hit the brakes is 0.60 s, and his car's maximum deceleration is 10 m/s$^2$. Does Bob stop before or after the nail strip? By what distance?

**65.** •• One game at the amusement park has you push a puck up a long, frictionless ramp. You win a stuffed animal if the puck, at its highest point, comes to within 10 cm of the end of the ramp without going off. You give the puck a push, releasing it with a speed of 5.0 m/s when it is 8.5 m from the end of the ramp. The puck's speed after traveling 3.0 m is 4.0 m/s. How far is it from the end when it stops?

**66.** •• A motorist is driving at 20 m/s when she sees that a traffic light 200 m ahead has just turned red. She knows that this light stays red for 15 s, and she wants to reach the light just as it turns green again. It takes her 1.0 s to step on the brakes and begin slowing. What is her speed as she reaches the light at the instant it turns green?

**67.** •• Nicole throws a ball straight up. Chad watches the ball from a window 5.0 m above the point where Nicole released it. The ball passes Chad on the way up, and it has a speed of 10 m/s as it passes him on the way back down. How fast did Nicole throw the ball?

**68.** •• David is driving a steady 30 m/s when he passes Tina, who is sitting in her car at rest. Tina begins to accelerate at a steady 2.0 $m/s^2$ at the instant when David passes.

**a.** How far does Tina drive before passing David?

**b.** What is her speed as she passes him?

**69.** •• A cat is sleeping on the floor in the middle of a 3.0-m-wide room when a barking dog enters with a speed of 1.50 m/s. As the dog enters, the cat (as only cats can do) immediately accelerates at 0.85 $m/s^2$ toward an open window on the opposite side of the room. The dog (all bark and no bite) is a bit startled by the cat and begins to slow down at 0.10 $m/s^2$ as

soon as it enters the room. How far is the cat in front of the dog as it leaps through the window?

**70.** ••• Water drops fall from the edge of a roof[64] at a steady rate. A fifth drop starts to fall just as the first drop hits the ground. At this instant, the second and third drops are exactly at the bottom and top edges of a 1.00-m-tall window. How high is the edge of the roof?

**71.** ••• I was driving along at 20 m/s, trying to change a CD and not watching where I was going. When I looked up, I found myself 45 m from a railroad crossing. And wouldn't you know it, a train moving at 30 m/s was only 60 m from the crossing. In a split second, I realized that the train was going to beat me to the crossing and that I didn't have enough distance to stop. My only hope was to accelerate enough to cross the tracks before the train arrived. If my reaction time before starting to accelerate was 0.50 s, what minimum acceleration did my car need for me to be here today writing these words?

**72.** •• As an astronaut visiting Planet X, you're assigned to measure the free-fall acceleration. Getting out your meter stick and stop watch, you time the fall of a heavy ball from several heights. Your data are as follows:

| Height (m) | Fall time (s) |
|---|---|
| 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 1.0 | 0.54 |
| 2.0 | 0.72 |
| 3.0 | 0.91 |
| 4.0 | 1.01 |
| 5.0 | 1.17 |

Analyze these data to determine the free-fall acceleration on Planet X. Your analysis method should involve fitting a straight

line to an appropriate graph, similar to the analysis in Example 2.14.

**73.** •• Your goal in laboratory is to launch a ball of mass $m$ straight up so that it reaches exactly height $h$ above the top of the launching tube. You and your lab partners will earn fewer points if the ball goes too high or too low. The launch tube uses compressed air to accelerate the ball over a distance $d$, and you have a table of data telling you how to set the air compressor to achieve a desired acceleration. Find an expression for the acceleration that will earn you maximum points.

**74.** •• **CALC** When a 1984 Alfa Romeo Spider sports car accelerates at the maximum possible rate, its motion during the first 20 s is extremely well modeled by the simple equation

$$v_x{}^2 = \frac{2P}{m}\,t$$

where $P = 3.6 \times 10^4$ watts is the car's power output, $m = 1200$ kg is its mass, and $v_x$ is in m/s. That is, the square of the car's velocity increases linearly with time.

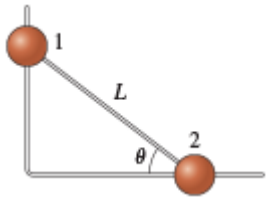
**a.** Find an algebraic expression in terms of $P$, $m$, and $t$ for the car's acceleration at time $t$.

**b.** What is the car's speed at $t = 2$ s and $t = 10$ s?

**c.** Evaluate the acceleration at $t = 2$ s and $t = 10$ s?

**75.** •• The two masses in Figure P2.75 slide on frictionless wires. They are connected by a pivoting rigid rod of length $L$. Prove that $v_{2x} = -v_{1y} \tan\theta$.

**Figure P2.75**




In Problems 76, 77, 78, 79, you are given the kinematic equation or equations that are used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to:

**a.** Write a *realistic* problem for which this is the correct equation(s). Be sure that the answer your problem requests is consistent with the equation(s) given.

**b.** Draw the pictorial representation for your problem.

**c.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**76.** $64\text{ m} = 0\text{ m} + (32\text{ m/s})(4\text{ s} - 0\text{ s}) + \frac{1}{2}\,a_x(4\text{ s} - 0\text{ s})^2$

**77.** $(10\text{ m/s})^2 = {v_{0y}}^2 - 2(9.8\text{ m/s}^2)(10\text{ m} - 0\text{ m})$

**78.** $(0\text{ m/s})^2 = (5\text{ m/s})^2 - 2(9.8\text{ m/s}^2)(\sin 10^\circ)(x_1 - 0\text{ m})$

**79.** $v_{1x} = 0\,\text{m/s} + (20\,\text{m/s}^2)(5\,\text{s} - 0\,\text{s})$

$x_1 = 0\,\text{m} + (0\,\text{m/s})(5\,\text{s} - 0\,\text{s}) + \frac{1}{2}(20\,\text{m/s}^2)(5\,\text{s} - 0\,\text{s})^2$

$x_2 = x_1 + v_{1x}(10\,\text{s} - 5\,\text{s})$

## Challenge Problems

**80.** ••• A rocket is launched straight up with constant acceleration. Four seconds after liftoff, a bolt falls off the side of the rocket. The bolt hits the ground 6.0 s later. What was the rocket's acceleration?

**81.** ••• Careful measurements have been made of Olympic sprinters in the 100 meter dash. A simple but reasonably accurate model is that a sprinter accelerates at 3.6 m/s$^2$ for $3\frac{1}{3}$ s, then runs at constant velocity to the finish line.

**a.** What is the race time for a sprinter who follows this model?

**b.** A sprinter could run a faster race by accelerating faster at the beginning, thus reaching top speed sooner. If a sprinter's top speed is the same as in part a, what acceleration would he need to run the 100 meter dash in 9.9 s?

**c.** By what percent did the sprinter need to increase his acceleration in order to decrease his time by 1%?

**82.** ••• **CALC** Careful measurements have been made of Olympic sprinters in the 100 meter dash. A quite realistic model is that the sprinter's velocity is given by

$$v_x = a(1 - e^{-bt})$$

where $t$ is in s, $v_x$ is in m/s, and the constants $a$ and $b$ are characteristic of the sprinter. Sprinter Carl Lewis's run at the 1987 World Championships is modeled with $a = 11.81$ m/s and $b = 0.6887\ \text{s}^{-1}$.

**a.** What was Lewis's acceleration at $t = 0$ s, 2.00 s, and 4.00 s?

**b.** Find an expression for the distance traveled at time $t$.

**c.** Your expression from part b is a transcendental equation, meaning that you can't solve it for $t$. However, it's not hard to use trial and error to find the time needed to travel a specific distance. To the nearest 0.01 s, find the time Lewis needed to sprint 100.0 m. His official time was 0.01 s more than your answer, showing that this model is very good, but not perfect.

**83.** ••• A sprinter can accelerate with constant acceleration for 4.0 s before reaching top speed. He can run the 100 meter dash in

10.0 s. What is his speed as he crosses the finish line?

**84.** ••• A rubber ball is shot straight up from the ground with speed $v_0$. Simultaneously, a second rubber ball at height $h$ directly above the first ball is dropped from rest.

**a.** At what height above the ground do the balls collide? Your answer will be an *algebraic expression* in terms of $h$, $v_0$, and $g$.

**b.** What is the maximum value of $h$ for which a collision occurs before the first ball falls back to the ground?

**c.** For what value of $h$ does the collision occur at the instant when the first ball is at its highest point?

**85.** ••• The Starship Enterprise returns from warp drive to ordinary space with a forward speed of 50 km/s. To the crew's great surprise, a Klingon ship is 100 km directly ahead, traveling in the same direction at a mere 20 km/s. Without evasive action, the Enterprise will overtake and collide with the Klingons in just slightly over 3.0 s. The Enterprise's computers react instantly to brake the ship. What magnitude acceleration does the Enterprise need to just barely avoid a collision with the Klingon ship? Assume the acceleration is constant.

**Hint:** Draw a position-versus-time graph showing the motions of both the Enterprise and the Klingon ship. Let $x_0 = 0$ km be the location of the Enterprise as it returns from warp drive. How do you show graphically the situation in which the collision is "barely avoided"? Once you decide what it looks like graphically, express that situation mathematically.

# Chapter 3
# Vectors and Coordinate Systems

Wind has both a speed and a direction, hence the motion of the wind is described by a vector.

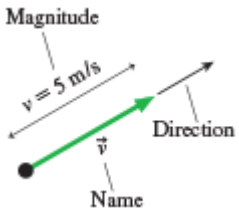
**In This Chapter**

you will learn how vectors are represented and used.

## What is a vector?

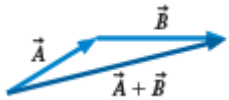
A vector is a quantity with both a size—its magnitude—and a direction. Vectors you'll meet in the next few chapters include position, displacement, velocity, acceleration, force, and momentum.

Looking Back Tactics Boxes 1.1 and 1.2 Vector addition and subtraction



## How are vectors added and subtracted?

Vectors are added "tip to tail." The order of addition does not matter. To subtract vectors, turn the subtraction into addition by writing $\vec{A} - \vec{B} = \vec{A} + (-\vec{B})$. The vector $-\vec{B}$ is the same length as $\vec{B}$ but points in the opposite direction.

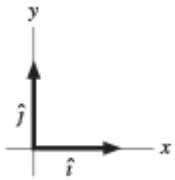



## What are unit vectors?

Unit vectors define what we *mean* by the +*x*- and +*y*-directions in space.

- A unit vector has magnitude 1.
- A unit vector has no units.

Unit vectors simply point.

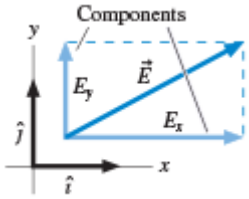



## What are components?

Components of vectors are the pieces of vectors parallel to the coordinate axes— in the directions of the unit vectors. We write

$$\vec{E} = E_x\,\hat{i} + E_y\,\hat{j}$$

Components simplify vector math.




## How are components used?

Components let us do vector math with algebra, which is easier and more precise than adding and subtracting vectors using geometry and trigonometry. Multiplying a vector by a number simply multiplies all of the vector's components by that number.

$$\vec{C} = 2\vec{A} + 3\vec{B}$$

means

$$\begin{cases} C_x = 2A_x + 3B_x \\ C_y = 2A_y + 3B_y \end{cases}$$

## How will I use vectors?

Vectors appear everywhere in physics and engineering—from velocities to electric fields and from forces to fluid flows. The tools and techniques you learn in this chapter will be used throughout your studies and your professional career.

# Chapter 3
# Vectors and Coordinate Systems

Wind has both a speed and a direction, hence the motion of the wind is described by a vector.

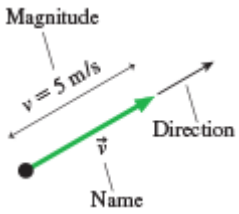
**In This Chapter**

you will learn how vectors are represented and used.

## What is a vector?

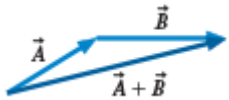
A vector is a quantity with both a size—its magnitude—and a direction. Vectors you'll meet in the next few chapters include position, displacement, velocity, acceleration, force, and momentum.

Looking Back Tactics Boxes 1.1 and 1.2 Vector addition and subtraction



## How are vectors added and subtracted?

Vectors are added "tip to tail." The order of addition does not matter. To subtract vectors, turn the subtraction into addition by writing $\vec{A} - \vec{B} = \vec{A} + (-\vec{B})$. The vector $-\vec{B}$ is the same length as $\vec{B}$ but points in the opposite direction.

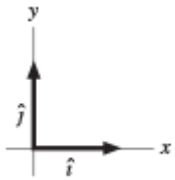



## What are unit vectors?

Unit vectors define what we *mean* by the +*x*- and +*y*-directions in space.

- A unit vector has magnitude 1.
- A unit vector has no units.

Unit vectors simply point.

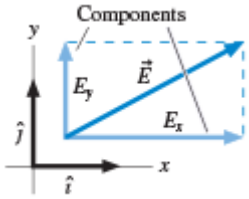



## What are components?

Components of vectors are the pieces of vectors parallel to the coordinate axes— in the directions of the unit vectors. We write

$$\vec{E} = E_x\,\hat{i} + E_y\,\hat{j}$$

Components simplify vector math.




## How are components used?

Components let us do vector math with algebra, which is easier and more precise than adding and subtracting vectors using geometry and trigonometry. Multiplying a vector by a number simply multiplies all of the vector's components by that number.

$$\vec{C} = 2\vec{A} + 3\vec{B}$$

means

$$\begin{cases} C_x = 2A_x + 3B_x \\ C_y = 2A_y + 3B_y \end{cases}$$

## How will I use vectors?

Vectors appear everywhere in physics and engineering—from velocities to electric fields and from forces to fluid flows. The tools and techniques you learn in this chapter will be used throughout your studies and your professional career.

# 3.1 Scalars and Vectors [66]

A quantity that is fully described by a single number (with units) is called a **scalar**. Mass, temperature, volume and energy are all scalars. We will often use an algebraic symbol to represent a scalar quantity. Thus $m$ will represent mass, $T$ temperature, $V$ volume, $E$ energy, and so on.

Our universe has three dimensions, so some quantities also need a direction for a full description. If you ask someone for directions to the post office, the reply "Go three blocks" will not be very helpful. A full description might be, "Go three blocks south." A quantity having both a size and a direction is called a **vector**.

The mathematical term for the length, or size, of a vector is **magnitude**, so we can also say that **a vector is a quantity having a magnitude and a direction.**

Figure 3.1 shows that the *geometric representation* of a vector is an arrow, with the tail of the arrow (not its tip!) placed at the point where the measurement is made. An arrow makes a natural representation of a vector because it inherently has both a length and a direction. As you've already seen, we label vectors by drawing a small arrow over the letter that represents the vector: $\vec{r}$ for position, $\vec{v}$ for velocity, $\vec{a}$ for acceleration.

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**Figure 3.1**

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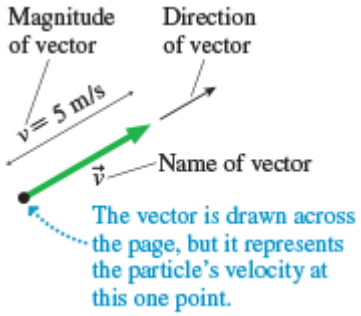



The velocity vector $\vec{v}$ has both a magnitude and a direction.

---

> **Note**
>
> Although the vector arrow is drawn across the page, from its tail to its tip, this does *not* indicate that the vector "stretches" across this distance. Instead, the vector arrow tells us the value of the vector quantity only at the one point where the tail of the vector is placed.

The magnitude of a vector can be written using absolute value signs or, more frequently, as the letter without the arrow. For example, the magnitude of the velocity vector in Figure 3.1 is $v = \left|\vec{v}\right| = 5\,\text{m/s}$. This is the object's *speed*. The magnitude of the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ is written $a$. **The magnitude of a vector is a scalar**. Note that magnitude of a vector cannot be a negative number; it must be positive or zero, with appropriate units.

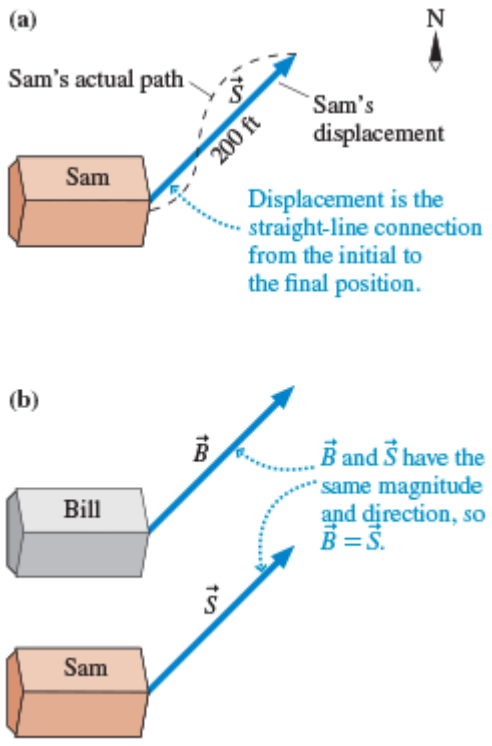
It is important to get in the habit of using the arrow symbol for vectors. If you omit the vector arrow from the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ and write only $v$, then you're referring only to the object's speed, not its velocity. The symbols $\vec{r}$ and $r$, or $\vec{v}$ and $v$, do *not* represent the same thing.

# 3.2 Using Vectors



Suppose Sam starts from his front door, walks across the street, and ends up 200 ft to the northeast of where he started. Sam's displacement, which we will label $\vec{S}$, is shown in Figure 3.2a. The displacement vector is a *straight-line connection* from his initial to his final position, not necessarily his actual path.

**Figure 3.2**




Displacement vectors.

To describe a vector we must specify both its magnitude and its direction. We can write Sam's displacement as $\vec{S} = (200\,\text{ft}, \text{northeast})$. The magnitude of Sam's displacement is $S = |\vec{S}| = 200\,\text{ft}$, the distance between his initial and final points.

Sam's next-door neighbor Bill also walks 200 ft to the northeast, starting from his own front door. Bill's displacement $\vec{B} = (200\,\text{ft, northeast})$ has the same magnitude and direction as Sam's displacement $\vec{S}$. Because vectors are defined by their magnitude and direction, **two vectors are equal if they have the same magnitude and direction.** Thus the two displacements in Figure 3.2b are equal to each other, and we can write $\vec{B} = \vec{S}$.

> **Note**
>
> A vector is unchanged if you move it to a different point on the page as long as you don't change its length or the direction it points.

## Vector Addition

If you earn $50 on Saturday and $60 on Sunday, your *net* income for the weekend is the sum of $50 and $60. With numbers, the word *net* implies addition. The same is true with vectors. For example, Figure 3.3 shows the displacement of a hiker who first hikes 4 miles to the east, then 3 miles to the north. The first leg of the hike is described by the displacement $\vec{A} = (4\,\text{mi, east})$. The second leg of the hike has displacement $\vec{B} = (3\,\text{mi, north})$. Vector $\vec{C}$ is the *net displacement* because it describes the net result of the hiker's first having displacement $\vec{A}$, then displacement $\vec{B}$.

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**Figure 3.3**

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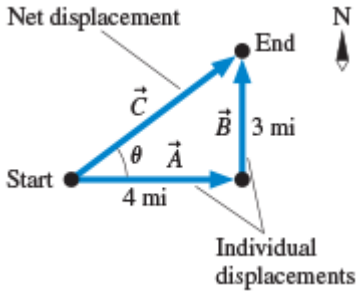



The net displacement $\vec{C}$ resulting from two displacements $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$.

---

The net displacement $\vec{C}$ is an initial displacement $\vec{A}$ *plus* a second displacement $\vec{B}$, or

**(3.1)**

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$$

The sum of two vectors is called the **resultant vector**. It's not hard to show that vector addition is commutative: $\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{B} + \vec{A}$. That is, you can add vectors in any order you wish.

Tactics Box 1.1 showed the three-step procedure for adding two vectors, and it's highly recommended that you turn back for a quick review. This tip-to-tail method for adding vectors, which is used to find $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$ in Figure 3.3, is called **graphical addition**. Any two vectors of the same type—two velocity vectors or two force vectors—can be added in exactly the same way.

The graphical method for adding vectors is straightforward, but we need to do a little geometry to come up with a complete description of the resultant vector $\vec{C}$. Vector $\vec{C}$ of Figure 3.3 is defined by its magnitude $C$ and by its direction. Because the three vectors $\vec{A}$, $\vec{B}$, and $\vec{C}$ form a

right triangle, the magnitude, or length, of $\vec{C}$ is given by the Pythagorean theorem:

**(3.2)**

$$C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2} = \sqrt{(4\,\text{mi})^2 + (3\,\text{mi})^2} = 5\,\text{mi}$$

Notice that Equation 3.2 uses the magnitudes $A$ and $B$ of the vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$. The angle $\theta$, which is used in Figure 3.3 to describe the direction of $\vec{C}$, is easily found for a right triangle:

**(3.3)**

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{B}{A}\right) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{3\,\text{mi}}{4\,\text{mi}}\right) = 37^\circ$$

Altogether, the hiker's net displacement is
$\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} = (5\,\text{mi}, 37^\circ \text{ north of east})$.

> **Note**
>
> Vector mathematics makes extensive use of geometry and trigonometry. Appendix A, at the end of this book, contains a brief review of these topics.

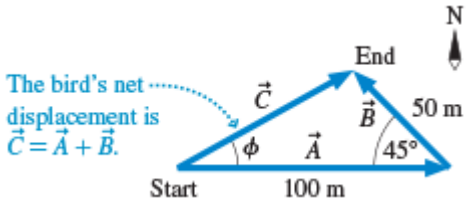
**Example 3.1 Using graphical addition to find a displacement**

A bird flies 100 m due east from a tree, then 50 m northwest (that is, 45° north of west). What is the bird's net displacement?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 3.4 shows the two individual displacements, which we've called $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$. The net displacement is the vector

sum $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$, which is found graphically.

## Figure 3.4




The bird's net displacement is $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$.



**SOLVE** The two displacements are $\vec{A} = (100\,\text{m}, \text{east})$ and $\vec{B} = (50\,\text{m}, \text{northwest})$. The net displacement $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$ is found by drawing a vector from the initial to the final position. But describing $\vec{C}$ is a bit trickier than the example of the hiker because $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ are not at right angles. First, we can find the magnitude of $\vec{C}$ by using the law of cosines from trigonometry:

$$\begin{aligned} C^2 &= A^2 + B^2 - 2AB\cos 45^\circ \\ &= (100\,\text{m})^2 + (50\,\text{m})^2 - 2(100\,\text{m})(50\,\text{m})\cos 45^\circ \\ &= 5430\,\text{m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus $C = \sqrt{5430\,\text{m}^2} = 74\,\text{m}$. Then a second use of the law of cosines can determine angle $\phi$ (the Greek letter phi):

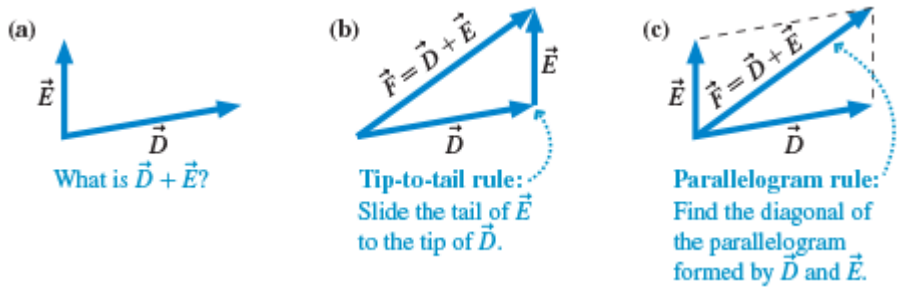
$$B^2 = A^2 + C^2 - 2AC\cos\phi$$
$$\phi = \cos^{-1}\left[\frac{A^2 + C^2 - B^2}{2AC}\right] = 29^\circ$$

The bird's net displacement is

$$\vec{C} = (74\,\text{m}, 29^\circ \text{ north of east})$$

It is often convenient to draw two vectors with their tails together, as shown in Figure 3.5a. To evaluate $\vec{D} + \vec{E}$, you could move vector $\vec{E}$ over to where its tail is on the tip of $\vec{D}$, then use the tip-to-tail rule of graphical addition. That gives vector $\vec{F} = \vec{D} + \vec{E}$ in Figure 3.5b. Alternatively, Figure 3.5c shows that the vector sum $\vec{D} + \vec{E}$ can be found as the diagonal of the parallelogram defined by $\vec{D}$ and $\vec{E}$. This method for vector addition is called the *parallelogram rule* of vector addition.

## Figure 3.5



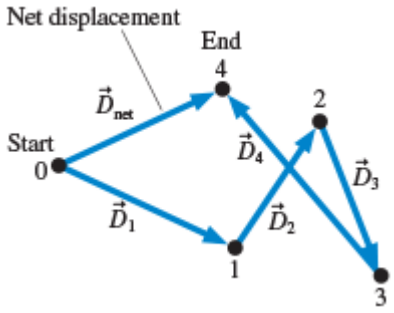

Two vectors can be added using the tip-to-tail rule or the parallelogram rule.

Vector addition is easily extended to more than two vectors. Figure 3.6 shows the path of a hiker moving from initial position 0 to position 1, then position 2, then position 3, and finally arriving at position 4. These four segments are described by displacement vectors $\vec{D}_1$, $\vec{D}_2$, $\vec{D}_3$, and $\vec{D}_4$. The hiker's *net* displacement, an arrow from position 0 to position 4, is the vector $\vec{D}_{\text{net}}$. In this case,

**(3.4)**

$$\vec{D}_{\text{net}} = \vec{D}_1 + \vec{D}_2 + \vec{D}_3 + \vec{D}_4$$

## Figure 3.6



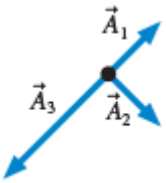

The net displacement after four individual displacements.

The vector sum is found by using the tip-to-tail method three times in succession.

## Stop to Think 3.1

Which figure shows $\overrightarrow{A_1} + \overrightarrow{A_2} + \overrightarrow{A_3}$ ?






**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

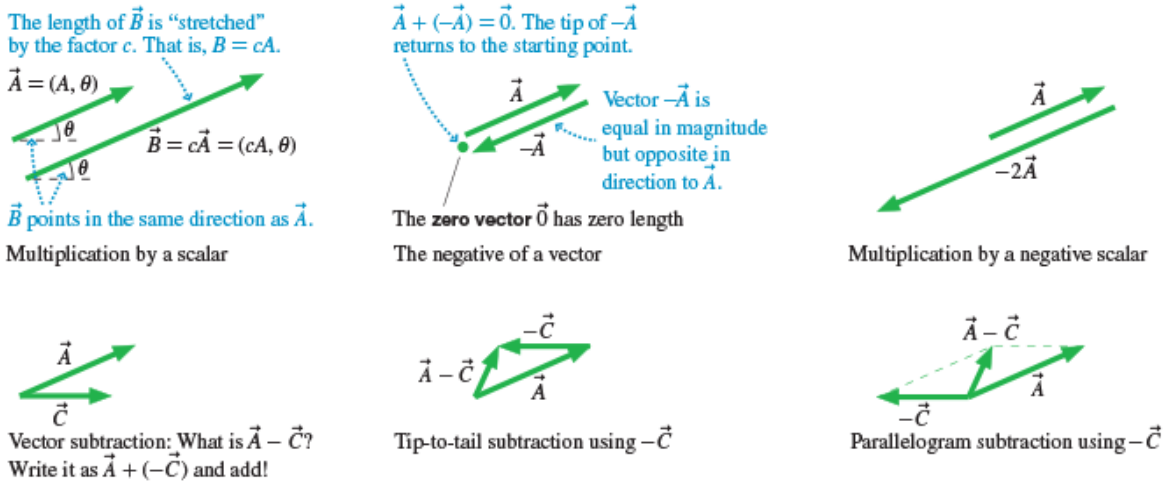
**d.**

**e.**

## More Vector Mathematics

In addition to adding vectors, we will need to subtract vectors (Tactics Box 1.2), multiply vectors by scalars, and understand how to interpret the negative of a vector. These operations are illustrated in Figure 3.7.

### Figure 3.7




Working with vectors.

**Example 3.2 Velocity and displacement**

Carolyn drives her car north at 30 km/h for 1 hour, east at 60 km/h for 2 hours, then north at 50 km/h for 1 hour. What is Carolyn's net displacement?

**SOLVE** Chapter 1 defined average velocity as

$$\vec{v} = \frac{\Delta \vec{r}}{\Delta t}$$

so the displacement $\Delta \vec{r}$ during the time interval $\Delta t$ is $\Delta \vec{r} = (\Delta t)\vec{v}$. This is multiplication of the vector $\vec{v}$ by the scalar $\Delta t$. Carolyn's velocity during the first hour is $\vec{v}_1 = (30\,\text{km/h},\ \text{north})$, so her displacement during this interval is

$$\Delta \vec{r}_1 = (1\,\text{hour})(30\,\text{km/h},\ \text{north}) = (30\,\text{km}, \text{north})$$

Similarly,

$$\Delta \vec{r}_2 = (2\,\text{hours})(60\,\text{km/h},\ \text{east}) = (120\,\text{km}, \text{east})$$
$$\Delta \vec{r}_3 = (1\,\text{hour})(50\,\text{km/h},\ \text{north}) = (50\,\text{km}, \text{north})$$

In this case, multiplication by a scalar changes not only the length of the vector but also its units, from km/h to km. The direction, however, is unchanged. Carolyn's net displacement is

$$\Delta \vec{r}_{\text{net}} = \Delta \vec{r}_1 + \Delta \vec{r}_2 + \Delta \vec{r}_3$$

This addition of the three vectors is shown in Figure 3.8, using the tip-to-tail method. $\Delta \vec{r}_{\text{net}}$ stretches from Carolyn's initial position to her final position. The magnitude of her net displacement is found using the Pythagorean theorem:

$$r_{\text{net}} = \sqrt{(120\,\text{km})^2 + (80\,\text{km})^2} = 144\text{km}$$

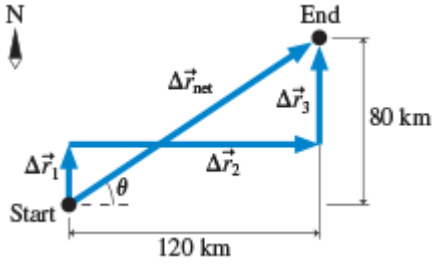
The direction of $\Delta \vec{r}_{\text{net}}$ is described by angle $\theta$, which is

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{80\,\text{km}}{120\,\text{km}}\right) = 34^\circ$$

Thus Carolyn's net displacement is

$\Delta \vec{r}_{\text{net}} = (144\,\text{km}, 34^\circ \text{ north of east})$.

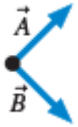
**Figure 3.8**




The net displacement is the vector sum $\Delta \vec{r}_{\text{net}} = \Delta \vec{r}_1 + \Delta \vec{r}_2 + \Delta \vec{r}_3$.

## Stop to Think 3.2

Which figure shows $2\vec{A} - \vec{B}$?




**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

# 3.3 Coordinate Systems and Vector Components



Vectors do not require a coordinate system. We can add and subtract vectors graphically, and we will do so frequently to clarify our understanding of a situation. But the graphical addition of vectors is not an especially good way to find quantitative results. In this section we will introduce a *coordinate representation* of vectors that will be the basis of an easier method for doing vector calculations.

A GPS uses satellite signals to find your position in the earth's coordinate system with amazing accuracy.

---

## Coordinate Systems

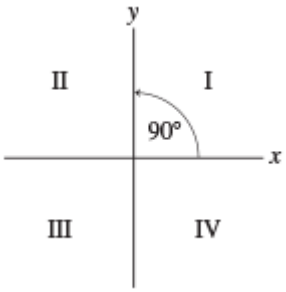
The world does not come with a coordinate system attached to it. A coordinate system is an artificially imposed grid that you place on a problem in order to make quantitative measurements. You are free to choose:

- Where to place the origin, and
- How to orient the axes.

Different problem solvers may choose to use different coordinate systems; that is perfectly acceptable. However, some coordinate systems will make a problem easier to solve. Part of our goal is to learn how to choose an appropriate coordinate system for each problem.

Figure 3.9 shows the *xy*-coordinate system we will use in this book. The placement of the axes is not entirely arbitrary. By convention, the positive *y*-axis is located 90° *counterclockwise* (ccw) from the positive *x*-axis. Figure 3.9 also identifies the four **quadrants** of the coordinate system, I through IV.

## Figure 3.9




A conventional *xy*-coordinate system and the quadrants of the *xy*-plane.

Coordinate axes have a positive end and a negative end, separated by zero at the origin where the two axes cross. When you draw a coordinate system, it is important to label the axes. This is done by placing *x* and *y* labels at the *positive* ends of the axes, as in Figure 3.9. The purpose of the labels is twofold:

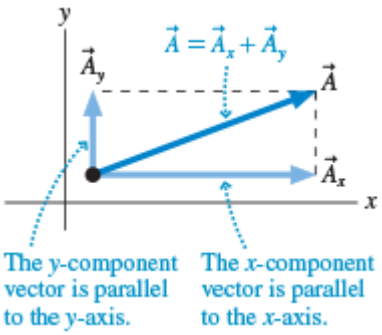
- To identify which axis is which, and
- To identify the positive ends of the axes.

This will be important when you need to determine whether the quantities in a problem should be assigned positive or negative values.

# Component Vectors

Figure 3.10 shows a vector $\vec{A}$ and an *xy*-coordinate system that we've chosen. Once the directions of the axes are known, we can define two new vectors *parallel to the axes* that we call the **component vectors** of $\vec{A}$. You can see, using the parallelogram rule, that $\vec{A}$ is the vector sum of the two component vectors:

**Figure 3.10**




Component vectors $\vec{A}_x$ and $\vec{A}_y$ are drawn parallel to the coordinate axes such that $\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x + \vec{A}_y$.

**(3.5)**

$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x + \vec{A}_y$$

In essence, we have broken vector $\vec{A}$ into two perpendicular vectors that are parallel to the coordinate axes. This process is called the **decomposition** of vector $\vec{A}$ into its component vectors.

> **Note**
>
> It is not necessary for the tail of $\vec{A}$ to be at the origin. All we need to know is the *orientation* of the coordinate system so that we can draw $\vec{A}_x$ and $\vec{A}_y$ parallel to the axes.

# Components

You learned in Chapters 1 and 2 to give the kinematic variable $v_x$ a positive sign if the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ points toward the positive end of the $x$-axis, a negative sign if $\vec{v}$ points in the negative $x$-direction. We need to extend this idea to vectors in general.

Suppose vector $\vec{A}$ has been decomposed into component vectors $\vec{A}_x$ and $\vec{A}_y$ parallel to the coordinate axes. We can describe each component vector with a single number called the **component**. The *x-component* and *y-component* of vector $\vec{A}$, denoted $A_x$ and $A_y$, are determined as follows:

TACTICS BOX 3.1 **Determining the components of a vector**

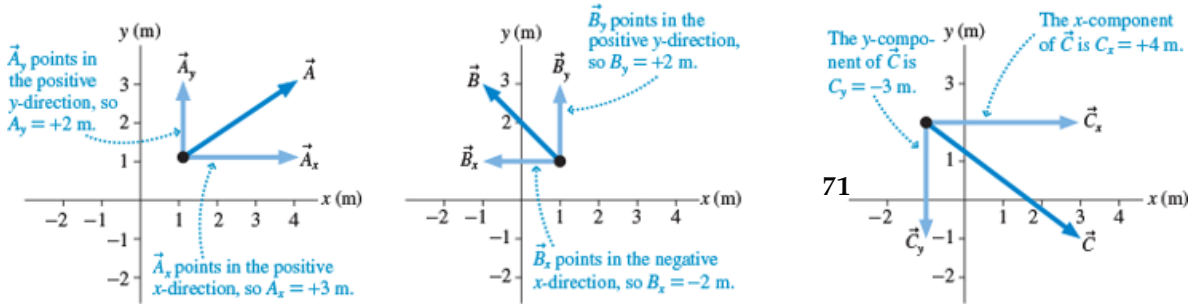
**Mastering Physics**

1. The absolute value $|A_x|$ of the $x$-component $A_x$ is the magnitude of the component vector $\vec{A}_x$.
2. The *sign* of $A_x$ is positive if $\vec{A}_x$ points in the positive $x$-direction (right), negative if $\vec{A}_x$ points in the negative $x$-direction (left).
3. The $y$-component $A_y$ is determined similarly.

Workbook Exercises 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

In other words, the component $A_x$ tells us two things: how big $\overrightarrow{A}_x$ is and, with its sign, which end of the axis $\overrightarrow{A}_x$ points toward. Figure 3.11 shows three examples of determining the components of a vector.

## Figure 3.11

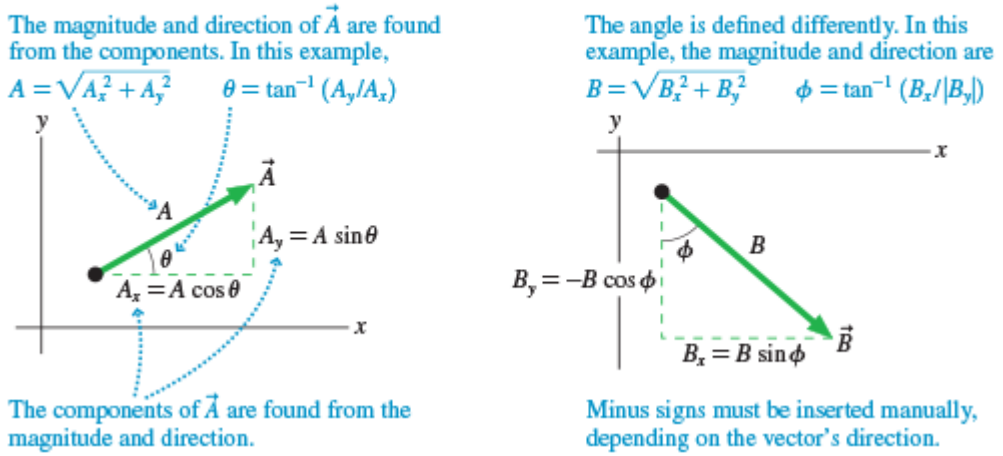



Determining the components of a vector.

> **Note**
>
> Beware of the somewhat confusing terminology. $\overrightarrow{A}_x$ and $\overrightarrow{A}_y$ are called *component vectors,* whereas $A_x$ and $A_y$ are simply called *components*. The components $A_x$ and $A_y$ are just numbers (with units), so make sure you do *not* put arrow symbols over the components.

We will frequently need to decompose a vector into its components. We will also need to "reassemble" a vector from its components. In other words, we need to move back and forth between the geometric and the component representations of a vector. Figure 3.12 shows how this is done.

## Figure 3.12




Moving between the geometric representation and the component representation.

Each decomposition requires that you pay close attention to the direction in which the vector points and the angles that are defined.

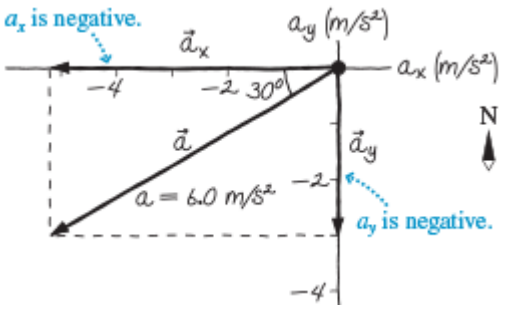
- If a component vector points left (or down), you must *manually* insert a minus sign in front of the component, as was done for $B_y$ in Figure 3.12.
- The role of sines and cosines can be reversed, depending upon which angle is used to define the direction. Compare $A_x$ and $B_x$.
- The angle used to define direction is almost always between 0° and 90°, so you must take the inverse tangent of a positive number. Use absolute values of the components, as was done to find angle $\phi$ (Greek phi) in Figure 3.12.

**Example 3.3 Finding the components of an acceleration vector**

Seen from above, a hummingbird's acceleration is (6.0 m/s², 30° south of west). Find the $x$- and $y$-components of the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$.

**VISUALIZE** It's important to *draw* vectors. Figure 3.13 establishes a map-like coordinate system with the $x$-axis pointing east and the $y$-axis north. Vector $\vec{a}$ is then decomposed into components parallel to the axes. Notice that the axes are "acceleration axes" with units of acceleration, not $xy$-axes, because we're measuring an acceleration vector.

**Figure 3.13**




Decomposition of $\vec{a}$

**SOLVE** The acceleration vector points to the left (negative $x$-direction) and down (negative $y$-direction), so the components $a_x$ and $a_y$ are both negative:

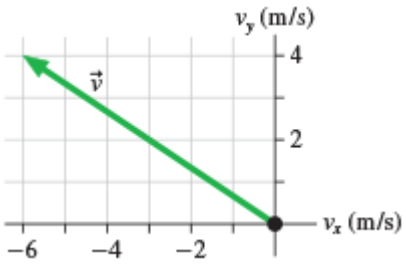
$$a_x = -a\cos 30^\circ = -(6.0\,\text{m/s}^2)\cos 30^\circ = -5.2\,\text{m/s}^2$$
$$a_y = -a\ \sin\ 30^\circ = -(6.0\,\text{m/s}^2)\sin 30^\circ = -3.0\,\text{m/s}^2$$

**ASSESS** The units of $a_x$ and $a_y$ are the same as the units of vector $\vec{a}$. Notice that we had to insert the minus signs manually by observing that the vector points left and down.

**Example 3.4 Finding the direction of motion**

Figure 3.14 shows a car's velocity vector $\vec{v}$. Determine the car's speed and direction of motion.

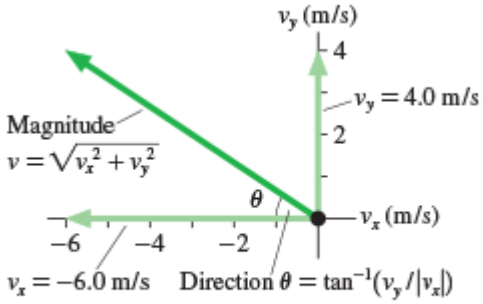
**Figure 3.14**




The velocity vector $\vec{v}$ of Example 3.4.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 3.15 shows the components $v_x$ and $v_y$ and defines an angle $\theta$ with which we can specify the direction of motion.

**Figure 3.15**




Decomposition of $\vec{v}$.

**SOLVE** We can read the components of $\vec{v}$ directly from the axes: $v_x = -6.0\,\text{m/s}$ and $v_y = 4.0\,\text{m/s}$. Notice that $v_x$ is negative. This is enough information to find the car's speed $v$, which is the magnitude of $\vec{v}$:

$$v = \sqrt{{v_x}^2 + {v_y}^2} = \sqrt{(-6.0\,\text{m/s})^2 + (4.0\,\text{m/s})^2} = 7.2\,\text{m/s}$$

From trigonometry, angle $\theta$ is

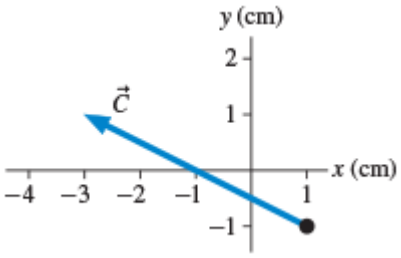
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{v_y}{|v_x|}\right) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{4.0\,\text{m/s}}{6.0\,\text{m/s}}\right) = 34^\circ$$

The absolute value signs are necessary because $v_x$ is a negative number. The velocity vector $\vec{v}$ can be written in terms of the speed and the direction of motion as

$$\vec{v} = (7.2\,\text{m/s}, 34^\circ \text{ above that negative } x\text{-axis})$$

## Stop to Think 3.3

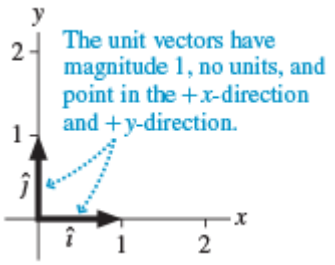
What are the $x$- and $y$-components $C_x$ and $C_y$ of vector $\vec{C}$?



# 3.4 Unit Vectors and Vector Algebra

The vectors (1, +$x$-direction) and (1, +$y$-direction), shown in Figure 3.16, have some interesting and useful properties. Each has a magnitude of 1, has no units, and is parallel to a coordinate axis. A vector with these properties is called a **unit vector**. These unit vectors have the special symbols

**Figure 3.16**




The unit vectors $\hat{\imath}$ and $\hat{\jmath}$.

$$\hat{i} \equiv (1,\ \text{positive } x\text{-direction})$$
$$\hat{j} \equiv (1,\ \text{positive } y\text{-direction})$$

The notation $\hat{i}$ (read "i hat") and $\hat{j}$ (read "j hat") indicates a unit vector with a magnitude of 1. Recall that the symbol $\equiv$ means "is defined as.

Unit vectors establish the directions of the positive axes of the coordinate system. Our choice of a coordinate system may be arbitrary, but once we decide to place a coordinate system on a problem we need something to tell us "That direction is the positive $x$-direction." This is what the unit vectors do.

The unit vectors provide a useful way to write component vectors. The component vector $\vec{A}_x$ is the piece of vector $\vec{A}$ that is parallel to the $x$-axis. Similarly, $\vec{A}_y$ is parallel to the $y$-axis. Because, by definition, the vector $\hat{i}$ points along the $x$-axis and $\hat{j}$ points along the $y$-axis, we can write

**(3.6)**

$$\vec{A}_x = A_x\hat{i}$$
$$\vec{A}_y = A_y\hat{j}$$

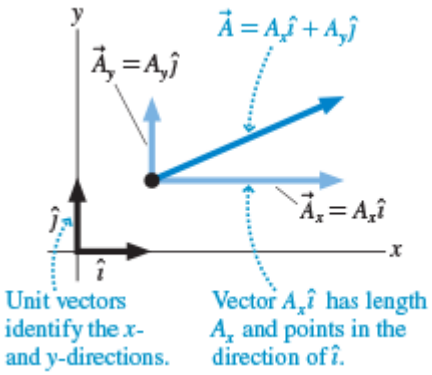
Equations 3.6 separate each component vector into a length and a direction. The full decomposition of vector $\vec{A}$ can then be written

**(3.7)**

$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x + \vec{A}_y = A_x\hat{i} + A_y\hat{j}$$

Figure 3.17 shows how the unit vectors and the components fit together to form vector $\vec{A}$.

## Figure 3.17




The decomposition of vector $\vec{A}$ is $A_x\hat{i} + A_y\hat{j}$.

**Note**

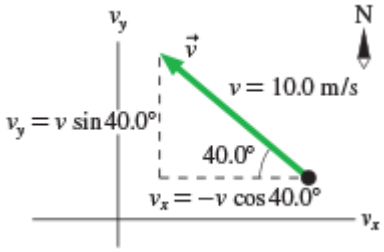
In three dimensions, the unit vector along the +*z*-direction is called $\hat{k}$, and to describe vector $\vec{A}$ we would include an additional component vector $\vec{A}_z = A_z\hat{k}$.

**Example 3.5 Run rabbit run!**

A rabbit, escaping a fox, runs 40.0° north of west at 10.0 m/s. A coordinate system is established with the positive *x*-axis to the east and the positive *y*-axis to the north. Write the rabbit's velocity in terms of components and unit vectors.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 3.18 shows the rabbit's velocity vector and the coordinate axes. We're showing a velocity vector, so the axes are labeled $v_x$ and $v_y$ rather than $x$ and $y$.

**Figure 3.18**




The velocity vector $\vec{v}$ is decomposed into components $v_x$ and $v_y$.

**SOLVE** 10.0 m/s is the rabbit's *speed*, not its velocity. The velocity, which includes directional information, is

$$\vec{v} = (10.0\,\text{m/s}, 40.0^\circ \text{ north of west})$$

Vector $\vec{v}$ points to the left and up, so the components $v_x$ and $v_y$ are negative and positive, respectively. The components are

$$v_x = -(10.0\,\text{m/s})\cos 40.0^\circ = -7.66\,\text{m/s}$$
$$v_y = +(10.0\,\text{m/s})\ \sin\ 40.0^\circ = 6.43\,\text{m/s}$$

With $v_x$ and $v_y$ now known, the rabbit's velocity vector is

$$\vec{v} = v_x\hat{i} + v_y\hat{j} = (-7.66\hat{i} + 6.43\hat{j})\,\text{m/s}$$

Notice that we've pulled the units to the end, rather than writing them with each component.

**ASSESS** Notice that the minus sign for $v_x$ was inserted manually. **Signs don't occur automatically; you have to set them after checking the vector's direction.**

## Vector Math

You learned in Section 3.2 how to add vectors graphically, but it is a tedious problem in geometry and trigonometry to find precise values for the magnitude and direction of the resultant. The addition and subtraction of vectors become much easier if we use components and unit vectors.

To see this, let's evaluate the vector sum $\vec{D} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$. To begin, write this sum in terms of the components of each vector:

**(3.8)**

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{D} &= D_x\hat{i} + D_y\hat{j} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C} \\ &= (A_x\hat{i} + A_y\hat{j}) + (B_x\hat{i} + B_y\hat{j}) + (C_x\hat{i} + C_y\hat{j})\end{aligned}$$

We can group together all the $x$-components and all the $y$-components on the right side, in which case Equation 3.8 is

**(3.9)**

$$(D_x)\,\hat{i} + (D_y)\,\hat{j} = (A_x + B_x + C_x)\,\hat{i} + (A_y + B_y + C_y)\,\hat{j}$$

Comparing the $x$- and $y$-components on the left and right sides of Equation 3.9, we find:

**(3.10)**

$$\begin{aligned} D_x &= A_x + B_x + C_x \\ D_y &= A_y + B_y + C_y \end{aligned}$$

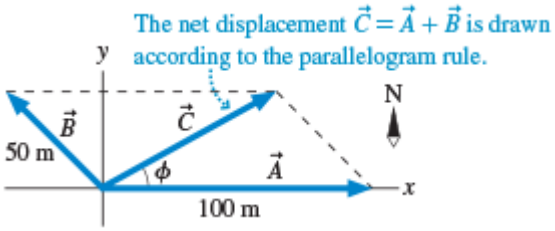
Stated in words, Equation 3.10 says that we can perform vector addition by adding the $x$-components of the individual vectors to give the $x$-component of the resultant and by adding the $y$-components of the individual vectors to give the $y$-component of the resultant. This method of vector addition is called **algebraic addition**.

### Example 3.6 Using algebraic addition to find a displacement

Example 3.1 was about a bird that flew 100 m to the east, then 50 m to the northwest. Use the algebraic addition of vectors to find the bird's net displacement.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 3.19 shows displacement vectors $\vec{A} = (100\,\text{m, east})$ and $\vec{B} = (50\,\text{m, northwest})$. We draw vectors tip-to-tail to add them graphically, but it's usually easier to draw them all from the origin if we are going to use algebraic addition.

## Figure 3.19




The net displacement is $\overrightarrow{C} = \overrightarrow{A} + \overrightarrow{B}$.

**SOLVE** To add the vectors algebraically we must know their components. From the figure these are seen to be

$$\overrightarrow{A} = 100\hat{i}\ \text{m}$$
$$\overrightarrow{B} = (-50\cos 45^\circ\hat{i} + 50\ \sin\ 45^\circ\hat{j})\ \text{m} = (-35.3\hat{i} + 35.3\hat{j})\ \text{m}$$

Notice that vector quantities must include units. Also notice, as you would expect from the figure, that $\overrightarrow{B}$ has a negative $x$-component. Adding $\overrightarrow{A}$ and $\overrightarrow{B}$ by components gives

$$\begin{aligned}\overrightarrow{C} &= \overrightarrow{A} + \overrightarrow{B} = 100\hat{i}\ \text{m} + (-35.3\hat{i} + 35.3\hat{j})\ \text{m} \\ &= (100\ \text{m} - 35.3\ \text{m})\hat{i} + (35.3\ \text{m})\hat{j} = (64.7\hat{i} + 35.3\hat{j})\ \text{m}\end{aligned}$$

This would be a perfectly acceptable answer for many purposes. However, we need to calculate the magnitude and direction of $\overrightarrow{C}$ if we want to compare this result to our earlier answer. The magnitude of $\overrightarrow{C}$ is

$$C = \sqrt{{C_x}^2 + {C_y}^2} = \sqrt{(64.7\ \text{m})^2 + (35.3\ \text{m})^2} = 74\ \text{m}$$

The angle $\phi$, as defined in Figure 3.19, is

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{C_y}{|C_x|}\right) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{35.3\ \text{m}}{64.7\ \text{m}}\right) = 29^\circ$$

Thus $\vec{C} = (74\,\text{m}, 29^\circ \text{ north of east})$, in perfect agreement with Example 3.1.

Vector subtraction and the multiplication of a vector by a scalar, using components, are very much like vector addition. To find $\vec{R} = \vec{P} - \vec{Q}$ we would compute

**(3.11)**

$$R_x = P_x - Q_x$$
$$R_y = P_y - Q_y$$

Similarly, $\vec{T} = c\vec{S}$ would be

**(3.12)**

$$T_x = cS_x$$
$$T_y = cS_y$$

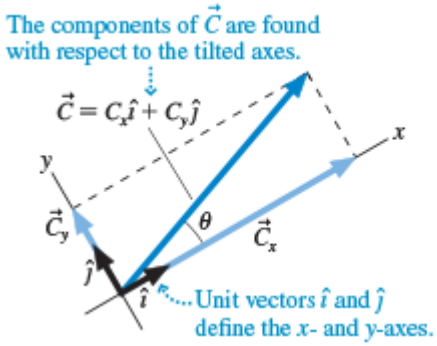
In other words, a vector equation is interpreted as meaning: Equate the $x$-components on both sides of the equals sign, then equate the $y$-components, and then the $z$-components. Vector notation allows us to write these three equations in a much more compact form.

## Tilted Axes and Arbitrary Directions

As we've noted, the coordinate system is entirely your choice. It is a grid that you impose on the problem in a manner that will make the problem easiest to solve. As you've already seen in Chapter 2, it is often convenient to tilt the axes of the coordinate system, such as those shown in Figure 3.20. The axes are perpendicular, and the $y$-axis is oriented

correctly with respect to the $x$-axis, so this is a legitimate coordinate system. There is no requirement that the $x$-axis has to be horizontal.

## Figure 3.20




A coordinate system with tilted axes.

Finding components with tilted axes is no harder than what we have done so far. Vector $\vec{C}$ in Figure 3.20 can be decomposed into $\vec{C} = C_x\hat{i} + C_y\hat{j}$, where $C_x = C\cos\theta$ and $C_y = C\sin\theta$. Note that the unit vectors $\hat{i}$ and $\hat{j}$ correspond to the *axes*, not to "horizontal" and "vertical," so they are also tilted.

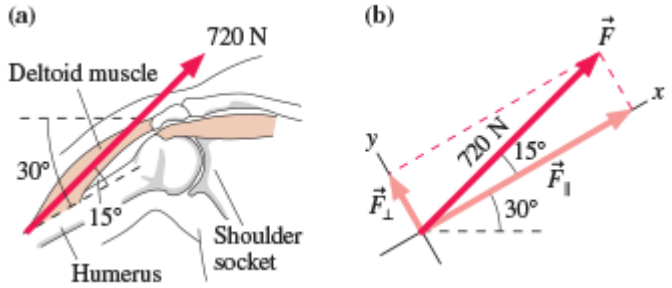
Tilted axes are useful if you need to determine component vectors "parallel to" and "perpendicular to" an arbitrary line or surface. This is illustrated in the following example.

### Example 3.7 Muscle and bone

The deltoid—the rounded muscle across the top of your upper arm—allows you to lift your arm away from your side. It does so by pulling on an attachment point on the humerus, the upper arm bone, at an angle of 15° with respect to the humerus. If you hold your arm at an angle 30° below horizontal, the deltoid must pull

with a force of 720 N to support the weight of your arm, as shown in Figure 3.21a. (You'll learn in Chapter 5 that force is a vector quantity measured in units of *newtons*, abbreviated N.) What are the components of the muscle force parallel to and perpendicular to the bone?

**Figure 3.21**




Finding the components of force parallel and perpendicular to the humerus.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 3.21b shows a tilted coordinate system with the $x$-axis parallel to the humerus. The force $\vec{F}$ is shown 15° from the $x$-axis. The component of force parallel to the bone, which we can denote $F_\parallel$, is equivalent to the $x$-component: $F_\parallel = F_x$. Similarly, the component of force perpendicular to the bone is $F_\perp = F_y$.

**SOLVE** From the geometry of Figure 3.21b, we see that

$$F_\parallel = F\cos 15^\circ = (720\,\text{N})\cos 15^\circ = 695\,\text{N}$$
$$F_\perp = F\sin 15^\circ = (720\,\text{N})\ \sin\ 15^\circ = 186\,\text{N}$$

**ASSESS** The muscle pulls nearly parallel to the bone, so we expected $F_\parallel \approx 720\,\text{N}$ and $F_\perp \ll F_\parallel$. Thus our results seem reasonable.

## Stop to Think 3.4

Angle $\phi$ that specifies the direction of $\vec{C}$ is given by

**a.** $\tan^{-1}\left(|C_x| \,/\, C_y\right)$

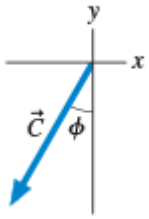
**b.** $\tan^{-1}\left(C_x / \ |C_y|\right)$

**c.** $\tan^{-1}\left(|C_x| \,/\ |C_y|\right)$

**d.** $\tan^{-1}\left(|C_y| \,/\, C_x\right)$

**e.** $\tan^{-1}\left(C_y / \ |C_x|\right)$

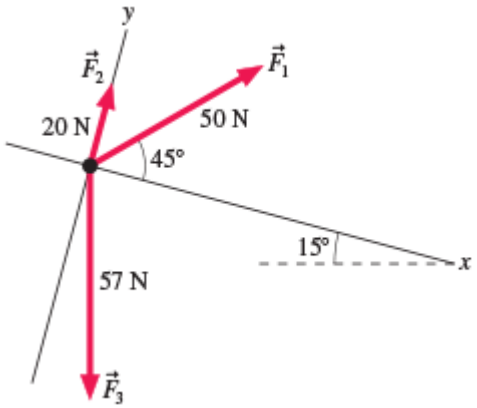
**f.** $\tan^{-1}\left(|C_y| \,/\ |C_x|\right)$




### Challenge Example 3.8 Finding the net force

Figure 3.22 shows three forces acting at one point. What is the net force $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3$?

**Figure 3.22**




Three forces.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 3.22 shows the forces and a tilted coordinate system.

**SOLVE** The vector equation $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3$ is really two simultaneous equations:

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = F_{1x} + F_{2x} + F_{3x}$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = F_{1y} + F_{2y} + F_{3y}$$

The components of the forces are determined with respect to the axes. Thus

$$F_{1x} = F_1 \cos 45^\circ = (50\,\text{N}) \cos 45^\circ = 35\,\text{N}$$
$$F_{1y} = F_1 \sin 45^\circ = (50\,\text{N}) \sin 45^\circ = 35\,\text{N}$$

$\vec{F}_2$ is easier. It is pointing along the $y$-axis, so $F_{2x} = 0\,\text{N}$ and $F_{2y} = 20\,\text{N}$. To find the components of $\vec{F}_3$, we need to recognize—because $\vec{F}_3$ points straight down—that the angle between $\vec{F}_3$ and the $x$-axis is 75°. Thus

$$F_{3x} = F_3 \cos 75^\circ = (57\,\text{N}) \cos 75^\circ = 15\,\text{N}$$
$$F_{3y} = -F_3 \sin 75^\circ = -(57\,\text{N}) \sin 75^\circ = -55\,\text{N}$$

The minus sign in $F_{3y}$ is critical, and it appears not from some formula but because we recognized—from the figure—that the $y$-component of $\vec{F}_{3,}$ points in the –y-direction. Combining the pieces, we have

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = 35\,\text{N} + 0\,\text{N} + 15\,\text{N} = 50\,\text{N}$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = 35\,\text{N} + 20\,\text{N} + (-55\,\text{N}) = 0\,\text{N}$$

Thus the net force is $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = 50\hat{i}\,\text{N}$. It points along the $x$-axis of the tilted coordinate system.

**ASSESS** Notice that all work was done with reference to the axes of the coordinate system, not with respect to vertical or horizontal.

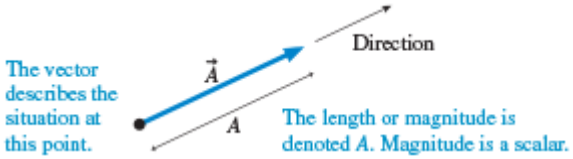
# Summary



> The goals of Chapter 3 have been to learn how vectors are represented and used.

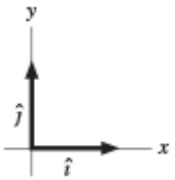
## Important Concepts

**A vector** is a quantity described by both a magnitude and a direction.




### Unit Vectors

Unit vectors have magnitude 1 and no units. Unit vectors $\hat{i}$ and $\hat{j}$ define the directions of the $x$- and $y$-axes.




## Using Vectors

### Components

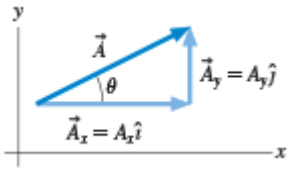
The component vectors are parallel to the $x$- and $y$-axes:

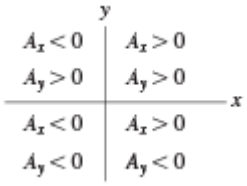
$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x + \vec{A}_y = A_x\,\hat{i} + A_y\,\hat{j}$$

In the figure at the right, for example:

$$A_x = A\cos\theta \qquad A = \sqrt{{A_x}^2 + {A_y}^2}$$
$$A_y = A\sin\theta \qquad \theta = \tan^{-1}(A_y/A_x)$$

Minus signs need to be included if the vector points down or left.

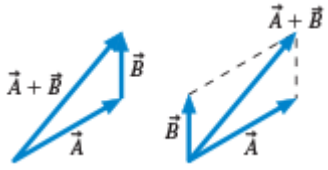



The components $A_x$ and $A_y$ are the magnitudes of the component vectors $\vec{A}_x$ and $\vec{A}_y$ *and* a plus or minus sign to show whether the component vector points toward the positive end or the negative end of the axis.

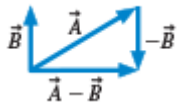
## Working Graphically

Addition




Negative

Subtraction




Multiplication

## Working Algebraically

Vector calculations are done component by component:

$\overrightarrow{C} = 2\overrightarrow{A} + \overrightarrow{B}$ means $\begin{cases} C_x = 2A_x + B_x \\ C_y = 2A_y + B_y \end{cases}$

The magnitude of $\overrightarrow{C}$ is then $C = \sqrt{{C_x}^2 + {C_y}^2}$ and its direction is found using $\tan^{-1}$.

# Terms and Notation

scalar

vector

magnitude

resultant vector

graphical addition

zero vector, $\overrightarrow{0}$

quadrants

component vector

decomposition

component

unit vector, $\hat{i}$ or $\hat{j}$

algebraic addition

# Conceptual Questions



**1.** Can the magnitude of the displacement vector be more than the distance traveled? Less than the distance traveled? Explain.

**2.** If $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$, can $C = A + B$? Can $C > A + B$? For each, show how or explain why not.

**3.** If $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$, can $C = 0$? Can $C < 0$? For each, show how or explain why not.

**4.** Is it possible to add a scalar to a vector? If so, demonstrate. If not, explain why not.

**5.** How would you define the *zero vector* $\vec{0}$?

**6.** Can a vector have a component equal to zero and still have nonzero magnitude? Explain.

**7.** Can a vector have zero magnitude if one of its components is nonzero? Explain.

**8.** Suppose two vectors have unequal magnitudes. Can their sum be zero? Explain.

**9.** Are the following statements true or false? Explain your answer.

- **a.** The magnitude of a vector can be different in different coordinate systems.
- **b.** The direction of a vector can be different in different coordinate systems.
- **c.** The components of a vector can be different in different coordinate systems.

# Exercises and Problems

# Exercises

## Section 3.1 Scalars and Vectors

## Section 3.2 Using Vectors

**1.** • Trace the vectors in Figure EX3.1 onto your paper. Then find (a) $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$ and (b) $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$.

**Figure Ex3.1**

**2.** • Trace the vectors in Figure EX3.2 onto your paper. Then find (a) $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$ and (b) $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$.

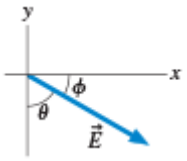
**Figure EX3.2**

## Section 3.3 Coordinate Systems and Vector Components

**3.** •

**a.** What are the $x$- and $y$-components of vector $\vec{E}$ shown in Figure EX3.3 in terms of the angle $\theta$ and the magnitude $E$?

**Figure EX3.3**




**b.** For the same vector, what are the $x$- and $y$-components in terms of the angle $\phi$ and the magnitude $E$?

**4.** •• A velocity vector 40° below the positive $x$-axis has a $y$-component of –10 m/s. What is the value of its $x$-component?

**5.** • A position vector in the first quadrant has an $x$-component of 6 m and a magnitude of 10 m. What is the value of its $y$-component?

**6.** • Draw each of the following vectors. Then find its $x$- and $y$-components.

**a.** $\vec{a}$ = (3.5 m/s$^2$, negative $x$-direction)

**b.** $\vec{v}$ = (440 m/s, 30° below the positive $x$-axis)

**c.** $\vec{r}$ = (12m, 40° above the positive $x$-axis)

**7.** •• Draw each of the following vectors. Then find its $x$- and $y$-components.

**a.** $\vec{v}$ = (7.5 m/s, 30° clockwise from the positive $y$-axis)

**b.** $\vec{a}$ = (1.5 m/s$^2$, 30° above the negative $x$-axis)

**c.** $\vec{F}$ = (50.0 N, 36.9° counterclockwise from the positive $y$-axis)

**8.** • Let $\vec{C}$ = (3.15 m, 15° above the negative $x$-axis) and $\vec{D}$ = (25.6 m, 30° to the right of the negative $y$-axis). Find the $x$- and $y$-components of each vector.

**9.** • A runner is training for an upcoming marathon by running around a 100-m-diameter circular track at constant speed. Let a coordinate system have its origin at the center of the circle with the $x$-axis pointing east and the $y$-axis north. The runner starts at $(x, y)$ = (50 m, 0 m) and runs 2.5 times around the track in a

clockwise direction. What is his displacement vector? Give your answer as a magnitude and direction.

## Section 3.4 Unit Vectors and Vector Algebra

**10.** •• Draw each of the following vectors, label an angle that specifies the vector's direction, then find its magnitude and direction.

**a.** $\vec{B} = -4.0\hat{i} + 4.0\hat{j}$

**b.** $\vec{r} = (-2.0\hat{i} - 1.0\hat{j})$ cm

**c.** $\vec{v} = (-10\hat{i} - 100\hat{j})$ m/s

**d.** $\vec{a} = (20\hat{i} + 10\hat{j})$ m/s$^2$

**11.** •• Draw each of the following vectors, label an angle that specifies the vector's direction, and then find the vector's magnitude and direction.

**a.** $\vec{A} = 3.0\,\hat{i} + 7.0\,\hat{j}$

**b.** $\vec{a} = (-2.0\hat{i} + 4.5\hat{j})$ m/s$^2$

**c.** $\vec{v} = (14\hat{i} - 11\hat{j})$ m/s

**d.** $\vec{r} = (-2.2\hat{i} - 3.3\hat{j})$ m

**12.** •• Let $\vec{A} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j}$, $\vec{B} = 2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j}$, and $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$.

**a.** Write vector $\vec{C}$ in component form.

**b.** Draw a coordinate system and on it show vectors $\vec{A}$, $\vec{B}$, and $\vec{C}$.

**c.** What are the magnitude and direction of vector $\vec{C}$?

**13.** • Let $\vec{A} = 4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$, $\vec{B} = -3\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$, and $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$.

**a.** Write vector $\vec{C}$ in component form.

**b.** Draw a coordinate system and on it show vectors $\vec{A}$, $\vec{B}$, and $\vec{C}$.

**c.** What are the magnitude and direction of vector $\vec{C}$?

**14.** • Let $\vec{A} = 4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$, $\vec{B} = -3\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$, and $\vec{D} = \vec{A} - \vec{B}$.

**a.** Write vector $\vec{D}$ in component form.

**b.** Draw a coordinate system and on it show vectors $\vec{A}$, $\vec{B}$, and $\vec{D}$.

**c.** What are the magnitude and direction of vector $\vec{D}$?

**15.** • Let $\vec{A} = 4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$, $\vec{B} = -3\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$, and $\vec{E} = 2\vec{A} + 3\vec{B}$.

**a.** Write vector $\vec{E}$ in component form.

**b.** Draw a coordinate system and on it show vectors $\vec{A}$, $\vec{B}$, and $\vec{E}$.

**c.** What are the magnitude and direction of vector $\vec{E}$?

**16.** • Let $\vec{A} = 4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$, $\vec{B} = -3\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$, and $\vec{F} = \vec{A} - 4\vec{B}$.

**a.** Write vector $\vec{F}$ in component form.

**b.** Draw a coordinate system and on it show vectors $\vec{A}$, $\vec{B}$, and $\vec{F}$.

**c.** What are the magnitude and direction of vector $\vec{F}$?

**17.** • Let $\vec{E} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j}$ and $\vec{F} = 2\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$. Find the magnitude of

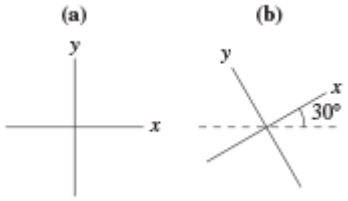
**a.** $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{F}$

**b.** $\vec{E} + \vec{F}$

**c.** $-\vec{E} - 2\vec{F}$

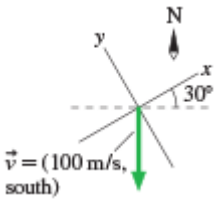
**18.** • Let $\vec{B} = \left(5.0\text{ m}, 30\,^\circ \text{ counterclockwise from vertical}\right)$. Find the $x$- and $y$-components of $\vec{B}$ in each of the two coordinate systems shown in Figure EX3.18.

## Figure EX3.18



**19.** • What are the $x$- and $y$-components of the velocity vector shown in Figure EX3.19?

**Figure EX3.19**

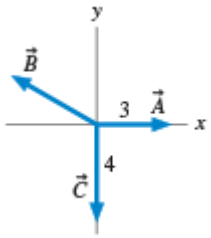



**20.** •• For the three vectors shown in Figure EX3.20, $\vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C} = 1\hat{j}$. What is vector $\vec{B}$?

**a.** Write $\vec{B}$ in component form.

**b.** Write $\vec{B}$ as a magnitude and a direction.

**Figure EX3.20**




**21.** • The *magnetic field* inside an instrument is $\vec{B} = (2.0\,\hat{i} - 1.0\,\hat{j})$ T where $\vec{B}$ represents the magnetic field vector and T stands for *tesla*, the unit of the magnetic field. What are the magnitude and direction of the magnetic field?

# Problems

**22.** •• Let $\vec{A}$ = (3.0 m, 20° south of east), $\vec{B}$ = (2.0 m, north), and $\vec{C}$ = (5.0 m, 70° south of west).

**a.** Draw and label $\vec{A}, \vec{B}$, and $\vec{C}$ with their tails at the origin. Use a coordinate system with the $x$-axis to the east.

**b.** Write $\vec{A}, \vec{B}$, and $\vec{C}$ in component form, using unit vectors.

**c.** Find the magnitude and the direction of $\vec{D} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$.

**23.** •• **CALC** The position of a particle as a function of time is given by $\vec{r} = (5.0\hat{i} + 4.0\hat{j})t^2$ m, where $t$ is in seconds.

**a.** What is the particle's distance from the origin at $t = 0$, 2, and 5 s?

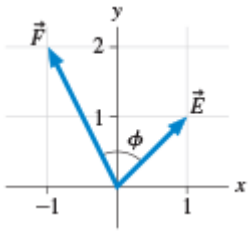
**b.** Find an expression for the particle's velocity $\vec{v}$ as a function of time.

**c.** What is the particle's speed at $t = 0$, 2, and 5 s?

**24.** ••

**a.** What is the angle $\phi$ between vectors $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{F}$ in Figure P3.24?

**Figure P3.24**

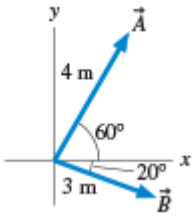



**b.** Use geometry and trigonometry to determine the magnitude and direction of $\vec{G} = \vec{E} + \vec{F}$.

**c.** Use components to determine the magnitude and direction of $\vec{G} = \vec{E} + \vec{F}$.

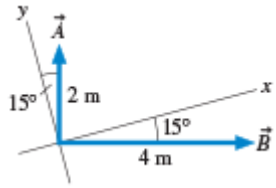
**25.** •• Figure P3.25 shows vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$. Find vector $\vec{C}$ such that $\vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C} = \vec{0}$. Write your answer in component form.

**Figure P3.25**




**26.** ••• Figure P3.26 shows vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$. Find $\vec{D} = 2\vec{A} + \vec{B}$. Write your answer in component form.

**Figure P3.26**




**27.** •• Find a vector that points in the same direction as the vector $(\hat{i} + \hat{j})$ and whose magnitude is 1.

**28.** •• While vacationing in the mountains you do some hiking. In the morning, your displacement is $\vec{S}_{\text{morning}} = (2000\text{ m, east}) + (3000\text{ m, north}) + (200\text{ m, vertical})$. Continuing on after lunch, your displacement is $\vec{S}_{\text{aftermoon}} = (1500\text{ m, west}) + (2000\text{ m, north}) - (300\text{ m, vertical})$.



**a.** At the end of the hike, how much higher or lower are you compared to your starting point?

**b.** What is the magnitude of your net displacement for the day?

**29.** •• The minute hand on a watch is 2.0 cm in length. What is the displacement vector of the tip of the minute hand

**a.** From 8:00 to 8:20 A.M.?

**b.** From 8:00 to 9:00 A.M.?

**30.** •• You go to an amusement park with your friend Betty, who wants to ride the 30-m-diameter Ferris wheel. She starts the

ride at the lowest point of a wheel that, as you face it, rotates counterclockwise. What is her displacement vector when the wheel has rotated by an angle of 60°? Give your answer as a magnitude and direction.

**31.** •• Ruth sets out to visit her friend Ward, who lives 50 mi north and 100 mi east of her. She starts by driving east, but after 30 mi she comes to a detour that takes her 15 mi south before going east again. She then drives east for 8 mi and runs out of gas, so Ward flies there in his small plane to get her. What is Ward's displacement vector? Give your answer (a) in component form, using a coordinate system in which the $y$-axis points north, and (b) as a magnitude and direction.

**32.** • A cannon tilted upward at 30° fires a cannonball with a speed of 100 m/s. What is the component of the cannonball's velocity parallel to the ground?

**33.** • You are fixing the roof of your house when a hammer breaks loose and slides down. The roof makes an angle of 35° with the horizontal, and the hammer is moving at 4.5 m/s when it reaches the edge. What are the horizontal and vertical components of the hammer's velocity just as it leaves the roof?

**34.** • Jack and Jill ran up the hill at 3.0 m/s. The horizontal component of Jill's velocity vector was 2.5 m/s.

**a.** What was the angle of the hill?

**b.** What was the vertical component of Jill's velocity?

**35.** • A pine cone falls straight down from a pine tree growing on a 20° slope. The pine cone hits the ground with a speed of 10 m/s. What is the component of the pine cone's impact velocity (a) parallel to the ground and (b) perpendicular to the ground?

**36.** • Kami is walking through the airport with her two-wheeled suitcase. The suitcase handle is tilted 40° from vertical, and

Kami pulls parallel to the handle with a force of 120 N. (Force is measured in *newtons*, abbreviated N.) What are the horizontal and vertical components of her applied force?

**37.** •• Dee is on a swing in the playground. The chains are 2.5 m long, and the tension in each chain is 450 N when Dee is 55 cm above the lowest point of her swing. Tension is a vector directed along the chain, measured in *newtons*, abbreviated N. What are the horizontal and vertical components of the tension at this point in the swing?

**38.** •• Your neighbor Paul has rented a truck with a loading ramp. The ramp is tilted upward at 25°, and Paul is pulling a large crate up the ramp with a rope that angles 10° above the ramp. If Paul pulls with a force of 550 N, what are the horizontal and vertical components of his force? (Force is measured in *newtons*, abbreviated N.)

**39.** •• Tom is climbing a 3.0-m-long ladder that leans against a vertical wall, contacting the wall 2.5 m above the ground. His weight of 680 N is a vector pointing vertically downward. (Weight is measured in *newtons*, abbreviated N.) What are the components of Tom's weight parallel and perpendicular to the ladder?

**40.** •• The treasure map in Figure P3.40 gives the following directions to the buried treasure: "Start at the old oak tree, walk due north for 500 paces, then due east for 100 paces. Dig." But when you arrive, you find an angry dragon just north of the tree. To avoid the dragon, you set off along the yellow brick road at an angle 60° east of north. After walking 300 paces you see an opening through the woods. Which direction should you go, and how far, to reach the treasure?

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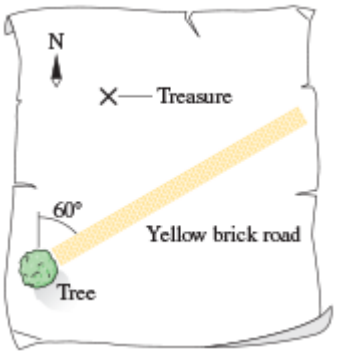
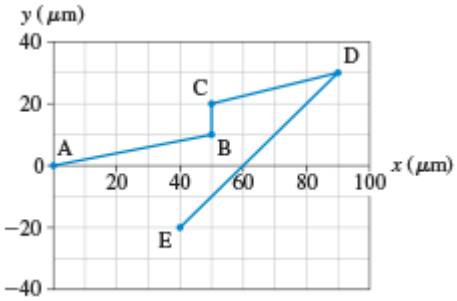
**Figure P3.40**




**41.** ••• **BIO** The bacterium *E. coli* is a single-cell organism that lives in the gut of healthy animals, including humans. When grown in a uniform medium in the laboratory, these bacteria swim along zig-zag paths at a constant speed of 20 $\mu$m/s. Figure P3.41 shows the trajectory of an *E. coli* as it moves from point A to point E. What are the magnitude and direction of the bacterium's average velocity for the entire trip?

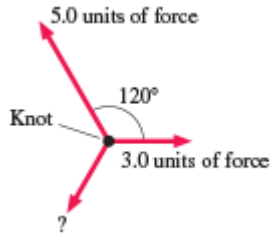
**Figure P3.41**




**42.** •• A flock of ducks is trying to migrate south for the winter, but they keep being blown off course by a wind blowing from the west at 6.0 m/s. A wise elder duck finally realizes that the solution is to fly at an angle to the wind. If the ducks can fly at 8.0 m/s relative to the air, what direction should they head in order to move directly south?

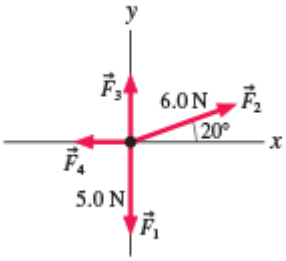
**43.** •• Figure P3.43 shows three ropes tied together in a knot. One of your friends pulls on a rope with 3.0 units of force and another pulls on a second rope with 5.0 units of force. How hard and in what direction must you pull on the third rope to keep the knot from moving?

**Figure P3.43**




**44.** •• Four forces are exerted on the object shown in Figure P3.44. (Forces are measured in *newtons,* abbreviated N.) The *net force* on the object is $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3 + \vec{F}_4 = 4.0\,\hat{i}\,\text{N}$. What are (a) $\vec{F}_3$ and (b) $\vec{F}_4$? Give your answers in component form.

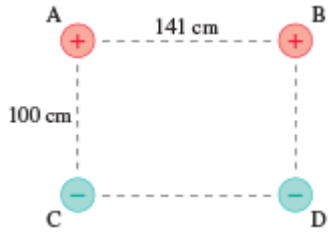
**Figure P3.44**




**45.** •• Figure P3.45 shows four electric charges located at the corners of a rectangle. Like charges, you will recall, repel each other while opposite charges attract. Charge B exerts a repulsive force (directly *away from* B) on charge A of 3.0 N. Charge C exerts an attractive force (directly *toward* C) on charge A of 6.0 N. Finally, charge D exerts an attractive force of

2.0 N on charge A. Assuming that forces are vectors, what are the magnitude and direction of the net force $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ exerted on charge A?

## Figure P3.45



# Chapter 4
# Kinematics in Two Dimensions

The water droplets are following the parabolic trajectories of projectile motion.

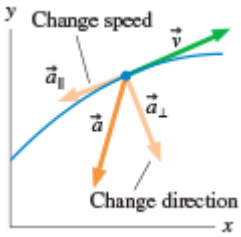
**In This Chapter**

you will learn how to solve problems about motion in a plane.

## How do objects accelerate in two dimensions?

An object accelerates when it changes velocity. In two dimensions, velocity can change by changing magnitude (speed) or by changing direction. These are represented by acceleration components tangent to and perpendicular to an object's trajectory.

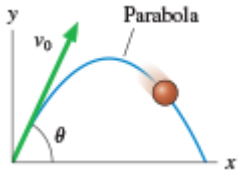
Looking Back Section 1.5 Finding acceleration vectors on a motion diagram




## What is projectile motion?

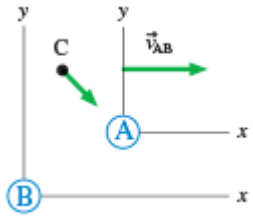
Projectile motion is two-dimensional free-fall motion under the influence of only gravity. Projectile motion follows a parabolic trajectory. It has uniform motion in the horizontal direction and $a_y = -g$ in the vertical direction.

Looking Back Section 2.5 Free fall



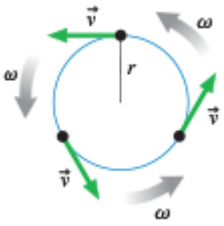

## What is relative motion?

Coordinate systems that move relative to each other are called reference frames. If object C has velocity $\overrightarrow{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$ relative to a reference frame A, and if A moves with velocity $\overrightarrow{v}_{\mathrm{AB}}$ relative to another reference frame B, then the velocity of C in reference frame B is $\overrightarrow{v}_{\mathrm{CB}} = \overrightarrow{v}_{\mathrm{CA}} + \overrightarrow{v}_{\mathrm{AB}}$.



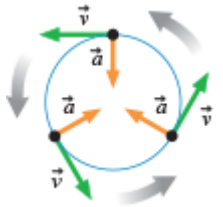

## What is circular motion?

An object moving in a circle (or rotating) has an *angular displacement* instead of a linear displacement. Circular motion is described by angular velocity $\omega$ (analogous to velocity $v_s$) and angular acceleration $\alpha$ (analogous to acceleration $a_s$). We'll study both uniform and accelerated circular motion.




## What is centripetal acceleration?

An object in circular motion is always changing direction. The acceleration of changing direction—called centripetal acceleration—points to the center of the circle. All circular motion has a centripetal acceleration. An object also has a *tangential acceleration* if it is changing speed.




## Where is two-dimensional motion used?

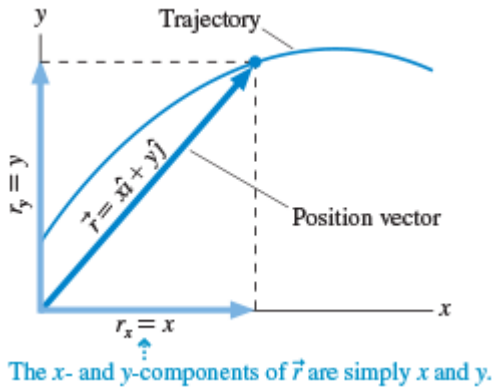
Linear motion allowed us to introduce the concepts of motion, but most real motion takes place in two or even three dimensions. Balls move along curved trajectories, cars turn corners, planets orbit the sun, and electrons spiral in the earth's magnetic field. Where is two-dimensional motion used? Everywhere!

# 4.1 Motion in Two Dimensions

Motion diagrams are an important tool for visualizing motion, and we'll continue to use them, but we also need to develop a mathematical description of motion in two dimensions. For convenience, we'll say that any two-dimensional motion is in the *xy*-plane regardless of whether the plane of motion is horizontal or vertical.

Figure 4.1 shows a particle moving along a curved path—its *trajectory*—in the *xy*-plane. We can locate the particle in terms of its position vector $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$.

**Figure 4.1**

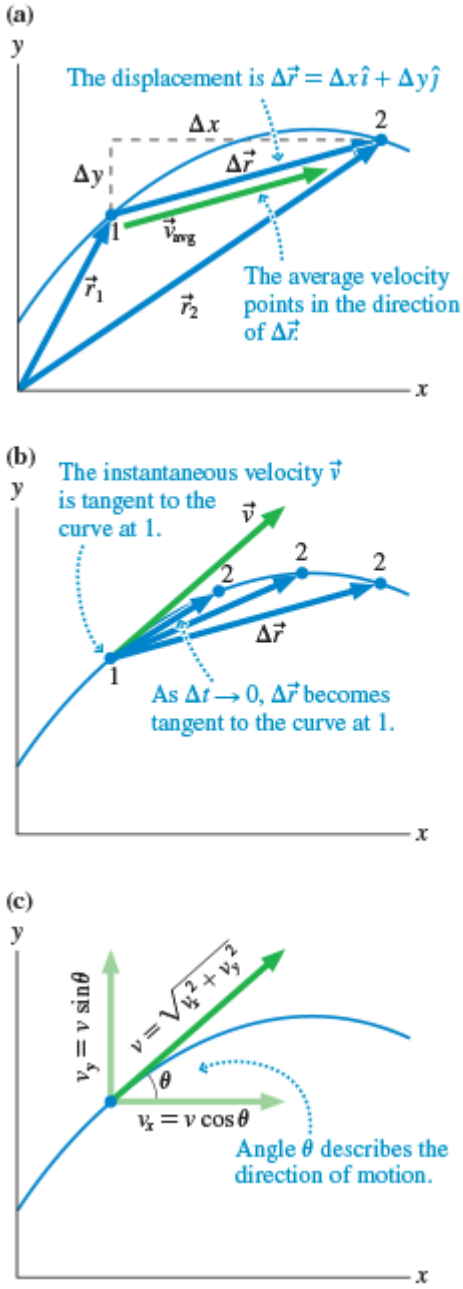



A particle moving along a trajectory in the *xy*-plane.

> **Note**
>
> In Chapter 2 we made extensive use of position-versus-time graphs, either *x* versus *t* or *y* versus *t*. Figure 4.1, like many of the graphs we'll use in this chapter, is a graph of *y* versus *x*. In other words, it's an actual *picture* of the trajectory, not an abstract representation of the motion.

Figure 4.2a shows the particle moving from position $\vec{r}_1$ at time $t_1$ to position $\vec{r}_2$ at a later time $t_2$. The average velocity—pointing in the direction of the displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$—is

## Figure 4.2




The instantaneous velocity vector is tangent to the trajectory.

(4.1)

$$\vec{v}_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\Delta \vec{r}}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}\hat{i} + \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t}\hat{j}$$

You learned in Chapter 2 that the instantaneous velocity is the limit of $\vec{v}_{\text{avg}}$ as $\Delta t \to 0$. As $\Delta t$ decreases, point 2 moves closer to point 1 until, as Figure 4.2b shows, the displacement vector becomes tangent to the curve. Consequently, **the instantaneous velocity vector $\vec{v}$ is tangent to the trajectory**.

Mathematically, the limit of Equation 4.1 gives

(4.2)

$$\vec{v} = \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\Delta \vec{r}}{\Delta t} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \frac{dx}{dt}\hat{i} + \frac{dy}{dt}\hat{j}$$

We can also write the velocity vector in terms of its $x$- and $y$-components as

(4.3)

$$\vec{v} = v_x\hat{i} + v_y\hat{j}$$

Comparing Equations 4.2 and 4.3, you can see that the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ has $x$- and $y$-components

(4.4)

$$v_x = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{and} \quad v_y = \frac{dy}{dt}$$



That is, the $x$-component $v_x$ of the velocity vector is the rate $dx/dt$ at which the particle's $x$-coordinate is changing. The $y$-component is similar.

Figure 4.2c illustrates another important feature of the velocity vector. If the vector's angle $\theta$ is measured from the positive $x$-direction, the velocity vector components are

**(4.5)**

$$v_x = v\cos\theta$$
$$v_y = v\sin\theta$$

where

**(4.6)**

$$v = \sqrt{{v_x}^2 + {v_y}^2}$$

is the particle's *speed* at that point. Speed is always a positive number (or zero), whereas the components are *signed* quantities (i.e., they can be positive or negative) to convey information about the direction of the velocity vector. Conversely, we can use the two velocity components to determine the direction of motion:

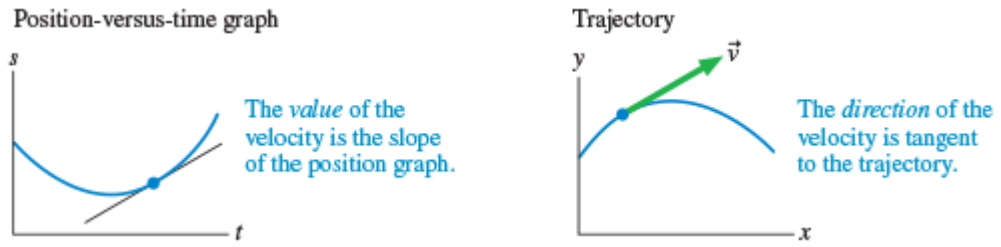
**(4.7)**

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{v_y}{v_x}\right)$$

> **Note**
>
> In Chapter 2, you learned that the *value* of the velocity is the *slope* of the position-versus-time graph. Now we see that the *direction* of the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ is the *tangent* to the *y*-versus-*x* graph of the trajectory. Figure 4.3, on the next page, reminds you that these two graphs use different interpretations of the tangent lines. The tangent to the

trajectory does not tell us anything about how fast the particle is moving.

## Figure 4.3




Two different uses of tangent lines.

### Example 4.1 Finding velocity

A sports car's position on a winding road is given by

$$\vec{r} = (6.0t - 0.10t^2 + 0.00048t^3)\,\hat{i} + (8.0t + 0.060t^2 - 0.00095t^3)\,\hat{j}$$

where the $y$-axis points north, $t$ is in s, and $r$ is in m. What are the car's speed and direction at $t = 120\,\text{s}$?

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle.

**SOLVE** Velocity is the derivative of position, so

$$v_x = \frac{dx}{dt} = 6.0 - 2\,(0.10t) + 3\,(0.00048t^2)$$
$$v_y = \frac{dy}{dt} = 8.0 + 2\,(0.060t) - 3\,(0.00095t^2)$$



Written as a vector, the velocity is

$$\vec{v} = (6.0 - 0.20t + 0.00144t^2)\,\hat{i} + (8.0 + 0.120t - 0.00285t^2)\,\hat{j}$$

where $t$ is in s and $v$ is in m/s. At $t = 120\,\text{s}$, we can calculate $\vec{v} = (2.7\hat{i} - 18.6\hat{j})\,\text{m/s}$. The car's speed at this instant is

$$v = \sqrt{{v_x}^2 + {v_y}^2} = \sqrt{(2.7\,\text{m/s})^2 + (-18.6\,\text{m/s})^2} = 19\,\text{m/s}$$

The velocity vector has a negative $y$-component, so the direction of motion is to the right (east) and down (south). The angle below the $x$-axis is

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{|-18.6\,\text{m/s}|}{2.7\,\text{m/s}}\right) = 82^\circ$$

So, at this instant, the car is headed 82° south of east at a speed of 19 m/s.

## Stop to Think 4.1

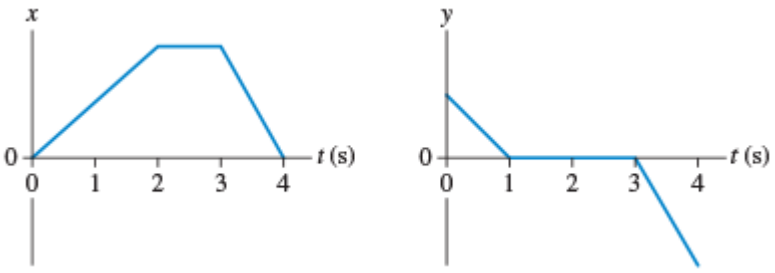
During which time interval or intervals is the particle described by these position graphs at rest? More than one may be correct.

**a.** 0–1 s

**b.** 1–2 s

**c.** 2–3 s

**d.** 3–4 s



# Acceleration Graphically

In Section 1.5 we defined the *average acceleration* $\vec{a}_{\text{avg}}$ of a moving object to be

**(4.8)**

$$\vec{a}_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t}$$

From its definition, we see that $\vec{a}$ **points in the same direction as** $\Delta \vec{v}$, the change of velocity. As an object moves, its velocity vector can change in two possible ways:

1. The magnitude of $\vec{v}$ can change, indicating a change in speed, or
2. The direction of $\vec{v}$ can change, indicating that the object has changed direction.

The kinematics of Chapter 2 considered only the acceleration due to changing speed. Now it's time to look at the acceleration associated with changing direction. Tactics Box 4.1 shows how we can use the velocity vectors on a motion diagram to determine the direction of the average acceleration vector. This is an extension of Tactics Box 1.3, which showed how to find $\vec{a}$ for one-dimensional motion.

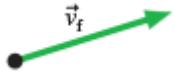


TACTICS BOX 4.1 **Finding the acceleration vector**

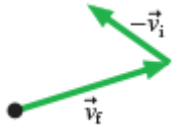
**Mastering Physics**

To find the acceleration between velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{i}}$ and velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{f}}$:

**1.** Draw the velocity vector $\overrightarrow{v}_f$.



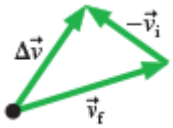

**2.** Draw $-\overrightarrow{v}_i$ at the tip of $\overrightarrow{v}_f$.




**3.** Draw $\Delta\overrightarrow{v} = \overrightarrow{v}_f - \overrightarrow{v}_i$

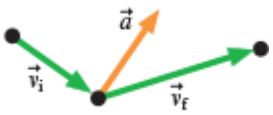
$= \overrightarrow{v}_f + (-\overrightarrow{v}_i)$

This is the direction of $\overrightarrow{a}$.




**4.** Return to the original motion diagram. Draw a vector at the middle point in the direction of $\Delta\overrightarrow{v}$; label it $\overrightarrow{a}$.

This is the average acceleration between $\overrightarrow{v}_i$ and $\overrightarrow{v}_f$.




Workbook Exercises 1, 2, 3, 4

Our everyday use of the word "accelerate" means "speed up." The mathematical definition of acceleration—the rate of change of velocity—also includes slowing down, as you learned in Chapter 2, as well as changing direction. All these are motions that change the velocity.

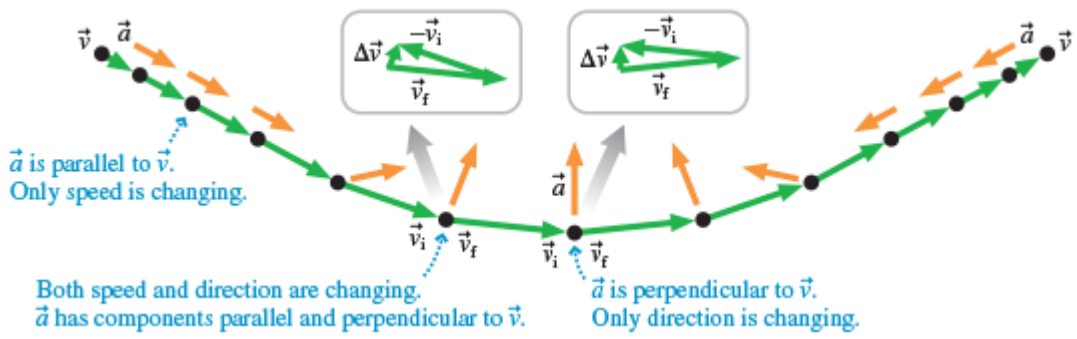
### Example 4.2 Through the valley

A ball rolls down a long hill, through the valley, and back up the other side. Draw a complete motion diagram of the ball.

**MODEL** Model the ball as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 4.4 is the motion diagram. Where the particle moves along a *straight line*, it speeds up if $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{v}$ point in the same direction and slows down if $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{v}$ point in opposite directions. This important idea was the basis for the one-dimensional kinematics we developed in Chapter 2. When the direction of $\vec{v}$ changes, as it does when the ball goes through the valley, we need to use vector subtraction to find the direction of $\Delta\vec{v}$ and thus of $\vec{a}$. The procedure is shown at two points in the motion diagram.

**Figure 4.4**

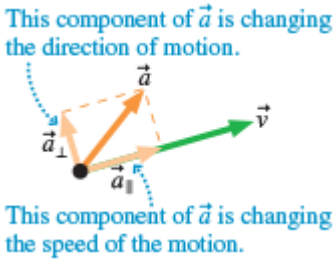



The motion diagram of the ball of Example 4.2.

Figure 4.5 shows that an object's acceleration vector can be decomposed into a component parallel to the velocity—that is, parallel to the direction of motion—and a component perpendicular to the velocity. **$\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ is the piece of the acceleration that causes the object to change speed**, speeding up if $\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ points in the same direction as $\vec{v}$, slowing down if they point in opposite directions. **$\vec{a}_{\perp}$ is the piece of the acceleration that causes the object to change direction.** An object changing direction *always* has a component of acceleration perpendicular to the direction of motion.



## Figure 4.5




Analyzing the acceleration vector.

Looking back at Example 4.2, we see that $\vec{a}$ is parallel to $\vec{v}$ on the straight portions of the hill where only speed is changing. At the very bottom, where the ball's direction is changing but not its speed, $\vec{a}$ is perpendicular to $\vec{v}$. The acceleration is angled with respect to velocity—having both parallel and perpendicular components—at those points where both speed and direction are changing.

### Stop to Think 4.2

This acceleration will cause the particle to

**a.** Speed up and curve upward.

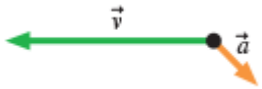
**b.** Speed up and curve downward.

**c.** Slow down and curve upward.

**d.** Slow down and curve downward.

**e.** Move to the right and down.

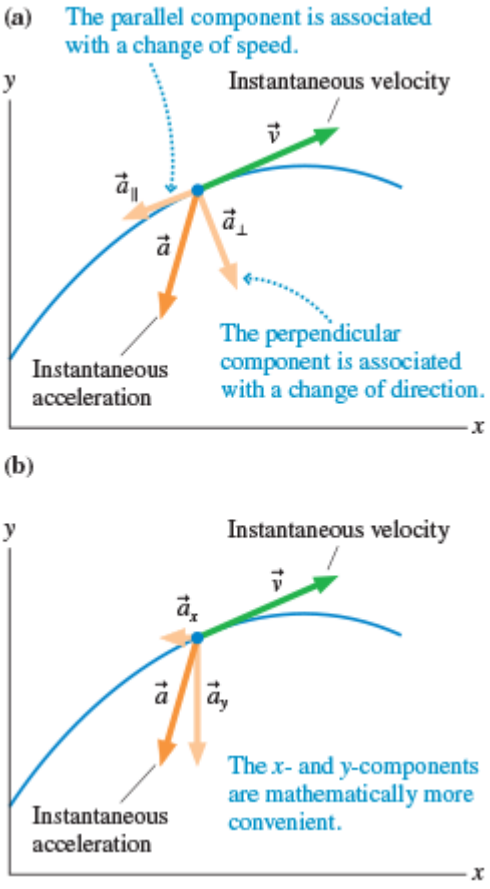
**f.** Reverse direction.




## Acceleration Mathematically

In Tactics Box 4.1, the average acceleration is found from two velocity vectors separated by the time interval $\Delta t$. If we let $\Delta t$ get smaller and smaller, the two velocity vectors get closer and closer. In the limit $\Delta t \to 0$, we have the instantaneous acceleration $\vec{a}$ at the same point on the trajectory (and the same instant of time) as the instantaneous velocity $\vec{v}$. This is shown in Figure 4.6.

**Figure 4.6**




The instantaneous acceleration $\vec{a}$.

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By definition, the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ is the rate at which the velocity $\vec{v}$ is changing at that instant. To show this, Figure 4.6a decomposes $\vec{a}$ into components $\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ and $\vec{a}_{\perp}$ that are parallel and perpendicular to the trajectory. As we just showed, $\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ is associated with a change of speed, and $\vec{a}_{\perp}$ is associated with a change of direction. Both kinds of changes are accelerations. Notice that $\vec{a}_{\perp}$ always points toward the "inside" of the curve because that is the direction in which $\vec{v}$ is changing.

Although the parallel and perpendicular components of $\vec{a}$ convey important ideas about acceleration, it's often more practical to write $\vec{a}$ in terms of the $x$- and $y$-components shown in Figure 4.6b. Because $\vec{v} = v_x\hat{i} + v_y\hat{j}$, we find

**(4.9)**

$$\vec{a} = a_x \hat{i} + a_y \hat{j} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{dv_x}{dt}\hat{i} + \frac{dv_y}{dt}\hat{j}$$

from which we see that

**(4.10)**

$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt} \quad \text{and} \quad a_y = \frac{dv_y}{dt}$$

That is, the $x$-component of $\vec{a}$ is the rate $dv_x/dt$ at which the $x$-component of velocity is changing.

Notice that Figures 4.6a and 4.6b show the *same* acceleration vector; all that differs is how we've chosen to decompose it. For motion with constant acceleration, which includes projectile motion, the decomposition into $x$- and $y$-components is most convenient. But we'll find that the parallel and perpendicular components are especially suited to an analysis of circular motion.

## Constant Acceleration

If the acceleration $\vec{a} = a_x \hat{i} + a_y \hat{j}$ is constant, then the two components $a_x$ and $a_y$ are both constant. In this case, everything you learned about constant-acceleration kinematics in Section 2.4 carries over to two-dimensional motion.

Consider a particle that moves with constant acceleration from an initial position $\vec{r}_{\,\mathrm{i}} = x_{\mathrm{i}} \hat{i} + y_{\mathrm{i}} \hat{j}$, starting with initial velocity $\vec{v}_{\,\mathrm{i}} = v_{\mathrm{i}x} \hat{i} + v_{\mathrm{i}y} \hat{j}$. Its position and velocity at a final point f are

(4.11)

$$x_{\mathrm{f}} = x_{\mathrm{i}} + v_{\mathrm{i}x}\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}a_x(\Delta t)^2 \qquad y_{\mathrm{f}} = y_{\mathrm{i}} + v_{\mathrm{i}y}\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}a_y(\Delta t)^2$$
$$v_{\mathrm{f}x} = v_{\mathrm{i}x} + a_x\,\Delta t \qquad v_{\mathrm{f}y} = v_{\mathrm{i}y} + a_y\,\Delta t$$

There are *many* quantities to keep track of in two-dimensional kinematics, making the pictorial representation all the more important as a problem-solving tool.

> **Note**
>
> For constant acceleration, the *x*-component of the motion and the *y*-component of the motion are independent of each other. However, they remain connected through the fact that Δ*t* must be the same for both.

**Example 4.3 Plotting a spacecraft trajectory**

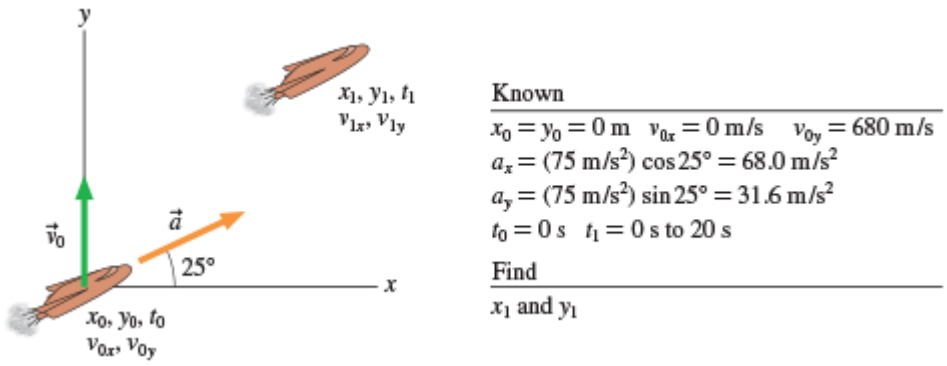
In the distant future, a small spacecraft is drifting "north" through the galaxy at 680 m/s when it receives a command to return to the starship. The pilot rotates the spacecraft until the nose is pointed 25° north of east, then engages the ion engine. The spacecraft accelerates at 75 m/s². Plot the spacecraft's trajectory for the first 20 s.

**MODEL** Model the spacecraft as a particle with constant acceleration.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 4.7 shows a pictorial representation in which the *y*-axis points north and the spacecraft starts at the origin. Notice

that each point in the motion is labeled with *two* positions ($x$ and $y$), *two* velocity components ($v_x$ and $v_y$), and the time $t$. This will be our standard labeling scheme for trajectory problems.

## Figure 4.7



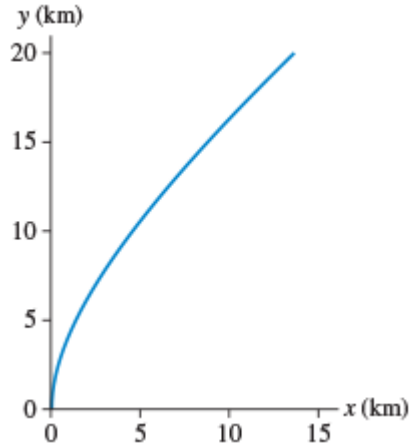

Pictorial representation of the spacecraft.

**SOLVE** The acceleration vector has both $x$- and $y$-components; their values have been calculated in the pictorial representation. But it is a *constant* acceleration, so we can write

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= x_0 + v_{0x}(t_1 - t_0) + \frac{1}{2}a_x(t_1 - t_0)^2 \\ &= 34.0{t_1}^2 \text{ m} \\ y_1 &= y_0 + v_{0y}(t_1 - t_0) + \frac{1}{2}a_y(t_1 - t_0)^2 \\ &= 680t_1 + 15.8{t_1}^2 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

where $t_1$ is in s. Graphing software produces the trajectory shown in Figure 4.8. The trajectory is a parabola, which is characteristic of two-dimensional motion with constant acceleration.

## Figure 4.8



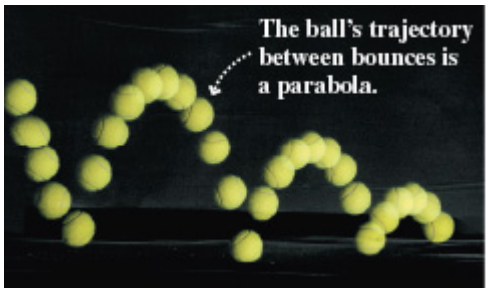

The spacecraft trajectory.

# 4.2 Projectile Motion



Baseballs and tennis balls flying through the air, Olympic divers, and daredevils shot from cannons all exhibit what we call *projectile motion*. A **projectile** is **an object that moves in two dimensions under the influence of only gravity**. Projectile motion is an extension of the free-fall motion we studied in Chapter 2. We will continue to neglect the influence of air resistance, leading to results that are a good approximation of reality for relatively heavy objects moving relatively slowly over relatively short distances. As we'll see, projectiles in two dimensions follow a *parabolic trajectory* like the one seen in Figure 4.9.

## Figure 4.9




A parabolic trajectory.

The start of a projectile's motion, be it thrown by hand or shot from a gun, is called the *launch*, and the angle $\theta$ of the initial velocity $\vec{v}_0$ above the horizontal (i.e., above the $x$-axis) is called the **launch angle**. Figure 4.10 illustrates the relationship between the initial velocity vector $\vec{v}_0$ and the initial values of the components $v_{0x}$ and $v_{0y}$. You can see that

**(4.12)**

$$v_{0x} = v_0 \cos\theta$$
$$v_{0y} = v_0 \sin\theta$$

where $v_0$ is the initial speed.

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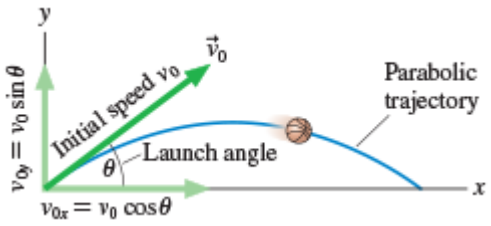
## Figure 4.10




A projectile launched with initial velocity $\vec{v}_0$.

---

> **Note**
>
> A projectile launched at an angle *below* the horizontal (such as a ball thrown downward from the roof of a building) has *negative* values for $\theta$ and $v_{0y}$. However, the *speed* $v_0$ is always positive.

Gravity acts downward, and we know that objects released from rest fall straight down, not sideways. Hence a projectile has no horizontal acceleration, while its vertical acceleration is simply that of free fall. Thus

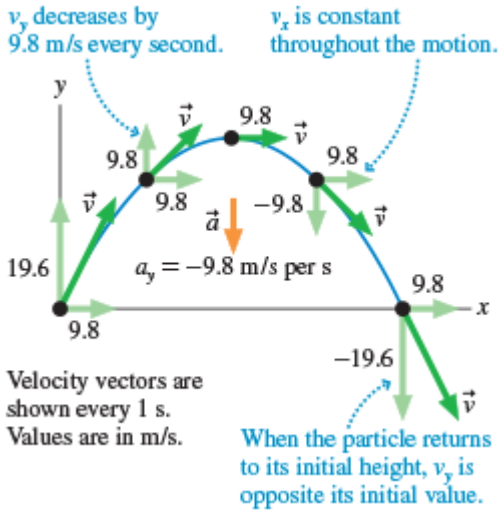
**(4.13)**

$$\begin{aligned} a_x &= 0 \\ a_y &= -g \end{aligned} \qquad (\text{projectile motion})$$

In other words, **the vertical component of acceleration $a_y$ is just the familiar $-g$ of free fall, while the horizontal component $a_x$ is zero. Projectiles are in free fall.**

To see how these conditions influence the motion, Figure 4.11 shows a projectile launched from $(x_0, y_0) = (0\,\text{m}, 0\,\text{m})$ with an initial velocity $\vec{v}_0 = (9.8\hat{i} + 19.6\hat{j})\ \text{m/s}$. The value of $v_x$ never changes because there's no horizontal acceleration, but $v_y$ decreases by 9.8 m/s every second. This is what it *means* to accelerate at $a_y = -9.8\,\text{m/s}^2 = (-9.8\,\text{m/s})$ per second.

## Figure 4.11




The velocity and acceleration vectors of a projectile.

You can see from Figure 4.11 that **projectile motion is made up of two independent motions:** uniform motion at constant velocity in the horizontal direction and free-fall motion in the vertical direction. The kinematic equations that describe these two motions are simply Equations 4.11 with $a_x = 0$ and $a_y = -g$.

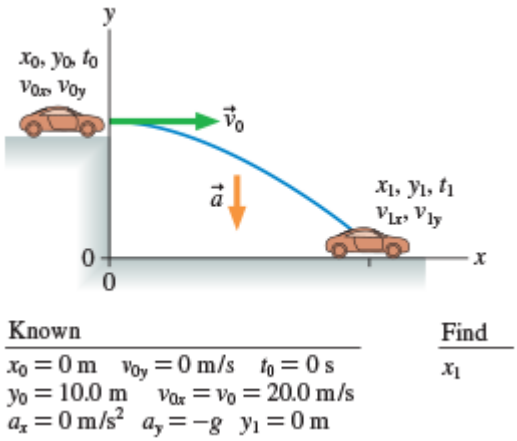
### Example 4.4 Don't try this at home!

A stunt man drives a car off a 10.0-m-high cliff at a speed of 20.0 m/s. How far does the car land from the base of the cliff?

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle in free fall. Assume that the car is moving horizontally as it leaves the cliff.

**VISUALIZE** The pictorial representation, shown in Figure 4.12, is *very* important because the number of quantities to keep track of is quite large. We have chosen to put the origin at the base of the cliff. The assumption that the car is moving horizontally as it leaves the cliff leads to $v_{0x} = v_0$ and $v_{0y} = 0$ m/s.

## Figure 4.12




Pictorial representation for the car of Example 4.4.

**SOLVE** Each point on the trajectory has *x*- and *y*-components of position, velocity, and acceleration but only *one* value of time. The time needed to move horizontally to $x_1$ is the *same* time needed to fall vertically through distance $y_0$. **Although the horizontal and vertical motions are independent, they are connected through the time *t*.** This is a critical observation for solving projectile motion problems. The kinematics equations with $a_x = 0$ and $a_y = -g$ are

$$x_1 = x_0 + v_{0x}(t_1 - t_0) = v_0 t_1$$
$$y_1 = 0 = y_0 + v_{0y}(t_1 - t_0) - \tfrac{1}{2}g(t_1 - t_0)^2 = y_0 - \tfrac{1}{2}g{t_1}^2$$

We can use the vertical equation to determine the time $t_1$ needed to fall distance $y_0$:

$$t_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\,(10.0\,\text{m})}{9.80\,\text{m/s}^2}} = 1.43\,\text{s}$$

We then insert this expression for $t$ into the horizontal equation to find the distance traveled:

$$x_1 = v_0 t_1 = (20.0\,\text{m/s})\,(1.43\text{ s}) = 28.6\,\text{m}$$

**ASSESS** The cliff height is ≈ 33 and the initial speed is $v_0 \approx 40\,\text{mph}$. Traveling $x_1 = 29\text{ m} \approx 95\text{ ft}$ before hitting the ground seems reasonable.

The $x$- and $y$-equations of Example 4.4 are parametric equations. It's not hard to eliminate $t$ and write an expression for $y$ as a function of $x$. From the $x_1$ equation, $t_1 = x_1/v_0$. Substituting this into the $y_1$ equation, we find

**(4.14)**

$$y = y_0 - \frac{g}{2{v_0}^2}x^2$$

The graph of $y = cx^2$ is a parabola, so Equation 4.14 represents an inverted parabola that starts from height $y_0$. This proves, as we asserted previously, that a projectile follows a parabolic trajectory.

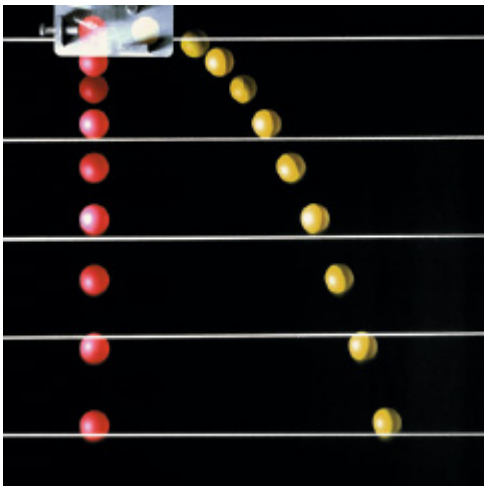
## Reasoning About Projectile Motion

Suppose a heavy ball is launched exactly horizontally at height $h$ above a horizontal field. At the exact instant that the ball is launched, a second

ball is simply dropped from height $h$. Which ball hits the ground first?

It may seem hard to believe, but—if air resistance is neglected—the balls hit the ground *simultaneously*. They do so because the horizontal and vertical components of projectile motion are independent of each other. The initial horizontal velocity of the first ball has *no* influence over its vertical motion. Neither ball has any initial motion in the vertical direction, so both fall distance $h$ in the same amount of time. You can see this in Figure 4.13.

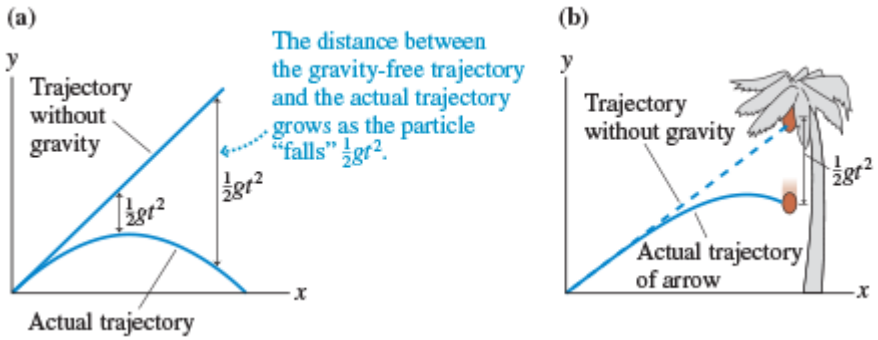
**Figure 4.13**



A projectile launched horizontally falls in the same time as a projectile that is released from rest.

Figure 4.14a shows a useful way to think about the trajectory of a projectile. Without gravity, a projectile would follow a straight line. Because of gravity, the particle at time $t$ has "fallen" a distance $\frac{1}{2}gt^2$ below this line. The separation grows as $\frac{1}{2}gt^2$, giving the trajectory its parabolic shape.

**Figure 4.14**




A projectile follows a parabolic trajectory because it "falls" a distance $\frac{1}{2}gt^2$ below a straight-line trajectory.

---

Use this idea to think about the following "classic" problem in physics:

> A hungry bow-and-arrow hunter in the jungle wants to shoot down a coconut that is hanging from the branch of a tree. He points his arrow directly at the coconut, but as luck would have it, the coconut falls from the branch at the *exact* instant the hunter releases the string. Does the arrow hit the coconut?

You might think that the arrow will miss the falling coconut, but it doesn't. Although the arrow travels very fast, it follows a slightly curved parabolic trajectory, not a straight line. Had the coconut stayed on the tree, the arrow would have curved under its target as gravity caused it to fall a distance $\frac{1}{2}gt^2$ below the straight line. But $\frac{1}{2}gt^2$ is also the distance the coconut falls while the arrow is in flight. Thus, as Figure 4.14b shows, the arrow and the coconut fall the same distance and meet at the same point!

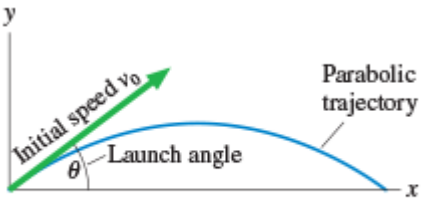
## The Projectile Motion Model

Projectile motion is an ideal that's rarely achieved by real objects. Nonetheless, the **projectile motion model** is another important simplification of reality that we can add to our growing list of models.

MODEL 4.1 **Projectile motion**

For motion under the influence of only gravity.

- Model the object as a particle launched with speed $v_0$ at angle $\theta$:
- Mathematically:



A projectile follows a parabolic trajectory.

  - **Uniform motion** in the horizontal direction with $v_x = v_0 \cos\theta$.
  - **Constant acceleration** in the vertical direction with $a_y = -g$.
  - Same $\Delta t$ for both motions.
- Limitations: Model fails if air resistance is significant.

Workbook Exercise 9

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 4.1 Projectile motion problems**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Is it reasonable to ignore air resistance? If so, use the projectile motion model.

**VISUALIZE** Establish a coordinate system with the $x$-axis horizontal and the $y$-axis vertical. Define symbols and identify what the problem is trying to find. For a launch at angle $\theta$, the initial velocity components are $v_{ix} = v_0 \cos\theta$ and $v_{iy} = v_0 \sin\theta$.

**SOLVE** The acceleration is known: $a_x = 0$ and $a_y = -g$. Thus the problem is one of two-dimensional kinematics. The kinematic equations are

| Horizontal | Vertical |
|---|---|
| $x_f = x_i + v_{ix}\,\Delta t$ | $y_f = y_i + v_{iy}\,\Delta t - \frac{1}{2}g(\Delta t)^2$ |
| $v_{fx} = v_{ix} = \text{constant}$ | $v_{fy} = v_{iy} - g\,\Delta t$ |

$\Delta t$ is the same for the horizontal and vertical components of the motion. Find $\Delta t$ from one component, then use that value for the other component.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

### Example 4.5 Jumping frog contest

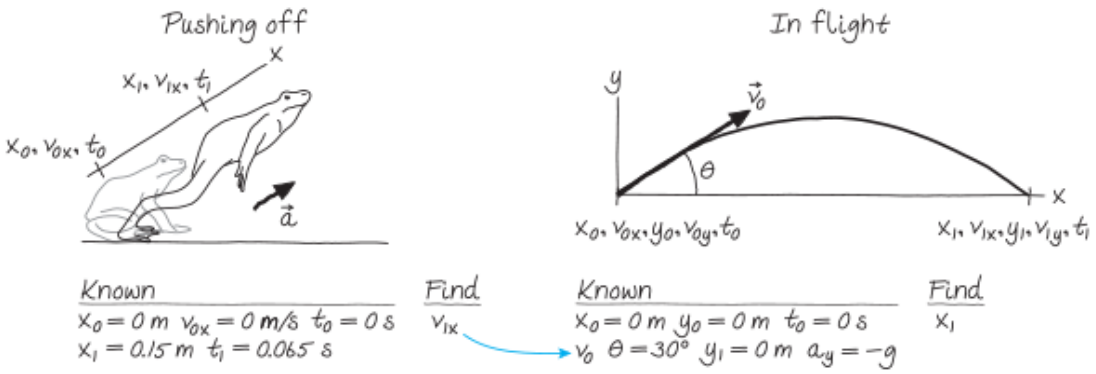
Frogs, with their long, strong legs, are excellent jumpers. And thanks to the good folks of Calaveras County, California, who have a jumping frog contest every year in honor of a Mark Twain story, we have very good data on how far a determined frog can jump.

High-speed cameras show that a good jumper goes into a crouch, then rapidly extends his legs by typically 15 cm during a 65 ms push off, leaving the ground at a 30° angle. How far does this frog leap?

**MODEL** Model the push off as linear motion with uniform acceleration. A bullfrog is fairly heavy and dense, so ignore air resistance and model the leap as projectile motion.

**VISUALIZE** This is a two-part problem: linear acceleration followed by projectile motion. A key observation is that **the final velocity for pushing off the ground becomes the initial velocity of the projectile motion**. Figure 4.15 shows a separate pictorial representation for each part. Notice that we've used different coordinate systems for the two parts; coordinate systems are our choice, and for each part of the motion we've chosen the coordinate system that makes the problem easiest to solve.

## Figure 4.15




Pictorial representations of the jumping frog.

**SOLVE** While pushing off, the frog travels $15\,\text{cm} = 0.15\ \text{m}$ in $65\,\text{ms} = 0.065\,\text{s}$. We could find his speed at the end of pushing off if we knew the acceleration. Because the initial velocity is zero, we can find the acceleration from the position-acceleration-time kinematic equation:

$$x_1 = x_0 + v_{0x}\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}a_x\,(\Delta t)^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}a_x\,(\Delta t)^2$$

$$a_x = \frac{2x_1}{(\Delta t)^2} = \frac{2(0.15\,\text{m})}{(0.065\,\text{s})^2} = 71\,\text{m/s}^2$$

This is a substantial acceleration, but it doesn't last long. At the end of the 65 ms push off, the frog's velocity is

$$v_{1x} = v_{0\text{x}} + a_x \Delta t = (71\,\text{m/s}^2)\,(0.065\,\text{s}) = 4.62\,\text{m/s}$$

We'll keep an extra significant figure here to avoid round-off error in the second half of the problem.

The end of the push off is the beginning of the projectile motion, so the second part of the problem is to find the distance of a projectile launched with velocity $\overrightarrow{v}_0 = (4.62\,\text{m/s},\, 30^\circ)$. The initial $x$- and $y$-components of the launch velocity are

$$v_{0x} = v_0 \cos\theta \qquad v_{0y} = v_0 \sin\theta$$

The kinematic equations of projectile motion, with $a_x = 0$ and $a_y = -g$, are

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= x_0 + v_{0x}\,\Delta t & y_1 &= y_0 + v_{0y}\,\Delta t - \tfrac{1}{2} g (\Delta t)^2 \\ &= (v_0 \cos\theta)\,\Delta t & &= (v_0 \sin\theta)\Delta t - \tfrac{1}{2} g (\Delta t)^2 \end{aligned}$$

We can find the time of flight from the vertical equation by setting $y_1 = 0$:

$$0 = (v_0 \sin\theta)\,\Delta t - \tfrac{1}{2} g (\Delta t)^2 = (v_0 \sin\theta - \tfrac{1}{2} g \Delta t)\,\Delta t$$

and thus

$$\Delta t = 0 \qquad \text{or} \qquad \Delta t = \frac{2 v_0 \sin\theta}{g}$$

Both are legitimate solutions. The first corresponds to the instant when $y = 0$ at the launch, the second to when $y = 0$ as the frog hits the ground. Clearly, we want the second solution. Substituting this expression for $\Delta t$ into the equation for $x_1$ gives

$$x_1 = (v_0 \cos\theta)\,\frac{2v_0 \sin\theta}{g} = \frac{2{v_0}^2 \sin\theta\cos\theta}{g}$$

We can simplify this result with the trigonometric identity $2\sin\theta\cos\theta = \sin(2\theta)$. Thus the distance traveled by the frog is

$$x_1 = \frac{{v_0}^2 \sin(2\theta)}{g}$$

Using $v_0 = 4.62$ m/s and $\theta = 30^\circ$, we find that the frog leaps a distance of 1.9 m.

**ASSESS** 1.9 m is about 6 feet, or about 10 times the frog's body length. That's pretty amazing, but true. Jumps of 2.2 m have been recorded in the lab. And the Calaveras County record holder, Rosie the Ribeter, covered 6.5 m—21 feet—in three jumps!



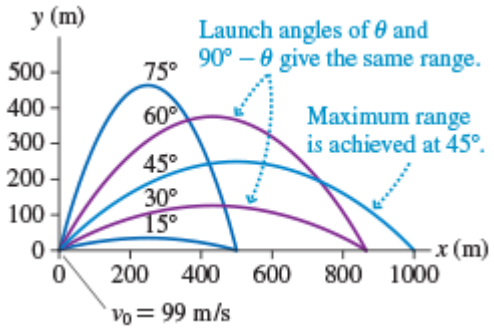
The distance a projectile travels is called its *range*. As Example 4.5 found, a projectile that lands at the same elevation from which it was launched has

**(4.15)**

$$\text{range} = \frac{{v_0}^2 \sin(2\theta)}{g}$$

The maximum range occurs for $\theta = 45^\circ$, where $\sin(2\theta) = 1$. But there's more that we can learn from this equation. Because $\sin(180^\circ - x) = \sin x$, it follows that $\sin(2(90^\circ - \theta)) = \sin(2\theta)$. Consequently, a projectile launched either at angle $\theta$ *or* at angle $(90^\circ - \theta)$ will travel the same distance *over level ground*. Figure 4.16 shows several trajectories of projectiles launched with the same initial speed.

## Figure 4.16




Trajectories of a projectile launched at different angles with a speed of 99 m/s.

**Note**

Equation 4.15 is *not* a general result. It applies *only* in situations where the projectile lands at the same elevation from which it was fired.

### Stop to Think 4.3

A 50 g marble rolls off a table and hits 2 m from the base of the table. A 100 g marble rolls off the same table with the same speed. It lands at distance

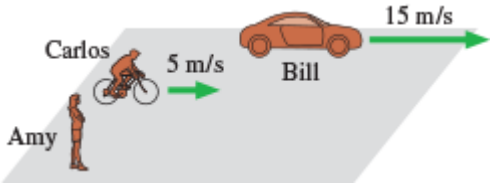
**a.** Less than 1 m.
**b.** 1 m.
**c.** Between 1 m and 2 m.
**d.** 2 m.
**e.** Between 2 m and 4 m.
**f.** 4 m.

# 4.3 Relative Motion



Figure 4.17 shows Amy and Bill watching Carlos on his bicycle. According to Amy, Carlos's velocity is $v_x = 5\text{m/s}$. Bill sees the bicycle receding in his rearview mirror, in the *negative* $x$-direction, getting 10 m farther away from him every second. According to Bill, Carlos's velocity is $v_x = -10\,\text{m/s}$. Which is Carlos's *true* velocity?

**Figure 4.17**




Velocities in Amy's reference frame.

Velocity is not a concept that can be true or false. Carlos's velocity *relative to Amy* is $(v_x)_{\text{CA}} = 5\,\text{m/s}$, where the subscript notation means "C relative to A." Similarly, Carlos's velocity *relative to Bill* is $(v_x)_{\text{CB}} = -10\,\text{m/s}$. These are both valid descriptions of Carlos's motion.

It's not hard to see how to combine the velocities for one-dimensional motion:

The first subscript is the same on both sides. The last subscript is the same on both sides.

$$(v_x)_{\text{CB}} = (v_x)_{\text{CA}} + (v_x)_{\text{AB}} \tag{4.16}$$

The inner subscripts "cancel."

We'll justify this relationship later in this section and then extend it to two-dimensional motion.

Equation 4.16 tells us that the velocity of C relative to B is the velocity of C relative to A *plus* the velocity of A relative to B. Note that

**(4.17)**

$$(v_x)_{\mathrm{AB}} = -(v_x)_{\mathrm{BA}}$$

because if B is moving to the right relative to A, then A is moving to the left relative to B. In Figure 4.17, Bill is moving to the right relative to Amy with $(v_x)_{\mathrm{BA}} = 15\,\mathrm{m/s}$, so $(v_x)_{\mathrm{AB}} = -15\,\mathrm{m/s}$. Knowing that Carlos's velocity relative to Amy is 5 m/s, we find that Carlos's velocity relative to Bill is, as expected,
$(v_x)_{\mathrm{CB}} = (v_x)_{\mathrm{CA}} + (v_x)_{\mathrm{AB}} = 5\,\mathrm{m/s} + (-15)\,\mathrm{m/s} = -10\,\mathrm{m/s}$.

### Example 4.6 A speeding bullet

The police are chasing a bank robber. While driving at 50 m/s, they fire a bullet to shoot out a tire of his car. The police gun shoots bullets at 300 m/s. What is the bullet's speed as measured by a TV camera crew parked beside the road?

**MODEL** Assume that all motion is in the positive $x$-direction. The bullet is the object that is observed from both the police car and the ground.

**SOLVE** The bullet B's velocity relative to the gun G is $(v_x)_{\mathrm{BG}} = 300\,\mathrm{m/s}$. The gun, inside the car, is traveling relative to the TV crew C at $(v_x)_{\mathrm{GC}} = 50\,\mathrm{m/s}$. We can combine these values to

find that the bullet's velocity relative to the TV crew on the ground is

$$(v_x)_{\mathrm{BC}} = (v_x)_{\mathrm{BG}} + (v_x)_{\mathrm{GC}} = 300\,\mathrm{m/s} + 50\,\mathrm{m/s} = 350\,\mathrm{m/s}$$

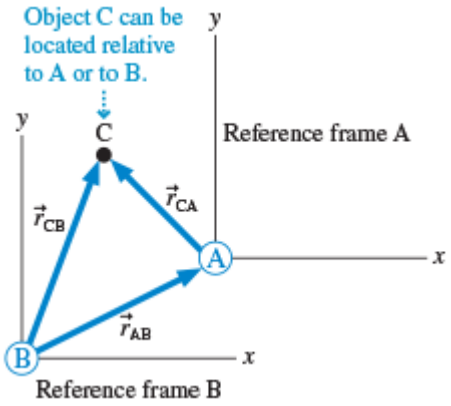
**ASSESS** It should be no surprise in this simple situation that we simply add the velocities.

## Reference Frames

A coordinate system in which an experimenter (possibly with the assistance of helpers) makes position and time measurements of physical events is called a **reference frame**. In Figure 4.17, Amy and Bill each had their own reference frame (where they were at rest) in which they measured Carlos's velocity.

More generally, Figure 4.18 shows two reference frames, A and B, and an object C. It is assumed that the reference frames are moving with respect to each other. At this instant of time, the position vector of C in reference frame A is $\vec{r}_{\mathrm{CA},}$ meaning "the position of C relative to the origin of frame A." Similarly, $\vec{r}_{\mathrm{CB}}$ is the position vector of C in reference frame B. Using vector addition, you can see that

**Figure 4.18**




Two reference frames.

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**(4.18)**

$$\vec{r}_{\mathrm{CB}} = \vec{r}_{\mathrm{CA}} + \vec{r}_{\mathrm{AB}}$$

where $\vec{r}_{\mathrm{AB}}$ locates the origin of A relative to the origin of B.

In general, object C is moving relative to both reference frames. To find its velocity in each reference frame, take the time derivative of Equation 4.18:

**(4.19)**

$$\frac{d\vec{r}_{\mathrm{CB}}}{dt} = \frac{d\vec{r}_{\mathrm{CA}}}{dt} + \frac{d\vec{r}_{\mathrm{AB}}}{dt}$$

By definition, $d\vec{r}/dt$ is a velocity. The first derivative is $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CB}}$, the velocity of C relative to B. Similarly, the second derivative is the velocity of C relative to A, $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$. The last derivative is slightly different because it doesn't refer to object C. Instead, this is the velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{AB}}$ of reference frame A relative to reference frame B. As we noted in one dimension, $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{AB}} = -\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}}$.

Writing Equation 4.19 in terms of velocities, we have

(4.20)

$$\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CB}} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}} + \vec{v}_{\mathrm{AB}}$$

This relationship between velocities in different reference frames was recognized by Galileo in his pioneering studies of motion, hence it is known as the **Galilean transformation of velocity**. If you know an object's velocity in one reference frame, you can *transform* it into the velocity that would be measured in a different reference frame. Just as in one dimension, the velocity of C relative to B is the velocity of C relative to A plus the velocity of A relative to B, *but* you must add the velocities as vectors for two-dimensional motion.

As we've seen, the Galilean velocity transformation is pretty much common sense for one-dimensional motion. The real usefulness appears when an object travels in a *medium* moving with respect to the earth. For example, a boat moves relative to the water. What is the boat's net motion if the water is a flowing river? Airplanes fly relative to the air, but the air at high altitudes often flows at high speed. Navigation of boats and planes requires knowing both the motion of the vessel in the medium and the motion of the medium relative to the earth.

### Example 4.7 Flying to Cleveland I

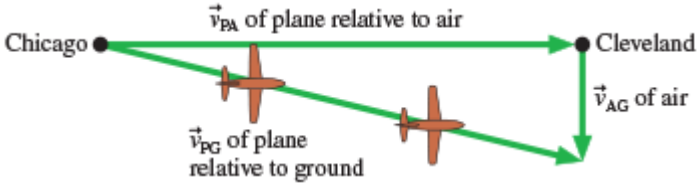
Cleveland is 300 miles east of Chicago. A plane leaves Chicago flying due east at 500 mph. The pilot forgot to check the weather and doesn't know that the wind is blowing to the south at 50 mph. What is the plane's ground speed? Where is the plane 0.60 h later, when the pilot expects to land in Cleveland?

**MODEL** Establish a coordinate system with the $x$-axis pointing east and the $y$-axis north. The plane P flies in the air, so its velocity relative to the air A is $\vec{v}_{\text{PA}} = 500\hat{i}$ mph. Meanwhile, the air is moving relative to the ground G at $\vec{v}_{\text{AG}} = -50\hat{j}$ mph.

**SOLVE** The velocity equation $\vec{v}_{\text{PG}} = \vec{v}_{\text{PA}} + \vec{v}_{\text{AG}}$ is a vector-addition equation. Figure 4.19 shows graphically what happens. Although the nose of the plane points east, the wind carries the plane in a direction somewhat south of east. The plane's velocity relative to the ground is

$$\vec{v}_{\text{PG}} = \vec{v}_{\text{PA}} + \vec{v}_{\text{AG}} = (500\hat{i} - 50\hat{j}) \text{ mph}$$

**Figure 4.19**




The wind causes a plane flying due east in the air to move to the southeast relative to the ground.

The plane's ground speed is

$$v = \sqrt{(v_x)_{\text{PG}}{}^2 + (v_y)_{\text{PG}}{}^2} = 502 \text{ mph}$$



After flying for 0.60 h at this velocity, the plane's location (relative to Chicago) is

$$x = (v_x)_{\text{PG}} t = (500 \text{ mph})\,(0.60 \text{ h}) = 300 \text{ mi}$$
$$y = (v_y)_{\text{PG}} t = (-50 \text{ mph})\,(0.60 \text{ h}) = -30 \text{ mi}$$

The plane is 30 mi due south of Cleveland! Although the pilot thought he was flying to the east, his actual heading has been

$\tan^{-1}(50\,\text{mph}/500\,\text{mph}) = \tan^{-1}(0.10) = 5.71^\circ$ south of east.

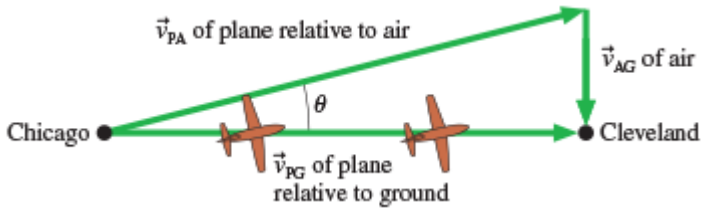
### Example 4.8 Flying to Cleveland II

A wiser pilot flying from Chicago to Cleveland on the same day plots a course that will take her directly to Cleveland. In which direction does she fly the plane? How long does it take to reach Cleveland?

**MODEL** Establish a coordinate system with the $x$-axis pointing east and the $y$-axis north. The air is moving relative to the ground at $\vec{v}_{\text{AG}} = -50\hat{j}\,\text{mph}$.

**SOLVE** The objective of navigation is to move between two points on the earth's surface. The wiser pilot, who knows that the wind will affect her plane, draws the vector picture of Figure 4.20. She sees that she'll need $(v_y)_{\text{PG}} = 0$, in order to fly due east to Cleveland. This will require turning the nose of the plane at an angle $\theta$ north of east, making $\vec{v}_{\text{PA}} = (500\ \cos\theta\hat{i} + 500\ \sin\theta\hat{j})\ \text{mph}$.

**Figure 4.20**




To travel due east in a south wind, a pilot has to point the plane somewhat to the northeast.

The velocity equation is $\vec{v}_{\text{PG}} = \vec{v}_{\text{PA}} + \vec{v}_{\text{AG}}$. The desired heading is found from setting the $y$-component of this equation to zero:

$$(v_y)_{\text{PG}} = (v_y)_{\text{PA}} + (v_y)_{\text{AG}} = (500 \text{ mph} \sin\theta - 50 \text{ mph}) = 0 \text{ mph}$$

$$\theta = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{50 \text{ mph}}{500 \text{ mph}}\right) = 5.74^\circ$$

The plane's velocity relative to the ground is then $\vec{v}_{\text{PG}} = (500 \text{ mph}) \times \cos 5.74^\circ \hat{i} = 497 \hat{i} \text{ mph}$. This is slightly slower than the speed relative to the air. The time needed to fly to Cleveland at this speed is

$$t = \frac{300 \text{ mi}}{497 \text{ mph}} = 0.604 \text{ h}$$

It takes $0.004 \text{ h} = 14 \text{ s}$ longer to reach Cleveland than it would on a day without wind.

**ASSESS** A boat crossing a river or an ocean current faces the same difficulties. These are exactly the kinds of calculations performed by pilots of boats and planes as part of navigation.

## Stop to Think 4.4

A plane traveling horizontally to the right at 100 m/s flies past a helicopter that is going straight up at 20 m/s. From the helicopter's perspective, the plane's direction and speed are

**a.** Right and up, less than 100 m/s.
**b.** Right and up, 100 m/s.
**c.** Right and up, more than 100 m/s.
**d.** Right and down, less than 100 m/s.

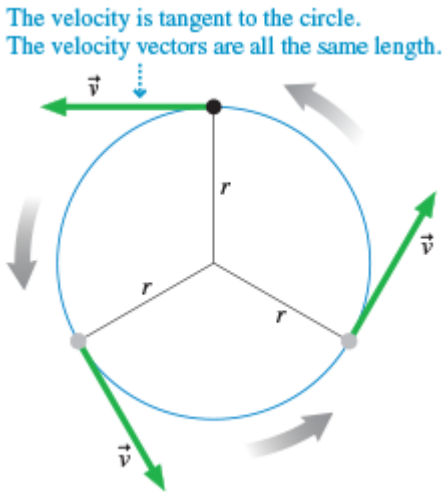
**e.** Right and down, 100 m/s.

**f.** Right and down, more than 100 m/s.

# 4.4 Uniform Circular Motion

Figure 4.21 shows a particle moving around a circle of radius $r$. The particle might be a satellite in an orbit, a ball on the end of a string, or even just a dot painted on the side of a rotating wheel. Circular motion is another example of motion in a plane, but it is quite different from projectile motion.

**Figure 4.21**




A particle in uniform circular motion.

To begin the study of circular motion, consider a particle that moves at *constant speed* around a circle of radius $r$. This is called **uniform circular motion**. Regardless of what the particle represents, its velocity vector $\vec{v}$ is always tangent to the circle. The particle's speed $v$ is constant, so vector $\vec{v}$ is always the same length.

The time interval it takes the particle to go around the circle once, completing one revolution (abbreviated rev), is called the **period** of the motion. Period is represented by the symbol $T$. It's easy to relate the

particle's period $T$ to its speed $v$. For a particle moving with constant speed, speed is simply distance/time. In one period, the particle moves once around a circle of radius $r$ and travels the circumference $2\pi r$. Thus

**(4.21)**

$$v = \frac{1 \text{ circumference}}{1 \text{ period}} = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

**Example 4.9 A rotating crankshaft**

A 4.0-cm-diameter crankshaft turns at 2400 rpm (revolutions per minute). What is the speed of a point on the surface of the crankshaft?

**SOLVE** We need to determine the time it takes the crankshaft to make 1 rev. First, we convert 2400 rpm to revolutions per second:

$$\frac{2400 \text{ rev}}{1 \text{ min}} \times \frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ s}} = 40 \text{ rev/s}$$

If the crankshaft turns 40 times in 1 s, the time for 1 rev is

$$T = \frac{1}{40} \text{ s} = 0.025 \text{ s}$$

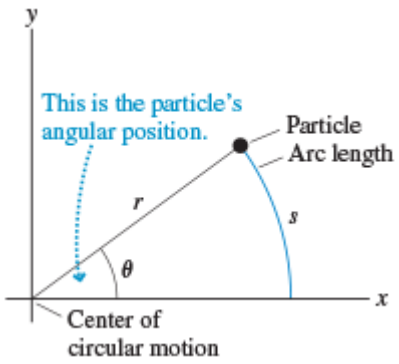
Thus the speed of a point on the surface, where $r = 2.0 \text{ cm} = 0.020 \text{ m}$, is

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \frac{2\pi(0.020 \text{ m})}{0.025 \text{ s}} = 5.0 \text{ m/s}$$

# Angular Position

Rather than using $xy$-coordinates, it will be more convenient to describe the position of a particle in circular motion by its distance $r$ from the center of the circle and its angle $\theta$ from the positive $x$-axis. This is shown in Figure 4.22. The angle $\theta$ is the **angular position** of the particle.

**Figure 4.22**




A particle's position is described by distance $r$ and angle $\theta$.

We can distinguish a position above the $x$-axis from a position that is an equal angle below the $x$-axis by *defining* $\theta$ to be positive when measured *counterclockwise* (ccw) from the positive $x$-axis. An angle measured clockwise (cw) from the positive $x$-axis has a negative value. "Clockwise" and "counterclockwise" in circular motion are analogous, respectively, to "left of the origin" and "right of the origin" in linear motion, which we associated with negative and positive values of $x$. A particle 30° below the positive $x$-axis is equally well described by either $\theta = -30^\circ$ or $\theta = +330^\circ$. We could also describe this particle by $\theta = \frac{11}{12}$ rev, where *revolutions* are another way to measure the angle.

Although degrees and revolutions are widely used measures of angle, mathematicians and scientists usually find it more useful to measure the angle $\theta$ in Figure 4.22 by using the **arc length** $s$ that the particle travels

along the edge of a circle of radius $r$. We define the angular unit of **radians** such that

**(4.22)**

$$\theta(\text{radians}) \equiv \frac{s}{r}$$

The radian, which is abbreviated rad, is the SI unit of angle. An angle of 1 rad has an arc length $s$ exactly equal to the radius $r$.

The arc length completely around a circle is the circle's circumference $2\pi r$. Thus the angle of a full circle is

$$\theta_{\text{full circle}} = \frac{2\pi r}{r} = 2\pi \text{ rad}$$

Circular motion is one of the most common types of motion.

---

This relationship is the basis for the well-known conversion factors

$$1 \text{ rev} = 360^\circ = 2\pi \text{ rad} \quad \textbf{94}$$

As a simple example of converting between radians and degrees, let's convert an angle of 1 rad to degrees:

$$1 \text{ rad} = 1 \text{ rad} \times \frac{360^\circ}{2\pi \text{ rad}} = 57.3^\circ$$

Thus a rough approximation is 1 rad $\approx 60^\circ$. We will often specify angles in degrees, but keep in mind that the SI unit is the radian.

An important consequence of Equation 4.22 is that the arc length spanning angle $\theta$ is

(4.23)

$$s = r\theta \qquad (\text{with } \theta \text{ in rad})$$

This is a result that we will use often, but it is valid *only* if $\theta$ is measured in radians and not in degrees. This very simple relationship between angle and arc length is one of the primary motivations for using radians.

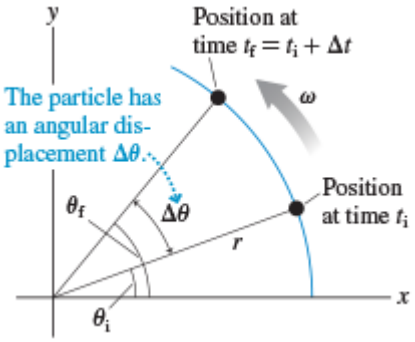
> **Note**
>
> Units of angle are often troublesome. Unlike the kilogram or the second, for which we have standards, the radian is a *defined* unit. It's really just a *name* to remind us that we're dealing with an angle. Consequently, the radian unit sometimes appears or disappears without warning. This seems rather mysterious until you get used to it. This textbook will call your attention to such behavior the first few times it occurs. With a little practice, you'll soon learn when the rad unit is needed and when it's not.

## Angular Velocity

Figure 4.23 shows a particle moving in a circle from an initial angular position $\theta_i$ at time $t_i$ to a final angular position $\theta_f$ at a later time $t_f$. The

change $\Delta\theta = \theta_f - \theta_i$ is called the **angular displacement**. We can measure the particle's circular motion in terms of the rate of change of $\theta$, just as we measured the particle's linear motion in terms of the rate of change of its position $s$.

## Figure 4.23




A particle moves with angular velocity $\omega$.

In analogy with linear motion, let's define the *average angular velocity* to be

**(4.24)**

$$\text{average angular velocity} \equiv \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t}$$

As the time interval $\Delta t$ becomes very small, $\Delta t \to 0$, we arrive at the definition of the instantaneous **angular velocity:**

**(4.25)**

$$\omega \equiv \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t} = \frac{d\theta}{dt} \qquad \text{(angular velocity)}$$

The symbol $\omega$ is a lowercase Greek omega, *not* an ordinary w. The SI unit of angular velocity is rad/s, but °/s, rev/s, and rev/min are also common units. Revolutions per minute is abbreviated rpm.

Angular velocity is the *rate* at which a particle's angular position is changing as it moves around a circle. A particle that starts from $\theta = 0$ rad with an angular velocity of 0.5 rad/s will be at angle $\theta = 0.5$ rad after 1 s, at $\theta = 1.0$ rad after 2 s, at $\theta = 1.5$ rad after 3 s, and so on. Its angular position is increasing at the *rate* of 0.5 radian per second. **A particle moves with uniform circular motion if and only if its angular velocity $\omega$ is constant and unchanging.**

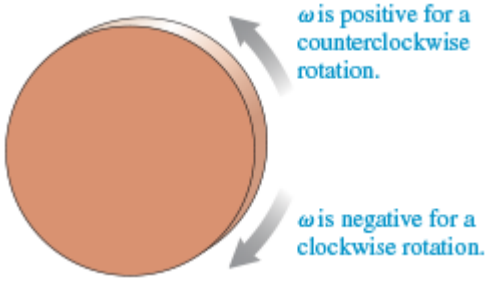
Angular velocity, like the velocity $v_s$ of one-dimensional motion, can be positive or negative. The signs shown in Figure 4.24 are based on the fact that $\theta$ was defined to be positive for a counterclockwise rotation. Because the definition $\omega = d\theta/dt$ for circular motion parallels the definition $v_s = ds/dt$ for linear motion, the graphical relationships we found between $v_s$ and $s$ in Chapter 2 apply equally well to $\omega$ and $\theta$:

**(4.26)**

$$\begin{aligned}\omega &= \text{slope of the } \theta\text{-versus-}t \text{ graph at time } t\\ \theta_\text{f} &= \theta_\text{i} + \text{area under the } \omega\text{-versus-}t \text{ curve between } t_\text{i} \text{ and } t_\text{f}\\ &= \theta_\text{i} + \omega\,\Delta t\end{aligned}$$



## Figure 4.24



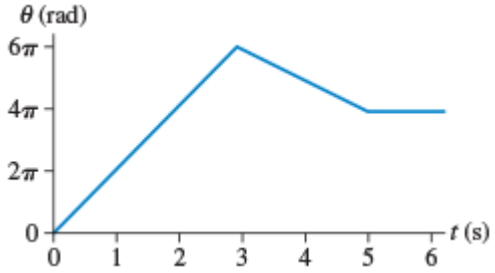

Positive and negative angular velocities.

You will see many more instances where circular motion is analogous to linear motion with angular variables replacing linear variables. Thus much of what you learned about linear kinematics carries over to circular motion.

### Example 4.10 A graphical representation of circular motion

Figure 4.25 shows the angular position of a painted dot on the edge of a rotating wheel. Describe the wheel's motion and draw an $\omega$-versus-$t$ graph.

**Figure 4.25**



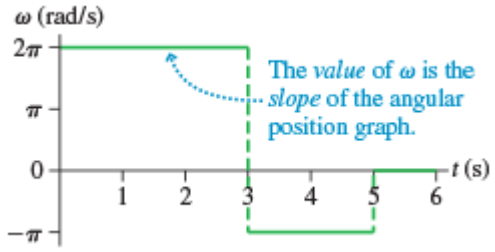

Angular position graph for the wheel of Example 4.10.

**SOLVE** Although circular motion seems to "start over" every revolution (every $2\pi$ rad), the angular position $\theta$ continues to increase. $\theta = 6\pi$ rad corresponds to three revolutions. This wheel makes 3 ccw rev (because $\theta$ is getting more positive) in 3 s, immediately reverses direction and makes 1 cw rev in 2 s, then stops at $t = 5\,\text{s}$ and holds the position $\theta = 4\pi\,\text{rad}$. The angular velocity is found by measuring the slope of the graph:

$$\begin{aligned} t = 0 - 3\,\text{s} \quad & \text{slope} = \Delta\theta/\Delta t = 6\pi\,\text{rad}/3\,\text{s} = 2\pi\,\text{rad/s} \\ t = 3 - 5\,\text{s} \quad & \text{slope} = \Delta\theta/\Delta t = -2\pi\,\text{rad}/2\,\text{s} = -\pi\,\text{rad/s} \\ t > 5\,\text{s} \quad & \text{slope} = \Delta\theta/\Delta t = 0\,\text{rad/s} \end{aligned}$$

These results are shown as an $\omega$-versus-$t$ graph in Figure 4.26. For the first 3 s, the motion is uniform circular motion with $\omega = 2\pi$ rad/s. The wheel then changes to a different uniform circular motion with $\omega = -\pi$ rad/s for 2 s, then stops.

**Figure 4.26**




$\omega$-versus-$t$ graph for the wheel of Example 4.10.

**Note**

In physics, we nearly always want to give results as numerical values. Example 4.9 had a $\pi$ in the equation, but we used its numerical value to compute $v = 5.0$ m/s. However, angles in radians are an exception to this rule. It's okay to leave a $\pi$ in the value of $\theta$ or $\omega$, and we have done so in Example 4.10.

Not surprisingly, the angular velocity $\omega$ is closely related to the period and speed of the motion. As a particle goes around a circle one time, its angular displacement is $\Delta\theta = 2\pi$ rad during the interval $\Delta t = T$. Thus, using the definition of angular velocity, we find

**(4.27)**

$$|\omega| = \frac{2\pi \text{ rad}}{T} \qquad \text{or} \qquad T = \frac{2\pi \text{ rad}}{|\omega|}$$

The period alone gives only the absolute value of $|\omega|$. You need to know the direction of motion to determine the sign of $\omega$.

**Example 4.11 At the roulette wheel**

A small steel roulette ball rolls ccw around the inside of a 30-cm-diameter roulette wheel. The ball completes 2.0 rev in 1.20 s.

**a.** What is the ball's angular velocity?

**b.** What is the ball's position at $t = 2.0\,\text{s}$? Assume $\theta_\text{i} = 0$.

**MODEL** Model the ball as a particle in uniform circular motion.

**SOLVE**



**a.** The period of the ball's motion, the time for 1 rev, is $T = 0.60\,\text{s}$. Angular velocity is positive for ccw motion, so

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi\ \text{rad}}{T} = \frac{2\pi\ \text{rad}}{0.60\ \text{s}} = 10.47\ \text{rad/s}$$

**b.** The ball starts at $\theta_\text{i} = 0\,\text{rad}$. After $\Delta t = 2.0\,\text{s}$, its position is

$$\theta_\text{f} = 0\ \text{rad} + (10.47\ \text{rad/s})(2.0\ \text{s}) = 20.94\ \text{rad}$$

where we've kept an extra significant figure to avoid round-off error. Although this is a mathematically acceptable answer, an observer would say that the ball is always located somewhere between 0° and 360°. Thus it is common practice to subtract an integer number of $2\pi$ rad, representing the completed revolutions. Because $20.94/2\pi = 3.333$, we can write

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_\text{f} &= 20.94 \text{ rad} = 3.333 \times 2\pi \text{ rad} \\ &= 3 \times 2\pi \text{ rad} + 0.333 \times 2\pi \text{ rad} \\ &= 3 \times 2\pi \text{ rad} + 2.09 \text{ rad}\end{aligned}$$

In other words, at $t = 2.0$ s the ball has completed 3 rev and is $2.09 \text{ rad} = 120^\circ$ into its fourth revolution. An observer would say that the ball's position is $\theta_\text{f} = 120^\circ$.

As Figure 4.21 showed, the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ is always tangent to the circle. In other words, the velocity vector has only a *tangential component*, which we will designate $v_t$. The tangential velocity is positive for ccw motion, negative for cw motion.

Combining $v = 2\pi r/T$ for the speed with $\omega = 2\pi/T$ for the angular velocity—but keeping the sign of $\omega$ to indicate the direction of motion—we see that the tangential velocity and the angular velocity are related by

**(4.28)**

$$v_t = \omega r \qquad (\text{with } \omega \text{ in rad/s})$$

Because $v_t$ is the only nonzero component of $\vec{v}$, the particle's speed is $v = |v_t| = |\omega|\, r$. We'll sometimes write this as $v = \omega r$ if there's no ambiguity about the sign of $\omega$.

> **Note**
>
> While it may be convenient in some problems to measure $\omega$ in rev/s or rpm, you must convert to SI units of rad/s before using Equation 4.28.

As a simple example, a particle moving cw at 2.0 m/s in a circle of radius 40 cm has angular velocity

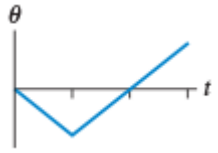
$$\omega = \frac{v_t}{r} = \frac{-2.0\,\text{m/s}}{0.40\,\text{m}} = -5.0\,\text{rad/s}$$

where $v_t$ and $\omega$ are negative because the motion is clockwise. Notice the units. Velocity divided by distance has units of $s^{-1}$. But because the division, in this case, gives us an angular quantity, we've inserted the *dimensionless* unit rad to give $\omega$ the appropriate units of rad/s.

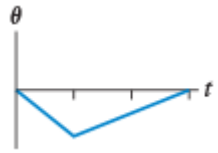
## Stop to Think 4.5

A particle moves cw around a circle at constant speed for 2.0 s. It then reverses direction and moves ccw at half the original speed until it has traveled through the same angle. Which is the particle's angle-versus-time graph?

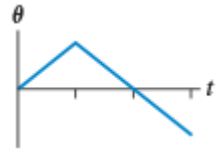
**a.**



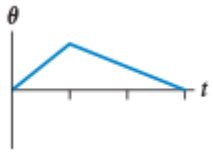

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**

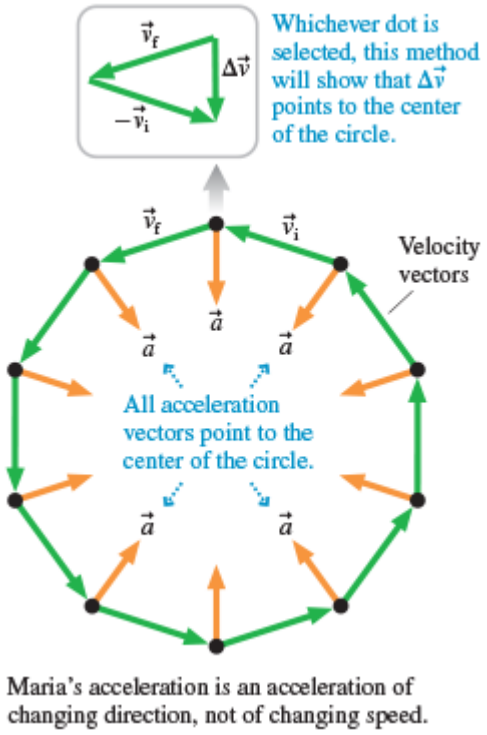

θ
t

# 4.5 Centripetal Acceleration



Figure 4.27 shows a motion diagram of Maria riding a Ferris wheel at the amusement park. Maria has constant speed but *not* constant velocity because her velocity vector is changing direction. She may not be speeding up, but Maria *is* accelerating because her velocity is changing. The inset to Figure 4.27 applies the rules of Tactics Box 4.1 to find that—at every point—**Maria's acceleration vector points toward the center of the circle**. This is an acceleration due to changing direction rather than changing speed. Because the instantaneous velocity is tangent to the circle, $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ are perpendicular to each other at all points on the circle.

## Figure 4.27

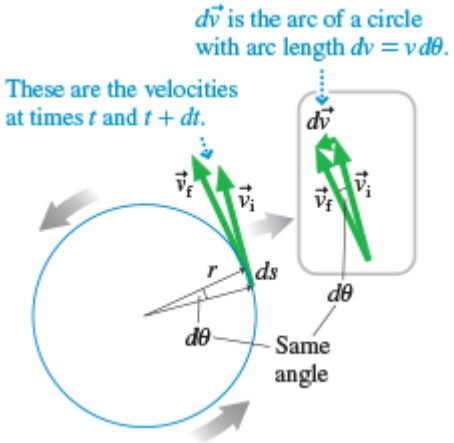



Using Tactics Box 4.1 to find Maria's acceleration on the Ferris wheel.

The acceleration of uniform circular motion is called **centripetal acceleration**, a term from a Greek root meaning "center seeking." Centripetal acceleration is not a new type of acceleration; all we are doing is *naming* an acceleration that corresponds to a particular type of motion. The magnitude of the centripetal acceleration is constant because each successive $\Delta\vec{v}$ in the motion diagram has the same length.

The motion diagram tells us the direction of $\vec{a}$, but it doesn't give us a value for $a$. To complete our description of uniform circular motion, we need to find a quantitative relationship between $a$ and the particle's speed $v$. Figure 4.28 shows the velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{i}}$ at one instant of motion and the velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{f}}$ an infinitesimal amount of time $dt$ later. During this small interval of time, the particle has moved through the infinitesimal angle $d\theta$ and traveled distance $ds = r\,d\theta$.

## Figure 4.28




Finding the acceleration of circular motion.

By definition, the acceleration is $\vec{a} = d\vec{v}/dt$. We can see from the inset to Figure 4.28 that $d\vec{v}$ points toward the center of the circle—that is, $\vec{a}$ is a centripetal acceleration. To find the magnitude of $\vec{a}$, we can see from the isosceles triangle of velocity vectors that, if $d\theta$ is in radians,

**(4.29)**

$$dv = |d\vec{v}| = v\,d\theta$$

For uniform circular motion at constant speed, $v = ds/dt = r\,d\theta/dt$ and thus the time to rotate through angle $d\theta$ is

**(4.30)**

$$dt = \frac{r\,d\theta}{v}$$

Combining Equations 4.29 and 4.30, we see that the acceleration has magnitude

$$a = |\vec{a}| = \frac{|d\vec{v}|}{dt} = \frac{v\,d\theta}{r\,d\theta/v} = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

In vector notation, we can write

---

**(4.31)**

$$\vec{a} = \left(\frac{v^2}{r}, \text{ toward center of circle}\right) \qquad \text{(centripetal acceleration)}$$

Using Equation 4.28, $v = \omega r$, we can also express the magnitude of the centripetal acceleration in terms of the angular velocity $\omega$ as

**(4.32)**

$$a = \omega^2 r$$

> **Note**
>
> Centripetal acceleration is not a constant acceleration. The

magnitude of the centripetal acceleration is constant during uniform circular motion, but the direction of $\vec{a}$ is constantly changing. **Thus the constant-acceleration kinematics equations of Chapter 2 do *not* apply to circular motion.**

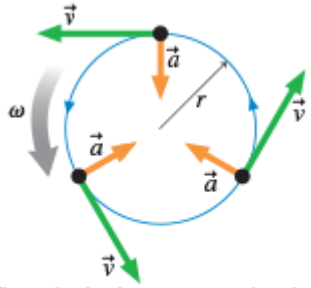
## The Uniform Circular Motion Model

The **uniform circular motion model** is especially important because it applies not only to particles moving in circles but also to the uniform rotation of solid objects.

MODEL 4.2 **Uniform circular motion**

For motion with constant angular velocity $\omega$.

- Applies to a particle moving along a circular trajectory at constant speed or to points on a solid object rotating at a steady rate.
- Mathematically:
  - The tangential velocity is $v_t = \omega r$.
  - The centripetal acceleration is $v^2/r$ or $\omega^2 r$.
  - $\omega$ and $v_t$ are positive for ccw rotation, negative for cw rotation.
- Limitations: Model fails if rotation isn't steady.




The velocity is tangent to the circle.
The acceleration points to the center.

Workbook Exercise 20

**Example 4.12 The acceleration of a Ferris wheel**

A typical carnival Ferris wheel has a radius of 9.0 m and rotates 4.0 times per minute. What speed and acceleration do the riders experience?

**MODEL** Model the rider as a particle in uniform circular motion.

**SOLVE** The period is $T = \frac{1}{4}\ \text{min} = 15\ \text{s}$. From Equation 4.21, a rider's speed is

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \frac{2\pi(9.0\ \text{m})}{15\ \text{s}} = 3.77\ \text{m/s}$$

Consequently, the centripetal acceleration has magnitude

$$a = \frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{(3.77\ \text{m/s})^2}{9.0\ \text{m}} = 1.6\ \text{m/s}^2$$

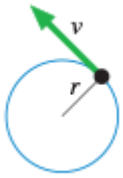
**ASSESS** This was not intended to be a profound problem, merely to illustrate how centripetal acceleration is computed. The

acceleration is enough to be noticed and make the ride interesting, but not enough to be scary.

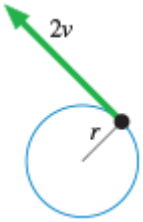
## Stop to Think 4.6

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the centripetal accelerations $a_a$ to $a_e$ of particles a to e.

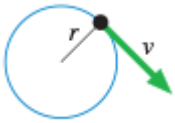
**a.**



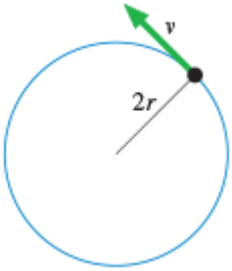

**b.**



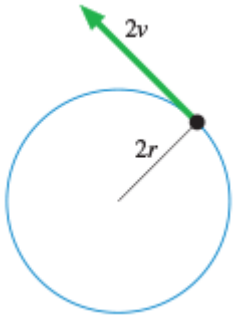

**c.**




**d.**




**e.**


2v
2r

# 4.6 Nonuniform Circular Motion

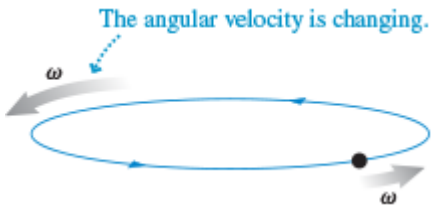
A roller coaster car doing a loop-the-loop slows down as it goes up one side, speeds up as it comes back down the other. The ball in a roulette wheel gradually slows until it stops. Circular motion with a changing speed is called **nonuniform circular motion**. As you'll see, nonuniform circular motion is analogous to accelerated linear motion.

Figure 4.29 shows a point speeding up as it moves around a circle. This might be a car speeding up around a curve or simply a point on a solid object that is rotating faster and faster. The key feature of the motion is a *changing angular velocity*. For linear motion, we defined acceleration as $a_x = dv_x/dt$. By analogy, let's define the **angular acceleration** $\alpha$ (Greek alpha) of a rotating object, or a point on the object, to be

**(4.33)**

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{d\omega}{dt} \qquad \text{(angular acceleration)}$$

**Figure 4.29**

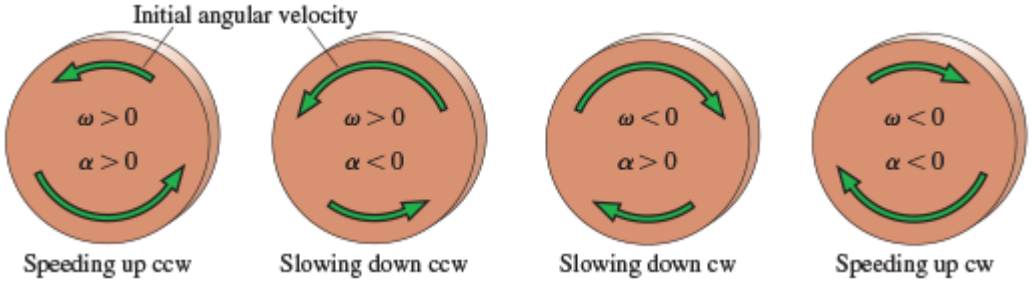



Circular motion with a changing angular velocity.

Angular acceleration is the *rate* at which the angular velocity $\omega$ changes, just as linear acceleration is the rate at which the linear velocity $v_x$ changes. The units of angular acceleration are rad/s$^2$.

For linear acceleration, you learned that $a_x$ and $v_x$ have the same sign when an object is speeding up, opposite signs when it is slowing down. The same rule applies to circular and rotational motion: $\omega$ and $\alpha$ have the same sign when the rotation is speeding up, opposite signs if it is slowing down. These ideas are illustrated in Figure 4.30.

## Figure 4.30




The signs of angular velocity and acceleration. The rotation is speeding up if $\omega$ and $\alpha$ have the same sign, slowing down if they have opposite signs.

> **Note**
>
> Be careful with the sign of $\alpha$. You learned in Chapter 2 that positive and negative values of the acceleration can't be interpreted as simply "speeding up" and "slowing down." Similarly, positive and negative values of angular acceleration can't be interpreted as a rotation that is speeding up or slowing down.

Angular position, angular velocity, and angular acceleration are defined exactly the same as linear position, velocity, and acceleration—simply starting with an angular rather than a linear measurement of position. Consequently, **the graphical interpretation and the kinematic equations of circular/rotational motion with constant angular acceleration are exactly the same as for linear motion with constant acceleration**. This is shown in the **constant angular acceleration model** below. All the

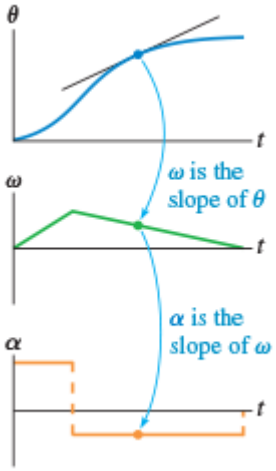
problem-solving techniques you learned in Chapter 2 for linear motion carry over to circular and rotational motion.

MODEL 4.3 **Constant angular acceleration**

For motion with constant angular acceleration $\alpha$.

- Applies to particles with circular trajectories and to rotating solid objects.

- Mathematically: The graphs and equations for this circular/rotational motion are analogous to linear motion with constant acceleration.



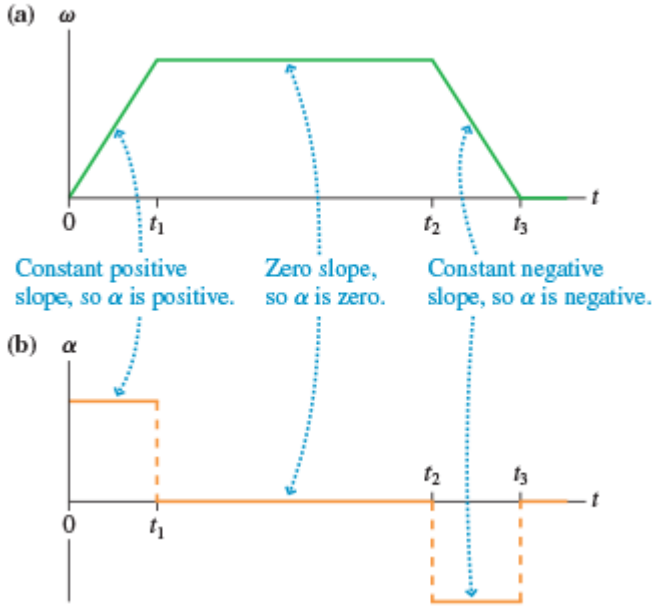

  - Analogs: $s \rightarrow \theta$ $v_s \rightarrow \omega$ $a_s \rightarrow \alpha$

| Rotational kinematics | Linear kinematics |
|---|---|
| $\omega_f = \omega_i + \alpha \Delta t$ | $v_{fs} = v_{is} + a_s \Delta t$ |
| $\theta_f = \theta_i + \omega_i \Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\alpha(\Delta t)^2$ | $s_f = s_i + v_{is} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} a_s (\Delta t)^2$ |
| $\omega_f^2 = \omega_i^2 + 2\alpha \Delta\theta$ | $v_{fs}^2 = v_{is}^2 + 2a_s \Delta s$ |

## Example 4.13 A rotating wheel

Figure 4.31a is a graph of angular velocity versus time for a rotating wheel. Describe the motion and draw a graph of angular acceleration versus time.

### Figure 4.31




ω-versus-t graph and the corresponding α-versus-t graph for a rotating wheel.

**SOLVE** This is a wheel that starts from rest, gradually speeds up *counterclockwise* until reaching top speed at $t_1$, maintains a constant angular velocity until $t_2$, then gradually slows down until stopping at $t_3$. The motion is always ccw because $\omega$ is always positive. The angular acceleration graph of Figure 4.32b is based on the fact that $\alpha$ is the slope of the $\omega$-versus-$t$ graph.

Conversely, the initial linear increase of $\omega$ can be seen as the increasing area under the $\alpha$-versus-$t$ graph as $t$ increases from 0 to $t_1$. The angular velocity doesn't change from $t_1$ to $t_2$ when the area under the $\alpha$-versus-$t$ is zero.

### Example 4.14 A slowing fan

A ceiling fan spinning at 60 rpm coasts to a stop 25 s after being turned off. How many revolutions does it make while stopping?

**MODEL** Model the fan as a rotating object with constant angular acceleration.

**SOLVE** We don't know which direction the fan is rotating, but the fact that the rotation is slowing tells us that $\omega$ and $\alpha$ have opposite signs. We'll assume that $\omega$ is positive. We need to convert the initial angular velocity to SI units:

$$\omega_{\text{i}} = 60\ \frac{\text{rev}}{\text{min}} \times \frac{1\ \text{min}}{60\ \text{s}} \times \frac{2\pi\ \text{rad}}{1\ \text{rev}} = 6.28\ \text{rad/s}$$

We can use the first rotational kinematics equation in Model 4.3 to find the angular acceleration:

$$\alpha = \frac{\omega_{\text{f}} - \omega_{\text{i}}}{\Delta t} = \frac{0\ \text{rad/s} - 6.28\ \text{rad/s}}{25\ \text{s}} = -0.25\ \text{rad/s}^2$$

Then, from the second rotational kinematic equation, the angular displacement during these 25 s is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\theta &= \omega_{\text{i}}\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}\alpha(\Delta t)^2 \\ &= (6.28\ \text{rad/s})\,(25\ \text{s}) + \tfrac{1}{2}\ (-0.25\ \text{rad/s}^2)\,(25\,\text{s})^2 \\ &= 78.9\ \text{rad} \times \frac{1\ \text{rev}}{2\pi\ \text{rad}} = 13\ \text{rev}\end{aligned}$$

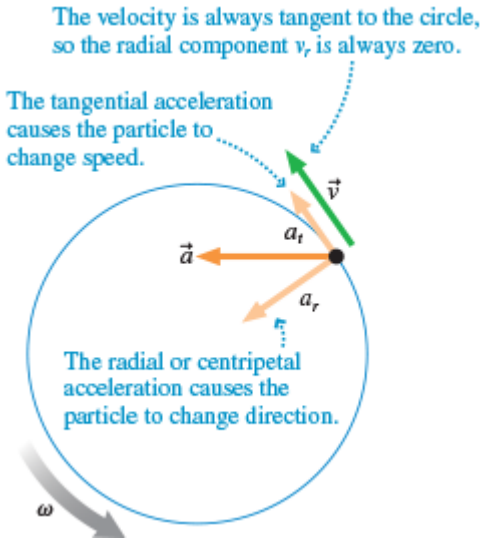
The kinematic equation returns an angle in rad, but the question asks for revolutions, so the last step was a unit conversion.

**ASSESS** Turning through 13 rev in 25 s while stopping seems reasonable. Notice that the problem is solved just like the linear kinematics problems you learned to solve in Chapter 2.

## Tangential Acceleration

Figure 4.32 shows a particle in nonuniform circular motion. *Any* circular motion, whether uniform or nonuniform, has a centripetal acceleration because the particle is changing direction; this was the acceleration component $\vec{a}_\perp$ of Figure 4.6. As a vector component, the centripetal acceleration, which points radially toward the center of the circle, is the **radial acceleration** $a_r$. The expression $a_r = {v_t}^2/r = \omega^2 r$ is still valid in nonuniform circular motion.

**Figure 4.32**




Acceleration in nonuniform circular motion.

---

For a particle to speed up or slow down as it moves around a circle, it needs—in addition to the centripetal acceleration—an acceleration parallel to the trajectory or, equivalently, parallel to $\vec{v}$. This is the acceleration component $\vec{a}_{\parallel}$ associated with changing speed. We'll call this the **tangential acceleration** $a_t$ because, like the velocity $v_t$, it is always tangent to the circle. Because of the tangential acceleration, **the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ of a particle in nonuniform circular motion does not point toward the center of the circle**. It points "ahead" of center for a particle that is speeding up, as in Figure 4.32, but it would point "behind" center for a particle slowing down. You can see from Figure 4.32 that the magnitude of the acceleration is

**(4.34)**

$$a = \sqrt{{a_r}^2 + {a_t}^2}$$

If $a_t$ is constant, then the arc length $s$ traveled by the particle around the circle and the tangential velocity $v_t$ are found from constant-acceleration kinematics:

(4.35)

$$s_{\mathrm{f}} = s_{\mathrm{i}} + v_{\mathrm{i}t}\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}a_t(\Delta t)^2$$
$$v_{\mathrm{f}t} = v_{\mathrm{i}t} + a_t\,\Delta t$$

Because tangential acceleration is the rate at which the tangential velocity changes, $a_t = dv_t/dt$, and we already know that the tangential velocity is related to the angular velocity by $v_t = \omega r$, it follows that

(4.36)

$$a_t = \frac{dv_t}{dt} = \frac{d\,(\omega r)}{dt} = \frac{d\omega}{dt}\,r = \alpha r$$

Thus $v_t = \omega r$ and $a_t = \alpha r$ are analogous equations for the tangential velocity and acceleration. In Example 4.14, where we found the fan to have angular acceleration $\alpha = -0.25\ \mathrm{rad/s^2}$, a blade tip 65 cm from the center would have tangential acceleration

$$a_t = \alpha r = (-0.25\ \mathrm{rad/s^2})\,(0.65\,\mathrm{m}) = -0.16\,\mathrm{m/s^2}$$

**Example 4.15 Analyzing rotational data**

You've been assigned the task of measuring the start-up characteristics of a large industrial motor. After several seconds, when the motor has reached full speed, you know that the angular acceleration will be zero, but you hypothesize that the angular acceleration may be constant during the first couple of seconds as the motor speed increases. To find out, you attach a shaft encoder to the 3.0-cm-diameter axle. A shaft encoder is a device that converts the angular position of a shaft or axle to a signal that can be read by a computer. After setting the computer program to read four values a second, you start the motor and acquire the following data:

| Time (s) | Angle (°) | Time (s) | Angle (°) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 0 | 1.00 | 267 |
| 0.25 | 16 | 1.25 | 428 |
| 0.50 | 69 | 1.50 | 620 |
| 0.75 | 161 | | |

**a.** Do the data support your hypothesis of a constant angular acceleration? If so, what is the angular acceleration? If not, is the angular acceleration increasing or decreasing with time?

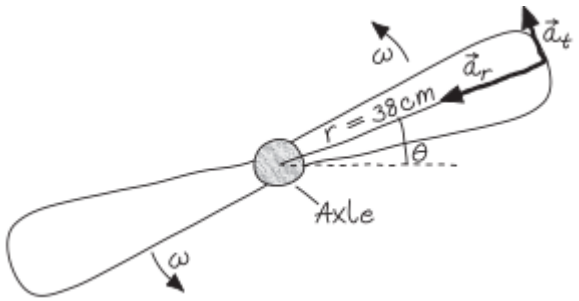
**b.** A 76-cm-diameter blade is attached to the motor shaft. At what time does the acceleration of the tip of the blade reach 10 m/s$^2$?

---

**MODEL** The axle is rotating with nonuniform circular motion. Model the tip of the blade as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 4.33 shows that the blade tip has both a tangential and a radial acceleration.

**Figure 4.33**




Pictorial representation of the axle and blade.

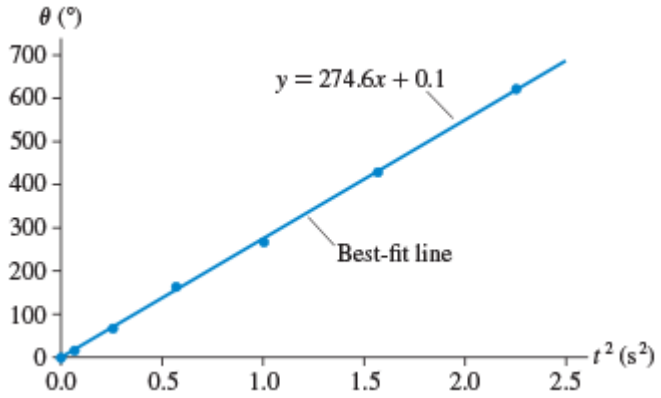
**SOLVE** a. *If* the motor starts up with constant angular acceleration, with $\theta_i = 0$ and $\omega_i = 0\,\text{rad/s}$, the angle-time equation of rotational kinematics is $\theta = \frac{1}{2}\alpha t^2$. This can be written as a linear equation

$y = mx + b$ if we let $\theta = y$ and $t^2 = x$. That is, constant angular acceleration predicts that a graph of $\theta$ versus $t^2$ should be a straight line with slope $m = \frac{1}{2}\alpha$ and $y$-intercept $b = 0$. We can test this.

Figure 4.34 is the graph of $\theta$ versus $t^2$, and it confirms our hypothesis that the motor starts up with constant angular acceleration. The best-fit line, found using a spreadsheet, gives a slope of 274.6°/s². The units come not from the spreadsheet but by looking at the units of rise (°) over run (s² because we're graphing $t^2$ on the $x$-axis). Thus the angular acceleration is

$$\alpha = 2m = 549.2^\circ/\text{s}^2 \times \frac{\pi \text{ rad}}{180^\circ} = 9.6 \text{ rad/s}^2$$

**Figure 4.34**




Graph of $\theta$ versus $t^2$ for the motor shaft.

where we used $180^\circ = \pi$ rad to convert to SI units of rad/s².

c. The magnitude of the linear acceleration is

$$a = \sqrt{{a_r}^2 + {a_t}^2}$$

The tangential acceleration of the blade tip is

$$a_t = \alpha r = (9.6 \text{ rad/s}^2)\,(0.38 \text{ m}) = 3.65 \text{ m/s}^2$$

We were careful to use the blade's radius, not its diameter, and we kept an extra significant figure to avoid round-off error. The radial (centripetal) acceleration increases as the rotation speed increases, and the total acceleration reaches 10 m/s$^2$ when

$$a_r = \sqrt{a^2 - {a_t}^2} = \sqrt{(10\ \text{m/s}^2)^2 - (3.65\ \text{m/s}^2)^2} = 9.31\ \text{m}/\text{s}^2$$

Radial acceleration is $a_r = \omega^2 r$, so the corresponding angular velocity is

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{a_r}{r}} = \sqrt{\frac{9.31\,\text{m/s}^2}{0.38\,\text{m}}} = 4.95\ \text{rad/s}$$

For constant angular acceleration, $\omega = \alpha t$, so this angular velocity is achieved at



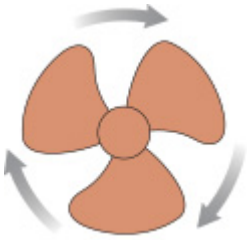
$$t = \frac{\omega}{\alpha} = \frac{4.95\,\text{rad/s}}{9.6\,\text{rad/s}^2} = 0.52\,\text{s}$$

Thus it takes 0.52 s for the acceleration of the blade tip to reach 10 m/s$^2$.

**ASSESS** The acceleration at the tip of a long blade is likely to be large. It seems plausible that the acceleration would reach $10\,\text{m/s}^2$ in $\approx 0.5\,\text{s}$.

## Stop to Think 4.7

The fan blade is slowing down. What are the signs of $\omega$ and $\alpha$?



**a.** $\omega$ is positive and $\alpha$ is positive.

**b.** $\omega$ is positive and $\alpha$ is negative.

**c.** $\omega$ is negative and $\alpha$ is positive.

**d.** $\omega$ is negative and $\alpha$ is negative.

### Challenge Example 4.16 Hit the target!

One day when you come into lab, you see a spring-loaded wheel that can launch a ball straight up. To do so, you place the ball in a cup on the rim of the wheel, turn the wheel to stretch the spring, then release. The wheel rotates through an angle $\Delta\theta$, then hits a stop when the cup is level with the axle and pointing straight up. The cup stops, but the ball flies out and keeps going. You're told that the wheel has been designed to have constant angular acceleration as it rotates through $\Delta\theta$. The lab assignment is first to measure the wheel's angular acceleration. Then the lab instructor is going to place a target at height $h$ above the point where the ball is launched. Your task will be to launch the ball so that it just barely hits the target.

**a.** Find an expression in terms of quantities that you can measure for the angle $\Delta\theta$ that launches the ball at the correct speed.

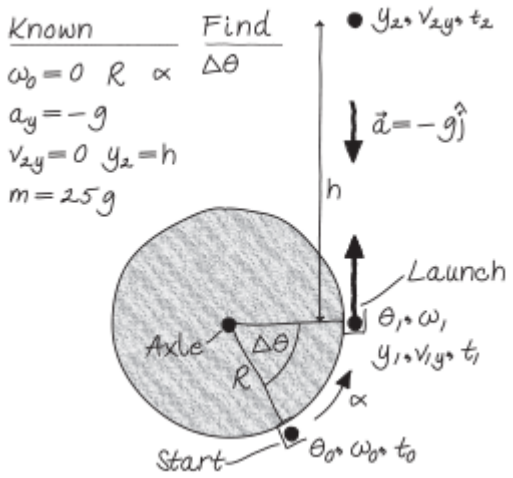
**b.** Evaluate $\Delta\theta$ if the wheel's diameter is 62 cm, you've determined that its angular acceleration is 200 rad/s$^2$, the mass of the ball is 25 g, and the instructor places the target 190 cm above the launch point.

---

**MODEL** Model the ball as a particle. It first undergoes circular motion that we'll model as having constant angular acceleration. We'll then ignore air resistance and model the vertical motion as free fall.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 4.35 is a pictorial representation. This is a two-part problem, with the speed at the end of the angular acceleration being the launch speed for the vertical motion. We've chosen to call the wheel radius $R$ and the target height $h$. These and the angular acceleration $\alpha$ are considered "known" because we will measure them, but we don't have numerical values at this time.

**Figure 4.35**




Pictorial representation of the ball launcher.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The circular motion problem and the vertical motion problem are connected through the ball's speed: The final speed of the angular acceleration is the launch speed of the vertical motion. We don't know anything about time intervals, which suggests using the kinematic equations that relate distance and acceleration (for the vertical motion) and angle and angular acceleration (for the circular motion). For the angular acceleration, with $\omega_0 = 0$ rad/s,

$$\omega_1{}^2 = \omega_0{}^2 + 2\alpha\Delta\theta = 2\alpha\Delta\theta$$

The final speed of the ball and cup, when the wheel hits the stop, is

$$v_1 = \omega_1 R = R\sqrt{2\alpha\Delta\theta}$$

Thus the vertical-motion problem begins with the ball being shot upward with velocity $v_{1y} = R\sqrt{2\alpha\,\Delta\theta}$. How high does it go? The highest point is the point where $v_{2y} = 0$, so the free-fall equation is

$$v_{2y}{}^2 = 0 = v_{1y}{}^2 - 2g\,\Delta y = R^2 \cdot 2\alpha\,\Delta\theta - 2gh$$

Rather than solve for height $h$, we need to solve for the angle that produces a given height. This is

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{gh}{\alpha R^2}$$

Once we've determined the properties of the wheel and then measured the height at which our instructor places the

target, we'll quickly be able to calculate the angle through which we should pull back the wheel to launch the ball.

**b.** For the values given in the problem statement, $\Delta\theta = 0.969 \text{ rad} = 56^\circ$. Don't forget that equations involving angles need values in radians and return values in radians.

**ASSESS** The angle needed to be less than 90° or else the ball would fall out of the cup before launch. And an angle of only a few degrees would seem suspiciously small. Thus 56° seems to be reasonable. Notice that the mass was not needed in this problem. Part of becoming a better problem solver is evaluating the information you have to see what is relevant. Some homework problems will help you develop this skill by providing information that isn't necessary.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 4 has been to learn how to solve problems about motion in a plane.

## General Principles

The **instantaneous velocity**

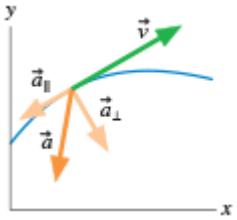
$$\vec{v} = d\vec{r}/dt$$

is a vector tangent to the trajectory.

The **instantaneous acceleration** is

$$\vec{a} = d\vec{v}/dt$$

$\vec{a}_{\parallel}$, the component of $\vec{a}$ parallel to $\vec{v}$, is responsible for change of *speed*. $\vec{a}_{\perp}$, the component of $\vec{a}$ perpendicular to $\vec{v}$, is responsible for change of *direction*.

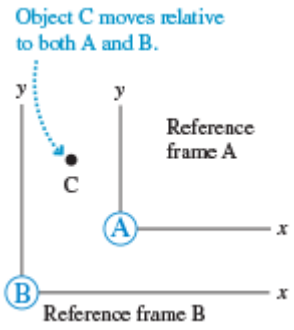



## Relative Motion

If object C moves relative to reference frame A with velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$, then it moves relative to a different reference frame B with velocity

$$\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CB}} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}} + \vec{v}_{\mathrm{AB}}$$

where $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{AB}}$ is the velocity of A relative to B. This is the Galilean transformation of velocity.




# Important Concepts

## Uniform Circular Motion

**Angular velocity** $\omega = d\theta/dt$.

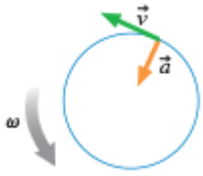
$v_t$ and $\omega$ are constant:

$$v_t = \omega r$$

The centripetal acceleration points toward the center of the circle:

$$a = \frac{v^2}{r} = \omega^2 r$$

It changes the particle's direction but not its speed.



## Nonuniform Circular Motion

**Angular acceleration** $\alpha = d\omega/dt$.

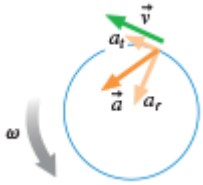
The radial acceleration

$$a_r = \frac{v^2}{r} = \omega^2 r$$

changes the particle's direction. The tangential component

$$a_t = \alpha r$$

changes the particle's speed.




# Applications

## Kinematics in two dimensions

If $\overrightarrow{a}$ is constant, then the $x$- and $y$-components of motion are independent of each other.

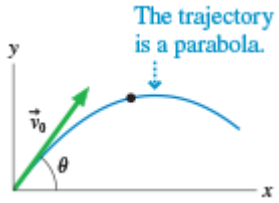
$$\begin{aligned}
x_\mathrm{f} &= x_\mathrm{i} + v_{\mathrm{i}x}\ \Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2} a_x (\Delta t)^2 \\
y_\mathrm{f} &= y_\mathrm{i} + v_{\mathrm{i}y}\ \Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2} a_y (\Delta t)^2 \\
v_{\mathrm{f}x} &= v_{\mathrm{i}x} + a_x\ \Delta t \\
v_{\mathrm{f}y} &= v_{\mathrm{i}y} + a_y\ \Delta t
\end{aligned}$$

**Projectile motion** is motion under the influence of only gravity.

**MODEL** Model as a particle launched with speed $v_0$ at angle $\theta$.

**VISUALIZE** Use coordinates with the $x$-axis horizontal and the $y$-axis vertical.

**SOLVE** The horizontal motion is uniform with $v_x = v_0 \cos \theta$. The vertical motion is free fall with $a_y = -g$. The $x$ and $y$ kinematic equations have the *same* value for $\Delta t$.




## Circular motion kinematics

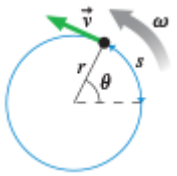
**Period** $T = \dfrac{2\pi r}{v} = \dfrac{2\pi}{\omega}$

**Angular position** $\theta = \dfrac{s}{r}$



**Constant angular acceleration**

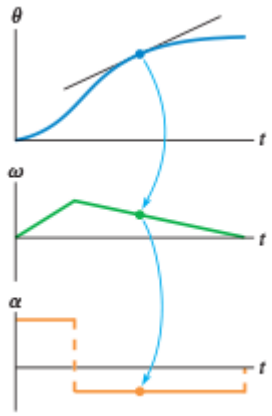
$$\omega_f = \omega_i + \alpha\,\Delta t$$
$$\theta_f = \theta_i + \omega_i\,\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}\alpha(\Delta t)^2$$
$${\omega_f}^2 = {\omega_i}^2 + 2\alpha\,\Delta\theta$$




Circular motion graphs and kinematics are analogous to linear motion with constant acceleration.

Angle, angular velocity, and angular acceleration are related graphically.

- The angular velocity is the slope of the angular position graph.
- The angular acceleration is the slope of the angular velocity graph.




## Terms and Notation

projectile

launch angle, $\theta$

projectile motion model

reference frame

Galilean transformation of velocity

uniform circular motion

period, $T$

angular position, $\theta$

arc length, $s$

radians

angular displacement, $\Delta\theta$

angular velocity, $\omega$

centripetal acceleration

uniform circular motion model

nonuniform circular motion

angular acceleration, $\alpha$

constant angular acceleration model

radial acceleration, $a_r$

tangential acceleration, $a_t$

# Conceptual Questions 105

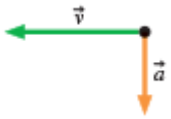
**1.** **a.** At this instant, is the particle in Figure Q4.1 speeding up, slowing down, or traveling at constant speed?

**Figure Q4.1**

**b.** Is this particle curving to the right, curving to the left, or traveling straight?

**2.** **a.** At this instant, is the particle in Figure Q4.2 speeding up, slowing down, or traveling at constant speed?

**Figure Q4.2**




**b.** Is this particle curving upward, curving downward, or traveling straight?

**3.** Tarzan swings through the jungle by hanging from a vine.

**a.** Immediately after stepping off a branch to swing over to another tree, is Tarzan's acceleration $\vec{a}$ zero

or not zero? If not zero, which way does it point? Explain.

**b.** Answer the same question at the lowest point in Tarzan's swing.

**4.** A projectile is launched at an angle of 30°.

**a.** Is there any point on the trajectory where $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ are parallel to each other? If so, where?

**b.** Is there any point where $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ are perpendicular to each other? If so, where?

**5.** For a projectile, which of the following quantities are constant during the flight: $x$, $y$, $r$, $v_x$, $v_y$, $v$, $a_x$, $a_y$? Which of these quantities are zero throughout the flight?

**6.** A cart that is rolling at constant velocity on a level table fires a ball straight up.

**a.** When the ball comes back down, will it land in front of the launching tube, behind the launching tube, or directly in the tube? Explain.

**b.** Will your answer change if the cart is accelerating in the forward direction? If so, how?

**7.** A rock is thrown from a bridge at an angle 30° below horizontal. Immediately after the rock is released, is the magnitude of its acceleration greater than, less than, or equal to $g$? Explain.

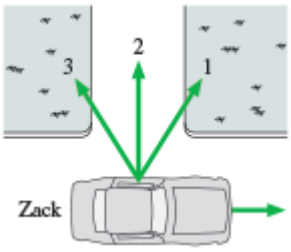
**8.** Anita is running to the right at 5 m/s in Figure Q4.8. Balls 1 and 2 are thrown toward her by friends standing on the ground. According to Anita, both balls are approaching her at 10 m/s. Which ball was thrown at a faster speed? Or were they thrown with the same speed? Explain.

**Figure Q4.8**

**9.** An electromagnet on the ceiling of an airplane holds a steel ball. When a button is pushed, the magnet releases the ball. The experiment is first done while the plane is parked on the ground, and the point where the ball hits the floor is marked with an X. Then the experiment is repeated while the plane is flying level at a steady 500 mph. Does the ball land slightly in front of the X (toward the nose of the plane), on the X, or slightly behind the X (toward the tail of the plane)? Explain.

**10.** Zack is driving past his house in Figure Q4.10. He wants to toss his physics book out the window and have it land in his driveway. If he lets go of the book exactly as he passes the end of the driveway, should he direct his throw outward and toward the front of the car (throw 1), straight outward (throw 2), or outward and toward the back of the car (throw 3)? Explain.

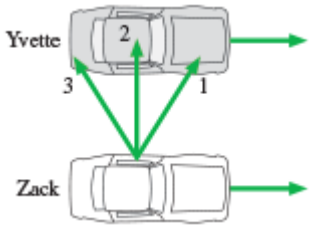
**Figure Q4.10**




**11.** In Figure Q4.11, Yvette and Zack are driving down the freeway side by side with their windows down. Zack wants

to toss his physics book out the window and have it land in Yvette's front seat. Ignoring air resistance, should he direct his throw outward and toward the front of the car (throw 1), straight outward (throw 2), or outward and toward the back of the car (throw 3)? Explain.

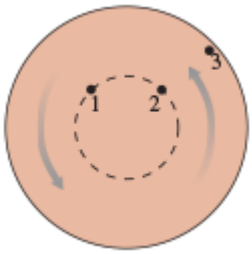
### Figure Q4.11




**12.** In uniform circular motion, which of the following quantities are constant: speed, instantaneous velocity, the tangential component of velocity, the radial component of acceleration, the tangential component of acceleration? Which of these quantities are zero throughout the motion?

**13.** Figure Q4.13 shows three points on a steadily rotating wheel.

### Figure Q4.13

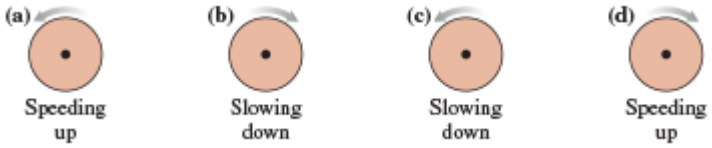



**a.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the angular velocities $\omega_1$, $\omega_2$, and $\omega_3$ of these points. Explain.

**b.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the speeds $v_1$, $v_2$, and $v_3$ of these points. Explain.

**14.** Figure Q4.14 shows four rotating wheels. For each, determine the signs (+ or –) of $\omega$ and $\alpha$.

**Figure Q4.14**




**15.** Figure Q4.15 shows a pendulum at one end point of its arc.

**Figure Q4.15**

**a.** At this point, is $\omega$ positive, negative, or zero? Explain.

**b.** At this point, is $\alpha$ positive, negative, or zero? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

## Exercises

### Section 4.1 Motion in Two Dimensions

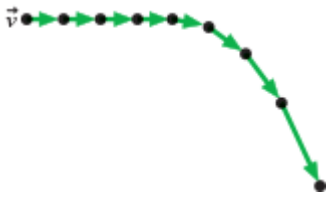
Problems 1 and 2 show a partial motion diagram. For each:

**a.** Complete the motion diagram by adding acceleration vectors.

**b.** Write a physics *problem* for which this is the correct motion diagram. Be imaginative! Don't forget to include enough information to make the problem complete and to state clearly what is to be found.

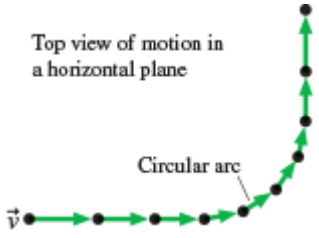
**1.** •

**Figure EX4.1**

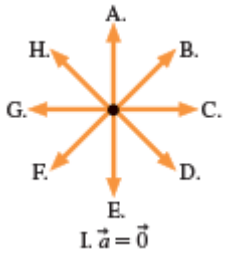



**2.** •

**Figure EX4.2**




Answer Problems 3, 4, 5 by choosing one of the eight labeled acceleration vectors or selecting option I: $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$.

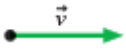



**3.** •• At this instant, the particle has steady speed and is curving to the right. What is the direction of its acceleration?

**Figure EX4.3**

**4.** •• At this instant, the particle is speeding up and curving upward. What is the direction of its acceleration?

**Figure EX4.4**



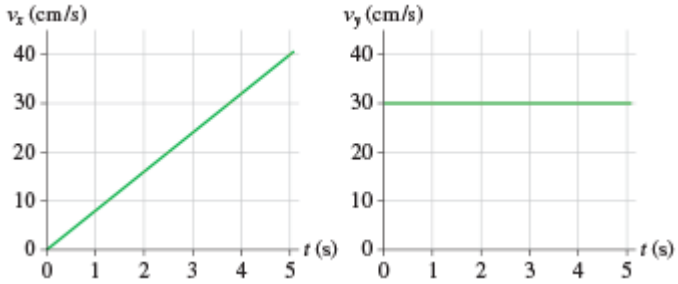

**5.** •• At this instant, the particle is speeding up and curving downward. What is the direction of its acceleration?

**Figure EX4.5**

**6.** •• A rocket-powered hockey puck moves on a horizontal frictionless table. Figure EX4.6 shows graphs of $v_x$ and $v_y$,

the $x$- and $y$-components of the puck's velocity. The puck starts at the origin.

**Figure EX4.6**

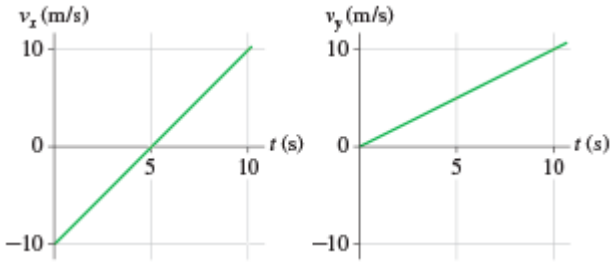



**a.** In which direction is the puck moving at $t = 2$ s? Give your answer as an angle from the $x$-axis.

**b.** How far from the origin is the puck at $t = 5$ s?

**7.** •• A rocket-powered hockey puck moves on a horizontal frictionless table. Figure EX4.7 shows graphs of $v_x$ and $v_y$, the $x$- and $y$-components of the puck's velocity. The puck starts at the origin. What is the magnitude of the puck's acceleration at $t = 5$ s?

**Figure EX4.7**




**8.** •• **CALC** A particle's trajectory is described by $x = \left(\frac{1}{2}t^3 - 2t^2\right)\text{m}$ and $y = \left(\frac{1}{2}t^2 - 2t\right)\text{m}$, where $t$ is in s.

**a.** What are the particle's position and speed at $t = 0$ s and $t = 4$ s?

**b.** What is the particle's direction of motion, measured as an angle from the $x$-axis, at $t = 0$ s and $t = 4$ s?

**9.** • **CALC** A particle moving in the $xy$-plane has velocity $\vec{v} = (2t\hat{i} + (3 - t^2)\hat{j})$ m/s, where $t$ is in s. What is the particle's acceleration vector at $t = 4$ s?

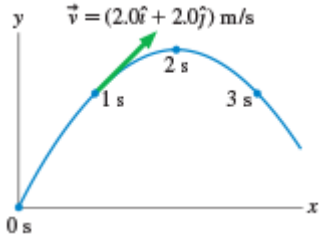
**10.** •• **CALC** You have a remote-controlled car that has been programmed to have velocity $\vec{v} = (-3t\hat{i} + 2t^2\hat{j})$ m/s, where $t$ is in s. At $t = 0$ s, the car is at $\vec{r}_0 = (3.0\hat{i} + 2.0\hat{j})$ m. What are the car's (a) position vector and (b) acceleration vector at $t = 2.0$ s?

## Section 4.2 Projectile Motion

**11.** •• A ball thrown horizontally at 25 m/s travels a horizontal distance of 50 m before hitting the ground. From what height was the ball thrown?

**12.** • A physics student on Planet Exidor throws a ball, and it follows the parabolic trajectory shown in Figure EX4.12. The ball's position is shown at 1 s intervals until $t = 3$ s. At $t = 1$ s, the ball's velocity is $\vec{v} = (2.0\ \hat{i} + 2.0\ \hat{j})$ m/s.

**Figure EX4.12**




**a.** Determine the ball's velocity at $t = 0$ s, 2 s, and 3 s.

**b.** What is the value of $g$ on Planet Exidor?

**c.** What was the ball's launch angle?

**13.** •• A supply plane needs to drop a package of food to scientists working on a glacier in Greenland. The plane flies 100 m above the glacier at a speed of 150 m/s. How far short of the target should it drop the package?

**14.** •• A rifle is aimed horizontally at a target 50 m away. The bullet hits the target 2.0 cm below the aim point.

**a.** What was the bullet's flight time?

**b.** What was the bullet's speed as it left the barrel?

**15.** •• In the Olympic shotput event, an athlete throws the shot with an initial speed of 12.0 m/s at a 40.0° angle from the horizontal. The shot leaves her hand at a height of 1.80 m above the ground. How far does the shot travel?

**16.** •• On the Apollo 14 mission to the moon, astronaut Alan Shepard hit a golf ball with a 6 iron. The free-fall acceleration on the moon is $1/6$ of its value on earth. Suppose he hit the ball with a speed of 25 m/s at an angle 30° above the horizontal.

**a.** How much farther did the ball travel on the moon than it would have on earth?

**b.** For how much more time was the ball in flight?

**17.** ••• A baseball player friend of yours wants to determine his pitching speed. You have him stand on a ledge and throw the ball horizontally from an elevation 4.0 m above the ground. The ball lands 25 m away. What is his pitching speed?

## Section 4.3 Relative Motion

**18.** •• A boat takes 3.0 hours to travel 30 km down a river, then 5.0 hours to return. How fast is the river flowing?

**19.** •• When the moving sidewalk at the airport is broken, as it often seems to be, it takes you 50 s to walk from your gate to baggage claim. When it is working and you stand on the moving sidewalk the entire way, without walking, it takes 75 s to travel the same distance. How long will it take you to travel from the gate to baggage claim if you walk while riding on the moving sidewalk?

**20.** • Mary needs to row her boat across a 100-m-wide river that is flowing to the east at a speed of 1.0 m/s. Mary can row with a speed of 2.0 m/s.

**a.** If Mary points her boat due north, how far from her intended landing spot will she be when she reaches the opposite shore?

**b.** What is her speed with respect to the shore?

**21.** • A kayaker needs to paddle north across a 100-m-wide harbor. The tide is going out, creating a tidal current that flows to the east at 2.0 m/s. The kayaker can paddle with a speed of 3.0 m/s.

**a.** In which direction should he paddle in order to travel straight across the harbor?

**b.** How long will it take him to cross?



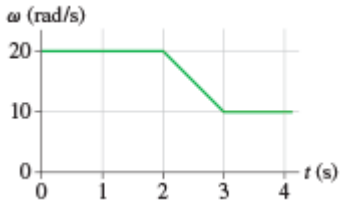
**22.** •• Susan, driving north at 60 mph, and Trent, driving east at 45 mph, are approaching an intersection. What is Trent's speed relative to Susan's reference frame?

## Section 4.4 Uniform Circular Motion

**23.** •• Figure EX4.23 shows the angular-velocity-versus-time graph for a particle moving in a circle. How many

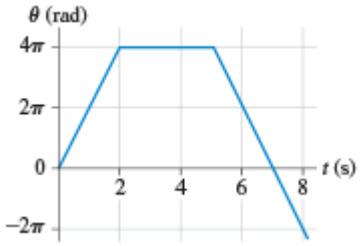
revolutions does the object make during the first 4 s?

**Figure EX4.23**



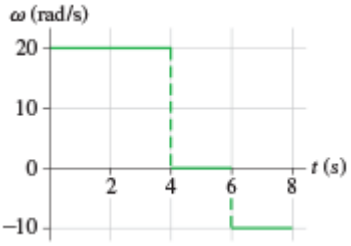

**24.** • Figure EX4.24 shows the angular-position-versus-time graph for a particle moving in a circle. What is the particle's angular velocity at (a) $t = 1$ s, (b) $t = 4$ s, and (c) $t = 7$ s?

**Figure EX4.24**




**25.** •• Figure EX4.25 shows the angular-velocity-versus-time graph for a particle moving in a circle, starting from $\theta_0 = 0$ rad at $t = 0$ s. Draw the angular-position-versus-time graph. Include an appropriate scale on both axes.

**Figure EX4.25**



**26.** •• The earth's radius is about 4000 miles. Kampala, the capital of Uganda, and Singapore are both nearly on the equator. The distance between them is 5000 miles. The flight from Kampala to Singapore takes 9.0 hours. What is the plane's angular velocity with respect to the earth's surface? Give your answer in °/h.

**27.** • An old-fashioned single-play vinyl record rotates on a turntable at 45 rpm. What are (a) the angular velocity in rad/s and (b) the period of the motion?

**28.** •• As the earth rotates, what is the speed of (a) a physics student in Miami, Florida, at latitude 26°, and (b) a physics student in Fairbanks, Alaska, at latitude 65°? Ignore the revolution of the earth around the sun. The radius of the earth is 6400 km.

**29.** • How fast must a plane fly along the earth's equator so that the sun stands still relative to the passengers? In which direction must the plane fly, east to west or west to east? Give your answer in both km/h and mph. The earth's radius is 6400 km.

**30.** •• A 3000-m-high mountain is located on the equator. How much faster does a climber on top of the mountain move than a surfer at a nearby beach? The earth's radius is 6400 km.

## Section 4.5 Centripetal Acceleration

**31.** • **BIO** Peregrine falcons are known for their maneuvering ability. In a tight circular turn, a falcon can attain a centripetal acceleration 1.5 times the free-fall acceleration. What is the radius of the turn if the falcon is flying at 25 m/s?

**32.** • **BIO** To withstand "g-forces" of up to 10 g's, caused by suddenly pulling out of a steep dive, fighter jet pilots train on a "human centrifuge." 10 g's is an acceleration of 98 $m/s^2$. If the length of the centrifuge arm is 12 m, at what speed is the rider moving when she experiences 10 g's?

**33.** •• The radius of the earth's very nearly circular orbit around the sun is $1.5 \times 10^{11}$ m. Find the magnitude of the earth's (a) velocity, (b) angular velocity, and (c) centripetal acceleration as it travels around the sun. Assume a year of 365 days.

**34.** •• A speck of dust on a spinning DVD has a centripetal acceleration of 20 $m/s^2$.

**a.** What is the acceleration of a different speck of dust that is twice as far from the center of the disk?

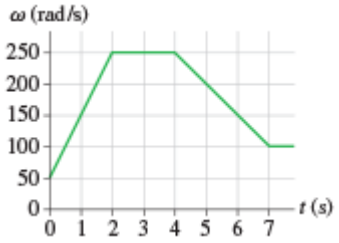
**b.** What would be the acceleration of the first speck of dust if the disk's angular velocity was doubled?

**35.** •• Your roommate is working on his bicycle and has the bike upside down. He spins the 60-cm-diameter wheel, and you notice that a pebble stuck in the tread goes by three times every second. What are the pebble's speed and acceleration?

## Section 4.6 Nonuniform Circular Motion

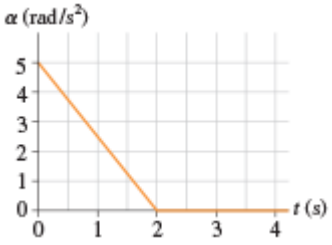
**36.** • Figure EX4.36 shows the angular velocity graph of the crankshaft in a car. What is the crankshaft's angular acceleration at (a) $t = 1$ s, (b) $t = 3$ s, and (c) $t = 5$ s?

**Figure EX4.36**




**37.** •• Figure EX4.37 shows the angular acceleration graph of a turntable that starts from rest. What is the turntable's angular velocity at (a) $t = 1$ s, (b) $t = 2$ s, and (c) $t = 3$ s?

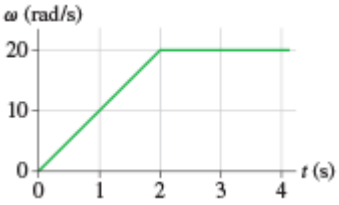
**Figure EX4.37**




**38.** •• Figure EX4.38 shows the angular-velocity-versus-time graph for a particle moving in a circle. How many revolutions does the object make during the first 4 s?

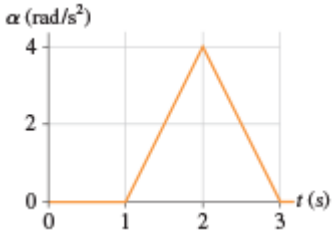
**Figure EX4.38**






**39.** •• A wheel initially rotating at 60 rpm experiences the angular acceleration shown in Figure EX4.39. What is the wheel's angular velocity, in rpm, at $t = 3.0$ s?

**Figure EX4.39**




**40.** •• A 5.0-m-diameter merry-go-round is initially turning with a 4.0 s period. It slows down and stops in 20 s.

**a.** Before slowing, what is the speed of a child on the rim?

**b.** How many revolutions does the merry-go-round make as it stops?

**41.** •• An electric fan goes from rest to 1800 rpm in 4.0 s. What is its angular acceleration?

**42.** •• A bicycle wheel is rotating at 50 rpm when the cyclist begins to pedal harder, giving the wheel a constant angular acceleration of $0.50\ \text{rad/s}^2$.

**a.** What is the wheel's angular velocity, in rpm, 10 s later?

**b.** How many revolutions does the wheel make during this time?

**43.** •• Starting from rest, a DVD steadily accelerates to 500 rpm in 1.0 s, rotates at this angular speed for 3.0 s, then steadily decelerates to a halt in 2.0 s. How many revolutions does it make?

# Problems

**44.** ••• A spaceship maneuvering near Planet Zeta is located at $\vec{r} = (600\hat{i} - 400\hat{j} + 200\hat{k}) \times 10^3$ km, relative to the planet, and traveling at $\vec{v} = 9500\hat{i}$ m/s. It turns on its

thruster engine and accelerates with $\vec{a} = (40\hat{i} - 20\hat{k})\ \text{m/s}^2$ for 35 min. What is the spaceship's position when the engine shuts off? Give your answer as a position vector measured in km.

**45.** ••• **CALC** A particle moving in the *xy*-plane has velocity $\vec{v}_0 = v_{0x}\hat{i} + v_{0y}\hat{j}$ at $t = 0$. It undergoes acceleration $\vec{a} = bt\hat{i} - cv_y\hat{j}$, where $b$ and $c$ are constants. Find an expression for the particle's velocity at a later time $t$.

**46.** •• A projectile's horizontal range over level ground is ${v_0}^2 \sin 2\theta/g$. At what launch angle or angles will the projectile land at half of its maximum possible range?

**47.** ••

**a.** A projectile is launched with speed $v_0$ and angle $\theta$. Derive an expression for the projectile's maximum height $h$.

**b.** A baseball is hit with a speed of 33.6 m/s. Calculate its height and the distance traveled if it is hit at angles of 30.0°, 45.0°, and 60.0°.

**48.** ••• **CALC** A projectile is launched from ground level at angle $\theta$ and speed $v_0$ into a headwind that causes a constant horizontal acceleration of magnitude $a$ opposite the direction of motion.

**a.** Find an expression in terms of $a$ and $g$ for the launch angle that gives maximum range.

**b.** What is the angle for maximum range if $a$ is 10% of $g$?

**49.** ••• **BIO** A gray kangaroo can bound across level ground with each jump carrying it 10 m from the takeoff point. Typically the kangaroo leaves the ground at a 20° angle. If this is so:

**a.** What is its takeoff speed?

**b.** What is its maximum height above the ground?

**50.** •• A ball is thrown toward a cliff of height $h$ with a speed of 30 m/s and an angle of 60° above horizontal. It lands on the edge of the cliff 4.0 s later.

**a.** How high is the cliff?

**b.** What was the maximum height of the ball?

**c.** What is the ball's impact speed?

**51.** •• A tennis player hits a ball 2.0 m above the ground. The ball leaves his racquet with a speed of 20.0 m/s at an angle 5.0° above the horizontal. The horizontal distance to the net is 7.0 m, and the net is 1.0 m high. Does the ball clear the net? If so, by how much? If not, by how much does it miss?

**52.** •• You are target shooting using a toy gun that fires a small ball at a speed of 15 m/s. When the gun is fired at an angle of 30° above horizontal, the ball hits the bull's-eye of a target at the same height as the gun. Then the target distance is halved. At what angle must you aim the gun to hit the bull's-eye in its new position? (Mathematically there are two solutions to this problem; the physically reasonable answer is the smaller of the two.)

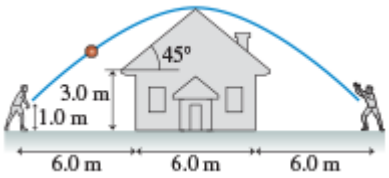
**53.** •• A 35 g steel ball is held by a ceiling-mounted electromagnet 3.5 m above the floor. A compressed-air cannon sits on the floor, 4.0 m to one side of the point directly under the ball. When a button is pressed, the ball drops and, simultaneously, the cannon fires a 25 g plastic ball. The two balls collide 1.0 m above the floor. What was the launch speed of the plastic ball?

**54.** •• You are watching an archery tournament when you start wondering how fast an arrow is shot from the bow. Remembering your physics, you ask one of the archers to shoot an arrow parallel to the ground. You find the arrow stuck in the ground 60 m away, making a 3.0° angle with the ground. How fast was the arrow shot?

**55.** •• You're 6.0 m from one wall of the house seen in Figure P4.55. You want to toss a ball to your friend who is 6.0 m from the opposite wall. The throw and catch each occur 1.0 m above the ground.



**Figure P4.55**

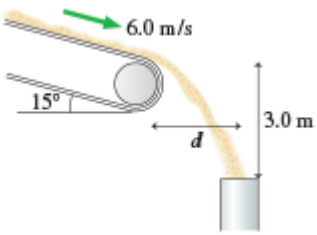



**a.** What minimum speed will allow the ball to clear the roof?

**b.** At what angle should you toss the ball?

**56.** •• Sand moves without slipping at 6.0 m/s down a conveyer that is tilted at 15°. The sand enters a pipe 3.0 m below the end of the conveyer belt, as shown in Figure P4.56. What is the horizontal distance $d$ between the conveyer belt and the pipe?

**Figure P4.56**



**57.** •• A stunt man drives a car at a speed of 20 m/s off a 30-m-high cliff. The road leading to the cliff is inclined upward at an angle of 20°.

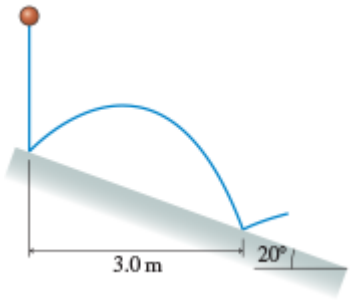
**a.** How far from the base of the cliff does the car land?

**b.** What is the car's impact speed?

**58.** ••• **BIO** A javelin thrower standing at rest holds the center of the javelin behind her head, then accelerates it through a distance of 70 cm as she throws. She releases the javelin 2.0 m above the ground traveling at an angle of 30° above the horizontal. Top-rated javelin throwers do throw at about a 30° angle, not the 45° you might have expected, because the biomechanics of the arm allow them to throw the javelin much faster at 30° than they would be able to at 45°. In this throw, the javelin hits the ground 62 m away. What was the acceleration of the javelin during the throw? Assume that it has a constant acceleration.

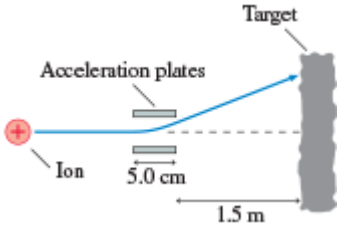
**59.** •• A rubber ball is dropped onto a ramp that is tilted at 20°, as shown in Figure P4.59. A bouncing ball obeys the "law of reflection," which says that the ball leaves the surface at the same angle it approached the surface. The ball's next bounce is 3.0 m to the right of its first bounce. What is the ball's rebound speed on its first bounce?

**Figure P4.59**




**60.** ••• **BIO** You are asked to consult for the city's research hospital, where a group of doctors is investigating the bombardment of cancer tumors with high-energy ions. As Figure P4.60 shows, ions are fired directly toward the center of the tumor at speeds of $5.0 \times 10^6$ m/s To cover the entire tumor area, the ions are deflected sideways by passing them between two charged metal plates that accelerate the ions perpendicular to the direction of their initial motion. The acceleration region is 5.0 cm long, and the ends of the acceleration plates are 1.5 m from the target. What sideways acceleration is required to deflect an ion 2.0 cm to one side?

**Figure P4.60**




**61.** •• Ships A and B leave port together. For the next two hours, ship A travels at 20 mph in a direction 30° west of north while ship B travels 20° east of north at 25 mph.

**a.** What is the distance between the two ships two hours after they depart?

**b.** What is the speed of ship A as seen by ship B?

**62.** •• While driving north at 25 m/s during a rainstorm you notice that the rain makes an angle of 38° with the vertical. While driving back home moments later at the same speed but in the opposite direction, you see that the rain is falling straight down. From these observations, determine the speed and angle of the raindrops relative to the ground.

**63.** •• You've been assigned the task of using a shaft encoder —a device that measures the angle of a shaft or axle and provides a signal to a computer—to analyze the rotation of an engine crankshaft under certain conditions. The table lists the crankshaft's angles over a 0.6 s interval.

| Time (s) | Angle (rad) |
|---|---|
| 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.1 | 2.0 |
| 0.2 | 3.2 |
| 0.3 | 4.3 |
| 0.4 | 5.3 |
| 0.5 | 6.1 |
| 0.6 | 7.0 |

Is the crankshaft rotating with uniform circular motion? If so, what is its angular velocity in rpm? If not, is the angular acceleration positive or negative?

**64.** •• A circular track has several concentric rings where people can run at their leisure. Phil runs on the outermost track with radius $r_p$ while Annie runs on an inner track with radius $r_A = 0.80 r_p$. The runners start side by side, along a radial line, and run at the same speed in a counterclockwise direction. How many revolutions has

Annie made when Annie's and Phil's velocity vectors point in opposite directions for the first time?

**65.** ••• A typical laboratory centrifuge rotates at 4000 rpm. Test tubes have to be placed into a centrifuge very carefully because of the very large accelerations.

**a.** What is the acceleration at the end of a test tube that is 10 cm from the axis of rotation?

**b.** For comparison, what is the magnitude of the acceleration a test tube would experience if dropped from a height of 1.0 m and stopped in a 1.0-ms-long encounter with a hard floor?

**66.** •• **BIO** Astronauts use a centrifuge to simulate the acceleration of a rocket launch. The centrifuge takes 30 s to speed up from rest to its top speed of 1 rotation every 1.3 s. The astronaut is strapped into a seat 6.0 m from the axis.

**a.** What is the astronaut's tangential acceleration during the first 30 s?

**b.** How many g's of acceleration does the astronaut experience when the device is rotating at top speed? Each 9.8 $m/s^2$ of acceleration is 1 g.

**67.** •• Communications satellites are placed in a circular orbit where they stay directly over a fixed point on the equator as the earth rotates. These are called *geosynchronous orbits*. The radius of the earth is $6.37 \times 10^6$ m, and the altitude of a geosynchronous orbit is $3.58 \times 10^7$ m ($\approx 22,000$ miles). What are (a) the speed and (b) the magnitude of the acceleration of a satellite in a geosynchronous orbit?

**68.** •• A computer hard disk 8.0 cm in diameter is initially at rest. A small dot is painted on the edge of the disk. The

disk accelerates at 600 rad/s$^2$ for $\frac{1}{2}$s, then coasts at a steady angular velocity for another $\frac{1}{2}$s.

**a.** What is the speed of the dot at $t = 1.0$ s?

**b.** Through how many revolutions has the disk turned?

**69.** •• A high-speed drill rotating ccw at 2400 rpm comes to a halt in 2.5 s.

**a.** What is the magnitude of the drill's angular acceleration?

**b.** How many revolutions does it make as it stops?

**70.** •• A turbine is spinning at 3800 rpm. Friction in the bearings is so low that it takes 10 min to coast to a stop. How many revolutions does the turbine make while stopping?

**71.** •• Your 64-cm-diameter car tire is rotating at 3.5 rev/s when suddenly you press down hard on the accelerator. After traveling 200 m, the tire's rotation has increased to 6.0 rev/s. What was the tire's angular acceleration? Give your answer in rad/s$^2$.

**72.** •• **CALC** The angular velocity of a process control motor is $\omega = (20 - \frac{1}{2}t^2)$ rad/s, where $t$ is in seconds.

**a.** At what time does the motor reverse direction?

**b.** Through what angle does the motor turn between $t = 0$ s and the instant at which it reverses direction?

**73.** •• A Ferris wheel of radius $R$ speeds up with angular acceleration $\alpha$ starting from rest. Find an expression for the (a) velocity and (b) centripetal acceleration of a rider after the Ferris wheel has rotated through angle $\Delta\theta$.

**74.** ••• **CALC** A 6.0-cm-diameter gear rotates with angular velocity $\omega = (2.0 + \frac{1}{2}t^2)\,\text{rad/s}$, where $t$ is in seconds. At $t = 4.0\,\text{s}$, what are:

**a.** The gear's angular acceleration?

**b.** The tangential acceleration of a tooth on the gear?

**75.** •• **CALC** A painted tooth on a spinning gear has angular acceleration $\alpha = (20 - t)\ \text{rad/s}^2$, where $t$ is in s. Its initial angular velocity, at $t = 0\,\text{s}$, is 300 rpm. What is the tooth's angular velocity in rpm at $t = 20\,\text{s}$?

**76.** ••• A car starts from rest on a curve with a radius of 120 m and accelerates tangentially at 1.0 m/s$^2$. Through what angle will the car have traveled when the magnitude of its total acceleration is 2.0 m/s$^2$?

**77.** ••• A long string is wrapped around a 6.0-cm-diameter cylinder, initially at rest, that is free to rotate on an axle. The string is then pulled with a constant acceleration of 1.5 m/s$^2$ until 1.0 m of string has been unwound. If the string unwinds without slipping, what is the cylinder's angular speed, in rpm, at this time?

In Problems 78, 79, 80 you are given the equations that are used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which these are the correct equations. Be sure that the answer your problem requests is consistent with the equations given.

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem, including a pictorial representation.

**78.**

$$100\ \text{m} = 0\ \text{m} + (50\cos\theta\ \text{m/s})\,t_1$$
$$0\ \text{m} = 0\ \text{m} + (50\sin\theta\ \text{m/s})\,t_1 - \tfrac{1}{2}(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2)\,{t_1}^2$$

**79.**

$$v_x = -(6.0\cos 45^\circ)\ \text{m/s} + 3.0\ \text{m/s}$$
$$v_y = (6.0\ \sin\ 45^\circ)\ \text{m/s} + 0\ \text{m/s}$$
$$100\ \text{m} = v_y t_1,\ x_1 = v_x t_1$$

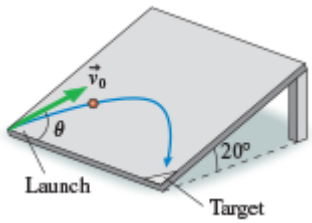
**80.**

$$2.5\ \text{rad} = 0\ \text{rad} + \omega_\text{i}(10\ \text{s}) + \left((1.5\ \text{m/s}^2)/2(50\ \text{m})\right)\ (10\ \text{s})^2$$
$$\omega_\text{f} = \omega_\text{i} + \left((1.5\ \text{m/s}^2)/(50\ \text{m})\right)\ (10\ \text{s})$$

## Challenge Problems

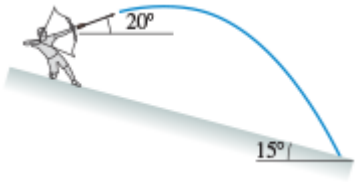
**81.** ••• In one contest at the county fair, seen in Figure CP4.81, a spring-loaded plunger launches a ball at a speed of 3.0 m/s from one corner of a smooth, flat board that is tilted up at a 20° angle. To win, you must make the ball hit a small target at the adjacent corner, 2.50 m away. At what angle $\theta$ should you tilt the ball launcher?

**Figure CP4.81**




**82.** ••• An archer standing on a 15° slope shoots an arrow 20° above the horizontal, as shown in Figure CP4.82. How far down the slope does the arrow hit if it is shot with a speed of 50 m/s from 1.75 m above the ground?

**Figure CP4.82**




**83.** ••• A skateboarder starts up a 1.0-m-high, 30° ramp at a speed of 7.0 m/s. The skateboard wheels roll without friction. At the top she leaves the ramp and sails through the air. How far from the end of the ramp does the skateboarder touch down?

**84.** ••• **CALC** A cannon on a train car fires a projectile to the right with speed $v_0$, relative to the train, from a barrel elevated at angle $\theta$. The cannon fires just as the train, which had been cruising to the right along a level track with speed $v_{\text{train}}$, begins to accelerate with acceleration $a$, which can be either positive (speeding up) or negative (slowing down). Find an expression for the angle at which the projectile should be fired so that it lands as far as possible from the cannon. You can ignore the small height of the cannon above the track.

**85.** ••• A child in danger of drowning in a river is being carried downstream by a current that flows uniformly with a speed of 2.0 m/s. The child is 200 m from the shore and 1500 m upstream of the boat dock from which the rescue team sets out. If their boat speed is 8.0 m/s with respect to the water, at what angle from the shore should the pilot leave the shore to go directly to the child?

# Chapter 5
# Force and Motion

These ice boats are a memorable example of the connection between force and motion.

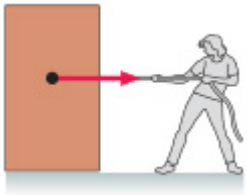
### In This Chapter

you will learn about the connection between force and motion.

## What is a force?

The fundamental concept of **mechanics** is force.

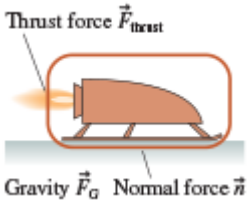
- A force is a push or a pull.
- A force acts on an object.
- A force requires an agent.
- A force is a vector.



## How do we identify forces?

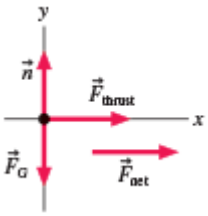
A force can be a contact force or a long-range force.

- Contact forces occur at points where the environment touches the object.
- Contact forces disappear the instant contact is lost. Forces have no memory.
- Long-range forces include gravity and magnetism.




## How do we show forces?

Forces can be displayed on a free-body diagram. You'll draw all forces—both pushes and pulls—as vectors with their tails on the particle. A well-drawn free-body diagram is an essential step in solving problems, as you'll see in the next chapter.

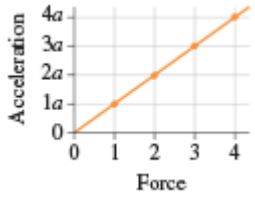



## What do forces do?

A net force causes an object to *accelerate* with an acceleration directly proportional to the size of the force. This is Newton's second law, the most important statement in mechanics. For a particle of mass $m$,

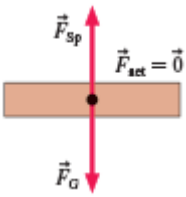
$$\vec{a} = \frac{1}{m}\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$$

Looking Back Sections 1.4, 2.4, and 3.2 Acceleration and vector addition




## What is Newton's first law?

Newton's first law—an object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion continues moving at constant speed in a straight line if and only if the net force on the object is zero—helps us define what a force *is*. It is also the basis for identifying the reference frames—called inertial reference frames—in which Newton's laws are valid.




## What good are forces?

Kinematics describes *how* an object moves. For the more important tasks of knowing *why* an object moves and being able to predict its position and orientation at a future time, we have to know the forces acting on the object. Relating force to motion is the subject of **dynamics**, and it is one of the most important underpinnings of all science and engineering.

# 5.1 Force

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The two major issues that this chapter will examine are:

- What is a force?
- What is the connection between force and motion?

We begin with the first of these questions in the table below.

**What is a force?**

**A force is a push or a pull.**

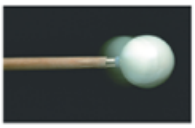
Our commonsense idea of a **force** is that it is a *push* or a *pull*. We will refine this idea as we go along, but it is an adequate starting point. Notice our careful choice of words: We refer to "*a* force," rather than simply "force." We want to think of a force as a very specific *action*, so that we can talk about a single force or perhaps about two or three individual forces that we can clearly distinguish. Hence the concrete idea of "a force" acting on an object.

**A force acts on an object.**

Implicit in our concept of force is that a **force acts on an object.** In other words, pushes and pulls are applied *to* something—an object. From the object's perspective, it has a force *exerted* on it. Forces do not exist in isolation from the object that experiences them.

**A force requires an agent.**

Every force has an **agent,** something that acts or exerts power. That is, a force has a specific, identifiable *cause*. As you throw a ball, it is your hand, while in contact with the ball, that is the agent or the cause of the force exerted on the ball. *If* a force is being exerted on an object, you must be able to identify a specific cause (i.e., the agent) of that force. Conversely, a force is not exerted on an object *unless* you can identify a specific cause or agent. Although this idea may seem to be stating the obvious, you will find it to be a powerful tool for avoiding some common misconceptions about what is and is not a force.



**A force is a vector.**

If you push an object, you can push either gently or very hard. Similarly, you can push either left or right, up or down. To quantify a push, we need to specify both a magnitude *and* a direction. It should thus come as no surprise that force is a vector. The general symbol for a force is the vector symbol $\vec{F}$. The size or strength of a force is its magnitude $F$.

**A force can be either a contact force . . .**

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There are two basic classes of forces, depending on whether the agent touches the object or not. **Contact forces** are forces that act on an object by touching it at a point of contact. The bat must touch the ball to hit it. A string must be tied to an object to pull it. The majority of forces that we will examine are contact forces.

**. . . or a long-range force.**

**Long-range forces** are forces that act on an object without physical contact. Magnetism is an example of a long-range force. You have undoubtedly held a magnet over a paper clip and seen the paper clip leap up to the magnet. A coffee cup released from your hand is pulled to the earth by the long-range force of gravity.

**Note**

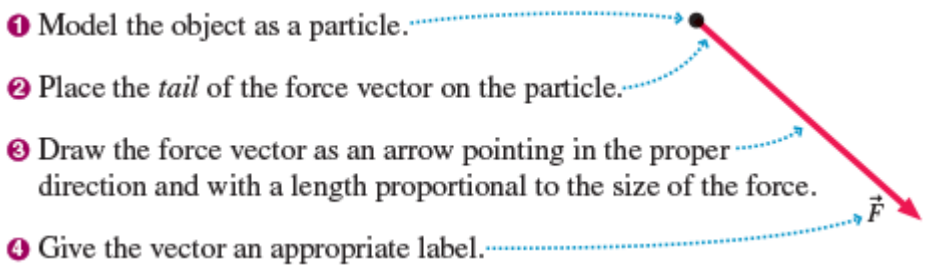
In the particle model, objects cannot exert forces on themselves. A force on an object will always have an agent or cause external to the object. Now, there are certainly objects that have internal forces (think of all the forces inside the engine of your car!), but the particle model is not valid if you need to consider those internal forces. If you are going to treat your car as a particle and look only at the overall motion of the car as a whole, that motion will be a consequence of external forces acting on the car.

## Force Vectors

We can use a simple diagram to visualize how forces are exerted on objects.

TACTICS BOX 5.1 **Drawing force vectors**

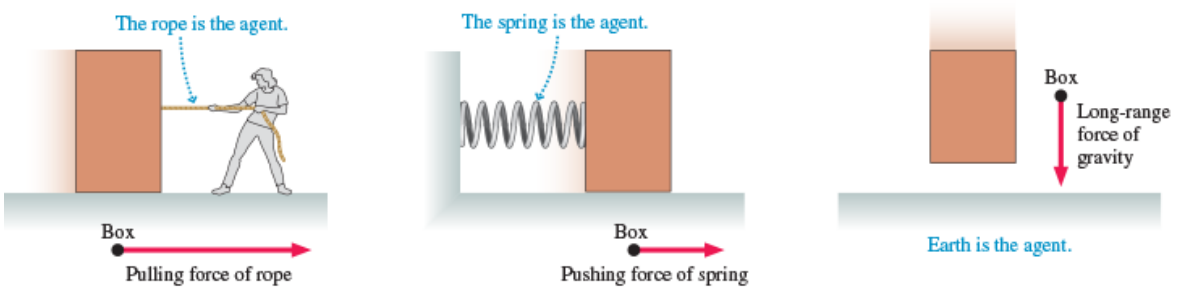
**Mastering Physics**




Step 2 may seem contrary to what a "push" should do, but recall that moving a vector does not change it as long as the length and angle do not

change. The vector $\vec{F}$ is the same regardless of whether the tail or the tip is placed on the particle. Figure 5.1 shows three examples of force vectors.

**Figure 5.1**




Three examples of forces and their vector representations.

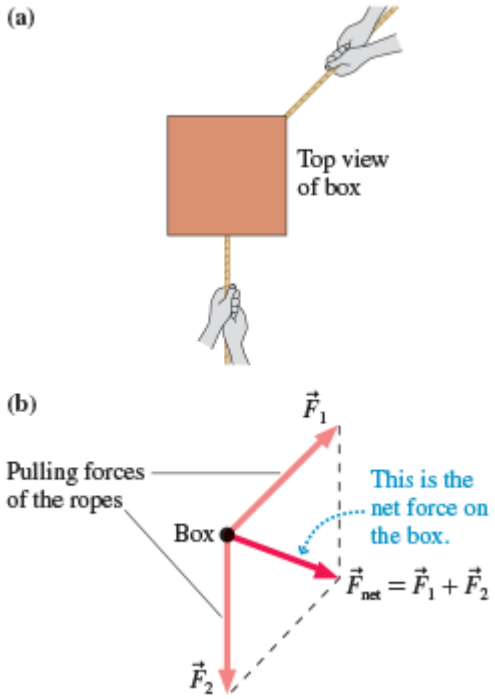
# Combining Forces

Figure 5.2a shows a box being pulled by two ropes, each exerting a force on the box. How will the box respond? Experimentally, we find that when several forces $\vec{F}_1, \vec{F}_2, \vec{F}_3, \ldots$ are exerted on an object, they combine to form a **net force** given by the *vector* sum of *all* the forces:

**(5.1)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{N} \vec{F}_i = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \cdots + \vec{F}_N$$

**Figure 5.2**

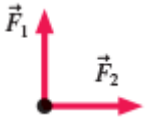



Two forces applied to a box.

Recall that ≡ is the symbol meaning "is defined as." Mathematically, this summation is called a **superposition of forces**. Figure 5.2b shows the net force on the box.

## Stop to Think 5.1

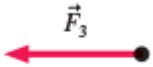
Two of the three forces exerted on an object are shown. The net force points to the left. Which is the missing third force?




Two of the three forces exerted on an object

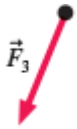
**a.**

**b.**




**c.**

**d.**



# 5.2 A Short Catalog of Forces



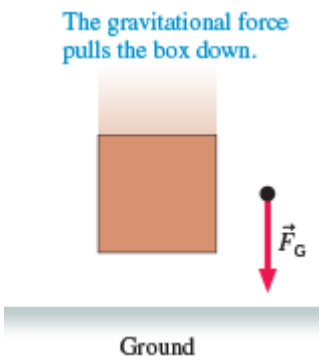
There are many forces we will deal with over and over. This section will introduce you to some of them. Many of these forces have special symbols. As you learn the major forces, be sure to learn the symbol for each.

## Gravity

Gravity—the only long-range force we will encounter in the next few chapters—keeps you in your chair and the planets in their orbits around the sun. We'll have a thorough look at gravity in Chapter 13. For now we'll concentrate on objects on or near the surface of the earth (or other planet).

The pull of a planet on an object on or near the surface is called the **gravitational force**. The agent for the gravitational force is the *entire planet*. Gravity acts on *all* objects, whether moving or at rest. The symbol for gravitational force is $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$. **The gravitational force vector always points vertically downward**, as shown in Figure 5.3.

**Figure 5.3**

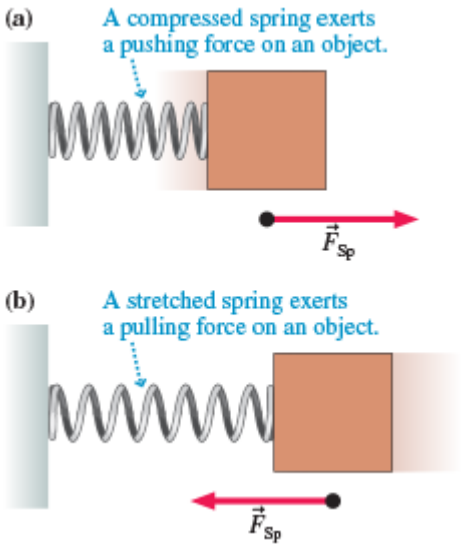


> **Note**
>
> We often refer to “the weight” of an object. For an object at rest on the surface of a planet, its weight is simply the magnitude $F_G$ of the gravitational force. However, weight and gravitational force are not the same thing, nor is weight the same as mass. We will briefly examine mass later in the chapter, and we’ll explore the rather subtle connections among gravity, weight, and mass in Chapter 6.

## Spring Force

Springs exert one of the most common contact forces. **A spring can either push (when compressed) or pull (when stretched).** Figure 5.4 shows the **spring force**, for which we use the symbol $\vec{F}_{\text{Sp.}}$ In both cases, pushing and pulling, the tail of the force vector is placed on the particle in the force diagram.

**Figure 5.4**



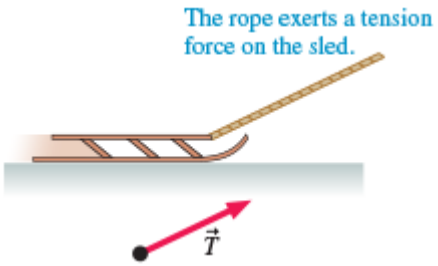

The spring force.

Although you may think of a spring as a metal coil that can be stretched or compressed, this is only one type of spring. Hold a ruler, or any other thin piece of wood or metal, by the ends and bend it slightly. It flexes. When you let go, it "springs" back to its original shape. This is just as much a spring as is a metal coil.

## Tension Force

When a string or rope or wire pulls on an object, it exerts a contact force that we call the **tension force**, represented by a capital $\overrightarrow{T}$. **The direction of the tension force is always along the direction of the string or rope,** as you can see in Figure 5.5. The commonplace reference to "the tension" in a string is an informal expression for *T*, the size or magnitude of the tension force.

**Figure 5.5**




Tension.

> **Note**
>
> Tension is represented by the symbol *T*. This is logical, but there's a risk of confusing the tension *T* with the identical symbol *T* for the period of a particle in circular motion. The number of symbols used in science and engineering is so large that some letters are used several times to represent different quantities. The use of *T* is the first time we've run into this

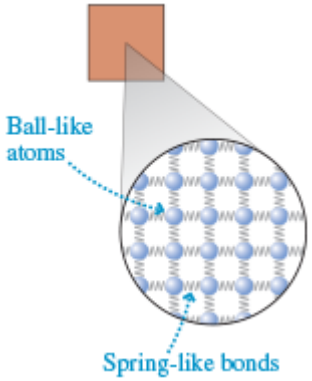
> problem, but it won't be the last. You must be alert to the *context* of a symbol's use to deduce its meaning.

We can obtain a deeper understanding of some forces and interactions with a picture of what's happening at the atomic level. You'll recall from chemistry that matter consists of *atoms* that are attracted to each other by *molecular bonds*. Although the details are complex, governed by quantum physics, we can often use a simple **ball-and-spring model** of a solid to get an idea of what's happening at the atomic level.[114]

MODEL 5.1 **Ball-and-spring model of solids**

Solids consist of atoms held together by molecular bonds.

- Represent the solid as **an array of balls connected by springs**.
- Pulling on or pushing on a solid causes the bonds to be stretched or compressed. **Stretched or compressed bonds exert spring** forces.
- There are an immense number of bonds. The force of one bond is very tiny, but the combined force of all bonds can be very large.
- Limitations: Model fails for liquids and gases.



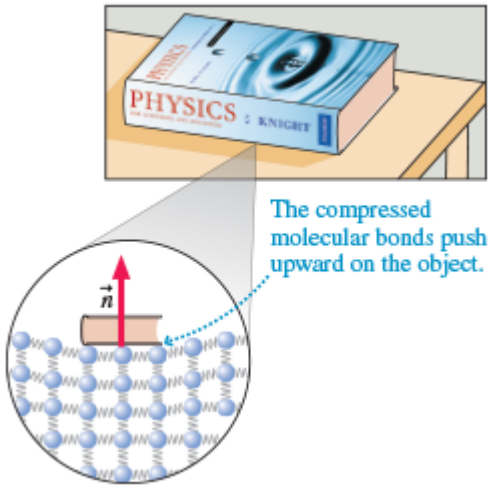
In the case of tension, pulling on the ends of a string or rope stretches the spring-like molecular bonds ever so slightly. What we call "tension" is then the net spring force being exerted by trillions and trillions of microscopic springs.

## Normal Force

If you sit on a bed, the springs in the mattress compress and, as a consequence of the compression, exert an upward force on you. Stiffer springs would show less compression but still exert an upward force. The compression of extremely stiff springs might be measurable only by sensitive instruments. Nonetheless, the springs would compress ever so slightly and exert an upward spring force on you.

Figure 5.6 shows an object resting on top of a sturdy table. The table may not visibly flex or sag, but—just as you do to the bed—the object compresses the spring-like molecular bonds in the table. The size of the compression is very small, but it is not zero. As a consequence, the compressed "molecular springs" *push upward* on the object. We say that "the table" exerts the upward force, but it is important to understand that the pushing is *really* done by molecular bonds.

**Figure 5.6**

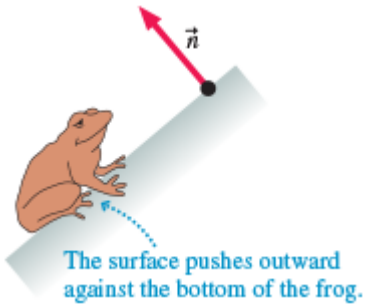



The table exerts an upward force on the book.

We can extend this idea. Suppose you place your hand on a wall and lean against it. Does the wall exert a force on your hand? As you lean, you compress the molecular bonds in the wall and, as a consequence, they push outward against your hand. So the answer is yes, the wall does exert a force on you.

The force the table surface exerts is vertical; the force the wall exerts is horizontal. In all cases, the force exerted on an object that is pressing against a surface is in a direction *perpendicular* to the surface. Mathematicians refer to a line that is perpendicular to a surface as being *normal* to the surface. In keeping with this terminology, we define the **normal force** as **the force exerted perpendicular to a surface (the agent) against an object that is pressing against the surface**. The symbol for the normal force is $\vec{n}$.

We're not using the word *normal* to imply that the force is an "ordinary" force or to distinguish it from an "abnormal force." A surface exerts a force *perpendicular* (i.e., normal) to itself as the molecular springs press *outward*. Figure 5.7 shows an object on an inclined surface, a common situation.




The normal force.

In essence, the normal force is just a spring force, but one exerted by a vast number of microscopic springs acting at once. The normal force is responsible for the "solidness" of solids. It is what prevents you from passing right through the chair you are sitting in and what causes the pain and the lump if you bang your head into a door.

## Friction

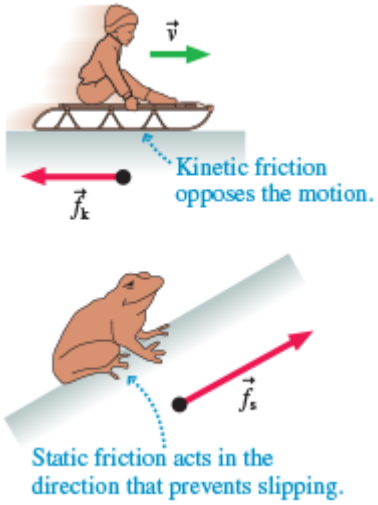
**Friction**, like the normal force, is exerted by a surface. But whereas the normal force is perpendicular to the surface, **the friction force is always *parallel* to the surface**. It is useful to distinguish between two kinds of friction:

- *Kinetic friction*, denoted $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{k}}$, appears as an object slides across a surface. This is a force that "opposes the motion," meaning that the friction force vector $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{k}}$ points in a direction opposite the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ (i.e., "the motion").
- *Static friction*, denoted $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{s}}$, is the force that keeps an object "stuck" on a surface and prevents its motion. Finding the direction of $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{s}}$ is a little trickier than finding it for $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{k}}$. Static friction points opposite the

direction in which the object *would* move if there were no friction. That is, it points in the direction necessary to *prevent* motion.

Figure 5.8 shows examples of kinetic and static friction.

**Figure 5.8**




Kinetic and static friction.

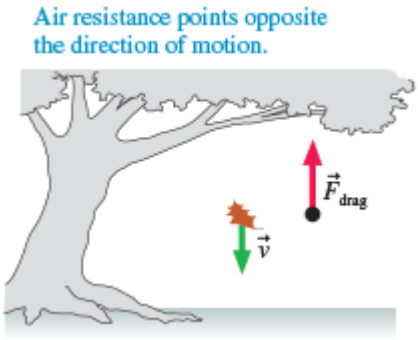
> **Note**
>
> A surface exerts a kinetic friction force when an object moves *relative to* the surface. A package on a conveyor belt is in motion, but it does not experience a kinetic friction force because it is not moving relative to the belt. So to be precise, we should say that the kinetic friction force points opposite to an object's motion *relative to* a surface.

# Drag

Friction at a surface is one example of a *resistive force,* a force that opposes or resists motion. Resistive forces are also experienced by objects moving through fluids—gases and liquids. The resistive force of a fluid is called

**drag**, with symbol $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}}$. **Drag, like kinetic friction, points opposite the direction of motion**. Figure 5.9 shows an example.

**Figure 5.9**




Air resistance is an example of drag.

Drag can be a significant force for objects moving at high speeds or in dense fluids. Hold your arm out the window as you ride in a car and feel how the air resistance against it increases rapidly as the car's speed increases. Drop a lightweight object into a beaker of water and watch how slowly it settles to the bottom.

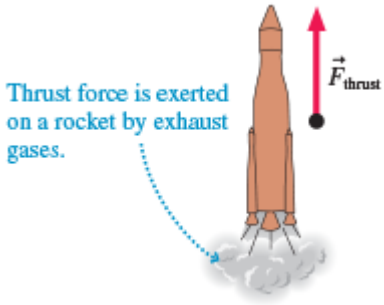
For objects that are heavy and compact, that move in air, and whose speed is not too great, the drag force of air resistance is fairly small. To keep things as simple as possible, **you can neglect air resistance in all problems unless a problem explicitly asks you to include it**.

## Thrust

A jet airplane obviously has a force that propels it forward during takeoff. Likewise for the rocket being launched in Figure 5.10. This force, called **thrust**, occurs when a jet or rocket engine expels gas molecules at high speed. Thrust is a contact force, with the exhaust gas being the agent that pushes on the engine. The process by which thrust is generated is rather

subtle, and we will postpone a full discussion until we study Newton's third law in Chapter 7. For now, we will treat thrust as a force opposite the direction in which the exhaust gas is expelled. There's no special symbol for thrust, so we will call it $\vec{F}_{\text{thrust}}$.

**Figure 5.10**




Thrust force on a rocket.

## Electric and Magnetic Forces

Electricity and magnetism, like gravity, exert long-range forces. We will study electric and magnetic forces in detail in Part VI. For now, it is worth noting that the forces holding molecules together—the molecular bonds—are not actually tiny springs. Atoms and molecules are made of charged particles—electrons and protons—and what we call a molecular bond is really an electric force between these particles. So when we say that the normal force and the tension force are due to "molecular springs," or that friction is due to atoms running into each other, what we're really saying is that these forces, at the most fundamental level, are actually electric forces between the charged particles in the atoms.

# 5.3 Identifying Forces



A typical physics problem describes an object that is being pushed and pulled in various directions. Some forces are given explicitly; others are only implied. In order to proceed, it is necessary to determine all the forces that act on the object. The procedure for identifying forces will become part of the *pictorial representation* of the problem.

| Force | Notation |
|---|---|
| General force | $\vec{F}$ |
| Gravitational force | $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ |
| Spring force | $\vec{F}_{\text{Sp}}$ |
| Tension | $\vec{T}$ |
| Normal force | $\vec{n}$ |
| Static friction | $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$ |
| Kinetic friction | $\vec{f}_{\text{k}}$ |
| Drag | $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}}$ |
| Thrust | $\vec{F}_{\text{thrust}}$ |

TACTICS BOX 5.2 **Identifying forces**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Identify the object of interest.** This is the object you wish to study.
2. **Draw a picture of the situation.** Show the object of interest and all other objects—such as ropes, springs, or surfaces—that touch it.
3. **Draw a closed curve around the object.** Only the object of interest is inside the curve; everything else is outside.

4. **Locate every point on the boundary of this curve where other objects touch the object of interest.** These are the points where *contact forces* are exerted on the object.
5. **Name and label each contact force acting on the object.** There is at least one force at each point of contact; there may be more than one. When necessary, use subscripts to distinguish forces of the same type.
6. **Name and label each long-range force acting on the object.** For now, the only long-range force is the gravitational force.

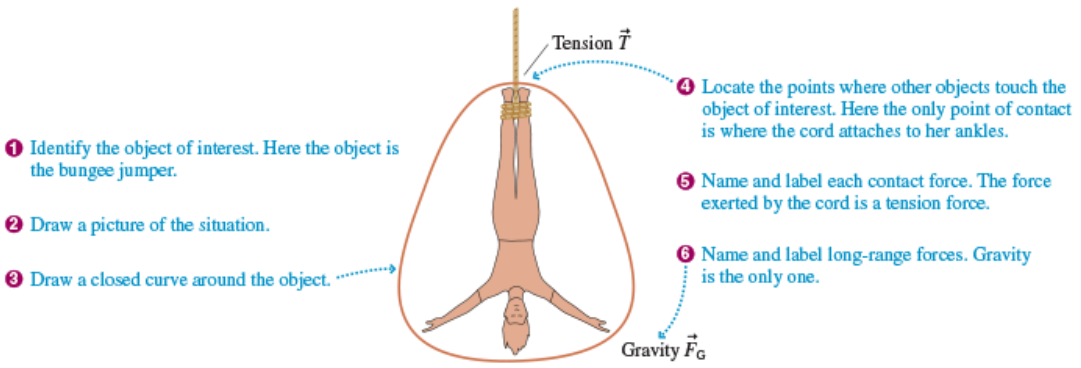
Workbook Exercises 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

### Example 5.1 Forces on a bungee jumper

A bungee jumper has leapt off a bridge and is nearing the bottom of her fall. What forces are being exerted on the jumper?

#### VISUALIZE

**Figure 5.11**



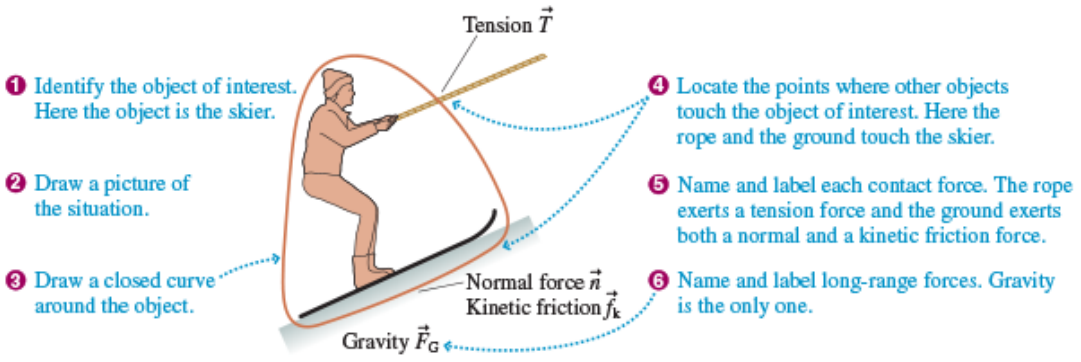
Forces on a bungee jumper.

### Example 5.2 Forces on a skier

A skier is being towed up a snow-covered hill by a tow rope. What forces are being exerted on the skier?

#### VISUALIZE

#### Figure 5.12




Forces on a skier.

#### Note

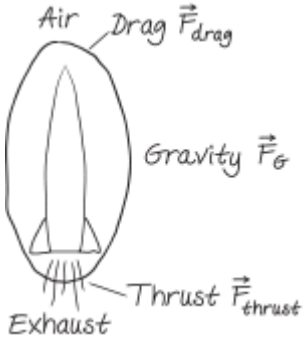
You might have expected two friction forces and two normal forces in Example 5.2, one on each ski. Keep in mind, however, that we're working within the particle model, which represents the skier by a single point. A particle has only one contact with the ground, so there is one normal force and one friction force.

**Example 5.3 Forces on a rocket**

A rocket is being launched to place a new satellite in orbit. Air resistance is not negligible. What forces are being exerted on the rocket?

**VISUALIZE** This drawing is much more like the sketch you would make when identifying forces as part of solving a problem.

**Figure 5.13**




Forces on a rocket.

## Stop to Think 5.2

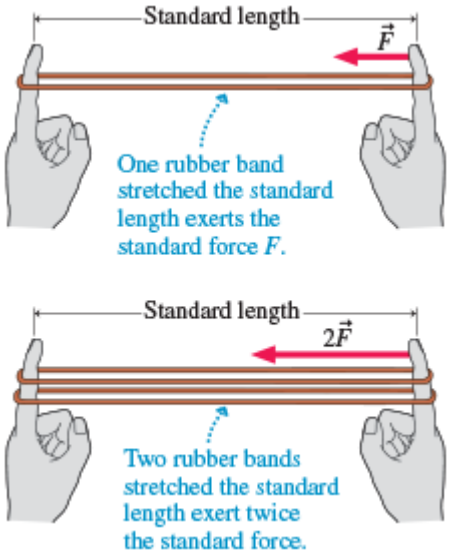
You've just kicked a rock, and it is now sliding across the ground 2 m in front of you. Which of these forces act on the rock? List all that apply.

**a.** Gravity, acting downward.
**b.** The normal force, acting upward.
**c.** The force of the kick, acting in the direction of motion.
**d.** Friction, acting opposite the direction of motion.

# 5.4 What Do Forces Do? [118]

Having learned to identify forces, we ask the next question: How does an object move when a force is exerted on it? The only way to answer this question is to do experiments. Let's conduct a "virtual experiment," one you can easily visualize. Imagine using your fingers to stretch a rubber band to a certain length—say 10 centimeters—that you can measure with a ruler, as shown in Figure 5.14. You know that a stretched rubber band exerts a force—a spring force—because your fingers *feel* the pull. Furthermore, this is a reproducible force; the rubber band exerts the same force every time you stretch it to this length. We'll call this the *standard force* $F$. Not surprisingly, two identical rubber bands exert twice the pull of one rubber band, and $N$ side-by-side rubber bands exert $N$ times the standard force: $F_{\text{net}} = NF$.

**Figure 5.14**

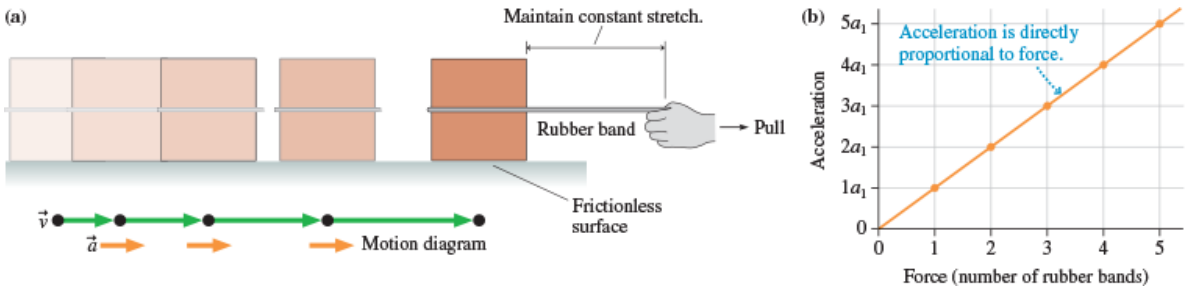



A reproducible force.

Now attach one rubber band to a 1 kg block and stretch it to the standard length. The object experiences the same force $F$ as did your finger. The rubber band gives us a way of applying a known and reproducible force to an object. Then imagine using the rubber band to pull the block across a horizontal, frictionless table. (We can imagine a frictionless table since this is a virtual experiment, but in practice you could nearly eliminate friction by supporting the object on a cushion of air.)

If you stretch the rubber band and then release the object, the object moves toward your hand. But as it does so, the rubber band gets shorter and the pulling force decreases. To keep the pulling force constant, you must *move your hand* at just the right speed to keep the length of the rubber band from changing! Figure 5.15a shows the experiment being carried out. Once the motion is complete, you can use motion diagrams and kinematics to analyze the object's motion.

## Figure 5.15




Measuring the motion of a 1 kg block that is pulled with a constant force.

The first important finding of this experiment is that **an object pulled with a constant force moves with a constant acceleration**. That is, the answer to the question What does a force do? is: A force causes an object to accelerate, and a constant force produces a constant acceleration.

What happens if you increase the force by using several rubber bands? To find out, use two rubber bands, then three rubber bands, then four, and so on. With $N$ rubber bands, the force on the block is $NF$. Figure 5.15b shows the results of this experiment. You can see that doubling the force causes twice the acceleration, tripling the force causes three times the acceleration, and so on. The graph reveals our second important finding: **The acceleration is directly proportional to the force**. This result can be written as

**(5.2)**

$$a = cF$$

where $c$, called the *proportionality constant*, is the slope of the graph.

MATHEMATICAL ASIDE **Proportionality and proportional reasoning**

The concept of **proportionality** arises frequently in physics. A quantity symbolized by $u$ is *proportional* to another quantity symbolized by $v$ if

$$u = cv$$

where $c$ (which might have units) is called the **proportionality constant**. This relationship between $u$ and $v$ is often written

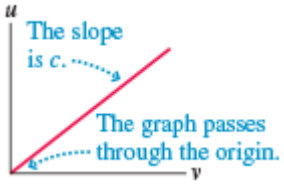
$$u \propto v$$

where the symbol $\propto$ means "is proportional to."

If $v$ is doubled to $2v$, then $u$ doubles to $c(2v) = 2(cv) = 2u$. In general, if $v$ is changed by any factor $f$, then $u$ changes by the

same factor. This is the essence of what we *mean* by proportionality.

A graph of $u$ versus $v$ is a straight line *passing through the origin* (i.e., the vertical intercept is zero) with slope $= c$. Notice that proportionality is a much more specific relationship between $u$ and $v$ than mere linearity. The linear equation $u = cv + b$ has a straight-line graph, but it doesn't pass through the origin (unless $b$ happens to be zero) and doubling $v$ does not double $u$.




$u$ is proportional to $v$.

---

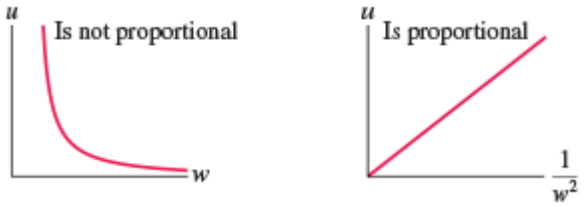
If $u \propto v$, then $u_1 = cv_1$ and $u_2 = cv_2$. Dividing the second equation by the first, we find

$$\frac{u_2}{u_1} = \frac{v_2}{v_1}$$

By working with *ratios*, we can deduce information about $u$ without needing to know the value of $c$. (This would not be true if the relationship were merely linear.) This is called **proportional reasoning**.



Proportionality is not limited to being linearly proportional. The graph on the left shows that $u$ is clearly not proportional to $w$. But a graph of $u$ versus $1/w^2$ *is* a straight line passing through the origin; thus, in this case, $u$ is proportional to $1/w^2$, or $u \propto 1/w^2$. We would say that "$u$ is proportional to the inverse square of $w$."




$u$ is proportional to the inverse square of $w$.

**EXAMPLE** $u$ is proportional to the inverse square of $w$. By what factor does $u$ change if $w$ is tripled?

**SOLUTION** This is an opportunity for proportional reasoning; we don't need to know the proportionality constant. If $u$ is proportional to $1/w^2$, then

$$\frac{u_2}{u_1} = \frac{1/{w_2}^2}{1/{w_1}^2} = \frac{{w_1}^2}{{w_2}^2} = \left(\frac{w_1}{w_2}\right)^2$$

Tripling $w$, with $w_2/w_1 = 3$, and thus $w_1/w_2 = \frac{1}{3}$, changes $u$ to

$$u_2 = \left(\frac{w_1}{w_2}\right)^2 u_1 = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 u_1 = \frac{1}{9}u_1$$

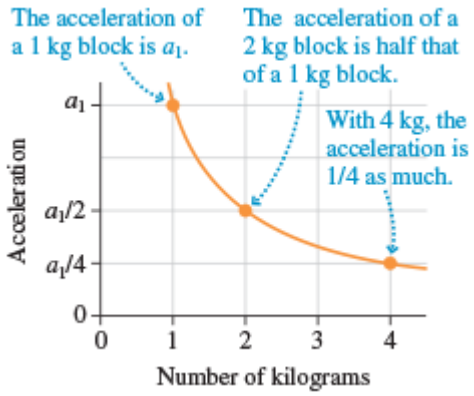
Tripling $w$ causes $u$ to become $\frac{1}{9}$ of its original value.

Many *Student Workbook* and end-of-chapter homework questions will require proportional reasoning. It's an important skill to learn.

The final question for our virtual experiment is: How does the acceleration depend on the mass of the object being pulled? To find out, apply the *same force*—for example, the standard force of one rubber band—to a 2 kg block, then a 3 kg block, and so on, and for each measure the acceleration. Doing so gives you the results shown in Figure 5.16. An

object with twice the mass of the original block has only half the acceleration when both are subjected to the same force.

## Figure 5.16




Acceleration is inversely proportional to mass.

Mathematically, the graph of Figure 5.16 is one of *inverse proportionality*. That is, **the acceleration is inversely proportional to the object's mass**. We can combine these results—that the acceleration is directly proportional to the force applied and inversely proportional to the object's mass—into the single statement

**(5.3)**

$$a = \frac{F}{m}$$

if we define the basic unit of force as the force that causes a 1 kg mass to accelerate at 1 m/s$^2$. That is,

$$1\,\text{basic unit of force} \equiv 1\,\text{kg} \times 1\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2} = 1\frac{\text{kg m}}{\text{s}^2}$$

This basic unit of force is called a newton:

> One **newton** is the force that causes a 1 kg mass to accelerate at 1 $m/s^2$. The abbreviation for newton is N. Mathematically, $1\,N = 1\,kg\,m/s^2$.

Table 5.1 lists some typical forces. As you can see, "typical" forces on "typical" objects are likely to be in the range 0.01–10,000 N.

**Table 5.1**

| Force | Approximate magnitude (newtons) |
|---|---|
| Weight of a U.S. quarter | 0.05 |
| Weight of 1/4 cup sugar | 0.5 |
| Weight of a 1 pound object | 5 |
| Weight of a house cat | 50 |
| Weight of a 110 pound person | 500 |
| Propulsion force of a car | 5,000 |
| Thrust force of a small jet engine | 50,000 |

Approximate magnitude of some typical forces

## Mass

We've been using the term *mass* without a clear definition. As we learned in Chapter 1, the SI unit of mass, the kilogram, is based on a particular metal block kept in a vault in Paris. This suggests that *mass* is the amount of matter an object contains, and that is certainly our everyday concept of mass. Now we see that a more precise way of defining an object's mass is in terms of its acceleration in response to a force. Figure 5.16 shows that an object with twice the amount of matter accelerates only half as much in response to the same force. The more matter an object has, the more it *resists* accelerating in response to a force. You're familiar with this idea: Your car is much harder to push than your bicycle. The tendency of

an object to resist a *change* in its velocity (i.e., to resist acceleration) is called **inertia**. Consequently, the mass used in Equation 5.3, a measure of an object's resistance to changing its motion, is called **inertial mass**. We'll meet a different concept of mass, *gravitational mass*, when we study Newton's law of gravity in Chapter 13.

## Stop to Think 5.3

Two rubber bands stretched to the standard length cause an object to accelerate at 2 $m/s^2$. Suppose another object with twice the mass is pulled by four rubber bands stretched to the standard length. The acceleration of this second object is

**a.** 1 $m/s^2$

**b.** 2 $m/s^2$

**c.** 4 $m/s^2$

**d.** 8 $m/s^2$

**e.** 16 $m/s^2$

**Hint:** Use proportional reasoning.

# 5.5 Newton's Second Law[120]

Equation 5.3 is an important finding, but our experiment was limited to looking at an object's response to a single applied force. Realistically, an object is likely to be subjected to several distinct forces $\vec{F}_1, \vec{F}_2, \vec{F}_3, \ldots$ that may point in different directions. What happens then? In that case, it is found experimentally that the acceleration is determined by the *net* force.

Newton was the first to recognize the connection between force and motion. This relationship is known today as **Newton's second law**.

---

Newton's second law

An object of mass $m$ subjected to forces $\vec{F}_1, \vec{F}_2, \vec{F}_3, \ldots$ will undergo an acceleration $\vec{a}$ given by

**(5.4)**

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{net}}}{m}$$

where the net force $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3 + \cdots$ is the vector sum of all forces acting on the object. The acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ points in the same direction as the net force vector $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$.

The significance of Newton's second law cannot be overstated. There was no reason to suspect that there should be any simple relationship

between force and acceleration. Yet there it is, a simple but exceedingly powerful equation relating the two. The critical idea is that **an object accelerates in the direction of the net force vector $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$.**

We can rewrite Newton's second law in the form

**(5.5)**

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

which is how you'll see it presented in many textbooks. Equations 5.4 and 5.5 are mathematically equivalent, but Equation 5.4 better describes the central idea of Newtonian mechanics: A force applied to an object causes the object to accelerate.

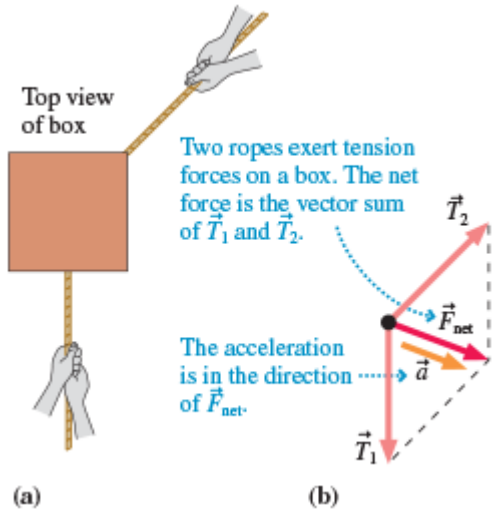
It's also worth noting that **the object responds only to the forces acting on it *at this instant*.** The object has no memory of forces that may have been exerted at earlier times. This idea is sometimes called **Newton's zeroth law**.

> **Note**
>
> Be careful not to think that one force "overcomes" the others to determine the motion. Forces are not in competition with each other! It is $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$, the sum of *all* the forces, that determines the acceleration $\vec{a}$.

As an example, Figure 5.17a shows a box being pulled by two ropes. The ropes exert tension forces $\vec{T}_1$ and $\vec{T}_2$ on the box. Figure 5.17b represents the box as a particle, shows the forces acting on the box, and adds them graphically to find the net force $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$. The box will accelerate in the direction of $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ with acceleration

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{net}}}{m} = \frac{\vec{T}_1 + \vec{T}_2}{m}$$

**Figure 5.17**




Acceleration of a pulled box.

> **Note**
>
> The acceleration is *not* $(T_1 + T_2)/m$. You must add the forces as *vectors*, not merely add their magnitudes as scalars.

## Forces Are Interactions

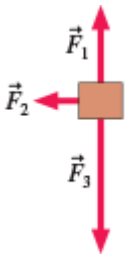
There's one more important aspect of forces. If you push against a door (the object) to close it, the door pushes back against your hand (the agent). If a tow rope pulls on a car (the object), the car pulls back on the rope (the agent). In general, if an agent exerts a force on an object, the object exerts a force on the agent. We really need to[121] think of a force as an *interaction* between two objects. This idea is captured in **Newton's third law**—that for every action there is an equal but opposite reaction.

Although the interaction perspective is a more exact way to view forces, it adds complications that we would like to avoid for now. Our approach

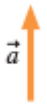
will be to start by focusing on how a single object responds to forces exerted on it. Then, in Chapter 7, we'll return to Newton's third law and the larger issue of how two or more objects interact with each other.

## Stop to Think 5.4

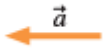
Three forces act on an object. In which direction does the object accelerate?




**a.**




**b.**




**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

# 5.6 Newton's First Law [122]

For 2000 years, scientists and philosophers thought that the "natural state" of an object is to be at rest. An object at rest requires no explanation. A moving object, though, is not in its natural state and thus requires an explanation: Why is this object moving? What keeps it going?

Galileo, in around 1600, was one of the first scientists to carry out controlled experiments. Many careful measurements in which he minimized the influence of friction led Galileo to conclude that in the absence of friction or air resistance, a moving object would continue to move along a straight line forever with no loss of speed. In other words, the natural state of an object—its behavior if free of external influences—is not rest but is *uniform motion* with constant velocity! "At rest" has no special significance in Galileo's view of motion; it is simply uniform motion that happens to have $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$.

It was left to Newton to generalize this result, and today we call it **Newton's first law** of motion.

---

Newton's first law

An object that is at rest will remain at rest, or an object that is moving will continue to move in a straight line with constant velocity, if and only if the net force acting on the object is zero.

Newton's first law is also known as the *law of inertia*. If an object is at rest, it has a tendency to stay at rest. If it is moving, it has a tendency to continue moving with the *same velocity*.

> **Note**
>
> The first law refers to *net* force. An object can remain at rest, or can move in a straight line with constant velocity, even though forces are exerted on it as long as the *net* force is zero.

Notice the "if and only if" aspect of Newton's first law. If an object is at rest or moves with constant velocity, then we can conclude that there is no net force acting on it. Conversely, if no net force is acting on it, we can conclude that the object will have constant velocity, not just constant speed. The direction remains constant, too!

An object on which the net force is zero—and thus is either at rest or moving in a straight line with constant velocity—is said to be in **mechanical equilibrium**. As Figure 5.18 shows, objects in mechanical equilibrium have no acceleration: $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$.

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**Figure 5.18**

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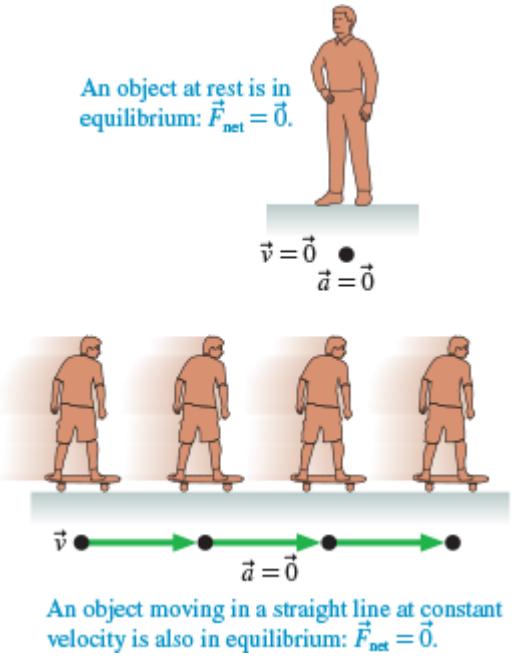



Two examples of mechanical equilibrium.

## What Good Is Newton's First Law?

So what causes an object to move? Newton's first law says **no cause is needed for an object to move!** Uniform motion is the object's natural state. Nothing at all is required for it to remain in that state. The proper question, according to Newton, is: What causes an object to *change* its velocity? Newton, with Galileo's help, also gave us the answer. **A *force* is what causes an object to change its velocity**.

The preceding paragraph contains the essence of Newtonian mechanics. This new perspective on motion, however, is often contrary to our common experience. We all know perfectly well that you must keep pushing an object—exerting a force on it—to keep it moving. Newton is asking us to change our point of view and to consider motion *from the object's perspective* rather than from our personal perspective. As far as the object is concerned, our push is just one of several forces acting on it. Others might include friction, air resistance, or gravity. Only by knowing the *net* force can we determine the object's motion.

Newton's first law may seem to be merely a special case of Newton's second law. After all, the equation $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}} = m\overrightarrow{a}$ tells us that an object moving with constant velocity ($\overrightarrow{a} = \overrightarrow{0}$) has $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}} = \overrightarrow{0}$. The difficulty is that the second law assumes that we already know what force is. The purpose of the first law is to *identify* a force as something that disturbs a state of equilibrium. The second law then describes how the object responds to this force. Thus from a *logical* perspective, the first law really is a separate statement that must precede the second law. But this is a rather formal distinction. From a pedagogical perspective it is better—as we have done—to use a commonsense understanding of force and start with Newton's second law.

## Inertial Reference Frames

If a car stops suddenly, you may be "thrown" into the windshield if you're not wearing your seat belt. You have a very real forward acceleration *relative to the car*, but is there a force pushing you forward? A force is a push or a pull caused by an identifiable agent in contact with the object. Although you *seem* to be pushed forward, there's no agent to do the pushing.

This guy thinks there's a force hurling him into the windshield. What a dummy!

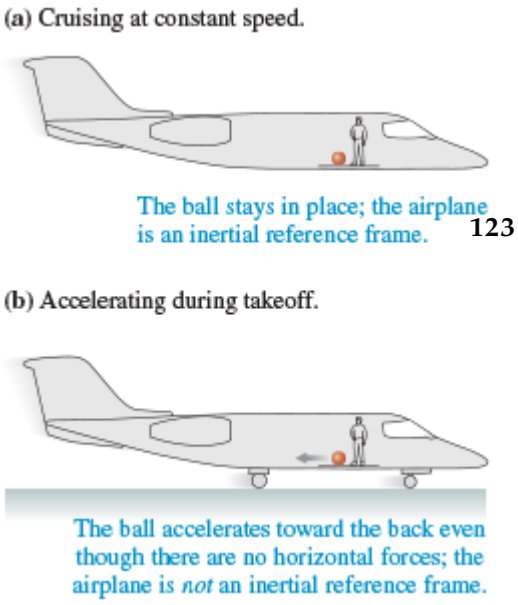
The difficulty—an acceleration without an apparent force—comes from using an inappropriate reference frame. Your acceleration measured in a

reference frame attached to the car is not the same as your acceleration measured in a reference frame attached to the ground. Newton's second law says $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = m\vec{a}$. But which $\vec{a}$? Measured in which reference frame?

We define an **inertial reference frame** as a reference frame in which Newton's first law is valid. If $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ (an object is at rest or moving with constant velocity) only when $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$, then the reference frame in which $\vec{a}$ is measured is an inertial reference frame.

Not all reference frames are inertial reference frames. Figure 5.19a shows a physics student cruising at constant velocity in an airplane. If the student places a ball on the floor, it stays there. There are no horizontal forces, and the ball remains at rest relative to the airplane. That is, $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ in the airplane's reference frame when $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$. Newton's first law is satisfied, so this airplane is an inertial reference frame.

## Figure 5.19




Reference frames.

The physics student in Figure 5.19b conducts the same experiment during takeoff. He carefully places the ball on the floor just as the airplane starts to accelerate down the runway. You can imagine what happens. The ball rolls to the back of the plane as the passengers are being pressed back into their seats. Nothing exerts a horizontal contact force on the ball, yet the ball accelerates *in the plane's reference frame*. This violates Newton's first law, so the plane is *not* an inertial reference frame during takeoff.

In the first example, the plane is traveling with constant velocity. In the second, the plane is accelerating. **Accelerating reference frames are not inertial reference frames**. Consequently, Newton's laws are not valid in an accelerating reference frame.

The earth is not exactly an inertial reference frame because the earth rotates on its axis and orbits the sun. However, the earth's acceleration is so small that violations of Newton's laws can be measured only in very careful experiments. We will treat the earth and laboratories attached to the earth as inertial reference frames, an approximation that is exceedingly well justified.

To understand the motion of the passengers in a braking car, you need to measure velocities and accelerations *relative to the ground*. From the perspective of an observer on the ground, the body of a passenger in a braking car tries to continue moving forward with constant velocity, exactly as we would expect on the basis of Newton's first law, while his immediate surroundings are decelerating. The passenger is not "thrown" into the windshield. Instead, the windshield runs into the passenger!

## Thinking About Force

It is important to identify correctly all the forces acting on an object. It is equally important not to include forces that do not really exist. We have established a number of criteria for identifying forces; the three critical ones are:

- A force has an agent. Something tangible and identifiable causes the force.
- Forces exist at the point of contact between the agent and the object experiencing the force (except for the few special cases of long-range forces).
- Forces exist due to interactions happening *now*, not due to what happened in the past.

Consider a bowling ball rolling along on a smooth floor. It is very tempting to think that a horizontal "force of motion" keeps it moving in the forward direction. But *nothing contacts the ball* except the floor. No agent is giving the ball a forward push. According to our definition, then, there is *no* forward "force of motion" acting on the ball. So what keeps it going? Recall our discussion of the first law: *No* cause is needed to keep an object moving at constant velocity. It continues to move forward simply because of its inertia.

There's no "force of motion" or any other forward force on this arrow. It continues to move because of inertia.

---

A related problem occurs if you throw a ball. A pushing force was indeed required to accelerate the ball *as it was thrown*. But that force disappears the instant the ball loses contact with your hand. The force does not stick

with the ball as the ball travels through the air. Once the ball has acquired a velocity, *nothing* is needed to keep it moving with that velocity.

# 5.7 Free-Body Diagrams [124]

Having discussed at length what is and is not a force, we are ready to assemble our knowledge about force and motion into a single diagram called a *free-body diagram*. You will learn in the next chapter how to write the equations of motion directly from the free-body diagram. Solution of the equations is a mathematical exercise—possibly a difficult one, but nonetheless an exercise that could be done by a computer. The *physics* of the problem, as distinct from the purely calculational aspects, are the steps that lead to the free-body diagram.

A **free-body diagram**, part of the *pictorial representation* of a problem, represents the object as a particle and shows *all* of the forces acting on the object.

TACTICS BOX 5.3 **Drawing a free-body diagram**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Identify all forces acting on the object.** This step was described in Tactics Box 5.2.
2. **Draw a coordinate system.** Use the axes defined in your pictorial representation.
3. **Represent the object as a dot at the origin of the coordinate axes.** This is the particle model.
4. **Draw vectors representing each of the identified forces.** This was described in Tactics Box 5.1. Be sure to label each force vector.

5. **Draw and label the *net force* vector $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$.** Draw this vector beside the diagram, not on the particle. Or, if appropriate, write $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$. Then check that $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ points in the same direction as the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ on your motion diagram.

Workbook Exercises 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

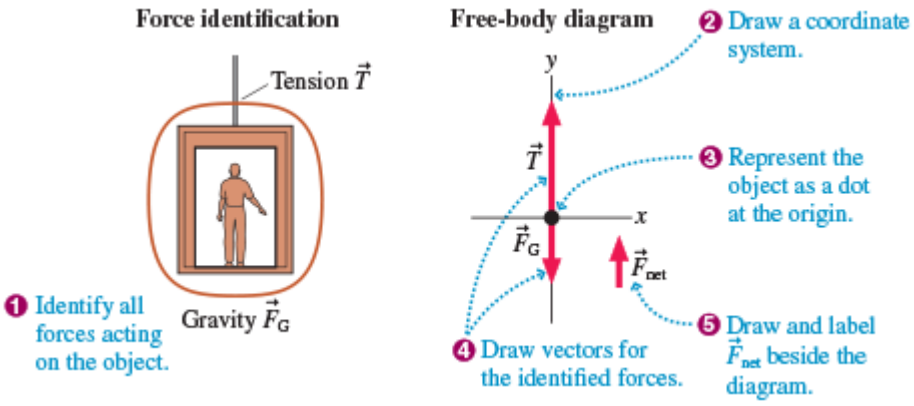
## Example 5.4 An elevator accelerates upward

An elevator, suspended by a cable, speeds up as it moves upward from the ground floor. Identify the forces and draw a free-body diagram of the elevator.

**MODEL** Model the elevator as a particle.

**VISUALIZE**

### Figure 5.20




Free-body diagram of an elevator accelerating upward.

**ASSESS** The coordinate axes, with a vertical $y$-axis, are the ones we would use in a pictorial representation of the motion. The elevator is accelerating upward, so $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ must point upward. For this to be true, the magnitude of $\vec{T}$ must be larger than the magnitude of $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$. The diagram has been drawn accordingly.

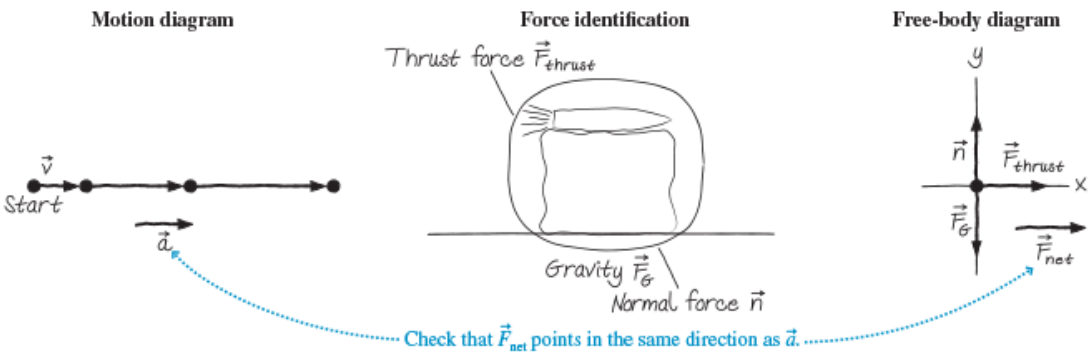
### Example 5.5 An ice block shoots across a frozen lake

Bobby straps a small model rocket to a block of ice and shoots it across the smooth surface of a frozen lake. Friction is negligible. Draw a pictorial representation of the block of ice.

**MODEL** Model the block of ice as a particle. The pictorial representation consists of a motion diagram to determine $\vec{a}$, a force-identification picture, and a free-body diagram. The statement of the situation implies that friction is negligible.

**VISUALIZE**

**Figure 5.21**




Pictorial representation for a block of ice shooting across a frictionless frozen lake.

**ASSESS** The motion diagram tells us that the acceleration is in the positive $x$-direction. According to the rules of vector addition, this can be true only if the upward-pointing $\vec{n}$ and the downward-pointing $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ are equal in magnitude and thus cancel each other. The vectors have been drawn accordingly, and this leaves the net force vector pointing toward the right, in agreement with $\vec{a}$ from the motion diagram.

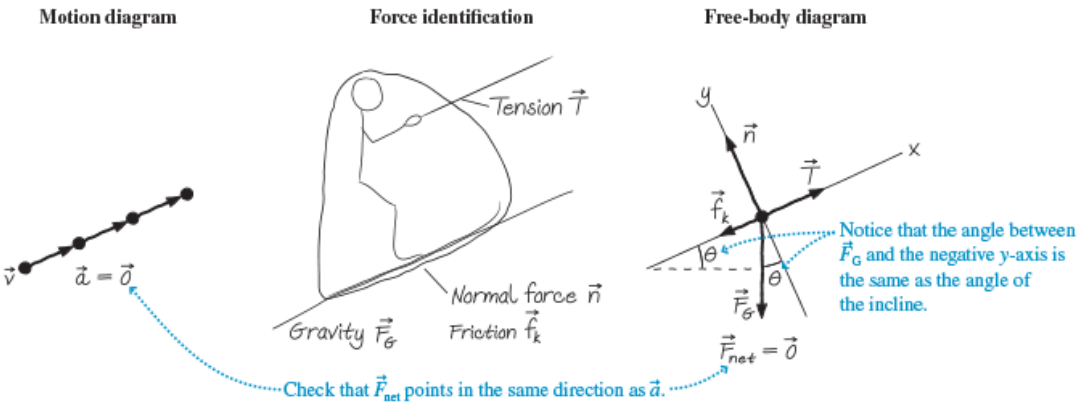
### Example 5.6 A skier is pulled up a hill

A tow rope pulls a skier up a snow-covered hill at a constant speed. Draw a pictorial representation of the skier.

**MODEL** This is Example 5.2 again with the additional information that the skier is moving at constant speed. The skier will be modeled as a particle in *mechanical equilibrium*. If we were doing a kinematics problem, the pictorial representation would use a tilted coordinate system with the $x$-axis parallel to the slope, so we use these same tilted coordinate axes for the free-body diagram.

**VISUALIZE**

**Figure 5.22**




Pictorial representation for a skier being towed at a constant speed.

**ASSESS** We have shown $\vec{T}$ pulling parallel to the slope and $\vec{f}_{\text{k}}$, which opposes the direction of motion, pointing down the slope. $\vec{n}$ is perpendicular to the surface and thus along the *y*-axis. Finally, and this is important, the gravitational force $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ is *vertically* downward, *not* along the negative *y*-axis. In fact, you should convince yourself from the geometry that the angle $\theta$ between the $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ vector and the negative *y*-axis is the same as the angle $\theta$ of the incline above the horizontal. The skier moves in a straight line with constant speed, so $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ and, from Newton's first law, $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$. Thus we have drawn the vectors such that the *y*-component of $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ is equal in magnitude to $\vec{n}$. Similarly, $\vec{T}$ must be large enough to match the negative *x*-components of both $\vec{f}_{\text{k}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$.

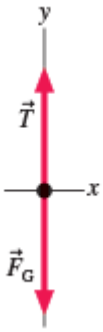
Free-body diagrams will be our major tool for the next several chapters. Careful practice with the workbook exercises and homework in this chapter will pay immediate benefits in the next chapter. Indeed, it is not too much to assert that a problem is half solved, or even more, when you complete the free-body diagram.

## Stop to Think 5.5

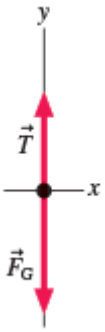
An elevator suspended by a cable is moving upward and slowing to a stop. Which free-body diagram is correct?

**a.**

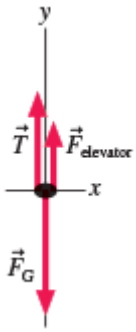
**b.**




**c. 1**




**d.**



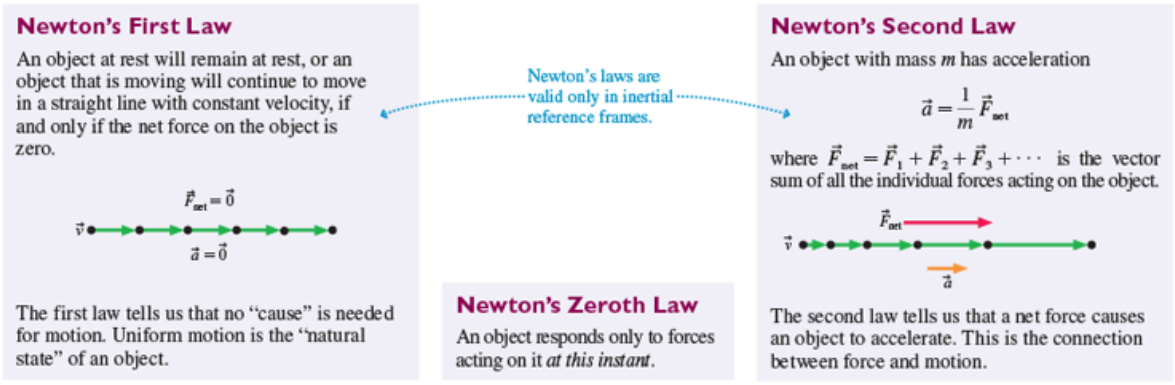

**e.** $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}} = \overrightarrow{0}$

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 5 has been to learn about the connection between force and motion.

## General Principles




## Important Concepts

**Acceleration** is the link to kinematics.

From $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}}$, find $\overrightarrow{a}$.

From $a$, find $v$ and $x$.

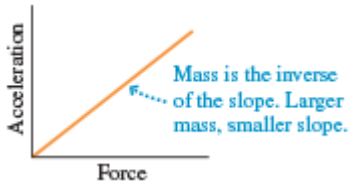
$\overrightarrow{a} = \overrightarrow{0}$ is the condition for **equilibrium**.

An object **at rest** is in equilibrium.

So is an object with **constant velocity**.

Equilibrium occurs if and only if $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}} = \overrightarrow{0}$.

**Mass** is the resistance of an object to acceleration. It is an intrinsic property of an object.



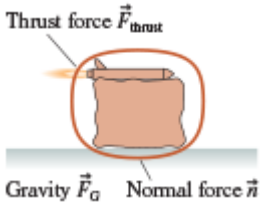

**Force** is a push or a pull on an object.

- Force is a vector, with a magnitude and a direction.
- Force requires an agent.
- Force is either a contact force or a long-range force.

# Key Skills

## Identifying Forces

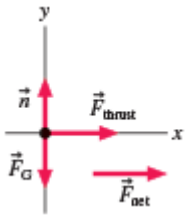
Forces are identified by locating the points where other objects touch the object of interest. These are points where contact forces are exerted. In addition, objects with mass feel a long-range gravitational force.




## Free-Body Diagrams

A free-body diagram represents the object as a particle at the origin of a coordinate system. Force vectors are drawn with their tails on the

particle. The net force vector is drawn beside the diagram.




## Terms and Notation

mechanics

dynamics

force, $\overrightarrow{F}$

agent

contact force

long-range force

net force, $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}}$

superposition of forces

gravitational force, $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{G}}$

spring force, $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{Sp}}$

tension force, $\overrightarrow{T}$

ball-and-spring model

normal force, $\overrightarrow{n}$

friction, $\overrightarrow{f}_{\text{k}}$ or $\overrightarrow{f}_{\text{s}}$

drag, $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{drag}}$

thrust, $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{thrust}}$

proportionality

proportionality constant

proportional reasoning

newton, N

inertia

inertial mass, $m$

Newton's second law

Newton's zeroth law

Newton's third law

Newton's first law

mechanical equilibrium

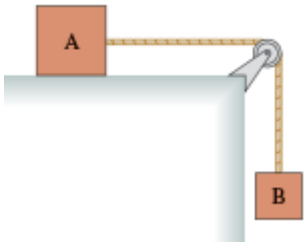
inertial reference frame

free-body diagram

# Conceptual Questions 

1. An elevator suspended by a cable is descending at constant velocity. How many force vectors would be shown on a free-body diagram? Name them.
2. A compressed spring is pushing a block across a rough horizontal table. How many force vectors would be shown on a free-body diagram? Name them.
3. A brick is falling from the roof of a three-story building. How many force vectors would be shown on a free-body diagram? Name them.
4. In Figure Q5.4, block B is falling and dragging block A across a table. How many force vectors would be shown on a free-body diagram of block A? Name them.

**Figure Q5.4**




5. You toss a ball straight up in the air. Immediately after you let go of it, what force or forces are acting on the ball? For each force you name, (a) state whether it is a contact force or a long-range force and (b) identify the agent of the force.
6. A constant force applied to A causes A to accelerate at 5 $m/s^2$. The same force applied to B causes an acceleration of 3 $m/s^2$. Applied to C, it causes an acceleration of 8 $m/s^2$.

**a.** Which object has the largest mass? Explain.

**b.** Which object has the smallest mass?

**c.** What is the ratio $m_A/m_B$ of the mass of A to the mass of B?

**7.** An object experiencing a constant force accelerates at 10 m/s$^2$. What will the acceleration of this object be if

**a.** The force is doubled? Explain.

**b.** The mass is doubled?

**c.** The force is doubled *and* the mass is doubled?

**8.** An object experiencing a constant force accelerates at 8 m/s$^2$. What will the acceleration of this object be if

**a.** The force is halved? Explain.

**b.** The mass is halved?

**c.** The force is halved *and* the mass is halved?

**9.** If an object is at rest, can you conclude that there are no forces acting on it? Explain.

**10.** If a force is exerted on an object, is it possible for that object to be moving with constant velocity? Explain.

**11.** Is the statement "An object always moves in the direction of the net force acting on it" true or false? Explain.

**12.** Newton's second law says $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = m\vec{a}$. So is $m\vec{a}$ a force? Explain.

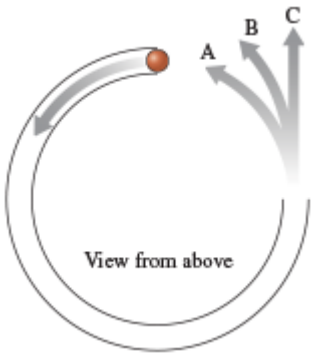
**13.** Is it possible for the friction force on an object to be in the direction of motion? If so, give an example. If not, why not?

**14.** Suppose you press your physics book against a wall hard enough to keep it from moving. Does the friction force on the book point (a) into the wall, (b) out of the wall, (c) up, (d) down, or (e) is there no friction force? Explain.

**15.** Figure Q5.15 shows a hollow tube forming three-quarters of a circle. It is lying flat on a table. A ball is shot through the tube at

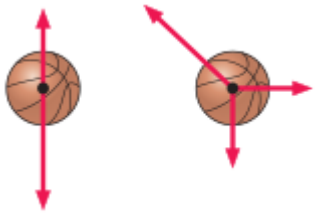
high speed. As the ball emerges from the other end, does it follow path A, path B, or path C? Explain.

**Figure Q5.15**




**16.** Which, if either, of the basketballs in Figure Q5.16 are in equilibrium? Explain.

**Figure Q5.16**



**17.** Which of the following are inertial reference frames? Explain.

**a.** A car driving at steady speed on a straight and level road.

**b.** A car driving at steady speed up a 10° incline.

**c.** A car speeding up after leaving a stop sign.

**d.** A car driving at steady speed around a curve.

# Exercises and Problems

# Exercises

## Section 5.3 Identifying Forces

**1.** • A car is parked on a steep hill. Identify the forces on the car.

**2.** • A chandelier hangs from a chain in the middle of a dining room. Identify the forces on the chandelier.

**3.** • A baseball player is sliding into second base. Identify the forces on the baseball player.

**4.** •• A jet plane is speeding down the runway during takeoff. Air resistance is not negligible. Identify the forces on the jet.



**5.** •• An arrow has just been shot from a bow and is now traveling horizontally. Air resistance is not negligible. Identify the forces on the arrow.

## Section 5.4 What Do Forces Do?

**6.** • Two rubber bands cause an object to accelerate with acceleration $a$. How many rubber bands are needed to cause an object with half the mass to accelerate three times as quickly?

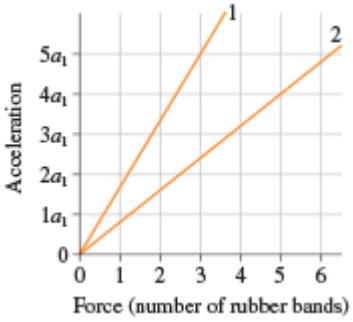
**7.** • Two rubber bands pulling on an object cause it to accelerate at 1.2 $m/s^2$.

**a.** What will be the object's acceleration if it is pulled by four rubber bands?

**b.** What will be the acceleration of two of these objects glued together if they are pulled by two rubber bands?

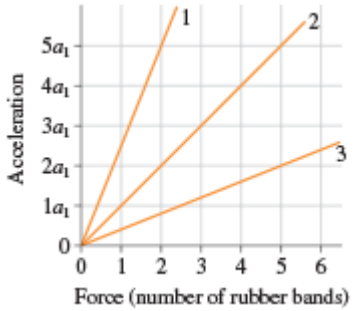
**8.** •• Figure EX5.8 shows acceleration-versus-force graphs for two objects pulled by rubber bands. What is the mass ratio $m_1/m_2$?

**Figure EX5.8**




**9.** •• Figure EX5.9 shows an acceleration-versus-force graph for three objects pulled by rubber bands. The mass of object 2 is 0.20 kg. What are the masses of objects 1 and 3? Explain your reasoning.

**Figure EX5.9**



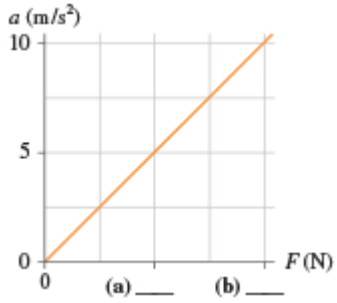

**10.** •• For an object starting from rest and accelerating with constant acceleration, distance traveled is proportional to the square of the time. If an object travels 2.0 furlongs in the first 2.0 s, how far will it travel in the first 4.0 s?

**11.** •• You'll learn in Chapter 25 that the *potential energy* of two electric charges is inversely proportional to the distance between them. Two charges 30 nm apart have 1.0 J of potential energy. What is their potential energy if they are 20 nm apart?

## Section 5.5 Newton's Second Law

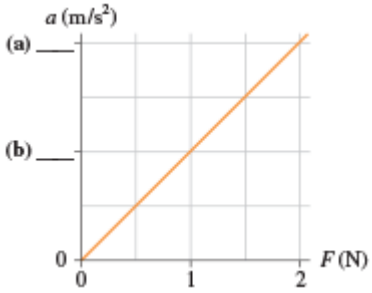
**12.** • Figure EX5.12 shows an acceleration-versus-force graph for a 200 g object. What force values go in the blanks on the horizontal scale?

**Figure EX5.12**



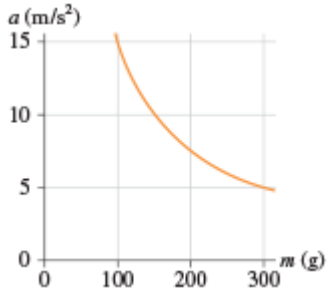

**13.** • Figure EX5.13 shows an acceleration-versus-force graph for a 500 g object. What acceleration values go in the blanks on the vertical scale?

**Figure EX5.13**



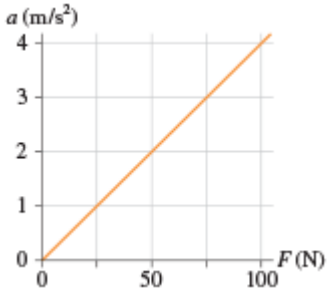

**14.** •• Figure EX5.14 shows the acceleration of objects of different mass that experience the same force. What is the magnitude of the force?

**Figure EX5.14**




**15.** • Figure EX5.15 shows an object's acceleration-versus-force graph. What is the object's mass?

**Figure EX5.15**




**16.** • Based on the information in Table 5.1, *estimate*

**a.** The weight of a laptop computer.

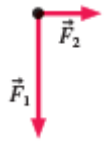
**b.** The propulsion force of a bicycle.

## Section 5.6 Newton's First Law

Exercises 17, 18, 19 show two of the three forces acting on an object in equilibrium. Redraw the diagram, showing all three forces. Label the third force $\vec{F}_3$.

**17.** ••

**Figure EX5.17**




**18.** ••

**Figure EX5.18**

**19.** ••

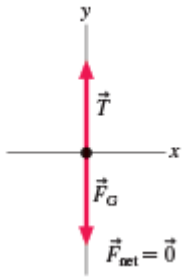
**Figure EX5.19**

## Section 5.7 Free-Body Diagrams

Exercises 20, 21, 22 show a free-body diagram. For each, write a short description of a real object for which this would be the correct free-body diagram. Use Examples 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 as examples of what a description should be like.

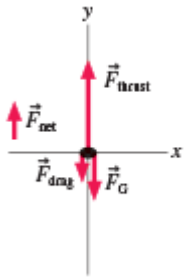
**20.** •

**Figure EX5.20**



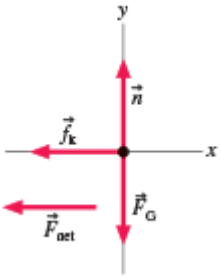

**21.** •

Figure EX5.21




**22.** •

Figure EX5.22






Exercises 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 describe a situation. For each, identify all forces acting on the object and draw a free-body diagram of the object.

**23.** • A cat is sitting on a window sill.

**24.** • An ice hockey puck glides across frictionless ice.

**25.** • Your physics textbook is sliding across the table.

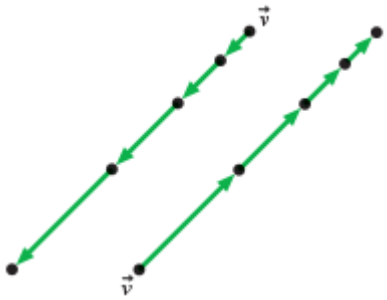
**26.** • A steel beam, suspended by a single cable, is being lowered by a crane at a steadily decreasing speed.

**27.** • A jet plane is accelerating down the runway during takeoff. Friction is negligible, but air resistance is not.

## Problems

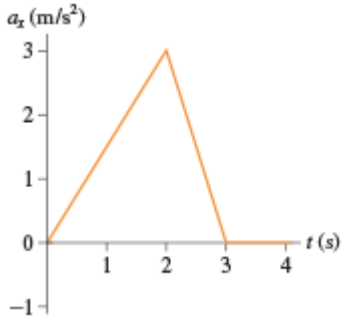
**28.** • Redraw the two motion diagrams shown in Figure P5.28, then draw a vector beside each one to show the direction of the net force acting on the object. Explain your reasoning.

**Figure P5.28**



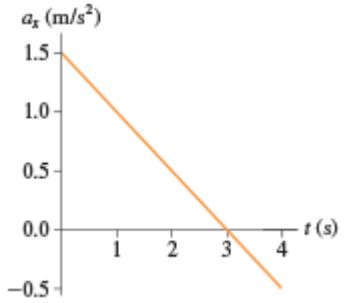

**29.** • A single force with $x$-component $F_x$ acts on a 2.0 kg object as it moves along the $x$-axis. The object's acceleration graph ($a_x$ versus $t$) is shown in Figure P5.29. Draw a graph of $F_x$ versus $t$.

**Figure P5.29**



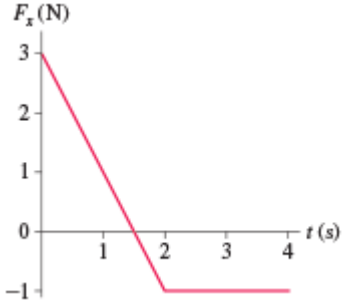

**30.** •• A single force with $x$-component $F_x$ acts on a 500 g object as it moves along the $x$-axis. The object's acceleration graph ($a_x$ versus $t$) is shown in Figure P5.30. Draw a graph of $F_x$ versus $t$.

**Figure P5.30**



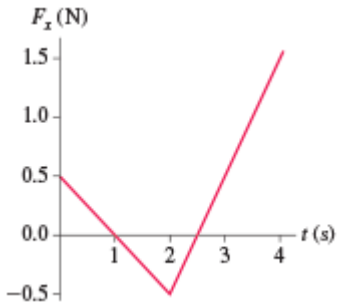

**31.** • A single force with $x$-component $F_x$ acts on a 2.0 kg object as it moves along the $x$-axis. A graph of $F_x$ versus $t$ is shown in Figure P5.31. Draw an acceleration graph ($a_x$ versus $t$) for this object.

**Figure P5.31**



**32.** •• A single force with $x$-component $F_x$ acts on a 500 g object as it moves along the $x$-axis. A graph of $F_x$ versus $t$ is shown in Figure P5.32. Draw an acceleration graph ($a_x$ versus $t$) for this object.

**Figure P5.32**




**33.** • A constant force is applied to an object, causing the object to accelerate at 8.0 m/s$^2$. What will the acceleration be if

**a.** The force is doubled?

**b.** The object's mass is doubled?

**c.** The force and the object's mass are both doubled?

**d.** The force is doubled and the object's mass is halved?

**34.** • A constant force is applied to an object, causing the object to accelerate at 10 m/s$^2$. What will the acceleration be if

**a.** The force is halved?

**b.** The object's mass is halved?

**c.** The force and the object's mass are both halved?

**d.** The force is halved and the object's mass is doubled?

Problems 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 show a free-body diagram. For each:

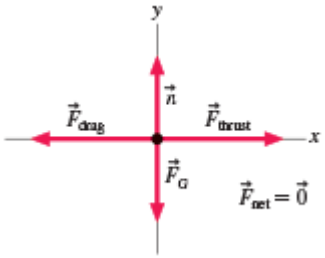
**a.** Identify the direction of the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ and show it as a vector next to your diagram. Or, if appropriate, write $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$.

**b.** If possible, identify the direction of the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ and show it as a labeled vector.

**c.** Write a short description of a real object for which this is the correct free-body diagram. Use Examples 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 as models of what a description should be like.

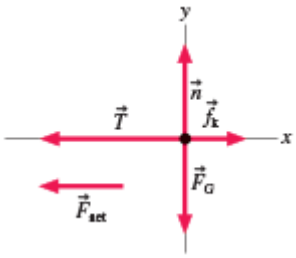
**35.** •

Figure P5.35



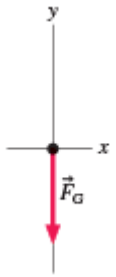

**36.** •

Figure P5.36




**37.** •

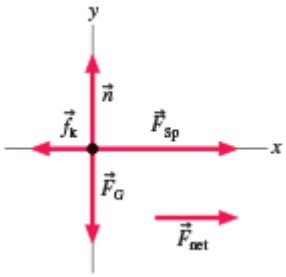
Figure P5.37




**38.** •

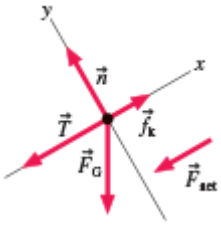
Figure P5.38





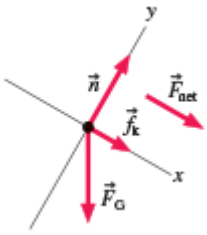

**39.** ••

Figure P5.39




**40.** ••

Figure P5.40



**41.** •• In lab, you propel a cart with four known forces while using an ultrasonic motion detector to measure the cart's acceleration. Your data are as follows:

| Force (N) | Acceleration ($m/s^2$) |
|---|---|
| 0.25 | 0.5 |
| 0.50 | 0.8 |
| 0.75 | 1.3 |
| 1.00 | 1.8 |

**a.** How should you graph these data so as to determine the mass of the cart from the slope of the line? That is, what values should you graph on the horizontal axis and what on the vertical axis?

**b.** Is there another data point that would be reasonable to add, even though you made no measurements? If so, what is it?

**c.** What is your best determination of the cart's mass?

Problems 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52 describe a situation. For each, draw a motion diagram, a force-identification diagram, and a free-body diagram.

**42.** • An elevator, suspended by a single cable, has just left the tenth floor and is speeding up as it descends toward the ground floor.

**43.** •• A rocket is being launched straight up. Air resistance is not negligible.

**44.** • A Styrofoam ball has just been shot straight up. Air resistance is not negligible.

**45.** • You are a rock climber going upward at a steady pace on a vertical wall.

**46.** •• You've slammed on the brakes and your car is skidding to a stop while going down a 20° hill.

**47.** • You've just kicked a rock on the sidewalk and it is now sliding along the concrete.

**48.** •• You've jumped down from a platform. Your feet are touching the ground and your knees are flexing as you stop.

**49.** •• You are bungee jumping from a high bridge. You are moving downward while the bungee cord is stretching.

**50.** •• Your friend went for a loop-the-loop ride at the amusement park. Her car is upside down at the top of the loop.

**51.** •• A spring-loaded gun shoots a plastic ball. The trigger has just been pulled and the ball is starting to move down the barrel. The barrel is horizontal.

**52.** •• A person on a bridge throws a rock straight down toward the water. The rock has just been released.

**53.** •• **BIO** The leaf hopper, champion jumper of the insect world, can jump straight up at 4 $m/s^2$. The jump itself lasts a mere 1 ms before the insect is clear of the ground.

**a.** Draw a free-body diagram of this mighty leaper while the jump is taking place.

**b.** While the jump is taking place, is the force of the ground on the leaf hopper greater than, less than, or equal to the force of gravity on the leaf hopper? Explain.

**54.** •• A bag of groceries is on the seat of your car as you stop for a stop light. The bag does not slide. Draw a motion diagram, a force-identification diagram, and a free-body diagram for the bag.

**55.** •• A heavy box is in the back of a truck. The truck is accelerating to the right. Draw a motion diagram, a force-

identification diagram, and a free-body diagram for the box.

**56.** •• If a car stops suddenly, you feel "thrown forward." We'd like to understand what happens to the passengers as a car stops. Imagine yourself sitting on a *very* slippery bench inside a car. This bench has no friction, no seat back, and there's nothing for you to hold onto.

**a.** Draw a picture and identify all of the forces acting on you as the car travels at a perfectly steady speed on level ground.

**b.** Draw your free-body diagram. Is there a net force on you? If so, in which direction?

**c.** Repeat parts a and b with the car slowing down.

**d.** Describe what happens to you as the car slows down.

**e.** Use Newton's laws to explain why you seem to be "thrown forward" as the car stops. Is there really a force pushing you forward?

**f.** Suppose now that the bench is not slippery. As the car slows down, you stay on the bench and don't slide off. What force is responsible for your deceleration? In which direction does this force point? Include a free-body diagram as part of your answer.

**57.** •• A rubber ball bounces. We'd like to understand *how* the ball bounces.

**a.** A rubber ball has been dropped and is bouncing off the floor. Draw a motion diagram of the ball during the brief time interval that it is in contact with the floor. Show 4 or 5 frames as the ball compresses, then another 4 or 5 frames as it expands. What is the direction of $\vec{a}$ during each of these parts of the motion?

**b.** Draw a picture of the ball in contact with the floor and identify all forces acting on the ball.

**c.** Draw a free-body diagram of the ball during its contact with the ground. Is there a net force acting on the ball? If so, in which direction?

**d.** Write a paragraph in which you describe what you learned from parts a to c and in which you answer the question: How does a ball bounce?

# Chapter 6
# Dynamics I: Motion Along a Line

The powerful thrust of the jet engines accelerates this enormous plane to a speed of over 150 mph in less than a mile.

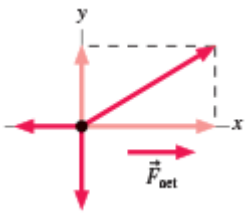
**In This Chapter**

you will learn to solve linear force-and-motion problems.

## How are Newton's laws used to solve problems?

Newton's first and second laws are vector equations. To use them,

- Draw a free-body diagram.
- Read the *x*- and *y*-components of the forces directly off the free-body diagram.
- Use $\sum F_x = ma_x$ and $\sum F_y = ma_y$.

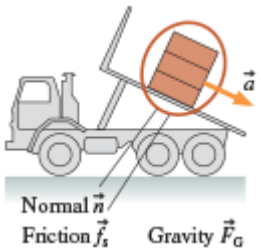


## How are dynamics problems solved?

A net force on an object causes the object to accelerate.

- Identify the forces and draw a free-body diagram.
- Use Newton's second law to find the object's acceleration.
- Use kinematics for velocity and position.

Looking Back Sections 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 Kinematics

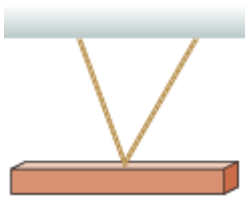



## How are equilibrium problems solved?

An object at rest or moving with constant velocity is in equilibrium with no net force.

- Identify the forces and draw a free-body diagram.
- Use Newton's second law with $a = 0$ to solve for unknown forces.

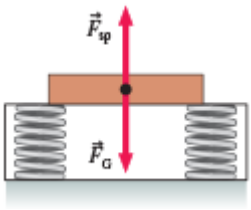
Looking Back Sections 5.1, 5.2 Forces



## What are mass and weight?

Mass and weight are not the same.

- Mass describes an object's inertia. Loosely speaking, it is the amount of matter in an object. It is the same everywhere.
- Gravity is a force.
- Weight is the result of weighing an object on a scale. It depends on mass, gravity, and acceleration.




## How do we model friction and drag?

Friction and drag are complex forces, but we will develop simple models of each.

- Static, kinetic, and rolling friction depend on the coefficients of friction but not on the object's speed.
- Drag depends on the *square* of an object's speed and on its cross-section area.
- Falling objects reach terminal speed when drag and gravity are balanced.

## How do we solve problems?

We will develop and use a four-part problem-solving strategy:

- Model the problem, using information about objects and forces.
- Visualize the situation with a pictorial representation.
- Set up and solve the problem with Newton's laws.
- Assess the result to see if it is reasonable.

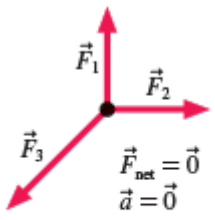
# 6.1 The Equilibrium Model

Kinematics is a description of *how* an object moves. But our goal is deeper: We would like an explanation for *why* an object moves as it does. Galileo and Newton discovered that motion is determined by forces. In the absence of a net force, an object is at rest or moves with constant velocity. **Its acceleration is zero,** and this is the basis for our first explanatory model: the **equilibrium model**.

MODEL 6.1 **Mechanical equilibrium**

For objects on which the net force is zero.

- Model the object as a particle with no acceleration.
  - A particle at rest is in equilibrium.
  - A particle moving in a straight line at constant speed is also in equilibrium.
- Mathematically: $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ in equilibrium; thus
  - **Newton's second law** is $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum_i \vec{F}_i = \vec{0}.$
  - The forces are "read" from the free-body diagram,
- Limitations: Model fails if the forces aren't balanced.




The object is at rest or moves with constant velocity.

Newton's laws are *vector equations.* The requirement for equilibrium, $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$ and thus $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$, is a shorthand way of writing two simultaneous equations:

**(6.1)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = \sum_i (F_i)_x = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (F_{\text{net}})_y = \sum_i (F_i)_y = 0$$

In other words, the sum of all $x$-components and the sum of all $y$-components must simultaneously be zero. Although real-world situations often have forces pointing in three dimensions, thus requiring a third equation for the $z$-component of $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$, we will restrict ourselves for now to problems that can be analyzed in two dimensions.

The concept of equilibrium is essential for the engineering analysis of stationary objects such as bridges.

> **Note**
>
> The equilibrium condition of Equations 6.1 applies only to particles, which cannot rotate. Equilibrium of an extended object, which can rotate, requires an additional condition that we will study in Chapter 12.

Equilibrium problems occur frequently. Let's look at a couple of examples.

### Example 6.1 Finding the force on the kneecap

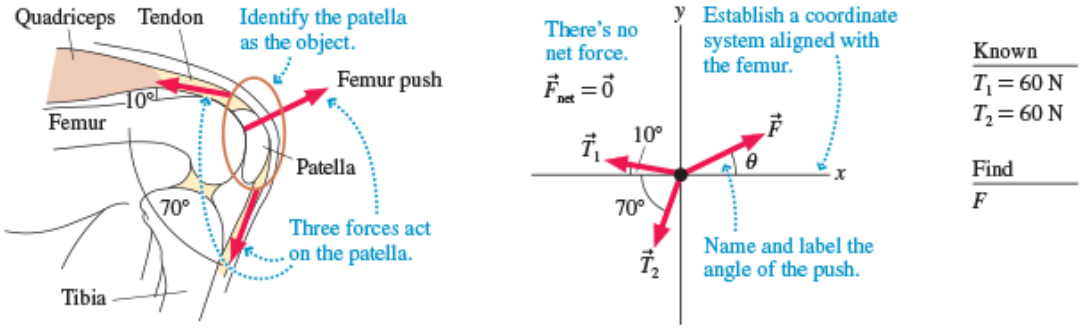
Your kneecap (patella) is attached by a tendon to your quadriceps muscle. This tendon pulls at a 10° angle relative to the femur, the bone of your upper leg. The patella is also attached to your lower leg (tibia) by a tendon that pulls parallel to the leg. To balance these forces, the end of your femur pushes outward on the patella. Bending your knee increases the tension in the tendons, and both have a tension of 60 N when the knee is bent to make a 70° angle between the upper and lower leg. What force does the femur exert on the kneecap in this position?



**MODEL** Model the kneecap as a particle in equilibrium.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 6.1 shows how to draw a pictorial representation. We've chosen to align the $x$-axis with the femur. The three forces—shown on the free-body diagram—are labeled $\vec{T}_1$ and $\vec{T}_2$ for the tensions and $\vec{F}$ for the femur's push. Notice that we've *defined* angle $\theta$ to indicate the direction of the femur's force on the kneecap.

**Figure 6.1**




Pictorial representation of the kneecap in equilibrium.

---

**SOLVE** This is an equilibrium problem, with three forces on the kneecap that must sum to zero. For $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$, Newton's second law, written in component form, is

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = \sum_i (F_i)_x = T_{1x} + T_{2x} + F_x = 0$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = \sum_i (F_i)_y = T_{1y} + T_{2y} + F_y = 0$$

> **Note**
>
> You might have been tempted to write $-T_{1x}$ in the equation since $\vec{T}_1$ points to the left. But the net force, by definition, is the *sum* of all the individual forces. The fact that $\vec{T}_1$ points to the left will be taken into account when we *evaluate* the components.

The components of the force vectors can be evaluated directly from the free-body diagram:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{1x} &= -T_1 \cos 10^\circ & T_{1y} &= T_1 \sin 10^\circ \\ T_{2x} &= -T_2 \cos 70^\circ & T_{2y} &= -T_2 \sin 70^\circ \\ F_x &= F \cos \theta & F_y &= F \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

*This is where signs enter,* with $T_{1x}$ being assigned a negative value because $\vec{T}_1$ points to the left. Similarly, $\vec{T}_2$ points both to the left

and down, so both $T_{2x}$ and $T_{2y}$ are negative. With these components, Newton's second law becomes

$$\begin{aligned} -T_1 \cos\ 10^\circ - T_2 \cos\ 70^\circ + F \cos\ \theta = 0 \\ T_1 \sin\ 10^\circ - T_2 \sin\ 70^\circ + F \sin\ \theta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

These are two simultaneous equations for the two unknowns $F$ and $\theta$. We will encounter equations of this form on many occasions, so make a note of the method of solution. First, rewrite the two equations as

$$\begin{aligned} F \cos\ \theta = T_1 \cos\ 10^\circ + T_2 \cos\ 70^\circ \\ F \sin\ \theta = -T_1 \sin\ 10^\circ + T_2 \sin\ 70^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Next, divide the second equation by the first to eliminate $F$:

$$\frac{F \sin\ \theta}{F \cos\ \theta} = \tan\theta = \frac{-T_1 \sin\ 10^\circ + T_2 \sin\ 70^\circ}{T_1 \cos\ 10^\circ + T_2 \cos\ 70^\circ}$$

Then solve for $\theta$:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{-T_1 \sin\ 10^\circ + T_2 \sin\ 70^\circ}{T_1 \cos\ 10^\circ + T_2 \cos\ 70^\circ}\right) \\ &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{-(60\ \text{N}) \sin 10^\circ + (60\ \text{N}) \sin 70^\circ}{(60\ \text{N}) \cos 10^\circ + (60\ \text{N}) \cos 70^\circ}\right) = 30^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Finally, use $\theta$ to find $F$:

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \frac{T_1 \cos\ 10^\circ + T_2 \cos\ 70^\circ}{\cos\ \theta} \\ &= \frac{(60\ \text{N}) \cos 10^\circ + (60\ \text{N}) \cos 70^\circ}{\cos\ 30^\circ} = 92\ \text{N} \end{aligned}$$

The question asked What force? and force is a vector, so we must specify both the magnitude and the direction. With the knee in this

position, the femur exerts a force $\vec{F} = (92\ \text{N}, 30^\circ\ \text{above the femur})$ on the kneecap.

**ASSESS** The magnitude of the force would be 0 N if the leg were straight, 120 N if the knee could be bent 180° so that the two tendons pull in parallel. The knee is closer to fully bent than to straight, so we would expect a femur force between 60 N and 120 N. Thus the calculated magnitude of 92 N seems reasonable.



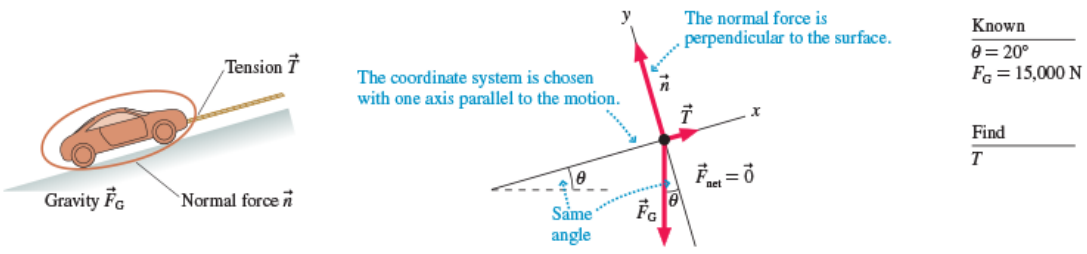
## Example 6.2 Towing a car up a hill

A car with a weight of 15,000 N is being towed up a 20° slope at constant velocity. Friction is negligible. The tow rope is rated at 6000 N maximum tension. Will it break?

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle in equilibrium.

**VISUALIZE** Part of our analysis of the problem statement is to determine which quantity or quantities allow us to answer the yes-or-no question. In this case, we need to calculate the tension in the rope. Figure 6.2 shows the pictorial representation. Note the similarities to Examples 5.2 and 5.6 in Chapter 5, which you may want to review.

### Figure 6.2



Pictorial representation of a car being towed up a hill.

We noted in Chapter 5 that the weight of an object at rest is the magnitude $F_G$ of the gravitational force acting on it, and that information has been listed as known.

**SOLVE** The free-body diagram shows forces $\vec{T}$, $\vec{n}$, and $\vec{F}_G$ acting on the car. Newton's second law with $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ is

$$\begin{aligned}(F_{net})_x &= \sum F_x = T_x + n_x + (F_G)_x = 0\\ (F_{net})_y &= \sum F_y = T_y + n_y + (F_G)_y = 0\end{aligned}$$

From here on, we'll use $\sum F_x$ and $\sum F_x$, without the label $i$, as a simple shorthand notation to indicate that we're adding all the $x$-components and all the $y$-components of the forces.

We can find the components directly from the free-body diagram:

$$\begin{aligned}T_x &= T & T_y &= 0\\ n_x &= 0 & n_y &= n\\ (F_G)_x &= -F_G \sin\theta & (F_G)_y &= -F_G \cos\theta\end{aligned}$$

> **Note**
>
> The gravitational force has both $x$- and $y$-components in this coordinate system, both of which are negative due to the direction of the vector $\vec{F}_G$. You'll see this situation often, so be sure you understand where $(F_G)_x$ and $(F_G)_y$ come from.

With these components, the second law becomes

$$\begin{aligned}T - F_G \sin\theta &= 0\\ n - F_G \cos\theta &= 0\end{aligned}$$

The first of these can be rewritten as

$$T = F_{\mathrm{G}} \sin\theta = (15{,}000\ \mathrm{N}) \sin 20^\circ = 5100\ \mathrm{N}$$

Because $\mathrm{T} < 6000\ \mathrm{N}$, we conclude that the rope will *not* break. It turned out that we did not need the $y$-component equation in this problem.

**ASSESS** Because there's no friction, it would not take *any* tension force to keep the car rolling along a horizontal surface ($\theta = 0^\circ$). At the other extreme, $\theta = 90^\circ$, the tension force would need to equal the car's weight ($T = 15{,}000\,\mathrm{N}$) to lift the car straight up at constant velocity. The tension force for a 20° slope should be somewhere in between, and 5100 N is a little less than half the weight of the car. That our result is reasonable doesn't prove it's right, but we have at least ruled out careless errors that give unreasonable results.

# 6.2 Using Newton's Second Law

The essence of Newtonian mechanics, introduced in Section 5.4, can be expressed in two steps:

- The forces acting on an object determine its acceleration $\vec{a} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}/m$.
- The object's trajectory can be determined by using $\vec{a}$ in the equations of kinematics.

These two ideas are the basis of a problem-solving strategy.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 6.1 Newtonian mechanics**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the object as a particle. Make other simplifications depending on what kinds of forces are acting.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a **pictorial representation**.

- Show important points in the motion with a sketch, establish a coordinate system, define symbols, and identify what the problem is trying to find.
- Use a motion diagram to determine the object's acceleration vector $\vec{a}$. The acceleration is zero for an object in equilibrium.
- Identify all forces acting on the object *at this instant* and show them on a free-body diagram.

- It's OK to go back and forth between these steps as you visualize the situation.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on Newton's second law:

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum_i \vec{F}_i = m\vec{a}$$

The forces are "read" directly from the free-body diagram. Depending on the problem, either

- Solve for the acceleration, then use kinematics to find velocities and positions; or
- Use kinematics to determine the acceleration, then solve for unknown forces.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 23

---

Newton's second law is a vector equation. To apply the step labeled Solve, you must write the second law as two simultaneous equations:

**(6.2)**

$$\begin{aligned}(F_{\text{net}})_x &= \sum F_x = ma_x \\ (F_{\text{net}})_y &= \sum F_y = ma_y\end{aligned}$$

The primary goal of this chapter is to illustrate the use of this strategy.

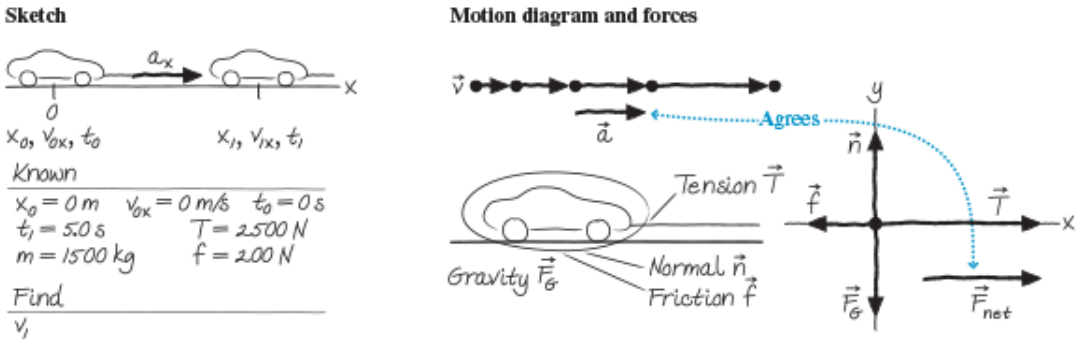
### Example 6.3 Speed of a towed car

A 1500 kg car is pulled by a tow truck. The tension in the tow rope is 2500 N, and a 200 N friction force opposes the motion. If the car starts from rest, what is its speed after 5.0 seconds?

**MODEL** Model the car as an accelerating particle. We'll assume, as part of our *interpretation* of the problem, that the road is horizontal and that the direction of motion is to the right.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 6.3 shows the pictorial representation. We've established a coordinate system and defined symbols to represent kinematic quantities. We've identified the speed $v_1$, rather than the velocity $v_{1x}$, as what we're trying to find.

#### Figure 6.3




Pictorial representation of a car being towed.

**SOLVE** We begin with Newton's second law:

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = \sum F_x = T_x + f_x + n_x + (F_G)_x = ma_x$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = \sum F_y = T_y + f_y + n_y + (F_G)_y = ma_y$$

All four forces acting on the car have been included in the vector sum. The equations are perfectly general, with + signs everywhere, because the four vectors are *added* to give $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$. We can now "read" the vector components from the free-body diagram:

$$\begin{array}{llll} T_x = +T & T_y = 0 & n_x = 0 & n_y = +n \\ f_x = -f & f_y = 0 & (F_{\text{G}})_x = 0 & (F_{\text{G}})_y = -F_{\text{G}} \end{array}$$

The signs, which we had to insert by hand, depend on which way the vectors point. Substituting these into the second-law equations and dividing by $m$ give

$$\begin{aligned} a_x &= \frac{1}{m}(T - f) \\ &= \frac{1}{1500\ \text{kg}}(2500\ \text{N} - 200\ \text{N}) = 1.53\ \text{m/s}^2 \\ a_y &= \frac{1}{m}(n - F_{\text{G}}) \end{aligned}$$

> **Note**
>
> Newton's second law has allowed us to determine $a_x$ exactly but has given only an algebraic expression for $a_y$. However, we know *from the motion diagram* that $a_y = 0$! That is, the motion is purely along the *x*-axis, so there is *no* acceleration along the *y*-axis. The requirement $a_y = 0$ allows us to conclude that $n = F_{\text{G}}$.

Because $a_x$ is a constant 1.53 m/s², we can finish by using constant-acceleration kinematics to find the velocity:

$$\begin{aligned} v_{1x} &= v_{0x} + a_x\ \Delta t \\ &= 0 + (1.53\ \text{m/s}^2)(5.0\ \text{s}) = 7.7\ \text{m/s} \end{aligned}$$

The problem asked for the *speed* after 5.0 s, which is $v_1 = 7.7\ \text{m/s}$.

**ASSESS** 7.7 m/s $\approx$ 15 mph, a quite reasonable speed after 5 s of acceleration.

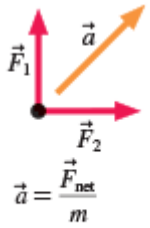
If all the forces acting on an object are constant, as in the last example, then the object moves with constant acceleration and we can deploy the uniform-acceleration model of kinetics. Now not all forces are constant—you will later meet forces that vary with position or time—but in many situations it is reasonable to model the motion as being due to constant forces. The **constant-force model** will be our most important dynamics model for the next several chapters.



MODEL 6.2 **Constant force**

For objects on which the net force is constant.

- Model the object as a particle with uniform acceleration.
  - The particle accelerates in the direction of the net force.
- Mathematically:
  - **Newton's second law** is $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum_i \vec{F}_i = m\vec{a}$.
  - Use the kinematics of constant acceleration.
- Limitations: Model fails if the forces aren't constant.




The object undergoes uniform acceleration.

## Example 6.4 Altitude of a rocket

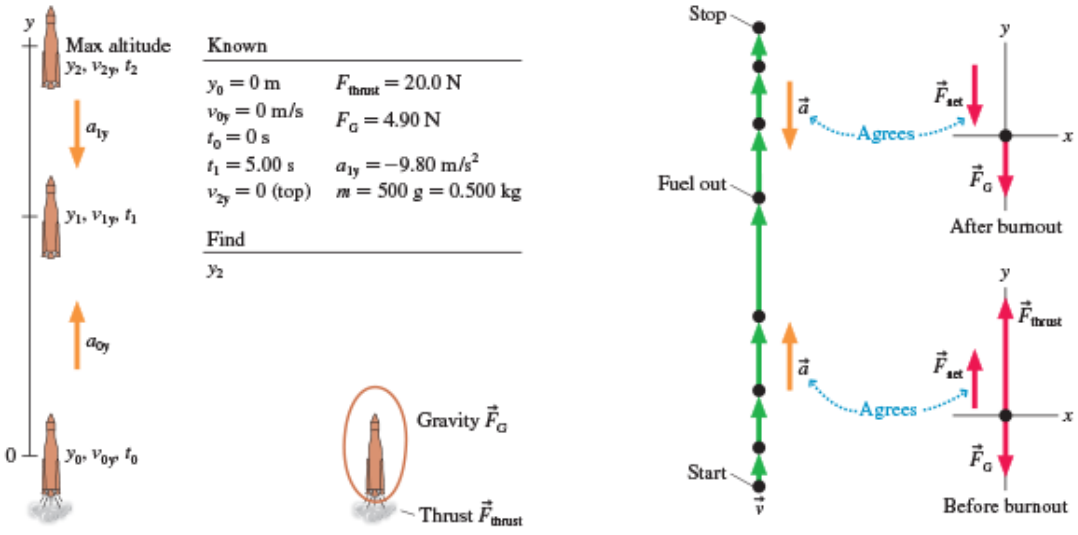
A 500 g model rocket with a weight of 4.90 N is launched straight up. The small rocket motor burns for 5.00 s and has a steady thrust of 20.0 N. What maximum altitude does the rocket reach?



**MODEL** We'll model the rocket as a particle acted on by constant forces by neglecting the velocity-dependent air resistance (rockets have very aerodynamic shapes) and neglecting the mass loss of the burned fuel.

**VISUALIZE** The pictorial representation of Figure 6.4 finds that this is a two-part problem. First, the rocket accelerates straight up. Second, the rocket continues going up as it slows down, a free-fall situation. The maximum altitude is at the end of the second part of the motion.

### Figure 6.4




Pictorial representation of a rocket launch.

**SOLVE** We now know what the problem is asking, have established relevant symbols and coordinates, and know what the forces are. We begin the mathematical representation by writing Newton's second law, in component form, as the rocket accelerates upward. The free-body diagram shows two forces, so

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = \sum F_x = (F_{\text{thrust}})_x + (F_{\text{G}})_x = ma_{0x}$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = \sum F_y = (F_{\text{thrust}})_y + (F_{\text{G}})_y = ma_{0y}$$

The fact that vector $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ points downward—and which might have tempted you to use a minus sign in the $y$-equation—will be taken into account when we *evaluate* the components. None of the vectors in this problem has an $x$-component, so only the $y$-component of the second law is needed. We can use the free-body diagram to see that

$$(F_{\text{thrust}})_y = +F_{\text{thrust}}$$
$$(F_{\text{G}})_y = -F_{\text{G}}$$

This is the point at which the directional information about the force vectors enters. The $y$-component of the second law is then

$$\begin{aligned} a_{0y} &= \frac{1}{m}(F_{\text{thrust}} - F_{\text{G}}) \\ &= \frac{20.0\ \text{N} - 4.90\ \text{N}}{0.500\ \text{kg}} = 30.2\ \text{m/s}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that we converted the mass to SI units of kilograms before doing any calculations and that, because of the definition of the newton, the division of newtons by kilograms automatically gives the correct SI units of acceleration.

The acceleration of the rocket is constant until it runs out of fuel, so we can use constant-acceleration kinematics to find the altitude and velocity at burnout ($\Delta t = t_1 = 5.00$ s):

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= y_0 + v_{0y}\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2}a_{0y}(\Delta t)^2 \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}a_{0y}(\Delta t)^2 = 377 \text{ m} \\ v_{1y} &= v_{0y} + a_{0y}\,\Delta t = a_{0y}\,\Delta t = 151 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

The only force on the rocket after burnout is gravity, so the second part of the motion is free fall. We do not know how long it takes to reach the top, but we do know that the final velocity is $v_{2y} = 0$. Constant-acceleration kinematics with $a_{1y} = -g$ gives

$$v_{2y}{}^2 = 0 = v_{1y}{}^2 - 2g\,\Delta y = v_{1y}{}^2 - 2g(y_2 - y_1)$$

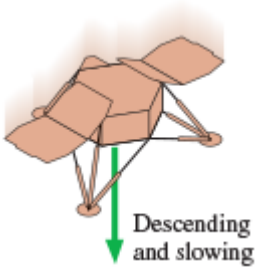
which we can solve to find

$$\begin{aligned} y_2 &= y_1 + \frac{v_{1y}{}^2}{2g} = 377 \text{ m} + \frac{(151 \text{ m/s})^2}{2(9.80 \text{ m/s}^2)} \\ &= 1540 \text{ m} = 1.54 \text{ km} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The maximum altitude reached by this rocket is 1.54 km, or just slightly under one mile. While this does not seem unreasonable for a high-acceleration rocket, the neglect of air resistance was probably not a terribly realistic assumption.

## Stop to Think 6.1

A Martian lander is approaching the surface. It is slowing its descent by firing its rocket motor. Which is the correct free-body diagram?




**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

# 6.3 Mass, Weight, and Gravity



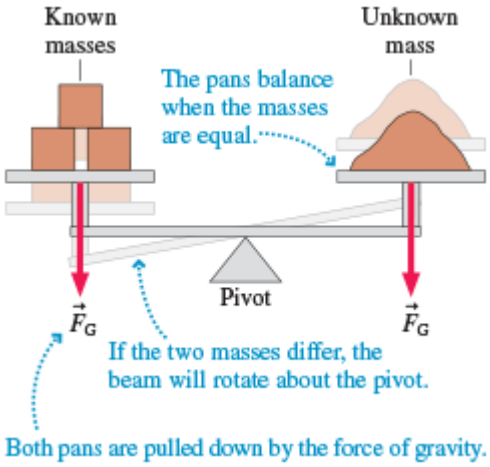
Ordinary language does not make a large distinction between mass and weight. However, these are separate and distinct concepts in science and engineering. We need to understand how they differ, and how they're related to gravity, if we're going to think clearly about force and motion.

## Mass: An Intrinsic Property

Mass, you'll recall from Section 5.4, is a scalar quantity that describes an object's inertia. Loosely speaking, it also describes the amount of matter in an object. **Mass is an intrinsic property of an object.** It tells us something about the object, regardless of where the object is, what it's doing, or whatever forces may be acting on it.

A *pan balance,* shown in Figure 6.5, is a device for measuring mass. Although a pan balance requires gravity to function, it does not depend on the strength of gravity. Consequently, the pan balance would give the same result on another planet.

**Figure 6.5**




A pan balance measures mass.

## Gravity: A Force

The idea of gravity has a long and interesting history intertwined with our evolving ideas about the solar system. It was Newton who—along with discovering his three laws of motion—first recognized that **gravity is an attractive, long-range force between *any* two objects.**

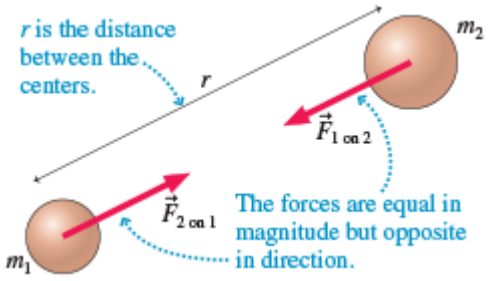
Figure 6.6 shows two objects with masses $m_1$ and $m_2$ separated by distance $r$. Each object pulls on the other with a force given by *Newton's law of gravity:*

**(6.3)**

$$F_{1\,\text{on}\,2} = F_{2\,\text{on}\,1} = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2} \qquad \text{(Newton's law of gravity)}$$

where $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{N}\,\text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2$, called the *gravitational constant,* is one of the basic constants of nature. Notice that gravity is *not* a constant force—the force gets weaker as the distance between the objects increases.

**Figure 6.6**




Newton's law of gravity.

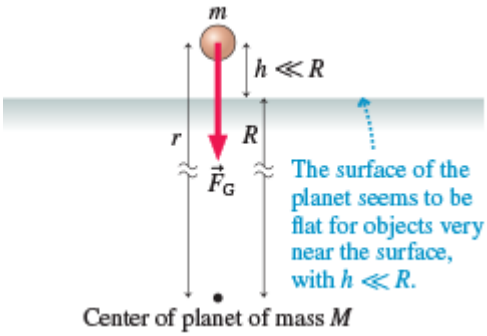
The gravitational force between two human-sized objects is minuscule, completely insignificant in comparison with other forces. That's why you're not aware of being tugged toward everything around you. Only when one or both objects are planet-sized or larger does gravity become an important force. Indeed, Chapter 13 will explore in detail the application of Newton's law of gravity to the orbits of satellites and planets.

For objects moving near the surface of the earth (or other planet), things like balls and cars and planes that we'll be studying in the next few chapters, we can make the **flat-earth approximation** shown in Figure 6.7. That is, if the object's height above the surface is very small in comparison with the size of the planet, then the curvature of the surface is not noticeable and there's virtually no difference between $r$ and the planet's radius $R$. Consequently, a very good approximation for the gravitational force of the planet on mass $m$ is simply

**(6.4)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{G}} = \vec{F}_{\text{planet on } m} = \left( \frac{GMm}{R^2}, \text{ straight down} \right) = (mg, \text{straight down})$$

**Figure 6.7**




Gravity near the surface of a planet.

The magnitude or size of the gravitational force is $F_{\mathrm{G}} = mg$, where the quantity $g$—a property of the planet—is defined to be

**(6.5)**

$$g = \frac{GM}{R^2}$$

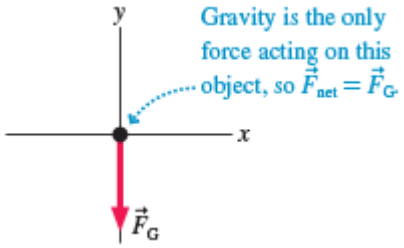
Also, the direction of the gravitational force defines what we *mean* by "straight down."

But why did we choose to call it $g$, a symbol we've already used for free-fall acceleration? To see the connection, recall that free fall is motion under the influence of gravity only. Figure 6.8 shows the free-body diagram of an object in free fall near the surface of a planet. With $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{F}_{\text{G}}$, Newton's second law predicts the acceleration to be

**(6.6)**

$$\vec{a}_{\text{free fall}} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{net}}}{m} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{G}}}{m} = (g, \text{straight down})$$

## Figure 6.8




The free-body diagram of an object in free fall.

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Because $g$ is a property of the planet, independent of the object, **all objects on the same planet, regardless of mass, have the same free-fall acceleration.** We introduced this idea in Chapter 2 as an experimental discovery of Galileo, but now we see that the mass independence of $\vec{a}_{\text{free fall}}$ is a prediction of Newton's law of gravity.



But does Newton's law predict the correct value, which we know from experiment to be $g = \left|a_{\text{free fall}}\right| = 9.80\ \text{m/s}^2$? We can use the average radius ($R_{\text{earth}} = 6.37 \times 10^6\ \text{m}$) and mass ($M_{\text{earth}} = 5.98 \times 10^{24}\ \text{kg}$) of the earth to calculate

$$g_{\text{earth}} = \frac{GM_{\text{earth}}}{(R_{\text{earth}})^2} = \frac{(6.67\ \times\ 10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2)(5.98\times10^{24}\ \text{kg})}{(6.37 \times 10^6\,\text{m})^2} = 9.83\ \text{N/kg}$$

You should convince yourself that N/kg is equivalent to m/s$^2$, so $g_{\text{earth}} = 9.83\ \text{m/s}^2$.

> **Note**
>
> Astronomical data are provided inside the back cover of the book.

Newton's prediction is very close, but it's not quite right. The free-fall acceleration *would* be 9.83 m/s$^2$ on a stationary earth, but, in reality, the earth is rotating on its axis. The "missing" 0.03 m/s$^2$ is due to the earth's rotation, a claim we'll justify when we study circular motion in Chapter

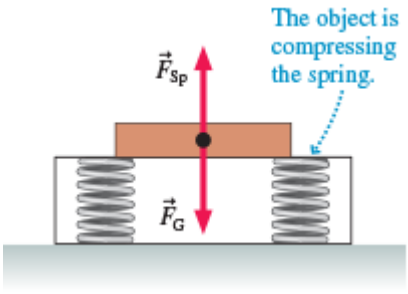
8. Because we're on the outside of a rotating sphere, rather like being on the outside edge of a merry-go-round, the effect of rotation is to "weaken" gravity.

Strictly speaking, Newton's laws of motion are not valid in an earth-based reference frame because it is rotating and thus is not an inertial reference frame. Fortunately, we can use Newton's laws to analyze motion near the earth's surface, and we can use $F_{\mathrm{G}} = mg$ for the gravitational force *if* we use $g = \left|a_{\text{free fall}}\right| = 9.80\ \mathrm{m/s^2}$ rather than $g = g_{\text{earth}}$. (This assertion is proved in more advanced classes.) In our rotating reference frame, $\overrightarrow{F}_{\mathrm{G}}$ is the *effective gravitational force*, the true gravitational force given by Newton's law of gravity plus a small correction due to our rotation. This is the force to show on free-body diagrams and use in calculations.

## Weight: A Measurement

When you weigh yourself, you stand on a *spring scale* and compress a spring. The reading of a spring scale, such as the one shown in Figure 6.9, is $F_{\mathrm{Sp}}$, the magnitude of the upward force the spring is exerting.

**Figure 6.9**




A spring scale measures weight.

With that in mind, let's define the **weight** of an object to be the reading $F_{\mathrm{Sp}}$ of a calibrated spring scale when the object is at rest relative to the

scale. That is, **weight is a measurement, the result of "weighing" an object.** Because $F_{\text{Sp}}$ is a force, weight is measured in newtons.

If the object and scale in Figure 6.9 are stationary, then the object being weighed is in equilibrium. $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$ only if the upward spring force exactly balances the downward gravitational force of magnitude $mg$:

**(6.7)**

$$F_{\text{Sp}} = F_{\text{G}} = mg$$

Because we defined weight as the reading $F_{\text{Sp}}$ of a spring scale, the weight of a stationary object is

**(6.8)**

$$w = mg \qquad (\text{weight of a stationary object})$$



Note that the scale does not "know" the weight of the object. All it can do is to measure how much its spring is compressed. On earth, a student with a mass of 70 kg has weight $w = (70\ \text{kg})(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2) = 686\ \text{N}$ *because* he compresses a spring until the spring pushes upward with 686 N. On a different planet, with a different value for $g$, the compression of the spring would be different and the student's weight would be different.

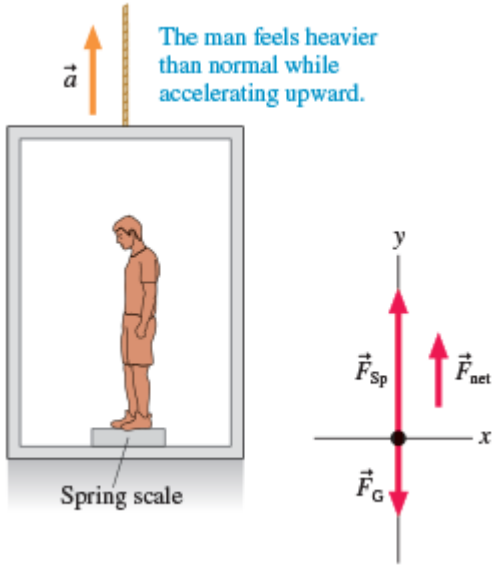
> **Note**
>
> **Mass and weight are not the same thing.** Mass, in kg, is an intrinsic property of an object; its value is unique and always the same. Weight, in N, depends on the object's mass, but it also depends on the situation—the strength of gravity and, as we will see, whether or not the object is accelerating. Weight is *not* a property of the object, and thus weight does not have a unique value.

Surprisingly, you cannot directly feel or sense gravity. Your *sensation*—how heavy you feel—is due to contact forces pressing against you, forces that touch you and activate nerve endings in your skin. As you read this, your sensation of weight is due to the normal force exerted on you by the chair in which you are sitting. When you stand, you feel the contact force of the floor pushing against your feet.

But recall the sensations you feel while accelerating. You feel "heavy" when an elevator suddenly accelerates upward, but this sensation vanishes as soon as the elevator reaches a steady speed. Your stomach seems to rise a little and you feel lighter than normal as the upward-moving elevator brakes to a halt or a roller coaster goes over the top. Has your weight actually changed?

To answer this question, Figure 6.10 shows a man weighing himself on a spring scale in an accelerating elevator. The only forces acting on the man are the upward spring force of the scale and the downward gravitational force. This seems to be the same situation as Figure 6.9, but there's one big difference: The man is accelerating, hence there must be a net force on the man in the direction of $\vec{a}$.

**Figure 6.10**




A man weighing himself in an accelerating elevator.

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For the net force $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}}$ to point upward, the magnitude of the spring force must be *greater* than the magnitude of the gravitational force. That is, $F_{\text{Sp}} > mg$. Looking at the free-body diagram in Figure 6.10, we see that the $y$-component of Newton's second law is

**(6.9)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = (F_{\text{Sp}})_y + (F_{\text{G}})_y = F_{\text{Sp}} - mg = ma_y$$

where $m$ is the man's mass.

We defined weight as the reading $F_{\text{Sp}}$ of a calibrated spring scale *when the object is at rest relative to the scale*. That is the case here as the scale and man accelerate upward together. Thus the man's weight as he accelerates vertically is

**(6.10)**

$$w = \text{scale reading } F_{\text{Sp}} = mg + ma_y = mg\left(1 + \frac{a_y}{g}\right)$$

If an object is either at rest or moving with constant velocity, then $a_y = 0$ and $w = mg$. That is, the weight of a stationary object is the magnitude of the (effective) gravitational force acting on it. But its weight differs if it has a vertical acceleration.

You *do* weigh more when accelerating upward $(a_y > 0)$ because the reading of a scale—a weighing—increases. Similarly, your weight is less when the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ points downward $(a_y < 0)$ because the scale reading goes down. Weight, as we've defined it, corresponds to your sensation of heaviness or lightness.*

We found Equation 6.10 by considering a person in an accelerating elevator, but it applies to any object with a vertical acceleration. Further, an object doesn't really have to be on a scale to have a weight; an object's weight is the magnitude of the contact force supporting it. It makes no difference whether this is the spring force of the scale or simply the normal force of the floor.

> **Note**
>
> Informally, we sometimes say "This object weighs such and such" or "The weight of this object is. .. ." We'll interpret these expressions as meaning *mg*, the weight of an object of mass *m* at rest $(a_y = 0)$ on the surface of the earth or some other astronomical body.

## Weightlessness

Suppose the elevator cable breaks and the elevator, along with the man and his scale, plunges straight down in free fall! What will the scale read? When the free-fall acceleration $a_y = -g$ is used in Equation 6.10, we find $w = 0$. In other words, *the man has no weight!*

Suppose, as the elevator falls, the man inside releases a ball from his hand. In the absence of air resistance, as Galileo discovered, both the man and the ball would fall at the same rate. From the man's perspective, the ball would appear to "float" beside him. Similarly, the scale would float beneath him and not press against his feet. He is what we call *weightless*. Gravity is still pulling down on him—that's why he's falling—but he has no *sensation* of weight as everything floats around him in free fall.

Astronauts are weightless as they orbit the earth.

But isn't this exactly what happens to astronauts orbiting the earth? If an astronaut tries to stand on a scale, it does not exert any force against her feet and reads zero. She is said to be weightless. But if the criterion to be weightless is to be in free fall, and if astronauts orbiting the earth are weightless, does this mean that they are in free fall? This is a very interesting question to which we shall return in Chapter 8.

## Stop to Think 6.2

An elevator that has descended from the 50th floor is coming to a halt at the 1st floor. As it does, your weight is

**a.** More than *mg*.

**b.** Less than $mg$.

**c.** Equal to $mg$.

**d.** Zero.

* Surprisingly, there is no universally agreed-upon definition of *weight*. Some textbooks define weight as the gravitational force on an object, $\vec{w} = (mg, \text{down})$. In that case, the scale reading of an accelerating object, and your sensation of weight, is often called *apparent weight*. This textbook prefers the definition of *weight* as being what a scale reads, the result of a weighing measurement.

# 6.4 Friction



Friction is absolutely essential for many things we do. Without friction you could not walk, drive, or even sit down (you would slide right off the chair!). Although friction is a complicated force, many aspects of friction can be described with a simple model.

## Static Friction

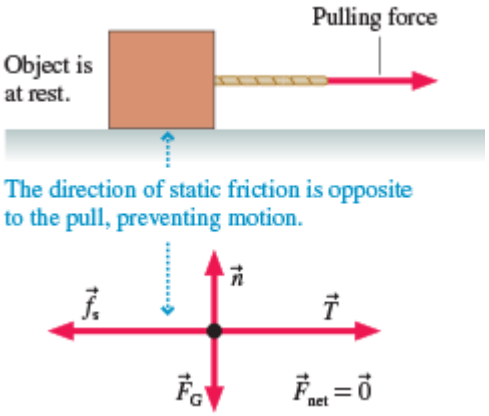
Section 5.2 defined *static friction* $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$ as the force on an object that keeps it from slipping. Figure 6.11 shows a rope pulling on a box that, due to static friction, isn't moving. The box is in equilibrium, so the static friction force must exactly balance the tension force:

**(6.11)**

$$f_{\text{s}} = T$$

To determine the direction of $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$, decide which way the object would move if there were no friction. The static friction force $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$ points in the *opposite* direction to prevent the motion.

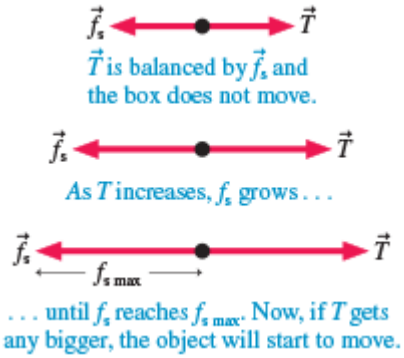
**Figure 6.11**




Static friction keeps an object from slipping.

Unlike the gravitational force, which has the precise and unambiguous magnitude $F_G = mg$, the size of the static friction force depends on how hard you push or pull. The harder the rope in Figure 6.11 pulls, the harder the floor pulls back. Reduce the tension, and the static friction force will automatically be reduced to match. Static friction acts in *response* to an applied force. Figure 6.12 illustrates this idea.

## Figure 6.12




Static friction acts in *response* to an applied force.

But there's clearly a limit to how big $f_s$ can get. If you pull hard enough, the object slips and starts to move. In other words, the static friction force has a *maximum* possible size $f_{s\,max}$.

- An object remains at rest as long as $f_s < f_{s\,max}$.

- The object slips when $f_{\text{s}} = f_{\text{s max}}$.
- A static friction force $f_{\text{s}} > f_{\text{s max}}$ is not physically possible.

Experiments with friction show that $f_{\text{s max}}$ is proportional to the magnitude of the normal force. That is,

**(6.12)**

$$f_{\text{s max}} = \mu_{\text{s}} n$$

where the proportionality constant $\mu_{\text{s}}$ is called the **coefficient of static friction.** The coefficient is a dimensionless number that depends on the materials of which the object and the surface are made. Table 6.1 on the next page shows some typical coefficients of friction. It is to be emphasized that these are only approximate; the exact value of the coefficient depends on the roughness, cleanliness, and dryness of the surfaces.

> **Note**
>
> The static friction force is *not* given by Equation 6.12; this equation is simply the maximum possible static friction. The static friction force is not found with an equation but by determining how much force is needed to maintain equilibrium.

---

**Table 6.1**

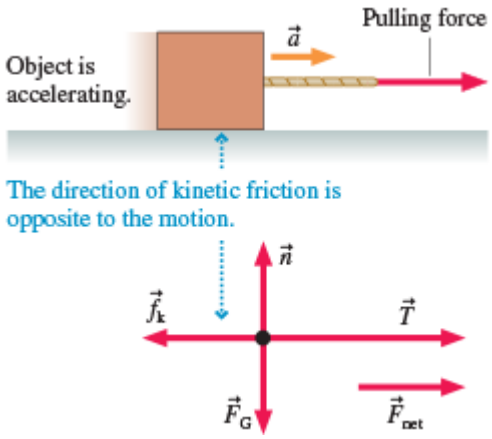
| Materials | Static $\mu_s$ | Kinetic $\mu_k$ | Rolling $\mu_r$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rubber on dry concrete | 1.00 | 0.80 | 0.02 |
| Rubber on wet concrete | 0.30 | 0.25 | 0.02 |
| Steel on steel (dry) | 0.80 | 0.60 | 0.002 |
| Steel on steel (lubricated) | 0.10 | 0.05 | |
| Wood on wood | 0.50 | 0.20 | |
| Wood on snow | 0.12 | 0.06 | |
| Ice on ice | 0.10 | 0.03 | |

Coefficients of friction

# Kinetic Friction

Once the box starts to slide, as in Figure 6.13, the static friction force is replaced by a kinetic friction force $\vec{f}_k$. Experiments show that kinetic friction, unlike static friction, has a nearly *constant* magnitude. Furthermore, the size of the kinetic friction force is *less* than the maximum static friction, $f_k < f_{s\,max}$, which explains why it is easier to keep the box moving than it was to start it moving. The direction of $\vec{f}_k$ is always opposite to the direction in which an object slides across the surface.

**Figure 6.13**



The kinetic friction force is opposite the direction of motion.

The kinetic friction force is also proportional to the magnitude of the normal force:

**(6.13)**

$$f_{\mathrm{k}} = \mu_{\mathrm{k}} n$$

where $\mu_{\mathrm{k}}$ is called the **coefficient of kinetic friction.** Table 6.1 includes typical values of $\mu_{\mathrm{k}}$. You can see that $\mu_{\mathrm{k}} < \mu_{\mathrm{s}}$, causing the kinetic friction to be less than the maximum static friction.

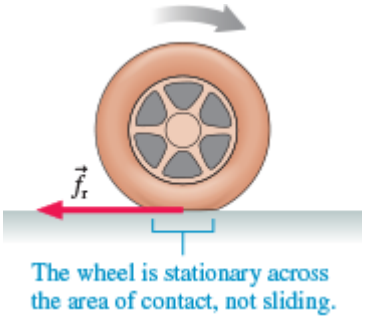
## Rolling Friction

If you slam on the brakes hard enough, your car tires slide against the road surface and leave skid marks. This is kinetic friction. A wheel *rolling* on a surface also experiences friction, but not kinetic friction. As Figure 6.14 shows, the portion of the wheel that contacts the surface is stationary with respect to the surface, not sliding. The interaction of this contact area with the surface causes **rolling friction.** The force of rolling friction can be calculated in terms of a **coefficient of rolling friction** $\mu_{\mathrm{r}}$:

**(6.14)**

$$f_{\mathrm{r}} = \mu_{\mathrm{r}} n$$

**Figure 6.14**




Rolling friction is also opposite the direction of motion

Rolling friction acts very much like kinetic friction, but values of $\mu_r$ (see Table 6.1) are much lower than values of $\mu_k$. This is why it is easier to roll an object on wheels than to slide it.

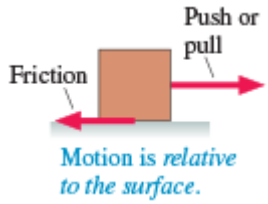
## A Model of Friction

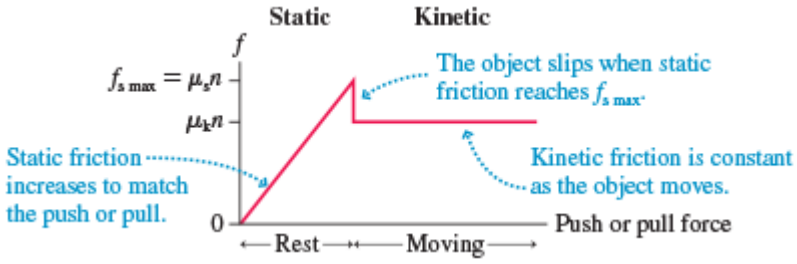
The friction equations are not "laws of nature" on a level with Newton's laws. Instead, they provide a reasonably accurate, but not perfect, description of how friction forces act. That is, they are a *model* of friction. And because we characterize friction in terms of constant forces, this model of friction meshes nicely with our model of dynamics with constant force.

MODEL 6.3 **Friction**

The friction force is *parallel* to the surface.

- Static friction: Acts as needed to prevent motion. Can have *any* magnitude up to $f_{s\,max} = \mu_s n$.
- Kinetic friction: Opposes motion with $f_k = \mu_k n$.
- Rolling friction: Opposes motion with $f_r = \mu_r n$.
- Graphically:

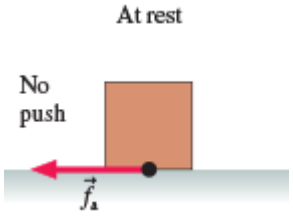



## Stop to Think 6.3

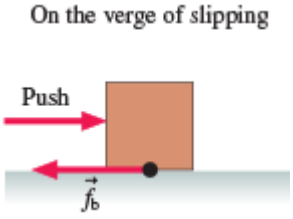
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the sizes of the friction forces $\vec{f}_a$ to $\vec{f}_e$ in these 5 different situations. The box and the floor are made of the same materials in all situations.

**a.**

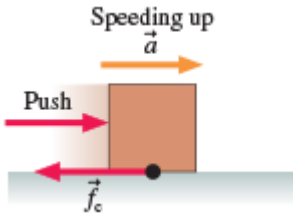




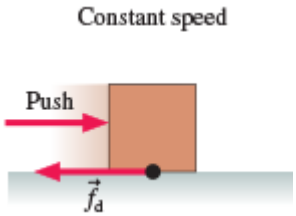

**b.**



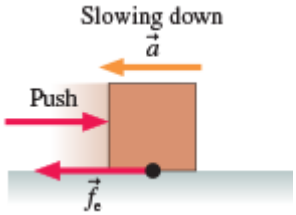

**c.**




**d.**




**e.**




## Example 6.5 How far does a box slide?

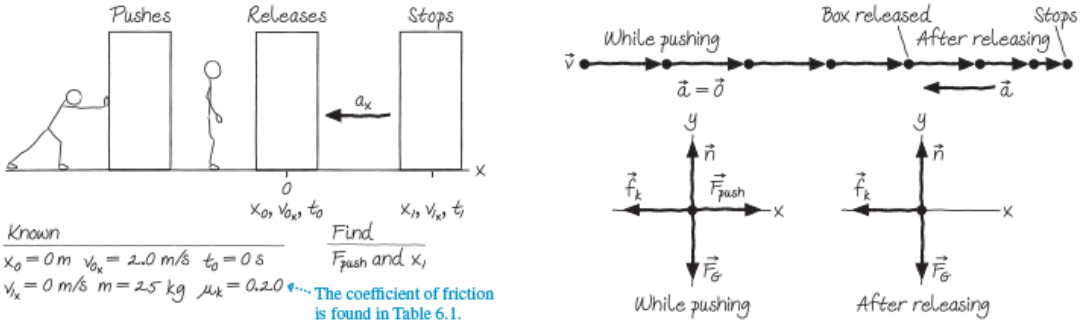
Carol pushes a 25 kg wood box across a wood floor at a steady speed of 2.0 m/s. How much force does Carol exert on the box? If she stops pushing, how far will the box slide before coming to rest?

**MODEL** This situation can be modeled as dynamics with constant force—one of the forces being friction. Notice that this is a two-part problem: first while Carol is pushing the box, then as it slides after she releases it.

**VISUALIZE** This is a fairly complex situation, one that calls for careful visualization. Figure 6.15 shows the pictorial

representation both while Carol pushes, when $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$, and after she stops. We've placed $x = 0$ at the point where she stops pushing because this is the point where the kinematics calculation for How far? will begin. Notice that each part of the motion needs its own free-body diagram. The box is moving until the very instant that the problem ends, so only kinetic friction is relevant.

**Figure 6.15**




Pictorial representation of a box sliding across a floor.



**SOLVE** We'll start by finding how hard Carol has to push to keep the box moving at a steady speed. The box is in equilibrium $\left(\text{constant velocity, } \vec{a} = \vec{0}\right)$, and Newton's second law is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_x &= F_{\text{push}} - f_{\text{k}} = 0 \\ \sum F_y &= n - F_{\text{G}} = n - mg = 0 \end{aligned}$$

where we've used $F_{\text{G}} = mg$ for the gravitational force. The negative sign occurs in the first equation because $\vec{f}_{\text{k}}$ points to the left and thus the *component* is negative: $(f_{\text{k}})_x = -f_{\text{k}}$. Similarly, $(F_{\text{G}})_y = -F_{\text{G}}$ because the gravitational force vector—with magnitude $mg$—points down. In addition to Newton's laws, we also have our model of kinetic friction:

$$f_{\text{k}} = \mu_{\text{k}} n$$

Altogether we have three simultaneous equations in the three unknowns $F_{\text{push}}$, $f_{\text{k}}$, and $n$. Fortunately, these equations are easy to solve. The $y$-component of Newton's second law tells us that $n = mg$. We can then find the friction force to be

$$f_{\text{k}} = \mu_{\text{k}} mg$$

We substitute this into the $x$-component of the second law, giving

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{push}} &= f_{\text{k}} = \mu_{\text{k}} mg \\ &= (0.20)(25\ \text{kg})\left(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2\right) = 49\ \text{N} \end{aligned}$$

Carol pushes this hard to keep the box moving at a steady speed.

The box is not in equilibrium after Carol stops pushing it. Our strategy for the second half of the problem is to use Newton's second law to find the acceleration, then use constant-acceleration kinematics to find how far the box moves before stopping. We know from the motion diagram that $a_y = 0$. Newton's second law, applied to the second free-body diagram of Figure 6.15, is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_x &= -f_{\text{k}} = ma_x \\ \sum F_y &= n - mg = ma_y = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We also have our model of friction,

$$f_{\text{k}} = \mu_{\text{k}}\, n$$

We see from the $y$-component equation that $n = mg$, and thus $f_{\text{k}} = \mu_{\text{k}}\, mg$. Using this in the $x$-component equation gives

$$ma_x = -f_{\text{k}} = -\mu_{\text{k}}\, mg$$

This is easily solved to find the box's acceleration:

$$a_x = -\mu_k g = -(0.20)(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2) = -1.96\ \text{m/s}^2$$

The acceleration component $a_x$ is negative because the acceleration vector $\vec{a}$ points to the left, as we see from the motion diagram.

Now we are left with a problem of constant-acceleration kinematics. We are interested in a distance, rather than a time interval, so the easiest way to proceed is

$$v_{1x}{}^2 = 0 = v_{0x}{}^2 + 2a_x\,\Delta x = v_{0x}{}^2 + 2a_x x_1$$

from which the distance that the box slides is

$$x_1 = \frac{-v_{0x}{}^2}{2a_x} = \frac{-(2.0\ \text{m/s})^2}{2(-1.96\ \text{m/s}^2)} = 1.0\ \text{m}$$

**ASSESS** Carol was pushing at 2 m/s $\approx$ 4 mph, which is fairly fast. The box slides 1.0 m, which is slightly over 3 feet. That sounds reasonable.

**Note**

Example 6.5 needed both the horizontal and the vertical components of the second law even though the motion was entirely horizontal. This need is typical when friction is involved because we must find the normal force before we can evaluate the friction force.

### Example 6.6 Dumping a file cabinet

A 50 kg steel file cabinet is in the back of a dump truck. The truck's bed, also made of steel, is slowly tilted. What is the size of the static

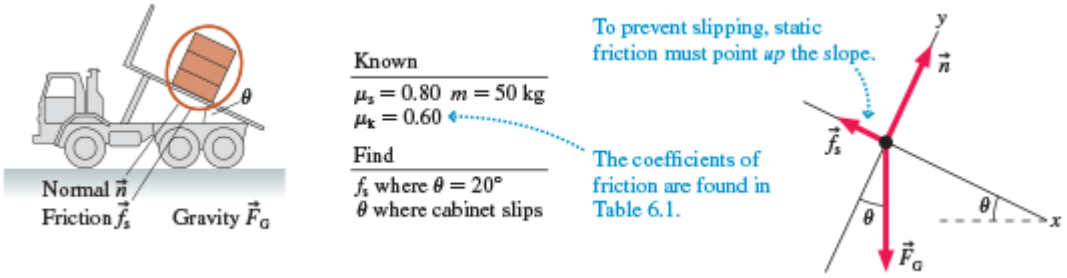
friction force on the cabinet when the bed is tilted 20°? At what angle will the file cabinet begin to slide?



**MODEL** Model the file cabinet as a particle in equilibrium. We'll also use the model of static friction. The file cabinet will slip when the static friction force reaches its maximum value $f_{s\,max}$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 6.16 shows the pictorial representation when the truck bed is tilted at angle $\theta$. We can make the analysis easier if we tilt the coordinate system to match the bed of the truck.

## Figure 6.16




The pictorial representation of a file cabinet in a tilted dump truck.

**SOLVE** The file cabinet is in equilibrium. Newton's second law is

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = \sum F_x = n_x + (F_G)_x + (f_s)_x = 0$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = \sum F_y = n_y + (F_G)_y + (f_s)_y = 0$$

From the free-body diagram we see that $f_s$ has only a *negative* $x$-component and that $n$ has only a positive $y$-component. The gravitational force vector can be written $\vec{F}_G = +F_G \sin\theta\,\hat{i} - F_G \cos\theta\,\hat{j}$, so $\vec{F}_G$ has both $x$- and $y$-components in this coordinate system. Thus the second law becomes

$$\sum F_x = F_{\mathrm{G}} \sin\theta - f_{\mathrm{s}} = mg\sin\theta - f_{\mathrm{s}} = 0$$
$$\sum F_y = n - F_{\mathrm{G}} \cos\theta = n - mg\cos\theta \ = 0$$

where we've used $F_{\mathrm{G}} = mg$.

You might be tempted to solve the $y$-component equation for $n$, then to use Equation 6.12 to calculate the static friction force as $\mu_s n$. **But Equation 6.12 does *not* say $\boldsymbol{f_{\mathrm{s}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}} n}$.** Equation 6.12 gives only the maximum possible static friction force $f_{\mathrm{s\,max}}$, the point at which the object slips. In nearly all situations, the actual static friction force is less than $f_{\mathrm{s\,max}}$. In this problem, we can use the $x$-component equation—which tells us that static friction has to exactly balance the component of the gravitational force along the incline—to find the size of the static friction force:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\mathrm{s}} &= mg\,\sin\,\theta = (50\,\mathrm{kg})(9.80\,\mathrm{m/s^2})\,\sin\,20^\circ \\ &= 170\,\mathrm{N} \end{aligned}$$

Slipping occurs when the static friction reaches its maximum value

$$f_{\mathrm{s}} = f_{\mathrm{s\,max}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}}\, n$$

From the $y$-component of Newton's law we see that $n = mg\cos\theta$. Consequently,

$$f_{\mathrm{s\,max}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}}\, mg\cos\theta$$

Substituting this into the $x$-component of the first law gives

$$mg\sin\theta - \mu_{\mathrm{s}}\, mg\cos\theta = 0$$

The $mg$ in both terms cancels, and we find

$$\frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta} = \tan\theta = \mu_s$$
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\mu_s = \tan^{-1}(0.80) = 39^\circ$$

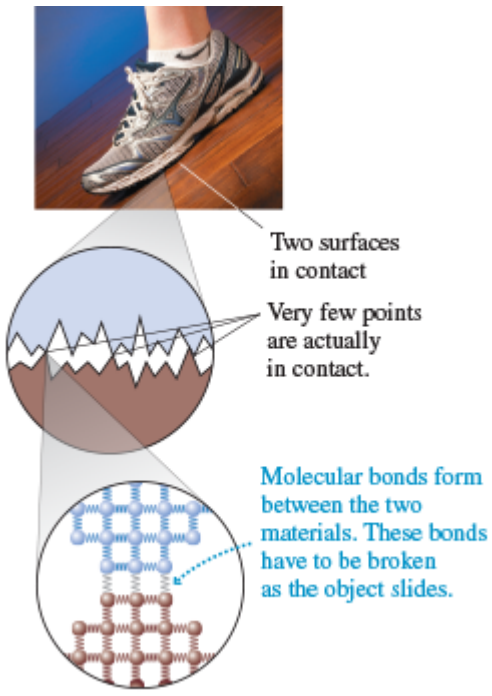
**ASSESS** Steel doesn't slide all that well on unlubricated steel, so a fairly large angle is not surprising. The answer seems reasonable.

> **Note**
>
> A common error is to use simply $n = mg$. Be sure to evaluate the normal force within the context of each specific problem. In this example, $n = mg\cos\theta$.

## Causes of Friction

It is worth a brief pause to look at the *causes* of friction. All surfaces, even those quite smooth to the touch, are very rough on a microscopic scale. When two objects are placed in contact, they do not make a smooth fit. Instead, as Figure 6.17 shows, the high points on one surface become jammed against the high points on the other surface, while the low points are not in contact at all. The amount of contact depends on how hard the surfaces are pushed together, which is why friction forces are proportional to $n$.

**Figure 6.17**




An atomic-level view of friction.

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At the points of actual contact, the atoms in the two materials are pressed closely together and molecular bonds are established between them. These bonds are the "cause" of the static friction force. For an object to slip, you must push it hard enough to break these molecular bonds between the surfaces. Once they are broken, and the two surfaces are sliding against each other, there are still attractive forces between the atoms on the opposing surfaces as the high points of the materials push past each other. However, the atoms move past each other so quickly that they do not have time to establish the tight bonds of static friction. That is why the kinetic friction force is smaller. Friction can be minimized with lubrication, a very thin film of liquid between the surfaces that allows them to "float" past each other with many fewer points in actual contact.

# 6.5 Drag



The air exerts a drag force on objects as they move through the air. You experience drag forces every day as you jog, bicycle, ski, or drive your car. The drag force $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{drag}}$

- Is opposite in direction to $\overrightarrow{v}$.
- Increases in magnitude as the object's speed increases.

Figure 6.18 illustrates the drag force.

## Figure 6.18

The drag force on a high-speed motorcyclist is significant.

Drag is a more complex force than ordinary friction because drag depends on the object's speed. Drag also depends on the object's shape and on the density of the medium through which it moves. Fortunately, we can use a fairly simple *model* of drag if the following three conditions are met:

- The object is moving through the air near the earth's surface.
- The object's size (diameter) is between a few millimeters and a few meters.
- The object's speed is less than a few hundred meters per second.

These conditions are usually satisfied for balls, people, cars, and many other objects in our everyday world. Under these conditions, the drag force on an object moving with speed $v$ can be written

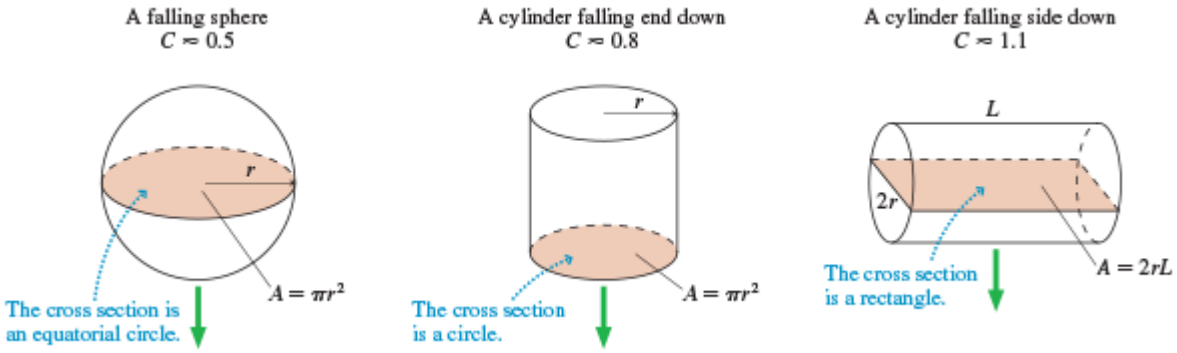
**(6.15)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = \left(\tfrac{1}{2} C\rho A v^2, \text{ direction opposite the motion}\right)$$

The symbols in Equation 6.15 are:

- $A$ is the *cross-section area* of the object as it "faces into the wind," as illustrated in Figure 6.19.
- $\rho$ is the density of the air, which is 1.3 kg/m$^3$ at atmospheric pressure and 0°C, a common reference point of pressure and temperature.
- $C$ is the **drag coefficient.** It is smaller for aerodynamically shaped objects, larger for objects presenting a flat face to the wind. Figure 6.19 gives approximate values for a sphere and two cylinders. $C$ is dimensionless; it has no units.

## Figure 6.19




Cross-section areas for objects of different shape.

Notice that the drag force is proportional to the *square* of the object's speed. So drag is *not* a constant force (unless $v$ is constant) and you

cannot use constant-acceleration kinematics.

This model of drag fails for objects that are very small (such as dust particles), very fast (such as bullets), or that move in liquids (such as water). Motion in a liquid will be considered in Challenge Problems 6.76 and 6.77, but otherwise we'll leave these situations to more advanced textbooks.

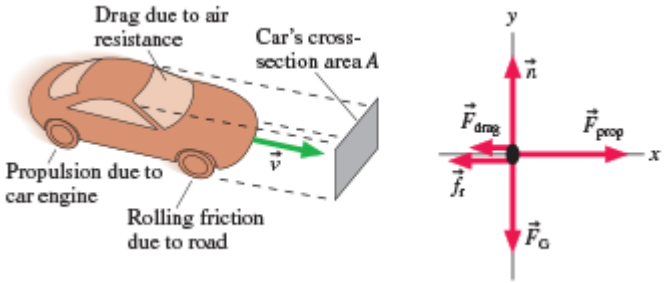
### Example 6.7 Air resistance compared to rolling friction

The profile of a typical 1500 kg passenger car, as seen from the front, is 1.6 m wide and 1.4 m high. Aerodynamic body shaping gives a drag coefficient of 0.35. At what speed does the magnitude of the drag equal the magnitude of the rolling friction?

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle. Use the models of rolling friction and drag. Note that this is *not* a constant-force situation.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 6.20 shows the car and a free-body diagram. A full pictorial representation is not needed because we won't be doing any kinematics calculations.

**Figure 6.20**




A car experiences both rolling friction and drag.

**SOLVE** Drag is less than friction at low speeds, where air resistance is negligible. But drag increases as $v$ increases, so there will be a speed at which the two forces are equal in size. Above this speed, drag is more important than rolling friction.

There's no motion and no acceleration in the vertical direction, so we can see from the free-body diagram that $n = F_{\text{G}} = mg$. Thus $f_{\text{r}} = \mu_{\text{r}}\, mg$. Equating friction and drag, we have

$$\tfrac{1}{2}C\rho A v^2 = \mu_{\text{r}}\, mg$$

Solving for $v$, we find

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu_{\text{r}} mg}{C\rho A}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(0.02)(1500\text{ kg})(9.80\text{ m/s}^2)}{(0.35)(1.3\text{ kg/m}^3)(1.4\text{ m}\times 1.6\text{ m})}} = 24\text{ m/s}$$



where the value of $\mu_{\text{r}}$ for rubber on concrete was taken from Table 6.1.

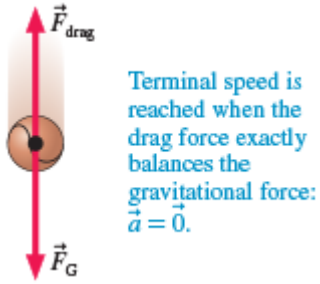
**ASSESS** 24 m/s is approximately 50 mph, a reasonable result. This calculation shows that we can reasonably ignore air resistance for car speeds less than 30 or 40 mph. Calculations that neglect drag will be increasingly inaccurate as speeds go above 50 mph.

## Terminal Speed

The drag force increases as an object falls and gains speed. If the object falls far enough, it will eventually reach a speed, shown in Figure 6.21, at which $F_{\text{drag}} = F_{\text{G}}$. That is, the drag force will be equal and opposite to the gravitational force. The net force at this speed is $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$, so there is no further acceleration and the object falls with a *constant* speed. The

speed at which the exact balance between the upward drag force and the downward gravitational force causes an object to fall without acceleration is called the **terminal speed** $v_{\text{term}}$. Once an object has reached terminal speed, it will continue falling at that speed until it hits the ground.

## Figure 6.21




An object falling at terminal speed.

It's not hard to compute the terminal speed. It is the speed, by definition, at which $F_{\text{drag}} = F_{\text{G}}$ or, equivalently, $\frac{1}{2}C\rho Av^2 = mg$. This speed is

**(6.16)**

$$v_{\text{term}} = \sqrt{\frac{2mg}{C\rho A}}$$

A more massive object has a larger terminal speed than a less massive object of equal size and shape. A 10-cm-diameter lead ball, with a mass of 6 kg, has a terminal speed of 160 m/s, while a 10-cm-diameter Styrofoam ball, with a mass of 50 g, has a terminal speed of only 15 m/s.

A popular use of Equation 6.16 is to find the terminal speed of a skydiver. A skydiver is rather like the cylinder of Figure 6.19 falling "side down," for which we see that $C \approx 1.1$. A typical skydiver is 1.8 m long and 0.40 m wide $(A = 0.72\ \text{m}^2)$ and has a mass of 75 kg. His terminal speed is

$$v_{\text{term}} = \sqrt{\frac{2mg}{C\rho A}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(75\text{ kg})(9.8\text{ m/s}^2)}{(1.1)(1.3\text{ kg/m}^3)(0.72\text{ m}^2)}} = 38\text{ m/s}$$

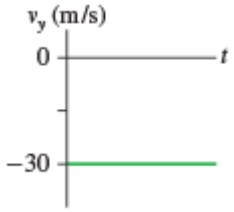
This is roughly 90 mph. A higher speed can be reached by falling feet first or head first, which reduces the area $A$ and the drag coefficient.

Although we've focused our analysis on objects moving vertically, the same ideas apply to objects moving horizontally. If an object is thrown or shot horizontally, $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}}$ causes the object to slow down. An airplane reaches its maximum speed, which is analogous to the terminal speed, when the drag is equal and opposite to the thrust: $F_{\text{drag}} = F_{\text{thrust}}$. The net force is then zero and the plane cannot go any faster. The maximum speed of a passenger jet is about 550 mph.

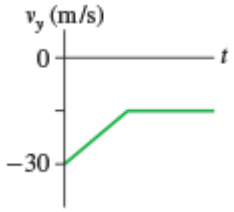
## Stop to Think 6.4

The terminal speed of a Styrofoam ball is 15 m/s. Suppose a Styrofoam ball is shot straight down from a high tower with an initial speed of 30 m/s. Which velocity graph is correct?

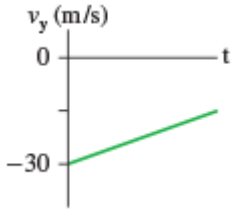
**a.**



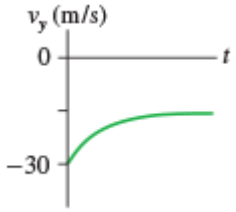

**b.**



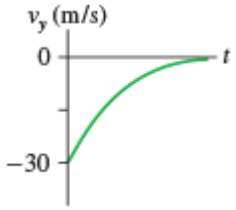
**c.**




**d.**




**e.**



# 6.6 More Examples of Newton's Second Law



We will finish this chapter with four additional examples in which we use the problem-solving strategy in more complex scenarios.

**Example 6.8 Stopping distances**

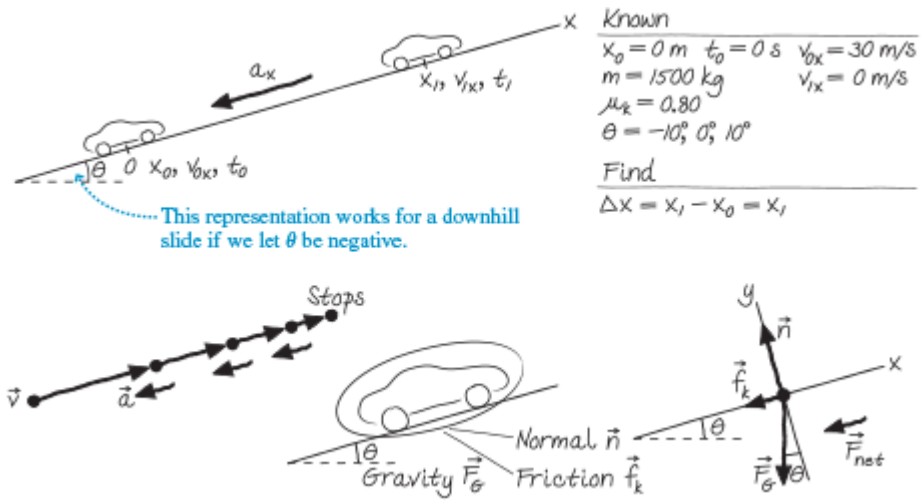
A 1500 kg car is traveling at a speed of 30 m/s when the driver slams on the brakes and skids to a halt. Determine the stopping distance if the car is traveling up a 10° slope, down a 10° slope, or on a level road.

**MODEL** Model the car's motion as dynamics with constant force and use the model of kinetic friction. We want to solve the problem only once, not three separate times, so we'll leave the slope angle $\theta$ unspecified until the end.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 6.22 shows the pictorial representation. We've shown the car sliding uphill, but these representations work equally well for a level or downhill slide if we let $\theta$ be zero or negative, respectively. We've used a tilted coordinate system so that the motion is along one of the axes. We've *assumed* that the car is traveling to the right, although the problem didn't state this. You could equally well make the opposite assumption, but you would have to be careful with negative values of $x$ and $v_x$. The car *skids* to

a halt, so we've taken the coefficient of *kinetic* friction for rubber on concrete from Table 6.1.

## Figure 6.22




Pictorial representation of a skidding car.

**SOLVE** Newton's second law and the model of kinetic friction are

$$\begin{aligned}\sum F_x &= n_x + (F_G)_x + (f_k)_x \\ &= -mg\sin\theta - f_k = ma_x \\ \sum F_y &= n_y + (F_G)_y + (f_k)_y \\ &= n - mg\cos\theta = ma_y = 0\end{aligned}$$

$$f_k = \mu_k n$$

We've written these equations by "reading" the motion diagram and the free-body diagram. Notice that both components of the gravitational force vector $\vec{F}_G$ are negative. $a_y = 0$ because the motion is entirely along the $x$-axis.

The second equation gives $n = mg\cos\theta$. Using this in the friction model, we find $f_k = \mu_k mg\cos\theta$. Inserting this result back into the first equation then gives

$$
\begin{aligned}
ma_x &= -mg\sin\theta - \mu_\text{k}\, mg\cos\theta \\
&= -mg(\sin\theta + \mu_\text{k}\cos\theta) \\
a_x &= -g(\sin\theta + \mu_\text{k}\cos\theta)
\end{aligned}
$$

This is a constant acceleration. Constant-acceleration kinematics gives

$$
{v_{1x}}^2 = 0 = {v_{0x}}^2 + 2a_x(x_1 - x_0) = {v_{0x}}^2 + 2a_x\, x_1
$$

which we can solve for the stopping distance $x_1$:

$$
x_1 = -\frac{{v_{0x}}^2}{2a_x} = \frac{{v_{0x}}^2}{2g(\sin\ \theta + \mu_\text{k}\cos\ \theta)}
$$

Notice how the minus sign in the expression for $a_x$ canceled the minus sign in the expression for $x_1$. Evaluating our result at the three different angles gives the stopping distances:

$$
x_1 = \begin{cases}
48\text{ m} & \theta = 10^\text{o} & \text{uphill} \\
57\text{ m} & \theta = 0^\text{o} & \text{level} \\
75\text{ m} & \theta = -10^\text{o} & \text{downhill}
\end{cases}
$$

The implications are clear about the danger of driving downhill too fast!

**ASSESS** 30 m/s $\approx$ 60 mph and 57 m $\approx$ 180 feet on a level surface. This is similar to the stopping distances you learned when you got your driver's license, so the results seem reasonable. Additional confirmation comes from noting that the expression for $a_x$ becomes $-g\sin\theta$ if $\mu_\text{k} = 0$. This is what you learned in Chapter 2 for the acceleration on a frictionless inclined plane.

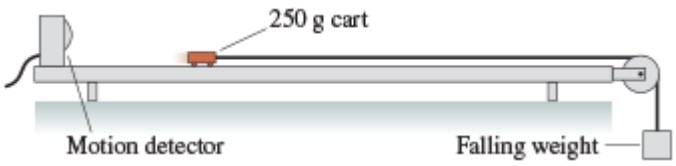


**Example 6.9 Measuring the tension pulling a cart**

Your instructor has set up a lecture demonstration in which a 250 g cart can roll along a level, 2.00-m-long track while its velocity is measured with a motion detector. First, the instructor simply gives the cart a push and measures its velocity as it rolls down the track. The data below show that the cart slows slightly before reaching the end of the track. Then, as Figure 6.23 shows, the instructor attaches a string to the cart and uses a falling weight to pull the cart. She then asks you to determine the tension in the string. For extra credit, find the coefficient of rolling friction.

| Time (s) | Rolled velocity (m/s) | Pulled velocity (m/s) |
|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 1.20 | 0.00 |
| 0.25 | 1.17 | 0.36 |
| 0.50 | 1.15 | 0.80 |
| 0.75 | 1.12 | 1.21 |
| 1.00 | 1.08 | 1.52 |
| 1.25 | 1.04 | 1.93 |
| 1.50 | 1.02 | 2.33 |

**Figure 6.23**



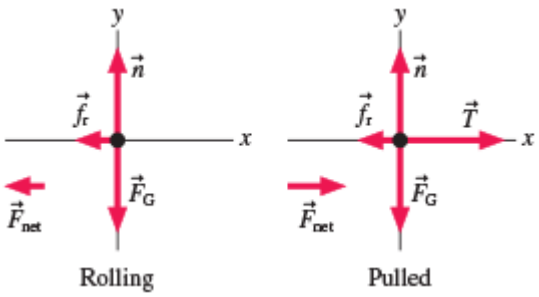

The experimental arrangement.

**MODEL** Model the cart as a particle acted on by constant forces.

**VISUALIZE** The cart changes velocity—it accelerates—when both pulled and rolled. Consequently, there must be a net force for both motions. For rolling, force identification finds that the only horizontal force is rolling friction, a force that opposes the motion

and slows the cart. There is no "force of motion" or "force of the hand" because the hand is no longer in contact with the cart. (Recall Newton's "zeroth law": The cart responds only to forces applied *at this instant.*) Pulling adds a tension force in the direction of motion. The two free-body diagrams are shown in Figure 6.24.

## Figure 6.24




Pictorial representations of the cart.

**SOLVE** The cart's acceleration when pulled, which we can find from the velocity data, will allow us to find the net force. Isolating the tension force will require knowing the friction force, but we can determine that from the rolling motion. For the rolling motion, Newton's second law can be written by "reading" the free-body diagram on the left:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_x &= (f_\mathrm{r})_x = -f_\mathrm{r} = ma_x = ma_\mathrm{roll} \\ \sum F_y &= n_y + (F_\mathrm{G})_y = n - mg = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Make sure you understand where the signs come from and how we used our knowledge that $\vec{a}$ has only an $x$-component, which we called $a_\mathrm{roll}$. The magnitude of the friction force, which is all we'll need to determine the tension, is found from the $x$-component equation:

$$f_\mathrm{r} = -ma_\mathrm{roll} = -m \times \text{slope of the rolling-velocity graph}$$

But we'll need to do a bit more analysis to get the coefficient of rolling friction. The $y$-component equation tells us that $n = mg$. Using this in the model of rolling friction, $f_\text{r} = \mu_\text{r}\, n = \mu_\text{r}\, mg$, we see that the coefficient of rolling friction is

$$\mu_\text{r} = \frac{f_\text{r}}{mg}$$

The $x$-component equation of Newton's second law when the cart is pulled is

$$\sum F_x = T + (\ f_r\ )_x = T - f_\text{r} = ma_x = ma_\text{pulled}$$

Thus the tension that we seek is

$$T = f_\text{r} + ma_\text{pulled} = f_\text{r} + m \times \text{slope of the pulled-velocity graph}$$

Figure 6.25 shows the graphs of the velocity data. The accelerations are the slopes of these lines, and from the equations of the best-fit lines we find $a_\text{roll} = -0.124\ \text{m/s}^2$ and $a_\text{pulled} = 1.55\ \text{m/s}^2$. Thus the friction force is

$$f_\text{r} = \ -ma_\text{roll} = -(0.25\ \text{kg})(-0.124\ \text{m/s}^2) = 0.031\ \text{N}$$

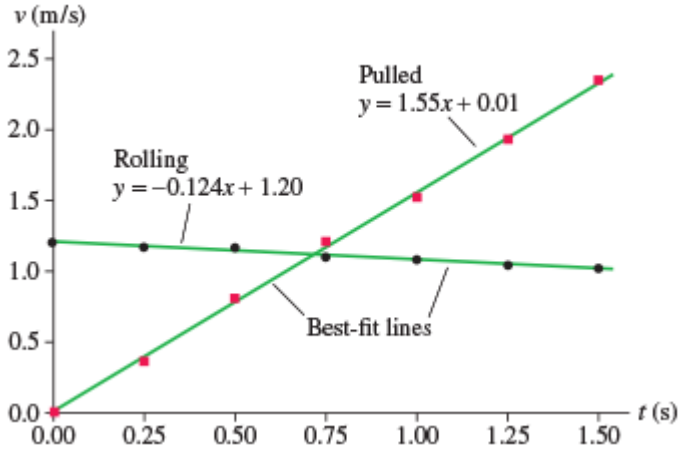
Knowing this, we find that the string tension pulling the cart is

$$T = f_\text{r} + ma_\text{pulled} = 0.031\ \text{N} + (0.25\ \text{kg})(1.55\ \text{m/s}^2) = 0.42\ \text{N}$$

and the coefficient of rolling friction is

$$\mu_\text{r} = \frac{f_\text{r}}{mg} = \frac{0.031\ \text{N}}{(0.25\ \text{kg})(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2)} = 0.013$$

**Figure 6.25**




The velocity graphs of the rolling and pulled motion. The slopes of these graphs are the cart's acceleration.

**ASSESS** The coefficient of rolling friction is very small, but it's similar to the values in Table 6.1 and thus believable. That gives us confidence that our value for the tension is also correct. It's reasonable that the tension needed to accelerate the cart is small because the cart is light and there's very little friction.

### Example 6.10 Make sure the cargo doesn't slide

A 100 kg box of dimensions 50 cm × 50 cm × 50 cm is in the back of a flatbed truck. The coefficients of friction between the box and the bed of the truck are $\mu_s = 0.40$ and $\mu_k = 0.20$. What is the maximum acceleration the truck can have without the box slipping?

**MODEL** This is a somewhat different problem from any we have looked at thus far. Let the box, which we'll model as a particle, be the object of interest. It contacts other objects only where it touches the truck bed, so only the truck can exert contact forces on the box. If the box does *not* slip, then there is no motion of the box *relative*

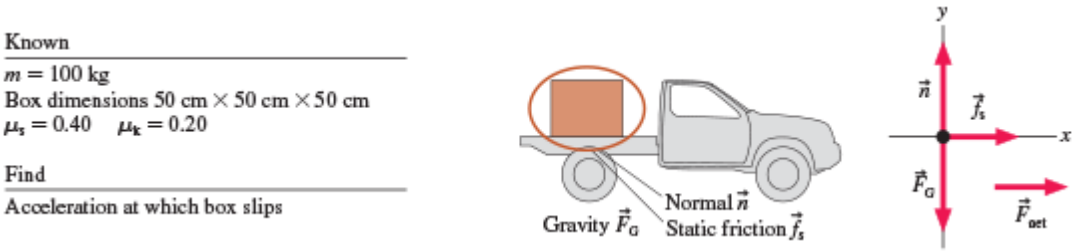
*to the truck* and the box must accelerate *with the truck:* $a_{\text{box}} = a_{\text{truck}}$. As the box accelerates, it must, according to Newton's second law, have a net force acting on it. But from what?

Imagine, for a moment, that the truck bed is frictionless. The box would slide backward (as seen in the truck's reference frame) as the truck accelerates. The force that prevents sliding is *static friction*, so the truck must exert a static friction force on the box to "pull" the box along with it and prevent the box from sliding *relative to the truck*.

**VISUALIZE** This situation is shown in Figure 6.26. There is only one horizontal force on the box, $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$, and it points in the *forward* direction to accelerate the box. Notice that we're solving the problem with the ground as our reference frame. Newton's laws are not valid in the accelerating truck because it is not an inertial reference frame.



## Figure 6.26




Pictorial representation for the box in a flatbed truck.

**SOLVE** Newton's second law, which we can "read" from the free-body diagram, is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_x &= f_{\text{s}} = ma_x \\ \sum F_y &= n - F_{\text{G}} = n - mg = ma_y = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now, static friction, you will recall, can be *any* value between 0 and $f_{s\,max}$. If the truck accelerates slowly, so that the box doesn't slip, then $f_s < f_{s\,max}$. However, we're interested in the acceleration $a_{max}$ at which the box begins to slip. This is the acceleration at which $f_s$ reaches its maximum possible value

$$f_s = f_{s\,max} = \mu_s n$$

The $y$-equation of the second law and the friction model combine to give $f_{s\,max} = \mu_s mg$. Substituting this into the $x$-equation, and noting that $a_x$ is now $a_{max}$, we find

$$a_{max} = \frac{f_{s\,max}}{m} = \mu_s g = 3.9\ \text{m/s}^2$$

The truck must keep its acceleration less than 3.9 m/s$^2$ if slipping is to be avoided.

**ASSESS** 3.9 m/s$^2$ is about one-third of $g$. You may have noticed that items in a car or truck are likely to *tip over* when you start or stop, but they slide only if you really floor it and accelerate very quickly. So this answer seems reasonable. Notice that neither the dimensions of the crate nor $\mu_k$ was needed. Real-world situations rarely have exactly the information you need, no more and no less. Many problems in this textbook will require you to assess the information in the problem statement in order to learn which is relevant to the solution.

---

The mathematical representation of this last example was quite straightforward. The challenge was in the analysis that preceded the mathematics—that is, in the *physics* of the problem rather than the

mathematics. It is here that our analysis tools—motion diagrams, force identification, and free-body diagrams—prove their value.

### Challenge Example 6.11 Acceleration from a variable force

Force $F_x = c\sin(\pi t/T)$, where $c$ and $T$ are constants, is applied to an object of mass $m$ that moves on a horizontal, frictionless surface. The object is at rest at the origin at $t = 0$.

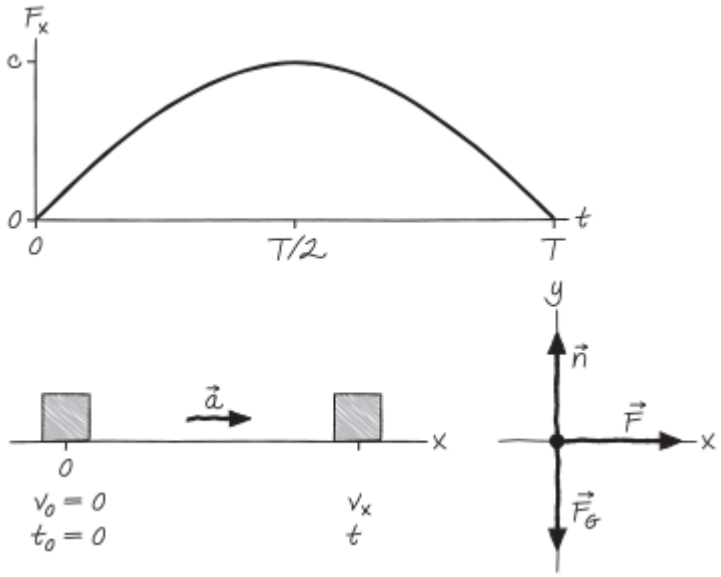
**a.** Find an expression for the object's velocity. Graph your result for $0 \le t \le T$.

**b.** What is the maximum velocity of a 500 g object if $c = 2.5$ N and $T = 1.0$ s?

**MODEL** Model the object as a particle. But we cannot use the constant-force model or constant-acceleration kinematics.

**VISUALIZE** The sine function is 0 at $t = 0$ and again at $t = T$, when the value of the argument is $\pi$ rad. Over the interval $0 \le t \le T$, the force grows from 0 to $c$ and then returns to 0, always pointing in the positive $x$-direction. Figure 6.27 shows a graph of the force and a pictorial representation.

**Figure 6.27**




Pictorial representation for a variable force.

---

**SOLVE** The object's acceleration increases between 0 and $T/2$ as the force increases. You might expect the object to slow down between $T/2$ and $T$ as the force decreases. However, *there's still a net force in the positive x-direction, so there must be an acceleration in the positive x-direction.* The object continues to speed up, only more slowly as the acceleration decreases. Maximum velocity is reached at $t = T$.

**a.** This is not constant-acceleration motion, so we cannot use the familiar equations of constant-acceleration kinematics. Instead, we must use the definition of acceleration as the rate of change—the time derivative—of velocity. With no friction, we need only the $x$-component equation of Newton's second law:

$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt} = \frac{F_{\text{net}}}{m} = \frac{c}{m} \sin\left(\frac{\pi t}{T}\right)$$

First we rewrite this as

$$dv_x = \frac{c}{m} \sin\left(\frac{\pi t}{T}\right) dt$$

Then we integrate both sides from the initial conditions ($v_x = v_{0x} = 0$ at $t = t_0 = 0$) to the final conditions ($v_x$ at the later time $t$):

$$\int_0^{v_x} dv_x = \frac{c}{m} \int_0^t \sin\left(\frac{\pi t}{T}\right) dt$$

The fraction $c/m$ is a constant that we could take outside the integral. The integral on the right side is of the form

$$\int \sin(bx) dx = -\frac{1}{b} \cos\ (bx)$$

Using this, and integrating both sides of the equation, we find

$$v_x \Big|_0^{v_x} = v_x - 0 = -\frac{cT}{\pi m} \cos\left(\frac{\pi t}{T}\right) \Big|_0^t = -\frac{cT}{\pi m} \left(\cos\left(\frac{\pi t}{T}\right) - 1\right)$$

Simplifying, we find the object's velocity at time $t$ is

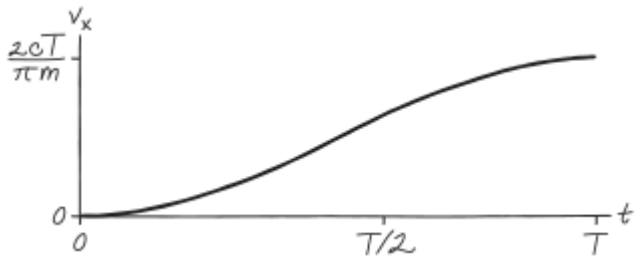
$$v_x = \frac{cT}{\pi m} \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{\pi t}{T}\right)\right)$$

This expression is graphed in Figure 6.28, where we see that, as predicted, maximum velocity is reached at $t = T$.

**b.** Maximum velocity, at $t = T$, is

$$v_{\max} = \frac{cT}{\pi m}(1 - \cos\pi) = \frac{2cT}{\pi m} = \frac{2(2.5\ \text{N})(1.0\ \text{s})}{\pi(0.50\ \text{kg})} = 3.2\ \text{m/s}$$

**Figure 6.28**




The object's velocity as a function of time.

**ASSESS** A steady 2.5 N force would cause a 0.5 kg object to accelerate at 5 m/s$^2$ and reach a speed of 5 m/s in 1 s. A variable force with a maximum of 2.5 N will produce less acceleration, so a top speed of 3.2 m/s seems reasonable.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 6 has been to learn to solve linear force-and-motion problems.

## General Principles

### Two Explanatory Models

An object on which there is no net force is in **mechanical equilibrium**.

- Objects at rest.
- Objects moving with constant velocity.
- Newton's second law applies with $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$.

An object on which the net force is constant undergoes **dynamics with constant force**.

- The object accelerates.
- The kinematic model is that of constant acceleration.
- Newton's second law applies.

## A Problem-Solving Strategy

A four-part strategy applies to both equilibrium and dynamics problems.

**MODEL** Make simplifying assumptions.

**VISUALIZE**

Go back and forth between the following steps as needed:

- Translate words into symbols.
- Draw a sketch to define the situation.
- Draw a motion diagram.
- Identify forces.
- Draw a free-body diagram.

**SOLVE** Use Newton's second law:

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum_i \vec{F}_i = m\vec{a}$$

"Read" the vectors from the free-body diagram. Use kinematics to find velocities and positions.

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable? Does it have correct units and significant figures?

# Important Concepts

Specific information about three important descriptive models:

**Gravity** $\vec{F}_{\text{G}} = (mg, \text{ downward})$

**Friction**

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{f}_{\text{s}} &= (0 \text{ to } \mu_{\text{s}} n, \text{ direction as necessary to prevent motion}) \\ \vec{f}_{\text{k}} &= (\mu_{\text{k}} n, \text{ direction opposite the motion}) \\ \vec{f}_{\text{r}} &= (\mu_{\text{r}} n, \text{ direction opposite the motion})\end{aligned}$$

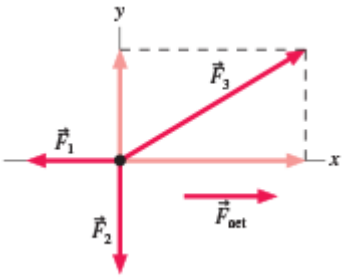
**Drag**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = \left(\tfrac{1}{2} C\rho A v^2, \text{ direction opposite the motion}\right)$$

Newton's laws are vector expressions. You must write them out by **components:**

$$\begin{aligned}(F_{\text{net}})_x &= \sum F_x = ma_x \\ (F_{\text{net}})_y &= \sum F_y = ma_y\end{aligned}$$

The acceleration is zero in equilibrium and also along an axis perpendicular to the motion.




# Applications

**Mass** is an intrinsic property of an object that describes the object's inertia and, loosely speaking, its quantity of matter.

The **weight** of an object is the reading of a spring scale when the object is at rest relative to the scale. Weight is the result of weighing. An object's weight depends on its mass, its acceleration, and the strength of gravity. An object in free fall is weightless.

A falling object reaches **terminal speed**

$$v_{\text{term}} = \sqrt{\frac{2mg}{C\rho A}}$$

Terminal speed is reached when the drag force exactly balances the gravitational force: $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$.

# Terms and Notation

equilibrium model

constant-force model

flat-earth approximation

weight

coefficient of static friction, $\mu_s$

coefficient of kinetic friction, $\mu_k$

rolling friction

coefficient of rolling friction, $\mu_r$

drag coefficient, $C$

terminal speed, $v_{\text{term}}$

# Conceptual Questions [153]

**1.** Are the objects described here in equilibrium while at rest, in equilibrium while in motion, or not in equilibrium at all? Explain.

- **a.** A 200 pound barbell is held over your head.
- **b.** A girder is lifted at constant speed by a crane.
- **c.** A girder is being lowered into place. It is slowing down.
- **d.** A jet plane has reached its cruising speed and altitude.
- **e.** A box in the back of a truck doesn't slide as the truck stops.

**2.** A ball tossed straight up has $v = 0$ at its highest point. Is it in equilibrium? Explain.

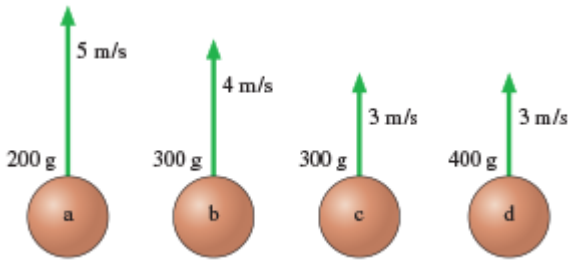
**3.** Kat, Matt, and Nat are arguing about why a physics book on a table doesn't fall. According to Kat, "Gravity pulls down on it, but the table is in the way so it can't fall." "Nonsense," says Matt. "An upward force simply overcomes the downward force to prevent it from falling." "But what about Newton's first law?" counters Nat. "It's not moving, so there can't be any forces acting on it." None of the statements is exactly correct. Who comes closest, and how would you change his or her statement to make it correct?

**4.** If you know all of the forces acting on a moving object, can you tell the direction the object is moving? If yes, explain how. If no, give an example.

**5.** An elevator, hanging from a single cable, moves upward at constant speed. Friction and air resistance are negligible. Is the tension in the cable greater than, less than, or equal to the gravitational force on the elevator? Explain. Include a free-body diagram as part of your explanation.

6. An elevator, hanging from a single cable, moves downward and is slowing. Friction and air resistance are negligible. Is the tension in the cable greater than, less than, or equal to the gravitational force on the elevator? Explain. Include a free-body diagram as part of your explanation.
7. Are the following statements true or false? Explain.
    a. The mass of an object depends on its location.
    b. The weight of an object depends on its location.
    c. Mass and weight describe the same thing in different units.
8. An astronaut takes his bathroom scale to the moon and then stands on it. Is the reading of the scale his weight? Explain.
9. The four balls in Figure Q6.9 have been thrown straight up. They have the same size, but different masses. Air resistance is negligible. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the magnitude of the net force acting on each ball. Some may be equal. Give your answer in the form $a > b > c = d$ and explain your ranking.

**Figure Q6.9**

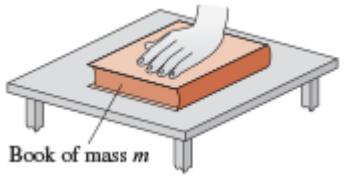



10. Suppose you attempt to pour out 100 g of salt, using a pan balance for measurements, while in a rocket accelerating upward. Will the quantity of salt be too much, too little, or the correct amount? Explain.
11. An astronaut orbiting the earth is handed two balls that have identical outward appearances. However, one is hollow while the

other is filled with lead. How can the astronaut determine which is which? Cutting or altering the balls is not allowed.

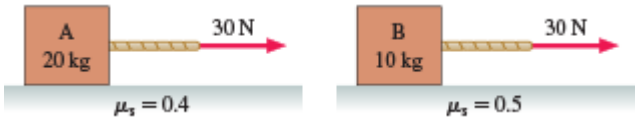
**12.** A hand presses down on the book in Figure Q6.12. Is the normal force of the table on the book larger than, smaller than, or equal to $mg$?

**Figure Q6.12**




**13.** Boxes A and B in Figure Q6.13 both remain at rest. Is the friction force on A larger than, smaller than, or equal to the friction force on B? Explain.

**Figure Q6.13**




**14.** Suppose you push a hockey puck of mass $m$ across frictionless ice for 1.0 s, starting from rest, giving the puck speed $v$ after traveling distance $d$. If you repeat the experiment with a puck of mass $2m$, pushing with the same force,



- **a.** How long will you have to push for the puck to reach the same speed $v$?
- **b.** How long will you have to push for the puck to travel the same distance $d$?

**15.** A block pushed along the floor with velocity $v_{0x}$ slides a distance $d$ after the pushing force is removed.

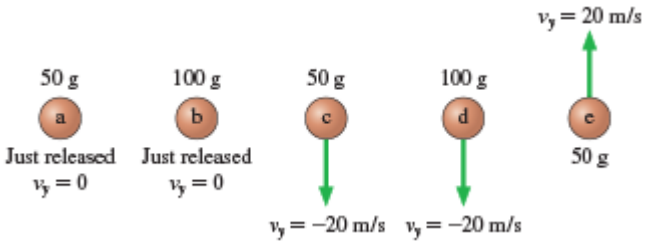
**a.** If the mass of the block is doubled but its initial velocity is not changed, what distance does the block slide before stopping?

**b.** If the initial velocity is doubled to $2v_{0x}$ but the mass is not changed, what distance does the block slide before stopping?

**16.** A crate of fragile dishes is in the back of a pickup truck. The truck accelerates north from a stop sign, and the crate moves without slipping. Does the friction force on the crate point north or south? Or is the friction force zero? Explain.

**17.** Five balls move through the air as shown in Figure Q6.17. All five have the same size and shape. Air resistance is not negligible. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the magnitudes of the accelerations $a_a$ to $a_e$. Some may be equal. Give your answer in the form a > b = c > d > e and explain your ranking.

**Figure Q6.17**



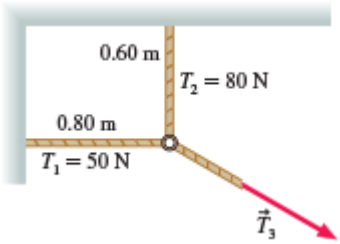

# Exercises and Problems

## Exercises

### Section 6.1 The Equilibrium Model

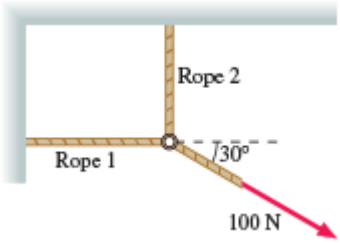
**1.** •• The three ropes in Figure EX6.1 are tied to a small, very light ring. Two of these ropes are anchored to walls at right angles with the tensions shown in the figure. What are the magnitude and direction of the tension $\vec{T}_3$ in the third rope?

**Figure EX6.1**




**2.** • The three ropes in Figure EX6.2 are tied to a small, very light ring. Two of the ropes are anchored to walls at right angles, and the third rope pulls as shown. What are $T_1$ and $T_2$, the magnitudes of the tension forces in the first two ropes?

**Figure EX6.2**




**3.** • A football coach sits on a sled while two of his players build their strength by dragging the sled across the field with ropes. The friction force on the sled is 1000 N, the players have equal pulls, and the angle between the two ropes is 20°. How hard must each player pull to drag the coach at a steady 2.0 m/s?

**4.** •• A 20 kg loudspeaker is suspended 2.0 m below the ceiling by two 3.0-m-long cables that angle outward at equal angles.

What is the tension in the cables?

**5.** • A 65 kg gymnast wedges himself between two closely spaced vertical walls by pressing his hands and feet against the walls. What is the magnitude of the friction force on each hand and foot? Assume they are all equal.

**6.** •• A construction worker with a weight of 850 N stands on a roof that is sloped at 20°. What is the magnitude of the normal force of the roof on the worker?



**7.** •• In an electricity experiment, a 1.0 g plastic ball is suspended on a 60-cm-long string and given an electric charge. A charged rod brought near the ball exerts a horizontal electrical force $\vec{F}_{\text{elec}}$ on it, causing the ball to swing out to a 20° angle and remain there.

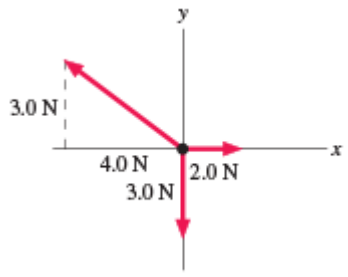
**a.** What is the magnitude of $\vec{F}_{\text{elec}}$?

**b.** What is the tension in the string?

## Section 6.2 Using Newton's Second Law

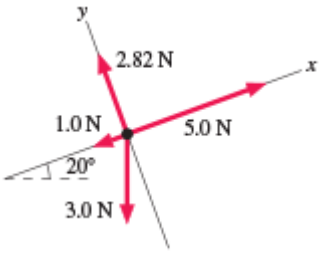
**8.** • The forces in Figure EX6.8 act on a 2.0 kg object. What are the values of $a_x$ and $a_y$, the $x$- and $y$-components of the object's acceleration?

**Figure EX6.8**



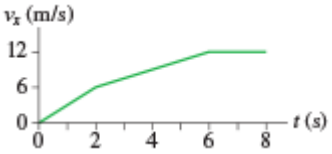
**9.** • The forces in Figure EX6.9 act on a 2.0 kg object. What are the values of $a_x$ and $a_y$, the $x$- and $y$-components of the object's acceleration?

**Figure EX6.9**



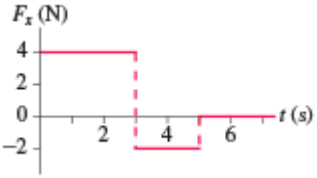

**10.** • Figure EX6.10 shows the velocity graph of a 2.0 kg object as it moves along the $x$-axis. What is the net force acting on this object at $t = 1\,\text{s}$? At 4 s? At 7 s?

**Figure EX6.10**




**11.** •• Figure EX6.11 shows the force acting on a 2.0 kg object as it moves along the $x$-axis. The object is at rest at the origin at $t = 0\,\text{s}$. What are its acceleration and velocity at $t = 6$ s?

**Figure EX6.11**



**12.** • A horizontal rope is tied to a 50 kg box on frictionless ice. What is the tension in the rope if:

**a.** The box is at rest?

**b.** The box moves at a steady 5.0 m/s?

**c.** The box has $v_x = 5.0\,\text{m/s}$ and $a_x = 5.0\,\text{m/s}^2$?

**13.** • A 50 kg box hangs from a rope. What is the tension in the rope if:

**a.** The box is at rest?

**b.** The box moves up at a steady 5.0 m/s?

**c.** The box has $v_y = 5.0\ \text{m/s}$ and is speeding up at 5.0 m/s$^2$?

**d.** The box has $v_y = 5.0\ \text{m/s}$ and is slowing down at 5.0 m/s$^2$?

**14.** • A $2.0 \times 10^7$ kg train applies its brakes with the intent of slowing down at a 1.2 m/s$^2$ rate. What magnitude force must its brakes provide?

**15.** •• A $8.0 \times 10^4$ kg spaceship is at rest in deep space. Its thrusters provide a force of 1200 kN. The spaceship fires its thrusters for 20 s, then coasts for 12 km. How long does it take the spaceship to coast this distance?

**16.** •• **CALC** The position of a 2.0 kg mass is given by $x = (2t^3 - 3t^2)\ \text{m}$, where $t$ is in seconds. What is the net horizontal force on the mass at (a) $t = 0$ s and (b) $t = 1$ s?

## Section 6.3 Mass, Weight, and Gravity

**17.** • A woman has a mass of 55 kg.

**a.** What is her weight while standing on earth?

**b.** What are her mass and her weight on Mars, where $g = 3.76\ \text{m/s}^2$?

**18.** • It takes the elevator in a skyscraper 4.0 s to reach its cruising speed of 10 m/s. A 60 kg passenger gets aboard on the ground floor. What is the passenger's weight

**a.** Before the elevator starts moving?

**b.** While the elevator is speeding up?

**c.** After the elevator reaches its cruising speed?

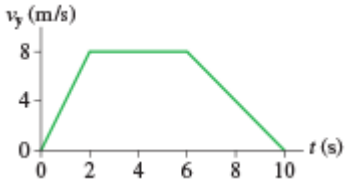
**19.** •• Zach, whose mass is 80 kg, is in an elevator descending at 10 m/s. The elevator takes 3.0 s to brake to a stop at the first floor.

**a.** What is Zach's weight before the elevator starts braking?

**b.** What is Zach's weight while the elevator is braking?

**20.** •• Figure EX6.20 shows the velocity graph of a 75 kg passenger in an elevator. What is the passenger's weight at $t = 1$ s? At 5 s? At 9 s?

**Figure EX6.20**






**21.** • What thrust does a 200 g model rocket need in order to have a vertical acceleration of 10 m/s$^2$

**a.** On earth?

**b.** On the moon, where $g = 1.62$ m/s$^2$?

**22.** •• A 20,000 kg rocket has a rocket motor that generates $3.0 \times 10^5$ N of thrust. Assume no air resistance.

**a.** What is the rocket's initial upward acceleration?

**b.** At an altitude of 5000 m the rocket's acceleration has increased to 6.0 m/s$^2$. What mass of fuel has it burned?

**23.** •• The earth is $1.50 \times 10^{11}$ m from the sun. The earth's mass is $5.98 \times 10^{24}$ kg, while the mass of the sun is $1.99 \times 10^{30}$ kg. What is earth's acceleration toward the sun?

## Section 6.4 Friction

**24.** • Bonnie and Clyde are sliding a 300 kg bank safe across the floor to their getaway car. The safe slides with a constant speed if Clyde pushes from behind with 385 N of force while Bonnie pulls forward on a rope with 350 N of force. What is the safe's coefficient of kinetic friction on the bank floor?

**25.** • A stubborn, 120 kg mule sits down and refuses to move. To drag the mule to the barn, the exasperated farmer ties a rope around the mule and pulls with his maximum force of 800 N. The coefficients of friction between the mule and the ground are $\mu_\text{s} = 0.8$ and $\mu_\text{k} = 0.5$. Is the farmer able to move the mule?

**26.** •• A 10 kg crate is placed on a horizontal conveyor belt. The materials are such that $\mu_\text{s} = 0.5$ and $\mu_\text{k} = 0.3$.

- **a.** Draw a free-body diagram showing all the forces on the crate if the conveyer belt runs at constant speed.
- **b.** Draw a free-body diagram showing all the forces on the crate if the conveyer belt is speeding up.
- **c.** What is the maximum acceleration the belt can have without the crate slipping?

**27.** •• Bob is pulling a 30 kg filing cabinet with a force of 200 N, but the filing cabinet refuses to move. The coefficient of static friction between the filing cabinet and the floor is 0.80. What is the magnitude of the friction force on the filing cabinet?

**28.** •• A rubber-wheeled 50 kg cart rolls down a 15° concrete incline. What is the cart's acceleration if rolling friction is (a)

neglected and (b) included?

**29.** •• A 4000 kg truck is parked on a 15° slope. How big is the friction force on the truck? The coefficient of static friction between the tires and the road is 0.90.

**30.** • A 1500 kg car skids to a halt on a wet road where $\mu_k = 0.50$. How fast was the car traveling if it leaves 65-m-long skid marks?

**31.** •• A 50,000 kg locomotive is traveling at 10 m/s when its engine and brakes both fail. How far will the locomotive roll before it comes to a stop? Assume the track is level.

**32.** •• You and your friend Peter are putting new shingles on a roof pitched at 25°. You're sitting on the very top of the roof when Peter, who is at the edge of the roof directly below you, 5.0 m away, asks you for the box of nails. Rather than carry the 2.5 kg box of nails down to Peter, you decide to give the box a push and have it slide down to him. If the coefficient of kinetic friction between the box and the roof is 0.55, with what speed should you push the box to have it gently come to rest right at the edge of the roof?

**33.** •• An Airbus A320 jetliner has a takeoff mass of 75,000 kg. It reaches its takeoff speed of 82 m/s (180 mph) in 35 s. What is the thrust of the engines? You can neglect air resistance but not rolling friction.

## Section 6.5 Drag

**34.** •• A medium-sized jet has a 3.8-m-diameter fuselage and a loaded mass of 85,000 kg. The drag on an airplane is primarily due to the cylindrical fuselage, and aerodynamic shaping gives it a drag coefficient of 0.37. How much thrust must the jet's

engines provide to cruise at 230 m/s at an altitude where the air density is 1.0 kg/m$^3$?

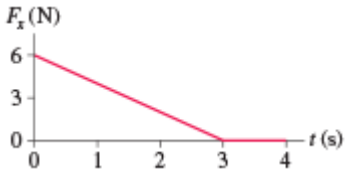
**35.** ••• A 75 kg skydiver can be modeled as a rectangular "box" with dimensions 20 cm × 40 cm × 180 cm. What is his terminal speed if he falls feet first? Use 0.8 for the drag coefficient.

**36.** ••• A 6.5-cm-diameter ball has a terminal speed of 26 m/s. What is the ball's mass?

## Problems

**37.** •• A 2.0 kg object initially at rest at the origin is subjected to the time-varying force shown in Figure P6.37. What is the object's velocity at $t = 4$ s?

**Figure P6.37**



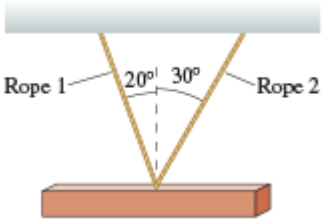

**38.** •• A 5.0 kg object initially at rest at the origin is subjected to the time-varying force shown in Figure P6.38. What is the object's velocity at $t = 6$ s?



**Figure P6.38**

**39.** •• The 1000 kg steel beam in Figure P6.39 is supported by two ropes. What is the tension in each?

## Figure P6.39




**40.** •• Henry, whose mass is 95 kg, stands on a bathroom scale in an elevator. The scale reads 830 N for the first 3.0 s after the elevator starts moving, then 930 N for the next 3.0 s. What is the elevator's velocity 6.0 s after starting?

**41.** •• **BIO** An accident victim with a broken leg is being placed in traction. The patient wears a special boot with a pulley attached to the sole. The foot and boot together have a mass of 4.0 kg, and the doctor has decided to hang a 6.0 kg mass from the rope. The boot is held suspended by the ropes, as shown in Figure P6.41, and does not touch the bed.

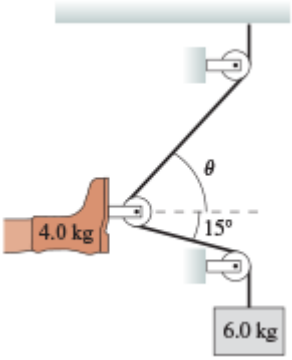
**a.** Determine the amount of tension in the rope by using Newton's laws to analyze the hanging mass.

**b.** The net traction force needs to pull straight out on the leg. What is the proper angle $\theta$ for the upper rope?

**c.** What is the net traction force pulling on the leg?

**Hint:** If the pulleys are frictionless, which we will assume, the tension in the rope is constant from one end to the other.

## Figure P6.41




**42.** •• **BIO** Seat belts and air bags save lives by reducing the forces exerted on the driver and passengers in an automobile collision. Cars are designed with a "crumple zone" in the front of the car. In the event of an impact, the passenger compartment decelerates over a distance of about 1 m as the front of the car crumples. An occupant restrained by seat belts and air bags decelerates with the car. By contrast, an unrestrained occupant keeps moving forward with no loss of speed (Newton's first law!) until hitting the dashboard or windshield. These are unyielding surfaces, and the unfortunate occupant then decelerates over a distance of only about 5 mm.

**a.** A 60 kg person is in a head-on collision. The car's speed at impact is 15 m/s. Estimate the net force on the person if he or she is wearing a seat belt and if the air bag deploys.

**b.** Estimate the net force that ultimately stops the person if he or she is not restrained by a seat belt or air bag.

**43.** •• The piston of a machine exerts a constant force on a ball as it moves horizontally through a distance of 15 cm. You use a motion detector to measure the speed of five different balls as they come off the piston; the data are shown in the table. Use theory to find two quantities that, when graphed, should give a

straight line. Then use the graph to find the size of the piston's force.

| Mass (g) | Speed (m/s) |
|---|---|
| 200 | 9.4 |
| 400 | 6.3 |
| 600 | 5.2 |
| 800 | 4.9 |
| 1000 | 4.0 |

**44.** ••• Compressed air is used to fire a 50 g ball vertically upward from a 1.0-m-tall tube. The air exerts an upward force of 2.0 N on the ball as long as it is in the tube. How high does the ball go above the top of the tube?

**45.** ••

**a.** A rocket of mass $m$ is launched straight up with thrust $\vec{F}_{\text{thrust}}$. Find an expression for the rocket's speed at height $h$ if air resistance is neglected.

**b.** The motor of a 350 g model rocket generates 9.5 N thrust. If air resistance can be neglected, what will be the rocket's speed as it reaches a height of 85 m?

**46.** •• A rifle with a barrel length of 60 cm fires a 10 g bullet with a horizontal speed of 400 m/s. The bullet strikes a block of wood and penetrates to a depth of 12 cm.

**a.** What resistive force (assumed to be constant) does the wood exert on the bullet?

**b.** How long does it take the bullet to come to rest?

**47.** •• A truck with a heavy load has a total mass of 7500 kg. It is climbing a 15° incline at a steady 15 m/s when, unfortunately, the poorly secured load falls off! Immediately after losing the load, the truck begins to accelerate at 1.5 $\text{m/s}^2$. What was the mass of the load? Ignore rolling friction.

**48.** •• An object of mass $m$ is at rest at the top of a smooth slope of height $h$ and length $L$. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the object and the surface, $\mu_k$, is small enough that the object will slide down the slope after being given a very small push to get it started. Find an expression for the object's speed at the bottom of the slope.

**49.** •• Sam, whose mass is 75 kg, takes off across level snow on his jet-powered skis. The skis have a thrust of 200 N and a coefficient of kinetic friction on snow of 0.10. Unfortunately, the skis run out of fuel after only 10 s.

**a.** What is Sam's top speed?

**b.** How far has Sam traveled when he finally coasts to a stop?

**50.** •• A baggage handler drops your 10 kg suitcase onto a conveyor belt running at 2.0 m/s. The materials are such that $\mu_s = 0.50$ and $\mu_k = 0.30$. How far is your suitcase dragged before it is riding smoothly on the belt?

**51.** •• A 2.0 kg wood block is launched up a wooden ramp that is inclined at a 30° angle. The block's initial speed is 10 m/s.

**a.** What vertical height does the block reach above its starting point?

**b.** What speed does it have when it slides back down to its starting point?

**52.** •• It's a snowy day and you're pulling a friend along a level road on a sled. You've both been taking physics, so she asks what you think the coefficient of friction between the sled and the snow is. You've been walking at a steady 1.5 m/s, and the rope pulls up on the sled at a 30° angle. You estimate that the mass of the sled, with your friend on it, is 60 kg and that you're pulling with a force of 75 N. What answer will you give?

**53.** •• A large box of mass $M$ is pulled across a horizontal, frictionless surface by a horizontal rope with tension $T$. A small box of mass $m$ sits on top of the large box. The coefficients of static and kinetic friction between the two boxes are $\mu_s$ and $\mu_k$, respectively. Find an expression for the maximum tension $T_{max}$ for which the small box rides on top of the large box without slipping.

**54.** •• A large box of mass $M$ is moving on a horizontal surface at speed $v_0$. A small box of mass $m$ sits on top of the large box. The coefficients of static and kinetic friction between the two boxes are $\mu_s$ and $\mu_k$, respectively. Find an expression for the shortest distance $d_{min}$ in which the large box can stop without the small box slipping.

**55.** •• You're driving along at 25 m/s with your aunt's valuable antiques in the back of your pickup truck when suddenly you see a giant hole in the road 55 m ahead of you. Fortunately, your foot is right beside the brake and your reaction time is zero!

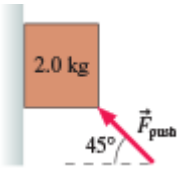
**a.** Can you stop the truck before it falls into the hole?

**b.** If your answer to part a is yes, can you stop without the antiques sliding and being damaged? Their coefficients of friction are $\mu_s = 0.60$ and $\mu_k = 0.30$.

**Hint:** You're not trying to stop in the shortest possible distance. What's your best strategy for avoiding damage to the antiques?

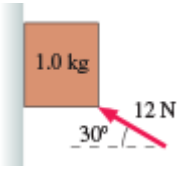
**56.** •• The 2.0 kg wood box in Figure P6.56 slides down a vertical wood wall while you push on it at a 45° angle. What magnitude of force should you apply to cause the box to slide down at a constant speed?

**Figure P6.56**




**57.** •• A 1.0 kg wood block is pressed against a vertical wood wall by the 12 N force shown in Figure P6.57. If the block is initially at rest, will it move upward, move downward, or stay at rest?

**Figure P6.57**




**58.** •• A person with compromised pinch strength in his fingers can exert a force of only 6.0 N to either side of a pinch-held object, such as the book shown in Figure P6.58. What is the heaviest book he can hold vertically before it slips out of his fingers? The coefficient of static friction between his fingers and the book cover is 0.80.

**Figure P6.58**

**59.** •• A ball is shot from a compressed-air gun at twice its terminal speed.

**a.** What is the ball's initial acceleration, as a multiple of $g$, if it is shot straight up?

**b.** What is the ball's initial acceleration, as a multiple of $g$, if it is shot straight down?

**60.** ••• Starting from rest, a 2500 kg helicopter accelerates straight up at a constant 2.0 m/s$^2$. What is the helicopter's height at the moment its blades are providing an upward force of 26 kN? The helicopter can be modeled as a 2.6-m-diameter sphere.

**61.** •• **CALC** Astronauts in space "weigh" themselves by oscillating on a spring. Suppose the position of an oscillating 75 kg astronaut is given by $x = (0.30\text{ m})\sin((\pi\text{ rad/s}) \times t)$, where $t$ is in s. What force does the spring exert on the astronaut at (a) $t = 1.0$ s and (b) 1.5 s? Note that the angle of the sine function is in radians.

**62.** •• **CALC** A particle of mass $m$ moving along the $x$-axis experiences the net force $F_x = ct$, where $c$ is a constant. The particle has velocity $v_{0x}$ at $t = 0$. Find an algebraic expression for the particle's velocity $v_x$ at a later time $t$.

**63.** •• **CALC** At $t = 0$, an object of mass $m$ is at rest at $x = 0$ on a horizontal, frictionless surface. A horizontal force $F_x = F_0(1 - t/T)$, which decreases from $F_0$ at $t = 0$ to zero at $t = T$, is exerted on the object. Find an expression for the object's (a) velocity and (b) position at time $T$.

**64.** •• **CALC** At $t = 0$, an object of mass $m$ is at rest at $x = 0$ on a horizontal, frictionless surface. Starting at $t = 0$, a horizontal force $F_x = F_0e^{-t/T}$ is exerted on the object.

**a.** Find and graph an expression for the object's velocity at an arbitrary later time $t$.

**b.** What is the object's velocity after a very long time has elapsed?

**65.** ••• **BIO** Large objects have inertia and tend to keep moving—Newton's first law. Life is very different for small microorganisms that swim through water. For them, drag forces are so large that they instantly stop, without coasting, if they cease their swimming motion. To swim at constant speed, they must exert a constant propulsion force by rotating corkscrew-like flagella or beating hair-like cilia. The quadratic model of drag of Equation 6.15 fails for very small particles. Instead, a small object moving in a liquid experiences a *linear* drag force, $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = (bv, \text{ direction opposite the motion})$, where $b$ is a constant. For a sphere of radius $R$, the drag constant can be shown to be $b = 6\pi\eta R$, where $\eta$ is the *viscosity* of the liquid. Water at 20°C has viscosity $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$ N s/m$^2$.

**a.** A *paramecium* is about 100 $\mu$m long. If it's modeled as a sphere, how much propulsion force must it exert to swim at a typical speed of 1.0 mm/s? How about the propulsion force of a 2.0-$\mu$m-diameter *E. coli* bacterium swimming at 30 $\mu$m/s?

**b.** The propulsion forces are very small, but so are the organisms. To judge whether the propulsion force is large or small *relative to the organism*, compute the acceleration that the propulsion force could give each organism if there were no drag. The density of both organisms is the same as that of water, 1000 kg/m$^3$.

**66.** ••• **CALC** A 60 kg skater is gliding across frictionless ice at 4.0 m/s. Air resistance is not negligible. You can model the skater as a 170-cm-tall, 36-cm-diameter cylinder. What is the skater's speed 2.0 s later?

**67.** ••• Very small objects, such as dust particles, experience a *linear* drag force, $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = (bv, \text{direction opposite the motion})$, where $b$ is a constant. That is, the quadratic model of drag of Equation 6.15 fails for very small particles. For a sphere of radius $R$, the drag constant can be shown to be $b = 6\pi\eta R$, where $\eta$ is the *viscosity* of the gas.

**a.** Find an expression for the terminal speed $v_{\text{term}}$ of a spherical particle of radius $R$ and mass $m$ falling through a gas of viscosity $\eta$.

**b.** Suppose a gust of wind has carried a 50-$\mu$m-diameter dust particle to a height of 300 m. If the wind suddenly stops, how long will it take the dust particle to settle back to the ground? Dust has a density of $2700\ \text{kg/m}^3$, the viscosity of 25° air is $2.0 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{N s/m}^2$, and you can assume that the falling dust particle reaches terminal speed almost instantly.

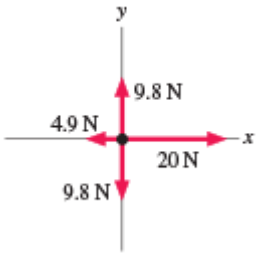
Problems 68, and 69 show a free-body diagram. For each:

**a.** Write a realistic dynamics problem for which this is the correct free-body diagram. Your problem should ask a question that can be answered with a value of position or velocity (such as "How far?" or "How fast?"), and should give sufficient information to allow a solution.

**b.** Solve your problem!

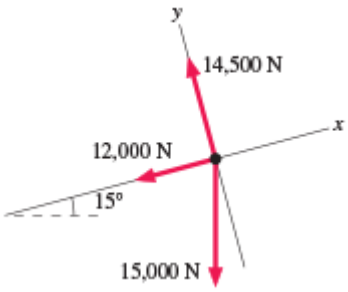
**68.**

**Figure P6.68**




**69.**

**Figure P6.69**




In Problems 70, 71, 72 you are given the dynamics equations that are used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which these are the correct equations.

**b.** Draw the free-body diagram and the pictorial representation for your problem.

**c.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**70.** $-0.80n = (1500\ \text{kg})a_x$

$n - (1500\ \text{kg})(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2) = 0$

**71.** $T - 0.20n - (20\ \text{kg})(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2)\sin 20^\circ$

$= (20\ \text{kg})(2.0\ \text{m/s}^2)$

$n - (20\ \text{kg})(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2)\cos 20^\circ = 0$

**72.**

$$(100\ \text{N})\ \cos 30^\circ - f_\text{k} = (20\ \text{kg})\, a_x$$
$$n + (100\ \text{N}) \sin 30^\circ - (20\ \text{kg})(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2) = 0$$
$$f_\text{k} = 0.20n$$

## Challenge Problems

**73.** ••• **CALC** A block of mass $m$ is at rest at the origin at $t = 0$. It is pushed with constant force $F_0$ from $x = 0$ to $x = L$ across a horizontal surface whose coefficient of kinetic friction is $\mu_\text{k} = \mu_0(1 - x/L)$. That is, the coefficient of friction decreases from $\mu_0$ at $x = 0$ to zero at $x = L$.

**a.** Use what you've learned in calculus to prove that

$$a_x = v_x \frac{dv_x}{dx}$$

**b.** Find an expression for the block's speed as it reaches position $L$.

**74.** ••• **CALC** A spring-loaded toy gun exerts a variable force on a plastic ball as the spring expands. Consider a horizontal spring and a ball of mass $m$ whose position when barely touching a fully expanded spring is $x = 0$. The ball is pushed to the left, compressing the spring. You'll learn in Chapter 9 that the spring force on the ball, when the ball is at position $x$ (which is negative), can be written as $(F_\text{Sp})_x = -kx$, where $k$ is called the *spring constant*. The minus sign is needed to make the $x$-component of the force positive. Suppose the ball is initially pushed to $x_0 = -L$, then released and shot to the right.

**a.** Use what you've learned in calculus to prove that

$$a_x = v_x \frac{dv_x}{dx}$$

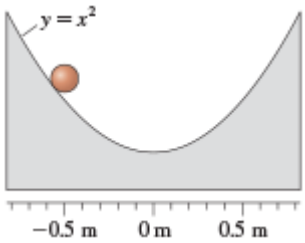
**b.** Find an expression, in terms of $m$, $k$, and $L$, for the speed of the ball as it comes off the spring at $x = 0$.

**75.** ••• **CALC** Figure CP6.75 shows an *accelerometer*, a device for measuring the horizontal acceleration of cars and airplanes. A ball is free to roll on a parabolic track described by the equation $y = x^2$, where both $x$ and $y$ are in meters. A scale along the bottom is used to measure the ball's horizontal position $x$.

**a.** Find an expression that allows you to use a measured position $x$ (in m) to compute the acceleration $a_x$ (in m/s$^2$). (For example, $a_x = 3x$ is a possible expression.)

**b.** What is the acceleration if $x = 20$ cm?

**Figure CP6.75**




**76.** ••• **CALC** An object moving in a liquid experiences a *linear* drag force: $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = (bv, \text{direction opposite the motion})$, where $b$ is a constant called the *drag coefficient*. For a sphere of radius $R$, the drag constant can be computed as $b = 6\pi\eta R$, where $\eta$ is the *viscosity* of the liquid.

**a.** Find an algebraic expression for $v_x(t)$, the $x$-component of velocity as a function of time, for a spherical particle of radius $R$ and mass $m$ that is shot horizontally with initial speed $v_0$ through a liquid of viscosity $\eta$.

**b.** Water at 20° has viscosity $\eta = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}$ N s/m$^2$. Suppose a 4.0-cm-diameter, 33 g ball is shot

horizontally into a tank of 20°C water. How long will it take for the horizontal speed to decrease to 50% of its initial value?

**77.** ••• **CALC** An object moving in a liquid experiences a *linear* drag force: $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} =$ ($bv$, direction opposite the motion), where $b$ is a constant called the *drag coefficient.* For a sphere of radius $R$, the drag constant can be computed as $b = 6\pi\eta R$, where $\eta$ is the *viscosity* of the liquid.

**a.** Use what you've learned in calculus to prove that

$$a_x = v_x \frac{dv_x}{dx}$$

**b.** Find an algebraic expression for $v_x(x)$, the $x$-component of velocity as a function of distance traveled, for a spherical particle of radius $R$ and mass $m$ that is shot horizontally with initial speed $v_0$ through a liquid of viscosity $\eta$.

**c.** Water at 20°C has viscosity $\eta = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{N s/m}^2$. Suppose a 1.0-cm-diameter, 1.0 g marble is shot horizontally into a tank of 20°C water at 10 cm/s. How far will it travel before stopping?

**78.** ••• **CALC** An object with cross section $A$ is shot horizontally across frictionless ice. Its initial velocity is $v_{0x}$ at $t_0 = 0$ s. Air resistance is not negligible.

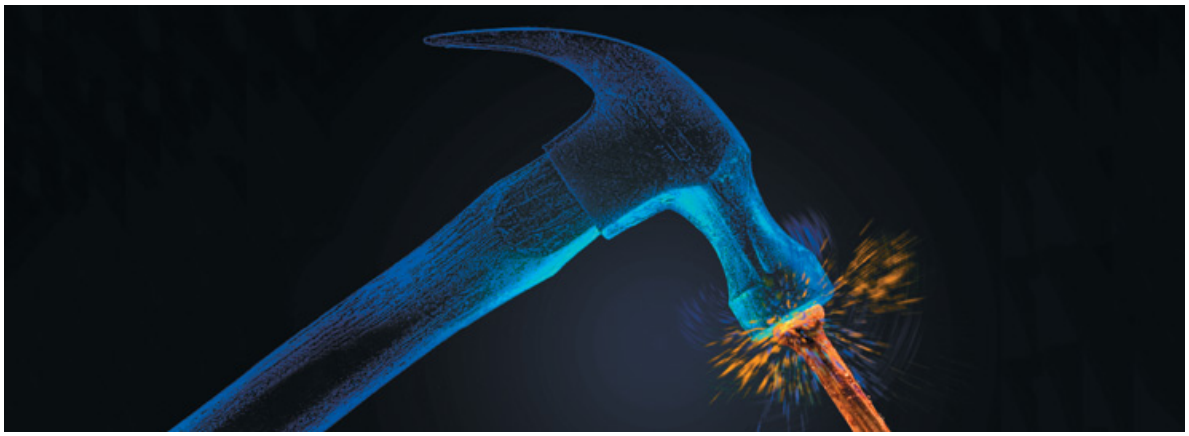
**a.** Show that the velocity at time $t$ is given by the expression

$$v_x = \frac{v_{0x}}{1 + C\rho A v_{0x}\, t/2m}$$

**b.** A 1.6-m-wide, 1.4-m-high, 1500 kg car with a drag coefficient of 0.35 hits a very slick patch of ice while going 20 m/s. If friction is neglected, how long will it take until the car's speed drops to 10 m/s? To 5 m/s?

**c.** Assess whether or not it is reasonable to neglect kinetic friction.

# Chapter 7
# Newton's Third Law



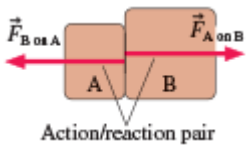
The hammer and nail are interacting. The forces of the hammer on the nail and the nail on the hammer are an action/reaction pair of forces.

**In This Chapter**

you will use Newton's third law to understand how objects interact.

## What is an interaction?

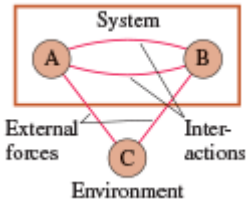
All forces are interactions in which objects exert forces on each other. If A pushes on B, then B pushes back on A. These two forces form an action/reaction pair of forces. One can't exist without the other.




Looking Back Section 5.5 Forces, interactions, and Newton's second law

## What is an interaction diagram?

We will often analyze a problem by defining a system—the objects of interest—and the larger environment that acts on the system. An interaction diagram is a key visual tool for identifying action/reaction forces of interaction *inside* the system and external forces from agents in the environment.

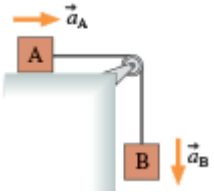



## How do we model ropes and pulleys?

A common way that two objects interact is to be connected via a rope or cable or string. Pulleys change the direction of the tension forces. We will often model

- Ropes and strings as massless;
- Pulleys as massless and frictionless.

The objects' accelerations are constrained to have the same magnitude.




## What is Newton's third law?

Newton's third law governs interactions:

- Every force is a member of an action/reaction pair.
- The two members of a pair act on different objects.

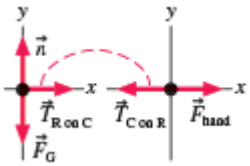
- The two members of a pair are equal in magnitude but opposite in direction.

## How is Newton's third law used?

The dynamics problem-solving strategy of Chapter 6 is still our primary tool.

- Draw a free-body diagram for *each object.*
- Identify and show action/reaction pairs.
- Use Newton's second law for *each object.*
- Relate forces with Newton's third law.

Looking Back Section 6.2 Problem-Solving Strategy 6.1



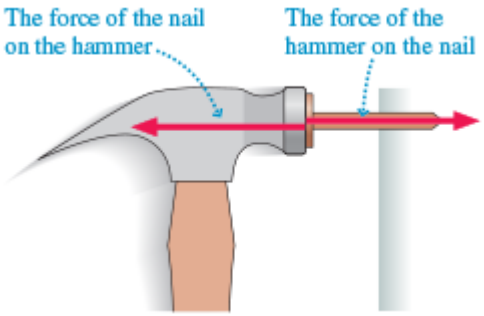

## Why is Newton's third law important?

We started our study of dynamics with only the first two of Newton's laws in order to practice identifying and using forces. But objects in the real world don't exist in isolation—they *interact* with each other. Newton's third law gives us a much more complete view of mechanics. The third law is also an essential tool in the practical application of physics to problems in engineering and technology.

# 7.1 Interacting Objects 160

Figure 7.1 shows a hammer hitting a nail. The hammer exerts a force on the nail as it drives the nail forward. At the same time, the nail exerts a force on the hammer. If you're not sure that it does, imagine hitting the nail with a glass hammer. It's the force of the nail on the hammer that would cause the glass to shatter.

**Figure 7.1**



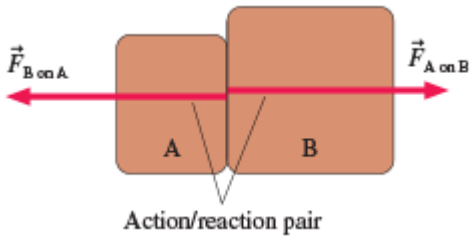

The hammer and nail are interacting with each other.

In fact, any time an object A pushes or pulls on another object B, B pushes or pulls back on A. When you pull someone with a rope in a tug-of-war, that person pulls back on you. Your chair pushes up on you (the normal force) as you push down on the chair. These are examples of an **interaction**, the mutual influence of two objects on each other.

To be more specific, if object A exerts a force $\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}}$ on object B, then object B exerts a force $\vec{F}_{\text{B on A}}$ on object A. This pair of forces, shown in Figure 7.2, is called an **action/reaction pair**. Two objects interact by exerting an action/reaction pair of forces on each other. Notice the very explicit subscripts on the force vectors. The first letter is the *agent;* the

second letter is the object on which the force acts. $\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}}$ is a force exerted *by* A *on* B.

**Figure 7.2**




An action/reaction pair of forces.

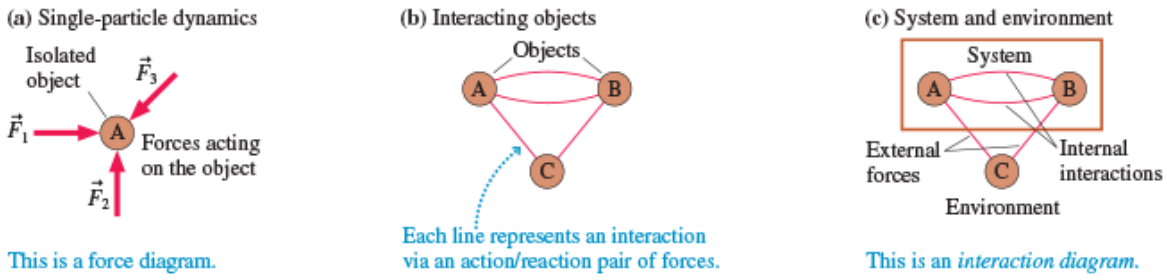
> **Note**
>
> The name "action/reaction pair" is somewhat misleading. The forces occur simultaneously, and we cannot say which is the "action" and which the "reaction." **An action/reaction pair of forces exists as a pair, or not at all.**

The hammer and nail interact through contact forces. Does the same idea hold true for long-range forces such as gravity? Newton was the first to realize that it does. His evidence was the tides. Astronomers had known since antiquity that the tides depend on the phase of the moon, but Newton was the first to understand that tides are the ocean's response to the gravitational pull of the moon on the earth.

## Objects, Systems, and the Environment

Chapters 5 and 6 considered forces acting on a single object that we modeled as a particle. Figure 7.3a shows a diagrammatic representation of single-particle dynamics. We can use Newton's second law, $\vec{a} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}/m$, to determine the particle's acceleration.

## Figure 7.3




Single-particle dynamics and a model of interacting objects.

We now want to extend the particle model to situations in which two or more objects, each represented as a particle, interact with each other. For example, Figure 7.3b shows three objects interacting via action/reaction pairs of forces. The forces can be given labels such as $\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{B on A.}}$ How do these particles move?

We will often be interested in the motion of some of the objects, say objects A and B, but not of others. For example, objects A and B might be the hammer and the nail, while object C is the earth. The earth interacts with both the hammer and the nail via gravity, but in a practical sense the earth remains "at rest" while the hammer and nail move. Let's define the **system** as those objects whose motion we want to analyze and the **environment** as objects external to the system.



Figure 7.3c is a new kind of diagram, an **interaction diagram,** in which we've enclosed the objects of the system in a box and represented interactions as lines connecting objects. This is a rather abstract, schematic diagram, but it captures the essence of the interactions. Notice that interactions with objects in the environment are called **external forces.** For the hammer and nail, the gravitational force on each—an interaction with the earth—is an external force.

The bat and the ball are interacting with each other.

---

**Note**

*Every* force is one member of an action/reaction pair, so there is no such thing as a true “external force.” What we call an external force is simply an interaction between an object of interest, one we’ve chosen to place inside the system, and an object whose motion is not of interest.

# 7.2 Analyzing Interacting Objects

TACTICS BOX 7.1 **Analyzing interacting objects**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Represent each object as a circle** with a name and label. Place each in the correct position relative to other objects. The surface of the earth (label S; contact forces) and the entire earth (label EE; long-range forces) should be considered separate objects.
2. **Identify interactions.** Draw *one* connecting line between relevant circles to represent each interaction.
   - Every interaction line connects two and only two objects.
   - A surface can have two interactions: friction (parallel to the surface) and a normal force (perpendicular to the surface).
   - The entire earth interacts only by the long-range gravitational force.
3. **Identify the system.** Identify the objects of interest; draw and label a box enclosing them. This completes the interaction diagram.
4. **Draw a free-body diagram for each object in the system.** Include only the forces acting *on* each object, not forces exerted by the object.
   - Every interaction line crossing the system boundary is one external force acting on an object. The usual

symbols, such as $\vec{n}$ and $\vec{T}$ can be used.

- Every interaction line within the system represents an action/reaction pair of forces. There is one force vector on *each* of the objects, and these forces point in opposite directions. Use labels like and $\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{B on A}}$.
- Connect the two action/reaction forces—which must be on *different* free-body diagrams—with a dashed line.

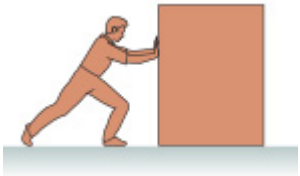
Workbook Exercises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

We'll illustrate these ideas with two concrete examples. The first example will be much longer than usual because we'll go carefully through all the steps in the reasoning.

**Example 7.1 Pushing a crate**

Figure 7.4 shows a person pushing a large crate across a rough surface. Identify all interactions, show them on an interaction diagram, then draw free-body diagrams of the person and the crate.

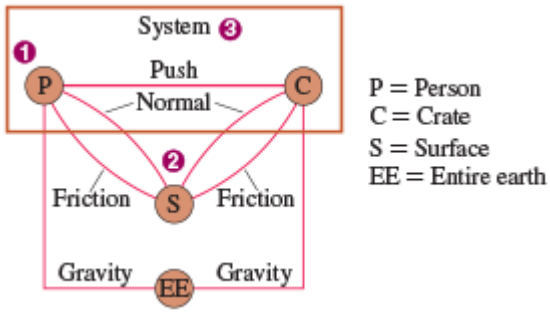
**Figure 7.4**



A person pushes a crate across a rough floor.

**VISUALIZE** The interaction diagram of Figure 7.5 on the next page starts by representing every object as a circle in the correct position but separated from all other objects. The person and the crate are obvious objects. The earth is also an object that both exerts and experiences forces, but it's necessary to distinguish between the surface, which exerts contact forces, and the entire earth, which exerts the long-range gravitational force.

## Figure 7.5



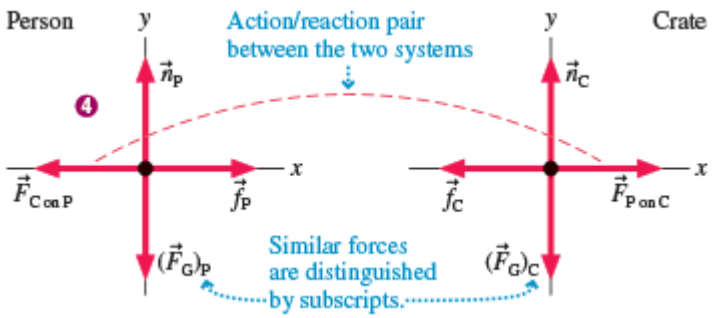

The interaction diagram.

Figure 7.5 also identifies the various interactions. Some, like the pushing interaction between the person and the crate, are fairly obvious. The interactions with the earth are a little trickier. Gravity, a long-range force, is an interaction between each object and the earth as a whole. Friction forces and normal forces are contact interactions between each object and the earth's surface. These are two different interactions, so two interaction lines connect the crate to the surface and the person to the surface. Finally, we've enclosed the person and crate in a box labeled System. These are the objects whose motion we wish to analyze.

> **Note**
>
> Interactions are between two *different* objects. None of the interactions are between an object and itself.

We can now draw free-body diagrams for the objects in the system, the crate and the person. Figure 7.6 correctly locates the crate's free-body diagram to the right of the person's free-body diagram. For each, three interaction lines cross the system boundary and thus represent external forces. These are the gravitational force from the entire earth, the upward normal force from the surface, and a friction force from the surface. We can use familiar labels such as $\vec{n}_{\mathrm{P}}$ and $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{C}}$, but **it's very important to distinguish different forces with subscripts.** There's now more than one normal force. If you call both simply $\vec{n}$, you're almost certain to make mistakes when you start writing out the second-law equations.

## Figure 7.6




Free-body diagrams of the person and the crate.

The directions of the normal forces and the gravitational forces are clear, but we have to be careful with friction. Friction force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{C}}$ is kinetic friction of the crate sliding across the surface, so it points left, opposite the motion. But what about friction between the person and the surface? It is tempting to draw force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{P}}$ pointing to the left. After all, friction forces are supposed to be in the direction opposite the motion. But if we did so, the person would have two forces to the left, $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{C\,on\,P}}$ and $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{P}}$, and none to the right, causing

the person to accelerate *backward!* That is clearly not what happens, so what is wrong?

Imagine pushing a crate to the right across loose sand. Each time you take a step, you tend to kick the sand to the *left*, behind you. Thus friction force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{P\,on\,S}}$, the force of the person pushing against the earth's surface, is to the *left.* In reaction, the force of the earth's surface against the person is a friction force to the *right.* It is force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{S\,on\,P}}$, which we've shortened to $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{P}}$, that causes the person to accelerate in the forward direction. Further, as we'll discuss more below, this is a *static* friction force; your foot is planted on the ground, not sliding across the surface.



Finally, we have one internal interaction. The crate is pushed with force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{P\,on\,C}}$. If A pushes or pulls on B, then B pushes or pulls back on A, so the reaction to force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{P\,on\,C}}$ is $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{C\,on\,P}}$, the crate pushing back against the person's hands. Force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{P\,on\,C}}$ is a force exerted on the crate, so it's shown on the crate's free-body diagram. Force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{C\,on\,P}}$ is exerted on the person, so it is drawn on the person's free-body diagram. **The two forces of an action/reaction pair never occur on the same free-body diagram.** We've connected forces $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{P\,on\,C}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{C\,on\,P}}$ with a dashed line to show that they are an action/reaction pair.

## Propulsion

The friction force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{P}}$ (force of surface on person) is an example of **propulsion**. It is the force that a system with an internal source of energy uses to drive itself forward. Propulsion is an important feature not only of

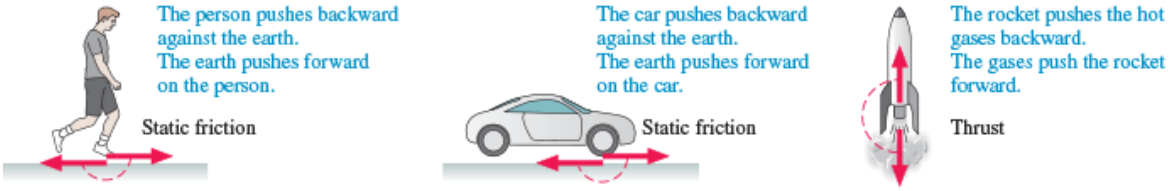
walking or running but also of the forward motion of cars, jets, and rockets. Propulsion is somewhat counterintuitive, so it is worth a closer look.

If you try to walk across a frictionless floor, your foot slips and slides *backward*. In order for you to walk, the floor needs to have friction so that your foot *sticks* to the floor as you straighten your leg, moving your body forward. The friction that prevents slipping is *static* friction. Static friction, you will recall, acts in the direction that prevents slipping. The static friction force $\vec{f}_{\text{P}}$ has to point in the *forward* direction to prevent your foot from slipping backward. It is this forward-directed static friction force that propels you forward! The force of your foot on the floor, the other half of the action/reaction pair, is in the opposite direction.

The distinction between you and the crate is that you have an *internal source of energy* that allows you to straighten your leg by pushing backward against the surface. In essence, you walk by pushing the earth away from you. The earth's surface responds by pushing you forward. These are static friction forces. In contrast, all the crate can do is slide, so *kinetic* friction opposes the motion of the crate.

Figure 7.7 shows how propulsion works. A car uses its motor to spin the tires, causing the tires to push backward against the ground. This is why dirt and gravel are kicked backward, not forward. The earth's surface responds by pushing the car forward. These are also *static* friction forces. The tire is rolling, but the bottom of the tire, where it contacts the road, is instantaneously at rest. If it weren't, you would leave one giant skid mark as you drove and would burn off the tread within a few miles.

**Figure 7.7**

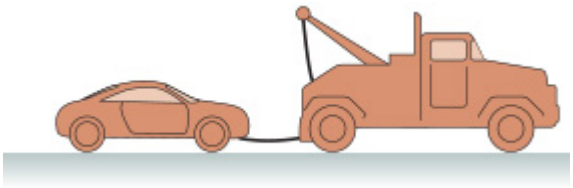



Examples of propulsion.

### Example 7.2 Towing a car

A tow truck uses a rope to pull a car along a horizontal road, as shown in Figure 7.8. Identify all interactions, show them on an interaction diagram, then draw free-body diagrams of each object in the system.

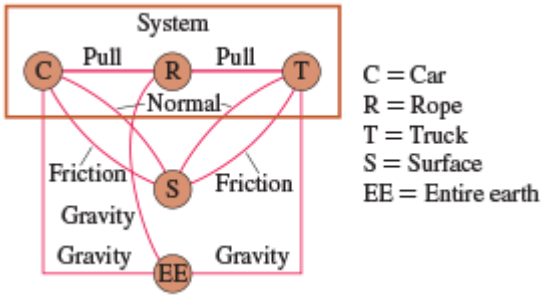
#### Figure 7.8



A truck towing a car.

**VISUALIZE** The interaction diagram of Figure 7.9 represents the objects as separate circles, but with the correct relative positions. The rope is shown as a separate object. Many of the interactions are identical to those in Example 7.1. The system—the objects in motion—consists of the truck, the rope, and the car.

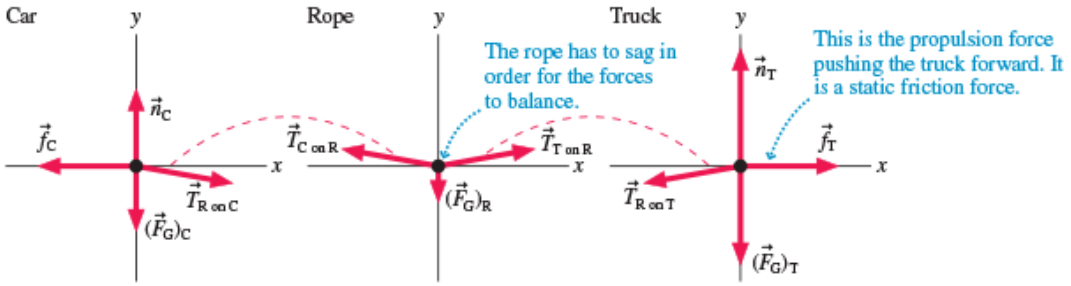
#### Figure 7.9




The interaction diagram.

The three objects in the system require three free-body diagrams, shown in Figure 7.10. Gravity, friction, and normal forces at the surface are all interactions that cross the system boundary and are shown as external forces. The car is an inert object rolling along. It would slow and stop if the rope were cut, so the surface must exert a rolling friction force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{C}}$ to the left. The truck, however, has an internal source of energy. The truck's drive wheels push the ground to the left with force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{T\,on\,S}}$. In reaction, the ground propels the truck forward, to the right, with force $\vec{f}_{\mathrm{T}}$.

## Figure 7.10




Free-body diagrams of Example 7.2.

We next need to identify the forces between the car, the truck, and the rope. The rope pulls on the car with a tension force $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{R\,on\,C}}$. You might be tempted to put the reaction force on the truck because we say that "the truck pulls the car," but the truck is not in contact with the car. The truck pulls on the rope, then the rope

pulls on the car. Thus the reaction to $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{R\,on\,C}}$ is a force on the *rope:* $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{C\,on\,R}}$. These are an action/reaction pair. At the other end, $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{T\,on\,R}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{R\,on\,T}}$ are also an action/reaction pair.

> **Note**
>
> Drawing an interaction diagram helps you avoid mistakes because it shows very clearly what is interacting with what.

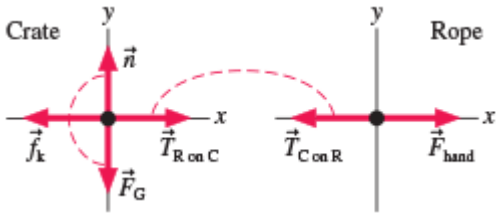
Notice that the tension forces of the rope *cannot* be horizontal. If they were, the rope's free-body diagram would show a net downward force, because of its weight, and the rope would accelerate downward. The tension forces $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{T\,on\,R}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{C\,on\,R}}$ have to angle slightly upward to balance the gravitational force, so any real rope has to sag at least a little in the center.

**ASSESS** Make sure you avoid the common error of considering $\vec{n}$ and $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{G}}$ to be an action/reaction pair. These are both forces on the *same* object, whereas the two forces of an action/reaction pair are always on two *different* objects that are interacting with each other. The normal and gravitational forces are often equal in magnitude, as they are in this example, but that doesn't make them an action/reaction pair of forces.

## Stop to Think 7.1

A rope of negligible mass pulls a crate across the floor. The rope and crate are the system; the hand pulling the rope is part of the

environment. What, if anything, is wrong with the free-body diagrams?



# 7.3 Newton's Third Law [165]

Newton was the first to recognize how the two members of an action/reaction pair of forces are related to each other. Today we know this as **Newton's third law:**

---

Newton's third law

Every force occurs as one member of an action/reaction pair of forces.

- The two members of an action/reaction pair act on two *different* objects.
- The two members of an action/reaction pair are equal in magnitude but opposite in direction: $\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}} = -\vec{F}_{\text{B on A}}$.

We deduced most of the third law in Section 7.2. There we found that the two members of an action/reaction pair are always opposite in direction (see Figures 7.6 and 7.10). According to the third law, this will always be true. But the most significant portion of the third law, which is by no means obvious, is that the two members of an action/reaction pair have *equal* magnitudes. That is, $F_{\text{A on B}} = F_{\text{B on A}}$. This is the quantitative relationship that will allow you to solve problems of interacting objects.

Newton's third law is frequently stated as "For every action there is an equal but opposite reaction." While this is indeed a catchy phrase, it lacks the preciseness of our preferred version. In particular, it fails to capture an essential feature of action/reaction pairs—that they each act on a *different* object.

> **Note**
>
> Newton's third law extends and completes our concept of *force.* We can now recognize force as an *interaction* between objects rather than as some "thing" with an independent existence of its own. The concept of an interaction will become increasingly important as we begin to study the laws of energy and momentum.

## Reasoning with Newton's Third Law

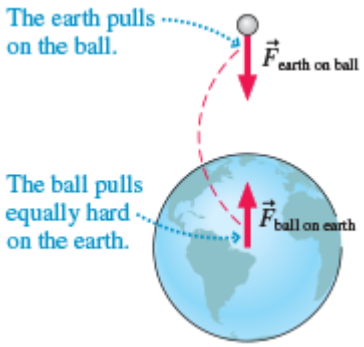
Newton's third law is easy to state but harder to grasp. For example, consider what happens when you release a ball. Not surprisingly, it falls down. But if the ball and the earth exert equal and opposite forces on each other, as Newton's third law alleges, why doesn't the earth "fall up" to meet the ball?

The key to understanding this and many similar puzzles is that **the forces are equal but the accelerations are not.** Equal causes can produce very unequal effects. Figure 7.11 shows equal-magnitude forces on the ball and the earth. The force on ball B is simply the gravitational force of Chapter 6:

**(7.1)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{earth on ball}} = (\vec{F}_{\text{G}})_{\text{B}} = -m_{\text{B}} g \hat{j}$$

## Figure 7.11




The action/reaction forces of a ball and the earth are equal in magnitude.

where $m_{\text{B}}$ is the mass of the ball. According to Newton's second law, this force gives the ball an acceleration

**(7.2)**

$$\vec{a}_{\text{B}} = \frac{(\vec{F}_{\text{G}})_{\text{B}}}{m_{\text{B}}} = -g\hat{j}$$

This is just the familiar free-fall acceleration.

According to Newton's third law, the ball pulls up on the earth with force $\vec{F}_{\text{ball on earth}}$. Because $\vec{F}_{\text{earth on ball}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{ball on earth}}$ are an action/reaction pair, $\vec{F}_{\text{ball on earth}}$ must be equal in magnitude and opposite in direction to $\vec{F}_{\text{earth on ball}}$. That is,

**(7.3)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{ball on earth}} = -\vec{F}_{\text{earth on ball}} = -(\vec{F}_{\text{G}})_{\text{B}} = +m_{\text{B}}g\hat{j}$$

Using this result in Newton's second law, we find the upward acceleration of the earth as a whole is

(7.4)

$$\vec{a}_{\mathrm{E}} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{ball on earth}}}{m_{\mathrm{E}}} = \frac{m_{\mathrm{B}} g\hat{j}}{m_{\mathrm{E}}} = \left(\frac{m_{\mathrm{B}}}{m_{\mathrm{E}}}\right) g\hat{j}$$

The upward acceleration of the earth is less than the downward acceleration of the ball by the factor $m_{\mathrm{B}}/m_{\mathrm{E}}$. If we assume a 1 kg ball, we can estimate the magnitude of $\vec{a}_{\mathrm{E}}$:

$$a_{\mathrm{E}} = \frac{1\ \mathrm{kg}}{6 \times 10^{24}\ \mathrm{kg}} g \approx 2 \times 10^{-24} \mathrm{m/s^2}$$

With this incredibly small acceleration, it would take the earth $8 \times 10^{15}$ years, approximately 500,000 times the age of the universe, to reach a speed of 1 mph! So we certainly would not expect to see or feel the earth "fall up" after we drop a ball.

> **Note**
>
> Newton's third law equates the size of two forces, not two accelerations. The acceleration continues to depend on the mass, as Newton's second law states. **In an interaction between two objects of different mass, the lighter mass will do essentially all of the accelerating even though the forces exerted on the two objects are equal.**

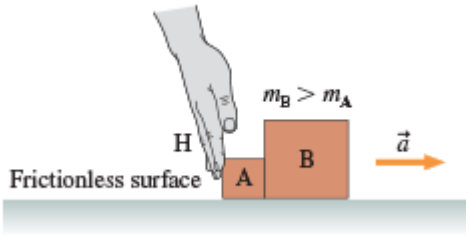
**Example 7.3 The forces on accelerating boxes**

The hand shown in Figure 7.12 pushes boxes A and B to the right across a frictionless table. The mass of B is larger than the mass of A.

**a.** Draw free-body diagrams of A, B, and the hand H, showing only the *horizontal* forces. Connect action/reaction pairs with dashed lines.

**b.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the horizontal forces shown on your free-body diagrams.

## Figure 7.12




Hand H pushes boxes A and B.



## VISUALIZE

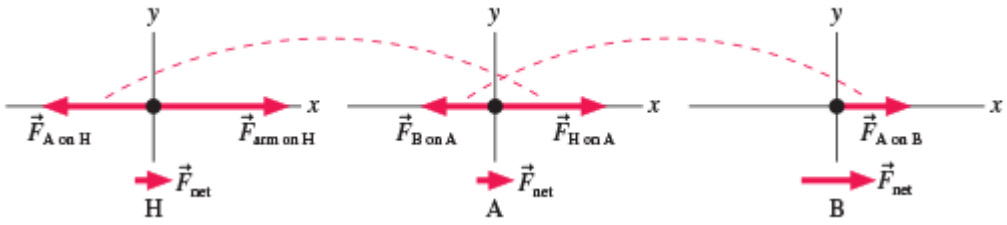
**a.** The hand H pushes on box A, and A pushes back on H. Thus $\vec{F}_{\text{H on A}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{A on H}}$ are an action/reaction pair. Similarly, A pushes on B and B pushes back on A. **The hand H does not touch box B, so there is no interaction between them.** There is no friction. Figure 7.13 on the next page shows five horizontal forces and identifies two action/reaction pairs. Notice that each force is shown on the free-body diagram of the object that it acts *on*.

**b.** According to Newton's third law, $F_{\text{A on H}} = F_{\text{H on A}}$ and $F_{\text{A on B}} = F_{\text{B on A}}$. But the third law is not our only tool. The boxes are *accelerating* to the right, because there's no friction, so Newton's *second* law tells us that box A must have a net force to the right. Consequently,

$F_{\text{H on A}} > F_{\text{B on A}}$. Similarly, $F_{\text{arm on H}} > F_{\text{A on H}}$ is needed to accelerate the hand. Thus

$$F_{\text{arm on H}} > F_{\text{A on H}} = F_{\text{H on A}} > F_{\text{B on A}} = F_{\text{A on B}}$$

## Figure 7.13




The free-body diagrams, showing only the horizontal forces.

**ASSESS** You might have expected $F_{\text{A on B}}$ to be larger than $F_{\text{H on A}}$ because $m_{\text{B}} > m_{\text{A}}$. It's true that the *net* force on B is larger than the *net* force on A, but we have to reason more closely to judge the individual forces. Notice how we used both the second and the third laws to answer this question.

## Stop to Think 7.2

A small car is pushing a larger truck that has a dead battery. The mass of the truck is larger than the mass of the car. Which of the following statements is true?

**a.** The car exerts a force on the truck, but the truck doesn't exert a force on the car.

**b.** The car exerts a larger force on the truck than the truck exerts on the car.

**c.** The car exerts the same amount of force on the truck as the truck exerts on the car.

**d.** The truck exerts a larger force on the car than the car exerts on the truck.

**e.** The truck exerts a force on the car, but the car doesn't exert a force on the truck.

## Acceleration Constraints

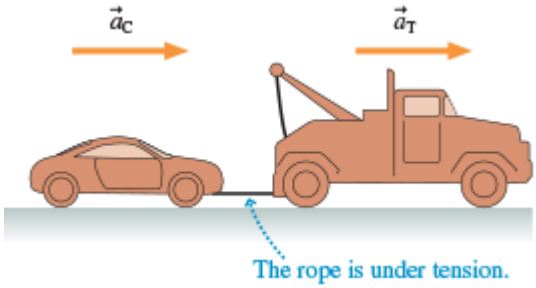
Newton's third law is one quantitative relationship you can use to solve problems of interacting objects. In addition, we frequently have other information about the motion in a problem. For example, if two objects A and B move together, their accelerations are *constrained* to be equal: $\vec{a}_{\mathrm{A}} = \vec{a}_{\mathrm{B}}$. A well-defined relationship between the accelerations of two or more objects is called an **acceleration constraint**. It is an independent piece of information that can help solve a problem.



In practice, we'll express acceleration constraints in terms of the $x$- and $y$-components of $\vec{a}$. Consider the car being towed in Figure 7.14. This is one-dimensional motion, so we can write the acceleration constraint as

$$a_{\mathrm{C}x} = a_{\mathrm{T}x} = a_x$$

**Figure 7.14**



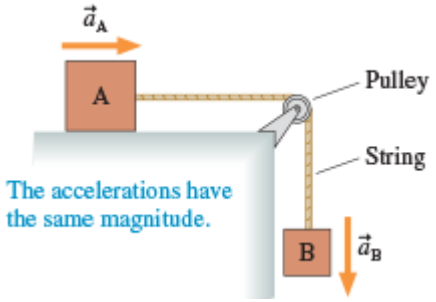

The car and the truck have the same acceleration.

Because the accelerations of both objects are equal, we can drop the subscripts C and T and call both of them $a_x$.

Don't assume the accelerations of A and B will always have the same sign. Consider blocks A and B in Figure 7.15. The blocks are connected by a string, so they are constrained to move together and their accelerations have equal magnitudes. But A has a positive acceleration (to the right) in the $x$-direction while B has a negative acceleration (downward) in the $y$-direction. Thus the acceleration constraint is

$$a_{Ax} = -a_{By}$$

## Figure 7.15




The string constrains the two objects to accelerate together.

This relationship does *not* say that $a_{Ax}$ is a negative number. It is simply a relational statement, saying that $a_{Ax}$ is (–1) times whatever $a_{By}$ happens to be. The acceleration $a_{By}$ in Figure 7.15 is a negative number, so $a_{Ax}$ is

positive. In some problems, the signs of $a_{Ax}$ and $a_{By}$ may not be known until the problem is solved, but the *relationship* is known from the beginning.

## A Revised Strategy for Interacting-Objects Problems

Problems of interacting objects can be solved with a few modifications to the problem-solving strategy we developed in Section 6.2.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 7.1 Interacting-objects problems**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Identify which objects are part of the system and which are part of the environment. Make simplifying assumptions.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation.

- Show important points in the motion with a sketch. You may want to give each object a separate coordinate system. Define symbols, list acceleration constraints, and identify what the problem is trying to find.
- Draw an interaction diagram to identify the forces on each object and all action/reaction pairs.
- Draw a *separate* free-body diagram for each object showing only the forces acting *on* that object, not forces exerted by the object. Connect the force vectors of action/reaction pairs with dashed lines.

**SOLVE** Use Newton's second and third laws.

- Write the equations of Newton's second law for *each* object, using the force information from the free-body diagrams.
- Equate the magnitudes of action/reaction pairs.
- Include the acceleration constraints, the friction model, and other quantitative information relevant to the problem.
- Solve for the acceleration, then use kinematics to find velocities and positions.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has the correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

You might be puzzled that the Solve step calls for the use of the third law to equate just the *magnitudes* of action/reaction forces. What about the "opposite in direction" part of the third law? You have already used it! Your free-body diagrams should show the two members of an action/reaction pair to be opposite in direction, and that information will have been utilized in writing the second-law equations. Because the directional information has already been used, all that is left is the magnitude information.

### Example 7.4 Keep the crate from sliding

You and a friend have just loaded a 200 kg crate filled with priceless art objects into the back of a 2000 kg truck. As you press down on the accelerator, force $\vec{F}_{\text{surface on truck}}$ propels the truck forward. To keep things simple, call this just $\vec{F}_{\text{T}}$. What is the maximum magnitude $\vec{F}_{\text{T}}$ can have without the crate sliding? The static and kinetic coefficients of friction between the crate and the

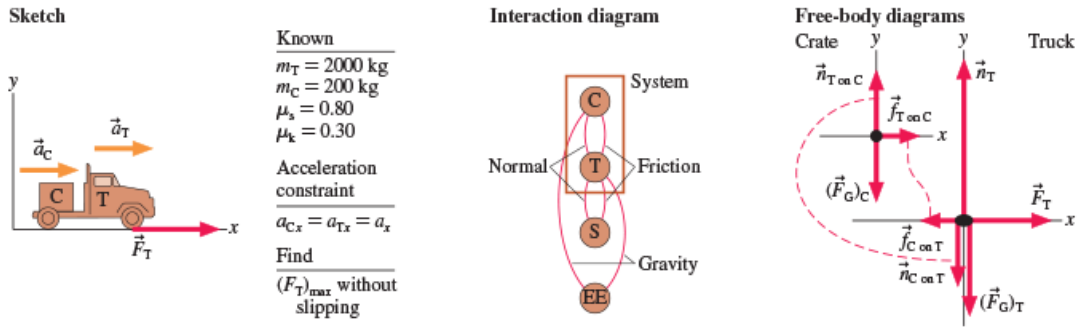
bed of the truck are 0.80 and 0.30. Rolling friction of the truck is negligible.

---

**MODEL** The crate and the truck are separate objects that form the system. We'll model them as particles. The earth and the road surface are part of the environment.

**VISUALIZE** The sketch in Figure 7.16 on the next page establishes a coordinate system, lists the known information, and—new to problems of interacting objects—identifies the acceleration constraint. As long as the crate doesn't slip, it must accelerate *with* the truck. Both accelerations are in the positive $x$-direction, so the acceleration constraint in this problem is $a_{Cx} = a_{Tx} = a_x$.

## Figure 7.16




Pictorial representation of the crate and truck in Example 7.4.

The interaction diagram of Figure 7.16 shows the crate interacting twice with the truck—a friction force parallel to the surface of the truck bed and a normal force perpendicular to this surface. The truck interacts similarly with the road surface, but notice that the crate does not interact with the ground; there's no contact between them. The two interactions within the system are each an action/reaction pair, so this is a total of four forces. You can also

see four external forces crossing the system boundary, so the free-body diagrams should show a total of eight forces.

Finally, the interaction information is transferred to the free-body diagrams, where we see friction between the crate and truck as an action/reaction pair and the normal forces (the truck pushes up on the crate, the crate pushes down on the truck) as another action/reaction pair. It's easy to overlook forces such as $\vec{f}_{\text{C on T}}$, but you won't make this mistake if you first identify action/reaction pairs on an interaction diagram. Note that $\vec{f}_{\text{C on T}}$ and $\vec{f}_{\text{T on C}}$ are *static* friction forces because they are forces that prevent slipping; force $\vec{f}_{\text{T on C}}$ must point forward to prevent the crate from sliding out the back of the truck.

**SOLVE** Now we're ready to write Newton's second law. For the crate:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum (F_{\text{on crate}})_x &= f_{\text{T on C}} = m_{\text{C}} a_{\text{C}x} = m_{\text{C}} a_x \\ \sum (F_{\text{on crate}})_y &= n_{\text{T on C}} - (F_{\text{G}})_{\text{C}} = n_{\text{T on C}} - m_{\text{C}} g = 0\end{aligned}$$

For the truck:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum (F_{\text{on truck}})_x &= F_{\text{T}} - f_{\text{C on T}} = m_{\text{T}} a_{\text{T}x} = m_{\text{T}} a_x \\ \sum (F_{\text{on truck}})_y &= n_{\text{T}} - (F_{\text{G}})_{\text{T}} - n_{\text{C on T}} \\ &= n_{\text{T}} - m_{\text{T}} g - n_{\text{C on T}} = 0\end{aligned}$$

Be sure you agree with all the signs, which are based on the free-body diagrams. The net force in the $y$-direction is zero because there's no motion in the $y$-direction. It may seem like a lot of effort

to write all the subscripts, but it is very important in problems with more than one object.

Notice that we've already used the acceleration constraint $a_{\mathrm{C}x} = a_{\mathrm{T}x} = a_x$. Another important piece of information is Newton's third law, which tells us that $f_{\mathrm{C\,on\,T}} = f_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}}$ and $n_{\mathrm{C\,on\,T}} = n_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}}$. Finally, we know that the maximum value of $F_{\mathrm{T}}$ will occur when the static friction on the crate reaches its maximum value:

$$f_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}} = f_{\mathrm{s\,max}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}} n_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}}$$

The friction depends on the normal force on the crate, not the normal force on the truck.

Now we can assemble all the pieces. From the $y$-equation of the crate, $n_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}} = m_{\mathrm{C}} g$. Thus

$$f_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}} n_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}} m_{\mathrm{C}} g$$

Using this in the $x$-equation of the crate, we find that the acceleration is

$$a_x = \frac{f_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}}}{m_{\mathrm{C}}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}} g$$

This is the crate's maximum acceleration without slipping. Now use this acceleration *and* the fact that $f_{\mathrm{C\,on\,T}} = f_{\mathrm{T\,on\,C}} = \mu_{\mathrm{s}} m_{\mathrm{C}} g$ in the $x$-equation of the truck to find

$$F_{\mathrm{T}} - f_{\mathrm{C\,on\,T}} = F_{\mathrm{T}} - \mu_{\mathrm{s}} m_{\mathrm{C}} g = m_{\mathrm{T}} a_x = m_{\mathrm{T}} \mu_{\mathrm{s}} g$$

Solving for $F_{\mathrm{T}}$, we find the maximum propulsion without the crate sliding is

$$\begin{aligned}(F_{\text{T}})_{\text{max}} &= \mu_{\text{s}}(m_{\text{T}} + m_{\text{C}})g \\ &= (0.80)(2200\,\text{kg})(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2) = 17{,}000\,\text{N}\end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This is a hard result to assess. Few of us have any intuition about the size of forces that propel cars and trucks. Even so, the fact that the forward force on the truck is a significant fraction (80%) of the combined weight of the truck and the crate seems plausible. We might have been suspicious if $F_{\text{T}}$ had been only a tiny fraction of the weight or much greater than the weight.

As you can see, there are many equations and many pieces of information to keep track of when solving a problem of interacting objects. These problems are not inherently harder than the problems you learned to solve in Chapter 6, but they do require a high level of organization. Using the systematic approach of the problem-solving strategy will help you solve similar problems successfully.

## Stop to Think 7.3

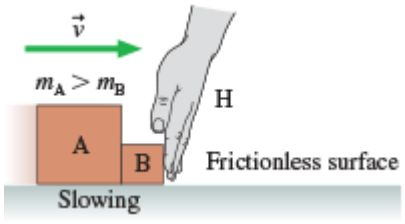
Boxes A and B are sliding to the right across a frictionless table. The hand H is slowing them down. The mass of A is larger than the mass of B. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the *horizontal* forces on A, B, and H.

**a.** $F_{\text{B on H}} = F_{\text{H on B}} = F_{\text{A on B}} = F_{\text{B on A}}$

**b.** $F_{\text{B on H}} = F_{\text{H on B}} > F_{\text{A on B}} = F_{\text{B on A}}$

**c.** $F_{\text{B on H}} = F_{\text{H on B}} < F_{\text{A on B}} = F_{\text{B on A}}$

**d.** $F_{\text{H on B}} = F_{\text{H on A}} > F_{\text{A on B}}$


$\vec{v}$
$m_A > m_B$
H
A
B
Frictionless surface
Slowing

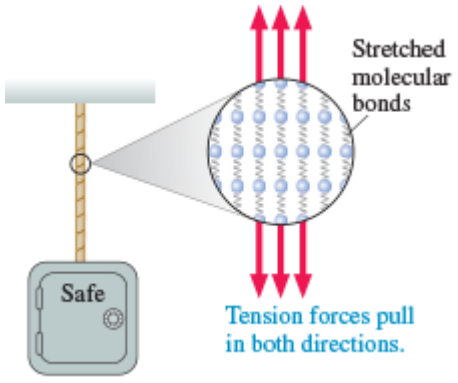
# 7.4 Ropes and Pulleys 

Many objects are connected by strings, ropes, cables, and so on. In single-particle dynamics, we defined *tension* as the force exerted on an object by a rope or string. Now we need to think more carefully about the string itself. Just what do we mean when we talk about the tension "in" a string?

## Tension Revisited

Figure 7.17 shows a heavy safe hanging from a rope, placing the rope under tension. If you cut the rope, the safe and the lower portion of the rope will fall. Thus there must be a force *within* the rope by which the upper portion of the rope pulls upward on the lower portion to prevent it from falling.

**Figure 7.17**




Tension forces within the rope are due to stretching the spring-like molecular bonds.

Chapter 5 introduced an atomic-level model in which tension is due to the stretching of spring-like molecular bonds within the rope. Stretched

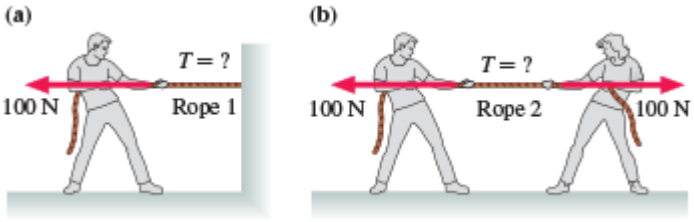
springs exert pulling forces, and the combined pulling force of billions of stretched molecular springs in a string or rope is what we call *tension*.

An important aspect of tension is that it pulls equally *in both directions*. To gain a mental picture, imagine holding your arms outstretched and having two friends pull on them. You'll remain at rest—but "in tension"—as long as they pull with equal strength in opposite directions. But if one lets go, analogous to the breaking of molecular bonds if a rope breaks or is cut, you'll fly off in the other direction!

### Example 7.5 Pulling a rope

Figure 7.18a shows a student pulling horizontally with a 100 N force on a rope that is attached to a wall. In Figure 7.18b, two students in a tug-of-war pull on opposite ends of a rope with 100 N each. Is the tension in the second rope larger than, smaller than, or the same as that in the first rope?

**Figure 7.18**



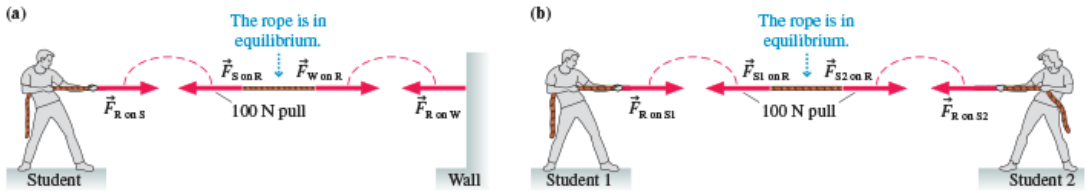

Which rope has a larger tension?

**SOLVE** Surely pulling on a rope from both ends causes more tension than pulling on one end. Right? Before jumping to conclusions, let's analyze the situation carefully.

Figure 7.19a shows the first student, the rope, and the wall as separate, interacting objects. Force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{S\,on\,R}}$ is the student pulling on the rope, so it has magnitude 100 N. Forces $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{S\,on\,R}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{R\,on\,S}}$ are an action/reaction pair and must have equal magnitudes. Similarly for forces $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{W\,on\,R}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{R\,on\,W}}$. Finally, because the rope is in static equilibrium, *force* $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{W\,on\,R}}$ *has to balance force* $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{S\,on\,R}}$. Thus

$$F_{\mathrm{R\,on\,W}} = F_{\mathrm{W\,on\,R}} = F_{\mathrm{S\,on\,R}} = F_{\mathrm{R\,on\,S}} = 100\,\mathrm{N}$$

## Figure 7.19




Analysis of tension forces.

The first and third equalities are Newton's third law; the second equality is Newton's first law for the rope.

Forces $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{R\,on\,S}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{R\,on\,W}}$ are the pulling forces exerted by the rope and are what we *mean* by "the tension in the rope." Thus the tension in the first rope is 100 N.

Figure 7.19b repeats the analysis for the rope pulled by two students. Each student pulls with 100 N, so $F_{\mathrm{S1\,on\,R}} = 100$ N and $F_{\mathrm{S2\,on\,R}} = 100$ N. Just as before, there are two action/reaction pairs and the rope is in static equilibrium. Thus

$$F_{\mathrm{R\,on\,S2}} = F_{\mathrm{S2\,on\,R}} = F_{\mathrm{S1\,on\,R}} = F_{\mathrm{R\,on\,S1}} = 100\,\mathrm{N}$$

The tension in the rope—the pulling forces $\vec{F}_{\text{R on S1}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{R on S2}}$—is still 100 N!

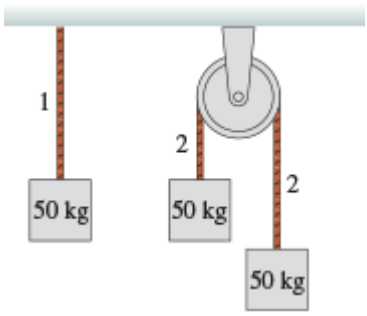
You may have *assumed* that the student on the right in Figure 7.18b is doing something to the rope that the wall in Figure 7.18a does not do. But our analysis finds that the wall, just like the student, pulls to the right with 100 N. The rope doesn't care whether it's pulled by a wall or a hand. It experiences the same forces in both cases, so the rope's tension is the same in both.



**ASSESS** Ropes and strings exert forces at *both* ends. The force with which they pull—and thus the force pulling on them at each end—*is* the tension in the rope. Tension is not the sum of the pulling forces.

### Stop to Think 7.4

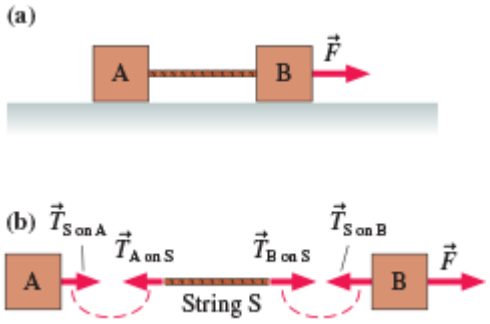
All three 50 kg blocks are at rest. Is the tension in rope 2 greater than, less than, or equal to the tension in rope 1?




## The Massless String Approximation

The tension is constant throughout a rope that is in equilibrium, but what happens if the rope is accelerating? For example, Figure 7.20a shows two connected blocks being pulled by force $\vec{F}$. Is the string's tension at the right end, where it pulls back on B, the same as the tension at the left end, where it pulls on A?

## Figure 7.20




Tension pulls forward on block A, backward on block B.

Figure 7.20b shows the horizontal forces acting on the blocks and the string. The only horizontal forces acting on the string are $\vec{T}_{\text{A on S}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\text{B on S}}$, so Newton's second law *for the string* is

**(7.5)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = T_{\text{B on S}} - T_{\text{A on S}} = m_{\text{S}} a_x$$

where $m_{\text{S}}$ is the mass of the string. If the string is accelerating, then the tensions at the two ends can *not* be the same. The tension at the "front" of the string must be greater than the tension at the "back" in order to accelerate the string!

Often in physics and engineering problems the mass of the string or rope is much less than the masses of the objects that it connects. In such cases,

we can adopt the **massless string approximation.** In the limit $m_S \to 0$, Equation 7.5 becomes

**(7.6)**

$$T_{B\text{ on }S} = T_{A\text{ on }S} \qquad \text{(massless string approximation)}$$

In other words, **the tension in a massless string is constant.** This is nice, but it isn't the primary justification for the massless string approximation.

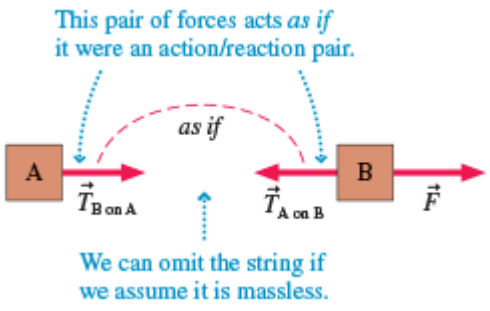
Look again at Figure 7.20b. If $T_{B\text{ on }S} = T_{A\text{ on }S}$, then

**(7.7)**

$$\vec{T}_{S\text{ on }A} = -\vec{T}_{S\text{ on }B}$$

That is, the force on block A is equal and opposite to the force on block B. Forces $\vec{T}_{S\text{ on }A}$ and $\vec{T}_{S\text{ on }B}$ act *as if* they are an action/reaction pair of forces. Thus we can draw the simplified diagram of Figure 7.21 in which the string is missing and blocks A and B interact directly with each other through forces that we can call $\vec{T}_{A\text{ on }B}$ and $\vec{T}_{B\text{ on }A}$.

## Figure 7.21




The massless string approximation allows objects A and B to act *as if* they are directly interacting.

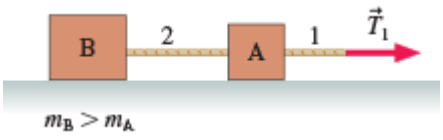
In other words, **if objects A and B interact with each other through a massless string, we can omit the string and treat forces $\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{B on A}}$ *as if* they are an action/reaction pair.** This is not literally true because A and B are not in contact. Nonetheless, all a massless string does is transmit a force from A to B without changing the magnitude of that force. This is the real significance of the massless string approximation.

> **Note**
>
> For problems in this book, you can assume that any strings or ropes are massless unless the problem explicitly states otherwise. The simplified view of Figure 7.21 is appropriate under these conditions. But if the string has a mass, it must be treated as a separate object.

### Example 7.6 Comparing two tensions

Blocks A and B in Figure 7.22 are connected by massless string 2 and pulled across a frictionless table by massless string 1. B has a larger mass than A. Is the tension in string 2 larger than, smaller than, or equal to the tension in string 1?

**Figure 7.22**



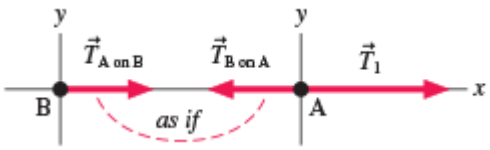

Blocks A and B are pulled across a frictionless table by massless strings.

**MODEL** The massless string approximation allows us to treat A and B *as if* they interact directly with each other. The blocks are accelerating because there's a force to the right and no friction.

**SOLVE** B has a larger mass, so it may be tempting to conclude that string 2, which pulls B, has a greater tension than string 1, which pulls A. The flaw in this reasoning is that Newton's second law tells us only about the *net* force. The net force on B *is* larger than the net force on A, but the net force on A is *not* just the tension $\vec{T}_1$ in the forward direction. The tension in string 2 also pulls *backward* on A!

Figure 7.23 shows the horizontal forces in this frictionless situation. Because the string is massless, forces $\vec{T}_{\text{A on B}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\text{B on A}}$ act *as if* they are an action/reaction pair.

**Figure 7.23**




The horizontal forces on blocks A and B.

From Newton's third law,

$$T_{\text{A on B}} = T_{\text{B on A}} = T_2$$

where $T_2$ is the tension in string 2. From Newton's second law, the net force on A is

$$(F_{\text{A net}})_x = T_1 - T_{\text{B on A}} = T_1 - T_2 = m_{\text{A}} a_{\text{A}x}$$

The net force on A is the *difference* in tensions. The blocks are accelerating to the right, making $a_{\text{A}x} > 0$, so

$$T_1 > T_2$$

The tension in string 2 is *smaller* than the tension in string 1.

**ASSESS** This is not an intuitively obvious result. A careful study of the reasoning in this example is worthwhile. An alternative analysis would note that $\vec{T}_1$ accelerates *both* blocks, of combined mass $(m_A + m_B)$, whereas $\vec{T}_2$ accelerates only block B. Thus string 1 must have the larger tension.

## Pulleys

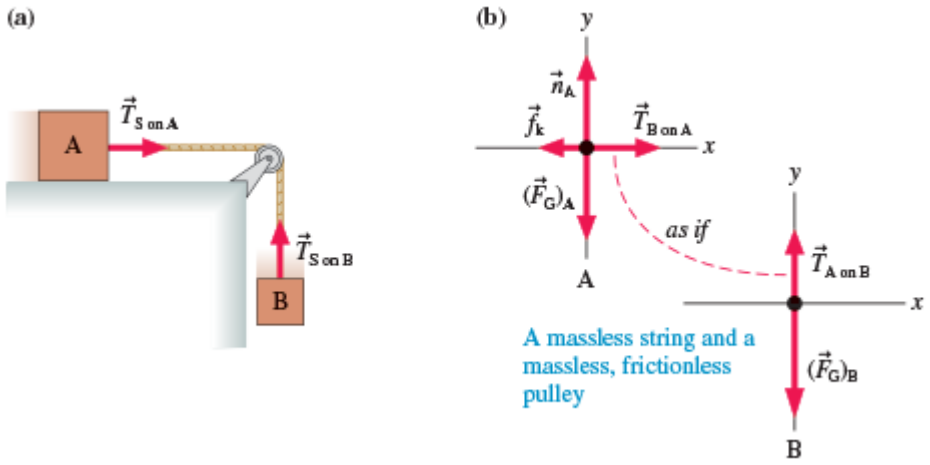
Strings and ropes often pass over pulleys. The application might be as simple as lifting a heavy weight or as complex as the internal cable-and-pulley arrangement that precisely moves a robot arm.

Figure 7.24a shows a simple situation in which block B, as it falls, drags block A across a table. As the string moves, static friction between the string and pulley causes the pulley to turn. If we assume that

- The string *and* the pulley are both massless, and
- There is no friction where the pulley turns on its axle,

then no net force is needed to accelerate the string or turn the pulley. Thus **the tension in a massless string remains constant as it passes over a massless, frictionless pulley.**

**Figure 7.24**




Blocks A and B are connected by a string that passes over a pulley.

Because of this, we can draw the simplified free-body diagram of Figure 7.24b, in which the string and pulley are omitted. Forces $\vec{T}_{\text{A on B}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\text{B on A}}$ act *as if* they are an action/reaction pair, even though they are not opposite in direction because the tension force gets "turned" by the pulley.

TACTICS BOX 7.2 **Working with ropes and pulleys**

**Mastering Physics**

For massless ropes or strings and massless, frictionless pulleys:

- If a force pulls on one end of a rope, the tension in the rope equals the magnitude of the pulling force.
- If two objects are connected by a rope, the tension is the same at both ends.
- If the rope passes over a pulley, the tension in the rope is unaffected.

Workbook Exercises 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

## Stop to Think 7.5

In Figure 7.24, on the previous page, is the tension in the string greater than, less than, or equal to the gravitational force acting on block B?

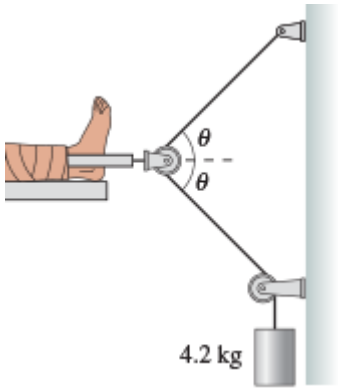
# 7.5 Examples of Interacting-Objects Problems

We will conclude this chapter with three extended examples. Although the mathematics will be more involved than in any of our work up to this point, we will continue to emphasize the *reasoning* one uses in approaching problems such as these. The solutions will be based on Problem-Solving Strategy 7.1. In fact, these problems are now reaching such a level of complexity that, for all practical purposes, it becomes impossible to work them unless you are following a well-planned strategy. Our earlier emphasis on forces and free-body diagrams will now really begin to pay off!

**Example 7.7 Placing a leg in traction**

Serious fractures of the leg often need a stretching force to keep contracting leg muscles from forcing the broken bones together too hard. This is done using *traction*, an arrangement of a rope, a weight, and pulleys as shown in Figure 7.25. The rope must make the same angle on both sides of the pulley so that the net force on the leg is horizontal, but the angle can be adjusted to control the amount of traction. The doctor has specified 50 N of traction for this patient with a 4.2 kg hanging mass. What is the proper angle?

**Figure 7.25**

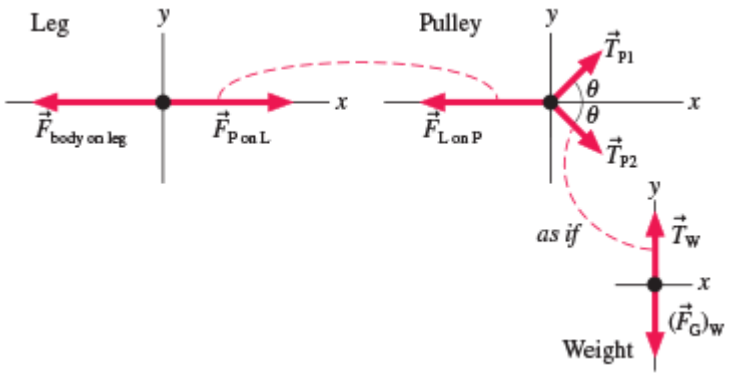



A leg in traction.

**MODEL** Model the leg and the weight as particles. The other point where forces are applied is the pulley attached to the patient's foot, which we'll treat as a separate object. We'll assume massless ropes and a massless, frictionless pulley.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 7.26 shows three free-body diagrams. Forces $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{P1}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{P2}}$ are the tension forces of the rope as it pulls on the pulley. The pulley is in equilibrium, so these forces are balanced by $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{L\,on\,P}}$, which forms an action/reaction pair with the 50 N traction force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{P\,on\,L}}$. Our model of the rope and pulley makes the tension force constant, $T_{\mathrm{P1}} = T_{\mathrm{P2}} = T_{\mathrm{W}}$, so we'll call it simply $T$.

## Figure 7.26




The free-body diagrams.

**SOLVE** The $x$-component equation of Newton's second law for the pulley is

$$\begin{aligned}\sum (F_{\text{on P}})_x &= T_{\text{P1}} \cos\theta + T_{\text{P2}} \cos\theta - F_{\text{L on P}} \\ &= 2T\cos\theta - F_{\text{L on P}} = 0\end{aligned}$$

Thus the correct angle for the ropes is

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{F_{\text{L on P}}}{2T}\right)$$

We know, from Newton's third law, that $F_{\text{L on P}} = F_{\text{P on L}} = 50\ \text{N}$. We can determine the tension force by analyzing the weight. It also is in equilibrium, so the upward tension force exactly balances the downward gravitational force:

$$T = (F_{\text{G}})_{\text{W}} = m_{\text{W}} g = (4.2\,\text{kg})(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2) = 41\,\text{N}$$

Thus the proper angle is

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{50\,\text{N}}{2(41\,\text{N})}\right) = 52^\circ$$

**ASSESS** The traction force would approach 82 N if angle $\theta$ approached zero because the two ropes would pull in parallel. Conversely, the traction would approach 0 N if $\theta$ approached 90°. The desired traction is roughly midway between these two extremes, so an angle near 45° seems reasonable.

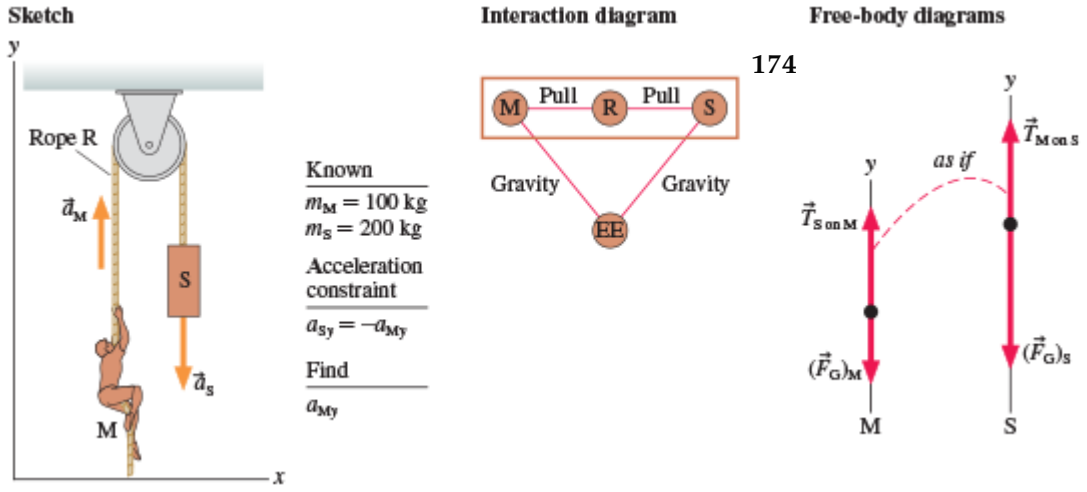
**Example 7.8 The show must go on!**

A 200 kg set used in a play is stored in the loft above the stage. The rope holding the set passes up and over a pulley, then is tied backstage. The director tells a 100 kg stagehand to lower the set. When he unties the rope, the set falls and the unfortunate man is hoisted into the loft. What is the stagehand's acceleration?

**MODEL** The system is the stagehand M and the set S, which we will model as particles. Assume a massless rope and a massless, frictionless pulley.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 7.27 shows the pictorial representation. The man's acceleration $a_{My}$ is positive, while the set's acceleration $a_{Sy}$ is negative. These two accelerations have the same magnitude because the two objects are connected by a rope, but they have opposite signs. Thus the acceleration constraint is $a_{Sy} = -a_{My}$. Forces $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{M\,on\,S}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{S\,on\,M}}$ are not literally an action/reaction pair, but they act *as if* they are because the rope is massless and the pulley is massless and frictionless. Notice that the pulley has "turned" the tension force so that $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{M\,on\,S}}$ and $\vec{T}_{\mathrm{S\,on\,M}}$ are *parallel* to each other rather than opposite, as members of a true action/reaction pair would have to be.

**Figure 7.27**




Pictorial representation for Example 7.8.

**SOLVE** Newton's second law for the man and the set is

$$\begin{aligned}\sum (F_{\text{on M}})_y &= T_{\text{S on M}} - m_M g = m_M a_{My} \\ \sum (F_{\text{on S}})_y &= T_{\text{M on S}} - m_S g = m_S a_{Sy} = -m_S a_{My}\end{aligned}$$

Only the $y$-equations are needed. Notice that we used the acceleration constraint in the last step. Newton's third law is

$$T_{\text{M on S}} = T_{\text{S on M}} = T$$

where we can drop the subscripts and call the tension simply $T$. With this substitution, the two second-law equations can be written

$$\begin{aligned}T - m_M g &= m_M a_{My} \\ T - m_S g &= -m_S a_{My}\end{aligned}$$

These are simultaneous equations in the two unknowns $T$ and $a_{My}$. We can eliminate $T$ by subtracting the second equation from the first to give

$$(m_S - m_M)g = (m_S + m_M)a_{My}$$

Finally, we can solve for the hapless stagehand's acceleration:

$$a_{My} = \frac{m_S - m_M}{m_S + m_M} g = \frac{100\,\text{kg}}{300\,\text{kg}} 9.80\,\text{m/s}^2 = 3.27\,\text{m/s}^2$$

This is also the acceleration with which the set falls. If the rope's tension was needed, we could now find it from $T = m_M a_{My} + m_M g$.

**ASSESS** If the stagehand weren't holding on, the set would fall with free-fall acceleration $g$. The stagehand acts as a *counterweight* to reduce the acceleration.

### Challenge Example 7.9 A not-so-clever bank robbery

Bank robbers have pushed a 1000 kg safe to a second-story floor-to-ceiling window. They plan to break the window, then lower the safe 3.0 m to their truck. Not being too clever, they stack up 500 kg of furniture, tie a rope between the safe and the furniture, and place the rope over a pulley. Then they push the safe out the window. What is the safe's speed when it hits the truck? The coefficient of kinetic friction between the furniture and the floor is 0.50.

**MODEL** This is a continuation of the situation that we analyzed in Figures 7.15 and 7.24, which are worth reviewing. The system is the safe S and the furniture F, which we will model as particles. We will assume a massless rope and a massless, frictionless pulley.

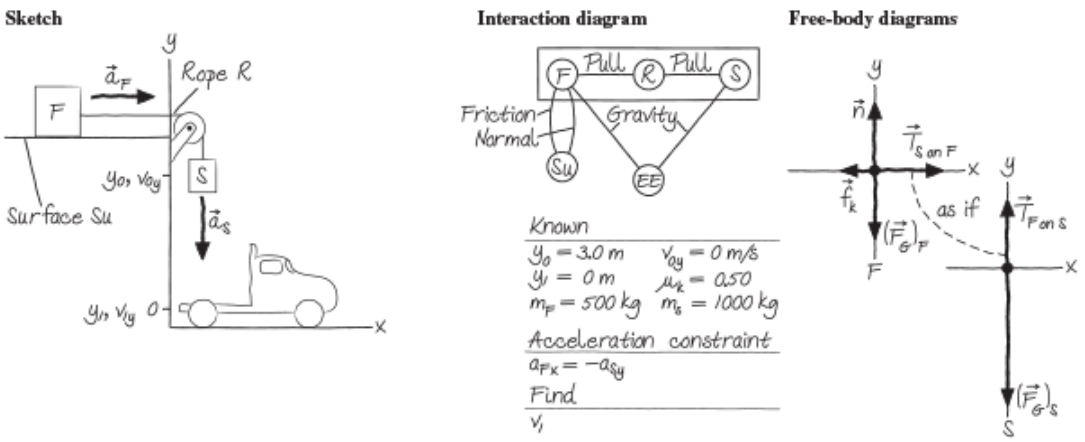
**VISUALIZE** The safe and the furniture are tied together, so their accelerations have the same magnitude. The safe has a $y$-component of acceleration $a_{Sy}$ that is negative because the safe

accelerates in the negative $y$-direction. The furniture has an $x$-component $a_{\mathrm{F}x}$ that is positive. Thus the acceleration constraint is

$$a_{\mathrm{F}x} = -a_{\mathrm{S}y}$$

The free-body diagrams shown in Figure 7.28 are modeled after Figure 7.24 but now include a kinetic friction force on the furniture. Forces $\overrightarrow{T}_{\mathrm{F\ on\ S}}$ and $\overrightarrow{T}_{\mathrm{S\ on\ F}}$ act *as if* they are an action/reaction pair, so they have been connected with a dashed line.

## Figure 7.28




Pictorial representation for Challenge Example 7.9.

**SOLVE** We can write Newton's second law directly from the free-body diagrams. For the furniture,

$$\sum (F_{\mathrm{on\ F}})_x = T_{\mathrm{S\ on\ F}} - f_{\mathrm{k}} = T - f_{\mathrm{k}} = m_{\mathrm{F}} a_{\mathrm{F}x} = -m_{\mathrm{F}} a_{\mathrm{S}y}$$

$$\sum (F_{\mathrm{on\ F}})_y = n - m_{\mathrm{F}} g = 0$$

And for the safe,

$$\sum (F_{\mathrm{on\ S}})_y = T - m_{\mathrm{S}} g = m_{\mathrm{S}} a_{\mathrm{S}y}$$

Notice how we used the acceleration constraint in the first equation. We also went ahead and made use of Newton's third law: $T_{\mathrm{F\ on\ S}} = T_{\mathrm{S\ on\ F}} = T$. We have one additional piece of information, the model of kinetic friction:

$$f_{\mathrm{k}} = \mu_{\mathrm{k}} n = \mu_{\mathrm{k}} m_{\mathrm{F}} g$$

where we used the $y$-equation of the furniture to deduce that $n = m_{\mathrm{F}} g$. Substitute this result for $f_{\mathrm{k}}$ into the $x$-equation of the furniture, then rewrite the furniture's $x$-equation and the safe's $y$-equation:

$$\begin{aligned} T - \mu_{\mathrm{k}} m_{\mathrm{F}} g &= -m_{\mathrm{F}} a_{\mathrm{Sy}} \\ T - m_{\mathrm{S}} g &= m_{\mathrm{S}} a_{\mathrm{Sy}} \end{aligned}$$

We have succeeded in reducing our knowledge to two simultaneous equations in the two unknowns $a_{\mathrm{S}y}$ and $T$. Subtract the second equation from the first to eliminate $T$:

$$(m_{\mathrm{S}} - \mu_{\mathrm{k}} m_{\mathrm{F}}) g = -(m_{\mathrm{S}} + m_{\mathrm{F}}) a_{\mathrm{Sy}}$$

Finally, solve for the safe's acceleration:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\mathrm{Sy}} &= -\left( \frac{m_{\mathrm{S}} - \mu_{\mathrm{k}} m_{\mathrm{F}}}{m_{\mathrm{S}} + m_{\mathrm{F}}} \right) g \\ &= -\left( \frac{1000\ \mathrm{kg} - (0.50)(500\ \mathrm{kg})}{1000\ \mathrm{kg} + 500\ \mathrm{kg}} \right) 9.80\ \mathrm{m/s^2} = -4.9\ \mathrm{m/s^2} \end{aligned}$$

Now we need to calculate the kinematics of the falling safe. Because the time of the fall is not known or needed, we can use

$$\begin{aligned} {v_{1y}}^2 &= {v_{0y}}^2 + 2a_{\mathrm{Sy}}\,\Delta y = 0 + 2a_{\mathrm{Sy}}(y_1 - y_0) = -2a_{\mathrm{Sy}} y_0 \\ v_1 &= \sqrt{-2a_{\mathrm{Sy}} y_0} = \sqrt{-2(-4.9\ \mathrm{m/s^2})(3.0\ \mathrm{m})} = 5.4\ \mathrm{m/s} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The value of $v_{1y}$ is negative, but we only needed to find the speed so we took the absolute value. This is about 12 mph, so it seems unlikely that the truck will survive the impact of the 1000 kg safe!

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 7 has been to use **Newton's third law** to understand how objects interact.

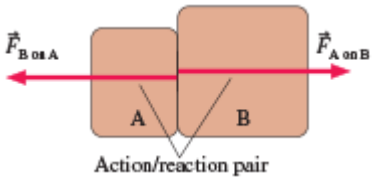
## General Principles

### Newton's Third Law

Every force occurs as one member of an action/reaction pair of forces. The two members of an action/reaction pair:

- Act on two *different* objects.
- Are equal in magnitude but opposite in direction:

$$\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}} = -\vec{F}_{\text{B on A}}$$




### Solving Interacting-Objects Problems

**MODEL** Identify which objects form the system.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation.

- Define symbols and coordinates.
- Identify acceleration constraints.
- Draw an interaction diagram.

- Draw a separate free-body diagram for each object.
- Connect action/reaction pairs with dashed lines.

**SOLVE** Write Newton's second law for each object.

- Use the free-body diagrams.
- Equate the magnitudes of action/reaction pairs.
- Include acceleration constraints and friction.

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

# Important Concepts

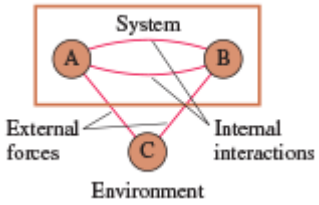
## Objects, systems, and the environment

Objects whose motion is of interest are the system.

Objects whose motion is not of interest form the environment.

The objects of interest interact with the environment, but those interactions can be considered external forces.

## Interaction diagram

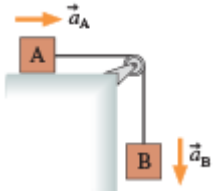



# Applications

## Acceleration constraints

Objects that are constrained to move together must have accelerations of equal magnitude: $a_{\mathrm{A}} = a_{\mathrm{B}}$.

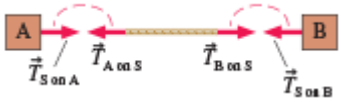
This must be expressed in terms of components, such as $a_{\mathrm{A}x} = -a_{\mathrm{B}y}$.



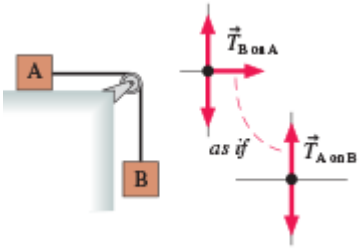

## Strings and pulleys

The tension in a string or rope pulls in both directions. The tension is constant in a string if the string is:

- Massless, or
- In equilibrium




Objects connected by massless strings passing over massless, frictionless pulleys act *as if* they interact via an action/reaction pair of forces.




# Terms and Notation

interaction

action/reaction pair

system

environment

interaction diagram

external force

propulsion

Newton's third law

acceleration constraint

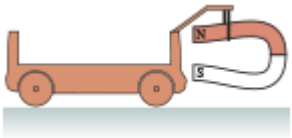
massless string approximation

# Conceptual Questions 176

1. You find yourself in the middle of a frozen lake with a surface so slippery ($\mu_s = \mu_k = 0$) you cannot walk. However, you happen to have several rocks in your pocket. The ice is extremely hard. It cannot be chipped, and the rocks slip on it just as much as your feet do. Can you think of a way to get to shore? Use pictures, forces, and Newton's laws to explain your reasoning.
2. How does a sprinter sprint? What is the forward force on a sprinter as she accelerates? Where does that force come from? Your explanation should include an interaction diagram and a free-body diagram.
3. How does a rocket take off? What is the upward force on it? Your explanation should include an interaction diagram and free-body diagrams of the rocket and of the parcel of gas being exhausted.
4. How do basketball players jump straight up into the air? Your explanation should include an interaction diagram and a free-body diagram.
5. A mosquito collides head-on with a car traveling 60 mph. Is the force of the mosquito on the car larger than, smaller than, or equal to the force of the car on the mosquito? Explain.
6. A mosquito collides head-on with a car traveling 60 mph. Is the magnitude of the mosquito's acceleration larger than, smaller than, or equal to the magnitude of the car's acceleration? Explain.
7. A small car is pushing a large truck. They are speeding up. Is the force of the truck on the car larger than, smaller than, or equal to the force of the car on the truck?

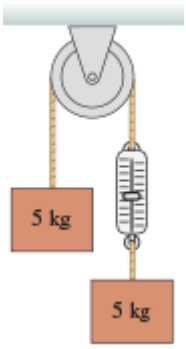
8. A very smart 3-year-old child is given a wagon for her birthday. She refuses to use it. "After all," she says, "Newton's third law says that no matter how hard I pull, the wagon will exert an equal but opposite force on me. So I will never be able to get it to move forward." What would you say to her in reply?
9. Teams red and blue are having a tug-of-war. According to Newton's third law, the force with which the red team pulls on the blue team exactly equals the force with which the blue team pulls on the red team. How can one team ever win? Explain.
10. Will hanging a magnet in front of the iron cart in Figure Q7.10 make it go? Explain.

**Figure Q7.10**




11. Figure Q7.11 shows two masses at rest. The string is massless and the pulley is frictionless. The spring scale reads in kg. What is the reading of the scale?

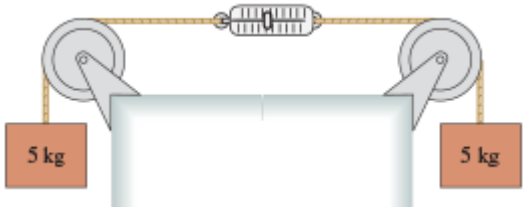
**Figure Q7.11**




12. Figure Q7.12 shows two masses at rest. The string is massless and the pullies are frictionless. The spring scale reads in kg. What

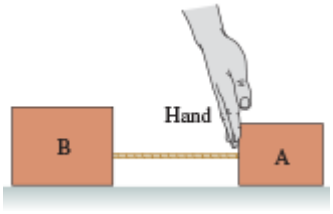
is the reading of the scale?

**Figure Q7.12**



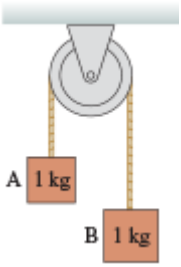

**13.** The hand in Figure Q7.13 is pushing on the back of block A. Blocks A and B, with $m_B > m_A$, are connected by a massless string and slide on a frictionless surface. Is the force of the string on B larger than, smaller than, or equal to the force of the hand on A? Explain.

**Figure Q7.13**




**14.** Blocks A and B in Figure Q7.14 are connected by a massless string over a massless, frictionless pulley. The blocks have just been released from rest. Will the pulley rotate clockwise, counterclockwise, or not at all? Explain.

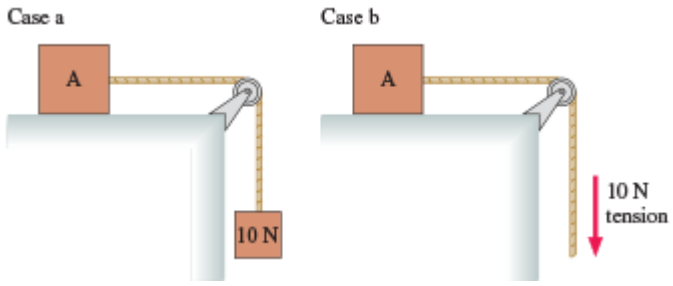
**Figure Q7.14**



**15.** In case a in Figure Q7.15, block A is accelerated across a frictionless table by a hanging 10 N weight (1.02 kg). In case b, block A is accelerated across a frictionless table by a steady 10 N tension in the string. The string is massless, and the pulley is massless and frictionless. Is A's acceleration in case b greater than, less than, or equal to its acceleration in case a? Explain.



**Figure Q7.15**




# Exercises and Problems

## Exercises

### Section 7.2 Analyzing Interacting Objects

For Exercises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5:

**a.** Draw an interaction diagram.
**b.** Identify the "system" on your interaction diagram.
**c.** Draw a free-body diagram for each object in the system. Use dashed lines to connect members of an action/reaction pair.

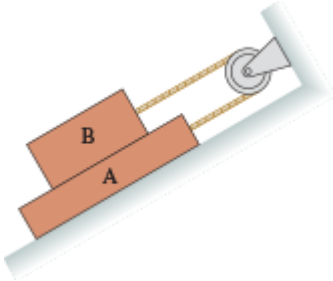
**1.** • A soccer ball and a bowling ball have a head-on collision at this instant. Rolling friction is negligible.

**2.** • A weightlifter stands up at constant speed from a squatting position while holding a heavy barbell across his shoulders.

**3.** • A steel cable with mass is lifting a girder. The girder is speeding up.

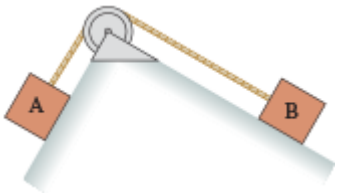
**4.** •• Block A in Figure EX7.4 is heavier than block B and is sliding down the incline. All surfaces have friction. The rope is massless, and the massless pulley turns on frictionless bearings. The rope and the pulley are among the interacting objects, but you'll have to decide if they're part of the system.

**Figure EX7.4**




**5.** •• Block A in Figure EX7.5 is sliding down the incline. The rope is massless, and the massless pulley turns on frictionless bearings, but the surface is not frictionless. The rope and the pulley are among the interacting objects, but you'll have to decide if they're part of the system.

**Figure EX7.5**




## Section 7.3 Newton's Third Law

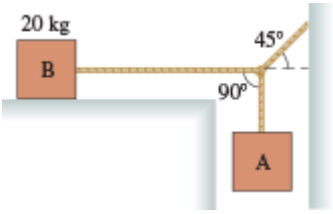
**6.** •

**a.** How much force does an 80 kg astronaut exert on his chair while sitting at rest on the launch pad?

**b.** How much force does the astronaut exert on his chair while accelerating straight up at 10 $m/s^2$?

**7.** • Block B in Figure EX7.7 rests on a surface for which the static and kinetic coefficients of friction are 0.60 and 0.40, respectively. The ropes are massless. What is the maximum mass of block A for which the system remains in equilibrium?

**Figure EX7.7**




**8.** •• A 1000 kg car pushes a 2000 kg truck that has a dead battery. When the driver steps on the accelerator, the drive wheels of the car push against the ground with a force of 4500 N. Rolling friction can be neglected.

**a.** What is the magnitude of the force of the car on the truck?

**b.** What is the magnitude of the force of the truck on the car?

**9.** •• Blocks with masses of 1 kg, 2 kg, and 3 kg are lined up in a row on a frictionless table. All three are pushed forward by a 12 N force applied to the 1 kg block.

**a.** How much force does the 2 kg block exert on the 3 kg block?

**b.** How much force does the 2 kg block exert on the 1 kg block?

**10.** • A 3000 kg meteorite falls toward the earth. What is the magnitude of the *earth's* acceleration just before impact? The earth's mass is $5.98 \times 10^{24}$ kg.

**11.** • The foot of a 55 kg sprinter is on the ground for 0.25 s while her body accelerates from rest to 2.0 m/s.

**a.** Is the friction between her foot and the ground static friction or kinetic friction?

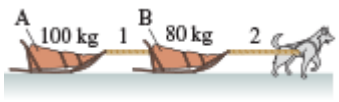
**b.** What is the magnitude of the friction force?

**12.** •• A steel cable lying flat on the floor drags a 20 kg block across a horizontal, frictionless floor. A 100 N force applied to the cable causes the block to reach a speed of 4.0 m/s in a distance of 2.0 m. What is the mass of the cable?

**13.** •• An 80 kg spacewalking astronaut pushes off a 640 kg satellite, exerting a 100 N force for the 0.50 s it takes him to straighten his arms. How far apart are the astronaut and the satellite after 1.0 min?

**14.** •• The sled dog in Figure EX7.14 drags sleds A and B across the snow. The coefficient of friction between the sleds and the snow is 0.10. If the tension in rope 1 is 150 N, what is the tension in rope 2?

**Figure EX7.14**




**15.** •• Two-thirds of the weight of a 1500 kg car rests on the drive wheels. What is the maximum acceleration of this car on a concrete surface?

## Section 7.4 Ropes and Pulleys

**16.** •• Figure EX7.16 shows two 1.0 kg blocks connected by a rope. A second rope hangs beneath the lower block. Both ropes have a mass of 250 g. The entire assembly is accelerated upward at 3.0 m/s$^2$ by force $\vec{F}$.

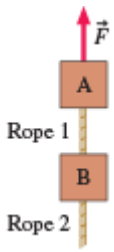
**a.** What is $F$?

**b.** What is the tension at the top end of rope 1?

**c.** What is the tension at the bottom end of rope 1?

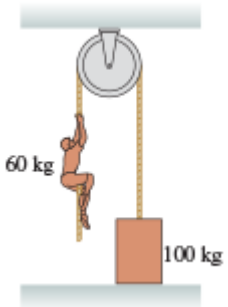
**d.** What is the tension at the top end of rope 2?

**Figure EX7.16**




**17.** •• What is the tension in the rope of Figure EX7.17?

**Figure EX7.17**



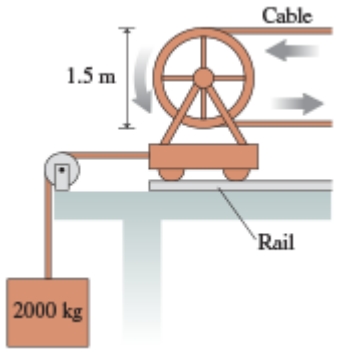

**18.** •• A 2.0-m-long, 500 g rope pulls a 10 kg block of ice across a horizontal, frictionless surface. The block accelerates at 2.0 m/s$^2$. How much force pulls forward on (a) the ice, (b) the rope? Assume that the rope is perfectly horizontal.

**19.** • A woman living in a third-story apartment is moving out. Rather than carrying everything down the stairs, she decides to pack her belongings into crates, attach a frictionless pulley to her balcony railing, and lower the crates by rope. How hard must she pull on the horizontal end of the rope to lower a 25 kg crate at steady speed?

**20.** •• Two blocks are attached to opposite ends of a massless rope that goes over a massless, frictionless, stationary pulley. One of the blocks, with a mass of 6.0 kg, accelerates downward at $\frac{3}{4}g$. What is the mass of the other block?

**21.** •• The cable cars in San Francisco are pulled along their tracks by an underground steel cable that moves along at 9.5 mph. The cable is driven by large motors at a central power station and extends, via an intricate pulley arrangement, for several miles beneath the city streets. The length of a cable stretches by up to 100 ft during its lifetime. To keep the tension constant, the cable passes around a 1.5-m-diameter "tensioning pulley" that rolls back and forth on rails, as shown in Figure EX7.21. A 2000 kg block is attached to the tensioning pulley's cart, via a rope and pulley, and is suspended in a deep hole. What is the tension in the cable car's cable?

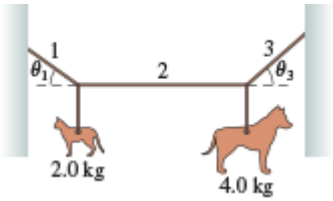
**Figure EX7.21**



**22.** •• A 2.0 kg rope hangs from the ceiling. What is the tension at the midpoint of the rope?

**23.** •• A mobile at the art museum has a 2.0 kg steel cat and a 4.0 kg steel dog suspended from a lightweight cable, as shown in Figure EX7.23. It is found that $\theta_1 = 20^\circ$ when the center rope is adjusted to be perfectly horizontal. What are the tension and the angle of rope 3?

**Figure EX7.23**

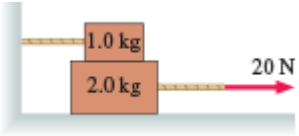



**24.** •• The 1.0 kg block in Figure EX7.24 is tied to the wall with a rope. It sits on top of the 2.0 kg block. The lower block is pulled to the right with a tension force of 20 N. The coefficient of kinetic friction at both the lower and upper surfaces of the 2.0 kg block is $\mu_k = 0.40$.

**a.** What is the tension in the rope attached to the wall?

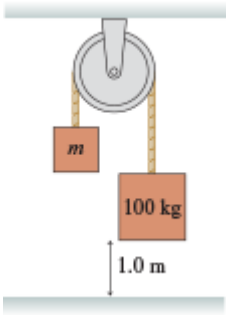
**b.** What is the acceleration of the 2.0 kg block?

**Figure EX7.24**




**25.** •• The 100 kg block in Figure EX7.25 takes 6.0 s to reach the floor after being released from rest. What is the mass of the block on the left? The pulley is massless and frictionless.

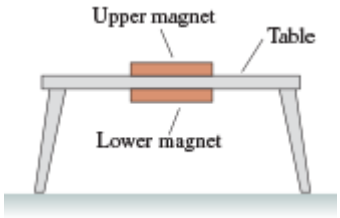
**Figure EX7.25**




# Problems

**26.** •• Figure P7.26 shows two strong magnets on opposite sides of a small table. The long-range attractive force between the magnets keeps the lower magnet in place.

**Figure P7.26**



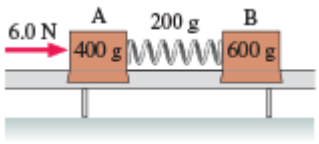

**a.** Draw an interaction diagram and draw free-body diagrams for both magnets and the table. Use dashed lines to connect the members of an action/reaction pair.

**b.** The lower magnet is being pulled upward against the bottom of the table. Suppose that each magnet's weight is 2.0 N and that the magnetic force of the lower magnet on the upper magnet is 6.0 N. How hard does the lower magnet push against the table?

**27.** •• Figure P7.27 shows a 6.0 N force pushing two gliders along an air track. The 200 g spring between the gliders is compressed. How much force does the spring exert on (a) glider A and (b) glider B? The spring is firmly attached to the gliders, and it does not sag.



**Figure P7.27**




**28.** •• A rope of length $L$ and mass $m$ is suspended from the ceiling. Find an expression for the tension in the rope at position $y$, measured upward from the free end of the rope.

**29.** •• While driving to work last year, I was holding my coffee mug in my left hand while changing the CD with my right hand. Then the cell phone rang, so I placed the mug on the flat part of my dashboard. Then, believe it or not, a deer ran out of the woods and on to the road right in front of me. Fortunately, my reaction time was zero, and I was able to stop from a speed of 20 m/s in a mere 50 m, just barely avoiding the deer. Later tests revealed that the static and kinetic coefficients of friction of the coffee mug on the dash are 0.50 and 0.30, respectively; the coffee and mug had a mass of 0.50 kg; and the mass of the deer was 120 kg. Did my coffee mug slide?

**30.** •• A Federation starship $\left(2.0 \times 10^6 \text{ kg}\right)$ uses its tractor beam to pull a shuttlecraft $\left(2.0 \times 10^4 \text{ kg}\right)$ aboard from a distance of 10 km away. The tractor beam exerts a constant force of $4.0 \times 10^4$ N on the shuttlecraft. Both spacecraft are initially at

rest. How far does the starship move as it pulls the shuttlecraft aboard?

**31.** •• **BIO** Your forehead can withstand a force of about 6.0 kN before fracturing, while your cheekbone can withstand only about 1.3 kN. Suppose a 140 g baseball traveling at 30 m/s strikes your head and stops in 1.5 ms.

**a.** What is the magnitude of the force that stops the baseball?

**b.** What force does the baseball exert on your head? Explain.

**c.** Are you in danger of a fracture if the ball hits you in the forehead? On the cheek?

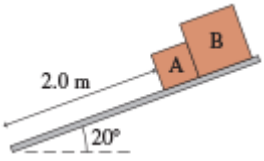
**32.** •• Bob, who has a mass of 75 kg, can throw a 500 g rock with a speed of 30 m/s. The distance through which his hand moves as he accelerates the rock from rest until he releases it is 1.0 m.

**a.** What constant force must Bob exert on the rock to throw it with this speed?

**b.** If Bob is standing on frictionless ice, what is his recoil speed after releasing the rock?

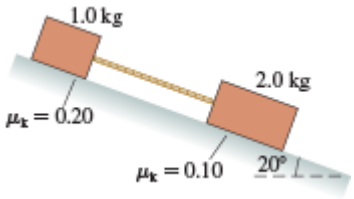
**33.** ••• Two packages at UPS start sliding down the 20° ramp shown in Figure P7.33. Package A has a mass of 5.0 kg and a coefficient of friction of 0.20. Package B has a mass of 10 kg and a coefficient of friction of 0.15. How long does it take package A to reach the bottom?

**Figure P7.33**



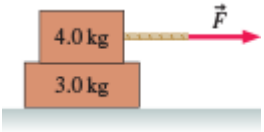
**34.** ••• The two blocks in Figure P7.34 are sliding down the incline. What is the tension in the massless string?

**Figure P7.34**



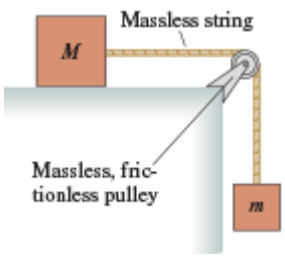

**35.** •• The coefficient of static friction is 0.60 between the two blocks in Figure P7.35. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the lower block and the floor is 0.20. Force $\vec{F}$ causes both blocks to cross a distance of 5.0 m, starting from rest. What is the least amount of time in which this motion can be completed without the top block sliding on the lower block?

**Figure P7.35**



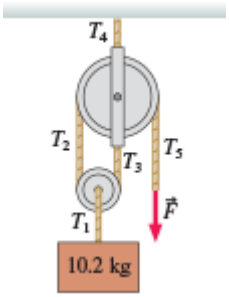

**36.** ••• The block of mass $M$ in Figure P7.36 slides on a frictionless surface. Find an expression for the tension in the string.

**Figure P7.36**



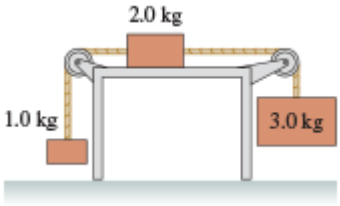
**37.** •• The 10.2 kg block in Figure P7.37 is held in place by a force applied to a rope passing over two massless, frictionless pulleys. Find the tensions $T_1$ to $T_5$ and the magnitude of force $\vec{F}$.

**Figure P7.37**




**38.** •• The coefficient of kinetic friction between the 2.0 kg block in Figure P7.38 and the table is 0.30. What is the acceleration of the 2.0 kg block?

**Figure P7.38**

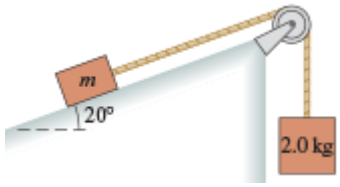



**39.** ••• Figure P7.39 shows a block of mass $m$ resting on a 20° slope. The block has coefficients of friction $\mu_s = 0.80$ and $\mu_k = 0.50$ with the surface. It is connected via a massless string over a massless, frictionless pulley to a hanging block of mass 2.0 kg.

**a.** What is the minimum mass $m$ that will stick and not slip?

**b.** If this minimum mass is nudged ever so slightly, it will start being pulled up the incline. What acceleration will it have?

**Figure P7.39**




**40.** •• A 4.0 kg box is on a frictionless 35° slope and is connected via a massless string over a massless, frictionless pulley to a hanging 2.0 kg weight. The picture for this situation is similar to Figure P7.39.

**a.** What is the tension in the string if the 4.0 kg box is *held* in place, so that it cannot move?

**b.** If the box is then released, which way will it move on the slope?

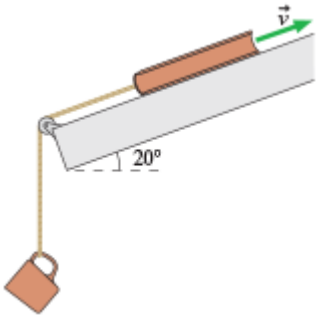
**c.** What is the tension in the string once the box begins to move?

**41.** •• The 1.0 kg physics book in Figure P7.41 is connected by a string to a 500 g coffee cup. The book is given a push up the slope and released with a speed of 3.0 m/s. The coefficients of friction are $\mu_s = 0.50$ and $\mu_k = 0.20$.

**a.** How far does the book slide?

**b.** At the highest point, does the book stick to the slope, or does it slide back down?

**Figure P7.41**

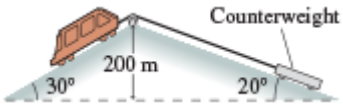



**42.** •• The 2000 kg cable car shown in Figure P7.42 descends a 200-m-high hill. In addition to its brakes, the cable car controls its speed by pulling an 1800 kg counterweight up the other side of the hill. The rolling friction of both the cable car and the counterweight are negligible.

**a.** How much braking force does the cable car need to descend at constant speed?

**b.** One day the brakes fail just as the cable car leaves the top on its downward journey. What is the runaway car's speed at the bottom of the hill?

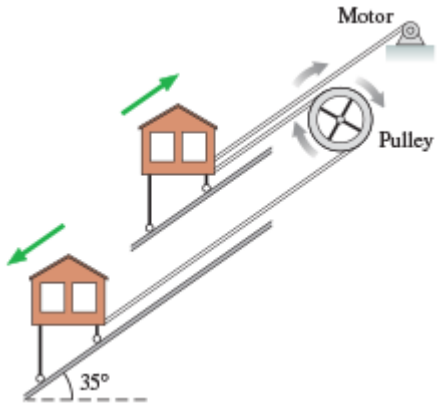
**Figure P7.42**




**43.** •• The century-old *ascensores* in Valparaiso, Chile, are picturesque cable cars built on stilts to keep the passenger compartments level as they go up and down the steep hillsides. As Figure P7.43 shows, one car ascends as the other descends. The cars use a two-cable arrangement to compensate for friction; one cable passing around a large pulley connects the cars, the second is pulled by a small motor. Suppose the mass of each car (with passengers) is 1500 kg, the coefficient of rolling friction is 0.020, and the cars move at constant speed.

What is the tension in (a) the connecting cable and (b) the cable to the motor?

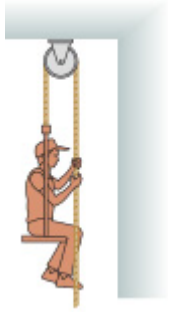
**Figure P7.43**




**44.** •• A 3200 kg helicopter is flying horizontally. A 250 kg crate is suspended from the helicopter by a massless cable that is constantly 20° from vertical. What propulsion force $\vec{F}_{\text{prop}}$ is being provided by the helicopter's rotor? Air resistance can be ignored. Give your answer in component form in a coordinate system where $\hat{i}$ points in the direction of motion and $\hat{j}$ points upward.

**45.** •• A house painter uses the chair-and-pulley arrangement of Figure P7.45 to lift himself up the side of a house. The painter's mass is 70 kg and the chair's mass is 10 kg. With what force must he pull down on the rope in order to accelerate upward at 0.20 m/s$^2$?

**Figure P7.45**



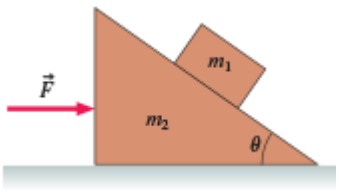
**46.** •• A long, 1.0 kg rope hangs from a support that breaks, causing the rope to fall, if the pull exceeds 40 N. A student team has built a 2.0 kg robot "mouse" that runs up and down the rope. What maximum acceleration can the robot have—both magnitude and direction—without the rope falling?

**47.** •• A 50-cm-diameter, 400 g beach ball is dropped with a 4.0 mg ant riding on the top. The ball experiences air resistance, but the ant does not. What is the magnitude of the normal force exerted on the ant when the ball's speed is 2.0 m/s?

**48.** •• A 70 kg tightrope walker stands at the center of a rope. The rope supports are 10 m apart and the rope sags 10° at each end. The tightrope walker crouches down, then leaps straight up with an acceleration of 8.0 m/s$^2$ to catch a passing trapeze. What is the tension in the rope as he jumps?

**49.** •• Find an expression for the magnitude of the horizontal force $F$ in Figure P7.49 for which $m_1$ does not slip either up or down along the wedge. All surfaces are frictionless.

**Figure P7.49**



**50.** •• A rocket burns fuel at a rate of 5.0 kg/s, expelling the exhaust gases at a speed of 4.0 km/s *relative to the rocket*. We would like to find the thrust of the rocket engine.



**a.** Model the fuel burning as a steady ejection of small pellets, each with the small mass $\Delta m$. Suppose it takes a short time $\Delta t$ to accelerate a pellet (at constant acceleration) to the exhaust speed $v_{ex}$. Further, suppose the rocket is clamped down so that it can't recoil. Find an expression for the magnitude of the force that one pellet exerts on the rocket during the short time while the pellet is being expelled.

**b.** If the rocket is moving, $v_{ex}$ is no longer the pellet's speed through space but it is still the pellet's speed *relative to the rocket*. By considering the limiting case of $\Delta m$ and $\Delta t$ approaching zero, in which case the rocket is now burning fuel continuously, calculate the rocket thrust for the values given above.

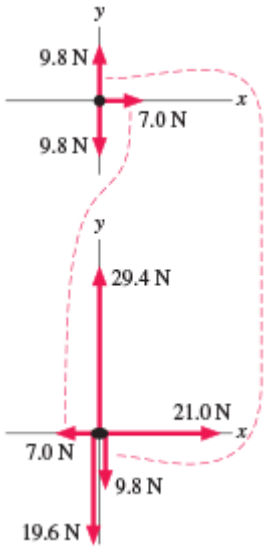
Problems 51 and 52 show the free-body diagrams of two interacting systems. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which these are the correct free-body diagrams. Be sure that the answer your problem requests is consistent with the diagrams shown.

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

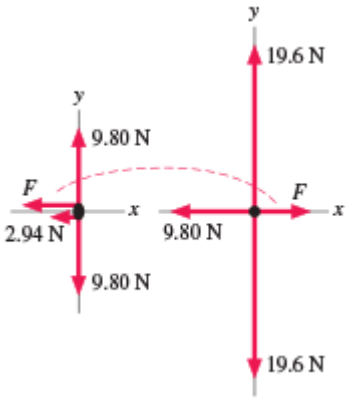
**51.**

**Figure P7.51**




52.

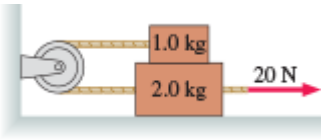
**Figure P7.52**




# Challenge Problems

53. ••• The lower block in Figure CP7.53 is pulled on by a rope with a tension force of 20 N. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the lower block and the surface is 0.30. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the lower block and the upper block is also 0.30. What is the acceleration of the 2.0 kg block?

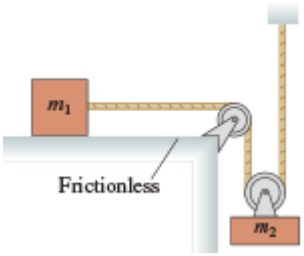
**Figure CP7.53**




**54.** ••• In Figure CP7.54, find an expression for the acceleration of $m_1$. The pulleys are massless and frictionless.

**Hint:** Think carefully about the acceleration constraint.

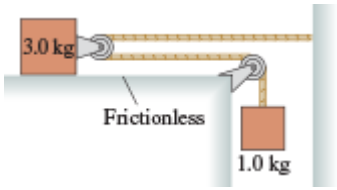
**Figure CP7.54**




**55.** ••• What is the acceleration of the 3.0 kg block in Figure CP7.55 across the frictionless table?

**Hint:** Think carefully about the acceleration constraint.

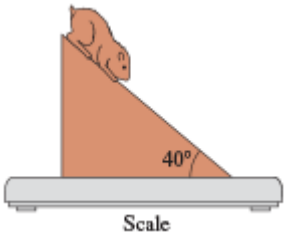
**Figure CP7.55**




**56.** ••• A 40-cm-diameter, 50-cm-tall, 15 kg hollow cylinder is placed on top of a 40-cm-diameter, 30-cm-tall, 100 kg cylinder of solid aluminum, then the two are sent sliding across frictionless ice. The static and kinetic coefficients of friction between the cylinders are 0.45 and 0.25, respectively. Air resistance cannot be neglected. What is the maximum speed the cylinders can have without the top cylinder sliding off?

**57.** ••• Figure CP7.57 shows a 200 g hamster sitting on an 800 g wedge-shaped block. The block, in turn, rests on a spring scale. An extra-fine lubricating oil having $\mu_s = \mu_k = 0$ is sprayed on the top surface of the block, causing the hamster to slide down. Friction between the block and the scale is large enough that the block does *not* slip on the scale. What does the scale read, in grams, as the hamster slides down?

**Figure CP7.57**




**58.** ••• Figure CP7.58 shows three hanging masses connected by massless strings over two massless, frictionless pulleys.

**a.** Find the acceleration constraint for this system. It is a single equation relating $a_{1y}$, $a_{2y}$, and $a_{3y}$.

**Hint:** $y_A$ isn't constant.

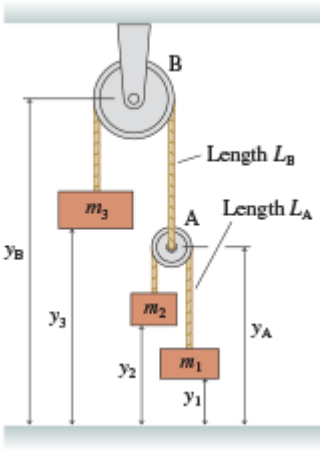
**b.** Find an expression for the tension in string A.

**Hint:** You should be able to write four second-law equations. These, plus the acceleration constraint, are five equations in five unknowns.

**c.** Suppose: $m_1 = 2.5$ kg, $m_2 = 1.5$ kg, and $m_3 = 4.0$ kg. Find the acceleration of each.

**d.** The 4.0 kg mass would appear to be in equilibrium. Explain why it accelerates.

**Figure CP7.58**


B
Length $L_B$
$m_3$
A
Length $L_A$
$y_B$
$y_3$
$m_2$
$y_A$
$y_2$
$m_1$
$y_1$

# Chapter 8
# Dynamics II: Motion in a Plane

Why doesn't the roller coaster fall off the track at the top of the loop?

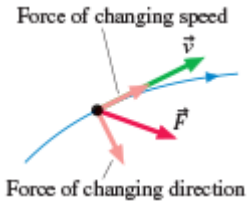
**In This Chapter**

you will learn to solve problems about motion in two dimensions.

## Are Newton's laws different in two dimensions?

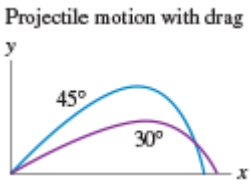
No. Newton's laws are vector equations, and they work equally well in two and three dimensions. For motion in a plane, we'll focus on how a force *tangent* to a particle's trajectory changes its speed, while a force *perpendicular* to the trajectory changes the particle's direction.

Looking Back Chapter 4 Kinematics of projectile and circular motion



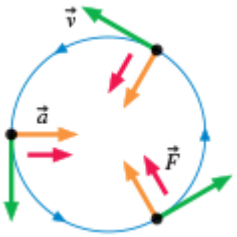

## How do we analyze projectile-like motion?

For linear motion, one component of the acceleration was always zero. Motion in a plane generally has acceleration along two axes. If the accelerations are independent, we can use *x*- and *y*-coordinates and we will find motions analogous to the projectile motion we studied in Chapter 4.




## How do we analyze circular motion?

Circular motion must have a force component toward the center of the circle to create the centripetal acceleration. In this case the acceleration components are radial and, perhaps, tangential. We'll use a different coordinate system, *rtz* coordinates, to study the dynamics of circular motion

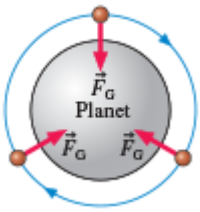



## Does this analysis apply to orbits?

Yes, it does. The circular orbit of a satellite or planet is motion in which the force of gravity is creating the inward centripetal

acceleration. You'll see that an orbiting projectile is in free fall.

Looking Back Section 6.3 Gravity and weight




## Why doesn't the water fall out of the bucket?

How can you swing a bucket of water over your head without the water falling out? Why doesn't a car going around a loop-the-loop fall off at the top? Circular motion is not always intuitive, but you'll strengthen your ability to use Newtonian reasoning by thinking about some of these problems.

## Why is planar motion important?

By starting with linear motion, we were able to develop the ideas and tools of Newtonian mechanics with minimal distractions. But planes and rockets move in a plane. Satellites and electrons orbit in a plane. The points on a rotating hard drive move in a plane. In fact, much of this chapter is a prelude to Chapter 12, where we will study rotational motion. This chapter gives you the tools you need to analyze more complex—and more realistic—forms of motion.

# 8.1 Dynamics in Two Dimensions



Newton's second law, $\vec{a} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}/m$, determines an object's acceleration; it makes no distinction between linear motion and two-dimensional motion in a plane. We began with motion along a line, in order to focus on the essential physics, but now we turn our attention to the motion of projectiles, satellites, and other objects that move in two dimensions. We'll continue to follow Problem-Solving Strategy 6.1, which is well worth a review, but we'll find that we need to think carefully about the appropriate coordinate system for each problem.

**Example 8.1 Rocketing in the wind**

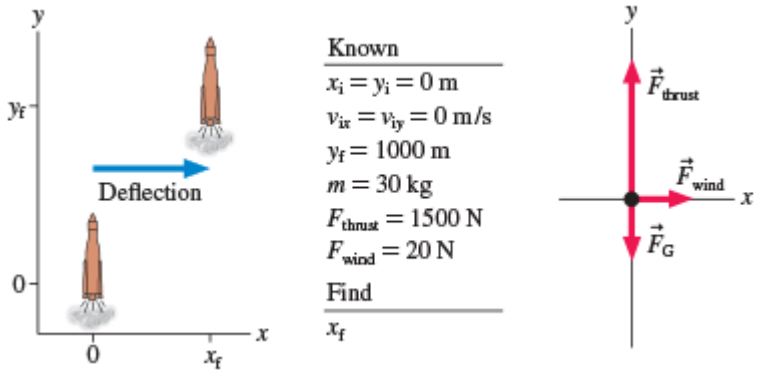
A small rocket for gathering weather data has a mass of 30 kg and generates 1500 N of thrust. On a windy day, the wind exerts a 20 N horizontal force on the rocket. If the rocket is launched straight up, what is the shape of its trajectory, and by how much has it been deflected sideways when it reaches a height of 1.0 km? Because the rocket goes much higher than this, assume there's no significant mass loss during the first 1.0 km of flight.

**MODEL** Model the rocket as a particle. We need to find the *function* $y(x)$ describing the curve the rocket follows. Because rockets have aerodynamic shapes, we'll assume no vertical air resistance.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 8.1 shows a pictorial representation. We've chosen a coordinate system with a vertical $y$-axis. Three forces act

on the rocket: two vertical and one horizontal.

## Figure 8.1




Pictorial representation of the rocket launch.

**SOLVE** In this problem, the vertical and horizontal forces are independent of each other. Newton's second law is

$$a_x = \frac{(F_{\text{net}})_x}{m} = \frac{F_{\text{wind}}}{m}$$
$$a_y = \frac{(F_{\text{net}})_y}{m} = \frac{F_{\text{thrust}} - mg}{m}$$

The primary difference from the linear-motion problems you've been solving is that the rocket accelerates along both axes. However, both accelerations are constant, so we can use kinematics to find

$$x = \tfrac{1}{2} a_x (\Delta t)^2 = \frac{F_{\text{wind}}}{2m} (\Delta t)^2$$
$$y = \tfrac{1}{2} a_y (\Delta t)^2 = \frac{F_{\text{thrust}} - mg}{2m} (\Delta t)^2$$

where we used the fact that all initial positions and velocities are zero. From the $x$-equation, $(\Delta t)^2 = 2mx/F_{\text{wind}}$. Substituting this into the $y$-equation, we find

$$y(x) = \left( \frac{F_{\text{thrust}} - mg}{F_{\text{wind}}} \right) x$$

This is the equation of the rocket's trajectory. It is a linear equation. Somewhat surprisingly, given that the rocket has both vertical and horizontal accelerations, its trajectory is a *straight line.* We can rearrange this result to find the deflection at height $y$:

$$x = \left( \frac{F_{\text{wind}}}{F_{\text{thrust}} - mg} \right) y$$

From the data provided, we can calculate a deflection of 17 m at a height of 1000 m.

**ASSESS** The solution depended on the fact that the time parameter $\Delta t$ is the *same* for both components of the motion.

# Projectile Motion

We found in Chapter 6 that the gravitational force on an object near the surface of a planet is $\vec{F}_{\text{G}} = (mg, \text{down})$. For a coordinate system with a vertical $y$-axis,



**(8.1)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{G}} = -mg\hat{J}$$

Consequently, from Newton's second law, the acceleration is

(8.2)

$$a_x = \frac{(F_G)_x}{m} = 0$$
$$a_y = \frac{(F_G)_y}{m} = -g$$

Equations 8.2 justify the analysis of projectile motion in Section 4.2—a downward acceleration $a_y = -g$ with no horizontal acceleration—where we found that a drag-free projectile follows a parabolic trajectory. The fact that the two components of acceleration are independent of each other allows us to solve for the vertical and horizontal motions.

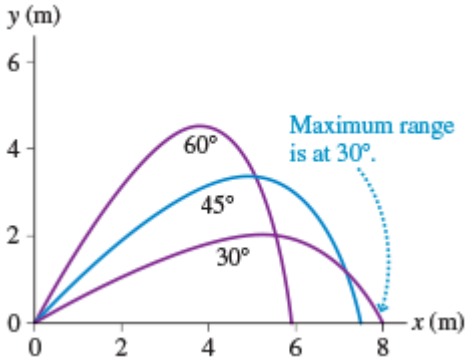
However, the situation is quite different for a low-mass projectile, where the effects of drag are too large to ignore. We'll leave it as a homework problem for you to show that the acceleration of a projectile subject to drag is

(8.3)

$$a_x = -\frac{\rho C A}{2m} v_x \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2}$$
$$a_y = -g - \frac{\rho C A}{2m} v_y \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2}$$

Here the components of acceleration are neither constant nor independent of each other because $a_x$ depends on $v_y$ and vice versa. It turns out that these two equations cannot be solved exactly for the trajectory, but they can be solved numerically. Figure 8.2 shows the numerical solution for the motion of a 5 g plastic ball that's been hit with an initial speed of 25 m/s. It doesn't travel very far (the maximum distance without drag would be more than 60 m), and the maximum range is no longer reached for a launch angle of 45°. Notice that the trajectories are not at all parabolic.

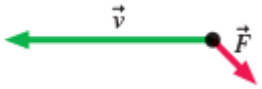
## Figure 8.2




A projectile is affected by drag. These are trajectories of a plastic ball launched at different angles.

## Stop to Think 8.1

This force will cause the particle to




**a.** Speed up and curve upward.

**b.** Speed up and curve downward.

**c.** Slow down and curve upward.

**d.** Slow down and curve downward.

**e.** Move to the right and down.

**f.** Reverse direction.

# 8.2 Uniform Circular Motion

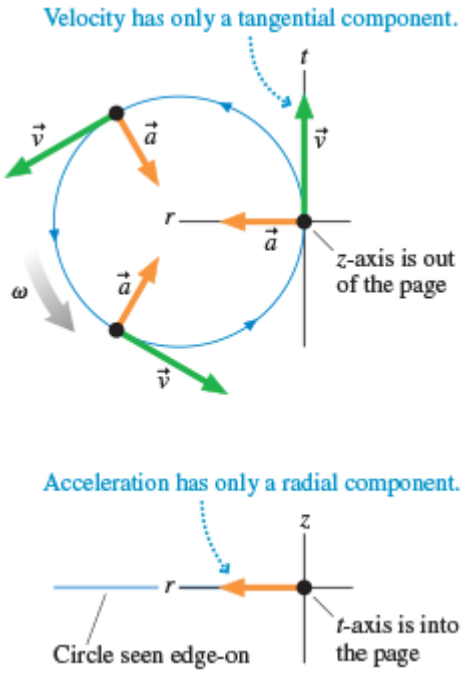


The kinematics of uniform circular motion were introduced in Sections 4.4–4.5, and a review is *highly* recommended. Now we're ready to study *dynamics*—how forces *cause* circular motion. Figure 8.3 reminds you that the particle's velocity is tangent to the circle, and its acceleration —a *centripetal acceleration*—points toward the center. If the particle has angular velocity $\omega$ and speed $v = \omega r$, its centripetal acceleration is

**(8.4)**

$$\vec{a} = \left(\frac{v^2}{r}, \text{toward center of circle}\right) = \left(\omega^2 r, \text{toward center of circle}\right)$$

## Figure 8.3




Uniform circular motion and the *rtz*-coordinate system.

An *xy*-coordinate system is not a good choice to analyze circular motion because the *x*- and *y*-components of the acceleration are not constant. Instead, as Figure 8.3 shows, we'll use a coordinate system whose axes are defined as follows:

- The origin is at the point where the particle is located.
- The *r*-axis (radial axis) points *from* the particle *toward* the center of the circle.
- The *t*-axis (tangential axis) is tangent to the circle, pointing in the counterclockwise direction.
- The *z*-axis is perpendicular to the plane of motion.

These three mutually perpendicular axes form the ***rtz*-coordinate system**.

You can see that the *rtz*-components of $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ are

**(8.5)**

$$\begin{aligned} v_r &= 0 & a_r &= \frac{v^2}{r} = \omega^2 r \\ v_t &= \omega r & a_t &= 0 \\ v_z &= 0 & a_z &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where the angular velocity $\omega = d\theta/dt$ must be in rad/s. For uniform circular motion, **the velocity vector has only a tangential component and the acceleration vector has only a radial component.** Now you can begin to see the advantages of the *rtz*-coordinate system.

> **Note**
>
> Recall that $\omega$ and $v_t$ are positive for a counterclockwise (ccw) rotation, negative for a clockwise (cw) rotation. The particle's speed is $v = |v_t|$.

# Dynamics of Uniform Circular Motion

On banked curves, the normal force of the road assists in providing the centripetal acceleration of the turn.

---

A particle in uniform circular motion is clearly not traveling at constant velocity in a straight line. Consequently, according to Newton's first law, the particle *must* have a net force acting on it. We've already determined the acceleration of a particle in uniform circular motion—the centripetal acceleration of Equation 8.4. Newton's second law tells us exactly how much net force is needed to cause this acceleration:

---

**(8.6)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = m\vec{a} = \left(\frac{mv^2}{r}, \text{toward center of circle}\right)$$

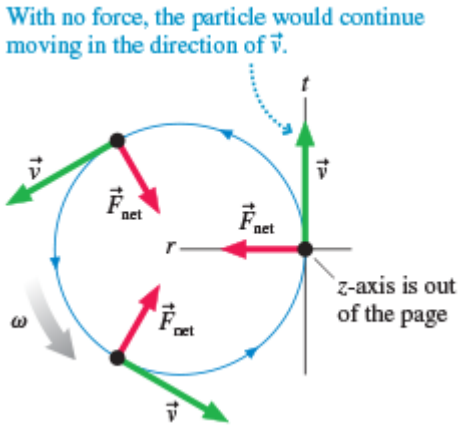
In other words, a particle of mass $m$ moving at constant speed $v$ around a circle of radius $r$ *must* have a net force of magnitude $mv^2/r$ pointing toward the center of the circle. Without such a force, the particle would move off in a straight line tangent to the circle.

Figure 8.4 shows the net force $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ acting on a particle as it undergoes uniform circular motion. You can see that $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$, **like** $\vec{a}$, **points along the**

**radial axis of the *rtz*-coordinate system, toward the center of the circle.**

The tangential and perpendicular components of $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ are zero.

## Figure 8.4




The net force points in the radial direction, toward the center of the circle.

> **Note**
>
> The force described by Equation 8.6 is not a *new* force. The force itself must have an identifiable agent and will be one of our familiar forces, such as tension, friction, or the normal force. Equation 8.6 simply tells us how the force needs to act—how strongly and in which direction—to cause the particle to move with speed *v* in a circle of radius *r*.

The usefulness of the *rtz*-coordinate system becomes apparent when we write Newton's second law, Equation 8.6, in terms of the *r*-, *t*-, and *z*-components:

**(8.7)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_r = \sum F_r = ma_r = \frac{mv^2}{r} = m\omega^2 r$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = \sum F_t = ma_t = 0$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_z = \sum F_z = ma_z = 0$$

**For uniform circular motion, the sum of the forces along the *t*-axis and along the *z*-axis must equal zero, and the sum of the forces along the *r*-axis *must* equal $ma_r$, where $a_r$ is the centripetal acceleration.**

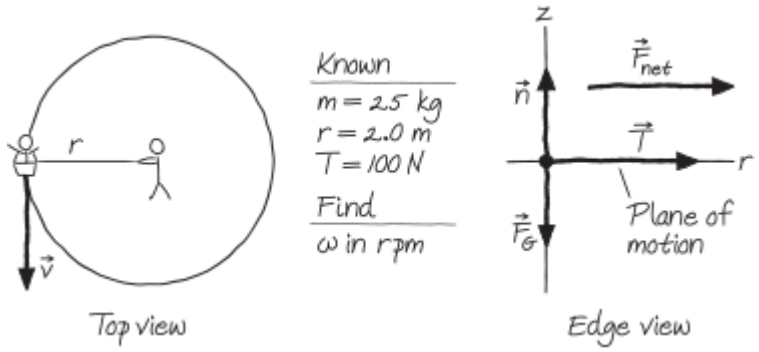
### Example 8.2 Spinning in a circle

An energetic father places his 20 kg child on a 5.0 kg cart to which a 2.0-m-long rope is attached. He then holds the end of the rope and spins the cart and child around in a circle, keeping the rope parallel to the ground. If the tension in the rope is 100 N, how many revolutions per minute (rpm) does the cart make? Rolling friction between the cart's wheels and the ground is negligible.

**MODEL** Model the child in the cart as a particle in uniform circular motion.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 8.5 on the next page shows the pictorial representation. A circular-motion problem usually does not have starting and ending points like a projectile problem, so numerical subscripts such as $x_1$ or $y_2$ are usually not needed. Here we need to define the cart's speed $v$ and the radius $r$ of the circle. Further, a motion diagram is not needed for uniform circular motion because we already know the acceleration $\vec{a}$ points to the center of the circle.

**Figure 8.5**




Pictorial representation of a cart spinning in a circle.

The essential part of the pictorial representation is the free-body diagram. **For uniform circular motion we'll draw the free-body diagram in the *rz*-plane, looking at the edge of the circle, because this is the plane of the forces.** The contact forces acting on the cart are the normal force of the ground and the tension force of the rope. The normal force is perpendicular to the plane of the motion and thus in the *z*-direction. The direction of $\vec{T}$ is determined by the statement that the rope is parallel to the ground. In addition, there is the long-range gravitational force $\vec{F}_{\rm G}$.

**SOLVE** We defined the *r*-axis to point toward the center of the circle, so $\vec{T}$ points in the positive *r*-direction and has *r*-component $T_r = T$. Newton's second law, using the *rtz*-components of Equations 8.7, is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_r &= T = \frac{mv^2}{r} \\ \sum F_z &= n - mg = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We've taken the *r*- and *z*-components of the forces directly from the free-body diagram, as you learned to do in Chapter 6. Then we've *explicitly* equated the sums to $a_r = v^2/r$ and $a_z = 0$. This is the basic strategy for all uniform circular-motion problems. From the *z*-equation we can find that $n = mg$ This would be useful if we

needed to determine a friction force, but it's not needed in this problem. From the $r$-equation, the speed of the cart is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{rT}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{(2.0\,\text{m})(100\,\text{N})}{25\text{kg}}} = 2.83\,\text{m/s}$$

The cart's angular velocity is then found from Equations 8.5:

$$\omega = \frac{v_t}{r} = \frac{v}{r} = \frac{2.83\,\text{m/s}}{2.0\,\text{m}} = 1.41\,\text{rad/s}$$

This is another case where we inserted the radian unit because $\omega$ is specifically an *angular* velocity. Finally, we need to convert $\omega$ to rpm:

$$\omega = \frac{1.41\,\text{rad}}{1\,\text{s}} \times \frac{1\,\text{rev}}{2\pi\,\text{rad}} \times \frac{60\,\text{s}}{1\ \text{min}} = 14\,\text{rpm}$$

**ASSESS** 14 rpm corresponds to a period $T \approx 4\,\text{s}$. This result is reasonable.

## The Central-Force Model

A force that is always directed toward the same point is called a **central force**. The tension in the rope of the last example is a central force, as is the gravitational force acting on an orbiting satellite. An object acted on by an attractive central force can undergo uniform circular motion around the central point. More complicated trajectories can occur in some situations—such as satellites following elliptical orbits—but for now we'll focus on circular motion, or motion with constant $r$. This **central-force model** is another important model of motion.



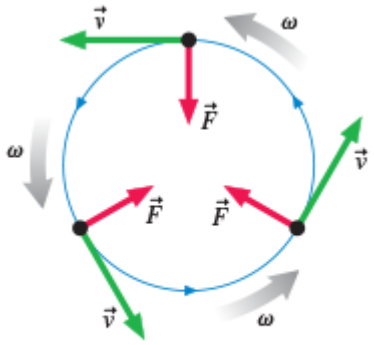
MODEL 8.1 **Central force with constant *r***

For objects on which a constant net force points toward a central point.

- Model the object as a particle.
- The force causes a centripetal acceleration.
  - The motion is uniform circular motion.
- Mathematically:
  - Newton's second law is

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \left(\frac{mv^2}{r} \text{ or } m\omega^2 r, \text{toward center}\right)$$

  - Use the kinematics of uniform circular motion.
- Limitations: Model fails if the force has a tangential component or if $r$ changes.



The object undergoes uniform circular motion.

Workbook Exercise 10

Let's look at more examples of the central-force model in action.

**Example 8.3 Turning the corner I**

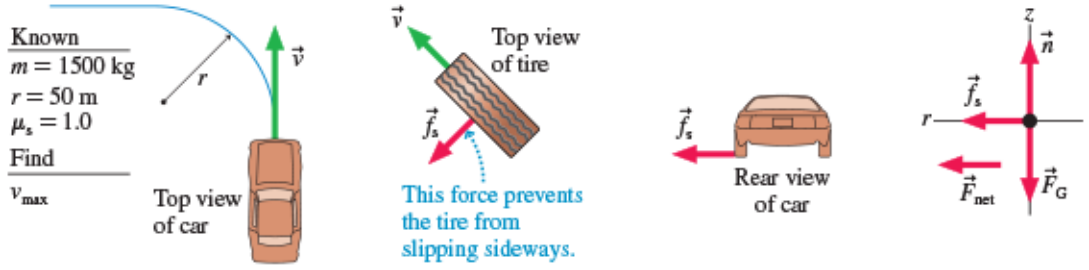
What is the maximum speed with which a 1500 kg car can make a left turn around a curve of radius 50 m on a level (unbanked) road without sliding?

---

**MODEL** The car doesn't complete a full circle, but it is in uniform circular motion for a quarter of a circle while turning. We can model the car as a particle subject to a central force. Assume that rolling friction is negligible.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 8.6 shows the pictorial representation. The issue we must address is *how* a car turns a corner. What force or forces cause the direction of the velocity vector to change? Imagine driving on a completely frictionless road, such as a very icy road. You would not be able to turn a corner. Turning the steering wheel would be of no use; the car would slide straight ahead, in accordance with both Newton's first law and the experience of anyone who has ever driven on ice! So it must be *friction* that somehow allows the car to turn.

## Figure 8.6




Pictorial representation of a car turning a corner.

Figure 8.6 shows the top view of a tire as it turns a corner. If the road surface were frictionless, the tire would slide straight ahead. The force that prevents an object from sliding across a surface is

*static friction*. Static friction $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$ pushes *sideways* on the tire, toward the center of the circle. How do we know the direction is sideways? If $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$ had a component either parallel to $\vec{v}$ or opposite to $\vec{v}$, it would cause the car to speed up or slow down. Because the car changes direction but not speed, static friction must be perpendicular to $\vec{v}$. $\vec{f}_{\text{s}}$ causes the centripetal acceleration of circular motion around the curve, and thus the free-body diagram, drawn from behind the car, shows the static friction force pointing toward the center of the circle.



**SOLVE** The maximum turning speed is reached when the static friction force reaches its maximum $f_{\text{s max}} = \mu_{\text{s}} n$. If the car enters the curve at a speed higher than the maximum, static friction will not be large enough to provide the necessary centripetal acceleration and the car will slide.

The static friction force points in the positive *r*-direction, so its radial component is simply the magnitude of the vector: $(f_{\text{s}})_r = f_s$. Newton's second law in the *rtz*-coordinate system is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_r &= f_{\text{s}} = \frac{mv^2}{r} \\ \sum F_z &= n - mg = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The only difference from Example 8.2 is that the tension force toward the center has been replaced by a static friction force toward the center. From the radial equation, the speed is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{r f_{\text{s}}}{m}}$$

The speed will be a maximum when $f_{\text{s}}$ reaches its maximum value:

$$f_{\text{s}} = f_{\text{s max}} = \mu_{\text{s}} n = \mu_{\text{s}} mg$$

where we used $n = mg$ from the $z$-equation. At that point,

$$\begin{aligned} v_{\max} &= \sqrt{\frac{rf_{s\,\max}}{m}} = \sqrt{\mu_s rg} \\ &= \sqrt{(1.0)(50\text{ m})(9.80\text{ m/s}^2)} = 22\text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

where the coefficient of static friction was taken from Table 6.1.

**ASSESS** $22\text{ m/s} \approx 45$ mph, a reasonable answer for how fast a car can take an unbanked curve. Notice that the car's mass canceled out and that the final equation for $v_{\max}$ is quite simple. This is another example of why it pays to work algebraically until the very end.

Because $\mu_s$ depends on road conditions, the maximum safe speed through turns can vary dramatically. Wet roads, in particular, lower the value of $\mu_s$ and thus lower the speed of turns. Icy conditions are even worse. The corner you turn every day at 45 mph will require a speed of no more than 15 mph if the coefficient of static friction drops to 0.1.

### Example 8.4 Turning the corner II

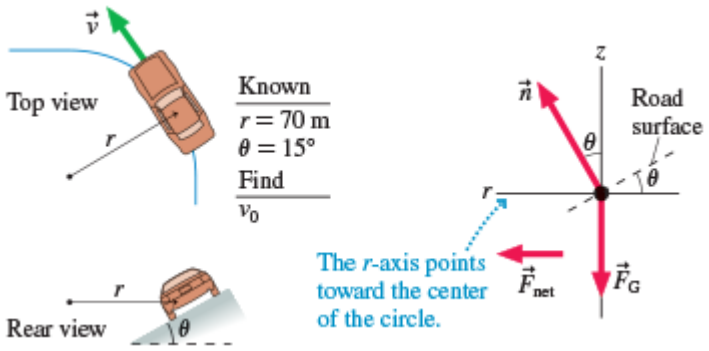
A highway curve of radius 70 m is banked at a 15° angle. At what speed $v_0$ can a car take this curve without assistance from friction?

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle subject to a central force.

**VISUALIZE** Having just discussed the role of friction in turning corners, it is perhaps surprising to suggest that the same turn can also be accomplished without friction. Example 8.3 considered a

level roadway, but real highway curves are *banked* by being tilted up at the outside edge of the curve. The angle is modest on ordinary highways, but it can be quite large on high-speed racetracks. The purpose of banking becomes clear if you look at the free-body diagram in Figure 8.7. The normal force $\vec{n}$ is perpendicular to the road, so tilting the road causes $\vec{n}$ to have a component toward the center of the circle. **The radial component $n_r$ is the central force that causes the centripetal acceleration needed to turn the car.** Notice that we are *not* using a tilted coordinate system, although this looks rather like an inclined-plane problem. The center of the circle is in the same horizontal plane as the car, and for circular-motion problems we need the *r*-axis to pass through the center. Tilted axes are for *linear* motion along an incline.

## Figure 8.7




Pictorial representation of a car on a banked curve.



**SOLVE** Without friction, $n_r = n \sin\theta$ is the only component of force in the radial direction. It is this inward component of the normal force on the car that causes it to turn the corner. Newton's second law is

$$\sum F_r = n \sin\theta = \frac{mv_0^2}{r}$$
$$\sum F_z = n \cos\theta - mg = 0$$

where $\theta$ is the angle at which the road is banked and we've assumed that the car is traveling at the correct speed $v_0$. From the $z$-equation,

$$n = \frac{mg}{\cos\theta}$$

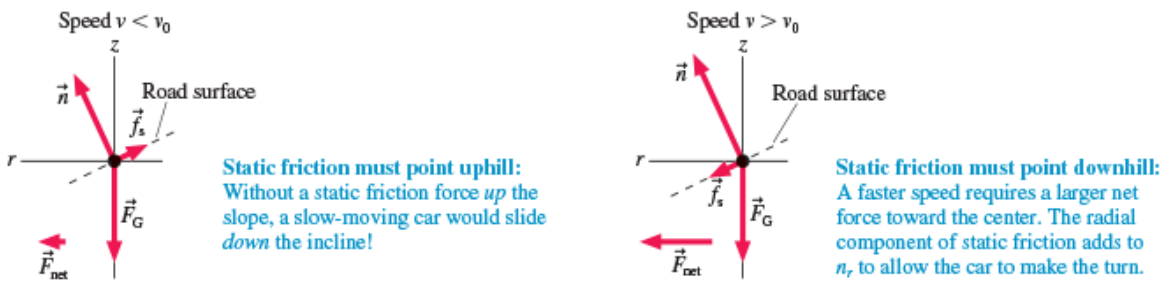
Substituting this into the $r$-equation and solving for $v_0$ give

$$\frac{mg}{\cos\theta}\sin\theta = mg\,\tan\theta = \frac{mv_0^2}{r}$$
$$v_0 = \sqrt{rg\,\tan\theta} = 14\ \text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** This is ≈ 28 mph, a reasonable speed. Only at this very specific speed can the turn be negotiated without reliance on friction forces.

It's interesting to explore what happens at other speeds on a banked curve. Figure 8.8 shows that the car will need to rely on both the banking *and* friction if it takes the curve at a speed faster or slower than $v_0$.

## Figure 8.8



Free-body diagrams for a car going around a banked curve at speeds slower and faster than the friction-free speed $v_0$.

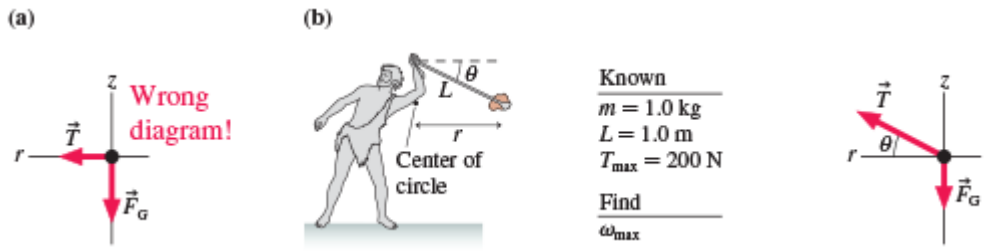
### Example 8.5 A rock in a sling

A Stone Age hunter places a 1.0 kg rock in a sling and swings it in a horizontal circle around his head on a 1.0-m-long vine. If the vine breaks at a tension of 200 N, what is the maximum angular speed, in rpm, with which he can swing the rock?

**MODEL** Model the rock as a particle in uniform circular motion.

**VISUALIZE** This problem appears, at first, to be essentially the same as Example 8.2, where the father spun his child around on a rope. However, the lack of a normal force from a supporting surface makes a *big* difference. In this case, the *only* contact force on the rock is the tension in the vine. Because the rock moves in a horizontal circle, you may be tempted to draw a free-body diagram like Figure 8.9a, where $\vec{T}$ is directed along the $r$-axis. You will quickly run into trouble, however, because this diagram has a net force in the $z$-direction and it is impossible to satisfy $\sum F_z = 0$. The gravitational force $\vec{F}_G$ certainly points vertically downward, so the difficulty must be with $\vec{T}$.

**Figure 8.9**



Pictorial representation of a rock in a sling.

As an experiment, tie a small weight to a string, swing it over your head, and check the *angle* of the string. You will quickly discover that the string is *not* horizontal but, instead, is angled downward. The sketch of Figure 8.9b labels the angle $\theta$. Notice that the rock moves in a *horizontal* circle, so the center of the circle is *not* at his hand. The $r$-axis points to the center of the circle, but the tension force is directed along the vine. Thus the correct free-body diagram is the one in Figure 8.9b.

**SOLVE** The free-body diagram shows that the downward gravitational force is balanced by an upward component of the tension, leaving the radial component of the tension to cause the centripetal acceleration. Newton's second law is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_r &= T\cos\theta = \frac{mv^2}{r} \\ \sum F_z &= T\sin\theta - mg = 0 \end{aligned}$$

where $\theta$ is the angle of the vine below horizontal. From the $z$-equation we find

$$\begin{aligned} \sin\theta &= \frac{mg}{T} \\ \theta_{\max} &= \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{(1.0\text{ kg})(9.8\text{ m/s}^2)}{200\text{ N}}\right) = 2.81^\circ \end{aligned}$$

where we've evaluated the angle at the maximum tension of 200 N. The vine's angle of inclination is small but not zero.

Turning now to the $r$-equation, we find the rock's speed is

$$v_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{rT\cos\theta_{\max}}{m}}$$

Careful! The radius $r$ of the circle is *not* the length $L$ of the vine. You can see in Figure 8.9b that $r = L\cos\theta$. Thus

$$v_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{LT\cos^2\theta_{\max}}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{(1.0\,\text{m})(200\,\text{N})(\cos\ 2.81^\circ)^2}{1.0\,\text{kg}}} = 14.1\,\text{m/s}$$

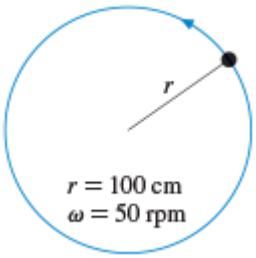
We can now find the maximum angular speed, the value of $\omega$ that brings the tension to the breaking point:

$$\omega_{\max} = \frac{v_{\max}}{r} = \frac{v_{\max}}{L\ \cos\theta_{\max}} = \frac{14.1\,\text{rad}}{1\,\text{s}} \times \frac{1\,\text{rev}}{2\pi\,\text{rad}} \times \frac{60\,\text{s}}{1\ \text{min}} = 135\,\text{rpm}$$

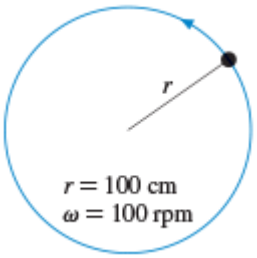
## Stop to Think 8.2

A block on a string spins in a horizontal circle on a frictionless table. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the tensions $T_a$ to $T_e$ acting on blocks a to e.

**a.**




**b.**




**c.**

$r = 50$ cm
$\omega = 100$ rpm

**d.**

$r = 50$ cm
$\omega = 200$ rpm

**e.**

$r = 25$ cm
$\omega = 200$ rpm

# 8.3 Circular Orbits

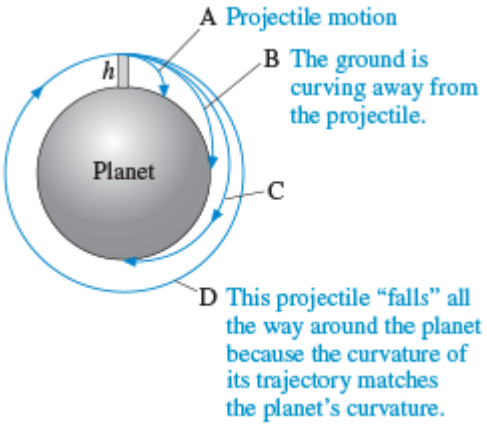


Satellites orbit the earth, the earth orbits the sun, and our entire solar system orbits the center of the Milky Way galaxy. Not all orbits are circular, but in this section we'll limit our analysis to circular orbits.

How does a satellite orbit the earth? What forces act on it? To answer these important questions, let's return, for a moment, to projectile motion. Projectile motion occurs when the only force on an object is gravity. Our analysis of projectiles assumed that the earth is flat and that the acceleration due to gravity is everywhere straight down. This is an acceptable approximation for projectiles of limited range, such as baseballs or cannon balls, but there comes a point where we can no longer ignore the curvature of the earth.

Figure 8.10 shows a perfectly smooth, spherical, airless planet with one tower of height $h$. A projectile is launched from this tower parallel to the ground $(\theta = 0^\circ)$ with speed $v_0$. If $v_0$ is very small, as in trajectory A, the "flat-earth approximation" is valid and the problem is identical to Example 8.4 in which a car drove off a cliff. The projectile simply falls to the ground along a parabolic trajectory.

**Figure 8.10**




Projectiles being launched at increasing speeds from height $h$ on a smooth, airless planet.

---

As the initial speed $v_0$ is increased, the projectile begins to notice that the ground is curving out from beneath it. It is falling the entire time, always getting closer to the ground, but the distance that the projectile travels before finally reaching the ground—that is, its range—increases because the projectile must "catch up" with the ground that is curving away from it. Trajectories B and C are of this type. The actual calculation of these trajectories is beyond the scope of this textbook, but you should be able to understand the factors that influence the trajectory.

If the launch speed $v_0$ is sufficiently large, there comes a point where the curve of the trajectory and the curve of the earth are parallel. In this case, the projectile "falls" but it never gets any closer to the ground! This is the situation for trajectory D. A closed trajectory around a planet or star, such as trajectory D, is called an **orbit**.

The most important point of this qualitative analysis is that **an orbiting projectile is in free fall.** This is, admittedly, a strange idea, but one worth careful thought. An orbiting projectile is really no different from a thrown baseball or a car driving off a cliff. The only force acting on it is gravity, but its tangential velocity is so large that the curvature of its trajectory matches the curvature of the earth. When this happens, the projectile

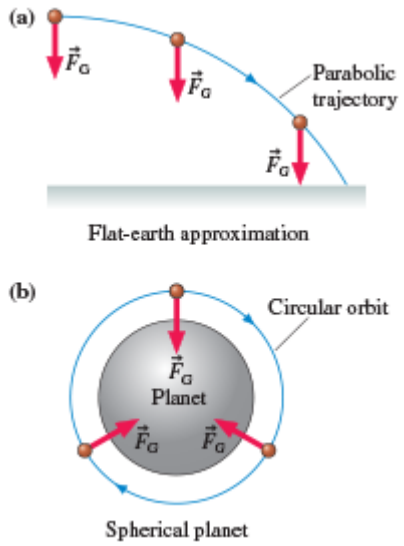
"falls" under the influence of gravity but never gets any closer to the surface.

In the flat-earth approximation, shown in Figure 8.11a, the gravitational force acting on an object of mass $m$ is

**(8.8)**

$$\vec{F}_{\mathrm{G}} = (mg, \text{ vertically downward}) \qquad (\text{flat-earth approximation})$$

## Figure 8.11




The "real" gravitational force is always directed toward the center of the planet.

But since stars and planets are actually spherical (or very close to it), the "real" force of gravity acting on an object is directed toward the *center* of the planet, as shown in Figure 8.11b. In this case the gravitational force is

**(8.9)**

$$\vec{F}_{\mathrm{G}} = (mg, \text{ toward center}) \qquad (\text{spherical planet})$$

That is, gravity is a central force causing the centripetal acceleration of uniform circular motion. Thus the gravitational force causes the object in Figure 8.11b to have acceleration

(8.10)

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{net}}}{m} = (g, \text{ toward center})$$

An object moving in a circle of radius $r$ at speed $v_{\text{orbit}}$ will have this centripetal acceleration if

(8.11)

$$a_r = \frac{(v_{\text{orbit}})^2}{r} = g$$



That is, if an object moves parallel to the surface with the speed

(8.12)

$$v_{\text{orbit}} = \sqrt{rg}$$

then the free-fall acceleration is exactly the centripetal acceleration needed for a circular orbit of radius $r$. An object with any other speed will not follow a circular orbit.

The earth's radius is $r = R_{\text{e}} = 6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$. (A table of useful astronomical data is inside the back cover of this book.) The orbital speed of a projectile just skimming the surface of an airless, bald earth is

$$v_{\text{orbit}} = \sqrt{rg} = \sqrt{(6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m})(9.80 \,\text{m/s}^2)} = 7900 \,\text{m/s} \approx 16{,}000 \,\text{mph}$$

Even if there were no trees and mountains, a real projectile moving at this speed would burn up from the friction of air resistance.

## Satellites

Suppose, however, that we launched the projectile from a tower of height $h = 230\,\text{mi} \approx 3.8 \times 10^5\,\text{m}$, just above the earth's atmosphere. This is approximately the height of the International Space Station and other low-earth-orbit satellites. Note that $h \ll R_\text{e}$, so the radius of the orbit $r = R_\text{e} + h = 6.75 \times 10^6\,\text{m}$ is only 5% greater than the earth's radius. Many people have a mental image that satellites orbit far above the earth, but in fact many satellites come pretty close to skimming the surface. Our calculation of $v_\text{orbit}$ thus turns out to be quite a good estimate of the speed of a satellite in low earth orbit.

We can use $v_\text{orbit}$ to calculate the period of a satellite orbit:

**(8.13)**

$$T = \frac{2\pi r}{v_\text{orbit}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{r}{g}}$$

For a low earth orbit, with $r = R_\text{e} + 230\,\text{miles}$, we find $T = 5210\,\text{s} = 87\ \text{min}$. The period of the International Space Station at an altitude of 230 mi is, indeed, close to 87 minutes. (The actual period is 93 min. The difference, you'll learn in Chapter 13, arises because $g$ is slightly less at a satellite's altitude.)

When we discussed *weightlessness* in Chapter 6, we discovered that it occurs during free fall. We asked the question, at the end of Section 6.3, whether astronauts and their spacecraft were in free fall. We can now give an affirmative answer: They are, indeed, in free fall. They are falling

continuously around the earth, under the influence of only the gravitational force, but never getting any closer to the ground because the earth's surface curves beneath them. Weightlessness in space is no different from the weightlessness in a free-falling elevator. It does *not* occur from an absence of gravity. Instead, the astronaut, the spacecraft, and everything in it are weightless because they are all falling together.

The International Space Station is in free fall.

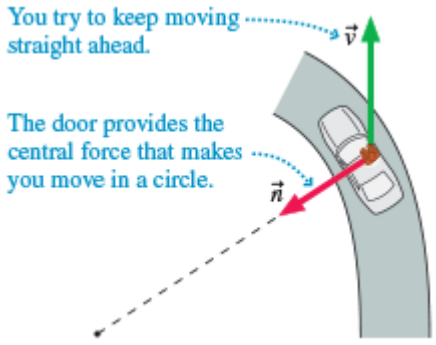
# 8.4 Reasoning About Circular Motion

Some aspects of circular motion are puzzling and counterintuitive. Examining a few of these will give us a chance to practice Newtonian reasoning.

## Centrifugal Force?

If the car turns a corner quickly, you feel "thrown" against the door. But there's really no such force because there is no agent exerting it. Figure 8.12 shows a bird's-eye view of you riding in a car as it makes a left turn. You try to continue moving in a straight line, obeying Newton's first law, when—without having been provoked—the door suddenly turns in front of you and runs into you! You do, indeed, then feel the force of the door because it is now the normal force of the door, pointing *inward* toward the center of the curve, causing you to turn the corner. But you were not "thrown" into the door; the door ran into you.

**Figure 8.12**




Bird's-eye view of a passenger as a car turns a corner.

The "force" that seems to push an object to the outside of a circle is commonly known as the *centrifugal force.* Despite having a name, the centrifugal force is fictitious. It describes your experience *relative to a noninertial reference frame,* but there really is no such force. **You must always use Newton's laws in an inertial reference frame.** There are no centrifugal forces in an inertial reference frame.

> **Note**
>
> You might wonder if the *rtz*-coordinate system is an inertial reference frame. It is. We're using the *rtz*-coordinates to establish directions for decomposing vectors, but we're not making measurements in the *rtz*-system. That is, velocities and accelerations are measured in the laboratory reference frame. The particle would always be at rest $\left(\vec{v} = \vec{0}\right)$ if we measured velocities in a reference frame attached to the particle.

## Gravity on a Rotating Earth

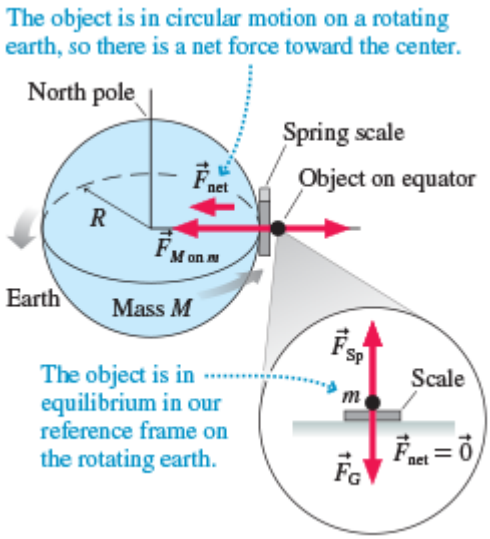
There is one small problem with the admonition that you must use Newton's laws in an inertial reference frame: A reference frame attached to the ground isn't truly inertial because of the earth's rotation. Fortunately, we can make a simple correction that allows us to continue using Newton's laws on the earth's surface.

Figure 8.13 shows an object being weighed by a spring scale on the earth's equator. An observer hovering above the north pole sees two forces on the object: the gravitational force $\vec{F}_{M\,\text{on}\,m}$, given by Newton's law of gravity, and the outward spring force $\vec{F}_{\text{Sp.}}$ The object moves in a circle as the earth rotates, so Newton's second law is

$$\sum F_r = F_{M\,\text{on}\,m} - F_{\text{Sp}} = m\omega^2 R$$

where $\omega$ is the angular speed of the rotating earth. The spring-scale reading $F_{\text{Sp}} = F_{M\,\text{on}\,m} - m\omega^2 R$ is *less* than it would be on a nonrotating earth.

## Figure 8.13




The earth's rotation affects the measured value of $g$.

The blow-up in Figure 8.13 shows how we see things in a noninertial, flat-earth reference frame. For us the object is at rest, in equilibrium, hence the upward spring force must be exactly balanced by a downward gravitational force $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{G}}$. Thus $F_{\text{Sp}} = F_{\text{G}}$.

Now both we and the hovering, inertial observer see the same reading on the scale. If $F_{\text{Sp}}$ is the same for both of us, then

**(8.14)**

$$F_{\text{G}} = F_{M\,\text{on}\,\text{m}} - m\omega^2 R$$

In other words, force $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$—what we called the *effective* gravitational force in Chapter 6—is slightly less than the true gravitational force $\vec{F}_{M\,\text{on}\,m}$ because of the earth's rotation. In essence, $m\omega^2 R$ is the centrifugal force, a fictitious force trying—from our perspective in a noninertial reference frame—to "throw" us off the rotating platform. There really is no such force, but—this is the important point—**we can continue to use Newton's laws in our rotating reference frame if we pretend there is.**

Because $F_{\text{G}} = mg$ for an object at rest, the effect of the centrifugal term in Equation 8.14 is to make $g$ a little smaller than it would be on a nonrotating earth:

**(8.15)**

$$g = \frac{F_{\text{G}}}{m} = \frac{F_{M\,\text{on}\,m} - m\omega^2 R}{m} = \frac{GM}{R^2} - \omega^2 R = g_{\text{earth}} - \omega^2 R$$

We calculated $g_{\text{earth}} = 9.83\ \text{m/s}^2$ in Chapter 6. Using $\omega = 1\,\text{rev/day}$ (which must be converted to SI units) and $R = 6370\,\text{km}$, we find $\omega^2 R = 0.033\,\text{m/s}^2$ at the equator. Thus the free-fall acceleration—what we actually measure in our rotating reference frame—is about 9.80 m/s², exactly what we measure in the laboratory.

Things are a little more complicated at other latitudes, but the bottom line is that we can safely use Newton's laws in our rotating, noninertial reference frame on the earth's surface if we calculate the gravitational force—as we've been doing—as $F_{\text{G}} = mg$ with $g$ the measured free-fall value, a value that compensates for our rotation, rather than the purely gravitational $g_{\text{earth}}$.

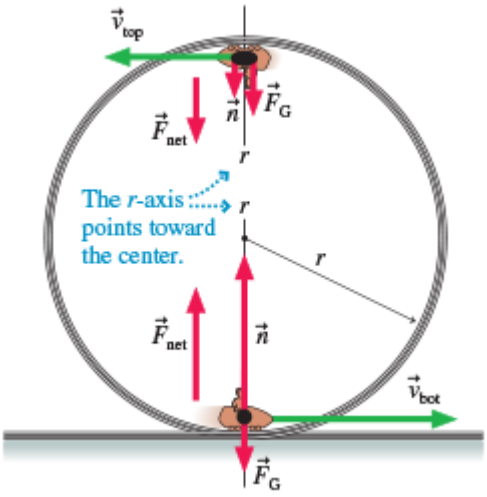
## Why Does the Water Stay in the Bucket?

If you swing a bucket of water over your head quickly, the water stays in, but you'll get a shower if you swing too slowly. Why? We'll answer this question by starting with an equivalent situation, a roller coaster doing a loop-the-loop.

Figure 8.14 shows a roller-coaster car going around a vertical loop-the-loop of radius $r$. Why doesn't the car fall off at the top of the circle? Now, motion in a vertical circle is *not* uniform circular motion; the car slows down as it goes up one side and speeds up as it comes back down the other. But at the very top and very bottom points, only the car's direction is changing, not its speed, so at those points the acceleration is purely centripetal. Thus **there must be a net force toward the center of the circle.**



## Figure 8.14




A roller-coaster car going around a loop-the-loop.

First consider the very bottom of the loop. To have a net force toward the center—upward at this point—requires $n > F_G$. The normal force has to *exceed* the gravitational force to provide the net force needed to "turn the corner" at the bottom of the circle. This is why you "feel heavy" at the bottom of the circle or at the bottom of a valley on a roller coaster.

We can analyze the situation quantitatively by writing the *r*-component of Newton's second law. At the bottom of the circle, with the *r*-axis pointing upward, we have

**(8.16)**

$$\sum F_r = n_r + (F_G)_r = n - mg = ma_r = \frac{m(v_{bot})^2}{r}$$

From Equation 8.16 we find

**(8.17)**

$$n = mg + \frac{m(v_{bot})^2}{r}$$

The normal force at the bottom is *larger* than *mg*.

Things are a little trickier as the roller-coaster car crosses the top of the loop. Whereas the normal force of the track pushes up when the car is at the bottom of the circle, it *presses down* when the car is at the top and the track is above the car. Think about the free-body diagram to make sure you agree.

The car is still moving in a circle, so there *must* be a net force toward the center of the circle. The *r*-axis, which points toward the center of the circle, now points *downward*. Consequently, both forces have *positive* components. Newton's second law at the top of the circle is

**(8.18)**

$$\sum F_r = n_r + (F_G)_r = n + mg = \frac{m(v_{top})^2}{r}$$

Thus at the top the normal force of the track on the car is

**(8.19)**

$$n = \frac{m(v_{\text{top}})^2}{r} - mg$$

The normal force at the top can exceed $mg$ if $v_{\text{top}}$ is large enough. Our interest, however, is in what happens as the car goes slower and slower. As $v_{\text{top}}$ decreases, there comes a point when $n$ reaches zero. "No normal force" means "no contact," so at that speed, the track is *not* pushing against the car. Instead, the car is able to complete the circle because gravity alone provides sufficient centripetal acceleration.

The speed at which $n = 0$ is called the *critical speed* $v_c$:

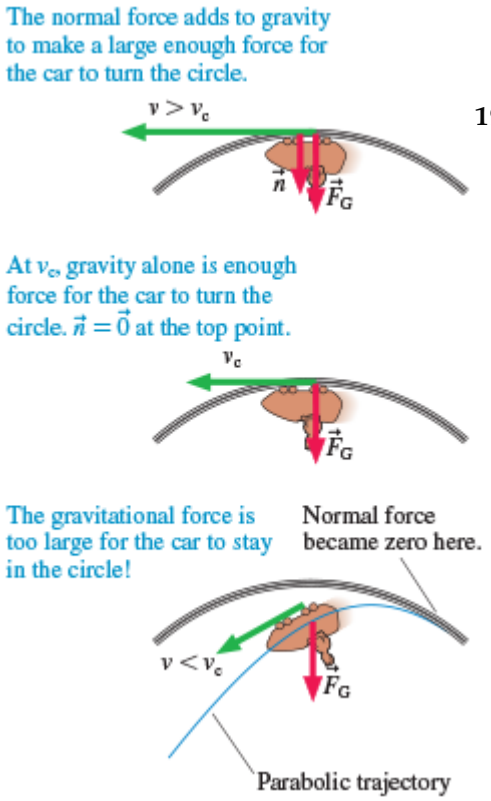
**(8.20)**

$$v_c = \sqrt{\frac{rmg}{m}} = \sqrt{rg}$$

**The critical speed is the slowest speed at which the car can complete the circle.** Equation 8.19 would give a negative value for $n$ if $v < v_c$, but that is physically impossible. The track can push against the wheels of the car $(n > 0)$, but it can't pull on them. If $v < v_c$, the car cannot turn the full loop but, instead, comes off the track and becomes a projectile! Figure 8.15 summarizes our reasoning.

---

## Figure 8.15




A roller-coaster car at the top of the loop.

Water stays in a bucket swung over your head for the same reason: Circular motion requires a net force toward the center of the circle. At the top of the circle—if you swing the bucket fast enough—the bucket adds to the force of gravity by pushing *down* on the water, just like the downward normal force of the track on the roller-coaster car. As long as the bucket is pushing against the water, the bucket and the water are in contact and thus the water is "in" the bucket. As you swing slower and slower, requiring the water to have less and less centripetal acceleration, the bucket-on-water normal force decreases until it becomes zero at the critical speed. At the critical speed, gravity alone provides sufficient centripetal acceleration. Below the critical speed, gravity provides *too much* downward force for circular motion, so the water leaves the bucket and becomes a projectile following a parabolic trajectory toward your head!

## Stop to Think 8.3

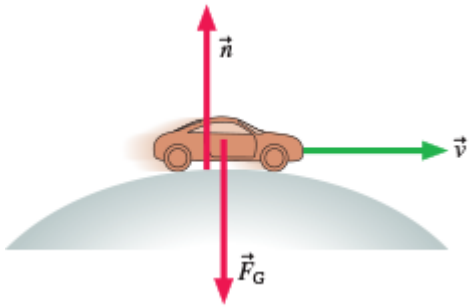
An out-of-gas car is rolling over the top of a hill at speed $v$. At this instant,

**a.** $n > F_G$

**b.** $n < F_G$

**c.** $n = F_G$

**d.** We can't tell about $n$ without knowing $v$.



# 8.5 Nonuniform Circular Motion



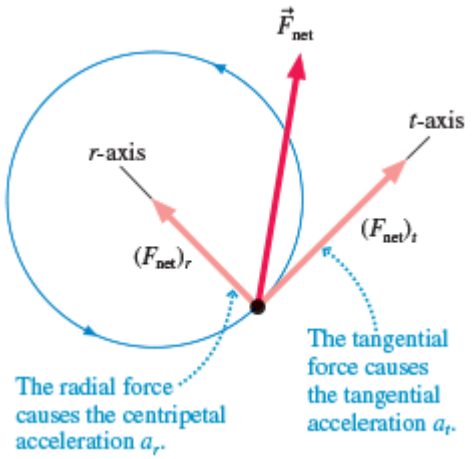
Many interesting examples of circular motion involve objects whose speed changes. As we've already noted, a roller-coaster car doing a loop-the-loop slows down as it goes up one side, speeds up as it comes back down the other side. Circular motion with a changing speed is called *nonuniform circular motion.*

Figure 8.16 shows a particle moving in a circle of radius $r$. In addition to a radial force component—required for all circular motion—this particle experiences a *tangential* force component $(F_{\text{net}})t$ and hence a tangential acceleration

**(8.21)**

$$a_t = \frac{dv_t}{dt}$$

## Figure 8.16




Net force $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ is applied to a particle moving in a circle.

Now $v_t$ is the particle's velocity *around* the circle, with speed $v = |v_t|$, so a tangential force component causes the particle to change speed. That is, the particle is undergoing nonuniform circular motion. Note that $(F_{\text{net}})t$, like $v_t$, is positive when ccw, negative when cw.

Force and acceleration are still related to each other through Newton's second law:

**(8.22)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_r = \sum F_r = ma_r = \frac{mv_t^2}{r} = m\omega^2 r$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = \sum F_t = ma_t$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_z = \sum F_z = 0$$

If the tangential force is constant, you can apply what you know about constant-acceleration kinematics to solve for $v_t$ at a later time.

> **Note**
>
> Equations 8.22 differ from Equations 8.7 for uniform circular motion only in the fact that $a_t$ is no longer zero.

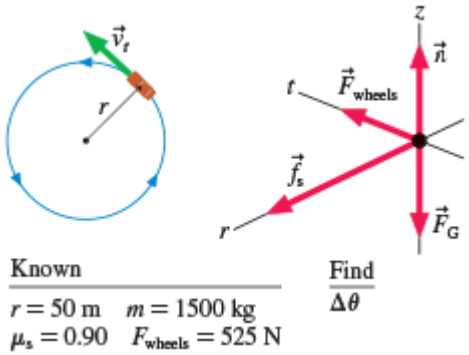
**Example 8.6 Sliding out of the curve**

A 1500 kg car drives around a flat, 50-m-diameter track, starting from rest. The drive wheels supply a small but steady 525 N force in the forward direction. The coefficient of static friction between the car tires and the road is 0.90. How many revolutions of the track have been made when the car slides out of the curve?

**MODEL** Model the car as a particle in nonuniform circular motion. Assume that rolling friction and air resistance can be neglected.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 8.17 shows a pictorial representation. As in earlier examples, it's static friction, perpendicular to the tires, that causes the centripetal acceleration of circular motion. The propulsion force is a tangential force. For the first time, we need a free-body diagram showing forces in three dimensions.

## Figure 8.17




Pictorial representation of a car speeding up around a circle.

**SOLVE** At slow speeds, static friction in the radial direction keeps the car moving in a circle. But there's an upper limit to the size of the static friction force, and the car will begin to slide out of the curve when that limit is reached. The $r$-component of Newton's second law is

$$\sum F_r = f_s = \frac{mv_t^2}{r}$$

That is, static friction increases proportional to $v_t^2$ until the car reaches a velocity $v_{max}$ at which the static friction is $f_{s\,max}$.

Recall that the maximum possible static friction is $f_{\mathrm{s\,max}} = \mu_\mathrm{s} n$. We can find the normal force from the $z$-component of Newton's second law:

$$\sum F_z = n - F_\mathrm{G} = 0$$

Thus $n = F_\mathrm{G} = mg$ and $f_{\mathrm{s\,max}} = \mu_\mathrm{s} mg$. Combining these two equations, we see that the mass cancels and we have

$${v_\mathrm{max}}^2 = \mu_\mathrm{s} rg$$

How far does the car have to travel to reach this speed? We can find the car's tangential acceleration from the $t$-component of the second law: $a_t = F_\mathrm{wheels}/m$. This is a constant acceleration, so we can use constant-acceleration kinematics. Let $s$ measure the distance around the circle—the arc length. Thus, because the initial velocity is $v_0 = 0$, we have

$${v_t}^2 = v_0^2 + 2a_s s = 2a_s s = \frac{2sF_\mathrm{wheels}}{m}$$

You'll recall that the angular displacement, measured in radians, is $\Delta\theta = s/r$. So when the car reaches velocity $v_t$, it has revolved through an angle

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{s}{r} = \frac{m{v_t}^2}{2rF_\mathrm{wheels}}$$

Using the maximum speed before sliding, we find that the car slides out of the curve after revolving through an angle

$$\Delta\theta_\mathrm{max} = \frac{m{v_\mathrm{max}}^2}{2rF_\mathrm{wheels}} = \frac{m}{2rF_\mathrm{wheels}} \times \mu_\mathrm{s} rg = \frac{\mu_\mathrm{s} mg}{2F_\mathrm{wheels}}$$

For the car in this problem,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\theta_{\max} &= \frac{(0.09)(1500\text{ kg})(9.80\text{m/s}^2)}{2\,(525\text{ N})} \\ &= 12.6\text{ rad} \times \frac{1\text{ rev}}{2\pi\text{ rad}} = 2.0\text{ rev}\end{aligned}$$

It completes 2.0 revolutions before it starts to slide.

**ASSESS** A 525 N force on a 1500 kg car causes a tangential acceleration of $a_t \approx 0.3\text{m/s}^2$. That's a quite modest acceleration, so it seems reasonable that the car would complete 2 rev before gaining enough speed to start sliding.

We've come a long way since our first dynamics problems in Chapter 6, but our basic strategy has not changed.

### PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 8.1 Circular-motion problems

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the object as a particle and make other simplifying assumptions.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation. Use *rtz*-coordinates.



- Establish a coordinate system with the *r*-axis pointing toward the center of the circle.
- Show important points in the motion on a sketch. Define symbols and identify what the problem is trying to find.
- Identify the forces and show them on a free-body diagram.

**SOLVE** Newton's second law is

$$(F_{\text{net}})_r = \sum F_r = ma_r = \frac{mv_t^2}{r} = m\omega^2 r$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = \sum F_t = ma_t$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_z = \sum F_z = 0$$

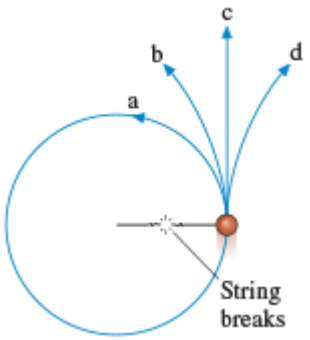
- Determine the force components from the free-body diagram. Be careful with signs.
- The tangential acceleration for uniform circular motion is $a_t = 0$.
- Solve for the acceleration, then use kinematics to find velocities and positions.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has the correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 11

## Stop to Think 8.4

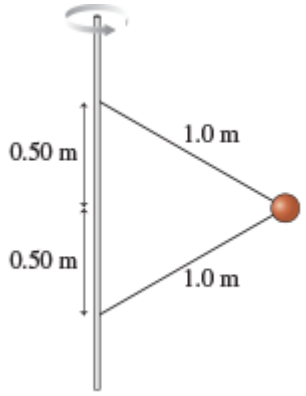
A ball on a string is swung in a vertical circle. The string happens to break when it is parallel to the ground and the ball is moving up. Which trajectory does the ball follow?



## Challenge Example 8.7 Swinging on two strings

The 250 g ball shown in Figure 8.18 revolves in a horizontal plane as the vertical shaft spins. What is the critical angular speed, in rpm, that the shaft must exceed to keep both strings taut?

### Figure 8.18

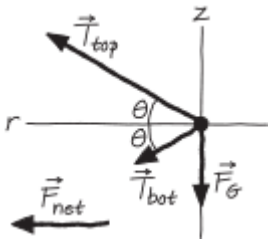



A ball revolving on two strings.

**MODEL** Model the ball as a particle in uniform circular motion. For both strings to be straight, as shown, both must be under tension. If the angular speed is slowly decreased, eventually the lower string will go slack and the ball will sag. The critical angular speed $\omega_c$ is the angular speed at which the tension in the lower string reaches zero. We need to find an expression for the tension in the lower string, then determine when that tension becomes zero.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 8.19 is the ball's free-body diagram with the $r$-axis pointing toward the center of the circle. The ball is acted on by two tension forces, at equal angles above and below horizontal, and by gravity. The free-body diagram is similar to Example 8.5, the rock in the sling, but with an additional tension force.

## Figure 8.19




Free-body diagram of the ball.

**SOLVE** This is uniform circular motion, so we need to consider only the *r*- and *z*-components of Newton's second law. All the information is on the free-body diagram, where we see that gravity has only a *z*-component but the tensions have both *r*- and *z*-components. The two equations are

$$\sum F_r = T_{\text{top}} \cos\theta + T_{\text{bot}} \cos\theta = m\omega^2 r$$
$$\sum F_z = T_{\text{top}} \sin\theta - T_{\text{bot}} \sin\theta - mg = 0$$

Factoring out the cos$\theta$ and sin$\theta$ terms, we have two simultaneous equations:

$$T_{\text{top}} + T_{\text{bot}} = \frac{m\omega^2 r}{\cos\theta}$$
$$T_{\text{top}} - T_{\text{bot}} = \frac{mg}{\sin\theta}$$

Subtracting the second equation from the first will eliminate $T_{\text{top}}$:

$$2T_{\text{bot}} = \frac{m\omega^2 r}{\cos\theta} - \frac{mg}{\sin\theta}$$

and thus

$$T_{\text{bot}} = \frac{m}{2}\left(\frac{\omega^2 r}{\cos\theta} - \frac{g}{\sin\theta}\right)$$

You can see that this expression becomes negative—a physically impossible situation—if $\omega$ is too small. The angular speed at which the tension reaches zero—the critical angular speed—is found by setting the expression in parentheses equal to zero. This gives

$$\omega_c = \sqrt{\frac{g}{r \tan \theta}}$$

For our situation,

$$r = \sqrt{(1.0\ \text{m})^2 - (0.05\ \text{m})^2} = 0.866\ \text{m}$$
$$\theta = \sin^{-1}\left[(0.50\ \text{m}) / (1.0\ \text{m})\right] = 30^\circ$$

Thus the critical angular speed is

$$\omega_c = \sqrt{\frac{9.80\ \text{m/s}^2}{(0.866\ \text{m}) \tan\ 30^\circ}} = 4.40\ \text{rad/s}$$

Converting to rpm:

$$\omega_c = 4.40\,\text{rad/s} \times \frac{1\ \text{rev}}{2\pi\ \text{rad}} \times \frac{60\,\text{s}}{1\,\text{min}} = 42\,\text{rpm}$$

**ASSESS** $\omega_c$ is the *minimum* angular speed needed to keep both strings taut. For a ball attached to meter-long strings, 42 rpm—a bit less than 1 revolution per second—seems plausible. Your intuition probably suggests that the bottom string wouldn't be taut if the shaft spun at only a few rpm, and hundreds of rpm seems much too high. Remember that the goal of Assess is not to prove that an answer is correct but to rule out answers that, with a little thought, are clearly wrong.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 8 has been to learn to solve problems about motion in two dimensions.

## General Principles

### Newton's Second Law

Expressed in $x$- and $y$-component form:

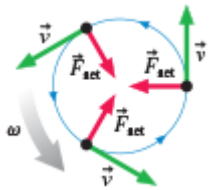
$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = \sum F_x = ma_x$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = \sum F_y = ma_y$$

Expressed in $rtz$-component form:

$$(F_{\text{net}})_r = \sum F_r = ma_r = \frac{mv_t^2}{r} = m\omega^2 r$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = \sum F_t = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{uniform circular motion} \\ ma_t & \text{nonuniform circular motion} \end{cases}$$
$$(F_{\text{net}})_z = \sum F_z = 0$$

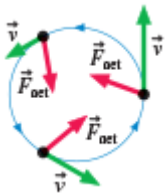
### Uniform Circular Motion

- Speed is constant.
- $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}}$ points toward the center of the circle.
- The **centripetal acceleration** $\overrightarrow{a}$ points toward the center of the circle. It changes the particle's direction but not its speed.



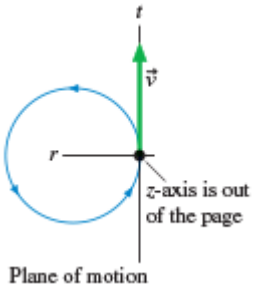

### Nonuniform Circular Motion

- Speed changes.
- $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}}$ and $\overrightarrow{a}$ have both radial and tangential components.
- The radial component changes the particle's direction.
- The tangential component changes the particle's speed.



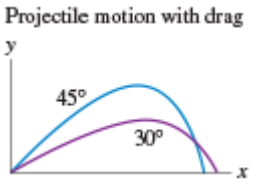

## Important Concepts

### *rtz*-coordinates




- The *r*-axis points toward the center of the circle.
- The *t*-axis is tangent, pointing counterclockwise.

### Projectile motion




- With no drag, the $x$- and $y$-components of acceleration are independent. The trajectory is a parabola.
- With drag, the trajectory is not a parabola. Maximum range is achieved for an angle less than 45°

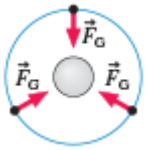
# Applications

## Orbits

An object acted on only by gravity has a circular orbit of radius $r$ if its speed is

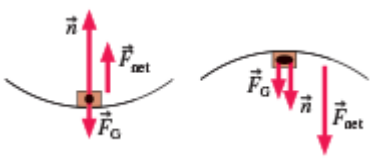
$$v = \sqrt{rg}$$

The object is in free fall.




## Circular motion on surfaces

Circular motion requires a net force pointing to the center. $n$ must be > 0 for the object to be in contact with a surface.



# Terms and Notation

*rtz*-coordinate system

central force

central-force model

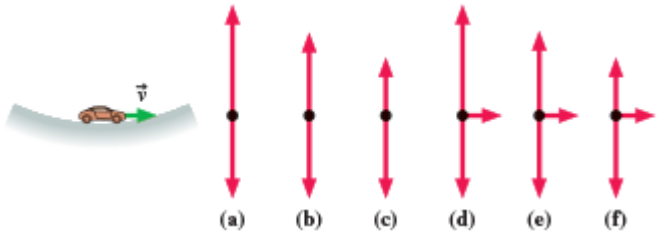
orbit

# Conceptual Questions



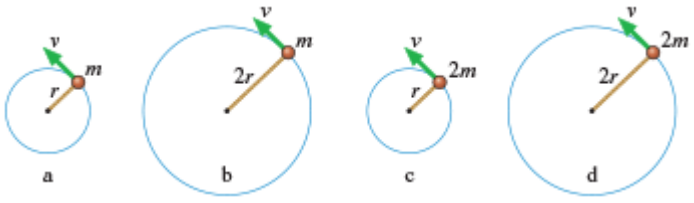
1. In uniform circular motion, which of the following are constant: speed, velocity, angular velocity, centripetal acceleration, magnitude of the net force?
2. A car runs out of gas while driving down a hill. It rolls through the valley and starts up the other side. At the very bottom of the valley, which of the free-body diagrams in Figure Q8.2 is correct? The car is moving to the right, and drag and rolling friction are negligible.

**Figure Q8.2**



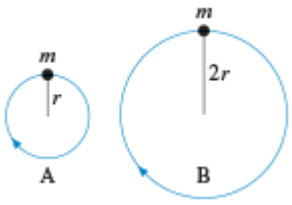

3. Figure Q8.3 is a bird's-eye view of particles on strings moving in horizontal circles on a tabletop. All are moving at the same speed. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the tensions $T_a$ to $T_d$. Give your answer in the form a > b = c > d and explain your ranking.

**Figure Q8.3**



4. Tarzan swings through the jungle on a massless vine. At the lowest point of his swing, is the tension in the vine greater than, less than, or equal to the gravitational force on Tarzan? Explain.
5. Figure Q8.5 shows two balls of equal mass moving in vertical circles. Is the tension in string A greater than, less than, or equal to the tension in string B if the balls travel over the top of the circle (a) with equal speed and (b) with equal angular velocity?

**Figure Q8.5**




6. Ramon and Sally are observing a toy car speed up as it goes around a circular track. Ramon says, "The car's speeding up, so there must be a net force parallel to the track." "I don't think so," replies Sally. "It's moving in a circle, and that requires centripetal acceleration. The net force has to point to the center of the circle." Do you agree with Ramon, Sally, or neither? Explain.
7. A jet plane is flying on a level course at constant speed. The engines are at full throttle.
    a. What is the net force on the plane? Explain.
    b. Draw a free-body diagram of the plane as seen from the side with the plane flying to the right. Name (don't just label) any and all forces shown on your diagram.
    c. Airplanes bank when they turn. Draw a free-body diagram of the plane as seen from behind as it makes a right turn.
    d. *Why* do planes bank as they turn? Explain.

8. A small projectile is launched parallel to the ground at height $h = 1$ m with sufficient speed to orbit a completely smooth, airless planet. A bug rides inside a small hole inside the projectile. Is the bug weightless? Explain.
9. You can swing a ball on a string in a vertical circle if you swing it fast enough. But if you swing too slowly, the string goes slack as the ball nears the top. Explain *why* there's a minimum speed to keep the ball moving in a circle.
10. A golfer starts with the club over her head and swings it to reach maximum speed as it contacts the ball. Halfway through her swing, when the golf club is parallel to the ground, does the acceleration vector of the club head point (a) straight down, (b) parallel to the ground, approximately toward the golfer's shoulders, (c) approximately toward the golfer's feet, or (d) toward a point above the golfer's head? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 8.1 Dynamics in Two Dimensions

1. •• As a science fair project, you want to launch an 800 g model rocket straight up and hit a horizontally moving target as it passes 30 m above the launch point. The rocket engine provides a constant thrust of 15.0 N. The target is approaching

at a speed of 15 m/s. At what horizontal distance between the target and the rocket should you launch?

**2.** •• A 500 g model rocket is on a cart that is rolling to the right at a speed of 3.0 m/s. The rocket engine, when it is fired, exerts an 8.0 N vertical thrust on the rocket. Your goal is to have the rocket pass through a small horizontal hoop that is 20 m above the ground. At what horizontal distance left of the hoop should you launch?



**3.** •• A $4.0 \times 10^{10}$ kg asteroid is heading directly toward the center of the earth at a steady 20 km/s. To save the planet, astronauts strap a giant rocket to the asteroid perpendicular to its direction of travel. The rocket generates $5.0 \times 10^9$ N of thrust. The rocket is fired when the asteroid is $4.0 \times 10^6$ km away from earth. You can ignore the earth's gravitational force on the asteroid and their rotation about the sun.

**a.** If the mission fails, how many hours is it until the asteroid impacts the earth?

**b.** The radius of the earth is 6400 km. By what minimum angle must the asteroid be deflected to just miss the earth?

**c.** What is the actual angle of deflection if the rocket fires at full thrust for 300 s before running out of fuel?

**4.** •• A 55 kg astronaut who weighs 180 N on a distant planet is pondering whether she can leap over a 3.5-m-wide chasm without falling in. If she leaps at a 15° angle, what initial speed does she need to clear the chasm?

## Section 8.2 Uniform Circular Motion

**5.** • A 1500 kg car drives around a flat 200-m-diameter circular track at 25 m/s. What are the magnitude and direction of the

net force on the car? What causes this force?

**6.** • A 1500 kg car takes a 50-m-radius unbanked curve at 15 m/s. What is the size of the friction force on the car?

**7.** •• A 200 g block on a 50-cm-long string swings in a circle on a horizontal, frictionless table at 75 rpm.

**a.** What is the speed of the block?

**b.** What is the tension in the string?

**8.** •• In the Bohr model of the hydrogen atom, an electron (mass $m = 9.1 \times 10^{-31}\,\text{kg}$) orbits a proton at a distance of $5.3 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{m}$. The proton pulls on the electron with an electric force of $8.2 \times 10^{-8}\,\text{N}$. How many revolutions per second does the electron make?

**9.** • Suppose the moon were held in its orbit not by gravity but by a massless cable attached to the center of the earth. What would be the tension in the cable? Use the table of astronomical data inside the back cover of the book.

**10.** •• A highway curve of radius 500 m is designed for traffic moving at a speed of 90 km/h. What is the correct banking angle of the road?

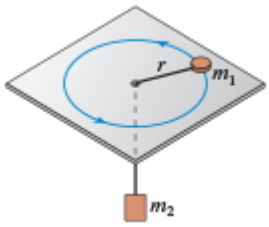
**11.** •• It is proposed that future space stations create an artificial gravity by rotating. Suppose a space station is constructed as a 1000-m-diameter cylinder that rotates about its axis. The inside surface is the deck of the space station. What rotation period will provide "normal" gravity?

**12.** •• A 5.0 g coin is placed 15 cm from the center of a turntable. The coin has static and kinetic coefficients of friction with the turntable surface of $\mu_\text{s} = 0.80$ and $\mu_\text{k} = 0.50$. The turntable very slowly speeds up to 60 rpm. Does the coin slide off?

**13.** •• **INT** Mass $m_1$ on the frictionless table of Figure EX8.13 is connected by a string through a hole in the table to a hanging

mass $m_2$. With what speed must $m_1$ rotate in a circle of radius $r$ if $m_2$ is to remain hanging at rest?

**Figure EX8.13**




## Section 8.3 Circular Orbits

**14.** • A satellite orbiting the moon very near the surface has a period of 110 min. What is free-fall acceleration on the surface of the moon?

**15.** •• What is free-fall acceleration toward the sun at the distance of the earth's orbit? Astronomical data are inside the back cover of the book.

**16.** •• A $9.4 \times 10^{21}$ kg moon orbits a distant planet in a circular orbit of radius $1.5 \times 10^{8}$ m. It experiences a $1.1 \times 10^{19}$ N gravitational pull from the planet. What is the moon's orbital period in earth days?

**17.** •• Communications satellites are placed in circular orbits where they stay directly over a fixed point on the equator as the earth rotates. These are called *geosynchronous orbits.* The altitude of a geosynchronous orbit is $3.58 \times 10^{7}$ m ( $\approx 22{,}000$ miles).

**a.** What is the period of a satellite in a geosynchronous orbit?

**b.** Find the value of $g$ at this altitude.

**c.** What is the weight of a 2000 kg satellite in a geosynchronous orbit?

## Section 8.4 Reasoning About Circular Motion

**18.** • A car drives over the top of a hill that has a radius of 50 m. What maximum speed can the car have at the top without flying off the road?

**19.** •• The weight of passengers on a roller coaster increases by 50% as the car goes through a dip with a 30 m radius of curvature. What is the car's speed at the bottom of the dip?

**20.** •• A roller coaster car crosses the top of a circular loop-the-loop at twice the critical speed. What is the ratio of the normal force to the gravitational force?

**21.** •• The normal force equals the magnitude of the gravitational force as a roller coaster car crosses the top of a 40-m-diameter loop-the-loop. What is the car's speed at the top?

**22.** •• A student has 65-cm-long arms. What is the minimum angular velocity (in rpm) for swinging a bucket of water in a vertical circle without spilling any? The distance from the handle to the bottom of the bucket is 35 cm.

**23.** • While at the county fair, you decide to ride the Ferris wheel. Having eaten too many candy apples and elephant ears, you find the motion somewhat unpleasant. To take your mind off your stomach, you wonder about the motion of the ride. You estimate the radius of the big wheel to be 15 m, and you use your watch to find that each loop around takes 25 s.



**a.** What are your speed and the magnitude of your acceleration?

**b.** What is the ratio of your weight at the top of the ride to your weight while standing on the ground?

**c.** What is the ratio of your weight at the bottom of the ride to your weight while standing on the ground?

**24.** •• A 500 g ball swings in a vertical circle at the end of a 1.5-m-long string. When the ball is at the bottom of the circle, the tension in the string is 15 N. What is the speed of the ball at that point?

**25.** •• A 500 g ball moves in a vertical circle on a 102-cm-long string. If the speed at the top is 4.0 m/s, then the speed at the bottom will be 7.5 m/s. (You'll learn how to show this in Chapter 10.)

**a.** What is the gravitational force acting on the ball?

**b.** What is the tension in the string when the ball is at the top?

**c.** What is the tension in the string when the ball is at the bottom?

**26.** •• A heavy ball with a weight of 100 N ($m = 10.2\,\text{kg}$) is hung from the ceiling of a lecture hall on a 4.5-m-long rope. The ball is pulled to one side and released to swing as a pendulum, reaching a speed of 5.5 m/s as it passes through the lowest point. What is the tension in the rope at that point?

## Section 8.5 Nonuniform Circular Motion

**27.** •• A toy train rolls around a horizontal 1.0-m-diameter track. The coefficient of rolling friction is 0.10. How long does it take the train to stop if it's released with an angular speed of 30 rpm?

**28.** •• A new car is tested on a 200-m-diameter track. If the car speeds up at a steady 1.5 m/s$^2$, how long after starting is the magnitude of its centripetal acceleration equal to the tangential acceleration?

**29.** •• An 85,000 kg stunt plane performs a loop-the-loop, flying in a 260-m-diameter vertical circle. At the point where the plane

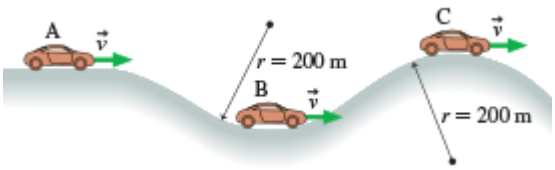
is flying straight down, its speed is 55 m/s and it is speeding up at a rate of 12 m/s per second.

**a.** What is the magnitude of the net force on the plane? You can neglect air resistance.

**b.** What angle does the net force make with the horizontal? Let an angle above horizontal be positive and an angle below horizontal be negative.

**30.** •• Three cars are driving at 25 m/s along the road shown in Figure Ex8.30. Car B is at the bottom of a hill and car C is at the top. Both hills have a 200 m radius of curvature. Suppose each car suddenly brakes hard and starts to skid. What is the tangential acceleration (i.e., the acceleration parallel to the road) of each car? Assume $\mu_k = 1.0$.

**Figure EX8.30**




# Problems

**31.** •• Derive Equations 8.3 for the acceleration of a projectile subject to drag.

**32.** •• **CALC** A 100 g bead slides along a frictionless wire with the parabolic shape $y = (2\,\text{m}^{-1})x^2$.

**a.** Find an expression for $a_y$, the vertical component of acceleration, in terms of $x$, $v_x$, and $a_x$.

**Hint:** Use the basic definitions of velocity and acceleration.

**b.** Suppose the bead is released at some negative value of $x$ and has a speed of 2.3 m/s as it passes through the lowest point of the parabola. What is the net force on the bead at this instant? Write your answer in component form.

**33.** •• **INT** Space scientists have a large test chamber from which all the air can be evacuated and in which they can create a horizontal uniform electric field. The electric field exerts a constant horizontal force on a charged object. A 15 g charged projectile is launched with a speed of 6.0 m/s at an angle 35° above the horizontal. It lands 2.9 m in front of the launcher. What is the magnitude of the electric force on the projectile?

**34.** •• A 5000 kg interceptor rocket is launched at an angle of 44.7°. The thrust of the rocket motor is 140,700 N.

**a.** Find an equation $y(x)$ that describes the rocket's trajectory.

**b.** What is the shape of the trajectory?

**c.** At what elevation does the rocket reach the speed of sound, 330 m/s?

**35.** •• **INT** A motorcycle daredevil plans to ride up a 2.0-m-high, 20° ramp, sail across a 10-m-wide pool filled with hungry crocodiles, and land at ground level on the other side. He has done this stunt many times and approaches it with confidence. Unfortunately, the motorcycle engine dies just as he starts up the ramp. He is going 11 m/s at that instant, and the rolling friction of his rubber tires (coefficient 0.02) is not negligible. Does he survive, or does he become crocodile food? Justify your answer by calculating the distance he travels through the air after leaving the end of the ramp.

**36.** ••• A rocket-powered hockey puck has a thrust of 2.0 N and a total mass of 1.0 kg. It is released from rest on a frictionless table, 4.0 m from the edge of a 2.0 m drop. The front of the rocket is pointed directly toward the edge. How far does the puck land from the base of the table?

**37.** •• A 500 g model rocket is resting horizontally at the top edge of a 40-m-high wall when it is accidentally bumped. The bump pushes it off the edge with a horizontal speed of 0.5 m/s and at the same time causes the engine to ignite. When the engine fires, it exerts a constant 20 N horizontal thrust away from the wall.



**a.** How far from the base of the wall does the rocket land?

**b.** Describe the rocket's trajectory as it travels to the ground.

**38.** •• **CALC** A 2.0 kg projectile with initial velocity $\overrightarrow{v} = 8.0\,\hat{i}\ \text{m/s}$ experiences the variable force $\overrightarrow{F} = -2.0t\,\hat{i} + 4.0t^2\,\hat{j}\,\text{N}$, where $t$ is in s.

**a.** What is the projectile's speed at $t = 2.0\,\text{s}$?

**b.** At what instant of time is the projectile moving parallel to the $y$-axis?

**39.** •• A 75 kg man weighs himself at the north pole and at the equator. Which scale reading is higher? By how much? Assume the earth is spherical.

**40.** •• A concrete highway curve of radius 70 m is banked at a 15° angle. What is the maximum speed with which a 1500 kg rubber-tired car can take this curve without sliding?

**41.** ••

**a.** An object of mass $m$ swings in a horizontal circle on a string of length $L$ that tilts downward at angle $\theta$. Find an expression for the angular velocity $\omega$.

**b.** A student ties a 500 g rock to a 1.0-m-long string and swings it around her head in a horizontal circle. At what angular speed, in rpm, does the string tilt down at a 10° angle?

**42.** ••• You've taken your neighbor's young child to the carnival to ride the rides. She wants to ride The Rocket. Eight rocket-shaped cars hang by chains from the outside edge of a large steel disk. A vertical axle through the center of the ride turns the disk, causing the cars to revolve in a circle. You've just finished taking physics, so you decide to figure out the speed of the cars while you wait. You estimate that the disk is 5 m in diameter and the chains are 6 m long. The ride takes 10 s to reach full speed, then the cars swing out until the chains are 20° from vertical. What is the cars' speed?

**43.** •• **INT** A 4.4-cm-diameter, 24 g plastic ball is attached to a 1.2-m-long string and swung in a vertical circle. The ball's speed is 6.1 m/s at the point where it is moving straight up. What is the magnitude of the net force on the ball? Air resistance is not negligible.

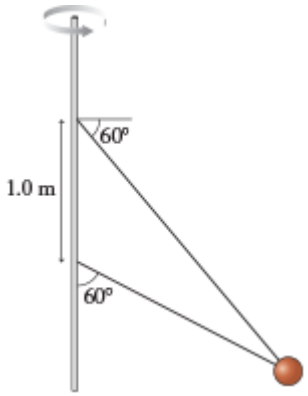
**44.** •• A charged particle of mass $m$ moving with speed $v$ in a plane perpendicular to a magnetic field experiences a force $\vec{F} = \left(qvB, \text{ perpendicular to } \vec{v}\right)$. where $q$ is the amount of charge and $B$ is the magnetic field strength. Because the force is always perpendicular to the particle's velocity, the particle undergoes uniform circular motion. Find an expression for the period of the motion. Gravity can be neglected.

**45.** ••• Two wires are tied to the 2.0 kg sphere shown in Figure P8.45. The sphere revolves in a horizontal circle at constant speed.

**a.** For what speed is the tension the same in both wires?

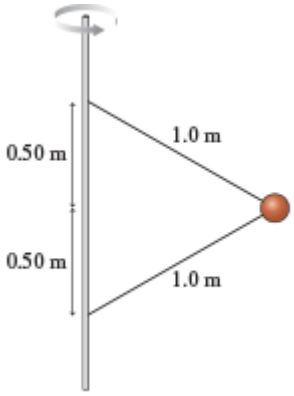
**b.** What is the tension?

**Figure P8.45**




**46.** ••• Two wires are tied to the 300 g sphere shown in Figure P8.46. The sphere revolves in a horizontal circle at a constant speed of 7.5 m/s. What is the tension in each of the wires?

**Figure P8.46**



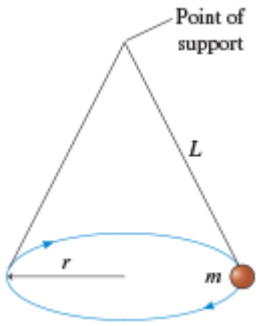

**47.** •• A conical pendulum is formed by attaching a ball of mass $m$ to a string of length $L$, then allowing the ball to move in a horizontal circle of radius $r$. Figure P8.47 shows that the string traces out the surface of a cone, hence the name.

**a.** Find an expression for the tension $T$ in the string.

**b.** Find an expression for the ball's angular speed $\omega$.

**c.** What are the tension and angular speed (in rpm) for a 500 g ball swinging in a 20-cm-radius circle at the end of a 1.0-m-long string?

**Figure P8.47**

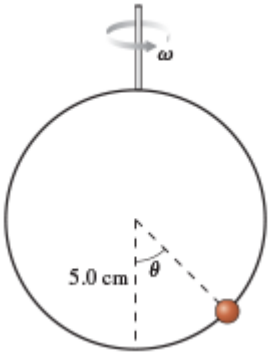



**48.** •• The 10 mg bead in Figure P8.48 is free to slide on a frictionless wire loop. The loop rotates about a vertical axis with angular velocity $\omega$. If $\omega$ is less than some critical value $\omega_c$, the bead sits at the bottom of the spinning loop. When $\omega > \omega_c$, the bead moves out to some angle $\theta$.

**a.** What is $\omega_c$ in rpm for the loop shown in the figure?

**b.** At what value of $\omega$, in rpm, is $\theta = 30^\circ$?

**Figure P8.48**




**49.** ••• In an old-fashioned amusement park ride, passengers stand inside a 5.0-m-diameter hollow steel cylinder with their

backs against the wall. The cylinder begins to rotate about a vertical axis. Then the floor on which the passengers are standing suddenly drops away! If all goes well, the passengers will "stick" to the wall and not slide. Clothing has a static coefficient of friction against steel in the range 0.60 to 1.0 and a kinetic coefficient in the range 0.40 to 0.70. A sign next to the entrance says "No children under 30 kg allowed." What is the minimum angular speed, in rpm, for which the ride is safe?

**50.** •• **BIO** The ultracentrifuge is an important tool for separating and analyzing proteins. Because of the enormous centripetal accelerations, the centrifuge must be carefully balanced, with each sample matched by a sample of identical mass on the opposite side. Any difference in the masses of opposing samples creates a net force on the shaft of the rotor, potentially leading to a catastrophic failure of the apparatus. Suppose a scientist makes a slight error in sample preparation and one sample has a mass 10 mg larger than the opposing sample. If the samples are 12 cm from the axis of the rotor and the ultracentrifuge spins at 70,000 rpm, what is the magnitude of the net force on the rotor due to the unbalanced samples?

**51.** •• In an amusement park ride called The Roundup, passengers stand inside a 16-m-diameter rotating ring. After the ring has acquired sufficient speed, it tilts into a vertical plane, as shown in Figure P8.51.

**a.** Suppose the ring rotates once every 4.5 s. If a rider's mass is 55 kg, with how much force does the ring push on her at the top of the ride? At the bottom?

**b.** What is the longest rotation period of the wheel that will prevent the riders from falling off at the top?

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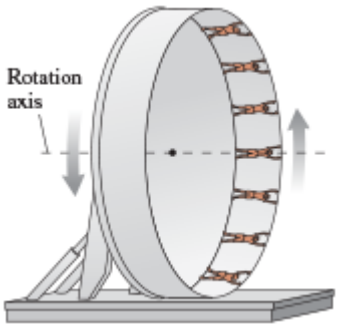
**Figure P8.51**




**52.** •• Suppose you swing a ball of mass $m$ in a vertical circle on a string of length $L$. As you probably know from experience, there is a minimum angular velocity $\omega_{\text{min}}$ you must maintain if you want the ball to complete the full circle without the string going slack at the top.

**a.** Find an expression for $\omega_{\text{min.}}$

**b.** Evaluate $\omega_{\text{min}}$ in rpm for a 65 g ball tied to a 1.0-m-long string.

**53.** •• A 30 g ball rolls around a 40-cm-diameter L-shaped track, shown in Figure P8.53, at 60 rpm. What is the magnitude of the *net* force that the track exerts on the ball? Rolling friction can be neglected.

**Hint:** The track exerts more than one force on the ball.

**Figure P8.53**

**54.** ••• Figure P8.54 shows a small block of mass $m$ sliding around the inside of an L-shaped track of radius $r$. The bottom of the track is frictionless; the coefficient of kinetic friction between the block and the wall of the track is $\mu_k$. The block's

speed is $v_0$ at $t_0 = 0$. Find an expression for the block's speed at a later time $t$.

**Figure P8.54**

**55.** •• **BIO** The physics of circular motion sets an upper limit to the speed of human walking. (If you need to go faster, your gait changes from a walk to a run.) If you take a few steps and watch what's happening, you'll see that your body pivots in circular motion over your forward foot as you bring your rear foot forward for the next step. As you do so, the normal force of the ground on your foot decreases and your body tries to "lift off" from the ground.

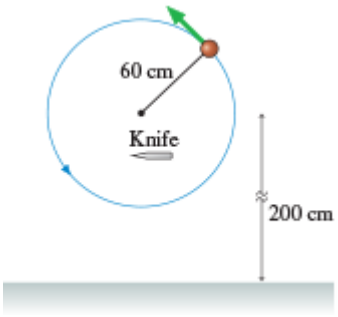
**a.** A person's center of mass is very near the hips, at the top of the legs. Model a person as a particle of mass $m$ at the top of a leg of length $L$. Find an expression for the person's maximum walking speed $v_{max}$.

**b.** Evaluate your expression for the maximum walking speed of a 70 kg person with a typical leg length of 70 cm. Give your answer in both m/s and mph, then comment, based on your experience, as to whether this is a reasonable result. A "normal" walking speed is about 3 mph.

**56.** •• **INT** A 100 g ball on a 60-cm-long string is swung in a vertical circle about a point 200 cm above the floor. The tension in the string when the ball is at the very bottom of the circle is 5.0 N. A very sharp knife is suddenly inserted, as shown in

Figure P8.56, to cut the string directly below the point of support. How far to the right of where the string was cut does the ball hit the floor?

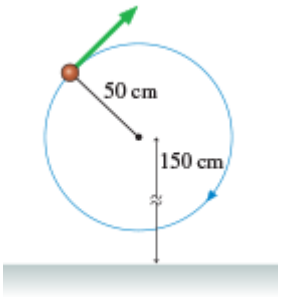
**Figure P8.56**




**57.** •• **INT** A 60 g ball is tied to the end of a 50-cm-long string and swung in a vertical circle. The center of the circle, as shown in Figure P8.57, is 150 cm above the floor. The ball is swung at the minimum speed necessary to make it over the top without the string going slack. If the string is released at the instant the ball is at the top of the loop, how far to the right does the ball hit the ground?



**Figure P8.57**




**58.** •• Elm Street has a pronounced dip at the bottom of a steep hill before going back uphill on the other side. Your science teacher has asked everyone in the class to measure the radius of curvature of the dip. Some of your classmates are using

surveying equipment, but you decide to base your measurement on what you've learned in physics. To do so, you sit on a spring scale, drive through the dip at different speeds, and for each speed record the scale's reading as you pass through the bottom of the dip. Your data are as follows:

| Speed (m/s) | Scale reading (N) |
|---|---|
| 5 | 599 |
| 10 | 625 |
| 15 | 674 |
| 20 | 756 |
| 25 | 834 |

Sitting on the scale while the car is parked gives a reading of 588 N. Analyze your data, using a graph, to determine the dip's radius of curvature.

**59.** •• **INT** A 100 g ball on a 60-cm-long string is swung in a vertical circle about a point 200 cm above the floor. The string suddenly breaks when it is parallel to the ground and the ball is moving upward. The ball reaches a height 600 cm above the floor. What was the tension in the string an instant before it broke?

**60.** •• **CALC** Scientists design a new particle accelerator in which protons (mass $1.7 \times 10^{-27}$ kg) follow a circular trajectory given by $\vec{r} = c\cos\left(kt^2\right)\hat{i} + c\sin\left(kt^2\right)\hat{j}$, where $c = 5.0\,\text{m}$ and $k = 8.0 \times 10^4\,\text{rad/s}^2$ are constants and $t$ is the elapsed time.

**a.** What is the radius of the circle?

**b.** What is the proton's speed at $t = 3.0\,\text{s}$?

**c.** What is the force on the proton at $t = 3.0\,\text{s}$? Give your answer in component form.

**61.** ••• A 1500 kg car starts from rest and drives around a flat 50-m-diameter circular track. The forward force provided by the

car's drive wheels is a constant 1000 N.

**a.** What are the magnitude and direction of the car's acceleration at $t = 10\,\text{s}$? Give the direction as an angle from the $r$-axis.

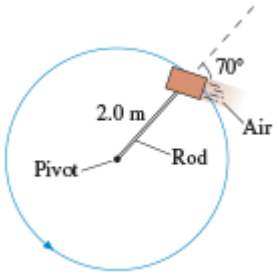
**b.** If the car has rubber tires and the track is concrete, at what time does the car begin to slide out of the circle?

**62.** ••• A 500 g steel block rotates on a steel table while attached to a 2.0-m-long massless rod. Compressed air fed through the rod is ejected from a nozzle on the back of the block, exerting a thrust force of 3.5 N. The nozzle is 70° from the radial line, as shown in Figure P8.62. The block starts from rest.

**a.** What is the block's angular velocity after 10 rev?

**b.** What is the tension in the rod after 10 rev?

**Figure P8.62**




**63.** ••• A 2.0 kg ball swings in a vertical circle on the end of an 80-cm-long string. The tension in the string is 20 N when its angle from the highest point on the circle is $\theta = 30°$.

**a.** What is the ball's speed when $\theta = 30°$?

**b.** What are the magnitude and direction of the ball's acceleration when $\theta = 30°$?

In Problems 64 and 65 you are given the equation used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation. Be sure that the answer your problem requests is consistent with the equation given.

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**64.** $60\,\text{N} = (0.30\,\text{kg})\omega^2(0.50\,\text{m})$

**65.** $(1500\,\text{kg})(9.8\,\text{m/s}^2) - 11{,}760\,\text{N} = (1500\,\text{kg})\ v^2/(200\ \text{m})$

## Challenge Problems

**66.** ••• Sam (75 kg) takes off up a 50-m-high, 10° frictionless slope on his jet-powered skis. The skis have a thrust of 200 N. He keeps his skis tilted at 10° after becoming airborne, as shown in Figure CP8.66. How far does Sam land from the base of the cliff?

**Figure CP8.66**

**67.** ••• **CALC** In the absence of air resistance, a projectile that lands at the elevation from which it was launched achieves maximum range when launched at a 45° angle. Suppose a projectile of mass $m$ is launched with speed $v_0$ into a headwind that exerts a constant, horizontal retarding force $\vec{F}_{\text{wind}} = -F_{\text{wind}}\hat{i}$.

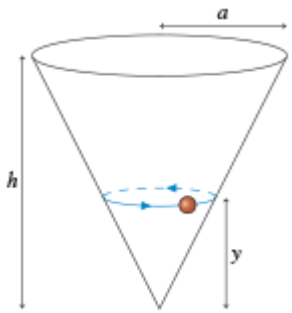
**a.** Find an expression for the angle at which the range is maximum.

**b.** By what percentage is the maximum range of a 0.50 kg ball reduced if $F_{\text{wind}} = 0.60\,\text{N}$?

**68.** ••• The father of Example 8.2 stands at the summit of a conical hill as he spins his 20 kg child around on a 5.0 kg cart with a 2.0-m-long rope. The sides of the hill are inclined at 20°. He again keeps the rope parallel to the ground, and friction is negligible. What rope tension will allow the cart to spin with the same 14 rpm it had in the example?

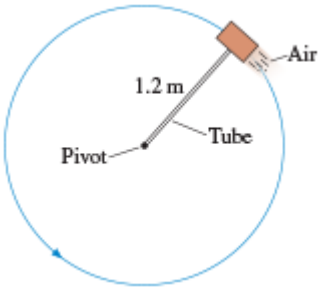
**69.** ••• A small bead slides around a horizontal circle at height $y$ inside the cone shown in Figure CP8.69. Find an expression for the bead's speed in terms of $a$, $h$, $y$, and $g$.

**Figure CP8.69**




**70.** ••• A 500 g steel block rotates on a steel table while attached to a 1.2-m-long hollow tube as shown in Figure CP8.70. Compressed air fed through the tube and ejected from a nozzle on the back of the block exerts a thrust force of 4.0 N perpendicular to the tube. The maximum tension the tube can withstand without breaking is 50 N. If the block starts from rest, how many revolutions does it make before the tube breaks?

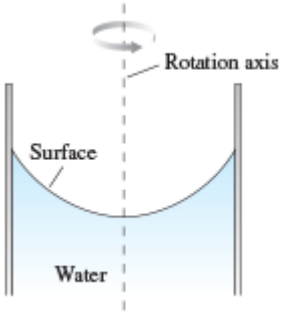
**Figure CP8.70**




**71.** ••• If a vertical cylinder of water (or any other liquid) rotates about its axis, as shown in Figure CP8.71, the surface forms a smooth curve. Assuming that the water rotates as a unit (i.e., all the water rotates with the same angular velocity), show that the shape of the surface is a parabola described by the equation $z = (\omega^2/2g)r^2$.

**Hint:** Each particle of water on the surface is subject to only two forces: gravity and the normal force due to the water underneath it. The normal force, as always, acts perpendicular to the surface.

**Figure CP8.71**



# Knowledge Structure Part I: Newton's Laws

## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part I?

- **Kinematics** is the description of motion. Motion can be described
  - Visually
  - Graphically
  - Mathematically
- **Forces** cause objects to *change* their motion—that is, to accelerate.
- Objects **interact** by exerting equal but opposite forces on each other.

## Laws: What laws of physics govern motion?

**Newton's first law**

An object will remain at rest or will continue to move with constant velocity if and only if $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}} = \overrightarrow{0}$. The object is in **mechanical equilibrium.**

**Newton's second law**

$\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}} = m\overrightarrow{a}$ A net force on an object causes the object to accelerate.

**Newton's third law**

$\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{A on B}} = -\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{B on A}}$ For every action, there is an equal but opposite

reaction.

# Models: What are the most common models for applying the laws of physics to moving objects?

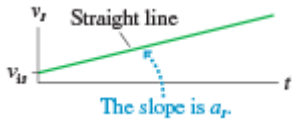
## Constant force/Uniform acceleration

- Model the object as a particle.
  - Acceleration is in the direction of the net force and is constant.
- Mathematically:
  - Newton's second law is

$$\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum_i \overrightarrow{F}_i = m\overrightarrow{a}$$

  - Use *xy*-coordinates.
  - Constant-acceleration kinematics:

$$v_{fs} = v_{is} + a_s \Delta t$$
$$s_f = s_i + v_{is}\Delta t + \tfrac{1}{2} a_s (\Delta t)^2$$
$$v_{fs}{}^2 = v_{is}{}^2 + 2a_s \Delta s$$



- Special cases:
  - **Uniform motion:** $a_s = 0$. The displacement graph is a straight line with slope $v_s$.
  - **Projectile motion:** The only force is gravity. Horizontal motion is uniform; vertical motion has constant $a_y = -g$.

## Central force/Uniform circular motion

- Model the object as a particle.
  - The force causes a constant centripetal acceleration. The particle moves around a circle at constant speed and with constant angular velocity.
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  - Use *rtz*-coordinates.
  - Uniform-circular-motion kinematics:
    - The tangential velocity is $v_t = \omega r$.
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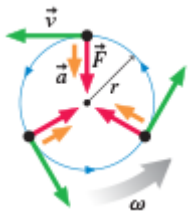
    - $\omega$ and $v_t$ are positive for a ccw rotation, negative for a cw rotation.



- General case: **Accelerated circular/rotational motion.** Angular acceleration is contant.

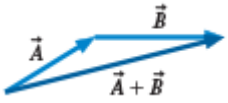
$$\omega_f = \omega_i + \alpha \Delta t$$
$$\theta_f = \theta_i + \omega_i \Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\alpha (\Delta t)^2$$
$$\omega_f^2 = \omega_i^2 + 2\alpha\, \Delta\theta$$

  These equations are analogous to constant-acceleration kinematics.

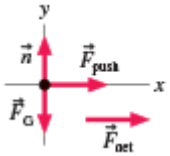
## Tools: What are the most important tools for analyzing the physics of motion?

- The particle model and motion diagrams

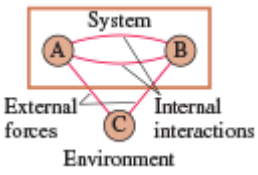
- Vectors




- Free-body diagrams




- Interaction diagrams



- Calculus and graphical analysis

  $v_s = ds/dt =$ slope of the position graph

  $a_s = dv_s/dt =$ slope of the velocity graph

  $v_{\mathrm{f}s} = v_{\mathrm{i}s} + \int_{t_\mathrm{i}}^{t_\mathrm{f}} a_s \, dt = v_{\mathrm{i}s} +$ area under acceleration curve

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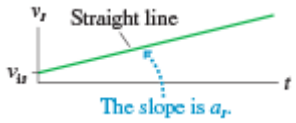

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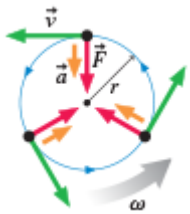

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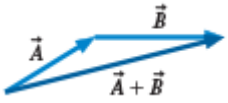


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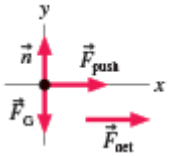


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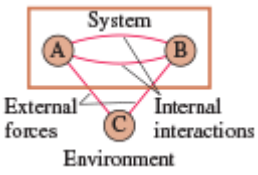

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# Part II: Conservation Laws

Energy is the lifeblood of modern society. These photovoltaic panels transform solar energy into electrical energy and, unavoidably, increased thermal energy.

# Overview

## Why Some Things Don't Change

Part I of this textbook was about *change*. One particular type of change —motion—is governed by Newton's second law. Although Newton's second law is a very powerful statement, it isn't the whole story. Part II will now focus on things that *stay the same* as other things around them change.

Consider, for example, an explosive chemical reaction taking place inside a closed, sealed box. No matter how violent the explosion, the total mass of the products—the final mass $M_f$—is the same as the initial mass $M_i$ of the reactants. In other words, matter cannot be created or destroyed, only rearranged. This is an important and powerful statement about nature.

A quantity that stays the same throughout an interaction is said to be *conserved*. The most important such quantity is *energy*. If a system of interacting objects is *isolated*—an important qualification—then the energy of the system never changes no matter how complex the interactions. This description of how nature behaves, called the *law of conservation of energy*, is perhaps the most important physical law ever discovered.

But what is energy? How do you determine the energy of a system? These are not easy questions. Energy is an abstract idea, not as tangible or easy to picture as mass or force. Our modern concept of energy wasn't fully formulated until the middle of the 19th century, two hundred years after Newton, when the relationship between *energy* and *heat* was finally understood. That is a topic we will take up in Part V, where the concept of energy will be found to be the basis of thermodynamics. But all that in

due time. In Part II we will be content to introduce the concept of energy and show how energy can be a useful problem-solving tool. We'll also meet another quantity—*momentum*—that is conserved under the proper circumstances.

Conservation laws give us a new and different perspective on motion. This is not insignificant. You've seen optical illusions where a figure appears first one way, then another, even though the information has not changed. Likewise with motion. Some situations are most easily analyzed from the perspective of Newton's laws; others make more sense from a conservation-law perspective. An important goal of Part II is to learn which is better for a given problem.

# Chapter 9
# Work and Kinetic Energy

The bow may be very contemporary, but it's still the bow string doing work on the arrow that makes the arrow fly.

**In This Chapter**

you will begin your study of how energy is transferred and transformed.

## How should we think about energy?

Chapters 9 and 10 will develop the basic energy model, a powerful set of ideas for using energy. A key distinction is between the system, which has energy, and the environment. Energy can be transferred between the system and the environment or transformed within the system.

Looking Back Section 7.1 Interacting objects

## What are some important forms of energy?

Three important forms of energy:

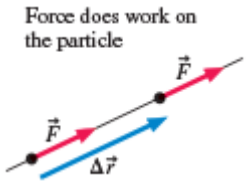
- Potential energy is energy associated with an object's *position*.
- Kinetic energy is energy associated with an object's *motion*.
- Thermal energy is the energy of the random motion of *atoms* within an object.

Energy is measured in joules.

## What is work?

A process that *changes* the energy of a system by mechanical means—pushing or pulling on it—is called work.

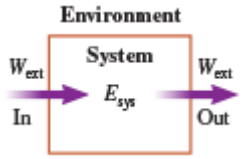
Work *W* is done when a force pushes or pulls a particle through a displacement, thus changing the particle's kinetic energy.




## What laws govern energy?

Working with energy is very much like accounting: A system's energy *E* changes by the amount of work done on the system. The mathematical statement of this idea is called the energy principle:

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$




## What is power?

Power is the rate at which energy is transferred or transformed. For machines, power is the rate at which they do work. For electricity, power is the rate at which electric energy is transformed into heat, sound, or light. Power is measured in watts, where 1 watt is a rate of 1 joule per second.

## Why is energy important?

Energy is one of the most important concepts in science, engineering, and society. Some would say it is *the* most important. All life depends on energy, transformed from solar

energy to chemical energy to us. Society depends on energy, from industry and transportation to heating and cooling our buildings. Using energy wisely and efficiently is a key concern of the 21st century.

# 9.1 Energy Overview



**Energy.** It's a word you hear all the time, and everyone has some sense of what *energy* means. Moving objects have energy; energy is the ability to make things happen; energy is associated with heat and with electricity; we're constantly told to conserve energy; living organisms need energy; and engineers harness energy to do useful things. Some scientists consider the *law of conservation of energy* to be the most important of all the laws of nature. But all that in due time—first we have to start with the basic ideas.

Just what is energy? The concept of energy has grown and changed with time, and it is not easy to define in a general way just what energy is. Rather than starting with a formal definition, we're going to let the concept of energy expand slowly over the course of several chapters. Our goal is to understand the characteristics of energy, how energy is used, and how energy is transformed from one form into another. It's a complex story, so we'll take it step by step until all the pieces are in place.

**Some important forms of energy**

**Kinetic energy $K$**

Kinetic energy is the energy of motion. All moving objects have kinetic energy. The more massive an object or the faster it moves, the larger its kinetic energy.

**Potential energy $U$**

Potential energy is stored energy associated with an object's position. The roller coaster's gravitational potential energy depends on its height above the ground.

**Thermal energy $E_{th}$**

Thermal energy is the sum of the microscopic kinetic and potential energies of all the atoms and bonds that make up the object. An object has more thermal energy when hot than when cold.

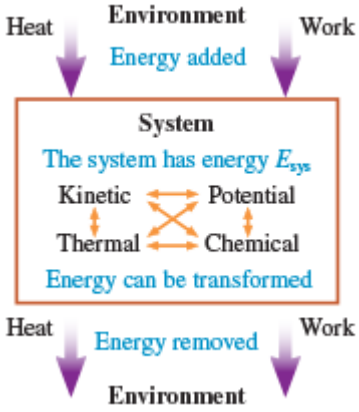
# The Energy Principle

Section 7.1 introduced *interaction diagrams* and the very important distinction between the **system,** those objects whose motion and interactions we wish to analyze, and the **environment,** objects external to the system but exerting forces on the system. The most important step in an energy analysis is to clearly define the system. Why? Because energy is not some disembodied, ethereal substance; it's the energy *of something*. Specifically, it's *the energy of a system*.

Figure 9.1 illustrates the idea pictorially. The system *has energy*, the **system energy,** which we'll designate $E_{sys}$. There are many kinds or forms of energy: kinetic energy $K$, potential energy $U$, thermal energy $E_{th}$, chemical energy, and so on. We'll introduce these one by one as we go along. Within the system, energy can be *transformed without loss*. Chemical energy can be transformed into kinetic energy, which is then transformed into thermal energy. As long as the system is not interacting with the environment, the total energy of the system is unchanged. You'll recognize this idea as an initial statement of the *law of conservation of energy*.

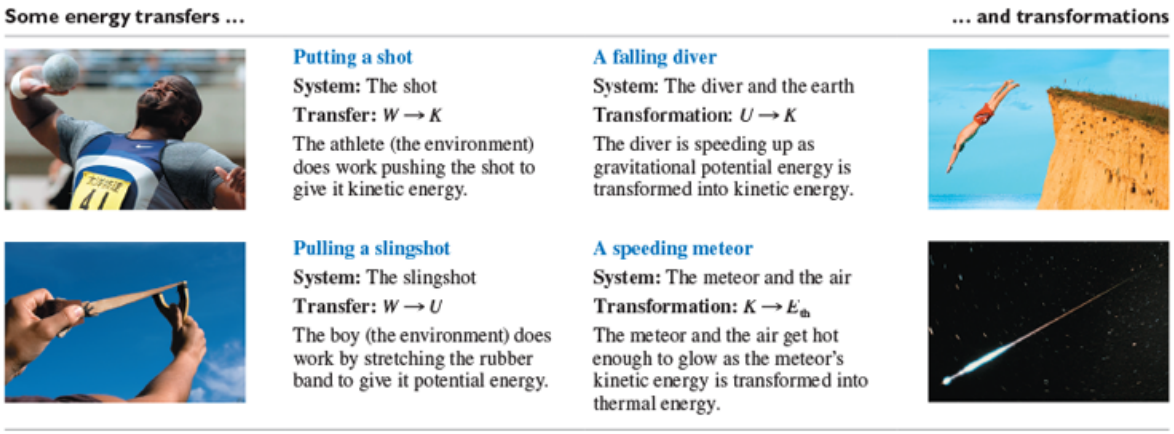


## Figure 9.1




A system-environment perspective on energy.

But systems often do interact with their environment. Those interactions *change* the energy of the system, either increasing it (energy added) or decreasing it (energy removed). We say that interactions with the environment *transfer* energy into or out of the system. Interestingly, there are only two ways to transfer energy. One is by mechanical means, using forces to push and pull on the system. A process that transfers energy to or from a system by mechanical means is called **work,** with the symbol *W*. We'll have a lot to say about work in this chapter. The second is by thermal means when the environment is hotter or colder than the system. A process that transfers energy to or from a system by thermal means is called **heat.** We'll defer a discussion of heat until Chapter 18, but we wanted to mention it now in order to gain an overview of what the energy story is all about.




The key ideas are **energy transfer** between the environment and the system and **energy transformation** within the system. This is much like what happens with money. You may have several accounts at the bank—perhaps a checking account and a couple of savings accounts. You can move money back and forth between the accounts, thus transforming it without changing the total amount of money. Of course, you can also transfer money into or out of your accounts by making deposits or

withdrawals. If we treat a withdrawal as a negative deposit—which is exactly what accountants do—simple accounting tells you that

$$\Delta\,(\text{balance}) = \text{net deposit}$$

That is, the change in your bank balance is simply the sum of all your deposits.

Energy accounting works the same way. Transformations of energy within the system move the energy around but don't change the total energy of the system. *Change* occurs only when there's a transfer of energy between the system and the environment. If we treat incoming energy as a positive transfer and outgoing energy as a negative transfer, and with work being the only energy-transfer process that we consider for now, we can write

**(9.1)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

where the subscript on *W* refers to external work done by the environment. This very simple looking statement, which is just a statement of energy accounting, is called the **energy principle.** But don't let the simplicity fool you; this will turn out to be an incredibly powerful tool for analyzing physical situations and solving problems.

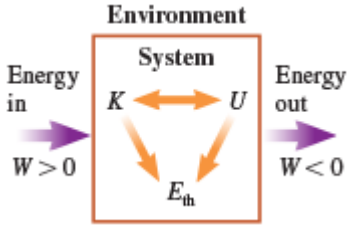
## The Basic Energy Model

We'll complete our energy overview—a roadmap of the next two chapters—with the **basic energy model.**

MODEL 9.1 **Basic energy model**

Energy is a property of the system.

- Energy is *transformed* within the system without loss.
- Energy is *transferred* to and from the system by forces from the environment.
  - The forces do *work* on the system.
  - $W > 0$ for energy added.
  - $W < 0$ for energy removed.
- The energy of an *isolated system*—one that doesn't interact with its environment—does not change. We say it is *conserved*.
- The energy principle is $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W_{\text{ext}}$.
- Limitations: Model fails if there is energy transfer via thermal processes (heat).




Workbook Exercise 1

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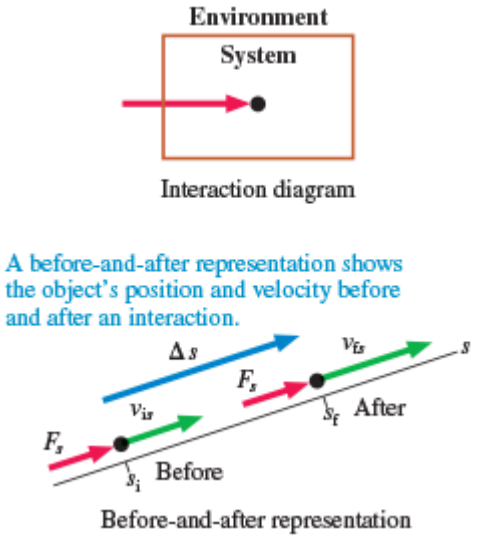
We call this model *basic* because, for now, the only forms of energy we'll consider are kinetic energy, potential energy, and thermal energy, and the only energy-transfer process we'll consider is work. This is an excellent model for a mechanical process, but it's not complete. We'll expand the model when we get to thermodynamics by adding chemical energy, another form of energy, and heat, another energy-transfer process. And this model, although basic, still has many complexities, so we'll be developing it piece by piece in this chapter and the next.

# 9.2 Work and Kinetic Energy for a Single Particle



Let's start our investigation of energy with the simplest possible situation: One particle of mass $m$ is acted on by one constant force $\vec{F}$ that acts parallel to the direction of motion, pushing or pulling on the particle as it undergoes a displacement $\Delta s$. We define the particle to be the system—a one-particle system—while the agent of the force is in the environment. Figure 9.2 shows both an interaction diagram and a new kind of pictorial representation, a **before-and-after representation,** in which we show an object *before* and *after* an interaction and, as usual, establish a coordinate system and define appropriate symbols.

## Figure 9.2




The interaction diagram and before-and-after representation for a one-particle system.

You know what's going to happen. If the force is in the direction of motion—the situation shown in the figure—the particle will speed up and

its “energy of motion” will increase. Conversely, if the force opposes the motion, the particle will slow down and lose energy. Our goal is to make this idea precise by discovering exactly how the changing energy is related to the applied force.

We’ll start by writing Newton’s second law for the particle:

**(9.2)**

$$F_s = ma_s = m\frac{dv_s}{dt}$$

Newton’s second law tells us how the particle’s velocity changes with time. But suppose we want to know how the velocity changes with position. To answer that question, we can use the chain rule that you’ve learned in calculus:

**(9.3)**

$$\frac{dv_s}{dt} = \frac{dv_s}{ds}\frac{ds}{dt} = v_s\frac{dv_s}{ds}$$

where in the last step we used $ds/dt = v_s$. With this, we can write Newton’s second law as

**(9.4)**

$$F_s = mv_s\frac{dv_s}{ds}$$

Now we have an alternative version of Newton’s second law in terms of the rate of change of velocity with position.

To use Equation 9.4, we first rewrite it as

**(9.5)**

$$mv_s\,dv_s = F_s\,ds$$

Now we can integrate. This is going to be a definite integral over just the motion shown in the before-and-after representation. That is, the right side will be an integral over position $s$ from the initial position $s_\mathrm{i}$ to the final position $s_\mathrm{f}$. The left side will be an integral over velocity $v_\mathrm{s}$, and its limits have to match the limits of the right-hand integral: from $v_{is}$ at $s_\mathrm{i}$ to $v_{fs}$ at $s_\mathrm{f}$. Thus we have

**(9.6)**

$$\int_{v_{is}}^{v_{fs}} mv_s\,dv_s = \int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} F_s\,ds$$

We have two integrals to examine, and we'll do them one by one. We can start with the integral on the left, which is of the form $\int x\,dx$. Factoring out $m$, which is a constant, we find

**(9.7)**

$$m\int_{v_{is}}^{v_{fs}} v_s\,dv_s = m\left[\tfrac{1}{2}{v_s}^2\right]_{v_{is}}^{v_{fs}} = \tfrac{1}{2}m{v_{fs}}^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}m{v_{is}}^2 = \Delta\left(\tfrac{1}{2}mv^2\right) = \Delta K$$

You'll notice that we dropped the subscript $s$ in the next-to-last step. $v_s$ is a vector component, with a sign to indicate direction, but the sign makes no difference after $v_s$ is squared. All that matters is the particle's *speed* $v$.

The last step in Equation 9.7 introduces a new quantity

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**(9.8)**

$$K = \tfrac{1}{2}mv^2 \qquad \text{(kinetic energy)}$$

which is called the **kinetic energy** of the particle. **Kinetic energy is energy of motion.** It depends on the particle's mass and speed but not on its position. Furthermore, kinetic energy is a property or characteristic of the system. So what we've calculated with the left-hand integral is $\Delta K = K_\mathrm{f} - K_\mathrm{i}$, the *change* in the system's kinetic energy as the force pushes the particle through the displacement $\Delta s$. $\Delta K$ is positive if the particle speeds up (gain of kinetic energy), negative if it slows down (loss of kinetic energy).

> **Note**
>
> By its definition, kinetic energy can *never* be negative. Finding a negative value for $K$ while solving a problem is an indication that you've made a mistake somewhere.

The unit of kinetic energy is mass multiplied by velocity squared. In SI units, this is kg $\mathrm{m}^2/\mathrm{s}^2$. Because energy is so important, the unit of energy is given its own name, the **joule.** We define

$$1 \text{ joule} = 1 \text{ J} = 1 \text{ kg m}^2/\text{s}^2$$

All other forms of energy are also measured in joules.

To give you an idea about the size of a joule, consider a 0.5 kg mass (≈ 1 lb on earth) moving at 4 m/s (≈ 10 mph). Its kinetic energy is

$$K = \tfrac{1}{2}mv^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(0.5\,\text{kg})\,(4\,\text{m/s})^2 = 4\,\text{J}$$

This suggests that everyday objects moving at ordinary speeds will have energies from a fraction of a joule up to, perhaps, a few thousand joules. A running person has $K \approx 1000\,\text{J}$, while a high-speed truck might have $K \approx 10^6\,\text{J}$.

> **Note**
>
> You *must* have masses in kilograms and velocities in m/s before doing energy calculations.

### Stop to Think 9.1

A 1000 kg car has a speed of 20 m/s. A 2000 kg truck has a speed of 10 m/s. Which has more kinetic energy?

**a.** The car.

**b.** The truck.

**c.** Their kinetic energies are the same.



## Work

Now let's turn to the integral on the right-hand side of Equation 9.6. This integral is telling us *by how much* the kinetic energy changes due to the force. That is, it is the energy transferred to or from the system by the force. Earlier we said that a process that transfers energy to or from a system by mechanical means—by forces—is called work. So the integral on the right-hand side of Equation 9.6 must be the *work W done by force* $\vec{F}$.

Having identified the left side of Equation 9.6 with the changing kinetic energy of the system and the right side with the work done on the system, we can rewrite Equation 9.6 as

*Change* in the system's kinetic energy

$$\Delta K = K_{\mathrm{f}} - K_{\mathrm{i}} = W$$

Amount of work done by an external force

Final kinetic energy

Initial kinetic energy

(9.9)

(Energy principle for a one-particle system)

This is our first version of the energy principle. Notice that it's a cause-and-effect statement: **The work done on a one-particle system causes the system's kinetic energy to change.**

We'll study work thoroughly in the next section, but for now we're considering only the simplest case of a constant force parallel to the direction of motion (the *s*-axis). A constant force can be factored out of the integral, giving

**(9.10)**

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int_{s_{\mathrm{i}}}^{s_{\mathrm{f}}} F_s \, ds = F_s \int_{s_{\mathrm{i}}}^{s_{\mathrm{f}}} ds = F_s s \Big|_{s_{\mathrm{i}}}^{s_{\mathrm{f}}} = F_s \left(s_{\mathrm{f}} - s_{\mathrm{i}}\right) \\ &= F_s \, \Delta s \end{aligned}$$

The unit of work, that of force multiplied by distance, is the N m. Recall that $1\ \mathrm{N} = 1\ \mathrm{kg\,m/s^2}$. Thus

$$1\ \mathrm{N\,m} = 1\ \left(\mathrm{kg\ m/s^2}\right)\ \mathrm{m} = 1\ \mathrm{kg\ m^2/s^2} = 1\ \mathrm{J}$$

Thus the unit of work is really the unit of energy. This is consistent with the idea that work is a transfer of energy. Rather than use N m, we will measure work in joules.

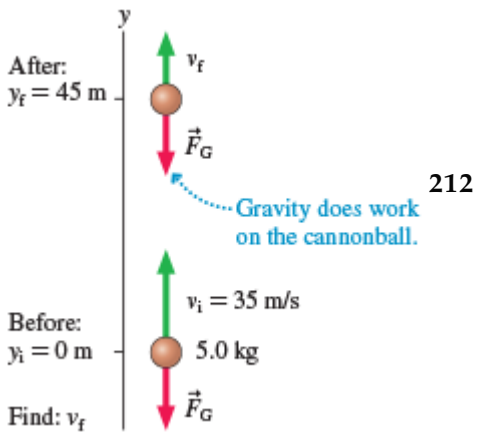
### Example 9.1 Firing a cannonball

A 5.0 kg cannonball is fired straight up at 35 m/s. What is its speed after rising 45 m?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of only the cannonball, which we model as a particle. Assume that air resistance is negligible.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 9.3 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. Because before-and-after representations are usually simpler than the pictorial representation used in dynamics problems, you can include known information right on the diagram instead of making a Known table.

## Figure 9.3




Before-and-after representation of the cannonball.

**SOLVE** It isn't necessary to use work and energy to solve this problem. You could solve it as a free-fall problem. Or you might have previously learned to solve problems like this using potential energy, a topic we'll take up in the next chapter. But using work and energy emphasizes how these two key ideas are related, and it gives us a simple example of the *problem-solving process* before we get to more complex problems. The energy principle is $\Delta K = W$,

where work is done by the force of gravity. The cannonball is rising, so its displacement $\Delta y$ is positive. But the force vector points down, with component $F_y = -mg$. Thus gravity does work

$$W = F_y\,\Delta y = -mg\,\Delta y = -\left(5.0\text{ kg}\right)\left(9.80\text{ m/s}^2\right)\left(45\text{ m}\right) = -2210\text{ J}$$

as the cannonball rises 45 m. A negative work means that the system is losing energy, which is what we expect as the cannonball slows.

The cannonball's change of kinetic energy is $\Delta K = K_\text{f} - K_\text{i}$. The initial kinetic energy is

$$K_\text{i} = \tfrac{1}{2}m{v_\text{i}}^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(5.0\,\text{kg}\right)\left(35\,\text{m/s}\right)^2 = 3060\,\text{J}$$

Using the energy principle, we find the final kinetic energy to be $K_\text{f} = K_\text{i} + W = 3060\,\text{J} - 2210\,\text{J} = 850\,\text{J}$. Then

$$v_\text{f} = \sqrt{\frac{2K_\text{f}}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\left(850\,\text{J}\right)}{5.0\,\text{kg}}} = 18\,\text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** $35\,\text{m/s} \approx 70\,\text{mph}$. A cannonball fired upward at that speed is going to go fairly high. To have lost half its speed at a height of $45\text{ m} \approx 150\text{ ft}$ seems reasonable.

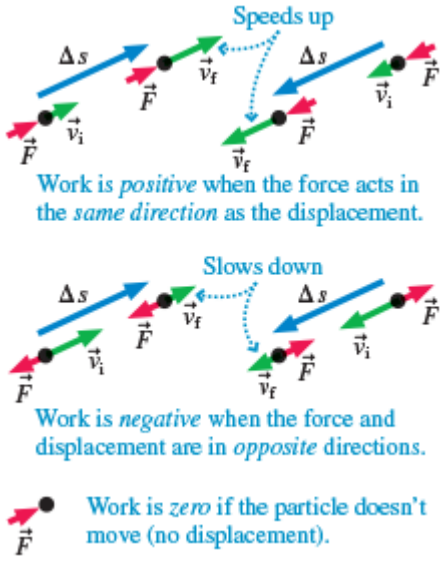
## Signs of Work

Work can be either positive or negative, but some care is needed to get the sign right when calculating work. The key is to remember that work is an energy transfer. If the force causes the particle to speed up, then the

work done by that force is positive. Similarly, negative work means that the force is causing the object to slow and lose energy.

The sign of $W$ is *not* determined by the direction the force vector points. That's only half the issue. The displacement $\Delta s$ also has a sign, so you have to consider both the force direction *and* the displacement direction. As Figure 9.4 shows, **work is positive when the force acts in the direction of the displacement** (causing the particle to speed up). Similarly, **work is negative when force and displacement are in opposite directions** (causing the particle to slow). And there's no work at all $(W = 0)$ if the particle doesn't move!

## Figure 9.4




How to determine the sign of $W$.

### Stop to Think 9.2

A rock falls to the bottom of a deep canyon. Is the work done on the rock by gravity positive, negative, or zero?

# Extending the Model

Our initial model has been of a single particle acted on by a constant force parallel to the displacement. We can easily make some straightforward extensions of this model to slightly more complex—and interesting—situations:

- **Force perpendicular to the displacement:** A force parallel to a particle's displacement causes the particle to speed up or slow down, changing its energy. But a force *perpendicular* to the displacement does *not* change the particle's speed; it is neither speeding up nor slowing down. Its energy is not changing, so no work is being done on it. **A force perpendicular to the displacement does no work.**
- **Multiple forces:** If multiple forces act on a system, their works add. That is, $\Delta K = W_{\text{tot}}$, where the total work done is

  **(9.11)**

  $$W_{\text{tot}} = W_1 + W_2 + W_3 + \cdots$$

- **Multiparticle systems:** If a system has more than one particle, the system's energy is the total kinetic energy of all the particles:

  **(9.12)**

  $$E_{\text{sys}} = K_{\text{tot}} = K_1 + K_2 + K_3 + \cdots$$

$K_{\text{tot}}$ is truly a *system* energy, not the energy of any one particle. How does $K_{\text{tot}}$ change when work is done? You can see from its definition that $\Delta K_{\text{tot}}$ is the sum of all the individual kinetic-energy changes, and each of those changes is the work done on that particular particle. Thus

**(9.13)**

$$\Delta K_{\text{tot}} = W_{\text{tot}}$$

where now $W_{\text{tot}}$ is the total work done on *all* the particles in the system.

> **Note**
>
> You might expect $W_{\text{tot}} = (F_{\text{net}})_s \, \Delta s$, where $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ is the net work on the system. This is true for a one-particle system (if all the forces are constant), but in general it is *not* true for a multiparticle system because each particle undergoes a different displacement. You must find the work done on each particle, then sum those to find the total work done on the system.

## Stop to Think 9.3

Two equal-mass pucks on frictionless ice are pushed toward each other by two equal but opposite forces. Is the total work positive, negative, or zero?

# 9.3 Calculating the Work Done

Section 9.2 introduced two key ideas: (1) a system has energy and (2) work is a mechanical process that changes the system's energy. Now we're ready to look more closely at how to calculate the work done in different situations. Although we'll be focusing on the mathematical techniques of calculating work, it's important to keep in mind that our real goal is to learn how the energy of a system changes when forces are applied to it.

"Work" is a common word in the English language, with many meanings. Work might refer to physical exertion, to your job or occupation, or even to a work of art. But set aside those ideas about work because they are *not* what work means in physics. Work, as we'll use the word, is a *process*. Specifically, it is a process that changes a system's energy by mechanical means—pushing or pulling on it with forces. We say that work *transfers* energy between the environment and the system.

Equation 9.6 defined work as

---

**(9.14)**

$$W = \int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} F_s \, ds$$

(work done by force $\vec{F}$ as a particle is displaced from $s_\mathrm{i}$ to $s_\mathrm{f}$)

where, to remind you, $F_s$ is the component of $\vec{F}$ in the direction of motion (the $s$-direction). We began by looking at a force that was parallel to the displacement, but such a restriction is not required because any force component perpendicular to the motion does no work. Equation 9.14 is, in fact, a general definition of work.

We'll start by learning how to calculate work for constant forces, and we'll introduce a new mathematical idea, the *dot product* of two vectors, that will allow us to write the work in a compact notation. Then we'll consider the work done by a variable force that changes as the particle moves.

## Constant Force

Figure 9.5 shows a particle moving in a straight line. A constant force $\vec{F}$, which makes an angle $\theta$ with respect to the particle's displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$, acts on the particle throughout its motion. We've established an $s$-axis in the direction of motion, and you can see that the force component along the direction of motion is $F_s = F\cos\theta$. According to Equation 9.14, the work done on the particle by this force is

**(9.15)**

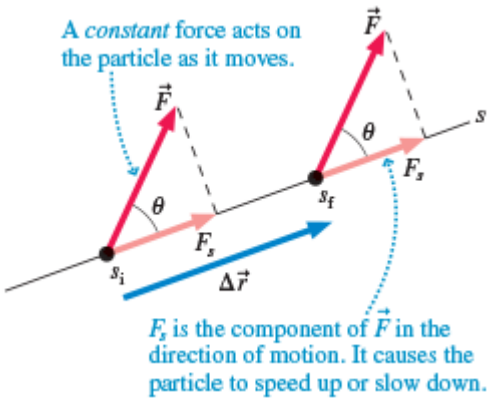
$$W = \int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} F_s\, ds = \int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} F\cos\theta\, ds$$

Both $F$ and $\cos\theta$ are constant, so they can be taken outside the integral. Thus

**(9.16)**

$$W = F\cos\theta \int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} ds = F\cos\theta\,(s_\mathrm{f} - s_\mathrm{i})$$

## Figure 9.5




Work being done by a constant force.

Now $s_i$ and $s_f$ are specific to this coordinate system, but their *difference* $s_f - s_i$ is $\Delta r$, the magnitude of the particle's displacement vector. Thus we can write more generally, independent of any specific coordinate system, that the work done by the constant force $\overrightarrow{F}$ is

**(9.17)**

$$W = F\,(\Delta r)\ \cos\theta \qquad \text{(work done by a constant force)}$$

where $\theta$ is the angle between the force and the particle's displacement $\Delta\overrightarrow{r}$.

> **Note**
>
> You may have learned in an earlier physics course that work is "force times distance." This is *not* the definition of work, merely a special case. Work is "force times distance" only if the force is constant *and* parallel to the displacement $(\theta = 0^\circ)$.

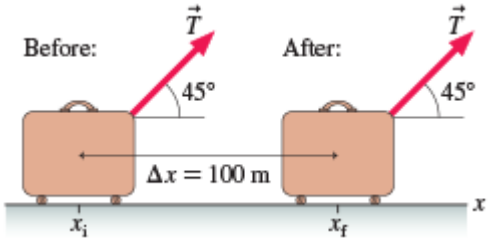
### Example 9.2 Pulling a suitcase

A strap inclined upward at a 45° angle pulls a suitcase 100 m through the airport. The tension in the strap is 20 N. How much work does the tension force do on the suitcase?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of only the suitcase, which we model as a particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 9.6 is a before-and-after pictorial representation.

**Figure 9.6**




Pictorial representation of the suitcase.

**SOLVE** The motion is along the $x$-axis, so in this case $\Delta r = \Delta x$. We can use Equation 9.17 to find that the tension does work:

$$W = T\,(\Delta x)\cos\theta = (20\,\text{N})\,(100\,\text{m})\cos\ 45^\circ = 1400\,\text{J}$$

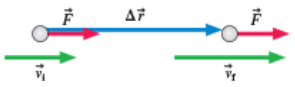
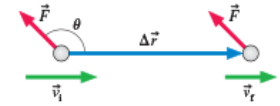
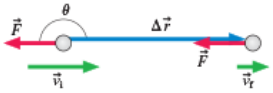
**ASSESS** Because a person pulls the strap, we would say informally that the person does 1400 J of work on the suitcase.

According to the basic energy model, work can be either positive or negative to indicate energy transfer into or out of the system. The quantities $F$ and $\Delta r$ are always positive, so **the sign of $W$ is determined**

**entirely by the angle $\theta$ between the force $\vec{F}$ and the displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$.**

TACTICS BOX 9.1 **Calculating the work done by a constant force**

**Mastering Physics**

| Force and displacement | $\theta$ | Work $W$ | Sign of $W$ | Energy transfer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | 0° | $F(\Delta r)$ | + | Energy is transferred into the system. The particle speeds up. $K$ increases. |
| | $< 90°$ | $F(\Delta r)\cos\theta$ | + | |
| | 90° | 0 | 0 | No energy is transferred. Speed and $K$ are constant. |
|  | $> 90°$ | $F(\Delta r)\cos\theta$ | − | Energy is transferred out of the system. The particle slows down. $K$ decreases. |
|  | 180° | $-F(\Delta r)$ | − | |



Workbook Exercises 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

**Note**

The sign of *W* depends on the angle between the force vector and the displacement vector, *not* on the coordinate axes. A force to the left does *positive* work if it pushes a particle to the left (the force and the displacement are in the same direction) even though the force component $F_x$ is negative. Think about whether the force is trying to increase the particle's speed $(W > 0)$ or decrease the particle's speed $(W < 0)$.

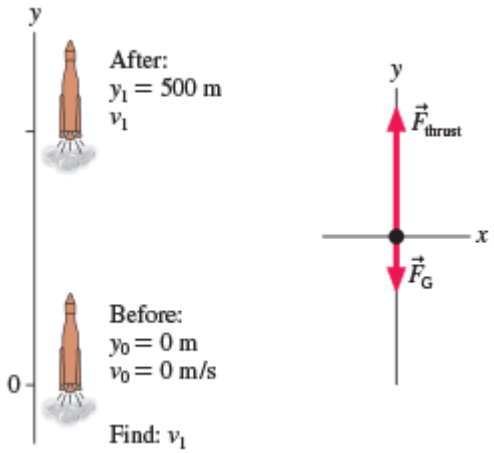
### Example 9.3 Launching a rocket

A 150,000 kg rocket is launched straight up. The rocket motor generates a thrust of $4.0 \times 10^6$ N. What is the rocket's speed at a height of 500 m?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of only the rocket, which we model as a particle. Thrust and gravity are constant forces that do work on the rocket. We'll ignore air resistance and any slight mass loss.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 9.7 shows a before-and-after representation and a free-body diagram.

**Figure 9.7**




Before-and-after representation and free-body diagram of a rocket launch.

**SOLVE** We can solve this problem with the energy principle, $\Delta K = W_{\text{tot}}$. Both forces do work on the rocket. The thrust is in the direction of motion, with $\theta = 0^\circ$, and thus

$$W_{\text{thrust}} = F_{\text{thrust}}\,(\Delta r) = (4.0 \times 10^6 \text{ N})\,(500 \text{ m}) = 2.00 \times 10^9 \text{ J}$$

The gravitational force points downward, opposite the displacement $\Delta \vec{r}$, so $\theta = 180^\circ$. Thus the work done by gravity is

$$\begin{aligned} W_{\text{grav}} &= -F_{\text{G}}\,(\Delta r) = -mg\,(\Delta r) \\ &= -\left(1.5 \times 10^5 \text{ kg}\right)\left(9.8 \text{ m/s}^2\right)(500 \text{ m}) = -0.74 \times 10^9 \text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

The work done by the thrust is positive. By itself, the thrust would cause the rocket to speed up. The work done by gravity is negative, not because $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ points down but because $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ is opposite the displacement. By itself, gravity would cause the rocket to slow down. The energy principle, using $K_{\text{i}} = 0$, is

$$\Delta K = \tfrac{1}{2} m {v_1}^2 - 0 = W_{\text{tot}} = W_{\text{thrust}} + W_{\text{grav}} = 1.26 \times 10^9 \text{ J}$$

Solving for the speed, we find

$$v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2W_{\text{tot}}}{m}} = 130 \text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** The total work is positive, meaning that energy is transferred *to* the rocket. In response, the rocket speeds up.

## Stop to Think 9.4

A crane uses a single cable to lower a steel girder into place. The girder moves with constant speed. The cable tension does work $W_{\text{T}}$ and gravity does work $W_{\text{G}}$. Which statement is true?

**a.** $W_{\text{T}}$ is positive and $W_{\text{G}}$ is positive.

**b.** $W_{\text{T}}$ is positive and $W_{\text{G}}$ is negative.

**c.** $W_{\text{T}}$ is negative and $W_{\text{G}}$ is positive.

**d.** $W_T$ is negative and $W_G$ is negative.

**e.** $W_T$ and $W_G$ are both zero.

## Work as a Dot Product of Two Vectors

There's something different about the quantity $F(\Delta r)\cos\theta$ in Equation 9.17. We've spent many chapters adding vectors, but this is the first time we've *multiplied* two vectors. Multiplying vectors is not like multiplying scalars. In fact, there is more than one way to multiply vectors. We will introduce one way now, the *dot product*.

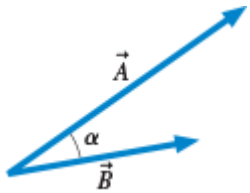
Figure 9.8 shows two vectors, $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$, with angle $\alpha$ between them. We define the **dot product** of $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ as



**(9.18)**

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\alpha$$

**Figure 9.8**



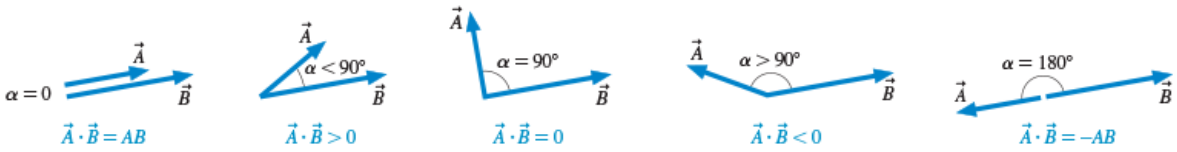

Vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$, with angle $\alpha$ between them.

A dot product *must have* the dot symbol · between the vectors. The notation $\vec{A}\,\vec{B}$, without the dot, is *not* the same thing as $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$. The dot product is also called the **scalar product** because the value is a scalar.

Later, when we need it, we'll introduce a different way to multiply vectors called the *cross product*.

The dot product of two vectors depends on the orientation of the vectors. Figure 9.9 shows five different situations, including the three "special cases" where $\alpha = 0°, 90°$, and $180°$.

**Figure 9.9**



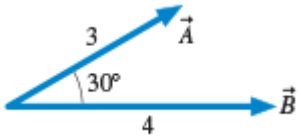

The dot product $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$ as $\alpha$ ranges from 0° to 180°.

> **Note**
>
> The dot product of a vector with itself is well defined. If $\vec{B} = \vec{A}$ (i.e., $\vec{B}$ is a copy of $\vec{A}$), then $\alpha = 0°$. Thus $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} = A^2$.

**Example 9.4 Calculating a dot product**

Compute the dot product of the two vectors in Figure 9.10.

**Figure 9.10**



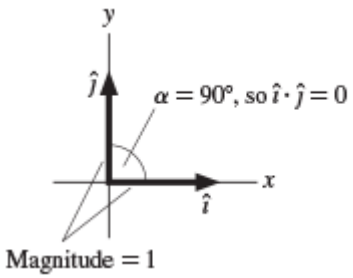

Vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ of Example 9.4.

**SOLVE** The angle between the vectors is $\alpha = 30°$, so

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\alpha = (3)(4)\cos 30^\circ = 10.4$$

Like vector addition and subtraction, calculating the dot product of two vectors is often performed most easily using vector components. Figure 9.11 reminds you of the unit vectors $\hat{i}$ and $\hat{j}$ that point in the positive $x$-direction and positive $y$-direction. The two unit vectors are perpendicular to each other, so their dot product is $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} = 0$. Furthermore, because the magnitudes of $\hat{i}$ and $\hat{j}$ are 1, $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = 1$ and $\hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} = 1$.

## Figure 9.11




The unit vectors $\hat{i}$ and $\hat{j}$.

In terms of components, we can write the dot product of vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ as

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = (A_x\hat{i} + A_y\hat{j}) \cdot (B_x\hat{i} + B_y\hat{j})$$

Multiplying this out, and using the results for the dot products of the unit vectors:

**(9.19)**

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= A_xB_x\,\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} + (A_xB_y + A_yB_x)\,\hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} + A_yB_y\hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} \\ &= A_xB_x + A_yB_y \end{aligned}$$

That is, the **dot product is the sum of the products of the components.**

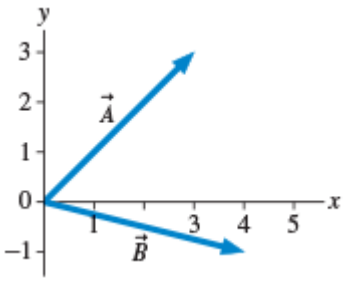
**Example 9.5 Calculating a dot product using components**

Compute the dot product of $\vec{A} = 3\hat{i} + 3\hat{j}$ and $\vec{B} = 4\hat{i} - \hat{j}$.

**SOLVE** Figure 9.12 shows vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$. We could calculate the dot product by first doing the geometry needed to find the angle between the vectors and then using Equation 9.18. But calculating the dot product from the vector components is much easier. It is

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y = (3)(4) + (3)(-1) = 9$$

**Figure 9.12**




Vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$.

Looking at Equation 9.17, the work done by a constant force, you should recognize that it is the dot product of the force vector and the displacement vector:

**(9.20)**

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \Delta \vec{r} \quad \text{(work done by a constant force)}$$

This definition of work is valid for a constant force.

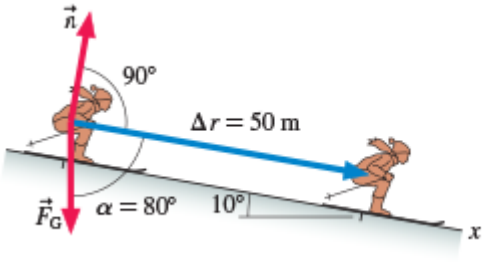
**Example 9.6 Calculating work using the dot product**

A 70 kg skier is gliding at 2.0 m/s when he starts down a very slippery 50-m-long, 10° slope. What is his speed at the bottom?

**MODEL** Model the skier as a particle and interpret "very slippery" to mean frictionless. Use the energy principle to find his final speed.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 9.13 shows a pictorial representation.

**Figure 9.13**




Pictorial representation of the skier.

**SOLVE** The only forces on the skier are $\vec{F}_G$ and $\vec{n}$. The normal force is perpendicular to the motion and thus does no work. The work done by gravity is easily calculated as a dot product:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \vec{F}_G \cdot \Delta \vec{r} = mg\,(\Delta r)\cos\alpha \\ &= (70\text{ kg})\,(9.8\text{ m/s}^2)\,(50\text{ m})\cos\ 80^\circ = 5960\text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

Notice that the angle *between* the vectors is 80°, not 10°. Then, from the energy principle, we find

$$\Delta K = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_1{}^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}mv_0{}^2 = W$$

$$v_1 = \sqrt{v_0^2 + \frac{2W}{m}} = \sqrt{(2.0\,\text{m/s})^2 + \frac{2\,(5960\,\text{J})}{70\,\text{kg}}} = 13\,\text{m/s}$$

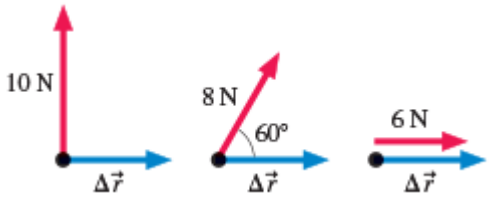


**Note**

While in the midst of the mathematics of calculating work, do not lose sight of what the energy principle is all about. It is a statement about *energy transfer:* Work causes a particle's kinetic energy to either increase or decrease.

## Stop to Think 9.5

Which force does the most work as a particle undergoes displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$?




**a.** The 10 N force.

**b.** The 8 N force.

**c.** The 6 N force.

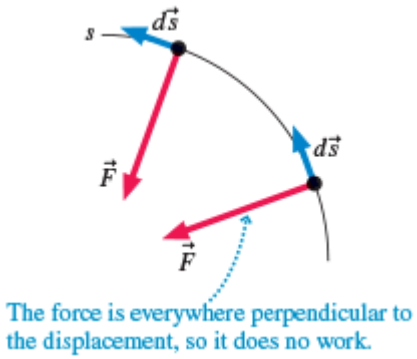
**d.** They all do the same amount of work.

# Zero-Work Situations

There are three common situations where *no* work is done. The most obvious is when the object doesn't move ($\Delta s = 0$). If you were to hold a 200 lb weight over your head, you might break out in a sweat and your arms would tire. You might feel that you had done a lot of work, but you would have done *zero* work in the physics sense because the weight was not displaced and thus you transferred no energy to it. **A force acting on a particle does no work unless the particle is displaced.**

Figure 9.14 shows a particle moving in uniform circular motion. As you learned in Chapter 8, uniform circular motion requires a force pointing toward the center of the circle. How much work does this force do?

**Figure 9.14**



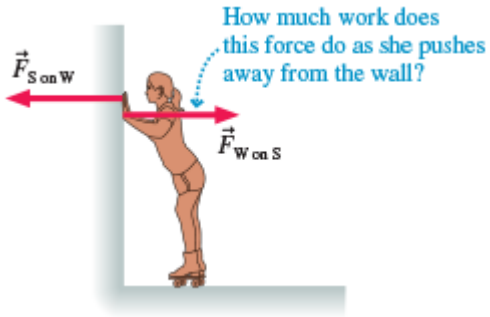

A perpendicular force does no work.

Zero! You can see that the force is everywhere perpendicular to the small displacement $d\vec{s}$, so the dot product is zero and the force does *no* work on the particle. This shouldn't be surprising. The particle's speed, and hence its kinetic energy, doesn't change in uniform circular motion, so no energy is transferred to or from the system. **A force everywhere perpendicular to the motion does no work.** The friction force on a car

turning a corner does no work. Neither does the tension force when a ball on a string is in circular motion.

Last, consider the roller skater in Figure 9.15 who straightens her arms and pushes off from a wall. She applies a force to the wall and thus, by Newton's third law, the wall applies a force $\vec{F}_{\text{W on S}}$ to her. How much work does this force do?

**Figure 9.15**




Does the wall do work on the skater?

Surprisingly, zero. The reason is subtle but worth discussing because it gives us insight into how energy is transferred and transformed. The skater differs from suitcases and rockets in two important ways. First, the skater, as she extends her arms, is a *deformable object*. We cannot use the particle model for a deformable object. Second, the skater has an *internal source of energy*. Because she's a living object, she has an internal store of chemical energy that is available through metabolic processes.

Although the skater's center of mass is displaced, *the palms of her hands—where the force is exerted—are not*. The particles on which force $F_{\text{W on S}}$ acts have no displacement, and we've just seen that there's no work without displacement. The force acts, but the force doesn't push any physical thing through a displacement. Hence no work is done.

But the skater indisputably gains kinetic energy. How? Recall, from the energy overview that started this chapter, that the full energy principle is $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W_{\text{ext}}$. A system can gain kinetic energy without any work being done *if* it can transform some other energy into kinetic energy. In this case, the skater transforms chemical energy into kinetic energy. The same is true if you jump straight up from the ground. The ground applies an upward force to your feet, but that force does no work because the point of application—the soles of your feet—has no displacement while you're jumping. Instead, your increased kinetic energy comes via a decrease in your body's chemical energy. A brick cannot jump or push off from a wall because it cannot deform and has no usable source of internal energy.

### Stop to Think 9.6

A car accelerates smoothly away from a stop sign. Is the work done on the car positive, negative, or zero?

## Variable Force

We've learned how to calculate the work done on an object by a constant force, but what about a force that changes as the object moves? Equation 9.14, the definition of work, is all we need:

**(9.21)**

$$W = \int_{s_\text{i}}^{s_\text{f}} F_s \, ds = \text{area under the force-versus-position graph}$$

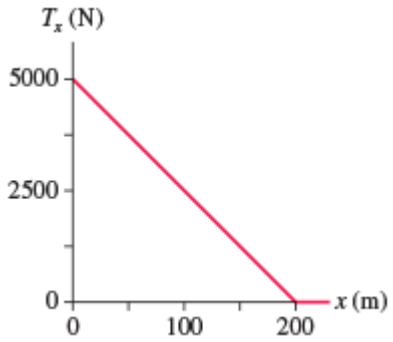
(work done by a variable force)

The integral sums up the small amounts of work $F_s\,ds$ done in each step along the trajectory. The only new feature, because $F_s$ now varies with position, is that we cannot take $F_s$ outside the integral. We must evaluate the integral either geometrically by finding the area under the curve (which we'll do in the next example) or by actually doing the integration (which we'll do in the next section).

### Example 9.7 Using work to find the speed of a car

A 1500 kg car is towed, starting from rest. Figure 9.16 shows the tension force in the tow rope as the car travels from $x = 0$ m to $x = 200$ m. What is the car's speed after being pulled 200 m?

**Figure 9.16**




Force-versus-position graph for a car.

**MODEL** Let the system consist of only the car, which we model as a particle. We'll neglect rolling friction. Two vertical forces, the normal force and gravity, are perpendicular to the motion and thus do no work.

**SOLVE** We can solve this problem with the energy principle, $\Delta K = K_\mathrm{f} - K_\mathrm{i} = W$, where $W$ is the work done by the tension force, but the force is not constant so we have to use the full definition of work as an integral. In this case, we can do the integral graphically:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int_{0\text{ m}}^{200\text{ m}} T_x dx \\ &= \text{area under the force curve from 0 m to 200 m} \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}(5000\text{ N})\,(200\text{ m}) \;=\; 500{,}000\text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

The initial kinetic energy is zero, so the final kinetic energy is simply the energy transferred to the system by the work of the tension: $K_\mathrm{f} = W = 500{,}000\,\mathrm{J}$. Then, from the definition of kinetic energy,

$$v_\mathrm{f} = \sqrt{\frac{2K_\mathrm{f}}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\,(500{,}000\text{ J})}{1500\text{ kg}}} = 26\text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** $26\text{ m/s} \approx 55$ mph is a reasonable final speed after being towed 200 m.

# 9.4 Restoring Forces and the Work Done by a Spring

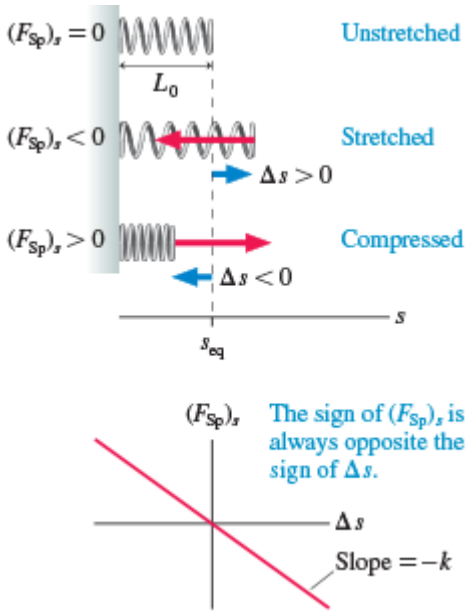
If you stretch a rubber band, a force tries to pull the rubber band back to its equilibrium, or unstretched, length. A force that restores a system to an equilibrium position is called a **restoring force.** Objects that exert restoring forces are called **elastic.** The most basic examples of elasticity are things like springs and rubber bands, but other examples of elasticity and restoring forces abound. For example, the steel beams flex slightly as you drive your car over a bridge, but they are restored to equilibrium after your car passes by. Nearly everything that stretches, compresses, flexes, bends, or twists exhibits a restoring force and can be called elastic.

We didn't introduce restoring forces in Part I of this textbook because we didn't have the mathematical tools to deal with them. But now—using work and energy—we do. We're going to use a simple spring as our model of elasticity. Suppose you have a spring whose **equilibrium length** is $L_0$. This is the length of the spring when it is neither pushing nor pulling. If you stretch (or compress) the spring, how hard does it pull (or push) back? Measurements show that

- The force is *opposite the displacement*. This is what we *mean* by a restoring force.
- If you don't stretch or compress the spring too much, the force is *proportional to the displacement from equilibrium*. The farther you push or pull, the larger the force.

Figure 9.17 shows a spring along a generic $s$-axis exerting force $\vec{F}_{\text{Sp}}$. Notice that $s_{\text{eq}}$ is the position, or coordinate, of the free end of the spring, *not* the spring's equilibrium length $L_0$. When the spring is stretched, the **spring displacement** $\Delta s = s - s_{\text{eq}}$ is positive while $(F_{\text{Sp}})_s$, the $s$-component of the restoring force, is negative. Similarly, compressing the spring makes $\Delta s < 0$ and $(F_{\text{Sp}})_s > 0$. The graph of force versus displacement is a straight line with negative slope, showing that the spring force is proportional to but *opposite* the displacement.

## Figure 9.17




Properties of a spring.

The equation of the straight-line graph passing through the origin is

**(9.22)**

$$(F_{\text{Sp}})_s = -k\,\Delta s \qquad \text{(Hooke's law)}$$

The minus sign is the mathematical indication of a *restoring* force, and the constant $k$—the absolute value of the slope of the line—is called the **spring constant** of the spring. The units of the spring constant are N/m. This relationship between the force and displacement of a spring was discovered by Robert Hooke, a contemporary (and sometimes bitter rival) of Newton. **Hooke's law** is not a true "law of nature," in the sense that Newton's laws are, but is actually just a *model* of a restoring force. It works well for *small* displacements from equilibrium, but Hooke's law will fail for any real spring that is compressed or stretched too far. A hypothetical massless spring for which Hooke's law is true at all displacements is called an **ideal spring.**

> **Note**
>
> The force does not depend on the spring's physical length *L* but, instead, on the *displacement* Δ*s* of the end of the spring.

The spring constant $k$ is a property that characterizes a spring, just as mass $m$ characterizes a particle. For a given spring, $k$ is a constant—it does not change as the spring is stretched or compressed. If $k$ is large, it takes a large pull to cause a significant stretch, and we call the spring a "stiff" spring. A spring with small $k$ can be stretched with very little force, and we call it a "soft" spring.

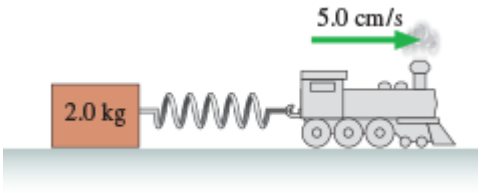
> **Note**
>
> In an earlier physics course, you may have learned Hooke's law as $F_{\text{Sp}} = -kx$ rather than as –*k* Δ*s*. This can be misleading, and it is a common source of errors. The restoring force is –*kx* *only* if the coordinate system in the problem is chosen such that the origin is at the equilibrium position of the free end of the spring. That is, $x = \Delta s$ only if $x_{\text{eq}} = 0$. This choice of origin

is often made, but in some problems it will be more convenient to locate the origin of the coordinate system elsewhere.

### Example 9.8 Pull until it slips

Figure 9.18 shows a spring attached to a 2.0 kg block. The other end of the spring is pulled by a motorized toy train that moves forward at 5.0 cm/s. The spring constant is 50 N/m, and the coefficient of static friction between the block and the surface is 0.60. The spring is at its equilibrium length at $t = 0\,\text{s}$ when the train starts to move. When does the block slip?

**Figure 9.18**

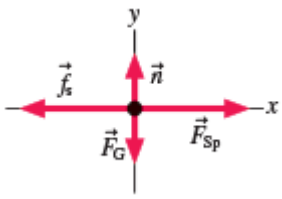



A toy train stretches the spring until the block slips.

**MODEL** Model the block as a particle and the spring as an ideal spring obeying Hooke's law.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 9.19 is a free-body diagram for the block.

**Figure 9.19**




The free-body diagram.

**SOLVE** Recall that the tension in a massless string pulls equally at *both* ends of the string. The same is true for the spring force: It pulls (or pushes) equally at *both* ends. This is the key to solving the problem. As the right end of the spring moves, stretching the spring, the spring pulls backward on the train *and* forward on the block with equal strength. As the spring stretches, the static friction force on the block increases in magnitude to keep the block at rest. The block is in static equilibrium, so

$$\sum (F_{\text{net}})_x = (F_{\text{Sp}})_x + (f_{\text{s}})_x = F_{\text{Sp}} - f_{\text{s}} = 0$$

where $F_{\text{Sp}}$ is the *magnitude* of the spring force. The magnitude is $F_{\text{Sp}} = k\,\Delta x$, where $\Delta x = v_x t$ is the distance the train has moved. Thus

$$f_{\text{s}} = F_{\text{Sp}} = k\,\Delta x$$

The block slips when the static friction force reaches its maximum value $f_{\text{s max}} = \mu_{\text{s}} n = \mu_{\text{s}} mg$. This occurs when the train has moved

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x &= \frac{f_{\text{s max}}}{k} = \frac{\mu_{\text{s}} mg}{k} = \frac{(0.60)\,(2.0\text{ kg})\,(9.80\text{ m/s}^2)}{50\text{ N/m}} \\ &= 0.235\text{ m} = 23.5\text{ cm} \end{aligned}$$

The time at which the block slips is

$$t = \frac{\Delta x}{v_x} = \frac{23.5\text{ cm}}{5.0\text{ cm/s}} = 4.7\text{ s}$$

This example illustrates a class of motion called *stick-slip motion*. Once the block slips, it will shoot forward some distance, then stop and stick

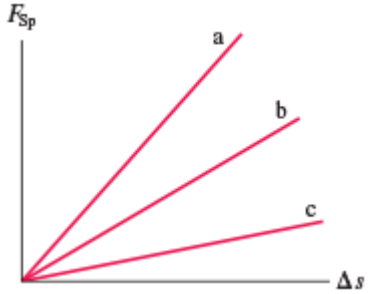
again. As the train continues, there will be a recurring sequence of stick, slip, stick, slip, stick....

The slip can range from a few centimeters in a relatively small earthquake to several meters in a very large earthquake.

Earthquakes are an important example of stick-slip motion. The large tectonic plates making up the earth's crust are attempting to slide past each other, but friction causes the edges of the plates to stick together. You may think of rocks as rigid and brittle, but large masses of rock are somewhat elastic and can be "stretched." Eventually the elastic force of the deformed rocks exceeds the friction force between the plates. An earthquake occurs as the plates slip and lurch forward. Once the tension is released, the plates stick together again and the process starts all over.

## Stop to Think 9.7

The graph shows the force magnitude versus displacement for three springs. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the spring constants $k_a$, $k_b$, and $k_c$.



# Work Done by Springs

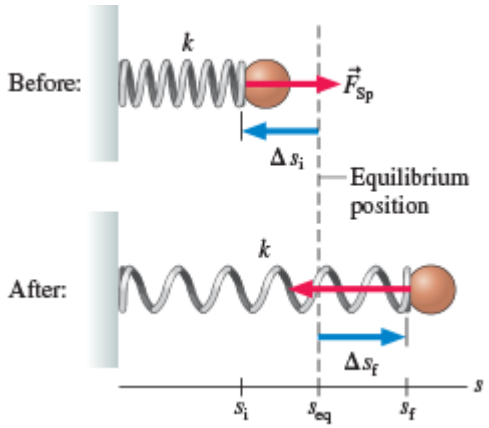
The primary goal of this section is to calculate the work done by a spring. Figure 9.20 shows a spring acting on an object as it moves from $s_i$ to $s_f$. The spring force on the object varies as the object moves, but we can calculate the spring's work by using Equation 9.21 for a variable force. Hooke's law for the spring is $(F_{Sp})_s = -k\,\Delta s = -k(s - s_{eq})$. Thus



**(9.23)**

$$W = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} (F_{Sp})_s \, ds = -k \int_{s_i}^{s_f} (s - s_{eq}) \, ds$$

**Figure 9.20**




The spring does work on the object.

This is an integration best carried out with a change of variables. Define $u = s - s_{eq}$, in which case $ds = du$. This changes the integrand from $(s - s_{eq})\,ds$ to $u\,du$. When we change variables, we also have to change the integration limits. At the lower limit, where $s = s_i$, the new variable $u$ is $s_i - s_{eq} = \Delta s_i$. The lower limit becomes the initial *displacement*.

Similarly, $s = s_\text{f}$ makes $u = s_\text{f} - s_\text{eq} = \Delta s_\text{f}$ at the upper limit. With these changes, the integral is

**(9.24)**

$$W = -k \int_{\Delta s_\text{i}}^{\Delta s_\text{f}} u \, du = -\tfrac{1}{2} k u^2 \Big|_{\Delta s_\text{i}}^{\Delta s_\text{f}} = -\tfrac{1}{2} k (\Delta s_\text{f})^2 + \tfrac{1}{2} k (\Delta s_\text{i})^2$$

With a small rearrangement of the right side, we see that the work done by a spring is

**(9.25)**

$$W = -\left( \tfrac{1}{2} k (\Delta s_\text{f})^2 - \tfrac{1}{2} k (\Delta s_\text{i})^2 \right) \qquad \text{(work done by a spring)}$$

Because the displacements are squared, it makes no difference whether the initial and final displacements are stretches or compressions.

The work done by a spring is energy transferred to the object by the force of the spring. We can use this—and the energy principle—to solve problems that we were unable to solve with a direct application of Newton's laws.

### Example 9.9 Using the energy principle for a spring

The "pincube machine" was an ill-fated predecessor of the pinball machine. A 100 g cube is launched by pulling a spring back 12 cm and releasing it. The spring's spring constant is 65 N/m. What is the

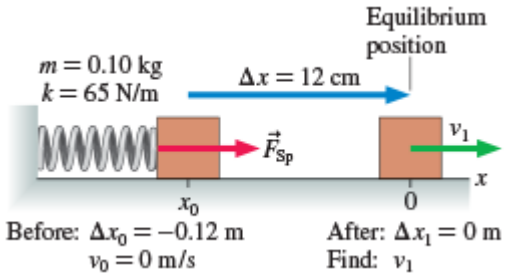
cube's launch speed as it leaves the spring? Assume that the surface is frictionless.

---

**MODEL** Let the system consist of only the cube, which we model as a particle. Two vertical forces, the normal force and gravity, are perpendicular to the cube's displacement, and we've seen that perpendicular forces do no work. Only the spring force does work.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 9.21 is a before-and-after pictorial representation in which, for horizontal motion, we've replaced the generic *s*-axis with an *x*-axis. Notice that for problem solving we use numerical subscripts in place of the generic i and f.

### Figure 9.21




Pictorial representation of the pincube machine.

---

**SOLVE** We can solve this problem with the energy principle, $\Delta K = K_1 - K_0 = W$, where $W$ is the work done by the spring. The initial displacement is $\Delta x_0 = -0.12\,\text{m}$. The cube will separate from the spring when the spring has expanded back to its equilibrium length, so the final displacement is $\Delta x_1 = 0\,\text{m}$. From Equation 9.25, the spring does work

$$\begin{aligned} W &= -\left(\tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta x_1)^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta x_0)^2\right) = \tfrac{1}{2}(65\ \text{N/m})\,(-0.12\ \text{m})^2 - 0 \\ &= 0.468\ \text{J} \end{aligned}$$

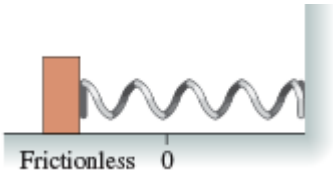
The initial kinetic energy is zero, so the final kinetic energy is simply the energy transferred to the system by the work of the spring: $K_1 = W = 0.468\,\text{J}$. Then, from the definition of kinetic energy,

$$v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2K_1}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\,(0.468\text{ J})}{0.10\text{ kg}}} = 3.1\text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** $3.1\text{ m/s} \approx 6$ mph seems a reasonable final speed for a small, spring-launched cube.

## Stop to Think 9.8

A block is attached to a spring, the spring is stretched, and the block is released at the position shown. As the block moves to the right, is the work done by the wall positive, negative, or zero?



# 9.5 Dissipative Forces and Thermal Energy

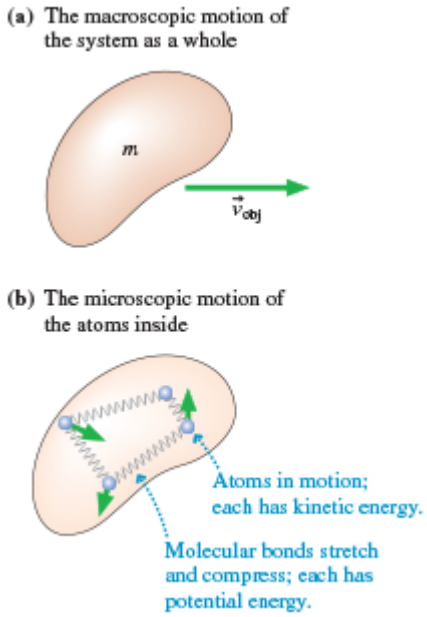
Suppose you drag a heavy sofa across the floor at a steady speed. You are doing work, but the sofa is not gaining kinetic energy. And when you stop pulling, the sofa almost instantly stops moving. Where is the energy going that you're adding to the system? And what happens to the sofa's kinetic energy when you stop pulling?

You know that rubbing things together raises their temperature, in extreme cases making them hot enough to start a fire. As the sofa slides across the floor, friction causes the bottom of the sofa and the floor to get hotter. An increasing temperature is associated with increasing *thermal energy*, so in this situation the work done by pulling is increasing the system's thermal energy instead of its kinetic energy. Our goal in this section is to understand what thermal energy is and how it is related to *dissipative forces*.

## Energy at the Microscopic Level

Figure 9.22 shows two different perspectives of an object. In the macrophysics perspective of Figure 9.22a you see an object of mass $m$ moving as a whole with velocity $v_{\text{obj}}$. As a consequence of its motion, the object has macroscopic kinetic energy $K_{\text{macro}} = \frac{1}{2}mv_{\text{obj}}^2$.

**Figure 9.22**




Two perspectives of motion and energy.

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> **Note**
>
> You recognize the prefix *micro,* meaning "small." You may not be familiar with *macro,* which means "large." Everyday objects, which consist of vast numbers of particle-like atoms, are *macroscopic objects*. We will use the term **macrophysics** to refer to the motion and dynamics of an object as a whole and **microphysics** to refer to the motions of atoms within an object.

Figure 9.22b is a microphysics view of the same object, where now we see a *system of particles*. Each of these atoms is jiggling about and has kinetic energy. As the atoms move, they stretch and compress the spring-like bonds between them. We'll study potential energy in Chapter 10, but you'll recall from the energy overview at the beginning of this chapter that potential energy is *stored* energy. Stretched and compressed springs store energy, so the bonds have potential energy.

The kinetic energy of one atom is exceedingly small, but there are enormous numbers of atoms in a macroscopic object. The total kinetic

energy of all the atoms is what we call the *microscopic kinetic energy*, $K_{\text{micro}}$. The total potential energy of all the bonds is the *microscopic potential energy*, $U_{\text{micro}}$. These energies are distinct from the macroscopic energy of the object as a whole.

The combined microscopic kinetic and potential energy of the atoms—the energy of the jiggling atoms and stretching bonds—is called the **thermal energy** of the system:

**(9.26)**

$$E_{\text{th}} = K_{\text{micro}} + U_{\text{micro}}$$

This energy is hidden from view in our macrophysics perspective, but it is quite real. We will discover later, when we reach thermodynamics, that the thermal energy is related to the *temperature* of the system. Raising the temperature causes the atoms to move faster and the bonds to stretch more, giving the system more thermal energy.

With the inclusion of thermal energy, the system has both macroscopic kinetic energy *and* thermal energy: $E_{\text{sys}} = K + E_{\text{th}}$. $K$ is understood to be the total macroscopic kinetic energy; we'll use the subscript "macro" only if there's a need to distinguish macroscopic energy from microscopic energy. With this, the energy principle becomes 

**(9.27)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

Work done on the system might increase the system's kinetic energy, its thermal energy, or both. Or, in the absence of work, kinetic energy can be transformed into thermal energy as long as the total energy change is

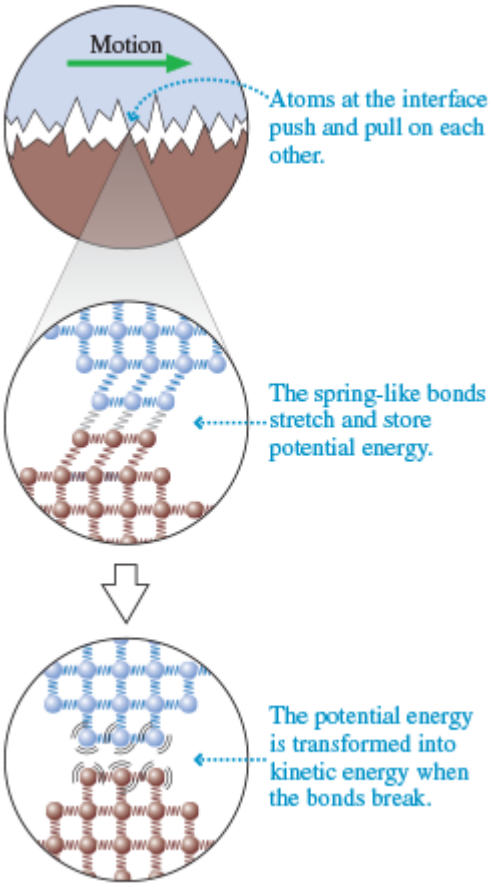
zero. Recognizing thermal energy greatly expands the range of problems we can analyze with the energy principle.

> **Note**
>
> The microscopic energy of atoms is *not* called "heat." As we've already seen, heat is a *process*, similar to work, for transferring energy between the system and the environment. We'll have a lot more to say about heat in future chapters. For the time being we want to use the correct term "thermal energy" to describe the random, thermal motions of the atoms in a system. If the temperature of a system goes up (i.e., it gets hotter), it is because the system's thermal energy has increased.

## Dissipative Forces

Forces such as friction and drag cause the macroscopic kinetic energy of a system to be *dissipated* as thermal energy. Hence these are called **dissipative forces**. Figure 9.23 shows how microscopic interactions are responsible for transforming macroscopic kinetic energy into thermal energy when two objects slide against each other. Because friction causes *both* objects to get warmer, with increased thermal energy, **we must define the system to include both objects whose temperature changes** —both the sofa *and* the floor.

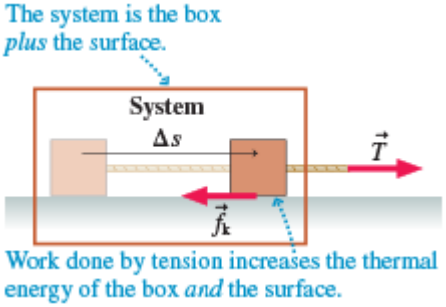
**Figure 9.23**




Motion with friction leads to thermal energy.

For example, Figure 9.24 shows a box being pulled at constant speed across a horizontal surface with friction. As you can imagine, both the surface and the box are getting warmer—increasing thermal energy—but the kinetic energy is not changing. If we define the system to be box + surface, then the increasing thermal energy of the system is entirely due to the work being done on the system by tension in the rope: $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{tension}}$.

## Figure 9.24



The work done by tension in pulling the box through distance $\Delta s$ is simply $W_{\text{tension}} = T\,\Delta s;$ thus $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = T\,\Delta s$. Because the box is moving with constant velocity, and thus no net force, the tension force has to exactly balance the friction force: $T = f_{\text{k}}$. Consequently, the increase in thermal energy due to the dissipative force of friction is

**(9.28)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = f_{\text{k}} \Delta s$$

Notice that the increase in thermal energy is directly proportional to the total distance of sliding. **Dissipative forces always increase the thermal energy; they never decrease it.**

You might wonder why we didn't simply calculate the work done by friction. The rather subtle reason is that work is defined only for forces acting on a *particle*. There is work being done on individual atoms at the boundary as they are pulled this way and that, but we would need a detailed knowledge of atomic-level friction forces to calculate this work. The friction force $\vec{f}_{\text{k}}$ is an average force on the object as a whole; it is not a force on any particular particle, so we cannot use it to calculate work. Furthermore, increasing thermal energy is not an energy transfer—the definition of work—from the box to the surface or from the surface to the box; both the box *and* the surface are gaining thermal energy. **The techniques used to calculate the work done on a particle cannot be used to calculate the work done by dissipative forces.**

> **Note**
>
> The considerations that led to Equation 9.28 allow us to calculate the total increase in thermal energy of the entire

system, but we cannot determine what fraction of $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ goes to the box and what fraction goes to the surface.

**Example 9.10 Increasing kinetic and thermal energy**

A rope with 30 N of tension pulls a 10 kg crate 3.0 m across a horizontal floor, starting from rest. The coefficient of friction between the crate and the floor is 0.20. What is the increase in thermal energy? What is the crate's final speed?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of both the crate and the floor. The tension in the rope does work on the system, but the vertical normal force and gravitational force do not.

**SOLVE** The energy principle, Equation 9.27, is $\Delta K + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}}$. The friction force on an object moving on a horizontal surface is $f_{\text{k}} = \mu_{\text{k}} n = \mu_{\text{k}} mg$, so the increase in thermal energy, given by Equation 9.28, is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_{\text{th}} &= f_{\text{k}} \Delta s = \mu_{\text{k}} mg\, \Delta s \\ &= (0.20)\,(10\text{ kg})\,(9.80\text{ m/s}^2)\,(3.0\text{ m}) = 59\text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

The tension force does work $W_{\text{ext}} = T\Delta s = (30\text{ N})\,(3.0\text{ m}) = 90\text{ J}$. 59 J of this goes to increasing the thermal energy, so $\Delta K = 31\text{ J}$ is the crate's change of kinetic energy. Because $K_{\text{i}} = 0\text{ J}, K_{\text{f}} = \Delta K = 31\text{ J}$. Using the definition of kinetic energy, we find that the crate's final speed is

$$v_{\text{f}} = \sqrt{\frac{2K_{\text{f}}}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\,(31\text{ J})}{10\text{ kg}}} = 2.5\text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** The thermal energy of the crate *and* floor increases by 59 J. We cannot determine $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ for the crate (or floor) alone.

# 9.6 Power



Work is a transfer of energy between the environment and a system. In many situations we would like to know *how quickly* the energy is transferred. Does the force act quickly and transfer the energy very rapidly, or is it a slow and lazy transfer of energy? If you need to buy a motor to lift 1000 kg of bricks up 20 m, it makes a *big* difference whether the motor has to do this in 30 s or 30 min!

The English unit of power is the *horsepower*. The conversion factor to watts is

$$1 \text{ horsepower} = 1 \text{ hp} = 746 \text{ W}$$

Many common appliances, such as motors, are rated in hp.

The question How quickly? implies that we are talking about a *rate*. For example, the velocity of an object—how quickly it is moving—is the *rate of change* of position. So when we raise the issue of how quickly the energy is transferred, we are talking about the *rate of transfer* of energy. The rate at which energy is transferred or transformed is called the **power** $P$, and it is defined as

**(9.29)**

$$P = \frac{dE_{\text{sys}}}{dt}$$

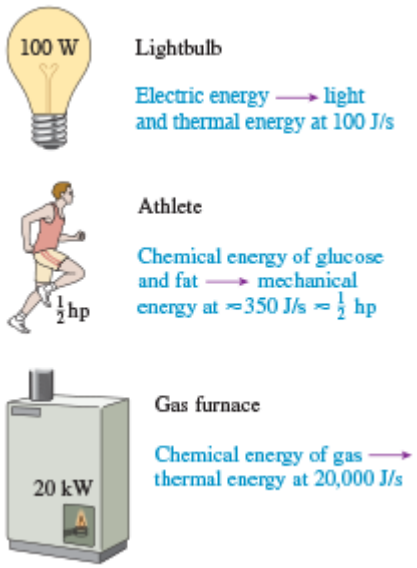
The unit of power is the **watt,** which is defined as $1 \text{ watt} = 1 \text{ W} = 1 \text{ J/s}$. Common prefixes used with power are mW (milliwatts), kW (kilowatts), and MW (megawatts).

For example, the rope in Example 9.10 pulled with a tension of 30 N and, by doing work, transferred 90 J of energy to the system. If it took 10 s to drag the crate 3.0 m, then energy was being transferred at the rate of 9 J/s. We would say that whatever was supplying this energy—whether a human or a motor—has a "power output" of 9 W.

The idea of power as a *rate* of energy transfer applies no matter what the form of energy. Figure 9.25 shows three examples of the idea of power. For now, we want to focus primarily on *work* as the source of energy transfer. Within this more limited scope, power is simply the **rate of doing work:** $P = dW/dt$. If a particle moves through a small displacement $d\vec{r}$ while acted on by force $\vec{F}$, the force does a small amount of work $dW$ given by

$$dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

## Figure 9.25




Examples of power.

Dividing both sides by $dt$, to give a rate of change, yields

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = \vec{F} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$$

But $d\vec{r}/dt$ is the velocity $\vec{v}$, so we can write the power as

**(9.30)**

$$P = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} = Fv\cos\theta$$

In other words, the power delivered to a particle by a force acting on it is the dot product of the force and the particle's velocity. These ideas will become clearer with some examples.

**Example 9.11 Power output of a motor**

A factory uses a motor and a cable to drag a 300 kg machine to the proper place on the factory floor. What power must the motor supply to drag the machine at a speed of 0.50 m/s? The coefficient of friction between the machine and the floor is 0.60.

**SOLVE** The force applied by the motor, through the cable, is the tension force $\vec{T}$. This force does work on the machine with power $P = Tv$. The machine is in equilibrium, because the motion is at constant velocity, hence the tension in the rope balances the friction and is

$$T = f_{\mathrm{k}} = \mu_{\mathrm{k}} mg$$

The motor's power output is

$$P = Tv = \mu_{\mathrm{k}} mgv = 882\ \mathrm{W}$$

**Example 9.12 Power output of a car engine**

A 1500 kg car has a front profile that is 1.6 m wide by 1.4 m high and a drag coefficient of 0.50. The coefficient of rolling friction is 0.02. What power must the engine provide to drive at a steady 30 m/s (≈ 65 mph) if 25% of the power is "lost" before reaching the drive wheels?

**SOLVE** The net force on a car moving at a steady speed is zero. The motion is opposed both by rolling friction and by air resistance. The forward force on the car $\vec{F}_{\text{car}}$ (recall that this is really $\vec{F}_{\text{ground on car}}$, a reaction to the drive wheels pushing backward on the ground with $\vec{F}_{\text{car on ground}}$) exactly balances the two opposing forces:



$$F_{\text{car}} = f_{\text{r}} + F_{\text{drag}}$$

where $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}}$ is the drag due to the air. Using the results of Chapter 6, where both rolling friction and drag were introduced, this becomes

$$F_{\text{car}} = \mu_{\text{r}} mg + \tfrac{1}{2} C\rho A v^2 = 294\ \text{N} + 655\ \text{N} = 949\ \text{N}$$

Here $A = (1.6\,\text{m}) \times (1.4\,\text{m})$ is the front cross-section area of the car, and we used 1.3 kg/m$^3$ as the density of air. The power required to push the car forward at 30 m/s is

$$P_{\text{car}} = F_{\text{car}}\, v = (949\ \text{N})\,(30\ \text{m/s}) = 28{,}500\ \text{W} = 38\ \text{hp}$$

This is the power *needed* at the drive wheels to push the car against the dissipative forces of friction and air resistance. The power

output of the engine is larger because some energy is used to run the water pump, the power steering, and other accessories. In addition, energy is lost to friction in the drive train. If 25% of the power is lost (a typical value), leading to $P_{\text{car}} = 0.75P_{\text{engine}}$, the engine's power output is

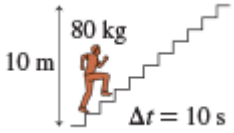
$$P_{\text{engine}} = \frac{P_{\text{car}}}{0.75} = 38{,}000 \text{ W} = 51 \text{ hp}$$

**ASSESS** Automobile engines are typically rated at ≈ 200 hp. Most of that power is reserved for fast acceleration and climbing hills.

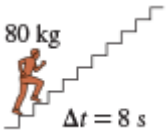
## Stop to Think 9.9

Four students run up the stairs in the time shown. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, their power outputs $P_a$ to $P_d$.

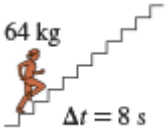
**a.**



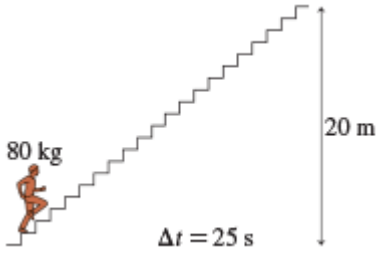

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**



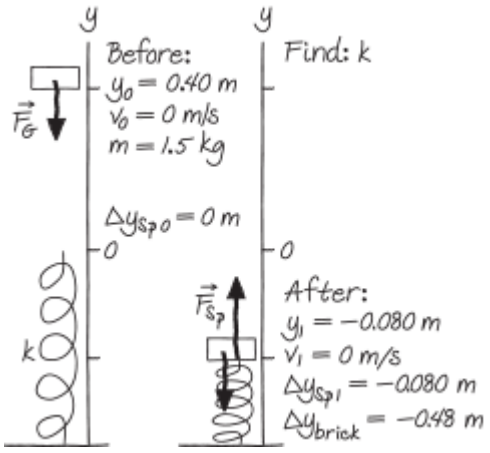

### Challenge Example 9.13 Stopping a brick

A 25.0-cm-long spring stands vertically on the ground, with its lower end secured in a base. A 1.5 kg brick is held 40 cm directly above the spring and dropped onto the spring. The spring compresses to a length of 17.0 cm before starting to launch the brick back upward. What is the spring's spring constant?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of only the brick, which is modeled as a particle. Assume that the spring is ideal. Both gravity and, after contact, the spring do work on the brick.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 9.26 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. We've chosen to place the origin of the $y$-axis at the equilibrium position of the spring's upper end. The length of the spring is not relevant, but the *difference* between its before and after lengths—8.0 cm—is the spring's maximum compression. The point of maximum compression is a turning point for the brick, as it reverses direction and starts moving back up, so the brick's instantaneous velocity is zero.

**Figure 9.26**




Pictorial representation of the brick and spring.

**SOLVE** At first, this seems like a two-part problem: free fall until hitting the spring, then deceleration as the spring compresses. But by using the energy principle, $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K = W_{\text{tot}} = W_{\text{G}} + W_{\text{Sp}}$, we can do it in one step. Interestingly, $\Delta K = 0$ because the brick is instantaneously at rest at the beginning and again at the point of maximum spring compression. Consequently, $W_{\text{tot}} = 0$. That's not a difficulty because gravity does positive work (the downward gravitational force is in the direction of the brick's displacement) while the spring does negative work (the upward spring force is opposite the displacement).

The work done by gravity is

$$W_{\text{G}} = (F_{\text{G}})_y \Delta y_{\text{brick}} = -mg\,\Delta y_{\text{brick}}$$

where $\Delta y_{\text{brick}}$ is the brick's total displacement. The negative sign comes from $(F_{\text{G}})_y = -mg$, but $W_{\text{G}}$ is positive because $\Delta y_{\text{brick}} = y_1 - y_0 = -0.48\,\text{m}$ is also negative. It may seem strange that calculating the work done by gravity is so simple when the brick first accelerates, then slows quickly after hitting the spring. But work depends on only the displacement, not how fast or slow the object is moving.

We have to be careful with the spring because its displacement is not the same as the brick's displacement. The spring begins compressing only when contact is made, so $\Delta y_{\text{Sp}\,0} = 0\,\text{m}$ at the instant the brick is released. The work done by the spring then continues until maximum compression, when the spring's displacement is $\Delta y_{\text{Sp}\,1} = -0.080\ \text{m}$. The work done by the spring, Equation 9.25, is thus

$$W_{\text{Sp}} = -\left(\tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta y_{\text{Sp}\,1})^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta y_{\text{Sp}\,0})^2\right) = -\tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta y_{\text{Sp}\,1})^2$$

With this information about the two works, the energy principle is

$$\Delta K = 0 = W_{\text{G}} + W_{\text{Sp}} = -mg\,\Delta y_{\text{brick}} - \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta y_{\text{Sp}\,1})^2$$

Solving for the spring constant gives

$$\begin{aligned} k &= -\frac{2mg\,\Delta y_{\text{brick}}}{(\Delta y_{\text{Sp}\,1})^2} = -\frac{2\,(1.5\ \text{kg})\,(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2)\,(-0.48\ \text{m})}{(-0.080\ \text{m})^2} \\ &= 2200\ \text{N/m} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** 2200 N/m is a fairly large spring constant, but that's to be expected for a spring that's going to stop a falling ≈ 3 pound brick. The complexity of this problem was not the math, which was fairly simple, but the reasoning. It's a good illustration of how to apply energy reasoning to other problems.

# Summary

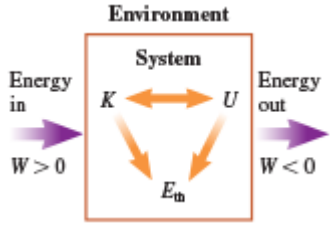


> The goal of Chapter 9 has been to begin your study of how energy is transferred and transformed.

## General Principles

### Basic Energy Model

- Energy is a property of the system.
- Energy is *transformed* within the system without loss.
- Energy is *transferred* to and from the system by forces that do work $W$.
- $W > 0$ for energy added.
- $W < 0$ for energy removed.




### The Energy Principle

Doing work on a system changes the **system energy:**

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

For systems containing only particles, no interactions, $E_{\text{sys}} = K + E_{\text{th}}$. All forces are external forces, so

$$\Delta K + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{tot}}$$

where $W_{\text{tot}}$ is the total work done on all particles.

## Important Concepts

**Kinetic energy** is an energy of motion: $K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$

**Potential energy** is stored energy.

**Thermal energy** is the **microscopic** energy of moving atoms and stretched bonds.

**Dissipative forces**, such as friction and drag, transform **macroscopic** energy into thermal energy. For friction:

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = f_{\text{k}}\ \Delta s$$

The **work** done by a force on a particle as it moves from $s_{\text{i}}$ to $s_{\text{f}}$ is

$$W = \int_{s_{\text{i}}}^{s_{\text{f}}} F_s\, ds = \text{area under the force curve}$$

The work done by a constant force is

$$W = \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \Delta \overrightarrow{r}$$

The work done by a spring is

$$W = -\left(\tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s_{\text{f}})^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s_{\text{i}})^2\right)$$

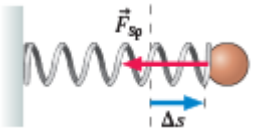
where $\Delta s$ is the displacement of the end of the spring.

# Applications

## Hooke's law

The **restoring force** of an ideal spring is

$$(F_{\mathrm{Sp}})_s = -k\,\Delta s$$




where $k$ is the **spring constant** and $\Delta s$ is the displacement of the end of the spring from equilibrium.

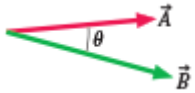
**Power** is the rate at which energy is transferred or transformed:

$$P = dE_{\mathrm{sys}}/dt$$

For a particle with velocity $\vec{v}$, the power delivered to the particle by force $\vec{F}$ is $P = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} = Fv\cos\theta$.

## Dot product

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\theta = \mathrm{A}_x\mathrm{B}_x + \mathrm{A}_y\mathrm{B}_y$$




# Terms and Notation

energy

system

environment

system energy, $E_{\text{sys}}$

work, $W$

heat

energy transfer

energy transformation

energy principle

basic energy model

before-and-after representation

kinetic energy, $K$

joule, J

dot product

scalar product

restoring force

elastic

equilibrium length, $L_0$

spring displacement, $\Delta s$

spring constant, $k$

Hooke's law

ideal spring

macrophysics

microphysics

thermal energy, $E_{\text{th}}$

dissipative force

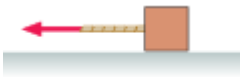
power, $P$

watt, $W$

# Conceptual Questions 

1. If a particle's speed increases by a factor of 3, by what factor does its kinetic energy change?
2. Particle A has half the mass and eight times the kinetic energy of particle B. What is the speed ratio $v_A/v_B$?
3. An elevator held by a single cable is ascending but slowing down. Is the work done by tension positive, negative, or zero? What about the work done by gravity? Explain.
4. The rope in Figure Q9.4 pulls the box to the left across a rough surface. Is the work done by tension positive, negative, or zero? Explain.

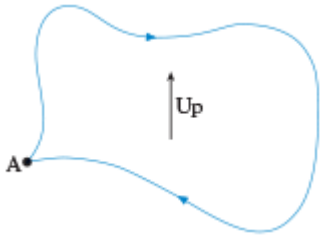
**Figure Q9.4**



5. A 0.2 kg plastic cart and a 20 kg lead cart both roll without friction on a horizontal surface. Equal forces are used to push both carts forward a distance of 1 m, starting from rest. After traveling 1 m, is the kinetic energy of the plastic cart greater than, less than, or equal to the kinetic energy of the lead cart? Explain.
6. A particle moving to the left is slowed by a force pushing to the right. Is the work done on the particle positive or negative? Or is there not enough information to tell? Explain.
7. A particle moves in a vertical plane along the *closed* path seen in Figure Q9.7, starting at A and eventually returning to its

starting point. Is the work done by gravity positive, negative, or zero? Explain.

**Figure Q9.7**




**8.** You need to raise a heavy block by pulling it with a massless rope. You can either (a) pull the block straight up height $h$, or (b) pull it up a long, frictionless plane inclined at a 15° angle until its height has increased by $h$. Assume you will move the block at constant speed either way. Will you do more work in case a or case b? Or is the work the same in both cases? Explain.

**9.** A ball on a string travels once around a circle with a circumference of 2.0 m. The tension in the string is 5.0 N. How much work is done by tension?

**10.** A sprinter accelerates from rest. Is the work done on the sprinter positive, negative, or zero? Explain.

**11.** A spring has an unstretched length of 10 cm. It exerts a restoring force $F$ when stretched to a length of 11 cm.

**a.** For what length of the spring is its restoring force $3F$?

**b.** At what compressed length is the restoring force $2F$?

**12.** The left end of a spring is attached to a wall. When Bob pulls on the right end with a 200 N force, he stretches the spring by 20 cm. The same spring is then used for a tug-of-war between Bob and Carlos. Each pulls on his end of the spring with a 200 N force. How far does the spring stretch? Explain.

**13.** The driver of a car traveling at 60 mph slams on the brakes, and the car skids to a halt. What happened to the kinetic energy the car had just before stopping?

**14.** The motor of a crane uses power $P$ to lift a steel beam. By what factor must the motor's power increase to lift the beam twice as high in half the time?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 9.2 Work and Kinetic Energy for a Single Particle

**1.** • Which has the larger kinetic energy, a 10 g bullet fired at 500 m/s or a 75 kg student running at 5.5 m/s?

**2.** •• At what speed does a 1000 kg compact car have the same kinetic energy as a 20,000 kg truck going 25 km/h?

**3.** •• A mother has four times the mass of her young son. Both are running with the same kinetic energy. What is the ratio $v_{\text{son}}/v_{\text{mother}}$ of their speeds?

**4.** • A horizontal rope with 15 N tension drags a 25 kg box 2.0 m to the left across a horizontal surface. How much work is done by (a) tension and (b) gravity?

**5.** • A 25 kg box sliding to the left across a horizontal surface is brought to a halt in a distance of 35 cm by a horizontal rope

pulling to the right with 15 N tension. How much work is done by (a) tension and (b) gravity?

**6.** • A 2.0 kg book is lying on a 0.75-m-high table. You pick it up and place it on a bookshelf 2.25 m above the floor.

**a.** How much work does gravity do on the book?

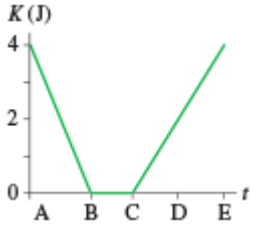
**b.** How much work does your hand do on the book?

**7.** •• A 20 g particle is moving to the left at 30 m/s. A force on the particle causes it to move the the right at 30 m/s. How much work is done by the force?



**8.** •• Figure EX9.8 is the kinetic-energy graph for a 2.0 kg object moving along the $x$-axis. Determine the work done on the object during each of the four intervals AB, BC, CD, and DE.

**Figure EX9.8**




**9.** • You throw a 5.5 g coin straight down at 4.0 m/s from a 35-m-high bridge.

**a.** How much work does gravity do as the coin falls to the water below?

**b.** What is the speed of the coin just as it hits the water?

**10.** •• The cable of a crane is lifting a 750 kg girder. The girder increases its speed from 0.25 m/s to 0.75 m/s in a distance of 3.5 m.

**a.** How much work is done by gravity?

**b.** How much work is done by tension?

## Section 9.3 Calculating the Work Done

**11.** • Evaluate the dot product $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$ if

**a.** $\vec{A} = 4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$ and $\vec{B} = -2\hat{i} - 3\hat{j}$.

**b.** $\vec{A} = -4\hat{i} + 2\hat{j}$ and $\vec{B} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j}$.

**12.** • Evaluate the dot product $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$ if

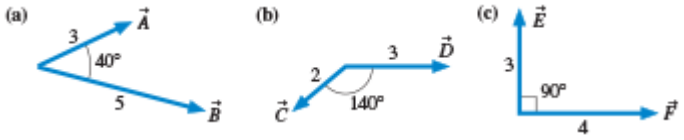
**a.** $\vec{A} = 3\hat{i} + 4\hat{j}$ and $\vec{B} = 2\hat{i} - 6\hat{j}$.

**b.** $\vec{A} = 3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$ and $\vec{B} = 6\hat{i} + 4\hat{j}$.

**13.** • What is the angle $\theta$ between vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ in each part of Exercise 12?

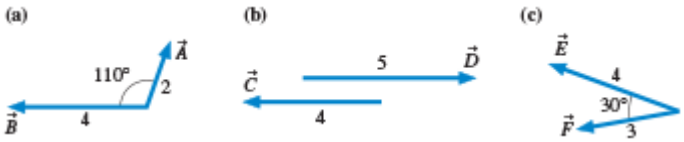
**14.** • Evaluate the dot product of the three pairs of vectors in Figure EX9.14.

**Figure EX9.14**




**15.** • Evaluate the dot product of the three pairs of vectors in Figure EX9.15.

**Figure EX9.15**




**16.** •• A 25 kg air compressor is dragged up a rough incline from $\vec{r_1} = (1.3\hat{i} + 1.3\hat{j})$ m to $\vec{r_2} = (8.3\hat{i} + 2.9\hat{j})$ m, where the $y$-axis is vertical. How much work does gravity do on the compressor during this displacement?

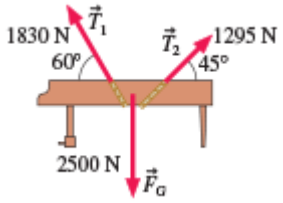
**17.** •• A 45 g bug is hovering in the air. A gust of wind exerts a force $\vec{F} = (4.0\hat{i} - 6.0\hat{j}) \times 10^{-2}$ N on the bug.

**a.** How much work is done by the wind as the bug undergoes displacement $\Delta\vec{r} = (2.0\hat{i} - 2.0\hat{j})$ m?

**b.** What is the bug's speed at the end of this displacement? Assume that the speed is due entirely to the wind.

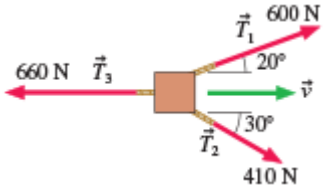
**18.** •• The two ropes seen in Figure EX9.18 are used to lower a 255 kg piano 5.00 m from a second-story window to the ground. How much work is done by each of the three forces?

**Figure EX9.18**



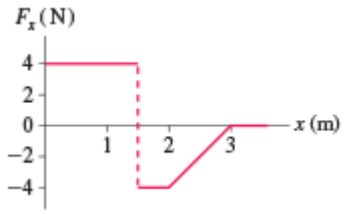

**19.** •• The three ropes shown in the bird's-eye view of Figure EX9.19 are used to drag a crate 3.0 m across the floor. How much work is done by each of the three forces?

**Figure EX9.19**



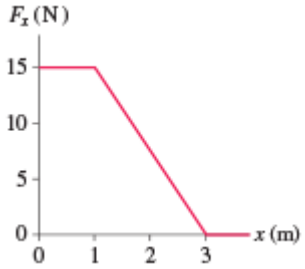

**20.** • Figure EX9.20 is the force-versus-position graph for a particle moving along the *x*-axis. Determine the work done on the particle during each of the three intervals 0–1 m, 1–2 m, and 2–3 m.

## Figure EX9.20




**21.** •• A 500 g particle moving along the $x$-axis experiences the force shown in Figure EX9.21. The particle's velocity is 2.0 m/s at $x = 0\,\text{m}$. What is its velocity at $x = 3\,\text{m}$?

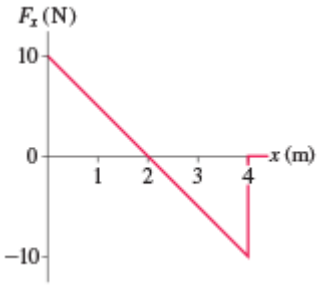
## Figure EX9.21






**22.** •• A 2.0 kg particle moving along the $x$-axis experiences the force shown in Figure EX9.22. The particle's velocity is 4.0 m/s at $x = 0\,\text{m}$. What is its velocity at $x = 2\,\text{m}$ and $x = 4\,\text{m}$?

## Figure EX9.22




**23.** •• **CALC** A particle moving on the $x$-axis experiences a force given by $F_x = qx^2$, where q is a constant. How much work is

done on the particle as it moves from $x = 0$ to $x = d$?

**24.** •• **CALC** A 150 g particle at $x = 0$ is moving at 2.00 m/s in the +$x$-direction. As it moves, it experiences a force given by $F_x = (0.250\ \text{N})\ \sin(x/2.00\ \text{m})$. What is the particle's speed when it reaches $x = 3.14$ m?

## Section 9.4 Restoring Forces and the Work Done by a Spring

**25.** • A horizontal spring with spring constant 750 N/m is attached to a wall. An athlete presses against the free end of the spring, compressing it 5.0 cm. How hard is the athlete pushing?

**26.** • A 35-cm-long vertical spring has one end fixed on the floor. Placing a 2.2 kg physics textbook on the spring compresses it to a length of 29 cm. What is the spring constant?

**27.** •• A 10-cm-long spring is attached to the ceiling. When a 2.0 kg mass is hung from it, the spring stretches to a length of 15 cm.

**a.** What is the spring constant?

**b.** How long is the spring when a 3.0 kg mass is suspended from it?

**28.** •• A 60 kg student is standing atop a spring in an elevator as it accelerates upward at 3.0 m/s$^2$. The spring constant is 2500 N/m. By how much is the spring compressed?

**29.** •• A 5.0 kg mass hanging from a spring scale is slowly lowered onto a vertical spring, as shown in Figure EX9.29. The scale reads in newtons.

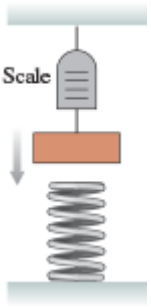
**a.** What does the spring scale read just before the mass touches the lower spring?

**b.** The scale reads 20 N when the lower spring has been compressed by 2.0 cm. What is the value of the spring

constant for the lower spring?

**c.** At what compression will the scale read zero?

**Figure EX9.29**




**30.** •• A horizontal spring with spring constant 85 N/m extends outward from a wall just above floor level. A 1.5 kg box sliding across a frictionless floor hits the end of the spring and compresses it 6.5 cm before the spring expands and shoots the box back out. How fast was the box going when it hit the spring?

## Section 9.5 Dissipative Forces and Thermal Energy

**31.** • One mole $(6.02 \times 10^{23}\ \text{atoms})$ of helium atoms in the gas phase has 3700 J of microscopic kinetic energy at room temperature. If we assume that all atoms move with the same speed, what is that speed? The mass of a helium atom is $6.68 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg}$.

**32.** • A 55 kg softball player slides into second base, generating 950 J of thermal energy in her legs and the ground. How fast was she running?

**33.** •• A baggage handler throws a 15 kg suitcase along the floor of an airplane luggage compartment with a speed of 1.2 m/s. The

suitcase slides 2.0 m before stopping. Use work and energy to find the suitcase's coefficient of kinetic friction on the floor.

**34.** ••• **INT** An 8.0 kg crate is pulled 5.0 m up a 30° incline by a rope angled 18° above the incline. The tension in the rope is 120 N, and the crate's coefficient of kinetic friction on the incline is 0.25.

**a.** How much work is done by tension, by gravity, and by the normal force?

**b.** What is the increase in thermal energy of the crate and incline?

**35.** •• Justin, with a mass of 30 kg, is going down an 8.0-m-high water slide. He starts at rest, and his speed at the bottom is 11 m/s. How much thermal energy is created by friction during his descent?

## Section 9.6 Power

**36.** •

**a.** How much work does an elevator motor do to lift a 1000 kg elevator a height of 100 m?

**b.** How much power must the motor supply to do this in 50 s at constant speed?

**37.** • **INT**

**a.** How much work must you do to push a 10 kg block of steel across a steel table at a steady speed of 1.0 m/s for 3.0 s?

**b.** What is your power output while doing so?

**38.** •• How much energy is consumed by (a) a 1.2 kW hair dryer used for 10 min and (b) a 10 W night light left on for 24 h?

**39.** • At midday, solar energy strikes the earth with an intensity of about 1 kW/m$^2$. What is the area of a solar collector that could

collect 150 MJ of energy in 1 h? This is roughly the energy content of 1 gallon of gasoline.

**40.** ••• **INT** A 50 kg sprinter, starting from rest, runs 50 m in 7.0 s at constant acceleration.



**a.** What is the magnitude of the horizontal force acting on the sprinter?

**b.** What is the sprinter's power output at 2.0 s, 4.0 s, and 6.0 s?

**41.** •• **BIO** A 70 kg human sprinter can accelerate from rest to 10 m/s in 3.0 s. During the same time interval, a 30 kg greyhound can go from rest to 20 m/s. What is the average power output of each? *Average* power over a time interval $\Delta t$ is $\Delta E/\Delta t$.

**42.** •• **BIO** The human heart pumps the average adult's 6.0 L (6000 $cm^3$) of blood through the body every minute. The heart must do work to overcome frictional forces that resist blood flow. The average adult blood pressure is $1.3 \times 10^4\ \mathrm{N/m^2}$.

**a.** How much work does the heart do to move the 6.0 L of blood completely through the body?

**b.** What power output must the heart have to do this task once a minute?

**Hint:** When the heart contracts, it applies force to the blood. Pressure is force/area. Model the circulatory system as a single closed tube, with cross-section area $A$ and volume $V = 6.0\ \mathrm{L}$, filled with blood to which the heart applies a force.

# Problems

**43.** •• A 1000 kg elevator accelerates upward at 1.0 $m/s^2$ for 10 m, starting from rest.

**a.** How much work does gravity do on the elevator?

**b.** How much work does the tension in the elevator cable do on the elevator?

**c.** What is the elevator's kinetic energy after traveling 10 m?

**44.** ••

**a.** Starting from rest, a crate of mass $m$ is pushed up a frictionless slope of angle $\theta$ by a *horizontal* force of magnitude $F$. Use work and energy to find an expression for the crate's speed $v$ when it is at height $h$ above the bottom of the slope.

**b.** Doug uses a 25 N horizontal force to push a 5.0 kg crate up a 2.0-m-high, 20° frictionless slope. What is the speed of the crate at the top of the slope?

**45.** ••• Susan's 10 kg baby brother Paul sits on a mat. Susan pulls the mat across the floor using a rope that is angled 30° above the floor. The tension is a constant 30 N and the coefficient of friction is 0.20. Use work and energy to find Paul's speed after being pulled 3.0 m.

**46.** •• A particle of mass $m$ moving along the $x$-axis has velocity $v_x = v_0 \sin(\pi x/2L)$. How much work is done on the particle as it moves (a) from $x = 0$ to $x = L$ and (b) from $x = 0$ to $x = 2L$?

**47.** • A ball shot straight up with kinetic energy $K_0$ reaches height $h$. What height will it reach if the initial kinetic energy is doubled?

**48.** •• A pile driver lifts a 250 kg weight and then lets it fall onto the end of a steel pipe that needs to be driven into the ground. A fall of 1.5 m before striking the pipe drives the pipe in 35 cm. What is the average force exerted on the pipe?

**49.** •• **INT** A 50 kg ice skater is gliding along the ice, heading due north at 4.0 m/s. The ice has a small coefficient of static

friction, to prevent the skater from slipping sideways, but $\mu_k = 0$. Suddenly, a wind from the northeast exerts a force of 4.0 N on the skater.

**a.** Use work and energy to find the skater's speed after gliding 100 m in this wind.

**b.** What is the minimum value of $\mu_s$ that allows her to continue moving straight north?

**50.** • You're fishing from a tall pier and have just caught a 1.5 kg fish. As it breaks the surface, essentially at rest, the tension in the vertical fishing line is 16 N. Use work and energy to find the fish's upward speed after you've lifted it 2.0 m.

**51.** •• **CALC** Hooke's law describes an ideal spring. Many real springs are better described by the restoring force $(F_{\text{Sp}})_s = -k\,\Delta s - q(\Delta s)^3$, where $q$ is a constant. Consider a spring with $k = 250\ \text{N/m}$ and $q = 800\ \text{N/m}^3$.

**a.** How much work must you do to compress this spring 15 cm? Note that, by Newton's third law, the work you do *on* the spring is the negative of the work done *by* the spring.

**b.** By what percent has the cubic term increased the work over what would be needed to compress an ideal spring?

**Hint:** Let the spring lie along the $s$-axis with the equilibrium position of the end of the spring at $s = 0$. Then $\Delta s = s$.

**52.** •• **CALC** The force acting on a particle is $F_x = F_0 e^{-x/L}$. How much work does this force do as the particle moves along the $x$-axis from $x = 0$ to $x = L$?

**53.** •• **CALC** The gravitational attraction between two objects with masses $m_1$ and $m_2$, separated by distance $x$, is $F = Gm_1m_2/x^2$, where $G$ is the *gravitational constant*.

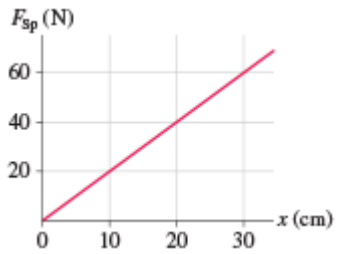
**a.** How much work is done by gravity when the separation changes from $x_1$ to $x_2$? Assume $x_2 < x_1$.

**b.** If one mass is much greater than the other, the larger mass stays essentially at rest while the smaller mass moves toward it. Suppose a $1.5 \times 10^{13}$ kg comet is passing the orbit of Mars, heading straight for the sun at a speed of $3.5 \times 10^4$ m/s. What will its speed be when it crosses the orbit of Mercury? Astronomical data are given in the tables at the back of the book, and $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2$.

**54.** •• **CALC** An *electric dipole* consists of two equal but opposite charges, $+q$ and $-q$, separated by a small distance $d$. Suppose a dipole is located at the origin, aligned so that the $+q$ charge is at $x = +d/2$ and the $-q$ charge at $x = -d/2$. If a positive charge $Q$ is placed on the $+x$-axis at distance $x \gg d$, it is repelled by the dipole with an electric force of magnitude $F = KqQd/x^3$, where $K$ is a constant. How much work does the electric force do if charge $Q$ moves along the $x$-axis from distance $x_1$ to distance $x_2$?

**55.** •• A 50 g rock is placed in a slingshot and the rubber band is stretched. The magnitude of the force of the rubber band on the rock is shown by the graph in Figure P9.55. The rubber band is stretched 30 cm and then released. What is the speed of the rock?

**Figure P9.55**



**56.** •• When a 65 kg cheerleader stands on a vertical spring, the spring compresses by 5.5 cm. When a second cheerleader stands on the shoulders of the first, the spring compresses an additional 4.5 cm. What is the mass of the second cheerleader?

**57.** •• Two identical horizontal springs are attached to opposite sides of a box that sits on a frictionless table. The outer ends of the springs are clamped while the springs are at their equilibrium lengths. Then a 2.0 N force applied to the box, parallel to the springs, compresses one spring by 3.0 cm while stretching the other by the same amount. What is the spring constant of the springs?

**58.** •• A spring of equilibrium length $L_1$ and spring constant $k_1$ hangs from the ceiling. Mass $m_1$ is suspended from its lower end. Then a second spring, with equilibrium length $L_2$ and spring constant $k_2$, is hung from the bottom of $m_1$. Mass $m_2$ is suspended from this second spring. How far is $m_2$ below the ceiling?

**59.** •• A horizontal spring with spring constant 250 N/m is compressed by 12 cm and then used to launch a 250 g box across the floor. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the box and the floor is 0.23. What is the box's launch speed?

**60.** • A 90 kg firefighter needs to climb the stairs of a 20-m-tall building while carrying a 40 kg backpack filled with gear. How much power does he need to reach the top in 55 s?

**61.** •• A hydroelectric power plant uses spinning turbines to transform the kinetic energy of moving water into electric energy with 80% efficiency. That is, 80% of the kinetic energy becomes electric energy. A small hydroelectric plant at the base of a dam generates 50 MW of electric power when the falling

water has a speed of 18 m/s. What is the water flow rate—kilograms of water per second—through the turbines?

**62.** ••• **BIO INT** When you ride a bicycle at constant speed, nearly all the energy you expend goes into the work you do against the drag force of the air. Model a cyclist as having cross-section area 0.45 $m^2$ and, because the human body is not aerodynamically shaped, a drag coefficient of 0.90.

**a.** What is the cyclist's power output while riding at a steady 7.3 m/s (16 mph)?

**b.** *Metabolic power* is the rate at which your body "burns" fuel to power your activities. For many activities, your body is roughly 25% efficient at converting the chemical energy of food into mechanical energy. What is the cyclist's metabolic power while cycling at 7.3 m/s?

**c.** The food calorie is equivalent to 4190 J. How many calories does the cyclist burn if he rides over level ground at 7.3 m/s for 1 h?

**63.** •• **INT** A farmer uses a tractor to pull a 150 kg bale of hay up a 15° incline to the barn at a steady 5.0 km/h. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the bale and the ramp is 0.45. What is the tractor's power output?

**64.** •• A Porsche 944 Turbo has a rated engine power of 217 hp. 30% of the power is lost in the drive train, and 70% reaches the wheels. The total mass of the car and driver is 1480 kg, and two-thirds of the weight is over the drive wheels.

**a.** What is the maximum acceleration of the Porsche on a concrete surface where $\mu_s = 1.00$?

**Hint:** What force pushes the car forward?

**b.** If the Porsche accelerates at $a_{\max}$, what is its speed when it reaches maximum power output?

**c.** How long does it take the Porsche to reach the maximum power output?

**65.** •• Astronomers using a 2.0-m-diameter telescope observe a distant supernova—an exploding star. The telescope's detector records $9.1 \times 10^{-11}$ J of light energy during the first 10 s. It's known that this type of supernova has a visible-light power output of $5.0 \times 10^{37}$ W for the first 10 s of the explosion. How distant is the supernova? Give your answer in *light years*, where one light year is the distance light travels in one year. The speed of light is $3.0 \times 10^8$ m/s.

**66.** •• **INT** Six dogs pull a two-person sled with a total mass of 220 kg. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the sled and the snow is 0.080. The sled accelerates at 0.75 m/s$^2$ until it reaches a cruising speed of 12 km/h. What is the team's (a) maximum power output during the acceleration phase and (b) power output during the cruising phase?

In Problems 67, 68, 69 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Draw a pictorial representation.

**c.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**67.** $$\tfrac{1}{2}(2.0\,\text{kg})(4.0\,\text{m/s})^2 + 0 + (0.15)(2.0\,\text{kg})(9.8\,\text{m/s}^2)(2.0\,\text{m}) = 0 + 0 + T(2.0\,\text{m})$$

**68.** $$F_{\text{push}} - (0.20)(30\text{ kg})(9.8\text{ m/s}^2) = 0$$
$$75\text{ W} = F_{\text{push}}v$$

**69.** $T - (1500\ \text{kg})(9.8\ \text{m/s}^2) = (1500\ \text{kg})(1.0\ \text{m/s}^2)$
$P = T(2.0\ \text{m/s})$

## Challenge Problems

**70.** ••• A 12 kg weather rocket generates a thrust of 200 N. The rocket, pointing upward, is clamped to the top of a vertical spring. The bottom of the spring, whose spring constant is 550 N/m, is anchored to the ground.

**a.** Initially, before the engine is ignited, the rocket sits at rest on top of the spring. How much is the spring compressed?

**b.** After the engine is ignited, what is the rocket's speed when the spring has stretched 40 cm?

**71.** ••• A gardener pushes a 12 kg lawnmower whose handle is tilted up 37° above horizontal. The lawnmower's coefficient of rolling friction is 0.15. How much power does the gardener have to supply to push the lawnmower at a constant speed of 1.2 m/s? Assume his push is parallel to the handle.

**72.** ••• **CALC** A uniform solid bar with mass $m$ and length $L$ rotates with angular velocity $\omega$ about an axle at one end of the bar. What is the bar's kinetic energy?

# Chapter 10
# Interactions and Potential Energy

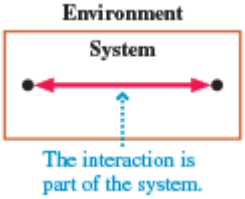
These windmills are transforming the kinetic energy of the wind into electric energy.

**In This Chapter**

you will develop a better understanding of energy and its conservation.

## How do interactions affect energy?

We continue our investigation of energy by allowing interactions to be part of the system, rather than external forces. You will learn that interactions can store energy within the system. Further, this interaction energy can be transformed—via the interaction forces—into kinetic energy.

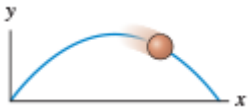


## What is potential energy?

Interaction energy is usually called potential energy. There are many kinds of potential energy, each associated with *position*.

- Gravitational potential energy changes with height.
- Elastic potential energy changes with stretching.

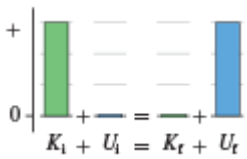
Looking Back Section 9.1 Energy overview



## When is energy conserved?

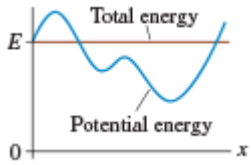
- If a system is isolated, its total energy is conserved.
- If a system both is isolated and has *no dissipative forces*, its mechanical energy, $K + U$, is conserved.

Energy bar charts are a tool for visualizing energy conservation.




## What is an energy diagram?

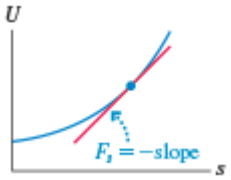
An energy diagram is a graphical representation of how the energy of a particle changes as it moves. Turning points occur where the total energy line crosses the potential-energy curve. And potential-energy minima are points of stable equilibrium.




## How is force related to potential energy?

Only certain types of forces, called conservative forces, are associated with a potential energy. For these forces,

- The work done changes the potential energy by $\Delta U = -W$.
- Force is the negative of the slope of the potential-energy curve.




## Where are we now in our study of energy?

Energy is a big topic, not one that can be presented in a single chapter. Chapters 9 and 10 are primarily about mechanical energy and the mechanical transfer of energy via work. And we've touched on thermal energy because it's unavoidable in realistic mechanical systems with friction. These are related by the energy principle:

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

Part V of this book, Thermodynamics, will expand our energy ideas to include heat and a deeper understanding of thermal energy. Then we'll add another form of energy—electric energy—in Part VI.

# 10.1 Potential Energy

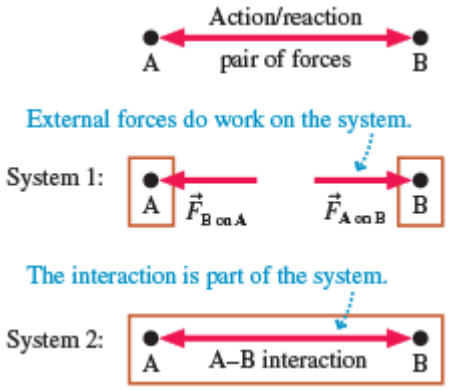


If you press a ball against a spring and release it, the ball shoots forward. It certainly seems like the spring had a supply of stored energy that was transferred to the ball. Or imagine tossing the ball straight up. Where does its kinetic energy go as it slows? And from where does it acquire kinetic energy as it falls? There's again a sense that the energy is stored somewhere as the ball rises, then released as the ball falls. But is energy really stored? And if so, where? And how? Answering these questions is key to expanding our understanding of the basic energy model.

Chapter 9 emphasized the importance of the *system* and the *environment*. The system has energy $E_{sys}$, and forces from the environment—external forces—change the system's energy by doing work on the system. In Chapter 9, we considered only systems of particles, and all forces originated in the environment. But that's not the only way to define the system. What happens if we bring some of the interactions inside the system?

Figure 10.1 shows two particle-like objects A and B that interact with each other and nothing else. For example, these might be two objects connected by a spring, two masses exerting gravitational forces on each other, or two charged particles exerting electric forces on each other. Regardless of what the interaction is, this is an action/reaction pair of forces that obeys Newton's third law. There are two ways to define a system.

**Figure 10.1**




Two choices of the system and the environment.

System 1 has been chosen to consist of only the two particles; the forces are external forces. This is exactly the analysis we did in Chapter 9, so we know that the energy principle for system 1 is

**(10.1)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys 1}} = \Delta K_{\text{tot}} = W_{\text{ext}} = W_{\text{A}} + W_{\text{B}}$$

where $K_{\text{tot}}$ is the combined kinetic energies of A and B. Work $W_{\text{A}}$ is the work done on A by force $\vec{F}_{\text{B on A}}$, and similarly $W_{\text{B}}$ is the work done on B by force $\vec{F}_{\text{A on B}}$. The work of these two forces changes the system's kinetic energy.

Now consider the same two particles but with a different choice of system, system 2, where we've included the interaction within the system. It's important to recognize that a system is not a physical thing. It's an analysis tool that we can define however we wish, and our choice doesn't change the behavior of physical objects. Objects A and B are oblivious to our choice of system, so $\Delta K_{\text{tot}}$ for system 2 is exactly the same as for system 1. But $W_{\text{ext}}$ *has* changed. System 2 has no external forces to transfer energy to or from the system, so $W_{\text{ext}} = 0$. Consequently, the energy principle for system 2 is

(10.2)

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys 2}} = W_{\text{ext}} = 0$$

Now the fact that $\Delta E_{\text{sys 1}} \neq \Delta E_{\text{sys 2}}$ is not an issue; after all, they are different systems. But we know that system 2 has a changing kinetic energy, so how can $\Delta E_{\text{sys 2}} = 0$?

Because system 2 has an interaction inside the system that system 1 lacks, let's postulate that system 2 has an additional form of energy associated with the interaction. That is, system 1 has $E_{\text{sys 1}} = K_{\text{tot}}$, because particles have only kinetic energy, but system 2 has $E_{\text{sys 2}} = K_{\text{tot}} + U$, where $U$, called **potential energy,** is the energy of the interaction.

If this is true, we can combine $\Delta E_{\text{sys 2}} = 0$, from Equation 10.2, with our knowledge of $\Delta K_{\text{tot}}$ from Equation 10.1 to write

(10.3)

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys 2}} = \Delta K_{\text{tot}} + \Delta U = (W_{\text{A}} + W_{\text{B}}) + \Delta U = 0$$

That is, system 2 can have $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = 0$ if it has a potential energy that changes by

---

(10.4)

$$\Delta U = -(W_{\text{A}} + W_{\text{B}}) = -W_{\text{int}}$$



where $W_{\text{int}}$ is the total work done *inside the system* by the interaction forces.

Equation 10.3 tells us that the system's kinetic energy can increase ($\Delta K > 0$) if its potential energy decreases ($\Delta U < 0$) by the same amount. In effect, **the interaction stores energy inside the system** with the *potential* to be converted to kinetic energy (or, in other situations, thermal energy)—hence the name *potential energy*. This idea will become more concrete as we start looking at specific examples. And, since we *postulated* the existence of an energy associated with interactions, we'll need to investigate the types of interactions for which this is true.

> **Note**
>
> Kinetic energy is the energy of an object. In contrast, potential energy is the energy of an interaction. You can say "The ball has kinetic energy" but not "The ball has potential energy." We'll look at the best way to describe potential energy when we get to specific examples.

## Systems Matter

When solving a problem, *you* get to define the system. But your choice has consequences! $E_{\text{sys}}$ is the energy *of* the system, so a different system will have a different energy. Similarly, $W_{\text{ext}}$ is the work done on the system by forces originating in the environment, and that will depend on the boundary between the system and the environment.

In Figure 10.1, system 1 is a restricted system of just the particles, so system 1 has only kinetic energy. All the interaction forces are external forces that do work. Thus system 1 obeys

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K_{\text{tot}} = W_{\text{A}} + W_{\text{B}}$$

System 2 includes the interaction, so system 2 has both kinetic and potential energy. But the choice of the system boundary means that no work is done by external forces. So for system 2,

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K_{\text{tot}} + \Delta U = 0$$

Both mathematical statements are true because they refer to different systems. Notice that, for system 2, kinetic energy can be transformed into potential energy, or vice versa, but **the total energy of the system does not change.** This is our first glimpse of the idea of *conservation of energy*.

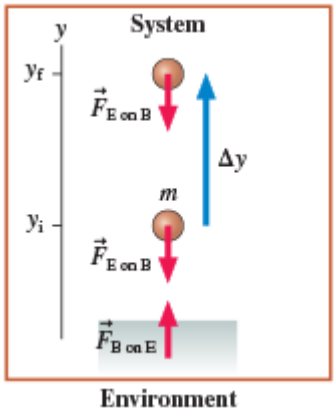
The point to remember is that **any choice of system is acceptable, but you can't mix and match.** You can define the system so that you have to calculate work, or you can define the system where you use potential energy, but using both work *and* potential energy is incorrect because it double counts the contribution of the interaction. Thus the most critical step in an energy analysis is to clearly define the system you're working with.

# 10.2 Gravitational Potential Energy

We'll start our exploration of potential energy with **gravitational potential energy,** the interaction energy associated with the gravitational interaction between two masses. The symbol for gravitational potential energy is $U_G$. We'll restrict ourselves to the "flat-earth approximation" $F_G = -mg\hat{J}$. The gravitational potential energy of two astronomical bodies will be taken up in Chapter 13.

Figure 10.2 shows a ball of mass $m$ moving upward from an initial vertical position $y_i$ to a final vertical position $y_f$. The earth exerts force $\vec{F}_{E\text{ on }B}$ on the ball and, by Newton's third law, the ball exerts an equal-but-opposite force $\vec{F}_{B\text{ on }E}$ on the earth.

## Figure 10.2




The ball + earth system has a gravitational potential energy.

We could define the system to consist of only the ball, in which case the force of gravity is an external force that does work on the ball, changing its kinetic energy. We did exactly this in Chapter 9. Now let's define the

system to be ball + earth. This brings the interaction inside the system, so (ignoring any gravitational forces from distant astronomical bodies) there's no external work. Instead, we have an energy of interaction—the gravitational potential energy—described by Equation 10.4:

**(10.5)**

$$\Delta U_{\mathrm{G}} = -\left(W_{\mathrm{B}} + W_{\mathrm{E}}\right)$$

where $W_{\mathrm{B}}$ is the work gravity does on the ball and $W_{\mathrm{E}}$ is the work gravity does on the earth. The latter, practically speaking, is zero. $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{E\ on\ B}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{B\ on\ E}}$ have equal magnitudes, by Newton's third law, but the earth's displacement is completely insignificant compared to the ball's displacement. Because work is a product of force and displacement, the work done on the earth is essentially zero and we can write

**(10.6)**

$$\Delta U_{\mathrm{G}} = -W_{\mathrm{B}}$$

You learned in Chapter 9 to compute the work of gravity on the ball: $W_{\mathrm{B}} = (F_{\mathrm{G}})_y \Delta y = -mg\Delta y$. So if the ball changes its vertical position by $\Delta y$, the gravitational potential energy changes by

**(10.7)**

$$\Delta U_{\mathrm{G}} = -W_{\mathrm{B}} = mg\Delta y$$

Notice that increasing the ball's height ($\Delta y > 0$) increases the gravitational potential energy ($\Delta U_{\mathrm{G}} > 0$), as we would expect.

Our energy analysis has given us an expression for $\Delta U_{\mathrm{G}}$, the *change* in potential energy, but not an expression for $U_{\mathrm{G}}$ itself. If we write out what the $\Delta$ in Equation 10.7 means—final value minus initial value—we have

**(10.8)**

$$U_{\mathrm{Gf}} - U_{\mathrm{Gi}} = mgy_{\mathrm{f}} - mgy_{\mathrm{i}}$$

Consequently, we define the gravitational potential energy to be

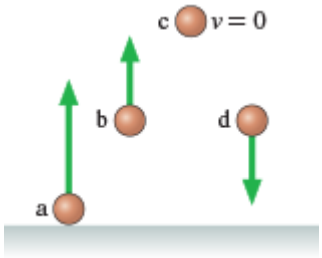
**(10.9)**

$$U_{\mathrm{G}} = mgy \qquad (\text{gravitational potential energy})$$

Notice that **gravitational potential energy is an energy of position.** It depends on the object's position but not on its speed. You should convince yourself that the units of mass times acceleration times position are joules, the unit of energy.

## Stop to Think 10.1

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the gravitational potential energies of balls a to d.



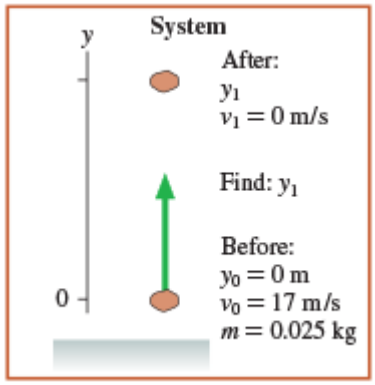

### Example 10.1 Launching a pebble

Rafael uses a slingshot to shoot a 25 g pebble straight up at 17 m/s. How high does the pebble go?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of both the earth and the pebble, which we model as a particle. Assume that air resistance is negligible. There are no external forces to do work, but the system does have gravitational potential energy.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.3 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. The before-and-after representation will continue to be our primary visualization tool.

### Figure 10.3




Pictorial representation of the pebble + earth system.

**SOLVE** The energy principle for the pebble + earth system is

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U_{\text{G}} = W_{\text{ext}} = 0$$

That is, the system energy does not change at all. Instead, kinetic energy is transformed into potential energy without loss inside the system. In principle, the kinetic energy is that of the ball plus the kinetic energy of the earth. But as we just noted, the enormous

mass difference means that the earth is effectively at rest while the pebble does all the moving, so the only kinetic energy we need to consider is that of the pebble. Thus we have

$$0 = \Delta K + \Delta U_{\mathrm{G}} = \left(\tfrac{1}{2}mv_1^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}mv_0^2\right) + (mgy_1 - mgy_0)$$

We know that $v_1 = 0\,\mathrm{m/s}$, and we chose a coordinate system in which $y_0 = 0\,\mathrm{m}$, so we're left with

$$y_1 = \frac{v_0^2}{2g} = \frac{(17\,\mathrm{m/s})^2}{2(9.80\,\mathrm{m/s^2})} = 15\,\mathrm{m}$$

The answer did not depend on the pebble's mass, which is not surprising after our earlier practice with free-fall problems.

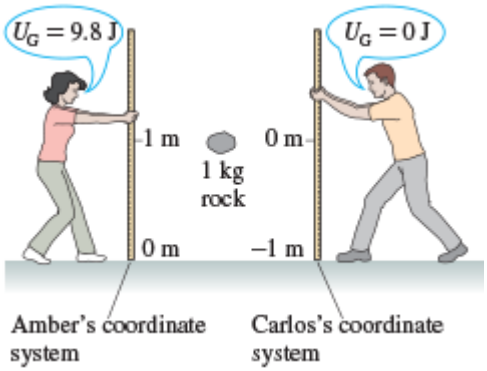
**ASSESS** A height of $15\,\mathrm{m} \approx 45\,\mathrm{ft}$ seems reasonable for a slingshot.



## The Zero of Potential Energy

Our expression for the gravitational potential energy $U_{\mathrm{G}} = mgy$ seems straightforward. But you might notice, on further reflection, that the value of $U_{\mathrm{G}}$ depends on where you choose to put the origin of your coordinate system. Consider Figure 10.4, where Amber and Carlos are attempting to determine the potential energy when a 1 kg rock is 1 m above the ground. Amber chooses to put the origin of her coordinate system on the ground, measures $y_{\mathrm{rock}} = 1\,\mathrm{m}$, and quickly computes $U_{\mathrm{G}} = mgy = 9.8\,\mathrm{J}$. Carlos, on the other hand, read Chapter 1 very carefully and recalls that it is entirely up to him where to locate the origin of his coordinate system. So he places his origin next to the rock, measures $y_{\mathrm{rock}} = 0\,\mathrm{m}$, and declares that $U_{\mathrm{G}} = mgy = 0\,\mathrm{J}$!

## Figure 10.4




Amber and Carlos use different coordinate systems to determine the gravitational potential energy.

How can the potential energy have two different values? The source of this apparent difficulty comes from our interpretation of Equation 10.7. Our energy analysis found that the potential energy *changes* by $\Delta U_G = mg(y_f - y_i)$. Our claim that $U_G = mgy$ is consistent with this finding, but so also would be a claim that $U_G = mgy + C$, where $C$ is any constant.

In other words, potential energy does not have a uniquely defined value. Adding or subtracting the same constant from all potential energies in a problem has no physical consequences because our analysis uses only $\Delta U_G$, the *change* in the potential energy, never the actual value of $U_G$. In practice, we work with potential energies by setting a *reference point* or *reference level* where $U_G = 0$. This is the **zero of potential energy**. Where you place the reference point is entirely up to you; it makes no difference as long as every potential energy in the problem uses the same reference point. For gravitational potential energy, we choose the reference level by placing the origin of the $y$-axis at that point. Where $y = 0, U_G = 0$. In Figure 10.4, Amber has placed her zero of potential energy at the ground, whereas Carlos has set a reference level 1 m above the ground.

Either is perfectly acceptable as long as Amber and Carlos use their reference levels consistently.

But what happens when the rock falls? When it gets to the ground, Amber measures $y = 0\,\text{m}$ and computes $U_\text{G} = 0\,\text{J}$. No problem. But Carlos measures $y = -1\,\text{m}$ and thus computes $U_\text{G} = -9.8\,\text{J}$. A negative potential energy may seem surprising, but it's not wrong; it simply means that the potential energy is less than at the reference point. The potential energy with the rock on the ground is certainly less than when the rock was 1 m above the ground, so for Carlos—with an elevated reference level—the potential energy is negative. The important point is that both Amber and Carlos agree that the gravitational potential energy *changes* by $\Delta U_\text{G} = -9.8\,\text{J}$ as the rock falls.

## Energy Bar Charts

If an object of mass $m$ interacts with the earth (or other astronomical body) and there are no other forces, the energy principle for the object + earth system, Equation 10.3, is

**(10.10)**

$$\Delta K + \Delta U_\text{G} = (K_\text{f} - K_\text{i}) + (U_\text{Gf} - U_\text{Gi}) = 0$$

We can rewrite this as

**(10.11)**

$$K_\text{i} + U_\text{Gi} = K_\text{f} + U_\text{Gf}$$

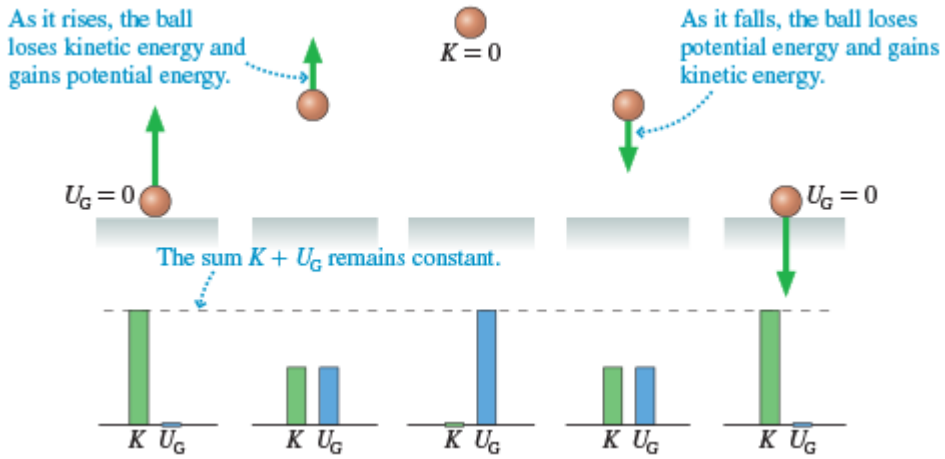
The quantity $E_\text{mech} = K_\text{tot} + U_\text{int}$, the total macroscopic kinetic and potential energy, is called the **mechanical energy** of the system. Equation 10.11 is telling us that—in this situation—**the mechanical energy does**

**not change** as the object undergoes vertical motion. Whatever initial mechanical energy the system had before the vertical motion, it has exactly the same mechanical energy after the motion.[236] Kinetic energy may be transformed into potential energy during the motion, or vice versa, but their sum remains unchanged.

A quantity that is unchanged during an interaction is said to be *conserved*, and Equation 10.11 is our first statement of the *law of conservation of energy*. Now this is a highly restricted situation: only the gravitational force, no other forces, and only vertical motion. We'll explore energy conservation thoroughly later in this chapter and see to what extent these restrictions can be lifted, but we're already beginning to see the power of thinking about mechanical systems in terms of energy.

Equation 10.11, which is really just energy accounting, can be represented graphically with an **energy bar chart**. For example, Figure 10.5 is a bar chart showing how energy is transformed when a ball is tossed straight up. Kinetic energy is gradually transformed into potential energy as the ball rises, then potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy as it falls, **but the combined height of the bars does not change.** That is, the mechanical energy of the ball + earth system is conserved.

## Figure 10.5



Energy bar charts for a ball tossed into the air.

**Note**

Most bar charts have no numbers. Their purpose is to think about the relative changes—what's increasing, what's decreasing, and what remains constant; there's no significance to how tall a bar is.

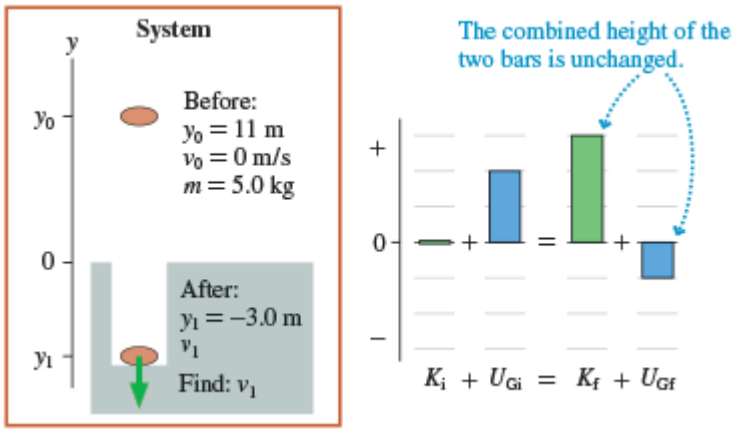
**Example 10.2 Dropping a watermelon**

A 5.0 kg watermelon is dropped from a third-story balcony, 11 m above the street. Unfortunately, the water department forgot to replace the cover on a manhole, and the watermelon falls into a 3.0-m-deep hole. How fast is the watermelon going when it hits bottom?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of both the earth and the watermelon, which we model as a particle. Assume that air resistance is negligible. There are no external forces, and the motion is vertical, so the system's mechanical energy is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.6 shows both a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart. Initially the system has gravitational potential energy but no kinetic energy. Potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy as the watermelon falls. Our choice of the $y$-axis origin has placed the zero of potential energy at ground level, so the potential energy is negative when the watermelon reaches the bottom of the hole. Even so, the combined height of the two bars has not changed.

**Figure 10.6**




Pictorial representation and energy bar chart of the watermelon + earth system.

**SOLVE** The energy principle for the watermelon + earth system, written as a conservation statement, is

$$K_i + U_{Gi} = 0 + mgy_0 = K_f + U_{Gf} = \frac{1}{2}mv_1^2 + mgy_1$$

**237**

Solving for the impact speed, we find

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= \sqrt{2g(y_0 - y_1)} \\ &= \sqrt{2\left(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2\right)(11.0\,\text{m} - (-3.0\,\text{m}))} \\ &= 17\,\text{m/s} \end{aligned}$$

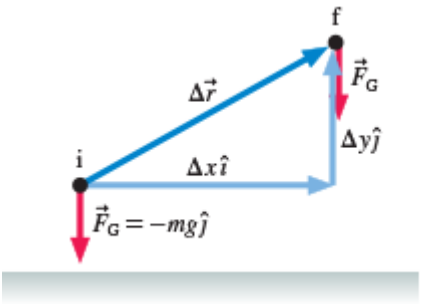
**ASSESS** A speed of $17\,\text{m/s} \approx$ mph seems reasonable for the watermelon after falling $\approx$ 4 stories. In thinking about this problem, you might be concerned that, once below ground level, potential energy continues being transformed into kinetic energy even though the potential energy is "less than none." Keep in mind that the actual value of $U$ is not relevant because we can place the zero of potential energy anywhere we wish, so a negative potential energy is just a number with no implication that it's "less than

none." There's no "storehouse" of potential energy that might run dry. As long as the interaction acts, potential energy can continue being transformed into kinetic energy.

## Digging Deeper into Gravitational Potential Energy

The concept of gravitational potential energy would be of little interest or use if it applied only to vertical free fall. Let's begin to expand the idea. Figure 10.7 shows a particle of mass $m$ moving at an angle while acted on by gravity. How much work does gravity do?

**Figure 10.7**




Gravity does work on a particle moving at an angle.

Gravity is a constant force. In Chapter 9 you learned that, in general, the work done by a constant force is $W = \vec{F} \cdot \Delta\vec{r}$. If we write both $\vec{F}_G$ and $\Delta\vec{r}$ in terms of components, and use the Chapter 9 result for calculating the dot product with components, we find that the work done by gravity is

(10.12)

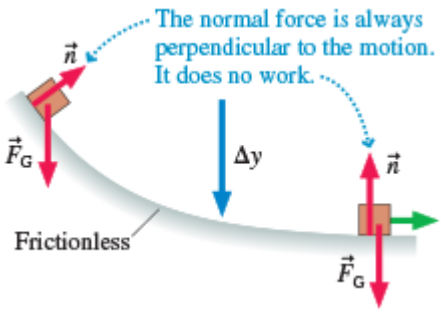
$$\begin{aligned} W_{\text{by grav}} &= \vec{F}_{\text{G}} \cdot \Delta \vec{r} = (F_{\text{G}})_x (\Delta r_x) + (F_{\text{G}})_y (\Delta r_y) = 0 + (-mg)(\Delta y) \\ &= -mg\Delta y \end{aligned}$$

Because $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ has no $x$-component, the work depends only on the vertical displacement $\Delta y$.

Consequently, **the change in gravitational potential energy depends only on an object's vertical displacement.** This is true not only for motion along a straight line, as in Figure 10.7, but also for motion along a *curved* trajectory because a curve can be represented as the limit of a very large number of very short straight-line segments.

For example, Figure 10.8 shows an object sliding down a curved, frictionless surface. The change in gravitational potential energy of the object + earth system depends only on $\Delta y$, the distance the object descends, *not* on the shape of the curve. But now there's an additional force—the normal force of the surface. Does this force affect the system's energy? No! The normal force is always perpendicular to the box's instantaneous displacement, and you learned in Chapter 9 that forces perpendicular to the displacement do no work. **Forces always perpendicular to the motion do not affect the system's energy.** They can be ignored during an energy analysis.

## Figure 10.8



For motion on any frictionless surface, only the vertical displacement $\Delta y$ affects the energy.

## Stop to Think 10.2

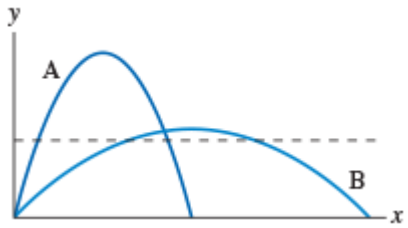


Two identical projectiles are fired with the same speed but at different angles. Neglect air resistance. At the elevation shown as a dashed line,

**a.** The speed of A is greater than the speed of B.

**b.** The speed of A is the same as the speed of B.

**c.** The speed of A is less than the speed of B.




### Example 10.3 The speed of a sled

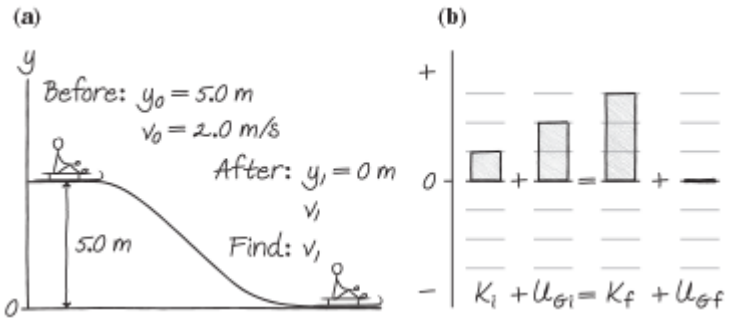
Christine runs forward with her sled at 2.0 m/s. She hops onto the sled at the top of a 5.0-m-high, very slippery slope. What is her speed at the bottom?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of the earth and the sled, which we model as a particle. Because the slope is "very slippery," we'll assume that friction is negligible. The slope exerts a normal force

on the sled, but it is always perpendicular to the motion and does not affect the energy.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.9a shows a before-and-after pictorial representation. We are not told the angle of the slope, or even if it is a straight slope, but the change in potential energy depends only on the vertical distance Christine descends and *not* on the shape of the hill. Figure 10.9b is an energy bar chart in which we see an initial kinetic *and* potential energy being transformed into entirely kinetic energy as Christine goes down the slope.

## Figure 10.9




Pictorial representation and energy bar chart of the sled + earth system.

**SOLVE** The energy analysis is just like in Example 10.2; the fact that the object is moving on a curved surface hasn't changed anything. The energy principle, written as a conservation statement, is

$$\begin{aligned} K_\mathrm{i} + U_\mathrm{Gi} &= \tfrac{1}{2}mv_0^2 + mgy_0 \\ &= K_\mathrm{f} + U_\mathrm{Gf} = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_1^2 + 0 \end{aligned}$$

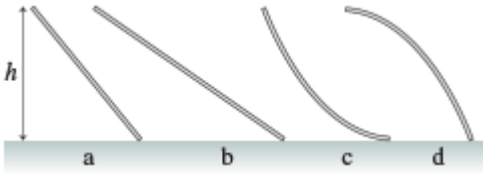
Her speed at the bottom is

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= \sqrt{v_0^2 + 2gy_0} \\ &= \sqrt{(2.0\,\text{m/s})^2 + 2\left(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2\right)(5.0\,\text{m})} \\ &= 10\,\text{m/s} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** $10\,\text{m/s} \approx 20$ mph is fast but believable for a $5\,\text{m} \approx 15\,\text{ft}$ descent.

### Stop to Think 10.3

A small child slides down the four frictionless slides a–d. Each has the same height. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, her speeds $v_a$ to $v_d$ at the bottom.




## Motion with Gravity and Friction

What if there's friction? You learned in Section 9.5 that friction increases the thermal energy of the system—defined to include *both* objects—by $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = f_k \Delta s$. For a system with both gravitational potential energy and friction, the energy principle becomes



**(10.13)**

$$\Delta K + \Delta U_G + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0$$

or, equivalently,

**(10.14)**

$$K_{\rm i} + U_{\rm Gi} = K_{\rm f} + U_{\rm Gf} + \Delta E_{\rm th}$$

Mechanical energy $K + U_{\rm G}$ is *not* conserved if there is friction. Because $\Delta E_{\rm th} > 0$ (friction always makes surfaces hotter, never cooler), the final mechanical energy is less than the initial mechanical energy. That is, some fraction of the initial kinetic and potential energy is transformed into thermal energy during the motion. Friction causes objects to slow down, and motion ceases when all the mechanical energy has been transformed into thermal energy. Mechanical energy is conserved only when there are no dissipative forces and thus $\Delta E_{\rm th} = 0$.

> **Note**
>
> We can write the energy principle in terms of initial and final values of the kinetic energy and the potential energy, but *not* the thermal energy. Objects always have thermal energy—the atoms are constantly in motion—but we have no way to know how much. All we can calculate is the *change* in thermal energy.

Although mechanical energy is not conserved, *the system's energy is*. Equation 10.13 tells us that the sum of kinetic, potential, and thermal energy—the energy of the system—does not change as the object moves on a surface with friction. The initial mechanical energy does not disappear; it's merely transformed into an equal amount of thermal energy.

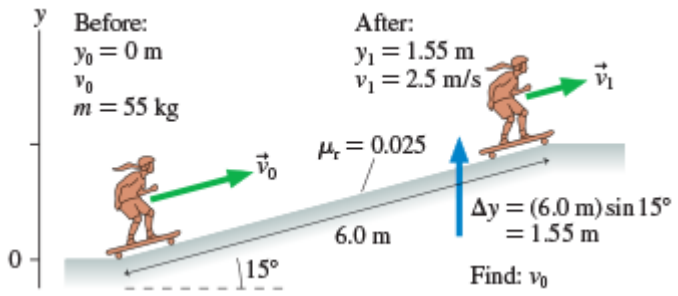
### Example 10.4 Skateboarding up a ramp

During the skateboard finals, Isabella encounters a 6.0-m-long, 15° upward ramp. Isabella's mass, including the skateboard, is 55 kg, and the coefficient of rolling friction between her wheels and the ramp is 0.025. With what speed must she start up the ramp to reach the top at 2.5 m/s? What percentage of her mechanical energy is "lost" to friction?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of the earth (including the ramp) and Isabella on the skateboard.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.10 shows a before-and-after pictorial representation.

## Figure 10.10




Pictorial representation of Isabella on the ramp.

**SOLVE** Isabella's kinetic energy is transformed into potential energy as she gains height, but some of her kinetic energy is also transformed into increased thermal energy of her wheels and the ramp because of rolling friction. The energy principle including friction is

$$\begin{aligned} K_i + U_{Gi} &= \tfrac{1}{2}mv_0^2 + 0 \\ &= K_f + U_{Gf} + \Delta E_{th} = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_1^2 + mgy_1 + f_r\Delta s \end{aligned}$$

where we've used rolling friction $f_r$ rather than the kinetic friction of sliding. Rolling friction is $f_r = \mu_r n$, and recall—from Chapter 6—that the normal force of an object on a slope is $n = mg\cos\theta$. (Draw a free-body diagram if you're not sure.) Thus

$$\tfrac{1}{2}mv_0^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_1^2 + mgy_1 + \mu_r mg\Delta s\cos\theta$$

The mass cancels. Solving for Isabella's speed at the bottom of the ramp, we find

$$v_0 = \sqrt{v_1^2 + 2gy_1 + 2\mu_r g\Delta s\cos\theta} = 6.3\,\text{m/s}$$

Isabella's initial mechanical energy is entirely kinetic energy: $K_0 = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_0^2 = 1090\,\text{J}$. The thermal energy of the ramp and her wheels increases by $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = \mu_r mg\Delta s\cos\theta = 78\,\text{J}$. Thus the percentage of mechanical energy transformed into thermal energy as Isabella ascends the ramp is

$$\frac{78\,\text{J}}{1090\,\text{J}} \times 100 = 7.2\%$$

This energy is not truly lost—it's still in the system—but it's no longer available for motion.

**ASSESS** The ramp is $1.55\,\text{m} \approx 5\,\text{ft}$ high. Starting up the ramp at $6.3\,\text{m/s} \approx 12\,\text{mph}$ in order to reach the top at $2.5\,\text{m/s} \approx 5\,\text{mph}$ seems reasonable.

## Stop to Think 10.4

A skier glides down a gentle slope at constant speed. What energy transformation is taking place?

**a.** $U_{\mathrm{G}} \rightarrow K$

**b.** $U_{\mathrm{G}} \rightarrow K + E_{\mathrm{th}}$

**c.** $U_{\mathrm{G}} \rightarrow E_{\mathrm{th}}$

**d.** $K \rightarrow E_{\mathrm{th}}$

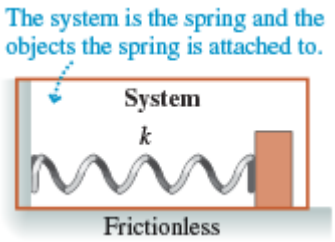
**e.** No energy transformation is occurring.

# 10.3 Elastic Potential Energy



Much of what you've just learned about gravitational potential energy carries over to the *elastic potential energy* of a spring. Figure 10.11 shows a spring exerting a force on a block while the block moves on a frictionless, horizontal surface. In Chapter 9, we analyzed this problem by defining the system to consist of only the block, and we calculated the work of the spring on the block. Now let's define the system to be block + spring + wall. That is, the system is the spring and the objects connected by the spring. The surface and the earth exert forces on the block—the normal force and gravity—but those forces are always perpendicular to the displacement and do not transfer any energy to the system.

**Figure 10.11**




The block + spring + wall system has an elastic potential energy.

We'll assume the spring to be massless, so it has no kinetic energy. Instead, the spring is the *interaction* between the block and the wall. Because the interaction is inside the system, it has an interaction energy, the **elastic potential energy,** given by

**(10.15)**

$$\Delta U_{\mathrm{Sp}} = -(W_{\mathrm{B}} + W_{\mathrm{W}})$$

where $W_B$ is the work the spring does on the block and $W_W$ is the work done on the wall. But the wall is rigid and has no displacement, so $W_W = 0$ and thus $\Delta U_{Sp} = -W_B$.

We calculated the work done by an ideal spring—one that produces a linear restoring force for all displacement—in Section 9.4. If the block moves from an initial position $s_i$, where the spring's displacement is $\Delta s_i = s_i - s_{eq}$, to a final position $s_f$ with displacement $\Delta s_f = s_f - s_{eq}$, the spring does work

**(10.16)**

$$W_B = -\left(\tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s_f)^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s_i)^2\right)$$

With the minus sign of Equation 10.15, we have

**(10.17)**

$$\Delta U_{Sp} = U_f - U_i = -W_B = \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s_f)^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s_i)^2$$

Thus the elastic potential energy is

---

**(10.18)**

$$U_{Sp} = \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s)^2 \qquad \text{(elastic potential energy)}$$

where $\Delta s$ is the displacement of the spring from its equilibrium length. Elastic potential energy, like gravitational potential energy, is an *energy of position*. It depends on where the block is, not on how fast the block is moving. Although we derived Equation 10.18 for a spring, it applies to

*any* linear restoring force if $k$ is the appropriate "spring constant" for that force.

The energy principle for a system with elastic potential energy and no external interactions is either $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U_{\text{Sp}} = 0$ or, recognizing that mechanical energy is again conserved,

**(10.19)**

$$K_{\text{i}} + U_{\text{Sp i}} = K_{\text{f}} + U_{\text{Sp f}}$$

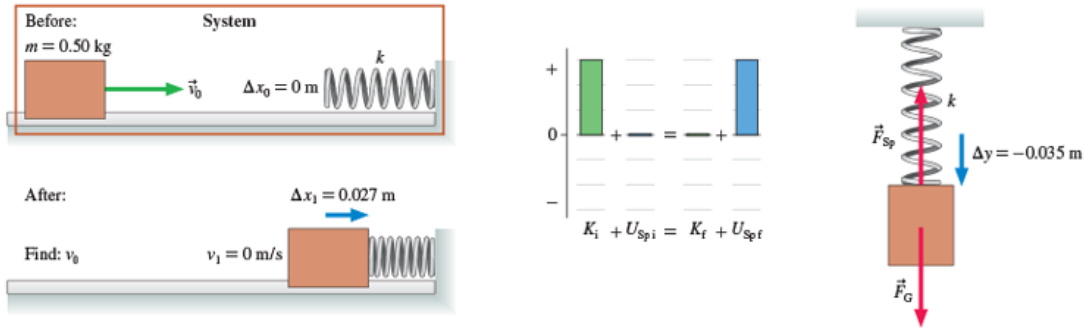
**Example 10.5 An air-track glider compresses a spring**

In a laboratory experiment, your instructor challenges you to figure out how fast a 500 g air-track glider is traveling when it collides with a horizontal spring attached to the end of the track. He pushes the glider, and you notice that the spring compresses 2.7 cm before the glider rebounds. After discussing the situation with your lab partners, you decide to hang the spring on a hook and suspend the glider from the bottom end of the spring. This stretches the spring by 3.5 cm. Based on your measurements, how fast was the glider moving?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of the track, the spring, and the glider. The spring is inside the system, so the elastic interaction will be treated as a potential energy. Gravity and the normal force of the track on the glider are perpendicular to the glider's displacement, so they do no work and do not enter into an energy analysis. An air track is essentially frictionless, and there are no other external forces.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.12 shows a before-and-after pictorial representation of the collision, an energy bar chart, and a free-body diagram of the suspended glider.

## Figure 10.12




Pictorial representation of the experiment.

**SOLVE** The glider's kinetic energy is gradually transformed into elastic potential energy as it compresses the spring. The point of maximum compression—After in Figure 10.12—is a turning point in the motion. The velocity is instantaneously zero, the glider's kinetic energy is zero, and thus—as the bar chart shows—all the energy has been transformed into potential energy. The spring will expand and cause the glider to rebound, but that's not part of this problem. The energy principle with elastic potential energy, in conservation form, is



$$K_{\mathrm{i}} + U_{\mathrm{Sp\,i}} = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_0^2 + 0 = K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{Sp\,f}} = 0 + \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta x_1)^2$$

where we utilized our knowledge that the initial elastic potential energy and the final kinetic energy, at the turning point, are zero. Solving for the glider's initial speed, we find

$$v_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}\Delta x_1$$

It was at this point that you and your lab partners realized you needed to determine the spring constant $k$. One way to do so is to measure the stretch caused by a suspended mass. The hanging glider is in equilibrium with no net force, and the free-body diagram shows that the upward spring force exactly balances the downward gravitational force. From Hooke's law, the *magnitude* of the spring force is $F_{\text{Sp}} = k|\Delta y|$. Thus Newton's first law for the suspended glider is

$$F_{\text{Sp}} = k|\Delta y| = F_{\text{G}} = mg$$

from which the spring's spring constant is

$$k = \frac{mg}{|\Delta y|} = \frac{(0.50\,\text{kg})\left(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2\right)}{0.035\,\text{m}} = 140\,\text{N/m}$$

Knowing $k$, you can now find that the glider's speed was

$$v_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}\,\Delta x_1 = \sqrt{\frac{140\,\text{N/m}}{0.50\,\text{kg}}}\,(0.027\,\text{m}) = 0.45\,\text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** A speed of ≈ 0.5 m/s is typical for gliders on an air track.

## Including Gravity

Now that we see how the basic energy model works, it's easy to extend it to new situations. If a problem has both a spring *and* a vertical displacement, we define the system so that both the gravitational interaction and the elastic interaction are inside the system. Then we have both elastic *and* gravitational potential energy. That is,

(10.20)

$$U = U_{\mathrm{G}} + U_{\mathrm{Sp}}$$

You have to be careful with the energy accounting because there are more ways that energy can be transformed, but nothing fundamental has changed by having two potential energies rather than one.

And we know how to include the increased thermal energy if there's friction. Thus for a system that has gravitational interactions, elastic interactions, and friction, but no external forces that do work, the energy principle is

(10.21)

$$\Delta E_{\mathrm{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U_{\mathrm{G}} + \Delta U_{\mathrm{Sp}} + \Delta E_{\mathrm{th}} = 0$$

or, in conservation form,

(10.22)

$$K_{\mathrm{i}} + U_{\mathrm{Gi}} + U_{\mathrm{Sp\,i}} = K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{Gf}} + U_{\mathrm{Sp\,f}} + \Delta E_{\mathrm{th}}$$

This is looking a bit more complex as we have more and more energies to keep track of, but the message of Equations 10.21 and 10.22 is both simple and profound: **For a system that has no other interactions with its environment, the total energy of the system does not change. It** can be transformed in many ways by the interactions, but the total does not change.

### Example 10.6 A spring-launched block

Your lab assignment for the week is to devise an innovative method to determine the spring constant of a spring. You see several small blocks of different mass lying around, so you decide to measure

how high the compressed spring will launch each of the blocks. You and your lab partners realize that you need to compress the spring the same amount each time, so that only the mass is varying, and you choose to use a compression of 4.0 cm. You decide to measure height from the point on the compressed spring at which the block is released. Four launches generate the data in the table:

| Mass (g) | Height (m) |
|---|---|
| 50 | 2.07 |
| 100 | 1.11 |
| 150 | 0.65 |
| 200 | 0.51 |

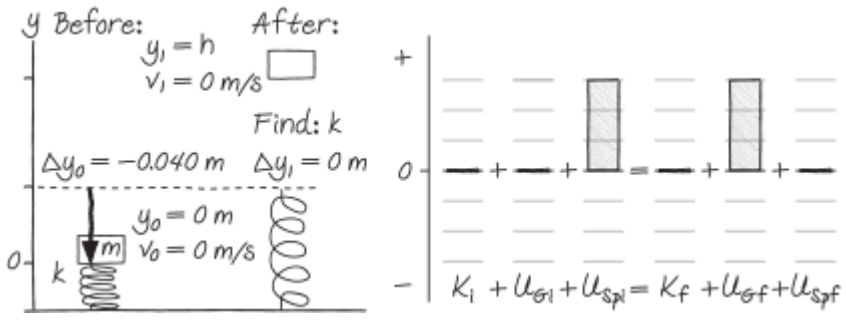
What value will you report for the spring constant?

---

**MODEL** Let the system consist of the earth, the block, the spring, and the floor, so there will be two potential energies. There's no friction and we'll assume no drag; hence the mechanical energy of this system is conserved. Model the spring as ideal.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.13 shows a pictorial representation, including an energy bar chart. We've chosen to place the origin of the coordinate system at the point of launch. The projectile reaches height $y_1 = h$, at which point $v_1 = 0\,\text{m/s}$.

**Figure 10.13**



Pictorial representation of the experiment.

**SOLVE** You might think we would need to find the block's speed as it leaves the spring. That would be true if we were solving this problem with Newton's laws of motion. But with an energy analysis, we can compare the system's pre-launch energy to its energy when the block reaches its highest point, completely bypassing the launch speed. The block certainly has kinetic energy *during* the motion, but the net energy transfer, shown on the energy bar chart, is from elastic potential energy to gravitational potential energy.

With both elastic and gravitational potential energy included, the energy principle is

$$\begin{aligned} K_{\mathrm{i}} + U_{\mathrm{Gi}} + U_{\mathrm{Sp\,i}} &= 0 + 0 + \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta y_0)^2 \\ &= K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{Gf}} + U_{\mathrm{Sp\,f}} = 0 + mgy_1 + 0 \end{aligned}$$

The block travels to position $y_1$, but the end of the spring does not! Be careful in spring problems not to mistake the position of an object for the position of the end of the spring; sometimes they are the same, but not always. Here the final elastic potential energy is that of an empty, unstretched spring: zero. Solving for the height, we find

$$y_1 = h = \frac{k(\Delta y_0)^2}{2mg} = \frac{k(\Delta y_0)^2}{2g} \times \frac{1}{m}$$

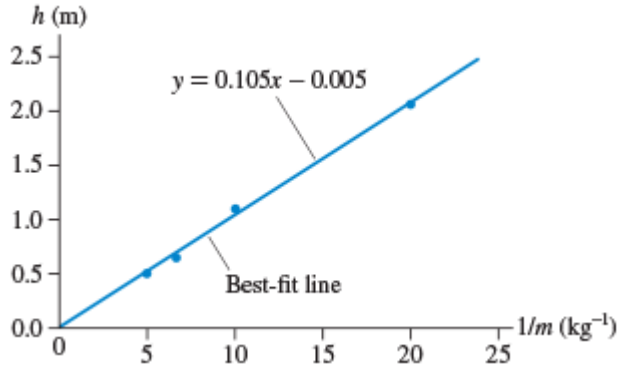
The first expression is correct as an algebraic expression, but here we want to use the result to analyze an experiment in which we measure $h$ as $m$ is varied. By isolating the mass term, we see that

plotting $h$ versus $1/m$ (that is, using $1/m$ as the $x$-variable) should yield a straight line with slope $k(\Delta y_0)^2/2g$.

Figure 10.14 is a graph of $h$ versus $1/m$, with masses first converted to kg. The graph is linear and the best-fit line has a $y$-intercept very near zero, confirming our analysis of the situation. The experimentally determined slope is 0.105 m kg, with the units determined by rise over run. Thus the experimental value of the spring constant is

$$k = \frac{2g}{(\Delta y_0)^2} \times \text{slope} = 1290 \text{ N/m}$$

**Figure 10.14**




Graph of the block height versus the inverse of its mass.

**ASSESS** 1290 N/m is a reasonably stiff spring, but that's to be expected if you're launching blocks a meter or more into the air.

## Stop to Think 10.5

A spring-loaded pop gun shoots a plastic ball with a speed of 4 m/s. If the spring is compressed twice as far, the ball's speed will

be

**a.** 2 m/s

**b.** 4 m/s

**c.** 8 m/s

**d.** 16 m/s

# 10.4 Conservation of Energy



One of the most powerful statements in physics is the **law of conservation of energy**:

---

Law of conservation of energy

The total energy $E_{\text{sys}} = E_{\text{mech}} + E_{\text{th}}$ of an isolated system is a constant. The kinetic, potential, and thermal energy within the system can be transformed into each other, but their sum cannot change. Further, the mechanical energy $E_{\text{mech}} = E + U$ is conserved if the system is both isolated and nondissipative.

The key is that energy is conserved for an **isolated system,** a system that does not exchange energy with its environment either because it has no interactions with the environment or because those interactions do no work. Figure 10.15 shows our basic energy model for an isolated system.

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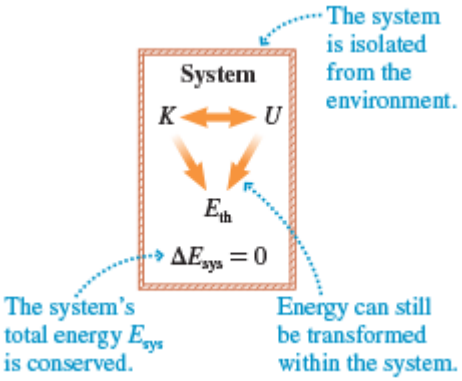
**Figure 10.15**



## It Depends on the System

As significant as the law of conservation of energy is, it's critical to notice that the law does *not* say "Energy is always conserved." The law of conservation of energy refers to the energy *of a system*—hence our emphasis on systems in Chapters 9 and 10. Energy is conserved for some choices of system, but not others. For example, energy is conserved for a projectile moving near the earth if you define the system to be projectile + earth, but not if you define the system to be only the projectile.

In addition, the law of conservation of energy comes with an important qualification: Is the system isolated? Energy is certainly not conserved if an external force does work on the system. Thus the answer to the question "Is energy conserved?" is "It depends on the system."

## A Strategy for Energy Problems

This is a good place to summarize the problem-solving strategy we've been developing for using the law of conservation of energy.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 10.1 Energy-conservation problems**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Define the system so that there are no external forces or so that any external forces do no work on the system. If there's

friction, bring both surfaces into the system. Model objects as particles and springs as ideal.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart. A free-body diagram may be needed to visualize forces.

**SOLVE** If the system is both isolated and nondissipative, then the mechanical energy is conserved:

$$K_\text{i} + U_\text{i} = K_\text{f} + U_\text{f}$$

where $K$ is the total kinetic energy of all moving objects and $U$ is the total potential energy of all interactions within the system. If there's friction, then

$$K_\text{i} + U_\text{i} = K_\text{f} + U_\text{f} + \Delta E_\text{th}$$

where the thermal energy increase due to friction is $\Delta E_\text{th} = f_\text{k} \Delta s$.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 14

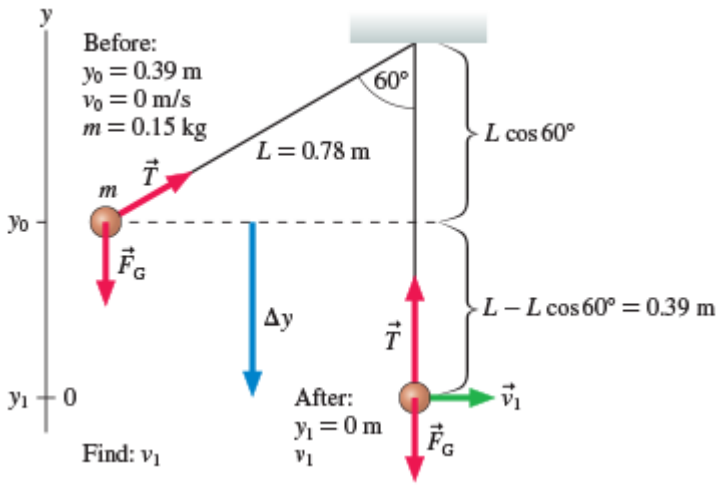
### Example 10.7 The speed of a pendulum

A pendulum is created by attaching one end of a 78-cm-long string to the ceiling and tying a 150 g steel ball to the other end. The ball is pulled back until the string is 60° from vertical, then released. What is the speed of the ball at its lowest point?

**MODEL** Let the system consist of the earth and the ball. The tension force, like a normal force, is always perpendicular to the motion and does no work, so this is an isolated system with no friction. Its mechanical energy is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.16 shows a before-and-after pictorial representation, where we've placed the zero of potential energy at the lowest point of the ball's swing. Trigonometry is needed to determine the ball's initial height.

## Figure 10.16




Pictorial representation of a pendulum.

**SOLVE** Conservation of mechanical energy is

$$K_i + U_{Gi} = 0 + mgy_0 = K_f + U_{Gf} = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_1^2 + 0$$

Thus the ball's speed at the bottom is

$$v_1 = \sqrt{2gy_0} = \sqrt{2\left(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2\right)(0.39\,\text{m})} = 2.8\,\text{m/s}$$



The speed is exactly the same as if the ball had simply fallen 0.39 m.

**ASSESS** To solve this problem directly from Newton's laws of motion requires advanced mathematics because of the complex way the net force changes with angle. But we can solve it in one line with an energy analysis!

## Where Is Potential Energy?

Kinetic energy is the energy of a moving object. The basic energy model says that kinetic energy can be transformed into potential energy without loss, but where *is* the potential energy? If energy is real, not just an accounting fiction, what is it that has potential energy?

Potential energy is stored in *fields*. We've not yet introduced fields in this textbook, although we'll have a lot to say about electric and magnetic fields in later chapters. Even so, you've no doubt heard of magnetic fields and gravitational fields. Our modern understanding of the fundamental forces of nature, the long-range forces such as gravitational and electric forces, is that they are mediated by fields. How do two masses exert forces on each other through empty space? Or two electric charges? Through their fields!

When two masses move apart, the gravitational field changes to a new configuration that can store more energy. Thus the phrase "kinetic energy is transformed into gravitational potential energy" really means that the energy of a moving object is transformed into the energy of the gravitational field. At a later time, the field's energy can be transformed back into kinetic energy. The same holds true for the energy of charges and electric fields, a topic we'll take up in Part VII.

What about elastic potential energy? Remember that all solids, including springs, are held together by molecular bonds. Although quantum physics is needed for a complete understanding of bonds, they are essentially electric forces between neighboring atoms. When a solid is placed under tension, a vast number of molecular bonds stretch just a little and more energy is stored in their electric fields. What we call elastic potential energy at the macroscopic level is really energy stored in the electric fields of molecular bonds.

The theory of field energy is an advanced topic in physics. Nonetheless, this brief discussion helps complete our picture of what energy is and how it's associated with physical objects.

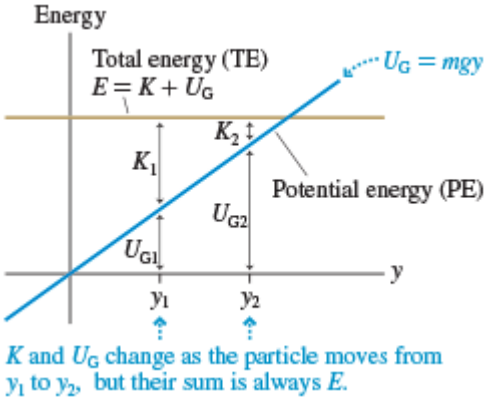
# 10.5 Energy Diagrams



Potential energy is an energy of position. The gravitational potential energy depends on the height of an object, and the elastic potential energy depends on a spring's displacement. Other potential energies you will meet in the future will depend in some way on position. Functions of position are easy to represent as graphs. A graph showing a system's potential energy and total energy as a function of position is called an **energy diagram**. Energy diagrams allow you to visualize motion based on energy considerations.

Figure 10.17 is the energy diagram of a particle in free fall. The gravitational potential energy $U_G = mgy$ is graphed as a line through the origin with slope $mg$. The *potential-energy curve* is labeled PE. The line labeled TE is the *total energy line*, $E = K + U_G$. It is horizontal because mechanical energy is conserved, meaning that the object's mechanical energy $E$ has the same value at every position.

## Figure 10.17

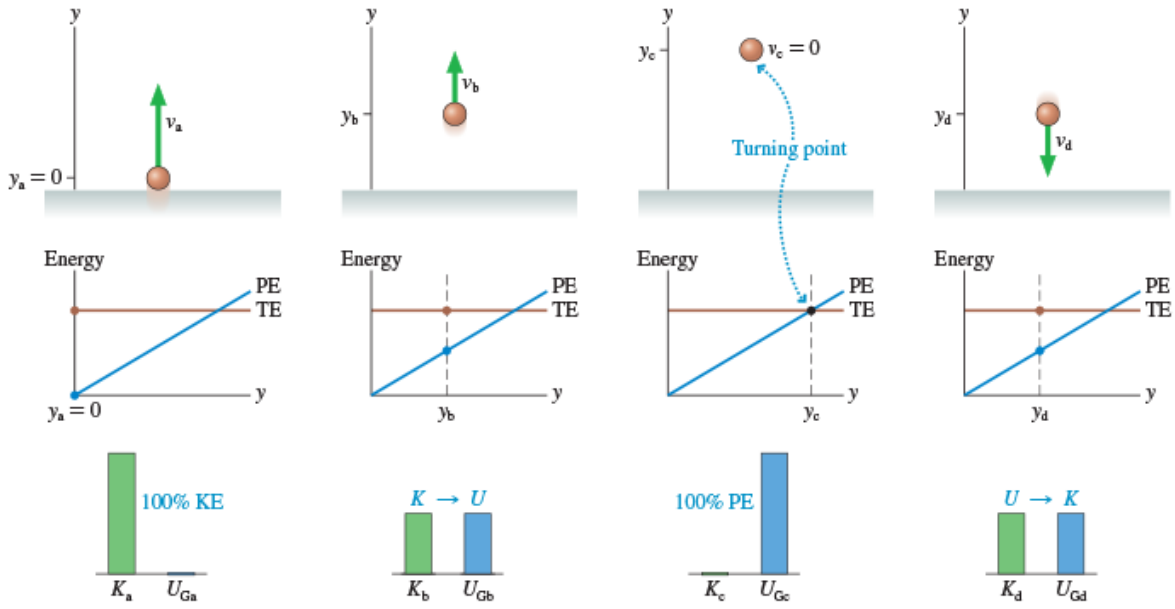



The energy diagram of a particle in free fall.

Suppose the particle is at position $y_1$. By definition, the distance from the axis to the potential-energy curve is the system's potential energy $U_{G1}$ at that position. Because $K_1 = E - U_{G1}$, the distance between the potential-energy curve and the total energy line is the particle's kinetic energy.

The four-frame "movie" of Figure 10.18 illustrates how an energy diagram is used to visualize motion. The first frame shows a particle projected upward from $y_a = 0$ with kinetic energy $K_a$. Initially the energy is entirely kinetic, with $U_{Ga} = 0$. A pictorial representation and an energy bar chart help to illustrate what the energy diagram is showing.

## Figure 10.18




A four-frame movie of a particle in free fall.

In the second frame, the particle has gained height but lost speed. The potential energy $U_{Gb}$ is larger, and the distance $K_b$ between the potential-energy curve and the total energy line is less. The particle continues rising and slowing until, in the third frame, it reaches the $y$-value where the total energy line crosses the potential-energy curve. This point, where $K = 0$ and the energy is entirely potential, is a *turning point* where the

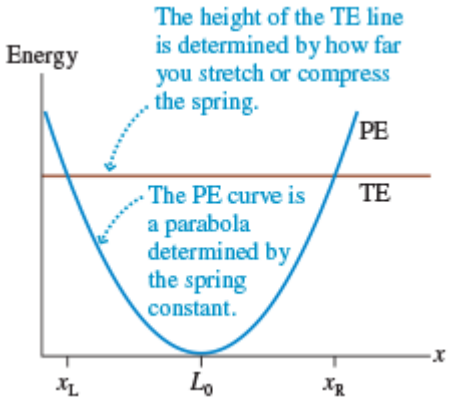
particle reverses direction. Finally, we see the particle speeding up as it falls.

A particle with this amount of total energy would need negative kinetic energy to be to the right of the point, at $y_c$, where the total energy line crosses the potential-energy curve. Negative $K$ is not physically possible, so **the particle cannot be at positions with $U > E$.** Now, it's certainly true that you could make the particle reach a larger value of $y$ simply by throwing it harder. But that would increase $E$ and move the total energy line higher.

> **Note**
>
> It's important to realize that the TE line is under your control. If you project an object with a different speed, or drop it from a different height, you're giving it a different total energy. You can give the object different *initial conditions* and use the energy diagram to explore how it will move with that amount of total energy.

Figure 10.19 shows the energy diagram of a mass on a horizontal spring, where $x$ has been measured from the wall where the spring is attached. The equilibrium length of the spring is $L_0$ and the displacement of the end of the spring is $\Delta x = x - L_0$, so the spring's potential energy is $U_{\text{Sp}} = \frac{1}{2}k(\Delta x)^2 = \frac{1}{2}k(x - L_0)^2$. The potential-energy curve, a graph of $U_{\text{Sp}}$ versus $x$, is a parabola centered at the equilibrium position. You can't change the PE curve—it's determined by the spring constant—but you can set the TE to any height you wish simply by stretching the spring to the proper length. The figure shows one possible TE line.

**Figure 10.19**

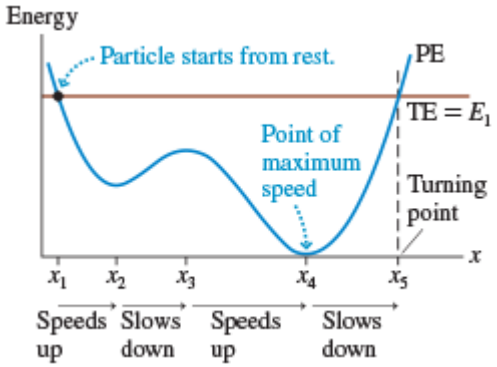



The energy diagram of a mass on a horizontal spring.

If you pull the mass out to position $x_R$ and release it, the initial mechanical energy is entirely potential. As the restoring force of the spring pulls the mass to the left, the kinetic energy increases as the potential energy decreases. The mass has maximum speed at $x = L_0$, where $U_{Sp} = 0$, and then it slows down as the spring starts to compress. You should be able to visualize that $x_L$, where the PE curve crosses the TE line, is a turning point. It's the point of maximum compression where the mass instantaneously has $K = 0$. The mass will reverse direction, speed up until $x = L_0$, then slow down until reaching $x_R$, where it started. This is another turning point, so it will reverse direction again and start the process over. In other words, the mass will *oscillate* back and forth between the left and right turning points at $x_L$ and $x_R$ where the TE line crosses the PE curve. We'll study oscillations in Chapter 15, but we can already see from the energy diagram that a mass on a spring undergoes oscillatory motion.

Figure 10.20 applies these ideas to a more general energy diagram. We don't know how this potential energy was created, but we can visualize the motion of a particle in a system that has this potential energy. Suppose the particle is released from rest at position $x_1$. How will it then move?

**Figure 10.20**




A more general energy diagram.

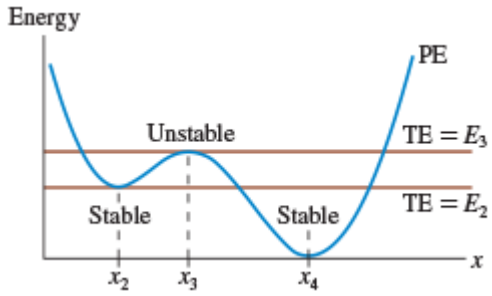
The initial conditions are $K = 0$ at $x_1$, hence the TE line must cross the PE curve at this point. The particle cannot move to the left, because that would require $K < 0$, so it begins to move toward the right. We see from the energy diagram that $U$ decreases from $x_1$ to $x_2$, so the particle is speeding up as potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy. The particle then slows down from $x_2$ to $x_3$ as it goes up the "potential-energy hill," increasing $U$ at the expense of $K$. The particle doesn't stop at $x_3$ because it still has kinetic energy. It speeds up from $x_3$ to $x_4$ ($K$ increasing as $U$ decreases), reaching its maximum speed at $x_4$, then slows down between $x_4$ and $x_5$. Position $x_5$ is a turning point, a point where the TE line crosses the PE curve. The particle is instantaneously at rest, then reverses direction. The particle will oscillate back and forth between $x_1$ and $x_5$, following the pattern of slowing down and speeding up that we've outlined.

## Equilibrium Positions

Positions $x_2$, $x_3$, and $x_4$ in Figure 10.20, where the potential energy has a local minimum or maximum, are special positions. Consider a particle with the total energy $E_2$ shown in Figure 10.21. The particle can be at

rest at $x_2$, with $K = 0$, but it cannot move away from $x_2$. In other words, a particle with energy $E_2$ is in *equilibrium* at $x_2$. If you disturb the particle, giving it a small kinetic energy and a total energy just *slightly* larger than $E_2$, the particle will undergo a very small oscillation centered on $x_2$, like a marble in the bottom of a bowl. An equilibrium for which small disturbances cause small oscillations is called a point of **stable equilibrium**. You should recognize that *any* minimum in the PE curve is a point of stable equilibrium. Position $x_4$ is also a point of stable equilibrium, in this case for a particle with $E = 0$.

## Figure 10.21




Points of stable and unstable equilibrium.

Figure 10.21 also shows a particle with energy $E_3$ that is tangent to the curve at $x_3$. If a particle is placed *exactly* at $x_3$, it will stay there at rest $(K = 0)$. But if you disturb the particle at $x_3$, giving it an energy only slightly more than $E_3$, it will speed up as it moves away from $x_3$. This is like trying to balance a marble on top of a hill. The slightest displacement will cause the marble to roll down the hill. A point of equilibrium for which a small disturbance causes the particle to move away is called a point of **unstable equilibrium**. Any maximum in the PE curve, such as $x_3$, is a point of unstable equilibrium.

We can summarize these lessons as follows:

TACTICS BOX 10.1 **Interpreting an energy diagram**

**Mastering Physics**

1. The distance from the axis to the PE curve is the particle's potential energy. The distance from the PE curve to the TE line is its kinetic energy. These are transformed as the position changes, causing the particle to speed up or slow down, but the sum $K + U$ doesn't change.
2. A point where the TE line crosses the PE curve is a turning point. The particle reverses direction.
3. The particle cannot be at a point where the PE curve is above the TE line.
4. The PE curve is determined by the properties of the system—mass, spring constant, and the like. You cannot change the PE curve. However, you can raise or lower the TE line simply by changing the initial conditions to give the particle more or less total energy.
5. A minimum in the PE curve is a point of stable equilibrium. A maximum in the PE curve is a point of unstable equilibrium.

Workbook Exercises 15, 16, 17

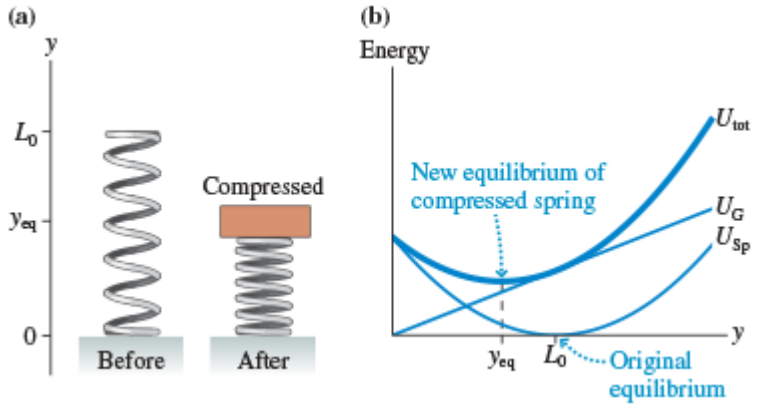
**Example 10.8 Balancing a mass on a spring**

A spring of length $L_0$ and spring constant $k$ is standing on one end. A block of mass $m$ is placed on the spring, compressing it. What is the length of the compressed spring?

**MODEL** Assume an ideal spring obeying Hooke's law. The block + earth + spring system has both gravitational potential energy $U_G$ *and* elastic potential energy $U_{Sp}$. The block sitting on top of the spring is at a point of stable equilibrium (small disturbances cause the block to oscillate slightly around the equilibrium position), so we can solve this problem by looking at the energy diagram.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.22a is a pictorial representation. We've used a coordinate system with the origin at ground level, so the displacement of the spring is $y - L_0$.

## Figure 10.22




The block + earth + spring system has both gravitational and elastic potential energy.

**SOLVE** Figure 10.22b shows the two potential energies separately and also shows the total potential energy:

$$\begin{aligned} U_{\text{tot}} &= U_{\text{G}} + U_{\text{Sp}} \\ &= mgy + \tfrac{1}{2}k(y - L_0)^2 \end{aligned}$$

The equilibrium position (the minimum of $U_{\text{tot}}$) has shifted from $L_0$ to a smaller value of $y$, closer to the ground. We can find the equilibrium by locating the position of the minimum in the PE curve. You know from calculus that the minimum of a function is at the point where the derivative (or slope) is zero. The derivative of $U_{\text{tot}}$ is

$$\frac{dU_{\text{tot}}}{dy} = mg + k\,(y - L_0)$$

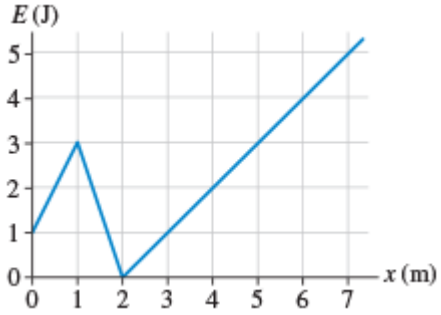
The derivative is zero at the point $y_{\text{eq}}$, so we can easily find

$$\begin{aligned} mg + k\,(y_{\text{eq}} - L_0) &= 0 \\ y_{\text{eq}} &= L_0 - \frac{mg}{k} \end{aligned}$$

The block compresses the spring by the length $mg/k$ from its original length $L_0$, giving it a new equilibrium length $L_0 - mg/k$.

## Stop to Think 10.6

A particle with the potential energy shown in the graph is moving to the right. It has 1 J of kinetic energy at $x = 1\ \text{m}$. Where is the particle's turning point?


E (J)
5
4
3
2
1
0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
x (m)

# 10.6 Force and Potential Energy



As you've seen, we can find the energy of an interaction—potential energy—by calculating the work the interaction force does inside the system. Can we reverse this procedure? That is, if we know a system's potential energy, can we find the interaction force?

We defined the change in potential energy to be $\Delta U = -W_{\text{int}}$. Suppose that an object undergoes a *very small* displacement $\Delta s$, so small that the interaction force $\vec{F}$ is essentially constant. The work done by a constant force is $W = F_s \Delta s$, where $F_s$ is the force component parallel to the displacement. During this small displacement, the system's potential energy changes by

**(10.23)**

$$\Delta U = -W_{\text{int}} = -F_s \Delta s$$

which we can rewrite as

**(10.24)**

$$F_s = -\frac{\Delta U}{\Delta s}$$

In the limit $\Delta s \to 0$, the force on the object is

**(10.25)**

$$F_s = \lim_{\Delta s \to 0} \left( -\frac{\Delta U}{\Delta s} \right) = -\frac{dU}{ds}$$

That is, the interaction force on an object is the *negative* of the derivative of the potential energy with respect to position.

Graphically, as Figure 10.23 shows, force is the negative of the slope, at position $s$, of the potential-energy curve in an energy diagram:

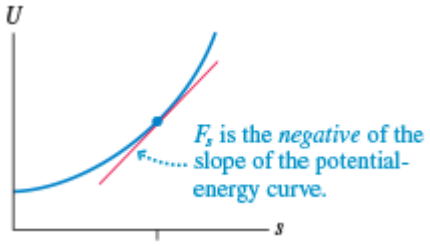
**(10.26)**

$$F_s = -\frac{dU}{ds} = \text{ the negative of the slope of the PE curve at } s$$

In practice, of course, we'll usually use either $F_x = -dU/dx$ or $F_y = -dU/dy$. Thus

- A positive slope corresponds to a negative force: to the left or downward.
- A negative slope corresponds to a positive force: to the right or upward.
- The steeper the slope, the larger the force.

## Figure 10.23




Relating force to the PE curve.

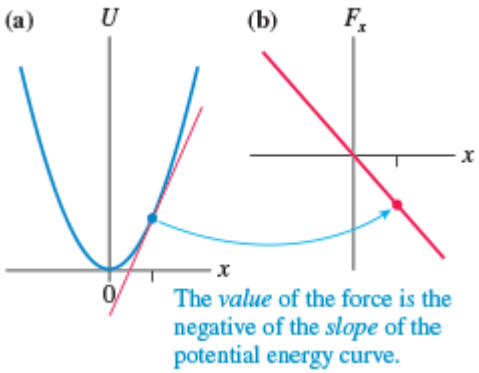
As an example, consider the elastic potential energy $U_{\text{Sp}} = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$ for a horizontal spring with $x_{\text{eq}} = 0$ so that $\Delta x = x$. Figure 10.24a shows that

the potential-energy curve is a parabola, with changing slope. If an object attached to the spring is at position $x$, the force on the object is

$$F_x = -\frac{dU_{\text{Sp}}}{dx} = -\frac{d}{dx}\left(\tfrac{1}{2}kx^2\right) = -kx$$

This is just Hooke's law for an ideal spring, with the minus sign indicating that Hooke's law is a restoring force. Figure 10.24b is a graph of force versus $x$. At each position $x$, the *value* of the force is equal to the negative of the *slope* of the PE curve.

## Figure 10.24

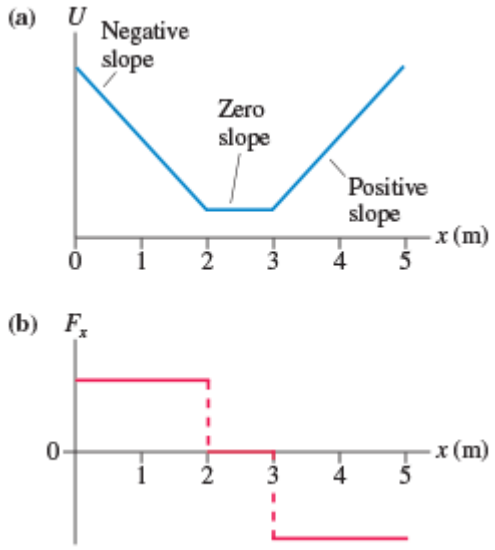



Elastic potential energy and force graphs.

We already knew Hooke's law, of course, so the point of this particular exercise was to illustrate the meaning of Equation 10.26. But if we had *not* known the force, we see that it's possible to find the force from the PE curve. For example, you'll learn in Part VIII that Figure 10.25a is a possible potential-energy function for a charged particle, one that we could create with suitably shaped electrodes. What force does the particle experience in this region of space? We find out by measuring the slope of the PE curve. The result is shown in Figure 10.25b. On the left side of this region of space ($x < 2$ m), a negative slope, and thus a positive value of $F_x$, means that the force pushes the particle to the right. A negative

force on the right side ($x > 3$ m) tells us that $F_x$ pushes the particle to the left. And there's no force at all in the center. This is a *restoring force* because a particle trying to leave this region is pushed back toward the center, but it's not a linear restoring force like that of a spring.

## Figure 10.25




A potential-energy curve and the associated force curve.



### Example 10.9 Finding equilibrium positions

A system's potential energy is given by $U(x) = \left(2x^3 - 3x^2\right)$ J, where $x$ is a particle's position in m. Where are the equilibrium positions for this system, and are they stable or unstable equilibria?

**SOLVE** You learned in Chapter 6 that a particle in equilibrium has $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$. Then, in the previous section, you learned that the maxima and minima of the PE curve are points of equilibrium. These may seem to be two different criteria for equilibrium, but actually they are identical. The interaction force on the particle is

$F_x = -dU/dx$. The force is zero—equilibrium—at positions where the derivative is zero. But you've learned in calculus that positions where the derivative of a function is zero are the maxima and minima of the function. At either a maximum or minimum of the PE curve, the slope is zero and hence the force is zero.

For this potential-energy function,

$$F_x = -\frac{dU}{dx} = \left(-6x^2 + 6x\right)\ \mathrm{N}$$

when $x$ is in m. The force is zero—minima or maxima of $U$—when $6\,{x_{\mathrm{eq}}}^2 = 6\,x_{\mathrm{eq}}$. This has two solutions:

$$x_{\mathrm{eq}} = 0\,\mathrm{m} \quad \text{and} \quad x_{\mathrm{eq}} = 1\,\mathrm{m}$$

These are positions of equilibrium, where a particle at rest will remain at rest. But how do we know if these are positions of stable equilibrium or unstable equilibrium?

A *minimum* in the PE curve is a stable equilibrium. Recall, from calculus, that a minimum of a function has a first derivative equal to zero *and* a second derivative that's positive. Similarly, a maximum of a function has a first derivative equal to zero and a second derivative that's negative. The second derivative of $U$ is

$$\frac{d^2U}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(6x^2 - 6x\right) = (12x - 6)\ \mathrm{N/m}$$

The second derivative evaluated at $x = 0\,\mathrm{m}$ is $-6\ \mathrm{N/m} < 0$, so $x = 0\,\mathrm{m}$ is a maximum of the PE curve. At $x = 1\,\mathrm{m}$, the second derivative is $+6\,\mathrm{N/m} > 0$, hence a minimum in the PE curve. Thus this system has an unstable equilibrium if the particle is at $x = 0\,\mathrm{m}$

and a stable equilibrium if it is at $x = 1\,\text{m}$. There's a force on the particle at all other positions.

## Stop to Think 10.7

A particle moves along the $x$-axis with the potential energy shown. The $x$-component of the force on the particle when it is at $x = 4\,\text{m}$ is

**a.** 4 N

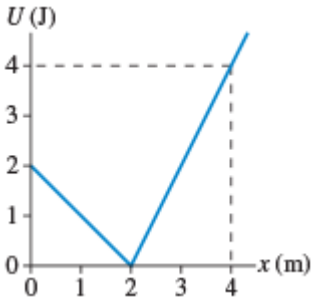
**b.** 2 N

**c.** 1 N

**d.** –4 N

**e.** –2 N

**f.** –1 N



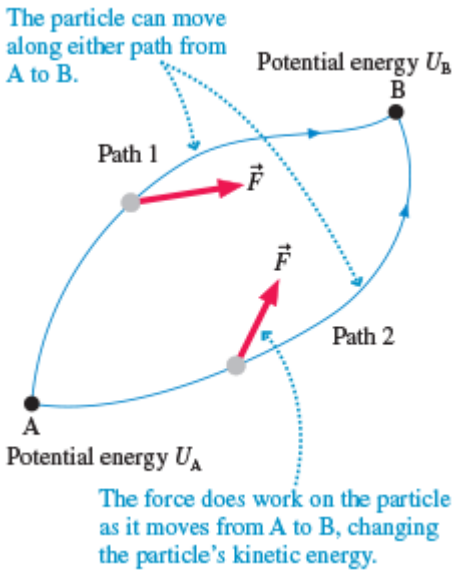
# 10.7 Conservative and Nonconservative Forces



A system in which particles interact gravitationally or elastically or, as we'll discover later, electrically has a potential energy. But do all forces have potential energies? Is there a "tension potential energy" or a "friction potential energy"? If not, what's special about the gravitational and elastic forces? What conditions must an interaction satisfy to have an associated potential energy?

Figure 10.26 shows a particle that can move from point A to point B along two possible paths while a force $\vec{F}$ acts on it. In general, the force experienced along path 1 is not the same as the force experienced along path 2. The force changes the particle's speed, so the particle's kinetic energy when it arrives at B differs from the kinetic energy it had when it left A.

**Figure 10.26**



A particle can move from A to B along either of two paths.

Let's assume that there is a potential energy $U$ associated with force $\vec{F}$ just as the gravitational potential energy $U_G = mgy$ is associated with the gravitational force $\vec{F}_G = -mg\hat{j}$. What restrictions does this assumption place on $\vec{F}$? There are three steps in the logic:

1. Potential energy is an energy of position. $U$ depends only on where the particle is, not on how it got there. The system has one value of potential energy when the particle is at A, a different value when the particle is at B. Thus the change in potential energy, $\Delta U = U_B - U_A$, is the same whether the particle moves along path 1 or path 2.
2. Potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy, with $\Delta K = -\Delta U$. If $\Delta U$ is independent of the path followed, then $\Delta K$ is also independent of the path. The particle has the same kinetic energy at B no matter which path it follows.
3. According to the energy principle, the change in a particle's kinetic energy is equal to the work done on the particle by force $\vec{F}$ That is, $\Delta K = W$. Because $\Delta K$ is independent of the path followed, it *must* be the case that **the work done by force $\vec{F}$ as the particle moves from A to B is independent of the path followed.**

A force for which the work done on a particle as it moves from an initial to a final position is independent of the path followed is called a **conservative force**. The importance of conservative forces is that **a potential energy can be associated with any conservative force.** Specifically, the potential-energy difference between an initial position i and a final position f is

(10.27)

$$\Delta U = -W_{\mathrm{c}}\,(\mathrm{i} \rightarrow \mathrm{f})$$

where the notation $W_{\mathrm{c}}\,(\mathrm{i} \rightarrow \mathrm{f})$ is the work done by a conservative force as the particle moves along *any* path from i to f. Equation 10.27 is a general definition of the potential energy associated with a conservative force.

A force for which we can define a potential energy is called *conservative* because the mechanical energy $K + U$ is conserved for a system in which this is the only interaction. We've already shown that the gravitational force is a conservative force by showing that $\Delta U_{\mathrm{G}}$ depends only on the vertical displacement, not on the path followed; hence mechanical energy is conserved when two masses interact gravitationally. Similarly, mechanical energy is conserved for a mass on a spring—an elastic interaction—if there are no other forces. Conservative forces do not contribute to any loss of mechanical energy.

## Nonconservative Forces

A characteristic of a conservative force is that **an object returning to its starting point will return with no loss of kinetic energy** because $\Delta U = 0$ if the initial and final points are the same. If a ball is tossed into the air, energy is transformed from kinetic into potential and back such that the ball's kinetic energy is unchanged when it returns to its initial height. The same is true for a puck sliding up and back down a frictionless slope.

But not all forces are conservative forces. If the slope has friction, then the puck returns with *less* kinetic energy. Part of its kinetic energy is

transformed into gravitational potential energy as it slides up, but part is transformed into some other form of energy—thermal energy—that lacks the "potential" to be transformed back into kinetic energy. A force for which we cannot define a potential energy is called a **nonconservative force**. Friction and drag, which transform mechanical energy into thermal energy, are nonconservative forces, so there is no "friction potential energy."

Similarly, forces like tension and thrust are nonconservative. If you pull an object with a rope, the work done by tension is proportional to the distance traveled. More work is done along a longer path between two points than along a shorter path, so tension fails the "Work is independent of the path followed" test and does not have a potential energy.

All in all, most forces are *not* conservative forces. Gravitational forces, linear restoring forces, and, later, electric forces turn out to be fairly special because they are among the few forces for which we *can* define a potential energy. Fortunately, these are some of the most important forces in nature, so the energy principle is powerful and useful despite there being only a small number of conservative forces.

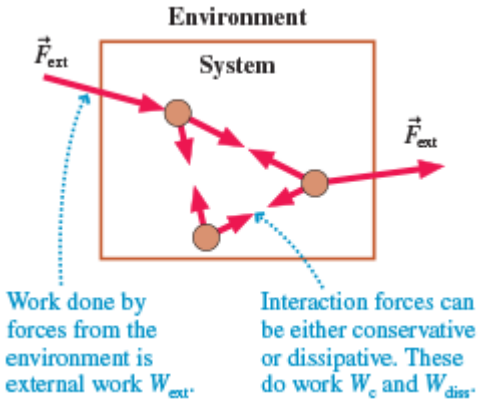
# 10.8 The Energy Principle Revisited



We opened Chapter 9 by introducing the energy principle—basically a statement of energy accounting—but noted that we would need to develop many new ideas to make sense of energy. We've now explored kinetic energy, potential energy, work, conservative and nonconservative forces, and much more. It's time to return to the basic energy model and start pulling together the many ideas introduced in Chapters 9 and 10.

Figure 10.27 shows a system of three objects that interact with each other and are acted on by external forces from the environment. These forces cause the system's kinetic energy $K$ to change. By how much? Kinetic energy is energy of motion, and the kinetic energy would be the same if we had defined the system—as we did in Chapter 9—to consist of only the objects, not the interactions. Thus $\Delta K = W_{\text{tot}} = W_{\text{c}} + W_{\text{nc}}$, where in the second step we've divided the total work done by all forces into the work $W_{\text{c}}$ done by conservative forces and the work $W_{\text{nc}}$ done by nonconservative forces.

## Figure 10.27




A system with both internal interactions and external forces.

Now let's make a further distinction by dividing the nonconservative forces into *dissipative* forces and *external* forces. Dissipative forces, like friction and drag, transform mechanical energy into thermal energy.

To illustrate what we mean by an external force, suppose you pick up a box at rest on the floor and place it at rest on a table. The box + earth system gains gravitational potential energy, but $\Delta K = 0$ and $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0$. So where did the energy come from? Or consider pulling the box across the table with a string. The box gains kinetic energy and possibly thermal energy, but not by transforming potential energy. The force of your hand and the tension of the string are forces that "reach in" from the environment to change the system. Thus they are *external forces*. They are nonconservative forces, with no potential energy, but they change the system's mechanical energy rather than its thermal energy.

With this distinction, the system's change in kinetic energy is

**(10.28)**

$$\Delta K = W_{\text{tot}} = W_{\text{c}} + W_{\text{nc}} = W_{\text{c}} + W_{\text{diss}} + W_{\text{ext}}$$

When we bring the conservative interactions inside the system, the work done by conservative forces becomes potential energy: $W_{\text{c}} = -\Delta U$. And, as we learned in Chapter 9, the work done by dissipative forces becomes thermal energy: $W_{\text{diss}} = -\Delta E_{\text{th}}$. With these substitutions, Equation 10.28 becomes

**(10.29)**

$$\Delta K = -\Delta U - \Delta E_{\text{th}} + W_{\text{ext}}$$

Separating energy terms from the work, we can write Equation 10.29 as

(10.30)

$$\Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = \Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

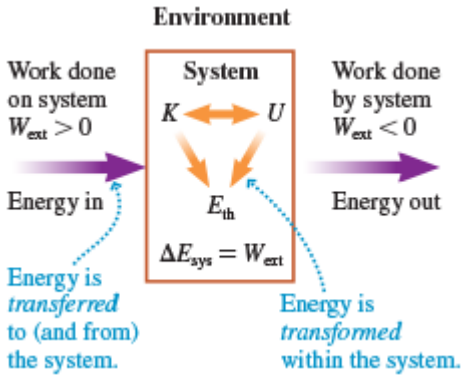
where $E_{\text{sys}} = K + U + E_{\text{th}} = E_{\text{mech}} + E_{\text{th}}$ is the energy of the system. Equation 10.30, the energy principle but with all the terms now defined, is our most general statement about how the energy of a mechanical system changes.

In Section 10.4 we defined an *isolated system* as a system that does not exchange energy with its environment. That is, an isolated system is one on which no work is done by external forces: $W_{\text{ext}} = 0$. Thus an immediate conclusion from Equation 10.30 is that **the total energy $E_{\text{sys}}$ of an isolated system is conserved.** If, in addition, the system is nondissipative (i.e., no friction forces), then $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0$. In that case, the mechanical energy $E_{\text{mech}}$ is conserved. You'll recognize this as the *law of conservation of energy* from Section 10.4. The law of conservation of energy is one of the most powerful statements in physics.

Figure 10.28 reproduces the basic energy model of Chapter 9. Now you can see that this is a pictorial representation of Equation 10.30. $E_{\text{sys}}$, the total energy of the system, changes only if external forces transfer energy into or out of the system by doing work on the system. The kinetic, potential, and thermal energies within the system can be transformed into each other by forces within the system. And $E_{\text{sys}}$ is conserved in the absence of interactions with the environment.



## Figure 10.28




The basic energy model.

## Energy Bar Charts Expanded

Energy bar charts can now be expanded to include the thermal energy and the work done by external forces. The energy principle, Equation 10.30, can be rewritten as

**(10.31)**

$$K_\mathrm{i} + U_\mathrm{i} + W_\mathrm{ext} = K_\mathrm{f} + U_\mathrm{f} + \Delta E_\mathrm{th}$$

The initial mechanical energy ($K_\mathrm{i} + U_\mathrm{i}$) plus any energy added to or removed from the system ($W_\mathrm{ext}$) becomes, without loss, the final mechanical energy ($K_\mathrm{f} + U_\mathrm{f}$) plus any increase in the system's thermal energy ($\Delta E_\mathrm{th}$). Remember that we have no way to determine $E_{\mathrm{th\,i}}$ or $E_{\mathrm{th\,f}}$, only the *change* in thermal energy. $\Delta E_\mathrm{th}$ is always positive when the system contains dissipative forces.

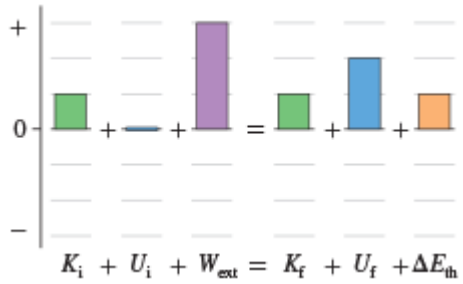
### Example 10.10 Hauling up supplies

A mountain climber uses a rope to drag a bag of supplies up a slope at constant speed. Show the energy transfers and transformations on an energy bar chart.

**MODEL** Let the system consist of the earth, the bag of supplies, and the slope.

**SOLVE** The tension in the rope is an external force that does work on the bag of supplies. This is an energy transfer into the system. The bag has kinetic energy, but it moves at a steady speed and so $K$ is not *changing*. Instead, the energy transfer into the system increases both gravitational potential energy (the bag is gaining height) and thermal energy (the bag and the slope are getting warmer due to friction). The overall process is $W_{\text{ext}} \rightarrow U + E_{\text{th}}$. This is shown in Figure 10.29.

**Figure 10.29**




The energy bar chart for Example 10.10.

## Stop to Think 10.8

A weight attached to a rope is released from rest. As the weight falls, picking up speed, the rope spins a generator that causes a lightbulb to glow. Define the system to be the weight and the earth. In this situation,

**a.** $U \rightarrow K + W_{\text{ext}}$. $E_{\text{mech}}$ is not conserved but $E_{\text{sys}}$ is.

**b.** $U + W_{\text{ext}} \rightarrow K$. Both $E_{\text{mech}}$ and $E_{\text{sys}}$ are conserved.

**c.** $U \rightarrow K + E_{\text{th}}$. $E_{\text{mech}}$ is not conserved but $E_{\text{sys}}$ is.

**d.** $U \rightarrow K + W_{\text{ext}}$. Neither $E_{\text{mech}}$ nor $E_{\text{sys}}$ is conserved.

**e.** $W_{\text{ext}} \rightarrow K + U$. $E_{\text{mech}}$ is not conserved but $E_{\text{sys}}$ is.

## Challenge Example 10.11 A spring workout



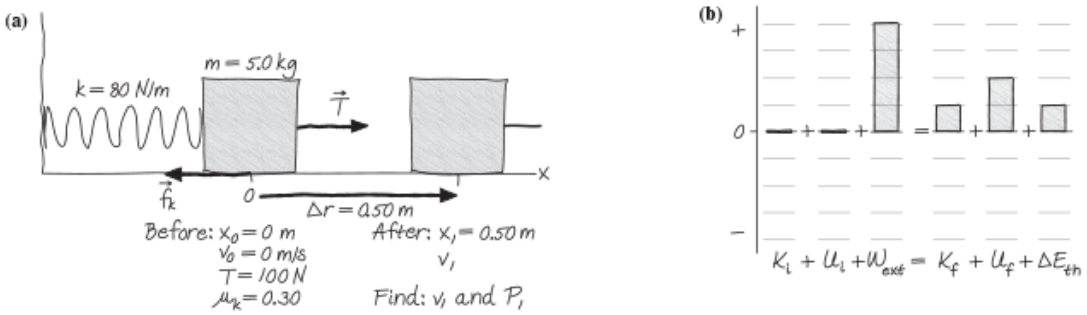
An exercise machine at the gym has a 5.0 kg weight attached to one end of a horizontal spring with spring constant 80 N/m. The other end of the spring is anchored to a wall. When a woman working out on the machine pushes her arms forward, a cable stretches the spring by dragging the weight along a track with a coefficient of kinetic friction of 0.30. What is the woman's power output at the moment when the weight has moved 50 cm if the cable tension is a constant 100 N?

**MODEL** This is a complex situation, but one that we can analyze. First, identify the weight, the spring, the wall, and the track as the system. We need to have the track inside the system because friction increases the temperature of both the weight *and* the track. The tension in the cable is an external force. The work $W_{\text{ext}}$ done by

the cable's tension transfers energy into the system, causing $K$, $U_{\text{Sp}}$, and $E_{\text{th}}$ all to increase.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 10.30a is a before-and-after pictorial representation. The energy transfers and transformations are shown in the energy bar chart of Figure 10.30b.

## Figure 10.30




Pictorial representation and energy bar chart for Challenge Example 10.11.

**SOLVE** You learned in Section 9.6 that power is the *rate* at which work is done and that the power delivered by force $\vec{F}$ to an object moving with velocity $\vec{v}$ is $P = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v}$. Here the tension $\vec{T}$ pulls parallel to the weight's velocity, so the power being supplied when the weight has velocity $\vec{v}$ is $P = Tv$. We know the cable's tension, so we need to use energy considerations to find the weight's speed $v_1$ after the spring has been stretched to $\Delta x_1 = 50\,\text{cm}$.

The energy principle $K_\text{i} + U_\text{i} + W_\text{ext} = K_\text{f} + U_\text{f} + \Delta E_\text{th}$ is

$$\tfrac{1}{2}mv_0^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta x_0)^2 + W_\text{ext} = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_1^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta x_1)^2 + \Delta E_\text{th}$$

The initial displacement is $\Delta x_0 = 0\,\text{m}$ and we know that $v_0 = 0\,\text{m/s}$, so the energy principle simplifies to

$$\tfrac{1}{2}mv_1^2 = W_\text{ext} - \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta x_1)^2 - \Delta E_\text{th}$$

The external work done by the cable's tension is

$$W_{\text{ext}} = T\Delta r = (100\,\text{N})\,(0.50\,\text{m}) = 50.0\,\text{J}$$

From Chapter 9, the increase in thermal energy due to friction is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta E_{\text{th}} &= f_{\text{k}}\Delta r = \mu_{\text{k}} mg\Delta r \\ &= (0.30)\,(5.0\,\text{kg})\left(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2\right)(0.50\,\text{m}) = 7.4\,\text{J}\end{aligned}$$

Solving for the speed $v_1$, when the spring's displacement is $\Delta x_1 = 50\,\text{cm} = 0.50\,\text{m}$, we have

$$v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2\left(W_{\text{ext}} - \frac{1}{2}k(\Delta x_1)^2 - \Delta E_{\text{th}}\right)}{m}} = 3.6\,\text{m/s}$$

The power being supplied at this instant to keep stretching the spring is

$$P = Tv_1 = (100\,\text{N})\,(3.6\,\text{m/s}) = 360\,\text{W}$$

**ASSESS** The work done by the cable's tension is energy transferred to the system. Part of the energy increases the speed of the weight, part increases the potential energy stored in the spring, and part is transformed into increased thermal energy, thus increasing the temperature. We had to bring all these energy ideas together to solve this problem.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 10 has been to develop a better understanding of energy and its conservation.

## General Principles

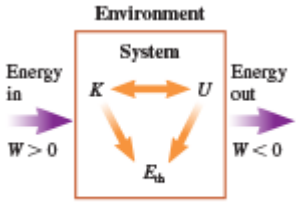
### The Energy Principle Revisited

- Energy is *transformed* within the system.
- Energy is *transferred* to and from the system by work $W$.

Two variations of the energy principle are

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

$$K_{\text{i}} + U_{\text{i}} + W_{\text{ext}} = K_{\text{f}} + U_{\text{f}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}}$$




Basic energy model

### Solving Energy Problems

**MODEL** Define the system.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart.

**SOLVE** Use the energy principle:

$$K_{\mathrm{i}} + U_{\mathrm{i}} + W_{\mathrm{ext}} = K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{f}} + \Delta E_{\mathrm{th}}$$

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

### Law of Conservation of Energy

- **Isolated system:** $W_{\mathrm{ext}} = 0$. The total system energy $E_{\mathrm{sys}} = K + U + E_{\mathrm{th}}$ is conserved. $\Delta E_{\mathrm{sys}} = 0$.
- **Isolated, nondissipative system:** $W_{\mathrm{ext}} = 0$ and $W_{\mathrm{diss}} = 0$. The **mechanical energy** $E_{\mathrm{mech}} = K + U$ is conserved: $K_{\mathrm{i}} + U_{\mathrm{i}} = K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{f}}$.

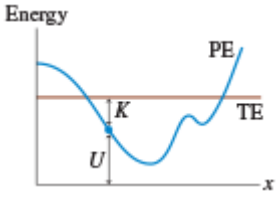
## Important Concepts

**Potential energy**, or *interaction energy*, is energy stored inside a system via interaction forces. The energy is stored in *fields*.

- Potential energy is associated only with **conservative forces** for which the work done is independent of the path.
- Work $W_{\mathrm{int}}$ by the interaction forces causes $\Delta U = -W_{\mathrm{int}}$.
- Force $F_s = -dU/ds = -(\text{slope of the potential energy curve})$.
- Potential energy is an energy of the system, not an energy of a specific object.

**Energy diagrams** show the potential-energy curve PE and the total mechanical energy line TE.

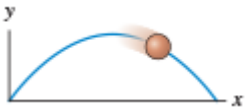
- From the axis to the curve is *U*. From the curve to the TE line is *K*.
- **Turning points** occur where the TE line crosses the PE curve.
- Minima and maxima in the PE curve are, respectively, positions of **stable** and **unstable equilibrium.**




# Applications

**Gravitational potential energy** is an energy of the earth + object system:

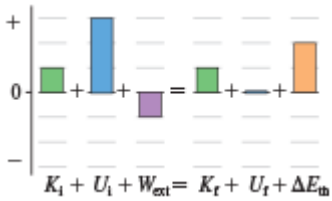
$$U_{\mathrm{G}} = mgy$$




**Elastic potential energy** is an energy of the spring + attached objects system:

$$U_{\mathrm{Sp}} = \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta s)^2$$

**Energy bar charts** show the energy principle in graphical form.




# Terms and Notation

potential energy, $U$

gravitational potential energy, $U_G$

zero of potential energy

mechanical energy, $E_{mech}$

energy bar chart

elastic potential energy, $U_{Sp}$

law of conservation of energy

isolated system

energy diagram

stable equilibrium

unstable equilibrium

conservative force

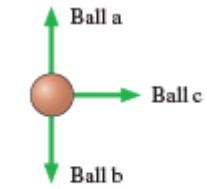
nonconservative force

# Conceptual Questions



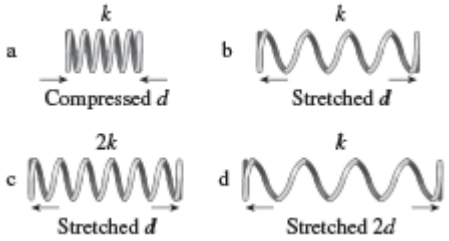
1. Upon what basic quantity does kinetic energy depend? Upon what basic quantity does potential energy depend?
2. Can kinetic energy ever be negative? Can gravitational potential energy ever be negative? For each, give a plausible *reason* for your answer without making use of any equations.
3. A roller-coaster car rolls down a frictionless track, reaching speed $v_0$ at the bottom. If you want the car to go twice as fast at the bottom, by what factor must you increase the height of the track? Explain.
4. The three balls in Figure Q10.4, which have equal masses, are fired with equal speeds from the same height above the ground. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, their speeds $v_a$, $v_b$, and $v_c$ as they hit the ground. Explain.

**Figure Q10.4**




5. Rank in order, from most to least, the elastic potential energy $(U_{Sp})_a$ to $(U_{Sp})_d$ stored in the springs of Figure Q10.5. Explain.

**Figure Q10.5**




**6.** A spring is compressed 1.0 cm. How far must you compress a spring with twice the spring constant to store the same amount of energy?

**7.** A spring gun shoots out a plastic ball at speed $v_0$. The spring is then compressed twice the distance it was on the first shot. By what factor is the ball's speed increased? Explain.

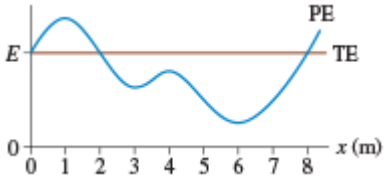
**8.** A particle with the potential energy shown in Figure Q10.8 is moving to the right at $x = 5\,\text{m}$ with total energy $E$.

**a.** At what value or values of $x$ is this particle's speed a maximum?

**b.** Does this particle have a turning point or points in the range of $x$ covered by the graph? If so, where?

**c.** If $E$ is changed appropriately, could the particle remain at rest at any point or points in the range of $x$ covered by the graph? If so, where?

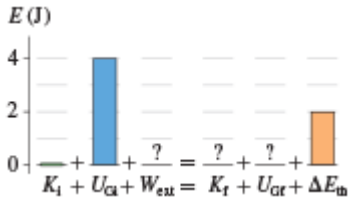
**Figure Q10.8**




**9.** A compressed spring launches a block up an incline. Which objects should be included within the system in order to make an energy analysis as easy as possible?

10. A process occurs in which a system's potential energy decreases while the system does work on the environment. Does the system's kinetic energy increase, decrease, or stay the same? Or is there not enough information to tell? Explain.
11. A process occurs in which a system's potential energy increases while the environment does work on the system. Does the system's kinetic energy increase, decrease, or stay the same? Or is there not enough information to tell? Explain.
12. Figure Q10.12 is the energy bar chart for a firefighter sliding down a fire pole from the second floor to the ground. Let the system consist of the firefighter, the pole, and the earth. What are the bar heights of $W_{ext}$, $K_f$, and $U_{Gf}$?

**Figure Q10.12**




13. **a.** If the force on a particle at some point in space is zero, must its potential energy also be zero at that point? Explain.
    **b.** If the potential energy of a particle at some point in space is zero, must the force on it also be zero at that point? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

# Exercises

## Section 10.1 Potential Energy

**1.** • Object A is stationary while objects B and C are in motion. Forces from object A do 10 J of work on object B and –5 J of work on object C. Forces from the environment do 4 J of work on object B and 8 J of work on object C. Objects B and C do not interact. What are $\Delta K_{\text{tot}}$ and $\Delta U_{\text{int}}$ if (a) objects A, B, and C are defined as separate systems and (b) one system is defined to include objects A, B, and C and their interactions?

**2.** • A system of two objects has $\Delta K_{\text{tot}} = 7\,\text{J}$ and $\Delta U_{\text{int}} = -5\,\text{J}$.

**a.** How much work is done by interaction forces?

**b.** How much work is done by external forces?

## Section 10.2 Gravitational Potential Energy



**3.** • The lowest point in Death Valley is 85 m below sea level. The summit of nearby Mt. Whitney has an elevation of 4420 m. What is the change in potential energy when an energetic 65 kg hiker makes it from the floor of Death Valley to the top of Mt. Whitney?

**4.** •

**a.** What is the kinetic energy of a 1500 kg car traveling at a speed of 30 m/s (≈ 65 mph)?

**b.** From what height would the car have to be dropped to have this same amount of kinetic energy just before impact?

**5.** •

**a.** With what minimum speed must you toss a 100 g ball straight up to just touch the 10-m-high roof of the

gymnasium if you release the ball 1.5 m above the ground? Solve this problem using energy.

**b.** With what speed does the ball hit the ground?

**6.** • What height does a frictionless playground slide need so that a 35 kg child reaches the bottom at a speed of 4.5 m/s?

**7.** • A 55 kg skateboarder wants to just make it to the upper edge of a "quarter pipe," a track that is one-quarter of a circle with a radius of 3.0 m. What speed does he need at the bottom?

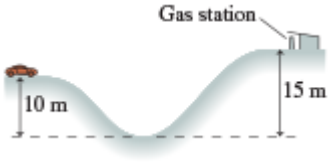
**8.** • What minimum speed does a 100 g puck need to make it to the top of a 3.0-m-long, 20° frictionless ramp?

**9.** •• A pendulum is made by tying a 500 g ball to a 75-cm-long string. The pendulum is pulled 30° to one side, then released. What is the ball's speed at the lowest point of its trajectory?

**10.** •• A 20 kg child is on a swing that hangs from 3.0-m-long chains. What is her maximum speed if she swings out to a 45° angle?

**11.** •• A 1500 kg car traveling at 10 m/s suddenly runs out of gas while approaching the valley shown in Figure EX10.11. The alert driver immediately puts the car in neutral so that it will roll. What will be the car's speed as it coasts into the gas station on the other side of the valley?

**Figure EX10.11**




**12.** • **BIO** The maximum energy a bone can absorb without breaking is surprisingly small. Experimental data show that the leg bones of a healthy, 60 kg human can absorb about 200 J.

From what maximum height could a 60 kg person jump and land rigidly upright on both feet without breaking his legs? Assume that all energy is absorbed by the leg bones in a rigid landing.

**13.** •• A cannon tilted up at a 30° angle fires a cannon ball at 80 m/s from atop a 10-m-high fortress wall. What is the ball's impact speed on the ground below?

**14.** •• **INT** In a hydroelectric dam, water falls 25 m and then spins a turbine to generate electricity.

**a.** What is $\Delta U_G$ of 1.0 kg of water?

**b.** Suppose the dam is 80% efficient at converting the water's potential energy to electrical energy. How many kilograms of water must pass through the turbines each second to generate 50 MW of electricity? This is a typical value for a small hydroelectric dam.

## Section 10.3 Elastic Potential Energy

**15.** • How far must you stretch a spring with $k = 1000\,\mathrm{N/m}$ to store 200 J of energy?

**16.** •• A stretched spring stores 2.0 J of energy. How much energy will be stored if the spring is stretched three times as far?

**17.** • A student places her 500 g physics book on a frictionless table. She pushes the book against a spring, compressing the spring by 4.0 cm, then releases the book. What is the book's speed as it slides away? The spring constant is 1250 N/m.

**18.** • A block sliding along a horizontal frictionless surface with speed $v$ collides with a spring and compresses it by 2.0 cm. What will be the compression if the same block collides with the spring at a speed of $2v$?

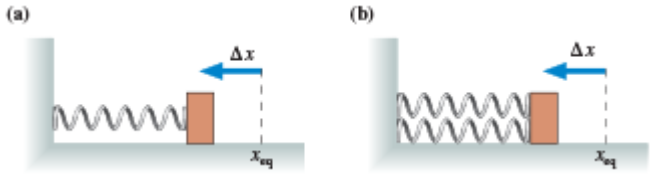
**19.** • A 10 kg runaway grocery cart runs into a spring with spring constant 250 N/m and compresses it by 60 cm. What was the speed of the cart just before it hit the spring?

**20.** •• As a 15,000 kg jet plane lands on an aircraft carrier, its tail hook snags a cable to slow it down. The cable is attached to a spring with spring constant 60,000 N/m. If the spring stretches 30 m to stop the plane, what was the plane's landing speed?

**21.** •• **BIO** The elastic energy stored in your tendons can contribute up to 35% of your energy needs when running. Sports scientists find that (on average) the knee extensor tendons in sprinters stretch 41 mm while those of nonathletes stretch only 33 mm. The spring constant of the tendon is the same for both groups, 33 N/mm. What is the difference in maximum stored energy between the sprinters and the nonathletes?

**22.** •• The spring in Figure EX10.22a is compressed by $\Delta x$. It launches the block across a frictionless surface with speed $v_0$. The two springs in Figure EX10.22b are identical to the spring of Figure EX10.22a. They are compressed by the same $\Delta x$ and used to launch the same block. What is the block's speed now?

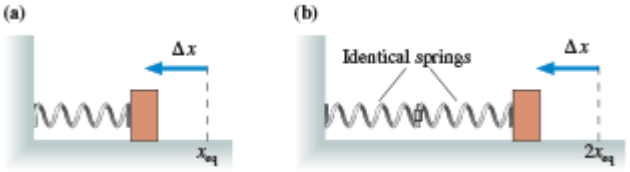
**Figure EX10.22**




**23.** ••• The spring in Figure EX10.23a is compressed by $\Delta x$. It launches the block across a frictionless surface with speed $v_0$. The two springs in Figure EX10.23b are identical to the spring of Figure EX10.23a. They are compressed the same *total* $\Delta x$

and used to launch the same block. What is the block's speed now?

**Figure EX10.23**




## Section 10.4 Conservation of Energy

## Section 10.5 Energy Diagrams

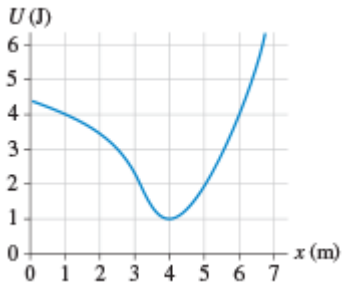
**24.** •• Figure EX10.24 is the potential-energy diagram for a 20 g particle that is released from rest at $x = 1.0\,\text{m}$.

**a.** Will the particle move to the right or to the left?

**b.** What is the particle's maximum speed? At what position does it have this speed?

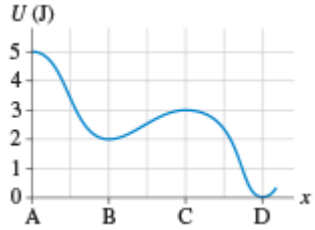
**c.** Where are the turning points of the motion?

**Figure EX10.24**



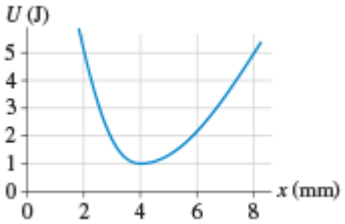

**25.** •• Figure EX10.25 is the potential-energy diagram for a 500 g particle that is released from rest at A. What are the particle's speeds at B, C, and D?

**Figure EX10.25**




**26.** •• In Figure EX10.26, what is the maximum speed of a 2.0 g particle that oscillates between $x = 2.0\,\text{mm}$ and $x = 8.0\,\text{mm}$?

**Figure EX10.26**

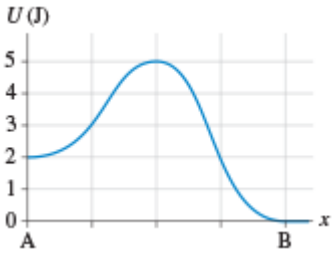



**27.** •

**a.** In Figure EX10.27, what minimum speed does a 100 g particle need at point A to reach point B?

**b.** What minimum speed does a 100 g particle need at point B to reach point A?

**Figure EX10.27**




**28.** •• Figure EX10.28 shows the potential energy of a 500 g particle as it moves along the $x$-axis. Suppose the particle's mechanical energy is 12 J.

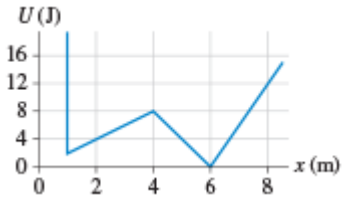
**a.** Where are the particle's turning points?

**b.** What is the particle's speed when it is at $x = 4.0\,\text{m}$?

**c.** What is the particle's maximum speed? At what position or positions does this occur?

**d.** Suppose the particle's energy is lowered to 4.0 J. Can the particle ever be at $x = 2.0\,\text{m}$? At $x = 4.0\,\text{m}$?

**Figure EX10.28**

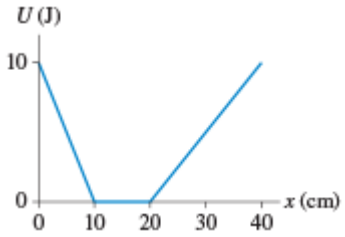



**29.** •• In Figure EX10.28, what is the maximum speed a 200 g particle could have at $x = 2.0\,\text{m}$ and never reach $x = 6.0\,\text{m}$?

## Section 10.6 Force and Potential Energy

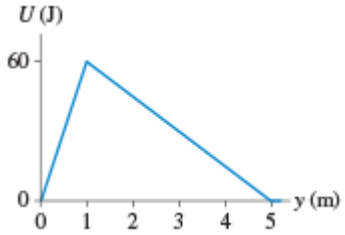
**30.** •• A system in which only one particle can move has the potential energy shown in Figure EX10.30. What is the $x$-component of the force on the particle at $x = 5$, 15, and 25 cm?

**Figure EX10.30**




**31.** •• A system in which only one particle can move has the potential energy shown in Figure EX10.31. What is the $y$-component of the force on the particle at $y = 0.5\,\text{m}$ and 4 m?

**Figure EX10.31**

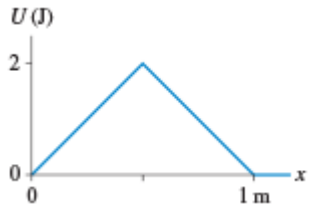



**32.** •• **CALC** A particle moving along the $y$-axis is in a system with potential energy $U = 4y^3$ J, where $y$ is in m. What is the $y$-component of the force on the particle at $y = 0$ m, 1 m, and 2 m?

**33.** •• **CALC** A particle moving along the $x$-axis is in a system with potential energy $U = 10/x$ J, where $x$ is in m. What is the $x$-component of the force on the particle at $x = 2$ m, 5 m, and 8 m?

**34.** •• Figure EX10.34 shows the potential energy of a system in which a particle moves along the $x$-axis. Draw a graph of the force $F_x$ as a function of position $x$.

**Figure EX10.34**



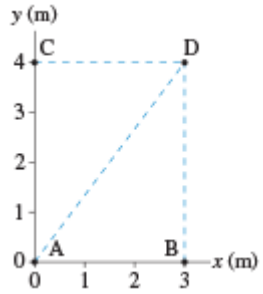

## Section 10.7 Conservative and Nonconservative Forces

**35.** • A particle moves from A to D in Figure EX10.35 while experiencing force $\vec{F} = \left(6\hat{i} + 8\hat{j}\right)$ N. How much work does

the force do if the particle follows path (a) ABD, (b) ACD, and (c) AD? Is this a conservative force? Explain.



**Figure EX10.35**




**36.** • A force does work on a 50 g particle as the particle moves along the following straight paths in the *xy*-plane: 25 J from (0 m, 0 m) to (5 m, 0 m); 35 J from (0 m, 0 m) to (0 m, 5 m); –5 J from (5 m, 0 m) to (5 m, 5 m); –15 J from (0 m, 5 m) to (5 m, 5 m); and 20 J from (0 m, 0 m) to (5 m, 5 m).

**a.** Is this a conservative force?

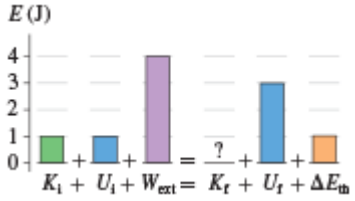
**b.** If the zero of potential energy is at the origin, what is the potential energy at (5 m, 5 m)?

## Section 10.8 The Energy Principle Revisited

**37.** • A system loses 400 J of potential energy. In the process, it does 400 J of work on the environment and the thermal energy increases by 100 J. Show this process on an energy bar chart.

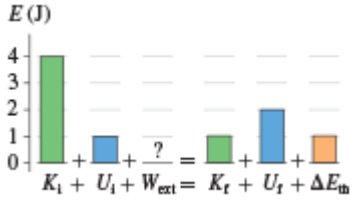
**38.** • What is the final kinetic energy of the system for the process shown in Figure EX10.38?

**Figure EX10.38**




**39.** • How much work is done by the environment in the process shown in Figure EX10.39? Is energy transferred from the environment to the system or from the system to the environment?

**Figure EX10.39**




**40.** •• A cable with 20.0 N of tension pulls straight up on a 1.50 kg block that is initially at rest. What is the block's speed after being lifted 2.00 m? Solve this problem using work and energy.

## Problems

**41.** •• A very slippery ice cube slides in a *vertical* plane around the inside of a smooth, 20-cm-diameter horizontal pipe. The ice cube's speed at the bottom of the circle is 3.0 m/s. What is the ice cube's speed at the top?

**42.** •• A 50 g ice cube can slide up and down a frictionless 30° slope. At the bottom, a spring with spring constant 25 N/m is compressed 10 cm and used to launch the ice cube up the slope. How high does it go above its starting point?

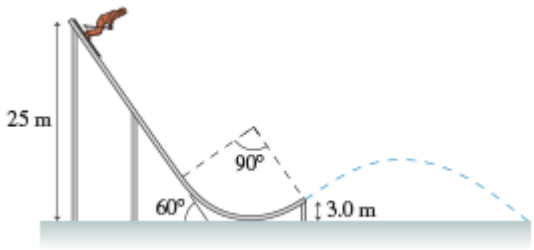
**43.** •• You have been hired to design a spring-launched roller coaster that will carry two passengers per car. The car goes up a 10-m-high hill, then descends 15 m to the track's lowest point. You've determined that the spring can be compressed a maximum of 2.0 m and that a loaded car will have a maximum mass of 400 kg. For safety reasons, the spring constant should be 10% larger than the minimum needed for the car to just make it over the top.

**a.** What spring constant should you specify?

**b.** What is the maximum speed of a 350 kg car if the spring is compressed the full amount?

**44.** •• **INT** It's been a great day of new, frictionless snow. Julie starts at the top of the 60° slope shown in Figure P10.44. At the bottom, a circular arc carries her through a 90° turn, and she then launches off a 3.0-m-high ramp. How far horizontally is her touchdown point from the end of the ramp?

**Figure P10.44**




**45.** •• **INT** A block of mass $m$ slides down a frictionless track, then around the inside of a circular loop-the-loop of radius $R$. From what minimum height $h$ must the block start to make it around without falling off? Give your answer as a multiple of $R$.

**46.** ••• A 1000 kg safe is 2.0 m above a heavy-duty spring when the rope holding the safe breaks. The safe hits the spring and compresses it 50 cm. What is the spring constant of the spring?

**47.** ••• You have a ball of unknown mass, a spring with spring constant 950 N/m, and a meter stick. You use various compressions of the spring to launch the ball vertically, then use the meter stick to measure the ball's maximum height above the launch point. Your data are as follows:

| Compression (cm) | Height (cm) |
|---|---|
| 2.0 | 32 |
| 3.0 | 65 |
| 4.0 | 115 |
| 5.0 | 189 |

Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine the ball's mass.

**48.** •• Sam, whose mass is 75 kg, straps on his skis and starts down a 50-m-high, 20° frictionless slope. A strong headwind exerts a *horizontal* force of 200 N on him as he skies. Use work and energy to find Sam's speed at the bottom.



**49.** •• A horizontal spring with spring constant 100 N/m is compressed 20 cm and used to launch a 2.5 kg box across a frictionless, horizontal surface. After the box travels some distance, the surface becomes rough. The coefficient of kinetic friction of the box on the surface is 0.15. Use work and energy to find how far the box slides across the rough surface before stopping.

**50.** •• Truck brakes can fail if they get too hot. In some mountainous areas, ramps of loose gravel are constructed to stop runaway trucks that have lost their brakes. The combination of a slight upward slope and a large coefficient of rolling resistance as the truck tires sink into the gravel brings the truck safely to a halt. Suppose a gravel ramp slopes upward at 6.0° and the coefficient of rolling friction is 0.40. Use work

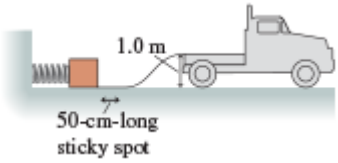
and energy to find the length of a ramp that will stop a 15,000 kg truck that enters the ramp at 35 m/s (≈ 75 mph).

**51.** •• **INT** A freight company uses a compressed spring to shoot 2.0 kg packages up a 1.0-m-high frictionless ramp into a truck, as Figure P10.51 shows. The spring constant is 500 N/m and the spring is compressed 30 cm.

**a.** What is the speed of the package when it reaches the truck?

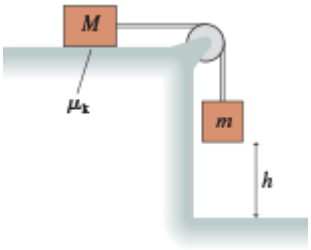
**b.** A careless worker spills his soda on the ramp. This creates a 50-cm-long sticky spot with a coefficient of kinetic friction 0.30. Will the next package make it into the truck?

**Figure P10.51**




**52.** •• Use work and energy to find an expression for the speed of the block in Figure P10.52 just before it hits the floor if (a) the coefficient of kinetic friction for the block on the table is $\mu_k$ and (b) the table is frictionless.

**Figure P10.52**




**53.** ••

**a.** A 50 g ice cube can slide without friction up and down a 30° slope. The ice cube is pressed against a spring at the bottom of the slope, compressing the spring 10 cm. The spring constant is 25 N/m. When the ice cube is released, what total distance will it travel up the slope before reversing direction?

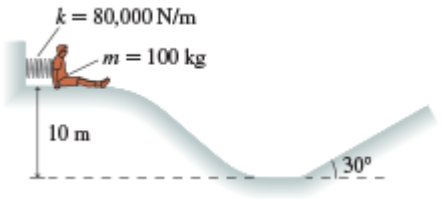
**b.** The ice cube is replaced by a 50 g plastic cube whose coefficient of kinetic friction is 0.20. How far will the plastic cube travel up the slope? Use work and energy.

**54.** •• The spring shown in Figure P10.54 is compressed 50 cm and used to launch a 100 kg physics student. The track is frictionless until it starts up the incline. The student's coefficient of kinetic friction on the 30° incline is 0.15.

**a.** What is the student's speed just after losing contact with the spring?

**b.** How far up the incline does the student go?

**Figure P10.54**




**55.** ••• **CALC** Protons and neutrons (together called *nucleons*) are held together in the nucleus of an atom by a force called the *strong force*. At very small separations, the strong force between two nucleons is larger than the repulsive electrical force between two protons—hence its name. But the strong force quickly weakens as the distance between the protons increases.

A well-established model for the potential energy of two nucleons interacting via the strong force is

$$U = U_0 \left[1 - e^{-x/x_0}\right]$$

where $x$ is the distance between the centers of the two nucleons, $x_0$ is a constant having the value $x_0 = 2.0 \times 10^{-15}\,\text{m}$, and $U_0 = 6.0 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{J}$.

Quantum effects are essential for a proper understanding of nucleons, but let us innocently consider two neutrons as if they were small, hard, electrically neutral spheres of mass $1.67 \times 10^{-27}\,\text{kg}$ and diameter $1.0 \times 10^{-15}\,\text{m}$. Suppose you hold two neutrons $5.0 \times 10^{-15}\,\text{m}$ apart, measured between their centers, then release them. What is the speed of each neutron as they crash together? Keep in mind that *both* neutrons are moving.

**56.** •• **CALC** A 2.6 kg block is attached to a horizontal rope that exerts a variable force $F_x = (20 - 5x)\,\text{N}$, where $x$ is in m. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the block and the floor is 0.25. Initially the block is at rest at $x = 0\,\text{m}$. What is the block's speed when it has been pulled to $x = 4.0\,\text{m}$?

**57.** •• **CALC** A system has potential energy

$$U(x) = x + \sin\left((2\text{rad/m})\,x\right)$$

as a particle moves over the range $0\,\text{m} \le x \le \pi\,\text{m}$.

**a.** Where are the equilibrium positions in this range?

**b.** For each, is it a point of stable or unstable equilibrium?

**58.** •• **CALC** A particle that can move along the $x$-axis is part of a system with potential energy

$$U(x) = \frac{A}{x^2} - \frac{B}{x}$$



where $A$ and $B$ are positive constants.

**a.** Where are the particle's equilibrium positions?

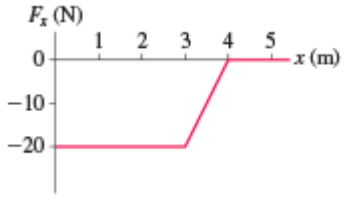
**b.** For each, is it a point of stable or unstable equilibrium?

**59.** •• A 100 g particle experiences the one-dimensional, conservative force $F_x$ shown in Figure P10.59.

**a.** Let the zero of potential energy be at $x = 0\,\text{m}$. What is the potential energy at $x = 1.0$, 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 m?
**Hint:** Use the definition of potential energy and the geometric interpretation of work.

**b.** Suppose the particle is shot to the right from $x = 1.0\,\text{m}$ with a speed of 25 m/s. Where is its turning point?

**Figure P10.59**




**60.** •• **CALC** A clever engineer designs a "sprong" that obeys the force law $F_x = -q(x - x_{\text{eq}})^3$, where $x_{\text{eq}}$ is the equilibrium position of the end of the sprong and $q$ is the sprong constant. For simplicity, we'll let $x_{\text{eq}} = 0\,\text{m}$. Then $F_x = -qx^3$.

**a.** What are the units of $q$?

**b.** Find an expression for the potential energy of a stretched or compressed sprong.

**c.** A sprong-loaded toy gun shoots a 20 g plastic ball. What is the launch speed if the sprong constant is 40,000, with the units you found in part a, and the

sprong is compressed 10 cm? Assume the barrel is frictionless.

**61.** •• **CALC** The potential energy for a particle that can move along the $x$-axis is $U = Ax^2 + B\sin(\pi x/L)$, where $A$, $B$, and $L$ are constants. What is the force on the particle at (a) $x = 0$, (b) $x = L/2$, and (c) $x = L$?

**62.** •• **CALC** A particle that can move along the $x$-axis experiences an interaction force $F_x = (3x^2 - 5x)\,\text{N}$, where $x$ is in m. Find an expression for the system's potential energy.

**63.** •• **CALC** An object moving in the $xy$-plane is subjected to the force $\vec{F} = \left(2xy\hat{i} + x^2\hat{j}\right)\text{N}$, where $x$ and $y$ are in m.

**a.** The particle moves from the origin to the point with coordinates ($a$, $b$) by moving first along the $x$-axis to ($a$, 0), then parallel to the $y$-axis. How much work does the force do?

**b.** The particle moves from the origin to the point with coordinates ($a$, $b$) by moving first along the $y$-axis to (0, $b$), then parallel to the $x$-axis. How much work does the force do?

**c.** Is this a conservative force?

**64.** •• **CALC** An object moving in the $xy$-plane is subjected to the force $\vec{F} = \left(2xy\hat{i} + 3y\hat{j}\right)\text{N}$, where $x$ and $y$ are in m.

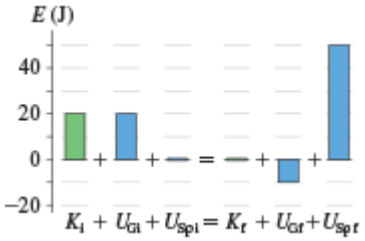
**a.** The particle moves from the origin to the point with coordinates ($a$, $b$) by moving first along the $x$-axis to ($a$, 0), then parallel to the $y$-axis. How much work does the force do?

**b.** The particle moves from the origin to the point with coordinates ($a$, $b$) by moving first along the $y$-axis to (0, $b$), then parallel to the $x$-axis. How much work does the force do?

**c.** Is this a conservative force?

**65.** Write a realistic problem for which the energy bar chart shown in Figure P10.65 correctly shows the energy at the beginning and end of the problem.

**Figure P10.65**




In Problems 66, 67, 68 you are given the equation used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation.

**b.** Draw the before-and-after pictorial representation.

**c.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**66.**
$$\tfrac{1}{2}(1500\,\text{kg})(5.0\text{m/s})^2 + (1500\,\text{kg})(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)(10\,\text{m}) = \tfrac{1}{2}(1500\,\text{kg})v_i^2 + (1500\,\text{kg})(9.80\text{m/s}^2)(0\,\text{m})$$

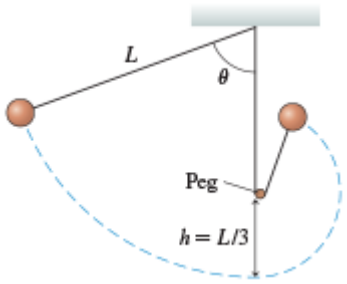
**67.**
$$\tfrac{1}{2}(0.20\,\text{kg})(2.0\text{m/s})^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}k(0\,\text{m})^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(0.20\,\text{kg})(0\,\text{m/s}^2) + \tfrac{1}{2}k(-0.15\ \text{m})^2$$

**68.**
$$\tfrac{1}{2}(0.50\,\text{kg})v_f^2 + (0.50\,\text{kg})(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)(0\,\text{m}) + \tfrac{1}{2}(400\,\text{N/m})(0\,\text{m})^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(0.50\ \text{kg})(0\,\text{m/s})^2 + (0.50\,\text{kg})(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)((-0.10\,\text{m})\sin 30^\circ) + \tfrac{1}{2}(400\,\text{N/m})(-0.10\,\text{m})^2$$

# Challenge Problems

**69.** ••• A pendulum is formed from a small ball of mass $m$ on a string of length $L$. As Figure CP10.69 shows, a peg is height $h = L/3$ above the pendulum's lowest point. From what minimum angle $\theta$ must the pendulum be released in order for the ball to go over the top of the peg without the string going slack?

**Figure CP10.69**




**70.** ••• In a physics lab experiment, a compressed spring launches a 20 g metal ball at a 30° angle. Compressing the spring 20 cm causes the ball to hit the floor 1.5 m below the point at which it leaves the spring after traveling 5.0 m horizontally. What is the spring constant?

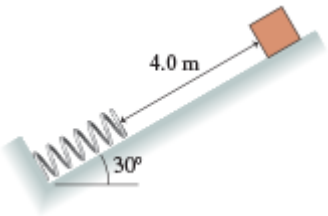
**71.** ••• It's your birthday, and to celebrate you're going to make your first bungee jump. You stand on a bridge 100 m above a raging river and attach a 30-m-long bungee cord to your harness. A bungee cord, for practical purposes, is just a long spring, and this cord has a spring constant of 40 N/m. Assume that your mass is 80 kg. After a long hesitation, you dive off the bridge. How far are you above the water when the cord reaches its maximum elongation?

**72.** ••• **CALC** A 10 kg box slides 4.0 m down the frictionless ramp shown in Figure CP10.72, then collides with a spring whose spring constant is 250 N/m.

**a.** What is the maximum compression of the spring?

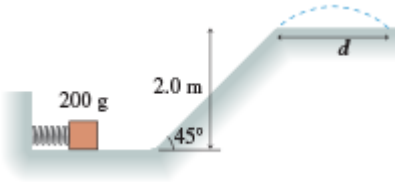
**b.** At what compression of the spring does the box have its maximum speed?

**Figure CP10.72**




**73.** ••• The spring in Figure CP10.73 has a spring constant of 1000 N/m. It is compressed 15 cm, then launches a 200 g block. The horizontal surface is frictionless, but the block's coefficient of kinetic friction on the incline is 0.20. What distance $d$ does the block sail through the air?

**Figure CP10.73**



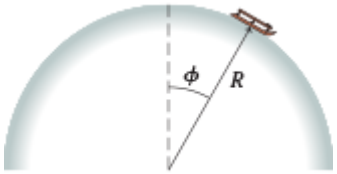

**74.** ••• A sled starts from rest at the top of the frictionless, hemispherical, snow-covered hill shown in Figure CP10.74.

**a.** Find an expression for the sled's speed when it is at angle $\phi$

**b.** Use Newton's laws to find the maximum speed the sled can have at angle $\phi$ without leaving the surface.

**c.** At what angle $\phi_{max}$ does the sled "fly off" the hill?

**Figure CP10.74**


ϕ
R

# Chapter 11
# Impulse and Momentum

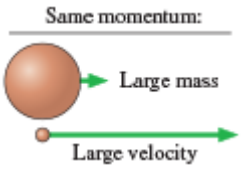
An exploding firework is a dramatic event. Nonetheless, the explosion obeys some simple laws of physics.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn to use the concepts of impulse and momentum.

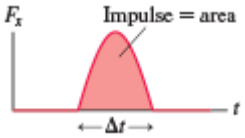
## What is momentum?

An object's momentum is the product of its mass and velocity. An object can have a large momentum by having a large mass or a large velocity. Momentum is a vector, and it is especially important to pay attention to the *signs* of the components of momentum.




## What is impulse?

A force of short duration is an impulsive force. The impulse $J_x$ that this force delivers to an object is the area under the force-versus-time graph. For time-dependent forces, impulse and momentum are often more useful than Newton's laws.



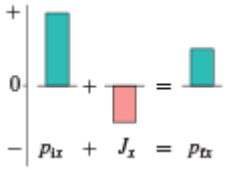

## How are impulse and momentum related?

Working with momentum is similar to working with energy. It's important to clearly define the system. The momentum principle says that a system's momentum changes when an impulse is delivered:

$$\Delta p_x = J_x$$

A momentum bar chart, similar to an energy bar chart, shows this principle graphically.

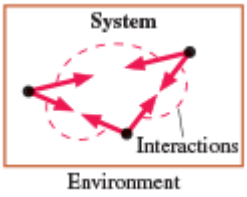
Looking Back Section 9.1 Energy overview




## Is momentum conserved?

The total momentum of an isolated system is conserved. The particles of an isolated system interact with each other but not with the environment. Regardless of how intense the interactions are, the final momentum equals the initial momentum.

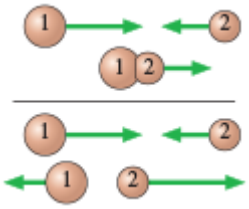
Looking Back Section 10.4 Energy conservation




## How does momentum apply to collisions?

One important application of momentum conservation is the study of collisions.

- In a totally inelastic collision, the objects stick together. Momentum is conserved.
- In a perfectly elastic collision, the objects bounce apart. Both momentum and energy are conserved.

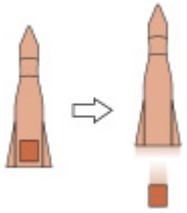



## Where else is momentum used?

This chapter looks at two other important applications of momentum conservation:

- An explosion is a short interaction that drives two or more objects apart.

- In rocket propulsion the object's mass is changing continuously.



# 11.1 Momentum and Impulse

A **collision** is a short-duration interaction between two objects. The collision between a tennis ball and a racket, or a baseball and a bat, may seem instantaneous to your eye, but that is a limitation of your perception. A high-speed photograph reveals that the side of the ball is significantly flattened during the collision. It takes time to compress the ball, and more time for the ball to re-expand as it leaves the racket or bat.

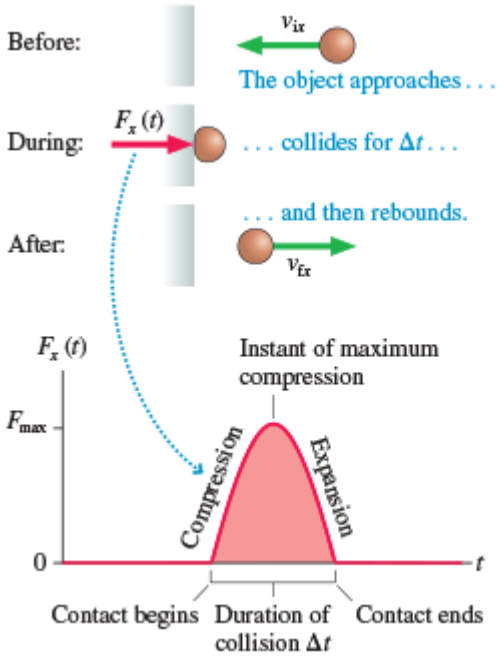
A tennis ball collides with a racket. Notice that the left side of the ball is flattened.

The duration of a collision depends on the materials from which the objects are made, but 1 to 10 ms (0.001 to 0.010 s) is fairly typical. This is the time during which the two objects are in contact with each other. The harder the objects, the shorter the contact time. A collision between two steel balls lasts less than 200 microseconds.

Figure 11.1 shows an object colliding with a wall. The object approaches with an initial horizontal velocity $v_{ix}$, experiences a force of duration $\Delta t$, and leaves with final velocity $v_{fx}$. Notice that the object, as in the photo above, *deforms* during the collision. A particle cannot be deformed, so we cannot model colliding objects as particles. Instead, we model a colliding object as an *elastic object* that compresses and then

expands, much like a spring. Indeed, that's exactly what happens during a collision at the microscopic level: Molecular bonds compress, store elastic potential energy, then transform some or all of that potential energy back into the kinetic energy of the rebounding object. We'll examine the energy issues of collisions later in this chapter.

## Figure 11.1




A collision.

The force of a collision is usually very large in comparison to other forces exerted on the object. A large force exerted for a small interval of time is called an **impulsive force.** The graph of Figure 11.1 shows how a typical impulsive force behaves, rapidly growing to a maximum at the instant of maximum compression, then decreasing back to zero. The force is zero before contact begins and after contact ends. Because an impulsive force is a function of time, we will write it as $F_x(t)$.

> **Note**
>
> Both $v_x$ and $F_x$ are components of vectors and thus have *signs*

> indicating which way the vectors point.

We can use Newton's second law to find how the object's velocity changes as a result of the collision. Acceleration in one dimension is $a_x = dv_x/dt$, so the second law is

$$ma_x = m\frac{dv_x}{dt} = F_x\,(t)$$

After multiplying both sides by $dt$, we can write the second law as

**(11.1)**

$$m\,dv_x = F_x\,(t)\,dt$$

The force is nonzero only during an interval of time from $t_\mathrm{i}$ to $t_\mathrm{f} = t_\mathrm{i} + \Delta t$, so let's integrate Equation 11.1 over this interval. The velocity changes from $v_\mathrm{ix}$ to $v_\mathrm{fx}$ during the collision; thus

**(11.2)**

$$m\int_{v_\mathrm{i}}^{v_\mathrm{f}} dv_x = mv_{\mathrm{f}x} - mv_{\mathrm{i}x} = \int_{t_\mathrm{i}}^{t_\mathrm{f}} F_x\,(t)\;\;dt$$

We need some new tools to help us make sense of Equation 11.2.

# Momentum

The product of a particle's mass and velocity is called the *momentum* of the particle:

(11.3)

$$\textbf{momentum} = \vec{p} \equiv m\vec{v}$$

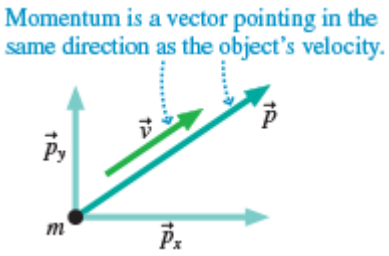
Momentum, like velocity, is a vector. The units of momentum are kg m/s. The plural of "momentum" is "momenta," from its Latin origin.

The momentum vector $\vec{p}$ is parallel to the velocity vector $\vec{v}$. Figure 11.2 shows that $\vec{p}$, like any vector, can be decomposed into $x$- and $y$-components. Equation 11.3, which is a vector equation, is a shorthand way to write the simultaneous equations

$$p_x = mv_x$$
$$p_y = mv_y$$



## Figure 11.2




The momentum $\vec{P}$ can be decomposed into $x$- and $y$-components.

> **Note**
>
> One of the most common errors in momentum problems is a failure to use the appropriate signs. The momentum component $p_x$ has the same sign as $v_x$. Momentum is *negative*

> for a particle moving to the left (on the *x*-axis) or down (on the *y*-axis).

An object can have a large momentum by having either a small mass but a large velocity or a small velocity but a large mass. For example, a 5.5 kg (12 lb) bowling ball rolling at a modest 2 m/s has momentum of magnitude $p = (5.5\ \text{kg})\,(2\ \text{m/s}) = 11\,\text{kg}\ \ \text{m/s}$. This is almost exactly the same momentum as a 9 g bullet fired from a high-speed rifle at 1200 m/s.

Newton actually formulated his second law in terms of momentum rather than acceleration:

**(11.4)**

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a} = m\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{d\left(m\vec{v}\right)}{dt} = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt}$$

This statement of the second law, saying that **force is the rate of change of momentum,** is more general than our earlier version $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$. It allows for the possibility that the mass of the object might change, such as a rocket that is losing mass as it burns fuel.

Returning to Equation 11.2, you can see that $mv_{\text{ix}}$ and $mv_{\text{fx}}$ are $p_{\text{ix}}$ and $p_{\text{fx}}$, the *x*-component of the particle's momentum before and after the collision. Further, $p_{\text{fx}} - p_{\text{ix}}$ is $\Delta p_x$, the *change* in the particle's momentum. In terms of momentum, Equation 11.2 is

**(11.5)**

$$\Delta p_x = p_{\text{fx}} - p_{\text{ix}} = \int_{t_\text{i}}^{t_\text{f}} F_x\,(t)\ \ dt$$

Now we need to examine the right-hand side of Equation 11.5.

# Impulse

Equation 11.5 tells us that the particle's change in momentum is related to the time integral of the force. Let's define a quantity $J_x$ called the *impulse* to be

(11.6)

$$\begin{aligned} \textbf{impulse} &= J_x \equiv \int_{t_\mathrm{i}}^{t_\mathrm{f}} F_x\,(t)\;dt \\ &= \text{area under the } F_x\;(t) \text{ curve between } t_\mathrm{i} \text{ and } t_\mathrm{f} \end{aligned}$$

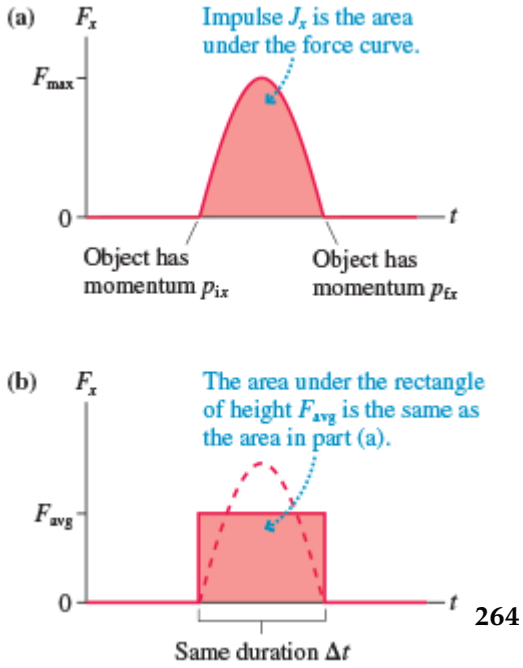
Strictly speaking, impulse has units of N s, but you should be able to show that N s are equivalent to kg m/s, the units of momentum.

The interpretation of the integral in Equation 11.6 as an area under a curve is especially important. Figure 11.3a portrays the impulse graphically. Because the force changes in a complicated way during a collision, it is often useful to describe the collision in terms of an *average* force $F_\mathrm{avg}$. As Figure 11.3b shows, $F_\mathrm{avg}$ is the height of a rectangle that has the same area, and thus the same impulse, as the real force curve. The impulse exerted during the collision is

(11.7)

$$J_x = F_\mathrm{avg}\,\Delta t$$

**Figure 11.3**






Looking at the impulse graphically.

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Equation 11.2, which we found by integrating Newton's second law, can now be rewritten in terms of impulse and momentum as

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**(11.8)**

$$\Delta p_x = J_x \qquad \text{(momentum principle)}$$

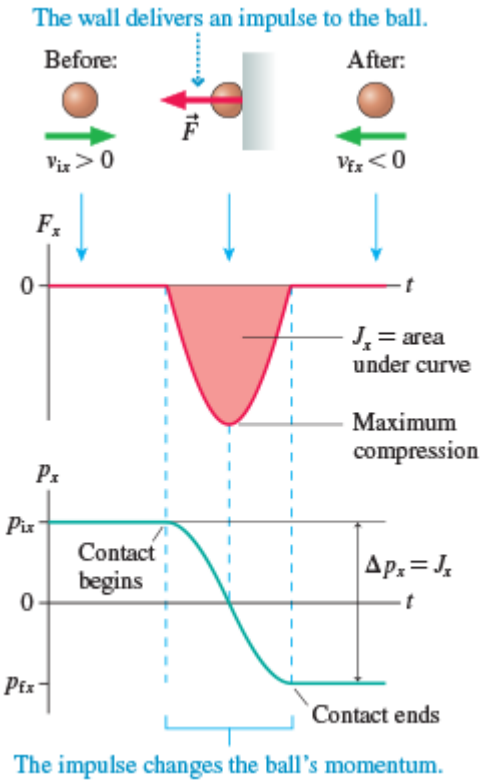
This result, called the **momentum principle,** says that **an impulse delivered to an object causes the object's momentum to change.** The momentum $p_{fx}$ "after" an interaction, such as a collision or an explosion, is equal to the momentum $p_{ix}$ "before" the interaction *plus* the impulse that arises from the interaction:

**(11.9)**

$$p_{fx} = p_{ix} + J_x$$

Figure 11.4 illustrates the momentum principle for a rubber ball bouncing off a wall. Notice the signs; they are very important. The ball is initially traveling toward the right, so $v_{ix}$ and $p_{ix}$ are positive. After the bounce, $v_{fx}$ and $p_{fx}$ are negative. The force *on the ball* is toward the left, so $F_x$ is also negative. The graphs show how the force and the momentum change with time.

## Figure 11.4




The momentum principle helps us understand a rubber ball bouncing off a wall.

Although the interaction is very complex, the impulse—the area under the force graph—is all we need to know to find the ball's velocity as it rebounds from the wall. The final momentum is

**(11.10)**

$$p_{fx} = p_{ix} + J_x = p_{ix} + \text{ area under the force curve}$$

and the final velocity is $v_{fx} = p_{fx}/m$. In this example, the area has a negative value.

## An Analogy with the Energy Principle

You've probably noticed that there is a similarity between the momentum principle and the energy principle of Chapters 9 and 10. For a system of one object acted on by a force:

**(11.11)**

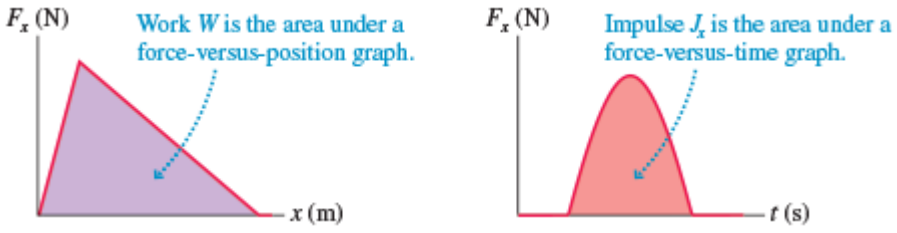
$$\text{energy principle:} \qquad \Delta K = W = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} F_x \, dx$$

$$\text{momentum principle :} \qquad \Delta p_x = J_x = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} F_x \, dt$$

In both cases, a force acting on an object changes the state of the system. If the force acts over the spatial interval from $x_i$ to $x_f$, it does *work* that changes the object's kinetic energy. If the force acts over a time interval from $t_i$ to $t_f$, it delivers an *impulse* that changes the object's momentum. Figure 11.5 shows that the geometric interpretation of work as the area under the *F*-versus-*x* graph parallels an interpretation of impulse as the area under the *F*-versus-*t* graph.



### Figure 11.5




Impulse and work are both the area under a force curve, but it's very important to know what the horizontal axis is.

This does not mean that a force *either* creates an impulse *or* does work but does not do both. Quite the contrary. A force acting on a particle *both* creates an impulse *and* does work, changing both the momentum and the kinetic energy of the particle. Whether you use the energy principle or the momentum principle depends on the question you are trying to answer.

In fact, we can express the kinetic energy in terms of momentum as

**(11.12)**

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{(mv)^2}{2m} = \frac{p^2}{2m}$$

You cannot change a particle's kinetic energy without also changing its momentum.

## Momentum Bar Charts

The momentum principle tells us that **impulse transfers momentum to an object.** If an object has 2 kg m/s of momentum, a 1 kg m/s impulse delivered to the object increases its momentum to 3 kg m/s. That is, $p_{fx} = p_{ix} + J_x$.

Just as we did with energy, we can represent this "momentum accounting" with a **momentum bar chart.** For example, the bar chart of Figure 11.6 represents the ball colliding with a wall in Figure 11.4. Momentum bar charts are a tool for visualizing an interaction.

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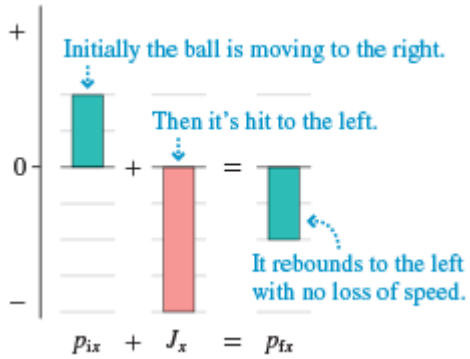
**Figure 11.6**




A momentum bar chart.

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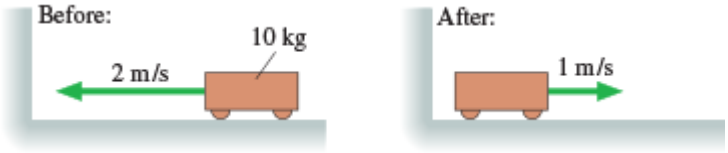
**Note**

The vertical scale of a momentum bar chart has no numbers; it can be adjusted to match any problem. However, be sure that all bars in a given problem use a consistent scale.

## Stop to Think 11.1

The cart's change of momentum is




**a.** –30 kg m/s

**b.** –20 kg m/s

**c.** 0 kg m/s

**d.** 10 kg m/s

**e.** 20 kg m/s

**f.** 30 kg m/s

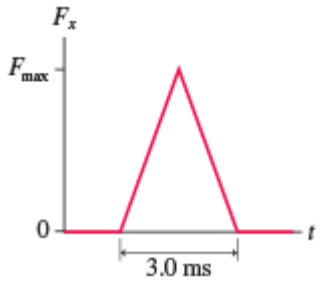
# Solving Impulse and Momentum Problems

Impulse and momentum problems, like energy problems, relate the situation before an interaction to the situation afterward. Consequently, the *before-and-after pictorial representation* remains our primary visualization tool. Let's look at an example.

### Example 11.1 Hitting a baseball

A 150 g baseball is thrown with a speed of 20 m/s. It is hit straight back toward the pitcher at a speed of 40 m/s. The interaction force between the ball and the bat is shown in Figure 11.7. What *maximum* force $F_{max}$ does the bat exert on the ball? What is the *average* force of the bat on the ball?

**Figure 11.7**





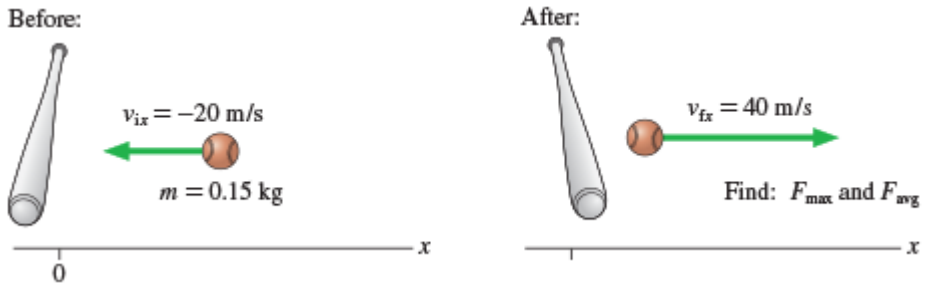

The interaction force between the baseball and the bat.

**MODEL** Model the baseball as an elastic object and the interaction as a collision.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.8 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. Because $F_x$ is positive (a force to the right), we

know the ball was initially moving toward the left and is hit back toward the right. Thus we converted the statements about *speeds* into information about *velocities*, with $v_{ix}$ negative.

## Figure 11.8



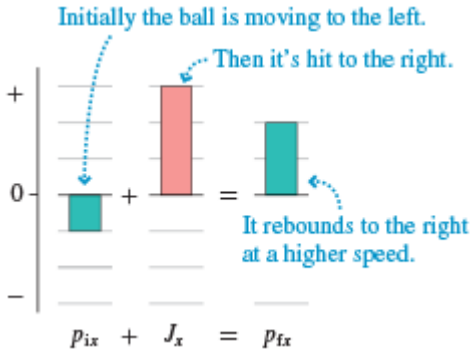

A before-and-after pictorial representation.

**SOLVE** The momentum principle is

$$\Delta p_x = J_x = \text{ area under the force curve}$$

We know the velocities before and after the collision, so we can calculate the ball's momenta:

$$p_{ix} = mv_{ix} = (0.15\text{ kg})\ \ (-20\,\text{m/s}) = -3.0\,\text{kg m/s}$$
$$p_{fx} = mv_{fx} = (0.15\text{ kg})\ \ (40\,\text{m/s}) = 6.0\,\text{kg m/s}$$




Thus the *change* in momentum is

$$\Delta p_x = p_{fx} - p_{ix} = 9.0\text{ kg m/s}$$

The force curve is a triangle with height $F_{\text{max}}$ and width 3.0 ms. The area under the curve is

$$J_x = \text{ area} = \tfrac{1}{2}(F_{\text{max}})\ (0.0030\,\text{s}) = (F_{\text{max}})\ (0.0015\,\text{s})$$

Using this information in the momentum principle, we have

$$9.0\ \text{kg m/s} \ = \ (F_{\text{max}})\,(0.0015\,\text{s})$$

Thus the *maximum* force is

$$F_{\text{max}} = \frac{9.0\ \text{kg m/s}}{0.0015\ \text{s}} = 6000\,\text{N}$$

The *average* force, which depends on the collision duration $\Delta t = 0.0030\,\text{s}$, has the smaller value:

$$F_{\text{avg}} = \frac{J_x}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta p_x}{\Delta t} = \frac{9.0\ \text{kg m/s}}{0.0030\ \text{s}} = 3000\ \text{N}$$

**ASSESS** $F_{\text{max}}$ is a large force, but quite typical of the impulsive forces during collisions. The main thing to focus on is our new perspective: An impulse changes the momentum of an object.

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Other forces often act on an object during a collision or other brief interaction. In Example 11.1, for instance, the baseball is also acted on by gravity. Usually these other forces are *much* smaller than the interaction forces. The 1.5 N weight of the ball is vastly less than the 6000 N force of the bat on the ball. We can reasonably neglect these small forces *during* the brief time of the impulsive force by using what is called the **impulse approximation.**

When we use the impulse approximation, $p_{ix}$ and $p_{fx}$ (and $v_{ix}$ and $v_{fx}$) are the momenta (and velocities) *immediately* before and *immediately* after the collision. For example, the velocities in Example 11.1 are those of the ball just before and after it collides with the bat. We could then do a follow-up problem, including gravity and drag, to find the ball's speed a second later as the second baseman catches it. We'll look at some two-part examples later in the chapter.

## Stop to Think 11.2

A 10 g rubber ball and a 10 g clay ball are thrown at a wall with equal speeds. The rubber ball bounces, the clay ball sticks. Which ball delivers a larger impulse to the wall?

**a.** The clay ball delivers a larger impulse because it sticks.
**b.** The rubber ball delivers a larger impulse because it bounces.
**c.** They deliver equal impulses because they have equal momenta.
**d.** Neither delivers an impulse to the wall because the wall doesn't move.

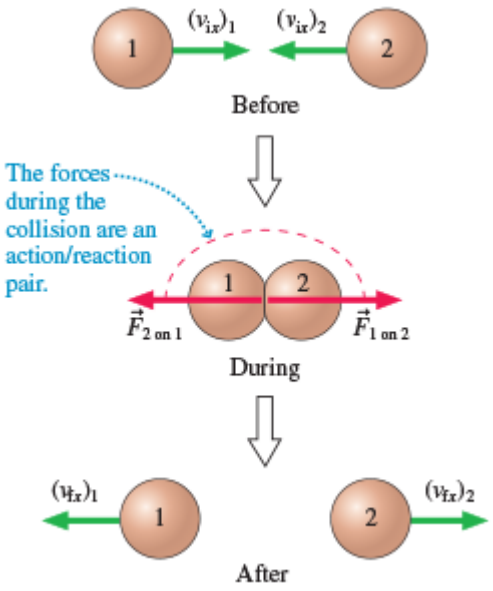
# 11.2 Conservation of Momentum



The momentum principle was derived from Newton's second law and is really just an alternative way of looking at single-particle dynamics. To discover the real power of momentum for problem solving, we need also to invoke Newton's third law, which will lead us to one of the most important principles in physics: conservation of momentum.

Figure 11.9 shows two objects with initial velocities $(v_{ix})_1$ and $(v_{ix})_2$. The objects collide, then bounce apart with final velocities $(v_{fx})_1$ and $(v_{fx})_2$. The forces during the collision, as the objects are interacting, are the action/reaction pair $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }2}$ and $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }1}$. For now, we'll continue to assume that the motion is one dimensional along the $x$-axis.

**Figure 11.9**




A collision between two objects.

> **Note**
>
> The notation, with all the subscripts, may seem excessive. But there are two objects, and each has an initial and a final velocity, so we need to distinguish among four different velocities.

Newton's second law for each object *during* the collision is

**(11.13)**

$$\frac{d(p_x)_1}{dt} = (F_x)_{2\text{ on }1}$$
$$\frac{d(p_x)_2}{dt} = (F_x)_{1\text{ on }2} = -(F_x)_{2\text{ on }1}$$

We made explicit use of Newton's third law in the second equation.

Although Equations 11.13 are for two different objects, suppose—just to see what happens—we were to *add* these two equations. If we do, we find that

**(11.14)**

$$\frac{d(p_x)_1}{dt} + \frac{d(p_x)_2}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}[(p_x)_1 + (p_x)_2] = (F_x)_{2\text{ on }1} + (-(F_x)_{2\text{ on }1}) = 0$$

If the time derivative of the quantity $(p_x)_1 + (p_x)_2$ is zero, it must be the case that

**(11.15)**

$$(p_x)_1 + (p_x)_2 = \text{ constant}$$

Equation 11.15 is a conservation law! If $(p_x)_1 + (p_x)_2$ is a constant, then the sum of the momenta *after* the collision equals the sum of the momenta *before* the collision. That is,

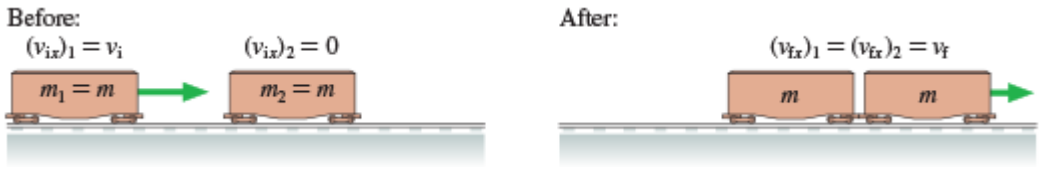
(11.16)

$$(p_{fx})_1 + (p_{fx})_2 = (p_{ix})_1 + (p_{ix})_2$$

Furthermore, this equality is independent of the interaction force. We don't need to know *anything* about $\vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}$ and $\vec{F}_{2 \text{ on } 1}$ to make use of Equation 11.16.

As an example, Figure 11.10 is a before-and-after pictorial representation of two equal-mass train cars colliding and coupling. Equation 11.16 relates the momenta of the cars after the collision to their momenta before the collision:

## Figure 11.10




Two colliding train cars.

$$m_1(v_{fx})_1 + m_2(v_{fx})_2 = m_1(v_{ix})_1 + m_2(v_{ix})_2$$

Initially, car 1 is moving with velocity $(v_{ix})_1 = v_i$ while car 2 is at rest. Afterward, they roll together with the common final velocity $v_f$. Furthermore, $m_1 = m_2 = m$. With this information, the momentum equation is

$$mv_f + mv_f = mv_i + 0$$

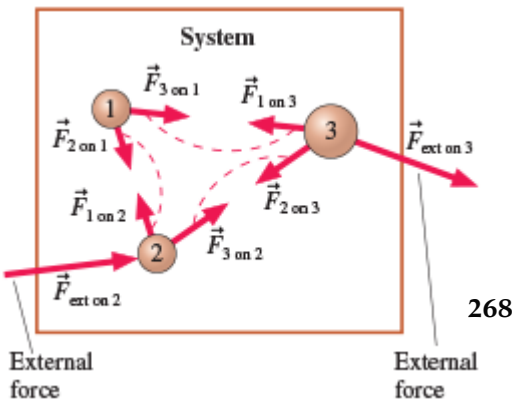
The mass cancels, and we find that the train cars' final velocity is $v_f = \frac{1}{2}v_i$. That is, we can predict that the final speed is exactly half the initial speed of car 1 without knowing anything about the complex interaction between the two cars as they collide.

# Systems of Particles

Equation 11.16 illustrates the idea of a conservation law for momentum, but it was derived for the specific case of two particles colliding in one dimension. Our goal is to develop a more general law of conservation of momentum, a law that will be valid in three dimensions and that will work for any type of interaction. The next few paragraphs are fairly mathematical, so you might want to begin by looking ahead to Equations 11.24 and the statement of the law of conservation of momentum to see where we're heading.

Our study of energy in the last two chapters has emphasized the importance of having a clearly defined system. The same is true for momentum. Consider a system consisting of *N* particles. Figure 11.11 shows a simple case where $N = 3$, but N could be anything. The particles might be large entities (cars, baseballs, etc.), or they might be the microscopic atoms in a gas. We can identify each particle by an identification number *k*. Every particle in the system *interacts* with every other particle via action/reaction pairs of forces $\vec{F}_{j \text{ on } k}$ and $\vec{F}_{k \text{ on } j}$. In addition, every particle is subjected to possible *external forces* $\vec{F}_{\text{ext on } k}$ from agents outside the system.

**Figure 11.11**



If particle $k$ has velocity $\vec{v}_k$, its momentum is $\vec{p}_k = m_k \vec{v}_k$. We define the **total momentum** $\vec{P}$ of the system as the vector sum

**(11.17)**

$$\vec{P} = \text{total momentum} = \vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 + \vec{p}_3 + \cdots + \vec{p}_N = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \vec{p}_k$$

That is the total momentum *of the system* is the vector sum of the individual momenta.

The time derivative of $\vec{P}$ tells us how the total momentum of the system changes with time:

**(11.18)**

$$\frac{d\vec{P}}{dt} = \sum_k \frac{d\vec{p}_k}{dt} = \sum_k \vec{F}_k$$

where we used Newton's second law for each particle in the form $\vec{F}_k = d\vec{p}_k/dt$, which was Equation 11.4.

The net force acting on particle $k$ can be divided into *external forces*, from outside the system, and *interaction forces* due to all the other particles in the system:

**(11.19)**

$$\vec{F}_k = \sum_{j \neq k} \vec{F}_{j \text{ on } k} + \vec{F}_{\text{ext on } k}$$

The restriction $j \neq k$ expresses the fact that particle $k$ does not exert a force on itself. Using this in Equation 11.18 gives the rate of change of the total momentum $\vec{P}$ of the system:

**(11.20)**

$$\frac{d\vec{P}}{dt} = \sum_k \sum_{j \neq k} \vec{F}_{j \text{ on } k} + \sum_k \vec{F}_{\text{ext on } k}$$

The double sum on $\vec{F}_{j \text{ on } k}$ adds *every* interaction force within the system. But the interaction forces come in action/reaction pairs, with $\vec{F}_{j \text{ on } k} = -\vec{F}_{j \text{ on } k}$, so $\vec{F}_{k \text{ on } j} + \vec{F}_{j \text{ on } k} = \vec{0}$. Consequently, **the sum of all the interaction forces is zero**. As a result, Equation 11.20 becomes

**(11.21)**

$$\frac{d\vec{P}}{dt} = \sum_k \vec{F}_{\text{ext on } k} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}$$

The total momentum of the rocket + gases system is conserved, so the rocket accelerates forward as the gases are expelled backward.

where $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ is the net force exerted on the system by agents outside the system. But this is just Newton's second law written for the system as a whole! That is, **the rate of change of the total momentum of the system is equal to the net force applied to the system.**

Equation 11.21 has two very important implications. First, we can analyze the motion of the system as a whole without needing to consider interaction forces between the particles that make up the system. In fact, we have been using this idea all along as an *assumption* of the particle model. When we treat cars and rocks and baseballs as particles, we assume that the internal forces between the atoms—the forces that hold the object together—do not affect the motion of the object as a whole. Now we have *justified* that assumption.

## Isolated Systems

The second implication of Equation 11.21, and the more important one from the perspective of this chapter, applies to an isolated system. In Chapter 10, we defined an *isolated system* as one that is not influenced or altered by external forces from the environment.[269] For momentum, that means a system on which the *net* external force is zero: $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$. That is, an isolated system is one on which there are *no* external forces or for which the external forces are balanced and add to zero.

For an isolated system, Equation 11.21 is simply

**(11.22)**

$$\frac{d\vec{P}}{dt} = \vec{0} \qquad \text{(isolated system)}$$

In other words, **the *total* momentum of an isolated system does not change.** The total momentum $\vec{P}$ remains constant, *regardless* of whatever interactions are going on *inside* the system. The importance of this result is sufficient to elevate it to a law of nature, alongside Newton's laws.

---

### Law of conservation of momentum

The total momentum $\vec{P}$ of an isolated system is a constant. Interactions within the system do not change the system's total momentum. Mathematically, the law of conservation of momentum is

**(11.23)**

$$\vec{P}_{\mathrm{f}} = \vec{P}_{\mathrm{i}}$$

The total momentum *after* an interaction is equal to the total momentum *before* the interaction. Because Equation 11.23 is a vector equation, the equality is true for each of the components of the momentum vector. That is,

**(11.24)**

$$\begin{aligned}(p_{\mathrm{f}x})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{f}x})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{f}x})_3 + \cdots &= (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_3 + \cdots \\ (p_{\mathrm{f}y})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{f}y})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{f}y})_3 + \cdots &= (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_3 + \cdots\end{aligned}$$

The $x$-equation is an extension of Equation 11.16 to $N$ interacting particles.

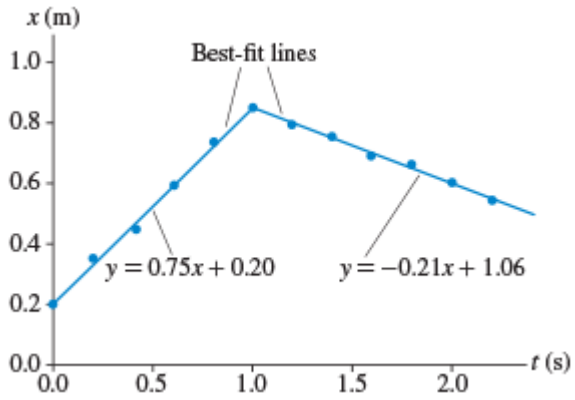
**Note**

It is worth emphasizing the critical role of Newton's third law. The law of conservation of momentum is a direct consequence of the fact that interactions within an isolated system are action/reaction pairs.

### Example 11.2 A glider collision

A 250 g air-track glider is pushed across a level track toward a 500 g glider that is at rest. Figure 11.12 shows a position-versus-time graph of the 250 g glider as recorded by a motion detector. Best-fit lines have been found. What is the speed of the 500 g glider after the collision?

**Figure 11.12**

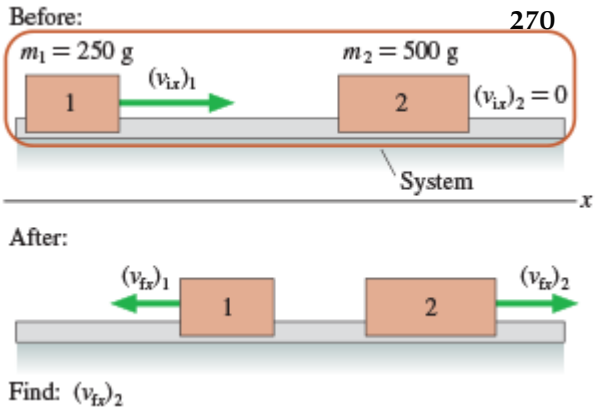



Position graph of the 250 g glider.

**MODEL** Let the system be the two gliders. The gliders interact with each other, but the external forces (normal force and gravity) balance to make $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$. Thus the gliders form an isolated system and their total momentum is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.13 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. The graph of Figure 11.12 tells us that the 250 g glider initially moves to the right, collides at $t = 1.0\,\text{s}$, then rebounds to the left (decreasing $x$). Note that the best-fit lines are written as a generic $y = \ldots$ , which is what you would see in data-analysis software.

## Figure 11.13




Before-and-after representation of a collision.

**SOLVE** Conservation of momentum for this one-dimensional problem requires that the final momentum equal the initial momentum: $P_{fx} = P_{ix}$. In terms of the individual components, conservation of momentum is

$$(p_{fx})_1 + (p_{fx})_2 = (p_{ix})_1 + (p_{ix})_2$$

Each momentum is $mv_x$, so conservation of momentum in terms of velocities is

$$m_1(v_{fx})_1 + m_2(v_{fx})_2 = m_1(v_{ix})_1 + m_2(v_{ix})_2 = m_1(v_{ix})_1$$

where, in the last step, we used $(v_{ix})_2 = 0$ for the 500 g glider. Solving for the heavier glider's final velocity gives

$$(v_{fx})_2 = \frac{m_1}{m_2}[(v_{ix})_1 - (v_{fx})_1]$$

From Chapter 2 kinematics, the velocities of the 250 g glider before and after the collision are the slopes of the position-versus-time graph. Referring to Figure 11.12, we see that $(v_{ix})_1 = 0.75\ \text{m/s}$ and $(v_{fx})_1 = -0.21\ \text{m/s}$. The latter is negative because the rebound motion is to the left. Thus

$$(v_{fx})_2 = \frac{250\ \text{g}}{500\ \text{g}}[0.75\ \text{m/s} - (-0.21\ \text{m/s})] = 0.48\ \text{m/s}$$

The 500 g glider moves away from the collision at 0.48 m/s.

**ASSESS** The 500 g glider has twice the mass of the glider that was pushed, so a somewhat smaller speed seems reasonable. Paying attention to the *signs*—which are positive and which negative—was very important for reaching a correct answer. We didn't convert the masses to kilograms because only the mass *ratio* of 0.50 was needed.

## A Strategy for Conservation of Momentum Problems

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 11.1 Conservation of momentum**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Clearly define the *system*.

- If possible, choose a system that is isolated $\left(\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}\right)$ or within which the interactions are sufficiently short and intense that you can ignore external forces for the duration of the interaction (the impulse approximation). Momentum is conserved.
- If it's not possible to choose an isolated system, try to divide the problem into parts such that momentum is conserved during one segment of the motion. Other segments of the motion can be analyzed using Newton's laws or conservation of energy.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation. Define symbols that will be used in the problem, list known values, and identify what you're trying to find.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on the law of conservation of momentum: $\vec{P}_{\text{f}} = \vec{P}_{\text{i}}$. In component form, this is

$$(p_{\text{f}x})_1 + (p_{\text{f}x})_2 + (p_{\text{f}x})_3 + \cdots = (p_{\text{i}x})_1 + (p_{\text{i}x})_2 + (p_{\text{i}x})_3 + \cdots$$
$$(p_{\text{f}y})_1 + (p_{\text{f}y})_2 + (p_{\text{f}y})_3 + \cdots = (p_{\text{i}y})_1 + (p_{\text{i}y})_2 + (p_{\text{i}y})_3 + \cdots$$

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 17

### Example 11.3 Rolling away

Bob sees a stationary cart 8.0 m in front of him. He decides to run to the cart as fast as he can, jump on, and roll down the street. Bob has a mass of 75 kg and the cart's mass is 25 kg. If Bob accelerates

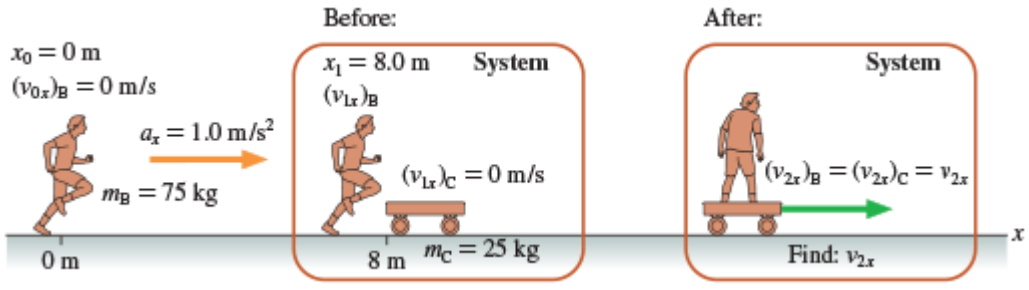
at a steady 1.0 m/s$^2$, what is the cart's speed just after Bob jumps on?



**MODEL** This is a two-part problem. First Bob accelerates across the ground. Then Bob lands on and sticks to the cart, a "collision" between Bob and the cart. The interaction forces between Bob and the cart (i.e., friction) act only over the fraction of a second it takes Bob's feet to become stuck to the cart. Using the impulse approximation allows the system Bob + cart to be treated as an isolated system during the brief interval of the "collision," and thus the total momentum of Bob + cart is conserved during this interaction. But the system Bob + cart is *not* an isolated system for the entire problem because Bob's initial acceleration has nothing to do with the cart.

**VISUALIZE** Our strategy is to divide the problem into an *acceleration* part, which we can analyze using kinematics, and a *collision* part, which we can analyze with momentum conservation. The pictorial representation of Figure 11.14 includes information about both parts. Notice that Bob's velocity $(v_{1x})_B$ at the end of his run is his "before" velocity for the collision.

## Figure 11.14




Pictorial representation of Bob and the cart.

**SOLVE** The first part of the mathematical representation is kinematics. We don't know how long Bob accelerates, but we do know his acceleration and the distance. Thus

$$(v_{1x})_{\mathrm{B}}{}^2 = (v_{0x})_{\mathrm{B}}{}^2 + 2a_x\,\Delta x = 2a_x x_1$$

His velocity after accelerating for 8.0 m is

$$(v_{1x})_{\mathrm{B}} = \sqrt{2a_x x_1} = 4.0\ \mathrm{m/s}$$

The second part of the problem, the collision, uses conservation of momentum: $P_{2x} = P_{1x}$. Equation 11.24 is

$$m_{\mathrm{B}}(v_{2x})_{\mathrm{B}} + m_{\mathrm{C}}(v_{2x})_{\mathrm{C}} = m_{\mathrm{B}}(v_{1x})_{\mathrm{B}} + m_{\mathrm{C}}(v_{1x})_{\mathrm{C}} = m_{\mathrm{B}}(v_{1x})_{\mathrm{B}}$$

where we've used $(v_{1x})_{\mathrm{C}} = 0\ \mathrm{m/s}$ because the cart starts at rest. In this problem, Bob and the cart move together at the end with a common velocity, so we can replace both $(v_{2x})_{\mathrm{B}}$ and $(v_{2x})_{\mathrm{C}}$ with simply $v_{2x}$. Solving for $v_{2x}$, we find

$$v_{2x} = \frac{m_{\mathrm{B}}}{m_{\mathrm{B}} + m_{\mathrm{C}}}(v_{1x})_{\mathrm{B}} = \frac{75\ \mathrm{kg}}{100\ \mathrm{kg}} \times 4.0\ \mathrm{m/s}\ = 3.0\ \mathrm{m/s}$$

The cart's speed is 3.0 m/s immediately after Bob jumps on.

Notice how easy this was! No forces, no acceleration constraints, no simultaneous equations. Why didn't we think of this before? Conservation laws are indeed powerful, but they can answer only certain questions. Had we wanted to know how far Bob slid across the cart before sticking to it, how long the slide took, or what the cart's acceleration was during the collision, we would not have been able to answer such questions on the basis of the conservation law. There is a price to pay for finding a simple connection between before and after, and that price is the loss of

> information about the details of the interaction. If we are satisfied with knowing only about before and after, then conservation laws are a simple and straightforward way to proceed. But many problems *do* require us to understand the interaction, and for these there is no avoiding Newton's laws.
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## It Depends on the System

The first step in the problem-solving strategy asks you to clearly define the system. **The goal is to choose a system whose momentum will be conserved.** Even then, it is the *total* momentum of the system that is conserved, not the momenta of the individual objects within the system.

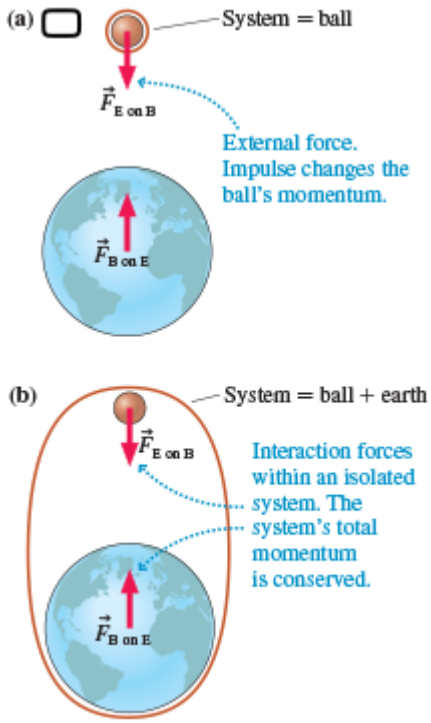
As an example, consider what happens if you drop a rubber ball and let it bounce off a hard floor. Is momentum conserved? You might be tempted to answer yes because the ball's rebound speed is very nearly equal to its impact speed. But there are two errors in this reasoning.

First, momentum depends on *velocity*, not speed. The ball's velocity and momentum change sign during the collision. Even if their magnitudes are equal, the ball's momentum after the collision is *not* equal to its momentum before the collision.

But more important, we haven't defined the system. The momentum of what? Whether or not momentum is conserved depends on the system. Figure 11.15 shows two different choices of systems. In Figure 11.15a, where the ball itself is chosen as the system, the gravitational force of the earth on the ball is an external force. This force causes the ball to accelerate toward the earth, changing the ball's momentum. When the ball hits, the force of the floor on the ball is also an external force. The

impulse of $\vec{F}_{\text{floor on ball}}$ changes the ball's momentum from "down" to "up" as the ball bounces. The momentum of this system is most definitely *not* conserved.

## Figure 11.15




Whether or not momentum is conserved as a ball falls to earth depends on your choice of the system.

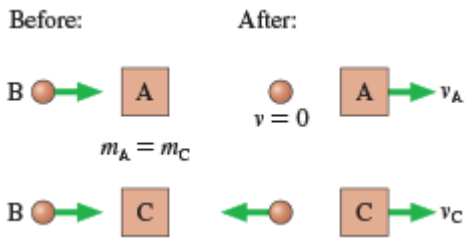
Figure 11.15b shows a different choice. Here the system is ball + earth. Now the gravitational forces and the impulsive forces of the collision are interactions *within* the system. This is an isolated system, so the *total* momentum $\vec{P} = \vec{p}_{\text{ball}} + \vec{p}_{\text{earth}}$ is conserved.

In fact, the total momentum (in this reference frame) is $\vec{P} = \vec{0}$ because both the ball and the earth are initially at rest. The ball accelerates toward the earth after you release it, while the earth—due to Newton's third law—accelerates toward the ball in such a way that their individual momenta are always equal but opposite.

Why don't we notice the earth "leaping up" toward us each time we drop something? Because of the earth's enormous mass relative to everyday objects—roughly $10^{25}$ times larger. Momentum is the product of mass and velocity, so the earth would need an "upward" speed of only about $10^{-25}$ m/s to match the momentum of a typical falling object. At that speed, it would take 300 million years for the earth to move the diameter of an atom! The earth does, indeed, have a momentum equal and opposite to that of the ball, but we'll never notice it.

## Stop to Think 11.3

Objects A and C are made of different materials, with different "springiness," but they have the same mass and are initially at rest. When ball B collides with object A, the ball ends up at rest. When ball B is thrown with the same speed and collides with object C, the ball rebounds to the left. Compare the velocities of A and C after the collisions. Is $v_A$ greater than, equal to, or less than $v_C$?



# 11.3 Collisions

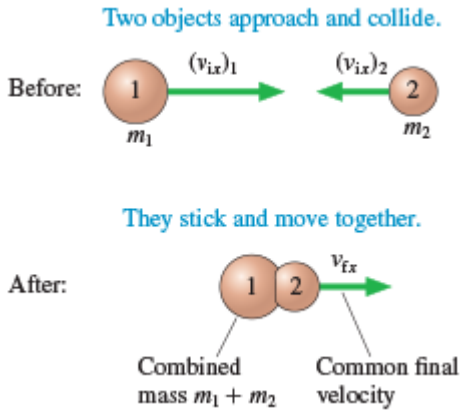


Collisions can have different possible outcomes. A rubber ball dropped on the floor bounces, but a ball of clay sticks to the floor without bouncing. A golf club hitting a golf ball causes the ball to rebound away from the club, but a bullet striking a block of wood embeds itself in the block.

## Inelastic Collisions

A collision in which the two objects stick together and move with a common final velocity is called a **perfectly inelastic collision.** The clay hitting the floor and the bullet embedding itself in the wood are examples of perfectly inelastic collisions. Other examples include railroad cars coupling together upon impact and darts hitting a dart board. As Figure 11.16 shows, the key to analyzing a perfectly inelastic collision is the fact that **the two objects have a common final velocity.**

**Figure 11.16**




An inelastic collision.

A system consisting of the two colliding objects is isolated, so its total momentum is conserved. However, mechanical energy is *not* conserved because some of the initial kinetic energy is transformed into thermal energy during the collision.

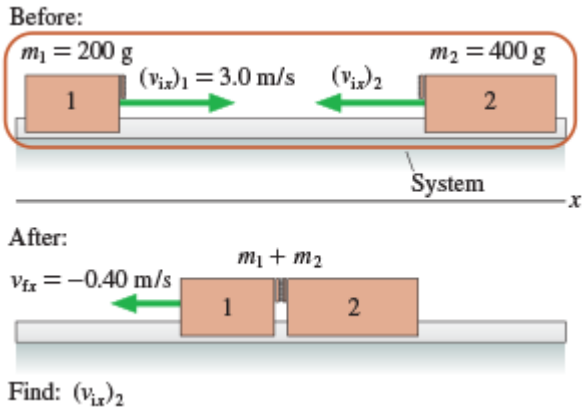
### Example 11.4 An inelastic glider collision

In a laboratory experiment, a 200 g air-track glider and a 400 g air-track glider are pushed toward each other from opposite ends of the track. The gliders have Velcro tabs on the front and will stick together when they collide. The 200 g glider is pushed with an initial speed of 3.0 m/s. The collision causes it to reverse direction at 0.40 m/s. What was the initial speed of the 400 g glider?

**MODEL** Define the system to be the two gliders. This is an isolated system, so its total momentum is conserved in the collision. The gliders stick together, so this is a perfectly inelastic collision.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.17 shows a pictorial representation. We've chosen to let the 200 g glider (glider 1) start out moving to the right, so $(v_{ix})_1$ is a positive 3.0 m/s. The gliders move to the left after the collision, so their common final velocity is $v_{fx} = -0.40\ \text{m/s}$.

**Figure 11.17**




The before-and-after pictorial representation of an inelastic collision.

**SOLVE** The law of conservation of momentum, $P_{fx} = P_{ix}$, is

$$(m_1 + m_2)\, v_{fx} = m_1 (v_{ix})_1 + m_2 (v_{ix})_2$$

where we made use of the fact that the combined mass $m_1 + m_2$ moves together after the collision. We can easily solve for the initial velocity of the 400 g glider:

$$\begin{aligned}(v_{ix})_2 &= \frac{(m_1 + m_2) v_{fx} - m_1 (v_{ix})_1}{m_2} \\ &= \frac{(0.60\,\text{kg})(-0.40\,\text{m/s}) - (0.20\,\text{kg})(3.0\,\text{m/s})}{0.40\,\text{kg}} = -2.1\,\text{m/s}\end{aligned}$$

The negative sign indicates that the 400 g glider started out moving to the left. The initial *speed* of the glider, which we were asked to find, is 2.1 m/s.

## Example 11.5 A ballistic pendulum

A 10 g bullet is fired into a 1200 g wood block hanging from a 150-cm-long string. The bullet embeds itself into the block, and the

block then swings out to an angle of 40°. What was the speed of the bullet? (This is called a *ballistic pendulum*.)

---

**MODEL** This is a two-part problem. Part one, the impact of the bullet on the block, is an inelastic collision. For this part, we define the system to be bullet + block. Momentum is conserved, but mechanical energy is not because some of the energy is transformed into thermal energy. For part two, the subsequent swing, mechanical energy is conserved for the system bullet + block + earth (there's no friction). The *total* momentum is conserved, including the momentum of the earth, but that's not helpful. The momentum of the block with the bullet—which is all that we can calculate—is not conserved because the block is acted on by the external forces of tension and gravity.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.18 is a pictorial representation in which we've identified before-and-after quantities for both the collision and the swing.

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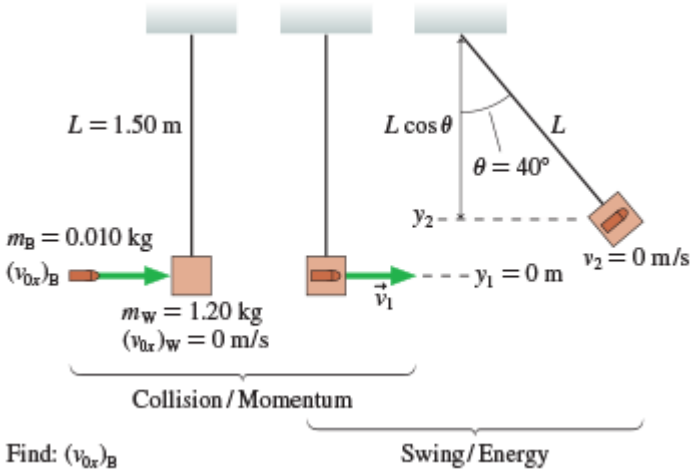
## Figure 11.18




A ballistic pendulum is used to measure the speed of a bullet.

**SOLVE** The momentum conservation equation $P_\text{f} = P_\text{i}$ applied to the inelastic collision gives

$$(m_\text{W} + m_\text{B})\, v_{1x} = m_\text{W}(v_{0x})_\text{W} + m_\text{B}(v_{0x})_\text{B}$$

The wood block is initially at rest, with $(v_{0x})_\text{W} = 0$, so the bullet's velocity is

$$(v_{0x})_\text{B} = \frac{m_\text{W} + m_\text{B}}{m_\text{B}} v_{1x}$$

where $v_{1x}$ is the velocity of the block + bullet *immediately* after the collision, as the pendulum begins to swing. If we can determine $v_{1x}$ from an analysis of the swing, then we will be able to calculate the speed of the bullet. Turning our attention to the swing, the energy conservation equation $K_\text{f} + U_\text{Gf} = K_\text{i} + U_\text{Gi}$ is

$$\tfrac{1}{2}(m_\text{W} + m_\text{B})\, {v_2}^2 + (m_\text{W} + m_\text{B})\, g y_2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(m_\text{W} + m_\text{B})\, {v_1}^2 + (m_\text{W} + m_\text{B})\, g y_1$$

We used the *total* mass $(m_\text{W} + m_\text{B})$ of the block and embedded bullet, but notice that it cancels out. We also dropped the $x$-subscript on $v_1$ because for energy calculations we need only speed, not velocity. The speed is zero at the top of the swing ($v_2 = 0$), and we've defined the $y$-axis such that $y_1 = 0$ m. Thus

$$v_1 = \sqrt{2 g y_2}$$

The initial speed is found simply from the maximum height of the swing. You can see from the geometry of Figure 11.18 that

$$y_2 = L - L\cos\theta = L\,(1 - \cos\theta) = 0.351 \text{ m}$$

With this, the initial velocity of the pendulum, immediately after the collision, is

$$v_{1x} = v_1 = \sqrt{2gy_2} = \sqrt{2\left(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2\right)(0.351\ \text{m})} = 2.62\ \text{m/s}$$

Having found $v_{1x}$ from an energy analysis of the swing, we can now calculate that the speed of the bullet was

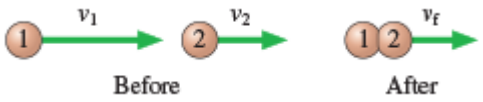
$$(v_{0x})_\text{B} = \frac{m_\text{W} + m_\text{B}}{m_\text{B}} v_{1x} = \frac{1.210\ \text{kg}}{0.010\ \text{kg}} \times 2.62\ \text{m/s} = 320\ \text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** It would have been very difficult to solve this problem using Newton's laws, but it yielded to a straightforward analysis based on the concepts of momentum and energy.



## Stop to Think 11.4

The two particles are both moving to the right. Particle 1 catches up with particle 2 and collides with it. The particles stick together and continue on with velocity $v_\text{f}$. Which of these statements is true?




**a.** $v_\text{f}$ is greater than $v_1$.

**b.** $v_\text{f} = v_1$

**c.** $v_\text{f}$ is greater than $v_2$ but less than $v_1$.

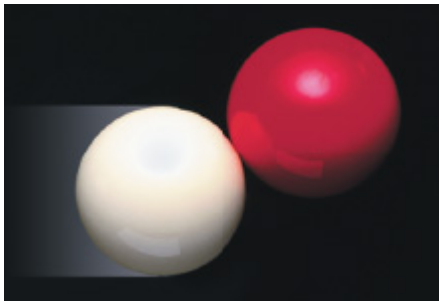
**d.** $v_\text{f} = v_2$

**e.** $v_\text{f}$ is less than $v_2$.

**f.** Can't tell without knowing the masses.

## Elastic Collisions

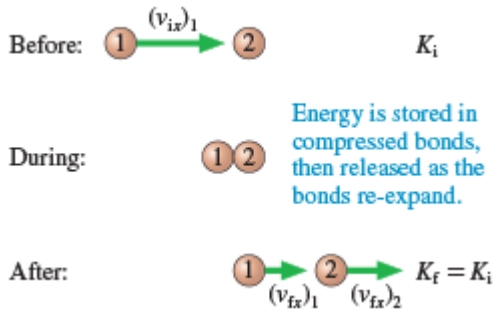
In an inelastic collision, some of the mechanical energy is dissipated inside the objects as thermal energy and not all of the kinetic energy is recovered. We're now interested in "perfect bounce" collisions in which kinetic energy is stored as elastic potential energy in compressed molecular bonds, and then *all* of the stored energy is transformed back into the post-collision kinetic energy of the objects. A collision in which mechanical energy is conserved is called a **perfectly elastic collision.** A perfectly elastic collision is an idealization, like a frictionless surface, but collisions between two very hard objects, such as two billiard balls or two steel balls, come close to being perfectly elastic.



A perfectly elastic collision conserves both momentum and mechanical energy.

Figure 11.19 shows a head-on, perfectly elastic collision of a ball of mass $m_1$, having initial velocity $(v_{ix})_1$, with a ball of mass $m_2$ that is initially at rest. The balls' velocities after the collision are $(v_{fx})_1$ and $(v_{fx})_2$. These are velocities, not speeds, and have signs. Ball 1, in particular, might bounce backward and have a negative value for $(v_{fx})_1$.

**Figure 11.19**




A perfectly elastic collision.

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The collision must obey two conservation laws: conservation of momentum (obeyed in any collision) and conservation of mechanical energy (because the collision is perfectly elastic). Although the energy is transformed into potential energy during the collision, the mechanical energy before and after the collision is purely kinetic energy. Thus



**(11.25)**

$$\text{momentum conservation:} \qquad m_1(v_{fx})_1 + m_2(v_{fx})_2 = m_1(v_{ix})_1$$

**(11.26)**

$$\text{energy conservation:} \qquad \tfrac{1}{2}m_1(v_{fx})_1^{\,2} + \tfrac{1}{2}m_2(v_{fx})_2^{\,2} = \tfrac{1}{2}m_1(v_{ix})_1^{\,2}$$

Momentum conservation alone is not sufficient to analyze the collision because there are two unknowns: the two final velocities. Energy conservation provides the additional information that we need. Isolating $(v_{fx})_1$ in Equation 11.25 gives

**(11.27)**

$$(v_{fx})_1 = (v_{ix})_1 - \frac{m_2}{m_1}(v_{fx})_2$$

We substitute this into Equation 11.26:

$$\tfrac{1}{2}m_1\left[(v_{ix})_1 - \frac{m_2}{m_1}(v_{fx})_2\right]^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}m_2{(v_{fx})_2}^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}m_1{(v_{ix})_1}^2$$

With a bit of algebra, this can be rearranged to give

**(11.28)**

$$(v_{fx})_2\left[\left(1+\frac{m_2}{m_1}\right)(v_{fx})_2 - 2(v_{ix})_1\right] = 0$$

One possible solution to this equation is seen to be $(v_{fx})_2 = 0$. However, this solution is of no interest; it is the case where ball 1 misses ball 2. The other solution is

$$(v_{fx})_2 = \frac{2m_1}{m_1+m_2}(v_{ix})_1$$

which, finally, can be substituted back into Equation 11.27 to yield $(v_{fx})_1$. The complete solution is

---

**(11.29)**

$$(v_{fx})_1 = \frac{m_1-m_2}{m_1+m_2}(v_{ix})_1 \qquad (v_{fx})_2 = \frac{2m_1}{m_1+m_2}(v_{ix})_1$$

(perfectly elastic collision with ball 2 initially at rest)

Equations 11.29 allow us to compute the final velocity of each ball. These equations are a little difficult to interpret, so let us look at the three special cases shown in Figure 11.20.

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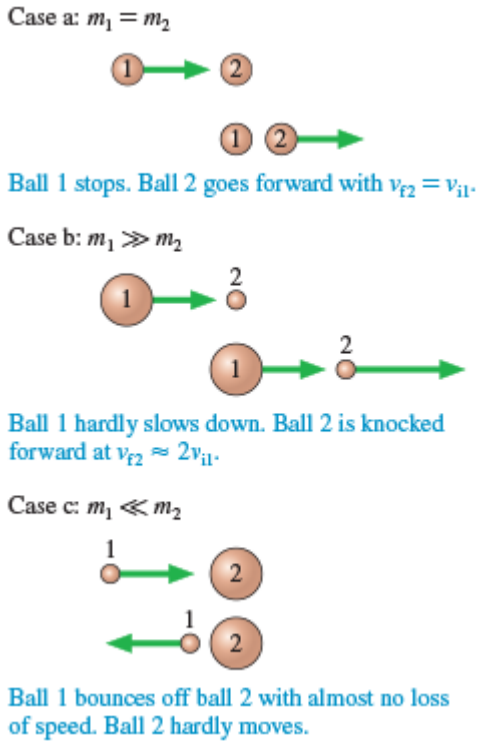
**Figure 11.20**




Three special elastic collisions.

---

Case a: $m_1 = m_2$. This is the case of one billiard ball striking another of equal mass. For this case, Equations 11.29 give

$$v_{f1} = 0 \qquad v_{f2} = v_{i1}$$

Case b: $m_1 \gg m_2$. This is the case of a bowling ball running into a Ping-Pong ball. We do not want an exact solution here, but an approximate solution for the limiting case that $m_1 \to \infty$. Equations 11.29 in this limit give

$$v_{f1} \approx v_{i1} \qquad v_{f2} \approx 2v_{i1}$$

Case c: $m_1 \ll m_2$. Now we have the reverse case of a Ping-Pong ball colliding with a bowling ball. Here we are interested in the limit $m_1 \to 0$, in which case Equations 11.29 become

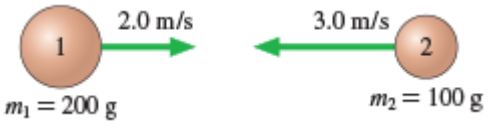
$$v_{f1} \approx -v_{i1} \qquad v_{f2} \approx 0$$

These cases agree well with our expectations and give us confidence that Equations 11.29 accurately describe a perfectly elastic collision.

## Using Reference Frames

Equations 11.29 assumed that ball 2 was at rest prior to the collision. Suppose, however, you need to analyze the perfectly elastic collision that is just about to take place in Figure 11.21. What are the direction and speed of each ball after the collision? You could solve the simultaneous momentum and energy equations, but the mathematics becomes quite messy when both balls have an initial velocity. Fortunately, there's an easier way.

**Figure 11.21**




A perfectly elastic collision in which both balls have an initial velocity.



You already know the answer—Equations 11.29—when ball 2 is initially at rest. And in Chapter 4 you learned the Galilean transformation of velocity. This transformation relates an object's velocity as measured in one reference frame to its velocity in a different reference frame that moves with respect to the first. The Galilean transformation provides an elegant and straightforward way to analyze the collision of Figure 11.21.

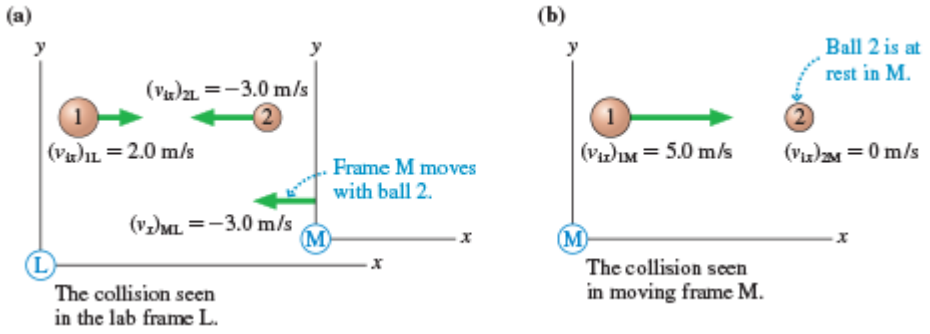
TACTICS BOX 11.1 **Analyzing elastic collisions**

**Mastering Physics**

1. Use the Galilean transformation to transform the initial velocities of balls 1 and 2 from the "lab frame" to a reference frame in which ball 2 is at rest.
2. Use Equations 11.29 to determine the outcome of the collision in the frame where ball 2 is initially at rest.
3. Transform the final velocities back to the "lab frame."

Figure 11.22a on the next page shows the situation, just before the collision, in the lab frame L. Ball 1 has initial velocity $(v_{ix})_{1L} = 2.0\ \text{m/s}$. Recall from Chapter 4 that the subscript notation means "velocity of ball 1 relative to the lab frame L." Because ball 2 is moving to the left, it has $(v_{ix})_{2L} = -3.0\ \text{m/s}$. We would like to observe the collision from a reference frame in which ball 2 is at rest. That will be true if we choose a moving reference frame M that travels alongside ball 2 with the same velocity: $(v_x)_{ML} = -3.0\ \text{m/s}$.

## Figure 11.22




The collision seen in two reference frames: the lab frame L and a moving frame M in which ball 2 is initially at rest.

We first need to transform the balls' velocities from the lab frame to the moving reference frame. From Chapter 4, the Galilean transformation of velocity for an object O is

**(11.30)**

$$(v_x)_{\mathrm{OM}} = (v_x)_{\mathrm{OL}} + (v_x)_{\mathrm{LM}}$$

That is, O's velocity in reference frame M is its velocity in reference frame L plus the velocity of frame L relative to frame M. Because reference frame M is moving to the left relative to L with $(v_x)_{\mathrm{ML}} = -3.0\ \mathrm{m/s}$, reference frame L is moving to the right relative to M with $(v_x)_{\mathrm{LM}} = +3.0\ \mathrm{m/s}$. Applying the transformation to the two initial velocities gives

**(11.31)**

$$\begin{aligned}(v_{\mathrm{i}x})_{1\mathrm{M}} &= (v_{\mathrm{i}x})_{1\mathrm{L}} + (v_x)_{\mathrm{LM}} = 2.0\ \mathrm{m/s} + 3.0\ \mathrm{m/s} = 5.0\ \mathrm{m/s} \\ (v_{\mathrm{i}x})_{2\mathrm{M}} &= (v_{\mathrm{i}x})_{2\mathrm{L}} + (v_x)_{\mathrm{LM}} = -3.0\ \mathrm{m/s} + 3.0\ \mathrm{m/s} = 0\ \mathrm{m/s}\end{aligned}$$

$(v_{\mathrm{i}x})_{2\mathrm{M}} = 0\ \mathrm{m/s}$, as expected, because we chose a moving reference frame in which ball 2 would be at rest.

Figure 11.22b now shows a situation—with ball 2 initially at rest—in which we can use Equations 11.29 to find the post-collision velocities in frame M:

**(11.32)**

$$\begin{aligned}(v_{\mathrm{f}x})_{1\mathrm{M}} &= \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2}(v_{\mathrm{i}x})_{1\mathrm{M}} = 1.7\ \mathrm{m/s} \\ (v_{\mathrm{f}x})_{2\mathrm{M}} &= \frac{2m_1}{m_1 + m_2}(v_{\mathrm{i}x})_{1\mathrm{M}} = 6.7\ \mathrm{m/s}\end{aligned}$$

Reference frame M hasn't changed—it's still moving to the left in the lab frame at 3.0 m/s—but the collision has changed both balls' velocities in frame M.

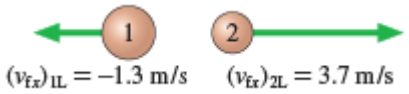
To finish, we need to transform the post-collision velocities in frame M back to the lab frame L. We can do so with another application of the Galilean transformation:

**(11.33)**

$$(v_{fx})_{1L} = (v_{fx})_{1M} + (v_x)_{ML} = 1.7\ \text{m/s} + (-3.0\ \text{m/s}) = -1.3\ \text{m/s}$$
$$(v_{fx})_{2L} = (v_{fx})_{2M} + (v_x)_{ML} = 6.7\ \text{m/s} + (-3.0\ \text{m/s}) = 3.7\ \text{m/s}$$

Figure 11.23 shows the outcome of the collision in the lab frame. It's not hard to confirm that these final velocities do, indeed, conserve both momentum and energy.

**Figure 11.23**




The post-collision velocities in the lab frame.

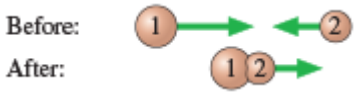
## Two Collision Models

No collision is perfectly elastic, although collisions between two very hard objects (metal spheres) or between two springs (such as a collision on an air track) come close. Collisions can be perfectly inelastic, although many real-world inelastic collisions exhibit a small residual bounce. Thus perfectly elastic and perfectly inelastic collisions are *models* of collisions in which we simplify reality in order to gain understanding without getting bogged down in the messy details of real collisions.

MODEL 11.1 **Collisions**

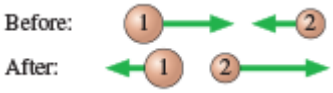
For two colliding objects.

- Represent the objects as elastic objects moving in a straight line.
- In a **perfectly inelastic collision,** the objects stick and move together. Kinetic energy is transformed into thermal energy. Mathematically:




$$(m_1 + m_2)\, v_{fx} = m_1 (v_{ix})_1 + m_2 (v_{ix})_2$$

- In a **perfectly elastic collision,** the objects bounce apart with no loss of energy.
  Mathematically:




  - If object 2 is initially at rest, then

$$(v_{fx})_1 = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2}(v_{ix})_1 \qquad (v_{fx})_2 = \frac{2m_1}{m_1 + m_2}(v_{ix})_1$$

  - If both objects are moving, use the Galilean transformation to transform the velocities to a reference frame in which object 2 is at rest.
- Limitations: Model fails if the collision is not head-on or cannot reasonably be approximated as a “thud” or as a “perfect bounce.”

Workbook Exercise 22

# 11.4 Explosions



An **explosion,** where the particles of the system move apart from each other after a brief, intense interaction, is the opposite of a collision. The explosive forces, which could be from an expanding spring or from expanding hot gases, are *internal* forces. If the system is isolated, its total momentum during the explosion will be conserved.

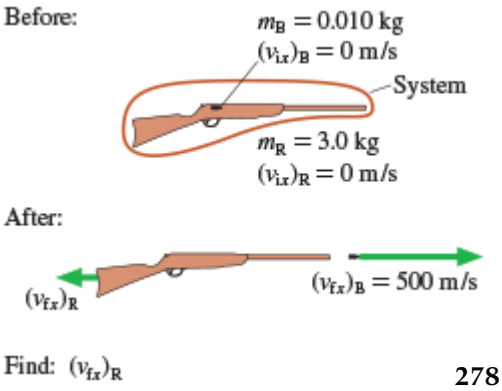
### Example 11.6 Recoil

A 10 g bullet is fired from a 3.0 kg rifle with a speed of 500 m/s. What is the recoil speed of the rifle?

**MODEL** The rifle causes a small mass of gunpowder to explode, and the expanding gas then exerts forces on *both* the bullet and the rifle. Let's define the system to be bullet + gas + rifle. The forces due to the expanding gas during the explosion are internal forces, within the system. Any friction forces between the bullet and the rifle as the bullet travels down the barrel are also internal forces. Gravity is balanced by the upward force of the person holding the rifle, so $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$. This is an isolated system and the law of conservation of momentum applies.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.24 shows a pictorial representation before and after the bullet is fired.

**Figure 11.24**






Before-and-after pictorial representation of a rifle firing a bullet.

**SOLVE** The $x$-component of the total momentum is $P_x = (p_x)_{\mathrm{B}} + (p_x)_{\mathrm{R}} + (p_x)_{\mathrm{gas}}$. Everything is at rest before the trigger is pulled, so the initial momentum is zero. After the trigger is pulled, the momentum of the expanding gas is the sum of the momenta of all the molecules in the gas. For every molecule moving in the forward direction with velocity $v$ and momentum $mv$ there is, on average, another molecule moving in the opposite direction with velocity $-v$ and thus momentum $-mv$. When the values are summed over the enormous number of molecules in the gas, we will be left with $p_{\mathrm{gas}} \approx 0$. In addition, the mass of the gas is much less than that of the rifle or bullet. For both reasons, we can reasonably neglect the momentum of the gas. The law of conservation of momentum is thus

$$P_{fx} = m_{\mathrm{B}}(v_{fx})_{\mathrm{B}} + m_{\mathrm{R}}(v_{fx})_{\mathrm{R}} = P_{ix} = 0$$

Solving for the rifle's velocity, we find

$$(v_{fx})_{\mathrm{R}} = -\frac{m_{\mathrm{B}}}{m_{\mathrm{R}}}(v_{fx})_{\mathrm{B}} = -\frac{0.010\ \mathrm{kg}}{3.0\mathrm{kg}} \times\ 500\ \mathrm{m/s} = \ -1.7\ \mathrm{m/s}$$

The minus sign indicates that the rifle's recoil is to the left. The recoil *speed* is 1.7 m/s.

We would not know where to begin to solve a problem such as this using Newton's laws. But Example 11.6 is a simple problem when approached from the before-and-after perspective of a conservation law. The selection of bullet + gas + rifle as "the system" was the critical step. For momentum conservation to be a useful principle, we had to select a system in which the complicated forces due to expanding gas and friction were all internal forces. The rifle by itself is *not* an isolated system, so its momentum is *not* conserved.

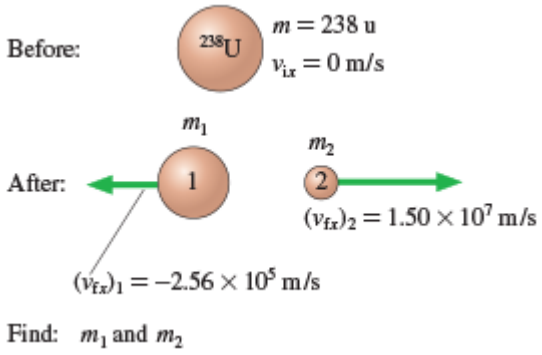
### Example 11.7 Radioactivity

A $^{238}$U uranium nucleus is radioactive. It spontaneously disintegrates into a small fragment that is ejected with a measured speed of $1.50 \times 10^7$ m/s and a "daughter nucleus" that recoils with a measured speed of $2.56 \times 10^5$ m/s. What are the atomic masses of the ejected fragment and the daughter nucleus?

**MODEL** The notation $^{238}$U indicates the isotope of uranium with an atomic mass of 238 u, where u is the abbreviation for the *atomic mass unit.* The nucleus contains 92 protons (uranium is atomic number 92) and 146 neutrons. The disintegration of a nucleus is, in essence, an explosion. Only *internal* nuclear forces are involved, so the total momentum is conserved in the decay.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.25 shows the pictorial representation. The mass of the daughter nucleus is $m_1$ and that of the ejected fragment is $m_2$. Notice that we converted the speed information to velocity information, giving $(v_{fx})_1$ and $(v_{fx})_2$ opposite signs.

**Figure 11.25**




Before-and-after pictorial representation of the decay of a $^{238}$U nucleus.

---

**SOLVE** The nucleus was initially at rest, hence the total momentum is zero. The momentum after the decay is still zero if the two pieces fly apart in opposite directions with momenta equal in magnitude but opposite in sign. That is,

$$P_{fx} = m_1(v_{fx})_1 + m_2(v_{fx})_2 = P_{ix} = 0$$

Although we know both final velocities, this is not enough information to find the two unknown masses. However, we also have another conservation law, conservation of mass, that requires

$$m_1 + m_2 = 238 \text{ u}$$

Combining these two conservation laws gives

$$m_1(v_{fx})_1 + (238 \text{ u} - m_1)(v_{fx})_2 = 0$$

The mass of the daughter nucleus is

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 &= \frac{(v_{fx})_2}{(v_{fx})_2 - (v_{fx})_1} \times 238 \text{ u} \\ &= \frac{1.50 \times 10^7 \text{ m/s}}{\left(1.50 \times 10^7 - \left(-2.56 \times 10^5\right)\right) \text{ m/s}} \times 238 \text{ u} = 234 \text{ u} \end{aligned}$$



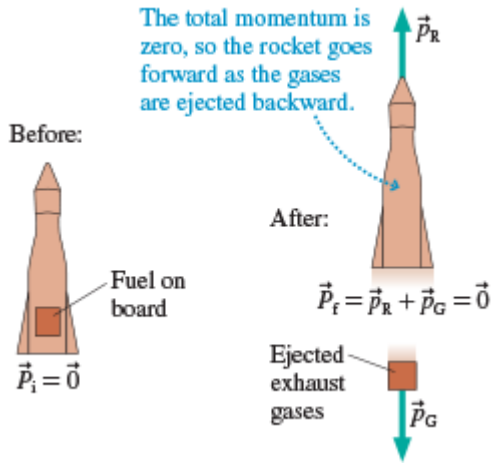
With $m_1$ known, the mass of the ejected fragment is

$m_2 = 238 - \mathrm{m_1} = 4\,\mathrm{u}.$

**ASSESS** All we learn from a momentum analysis is the masses. Chemical analysis shows that the daughter nucleus is the element thorium, atomic number 90, with two fewer protons than uranium. The ejected fragment carried away two protons as part of its mass of 4 u, so it must be a particle with two protons and two neutrons. This is the nucleus of a helium atom, $^4$He, which in nuclear physics is called an *alpha particle* $\alpha$. Thus the radioactive decay of $^{238}$U can be written as $^{238}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{234}\text{Th} + \alpha$.

Much the same reasoning explains how a rocket or jet aircraft accelerates. Figure 11.26 shows a rocket with a parcel of fuel on board. Burning converts the fuel to hot gases that are expelled from the rocket motor. If we choose rocket + gases to be the system, the burning and expulsion are both internal forces. There are no other forces, so the total momentum of the rocket + gases system must be conserved. The rocket gains forward velocity and momentum as the exhaust gases are shot out the back, but the *total* momentum of the system remains zero.

## Figure 11.26




Rocket propulsion is an example of conservation of momentum.

Section 11.6 looks at rocket propulsion in more detail, but even without the details you should be able to understand that jet and rocket propulsion is a consequence of momentum conservation.

### Stop to Think 11.5

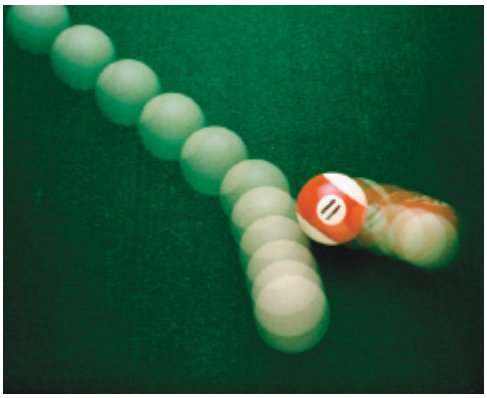
An explosion in a rigid pipe shoots out three pieces. A 6 g piece comes out the right end. A 4 g piece comes out the left end with twice the speed of the 6 g piece. From which end, left or right, does the third piece emerge?

# 11.5 Momentum in Two Dimensions

The law of conservation of momentum $\vec{P}_{\mathrm{f}} = \vec{P}_{\mathrm{i}}$ is not restricted to motion along a line. Many interesting examples of collisions and explosions involve motion in a plane, and for these both the magnitude *and the direction* of the total momentum vector are unchanged. The total momentum is the vector sum of the individual momenta, so the total momentum is conserved only if each component is conserved:

**(11.34)**

$$\begin{aligned}(p_{\mathrm{f}x})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{f}x})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{f}x})_3 + \cdots &= (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_3 + \cdots \\ (p_{\mathrm{f}y})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{f}y})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{f}y})_3 + \cdots &= (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_2 + (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_3 + \cdots\end{aligned}$$



Collisions and explosions often involve motion in two dimensions.

Let's look at some examples of momentum conservation in two dimensions.

**Example 11.8 A peregrine falcon strike**

Peregrine falcons often grab their prey from above while both falcon and prey are in flight. A 0.80 kg falcon, flying at 18 m/s,

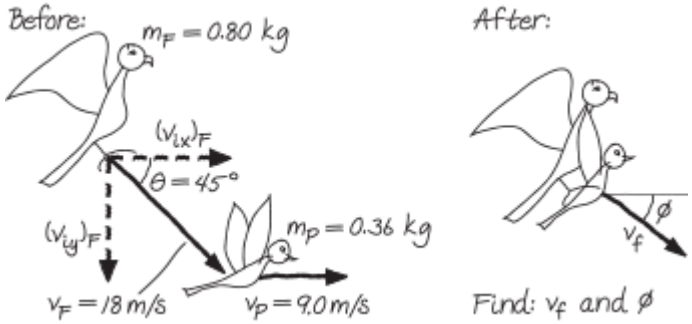
swoops down at a 45° angle from behind a 0.36 kg pigeon flying horizontally at 9.0 m/s. What are the speed and direction of the falcon (now holding the pigeon) immediately after impact?

---

**MODEL** The two birds, modeled as particles, are the system. This is a perfectly inelastic collision because after the collision the falcon and pigeon move at a common final velocity. The birds are not a perfectly isolated system because of external forces of the air, but during the brief collision the external impulse delivered by the air resistance will be negligible. Within this approximation, the total momentum of the falcon + pigeon system is conserved during the collision.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.27 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. We've used angle $\phi$ to label the post-collision direction.

### Figure 11.27




Pictorial representation of a falcon catching a pigeon.

**SOLVE** The initial velocity components of the falcon are $(v_{ix})_F = v_F \cos\theta$ and $(v_{iy})_F = -v_F \sin\theta$. The pigeon's initial velocity is entirely along the $x$-axis. After the collision, when the falcon and pigeon have the common velocity $\vec{v}_f$, the components are $v_{fx} = v_f \cos\phi$ and $v_{fy} = -v_f \sin\phi$. Conservation of momentum in

two dimensions requires conservation of both the $x$- and $y$-components of momentum. This gives two conservation equations:

$$\begin{aligned}(m_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{P})\,v_{\mathrm{f}x} &= (m_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{P})\,v_\mathrm{f}\cos\phi \\ &= m_\mathrm{F}(v_{\mathrm{i}x})_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{P}(v_{\mathrm{i}x})_\mathrm{P} = m_\mathrm{F}v_\mathrm{F}\cos\theta + m_\mathrm{P}v_\mathrm{P} \\ (m_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{P})\,v_{\mathrm{f}y} &= -(m_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{P})\,v_\mathrm{f}\sin\phi \\ &= m_\mathrm{F}(v_{\mathrm{i}y})_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{P}(v_{\mathrm{i}y})_\mathrm{P} = -m_\mathrm{F}v_\mathrm{F}\sin\theta\end{aligned}$$

The unknowns are $v_\mathrm{f}$ and $\phi$, Dividing both equations by the total mass gives

$$\begin{aligned}v_\mathrm{f}\cos\phi &= \frac{m_\mathrm{F}v_\mathrm{F}\cos\theta + m_\mathrm{P}v_\mathrm{p}}{m_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{p}} = 11.6\ \mathrm{m/s} \\ v_\mathrm{f}\sin\phi &= \frac{m_\mathrm{F}v_\mathrm{F}\sin\theta}{m_\mathrm{F}+m_\mathrm{p}} = 8.78\ \mathrm{m/s}\end{aligned}$$

We can eliminate $v_\mathrm{f}$ by dividing the second equation by the first to give

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{v_\mathrm{f}\sin\phi}{v_\mathrm{f}\cos\phi} &= \tan\phi = \frac{8.78\ \mathrm{m/s}}{11.6\ \mathrm{m/s}} = 0.757 \\ \phi &= \tan^{-1}(0.757) = 37^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Then $v_\mathrm{f} = (11.6\ \mathrm{m/s})\,/\cos(37^\circ) = 15\ \mathrm{m/s}$. Immediately after impact, the falcon, with its meal, is traveling at 15 m/s at an angle 37° below the horizontal.

**ASSESS** It makes sense that the falcon would slow down after grabbing the slower-moving pigeon. And Figure 11.27 tells us that the total momentum is at an angle between 0° (the pigeon's momentum) and 45° (the falcon's momentum). Thus our answer seems reasonable.

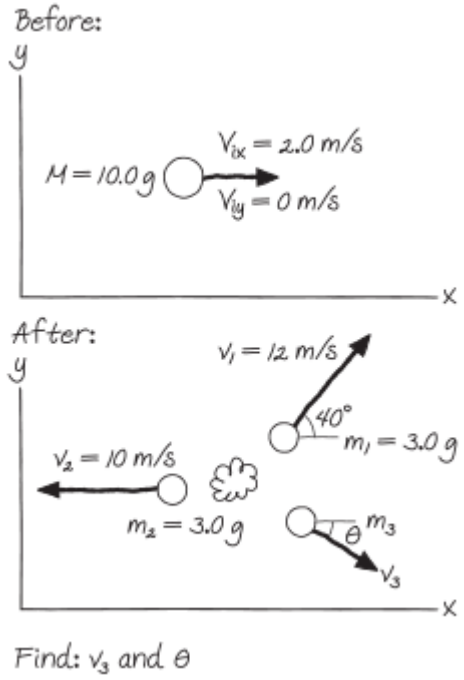
### Example 11.9 A three-piece explosion

A 10.0 g projectile is traveling east at 2.0 m/s when it suddenly explodes into three pieces. A 3.0 g fragment is shot due west at 10 m/s while another 3.0 g fragment travels 40° north of east at 12 m/s. What are the speed and direction of the third fragment?

**MODEL** Although many complex forces are involved in the explosion, they are all internal to the system. There are no external forces, so this is an isolated system and its total momentum is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.28 shows a before-and-after pictorial representation. We'll use uppercase $M$ and $V$ to distinguish the initial object from the three pieces into which it explodes.

**Figure 11.28**




Before-and-after pictorial representation of the three-piece explosion.

**SOLVE** The system is the initial object and the subsequent three pieces. Conservation of momentum requires

$$m_1(v_{\text{f}x})_1 + m_2(v_{\text{f}x})_2 + m_3(v_{\text{f}x})_3 = MV_{\text{i}x}$$
$$m_1(v_{\text{f}y})_1 + m_2(v_{\text{f}y})_2 + m_3(v_{\text{f}y})_3 = MV_{\text{i}y}$$

Conservation of mass implies that

$$m_3 = M - m_1 - m_2 = 4.0 \text{ g}$$

Neither the original object nor $m_2$ has any momentum along the $y$-axis. We can use Figure 11.28 to write out the $x$- and $y$-components of $\vec{v}_1$ and $\vec{v}_3$, leading to

$$m_1 v_1 \cos 40^\circ - m_2 v_2 + m_3 v_3 \cos\theta = MV$$
$$m_1 v_1 \sin 40^\circ - m_3 v_3 \sin\theta = 0$$

where we used $(v_{\text{f}x})_2 = -v_2$ because $m_2$ is moving in the negative $x$-direction. Inserting known values in these equations gives us

$$-2.42 + 4v_3 \cos\theta = 20$$
$$23.14 - 4v_3 \sin\theta = 0$$

We can leave the masses in grams in this situation because the conversion factor to kilograms appears on both sides of the equation and thus cancels out. To solve, first use the second equation to write $v_3 = 5.79/\sin\theta$. Substitute this result into the first equation, noting that $\cos\theta/\sin\theta = 1/\tan\theta$, to get

$$-2.42 + 4\left(\frac{5.79}{\sin\theta}\right)\cos\theta = -2.42 + \frac{23.14}{\tan\theta} = 20$$

Now solve for $\theta$:

$$\tan\theta = \frac{23.14}{20 + 2.42} = 1.03$$
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(1.03) = 45.8^\circ$$

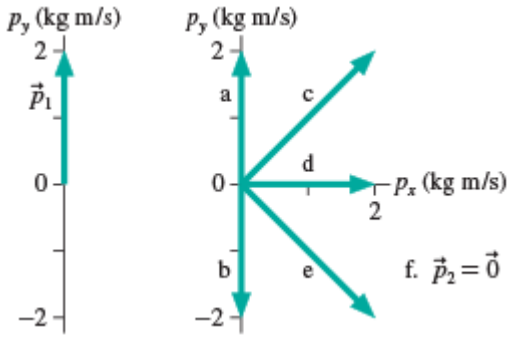
Finally, use this result in the earlier expression for $v_3$ to find

$$v_3 = \frac{5.79}{\sin 45.8^\circ} = 8.1 \text{ m/s}$$

The third fragment, with a mass of 4.0 g, is shot 46° south of east at a speed of 8.1 m/s.

## Stop to Think 11.6

An object traveling to the right with $\vec{p} = 2\hat{i}$ kg m/s suddenly explodes into two pieces. Piece 1 has the momentum $\vec{p}_1$ shown in the figure. What is the momentum $\vec{p}_2$ of the second piece?

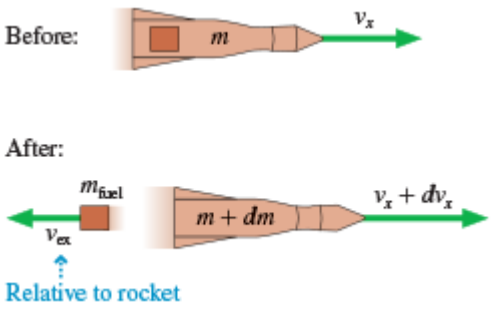


# 11.6 Advanced Topic: Rocket Propulsion

Newton's second law $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$ applies to objects whose mass does not change. That's an excellent assumption for balls and bicycles, but what about something like a rocket that loses a significant amount of mass as its fuel is burned? Problems of varying mass are solved with momentum rather than acceleration. We'll look at one important example.

Figure 11.29 shows a rocket being propelled by the thrust of burning fuel but *not* influenced by gravity or drag. Perhaps it is a rocket in deep space where gravity is very weak in comparison to the rocket's thrust. This may not be highly realistic, but ignoring gravity allows us to understand the essentials of rocket propulsion without making the mathematics too complicated. Rocket propulsion with gravity is a Challenge Problem in the end-of-chapter problems.

**Figure 11.29**




A before-and-after pictorial representation of a rocket burning a small amount of fuel.

The system rocket + exhaust gases is an isolated system, so its total momentum is conserved. The basic idea is simple: As exhaust gases are shot out the back, the rocket "recoils" in the opposite direction. Putting this idea on a mathematical footing is fairly straightforward—it's basically the same as analyzing an explosion—but we have to be extremely careful with signs.

We'll use a before-and-after approach, as we do with all momentum problems. The Before state is a rocket of mass $m$ (including all onboard fuel) moving with velocity $v_x$ and having initial momentum $P_{ix} = mv_x$. During a small interval of time $dt$, the rocket burns a small mass of fuel $m_{\text{fuel}}$ and expels the resulting gases from the back of the rocket at an exhaust speed $v_{ex}$ *relative to the rocket*. That is, a space cadet on the rocket sees the gases leaving the rocket at speed $v_{ex}$ regardless of how fast the rocket is traveling through space.

After this little packet of burned fuel has been ejected, the rocket has new velocity $v_x + dv_x$ and new mass $m + dm$. Now you're probably thinking that this can't be right; the rocket *loses* mass rather than gaining mass. But that's *our* understanding of the physical situation. The mathematical analysis knows only that the mass changes, not whether it increases or decreases. Saying that the mass is $m + dm$ at time $t + dt$ is a formal statement that the mass has changed, and that's how analysis of change is done in calculus. The fact that the rocket's mass is decreasing means that $dm$ has a negative value. That is, the minus goes with the value of $dm$, not with the statement that the mass has changed.

After the gas has been ejected, both the rocket and the gas have momentum. Conservation of momentum tells us that



**(11.35)**

$$P_{\mathrm{f}x} = m_{\mathrm{rocket}}(v_x)_{\mathrm{rocket}} + m_{\mathrm{fuel}}(v_x)_{\mathrm{fuel}} = P_{\mathrm{i}x} = mv_x$$

The mass of this little packet of burned fuel is the mass *lost* by the rocket: $m_{\mathrm{fuel}} = -dm$. Mathematically, the minus sign tells us that the mass of the burned fuel (the gases) and the rocket mass are changing in opposite directions. Physically, we know that $dm < 0$, so the exhaust gases have a positive mass.

The gases are ejected toward the left at speed $v_{ex}$ relative to the rocket. If the rocket's velocity is $v_x$, then the gas's velocity *through space* is $v_x - v_{\mathrm{ex}}$. When we assemble all these pieces of information, the momentum conservation equation is

**(11.36)**

$$(m + dm)\,(v_x + dv_x) + (-dm)\,(v_x - v_{\mathrm{ex}}) = mv_x$$

Multiplying this out gives

**(11.37)**

$$mv_x + v_x\,dm + m\,dv_x + dm\,dv_x - v_x\,dm + v_{\mathrm{ex}}\,dm = mv_x$$

You can see that several terms cancel, leading to
$m\,dv_x + v_{\mathrm{ex}}\,dm + dm\,dv_x = 0$. We can drop the third term; it is the product of two infinitesimal terms and thus is negligible compared to the first two terms. With one final algebraic rearrangement, we're left with

**(11.38)**

$$dv_x = -v_{\mathrm{ex}}\frac{dm}{m}$$

Remember that $dm$ is negative—it's the mass *lost* by the rocket when a small amount of fuel is burned—and so $dv_x$ is positive. Physically,

Equation 11.38 is telling us the amount by which the rocket's velocity increases when it burns a small amount of fuel. Not surprisingly, a lighter rocket (smaller $m$) gains more velocity than a heavier rocket (larger $m$).

There are a couple of ways to use Equation 11.38. First, divide both sides by the small interval of time $dt$ in which the fuel is burned, which will make this a rate equation:

**(11.39)**

$$\frac{dv_x}{dt} = \frac{-v_{\text{ex}}\,dm/dt}{m} = \frac{v_{\text{ex}}R}{m}$$

where $R = |dm/dt|$ is the rate—in kg/s—at which fuel is burned. The fuel burn rate is reasonably constant for most rocket engines.

The left side of Equation 11.39 is the rocket's acceleration: $a_x = dv_x/dt$. Thus from Newton's second law, $a_x = F_x/m$, the numerator on the right side of Equation 11.39 must be a force. This is the *thrust* of the rocket engine:

**(11.40)**

$$F_{\text{thrust}} = v_{\text{ex}}R$$

So Equation 11.39 is just Newton's second law, $a = F_{\text{thrust}}/m$, for the instantaneous acceleration, which will change as the rocket's mass $m$ changes. But now we know how the thrust force is related to physical properties of the rocket engine.

Returning to Equation 11.38, we can find out how the rocket's velocity changes as fuel is burned by integrating. Suppose the rocket starts from rest ($v_x = 0$) with mass $m_0 = m_{\text{R}} + m_{\text{F}0}$, where $m_{\text{R}}$ is the mass of the

empty rocket and $m_{F0}$ is the initial mass of the fuel. At a later time, when the mass has been reduced to $m$, the velocity is $v$.

Integrating between this Before and After, we find

**(11.41)**

$$\int_0^v dv_x = v = -v_{ex} \int_{m_0}^m \frac{dm}{m} = -v_{ex} \ln m \Big|_{m_0}^m$$

where ln $m$ is the *natural logarithm* (logarithm with base $e$) of $m$. Evaluating this between the limits, and using the properties of logarithms, gives

**(11.42)**

$$-v_{ex} \ln m \Big|_{m_0}^m = -v_{ex}(\ln m - \ln m_0) = -v_{ex} \ln \left( \frac{m}{m_0} \right) = v_{ex} \ln \left( \frac{m_0}{m} \right)$$

Thus the rocket's velocity when its mass has decreased to $m$ is

**(11.43)**

$$v = v_{ex} \ln \left( \frac{m_0}{m} \right)$$



Initially, when $m = m_0, v = 0$ because ln $1 = 0$. The maximum speed occurs when the fuel is completely gone and $m = m_R$. This is

**(11.44)**

$$v_{max} = v_{ex} \ln \left( \frac{m_R + m_{F0}}{m_R} \right)$$

Notice that the rocket speed can exceed $v_{ex}$ if the fuel-mass-to-rocket-mass ratio is large enough. Also, because $v_{max}$ is greatly improved by

reducing $m_{\mathrm{R}}$, we can see why rockets that need enough speed to go into orbit are usually *multistage rockets*, dropping off the mass of the lower stages when their fuel is depleted.

**Example 11.10 Firing a rocket**

Sounding rockets are small rockets used to gather weather data and do atmospheric research. One of the most popular sounding rockets has been the fairly small (10-in-diameter, 16-ft-long) Black Brant III. It is loaded with 210 kg of fuel, has a launch mass of 290 kg, and generates 49 kN of thrust for 9.0 s. What would be the maximum speed of a Black Brant III if launched from rest in deep space?

**MODEL** We define the system to be the rocket and its exhaust gases. This is an isolated system, its total momentum is conserved, and the rocket's maximum speed is given by Equation 11.44.

**SOLVE** We're given $m_{\mathrm{F0}} = 210\,\mathrm{kg}$. Knowing that the launch mass is 290 kg, we can deduce that the mass of the empty rocket is $m_{\mathrm{R}} = 80\,\mathrm{kg}$. Because the rocket burns 210 kg of fuel in 9.0 s, the fuel burn rate is

$$R = \frac{210\ \mathrm{kg}}{9.0\ \mathrm{s}} = 23.3\ \mathrm{kg/s}$$

Knowing the burn rate and the thrust, we can use Equation 11.40 to calculate the exhaust velocity:

$$v_{\mathrm{ex}} = \frac{F_{\mathrm{thrust}}}{R} = \frac{49{,}000\ \mathrm{N}}{23.3\ \mathrm{kg/s}} = 2100\ \mathrm{m/s}$$

Thus the rocket's maximum speed in deep space would be

$$v_{\max} = v_{\text{ex}} \ln\left(\frac{m_{\text{R}} + m_{\text{F0}}}{m_{\text{R}}}\right) = (2100 \text{ m/s}) \ln\left(\frac{290 \text{ kg}}{80 \text{ kg}}\right) = 2700 \text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** An actual sounding rocket doesn't reach this speed because it's affected both by gravity and by drag. Even so, the rocket's acceleration is so large that gravity plays a fairly minor role. A Black Brant III launched into the earth's atmosphere achieves a maximum speed of 2100 m/s and, because it continues to coast upward long after the fuel is exhausted, reaches a maximum altitude of 175 km (105 mi).

### Challenge Example 11.11 A rebounding pendulum

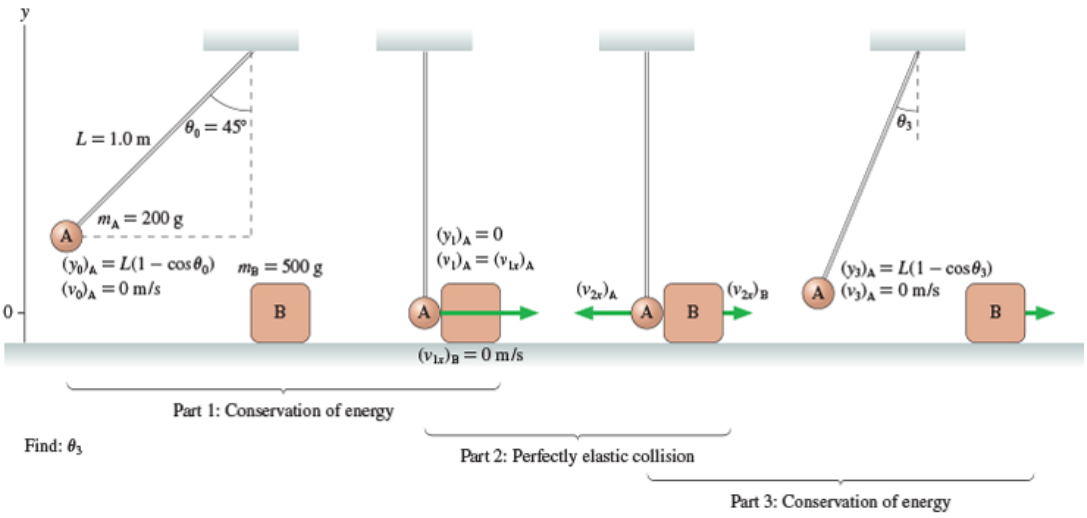
A 200 g steel ball hangs on a 1.0-m-long string. The ball is pulled sideways so that the string is at a 45° angle, then released. At the very bottom of its swing the ball strikes a 500 g steel paperweight that is resting on a frictionless table. To what angle does the ball rebound?

**MODEL** We can divide this problem into three parts. First the ball swings down as a pendulum. Second, the ball and paperweight have a collision. Steel balls bounce off each other very well, so we will model the collision as perfectly elastic. Third, the ball, after it bounces off the paperweight, swings back up as a pendulum. For Parts 1 and 3, we define the system as the ball and the earth. This is an isolated, nondissipative system, so its mechanical energy

is conserved. In Part 2, let the system consist of the ball and the paperweight, which have a perfectly elastic collision.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 11.30 shows four distinct moments of time: as the ball is released, an instant before the collision, an instant after the collision but before the ball and paperweight have had time to move, and as the ball reaches its highest point on the rebound. Call the ball A and the paperweight B, so $m_{\mathrm{A}} = 0.20\ \mathrm{kg}$ and $m_{\mathrm{B}} = 0.50\ \mathrm{kg}$.

## Figure 11.30




Four moments in the collision of a pendulum with a paperweight.

**SOLVE** Part 1: The first part involves the ball only. Its initial height is

$$(y_0)_{\mathrm{A}} = L - L\cos\theta_0 = L\,(1 - \cos\theta_0) = 0.293\ \mathrm{m}$$

We can use conservation of mechanical energy to find the ball's velocity at the bottom, just before impact on the paperweight:

$$\tfrac{1}{2}m_{\mathrm{A}}\,(v_1)_{\mathrm{A}}{}^2 + m_{\mathrm{A}}\,g(y_1)_{\mathrm{A}} = \tfrac{1}{2}m_{\mathrm{A}}\,(v_0)_{\mathrm{A}}{}^2 + m_{\mathrm{A}}\,g(y_0)_{\mathrm{A}}$$

We know $(v_0)_\text{A} = 0$. Solving for the velocity at the bottom, where $(y_1)_\text{A} = 0$, gives

$$(v_1)_\text{A} = \sqrt{2g(y_0)_\text{A}} = 2.40 \text{ m/s}$$

Part 2: The ball and paperweight undergo a perfectly elastic collision in which the paperweight is initially at rest. These are the conditions for which Equations 11.29 were derived. The velocities *immediately* after the collision, prior to any further motion, are

$$\begin{aligned}(v_{2x})_\text{A} &= \frac{m_\text{A} - m_\text{B}}{m_\text{A} + m_\text{B}}(v_{1x})\text{A} &= -1.03 \text{ m/s} \\ (v_{2x})_\text{B} &= \frac{2m_\text{A}}{m_\text{A} + m_\text{B}}(v_{1x})\text{A} &= +1.37 \text{ m/s}\end{aligned}$$

The ball rebounds toward the left with a speed of 1.03 m/s while the paperweight moves to the right at 1.37 m/s. Kinetic energy has been conserved (you might want to check this), but it is now shared between the ball and the paperweight.

Part 3: Now the ball is a pendulum with an initial speed of 1.03 m/s. Mechanical energy is again conserved, so we can find its maximum height at the point where $(v_3)_\text{A} = 0$:

$$\tfrac{1}{2}m_\text{A}{(v_3)_\text{A}}^2 + m_\text{A}g(y_3)_\text{A} = \tfrac{1}{2}m_\text{A}{(v_2)_\text{A}}^2 + m_\text{A}g(y_2)_\text{A}$$

Solving for the maximum height gives

$$(y_3)_\text{A} = \frac{{(v_2)_\text{A}}^2}{2g} = 0.0541 \text{ m}$$

The height $(y_3)_\text{A}$ is related to angle $\theta_3$ by $(y_3)_\text{A} = L(1 - \cos\theta_3)$. This can be solved to find the angle of rebound:

$$\theta_3 = \cos^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{(y_3)_\text{A}}{L}\right) = 19^\circ$$

The paperweight speeds away at 1.37 m/s and the ball rebounds to an angle of 19°.

**ASSESS** The ball and the paperweight aren't hugely different in mass, so we expect the ball to transfer a significant fraction of its energy to the paperweight when they collide. Thus a rebound to roughly half the initial angle seems reasonable.

# Summary



> The goals of Chapter 11 have been to learn to use the concepts of impulse and momentum.

## General Principles

### Law of Conservation of Momentum

The total momentum $\vec{P} = \vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 + \cdots$ of an isolated system is a constant. Thus

$$\vec{p}_{\text{f}} = \vec{p}_{\text{i}}$$

### Newton's Second Law

In terms of momentum, Newton's second law is

$$\vec{F} = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt}$$

### Solving Momentum Conservation Problems

**MODEL** Choose an isolated system or a system that is isolated during at least part of the problem.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation of the system before and after the interaction.

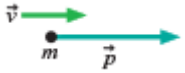
**SOLVE** Write the law of conservation of momentum in terms of vector components:

$$(p_{\mathrm{f}x})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{f}x})_2 + \cdots = (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{i}x})_2 + \cdots$$
$$(p_{\mathrm{f}y})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{f}y})_2 + \cdots = (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_1 + (p_{\mathrm{i}y})_2 + \cdots$$

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

# Important Concepts

**Momentum**




$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$$

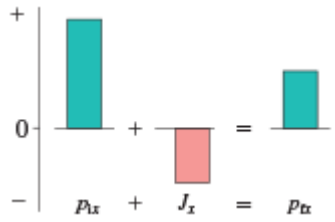
**Impulse** $J_x = \int_{t_\mathrm{i}}^{t_\mathrm{f}} F_x(t)\,dt =$ area under force curve

Impulse and momentum are related by the **momentum principle**

$$\Delta p_x = J_x$$

The impulse delivered to an object causes the object's momentum to change. This is an alternative statement of Newton's second law.

**Momentum bar charts** display the momentum principle $p_{\mathrm{f}x} = p_{\mathrm{i}x} + J_x$ in graphical form.

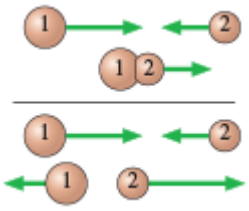



**System** A group of interacting particles.

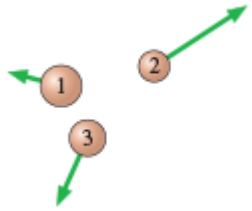
**Isolated system** A system on which there are no external forces or the net external force is zero.

# Applications

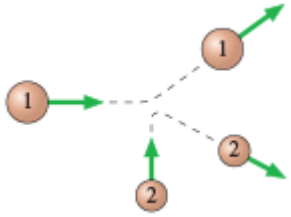
**Collisions** In a **perfectly inelastic collision,** two objects stick together and move with a common final velocity. In a **perfectly elastic collision,** they bounce apart and conserve mechanical energy as well as momentum.



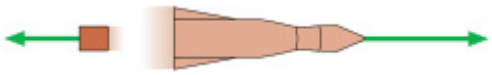

**Explosions** Two or more objects fly apart from each other. Their total momentum is conserved.




**Two dimensions** The same ideas apply in two dimensions. Both the $x$- and $y$-components of $\overrightarrow{P}$ must be conserved. This gives two simultaneous equations to solve.




**Rockets** The momentum of the exhaust-gas + rocket system is conserved. **Thrust** is the product of the exhaust speed and the rate at which fuel is burned.



## Terms and Notation

collision

impulsive force

momentum, $\overrightarrow{P}$

impulse, $J_x$

momentum principle

momentum bar chart

impulse approximation

total momentum, $\overrightarrow{P}$

law of conservation of momentum

perfectly inelastic collision

perfectly elastic collision

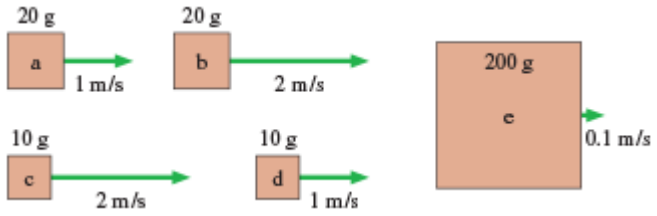
explosion

# Conceptual Questions



**1.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the momenta $(p_x)_a$ to $(p_x)_e$ of the objects in Figure Q11.1.

**Figure Q11.1**




**2.** A 2 kg object is moving to the right with a speed of 1 m/s when it experiences an impulse of 4 N s. What are the object's speed and direction after the impulse?

**3.** A 2 kg object is moving to the right with a speed of 1 m/s when it experiences an impulse of –4 N s. What are the object's speed and direction after the impulse?

**4.** A 0.2 kg plastic cart and a 20 kg lead cart can both roll without friction on a horizontal surface. Equal forces are used to push both carts forward for a time of 1 s, starting from rest. After the force is removed at $t = 1$ s, is the momentum of the plastic cart greater than, less than, or equal to the momentum of the lead cart? Explain.

**5.** A 0.2 kg plastic cart and a 20 kg lead cart can both roll without friction on a horizontal surface. Equal forces are used to push both carts forward for a distance of 1 m, starting from rest. After traveling 1 m, is the momentum of the plastic cart greater than, less than, or equal to the momentum of the lead cart? Explain.

6. Angie, Brad, and Carlos are discussing a physics problem in which two identical bullets are fired with equal speeds at equal-mass wood and steel blocks resting on a frictionless table. One bullet bounces off the steel block while the second becomes embedded in the wood block. "All the masses and speeds are the same," says Angie, "so I think the blocks will have equal speeds after the collisions." "But what about momentum?" asks Brad. "The bullet hitting the wood block transfers all its momentum and energy to the block, so the wood block should end up going faster than the steel block." "I think the bounce is an important factor," replies Carlos. "The steel block will be faster because the bullet bounces off it and goes back the other direction." Which of these three do you agree with, and why?
7. It feels better to catch a hard ball while wearing a padded glove than to catch it bare handed. Use the ideas of this chapter to explain why.
8. Automobiles are designed with "crumple zones" intended to collapse in a collision. Use the ideas of this chapter to explain why.
9. A golf club continues forward after hitting the golf ball. Is momentum conserved in the collision? Explain, making sure you are careful to identify "the system."
10. Suppose a rubber ball collides head-on with a more massive steel ball traveling in the opposite direction with equal speed. Which ball, if either, receives the larger impulse? Explain.
11. Two particles collide, one of which was initially moving and the other initially at rest.
    a. Is it possible for *both* particles to be at rest after the collision? Give an example in which this happens, or explain why it can't happen.

**b.** Is it possible for *one* particle to be at rest after the collision? Give an example in which this happens, or explain why it can't happen.

**12.** Two ice skaters, Paula and Ricardo, push off from each other. Ricardo weighs more than Paula.

**a.** Which skater, if either, has the greater momentum after the push-off? Explain.

**b.** Which skater, if either, has the greater speed after the push-off? Explain.

**13.** Two balls of clay of known masses hang from the ceiling on massless strings of equal length. They barely touch when both hang at rest. One ball is pulled back until its string is at 45°, then released. It swings down, collides with the second ball, and they stick together. To determine the angle to which the balls swing on the opposite side, would you invoke (a) conservation of momentum, (b) conservation of mechanical energy, (c) both, (d) either but not both, or (e) these laws alone are not sufficient to find the angle? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 11.1 Momentum and Impulse

**1.** • At what speed do a bicycle and its rider, with a combined mass of 100 kg, have the same momentum as a 1500 kg car

traveling at 5.0 m/s?

**2.** • What is the magnitude of the momentum of

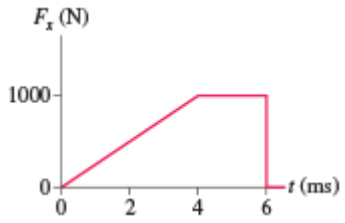
**a.** A 3000 kg truck traveling at 15 m/s?

**b.** A 200 g baseball thrown at 40 m/s?

**3.** •• What impulse does the force shown in Figure EX11.3 exert on a 250 g particle?

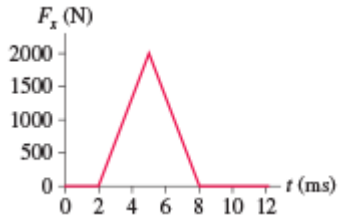


## Figure EX11.3



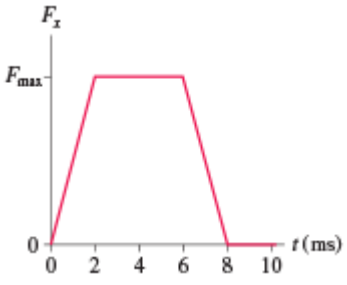

**4.** •• What is the impulse on a 3.0 kg particle that experiences the force shown in Figure EX11.4?

## Figure EX11.4



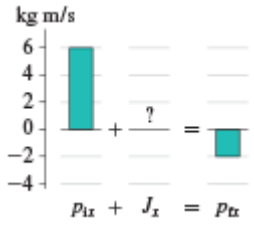

**5.** •• In Figure EX11.5, what value of $F_{max}$ gives an impulse of 6.0 N s?

## Figure EX11.5



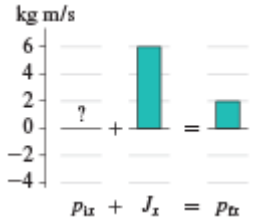
**6.** •• Figure EX11.6 is an incomplete momentum bar chart for a collision that lasts 10 ms. What are the magnitude and direction of the average collision force exerted on the object?

**Figure EX11.6**



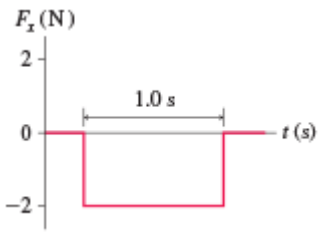

**7.** •• Figure EX11.7 is an incomplete momentum bar chart for a 50 g particle that experiences an impulse lasting 10 ms. What were the speed and direction of the particle before the impulse?

**Figure EX11.7**



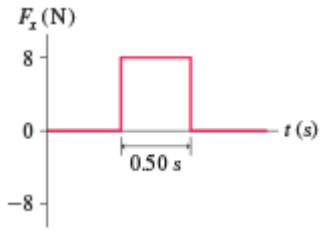

**8.** • A 2.0 kg object is moving to the right with a speed of 1.0 m/s when it experiences the force shown in Figure EX11.8. What are the object's speed and direction after the force ends?

**Figure EX11.8**



**9.** • A 2.0 kg object is moving to the right with a speed of 1.0 m/s when it experiences the force shown in Figure EX11.9. What are the object's speed and direction after the force ends?

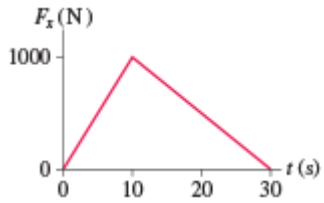
**Figure EX11.9**




**10.** • A sled slides along a horizontal surface on which the coefficient of kinetic friction is 0.25. Its velocity at point A is 8.0 m/s and at point B is 5.0 m/s Use the momentum principle to find how long the sled takes to travel from A to B.

**11.** • Far in space, where gravity is negligible, a 425 kg rocket traveling at 75 m/s fires its engines. Figure EX11.11 shows the thrust force as a function of time. The mass lost by the rocket during these 30 s is negligible.

**Figure EX11.11**



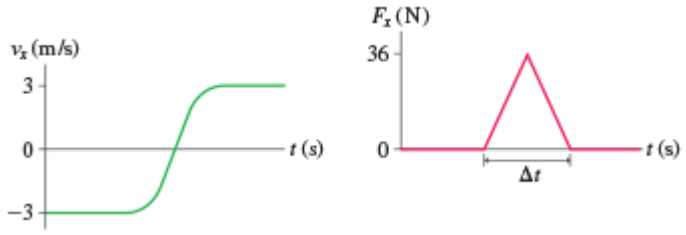

**a.** What impulse does the engine impart to the rocket?

**b.** At what time does the rocket reach its maximum speed? What is the maximum speed?

**12.** •• A 600 g air-track glider collides with a spring at one end of the track. Figure EX11.12 shows the glider's velocity and the

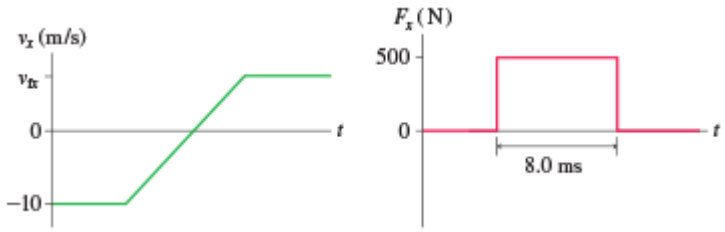
force exerted on the glider by the spring. How long is the glider in contact with the spring?

**Figure EX11.12**




**13.** •• A 250 g ball collides with a wall. Figure EX11.13 shows the ball's velocity and the force exerted on the ball by the wall. What is $v_{fx}$ the ball's rebound velocity?

**Figure EX11.13**




## Section 11.2 Conservation of Momentum

**14.** • A 5000 kg open train car is rolling on frictionless rails at 22 m/s when it starts pouring rain. A few minutes later, the car's speed is 20 m/s. What mass of water has collected in the car?

**15.** • A 10,000 kg railroad car is rolling at 2.0 m/s when a 4000 kg load of gravel is suddenly dropped in. What is the car's speed just after the gravel is loaded?



**16.** •• A 10-m-long glider with a mass of 680 kg (including the passengers) is gliding horizontally through the air at 30 m/s when a 60 kg skydiver drops out by releasing his grip on the

glider. What is the glider's velocity just after the skydiver lets go?

**17.** • Three identical train cars, coupled together, are rolling east at speed $v_0$. A fourth car traveling east at $2v_0$ catches up with the three and couples to make a four-car train. A moment later, the train cars hit a fifth car that was at rest on the tracks, and it couples to make a five-car train. What is the speed of the five-car train?

## Section 11.3 Collisions

**18.** • A 300 g bird flying along at 6.0 m/s sees a 10 g insect heading straight toward it at a speed of 30 m/s. The bird opens its mouth wide and enjoys a nice lunch. What is the bird's speed immediately after swallowing?

**19.** • The parking brake on a 2000 kg Cadillac has failed, and it is rolling slowly, at 1.0 mph, toward a group of small children. Seeing the situation, you realize you have just enough time to drive your 1000 kg Volkswagen head-on into the Cadillac and save the children. With what speed should you impact the Cadillac to bring it to a halt?

**20.** • A 1500 kg car is rolling at 2.0 m/s. You would like to stop the car by firing a 10 kg blob of sticky clay at it. How fast should you fire the clay?

**21.** •• **INT** Fred (mass 60 kg) is running with the football at a speed of 6.0 m/s when he is met head-on by Brutus (mass 120 kg), who is moving at 4.0 m/s. Brutus grabs Fred in a tight grip, and they fall to the ground. Which way do they slide, and how far? The coefficient of kinetic friction between football uniforms and Astroturf is 0.30.

**22.** •• A 50 g marble moving at 2.0 m/s strikes a 20 g marble at rest. What is the speed of each marble immediately after the collision?

**23.** • A proton is traveling to the right at $2.0 \times 10^7$ m/s. It has a head-on perfectly elastic collision with a carbon atom. The mass of the carbon atom is 12 times the mass of the proton. What are the speed and direction of each after the collision?

**24.** •• **INT** A 50 g ball of clay traveling at speed $v_0$ hits and sticks to a 1.0 kg brick sitting at rest on a frictionless surface.

**a.** What is the speed of the brick after the collision?

**b.** What percentage of the mechanical energy is lost in this collision?

**25.** •• **INT** A package of mass $m$ is released from rest at a warehouse loading dock and slides down the 3.0-m-high, frictionless chute of Figure EX11.25 to a waiting truck. Unfortunately, the truck driver went on a break without having removed the previous package, of mass $2m$, from the bottom of the chute.

**Figure EX11.25**

**a.** Suppose the packages stick together. What is their common speed after the collision?

**b.** Suppose the collision between the packages is perfectly elastic. To what height does the package of mass $m$ rebound?

## Section 11.4 Explosions

**26.** • A 50 kg archer, standing on frictionless ice, shoots a 100 g arrow at a speed of 100 m/s. What is the recoil speed of the archer?

**27.** •• A 70.0 kg football player is gliding across very smooth ice at 2.00 m/s. He throws a 0.450 kg football straight forward. What is the player's speed afterward if the ball is thrown at

**a.** 15.0 m/s relative to the ground?

**b.** 15.0 m/s relative to the player?

**28.** •• Dan is gliding on his skateboard at 4.0 m/s. He suddenly jumps backward off the skateboard, kicking the skateboard forward at 8.0 m/s. How fast is Dan going as his feet hit the ground? Dan's mass is 50 kg and the skateboard's mass is 5.0 kg.

**29.** • Two ice skaters, with masses of 50 kg and 75 kg, are at the center of a 60-m-diameter circular rink. The skaters push off against each other and glide to opposite edges of the rink. If the heavier skater reaches the edge in 20 s, how long does the lighter skater take to reach the edge?

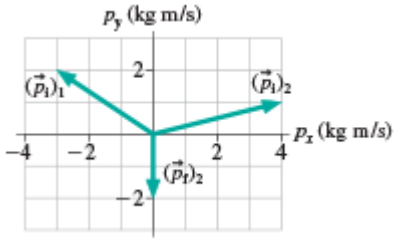
**30.** • A ball of mass $m$ and another ball of mass $3m$ are placed inside a smooth metal tube with a massless spring compressed between them. When the spring is released, the heavier ball flies out of one end of the tube with speed $v_0$. With what speed does the lighter ball emerge from the other end?

## Section 11.5 Momentum in Two Dimensions

**31.** •• Two particles collide and bounce apart. Figure EX11.31 shows the initial momenta of both and the final momentum of

particle 2. What is the final momentum of particle 1? Write your answer using unit vectors.

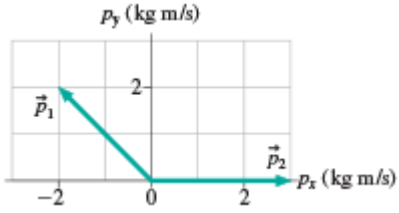
## Figure EX11.31






**32.** •• An object at rest explodes into three fragments. Figure EX11.32 shows the momentum vectors of two of the fragments. What is the momentum of the third fragment? Write your answer using unit vectors.

## Figure EX11.32




**33.** •• A 20 g ball of clay traveling east at 3.0 m/s collides with a 30 g ball of clay traveling north at 2.0 m/s. What are the speed and the direction of the resulting 50 g ball of clay? Give your answer as an angle north of east.

**34.** •• At the center of a 50-m-diameter circular ice rink, a 75 kg skater traveling north at 2.5 m/s collides with and holds on to a 60 kg skater who had been heading west at 3.5 m/s.

**a.** How long will it take them to glide to the edge of the rink?

**b.** Where will they reach it? Give your answer as an angle north of west.

## Section 11.6 Rocket Propulsion

**35.** •• A small rocket with 15 kN thrust burns 250 kg of fuel in 30 s. What is the exhaust speed of the hot gases?

**36.** •• A rocket in deep space has an empty mass of 150 kg and exhausts the hot gases of burned fuel at 2500 m/s. What mass of fuel is needed to reach a top speed of 4000 m/s?

**37.** •• A rocket in deep space has an exhaust-gas speed of 2000 m/s. When the rocket is fully loaded, the mass of the fuel is five times the mass of the empty rocket. What is the rocket's speed when half the fuel has been burned?

# Problems

**38.** •• A tennis player swings her 1000 g racket with a speed of 10 m/s. She hits a 60 g tennis ball that was approaching her at a speed of 20 m/s. The ball rebounds at 40 m/s.

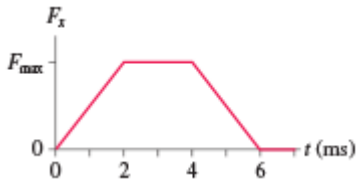
**a.** How fast is her racket moving immediately after the impact? You can ignore the interaction of the racket with her hand for the brief duration of the collision.

**b.** If the tennis ball and racket are in contact for 10 ms, what is the average force that the racket exerts on the ball? How does this compare to the gravitational force on the ball?

**39.** •• A 60 g tennis ball with an initial speed of 32 m/s hits a wall and rebounds with the same speed. Figure P11.39 shows the force of the wall on the ball during the collision. What is the

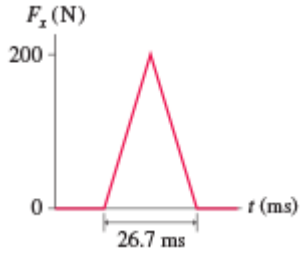
value of $F_{max}$, the maximum value of the contact force during the collision?

**Figure P11.39**



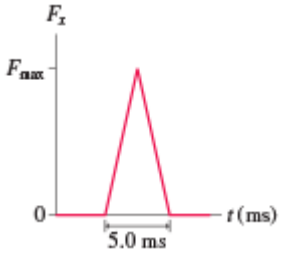

**40.** •• **INT** A 500 g cart is released from rest 1.00 m from the bottom of a frictionless, 30.0° ramp. The cart rolls down the ramp and bounces off a rubber block at the bottom. Figure P11.40 shows the force during the collision. After the cart bounces, how far does it roll back up the ramp?

**Figure P11.40**




**41.** ••• **INT** A 200 g ball is dropped from a height of 2.0 m, bounces on a hard floor, and rebounds to a height of 1.5 m. Figure P11.41 shows the impulse received from the floor. What maximum force does the floor exert on the ball?

**Figure P11.41**

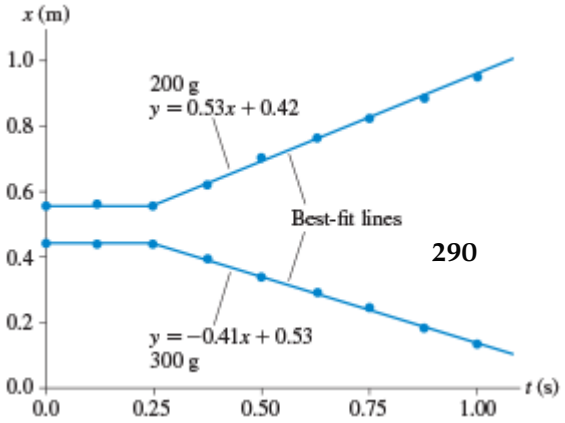



**42.** •• **BIO** The flowers of the bunchberry plant open with astonishing force and speed, causing the pollen grains to be ejected out of the flower in a mere 0.30 ms at an acceleration of $2.5 \times 10^4\ \text{m/s}^2$. If the acceleration is constant, what impulse is delivered to a pollen grain with a mass of $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$ g?

**43.** • **CALC** A particle of mass $m$ is at rest at $t = 0$. Its momentum for $t > 0$ is given by $p_x = 6t^2$ kg m/s, where $t$ is in s. Find an expression for $F_x(t)$, the force exerted on the particle as a function of time.

**44.** •• Air-track gliders with masses 300 g, 400 g and 200 g are lined up and held in place with lightweight springs compressed between them. All three are released at once. The 200 g glider flies off to the right while the 300 g glider goes left. Their position-versus-time graphs, as measured by motion detectors, are shown in Figure P11.44. What are the direction (right or left) and speed of the 400 g glider that was in the middle?

**Figure P11.44**



**45.** •• **INT** Most geologists believe that the dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago when a large comet or asteroid struck the earth, throwing up so much dust that the sun was blocked out for a period of many months. Suppose an asteroid with a diameter of 2.0 km and a mass of $1.0 \times 10^{13}\,\text{kg}$ hits the earth ($6.0 \times 10^{24}\,\text{kg}$) with an impact speed of $4.0 \times 10^{4}\,\text{m/s}$.

**a.** What is the earth's recoil speed after such a collision? (Use a reference frame in which the earth was initially at rest.)

**b.** What percentage is this of the earth's speed around the sun? The earth orbits the sun at a distance of $1.5 \times 10^{11}\,\text{m}$.

**46.** •• **BIO** Squids rely on jet propulsion to move around. A 1.50 kg squid (including the mass of water inside the squid) drifting at 0.40 m/s suddenly ejects 0.10 kg of water to get itself moving at 2.50 m/s. If drag is ignored over the small interval of time needed to expel the water (the impulse approximation), what is the water's ejection speed relative to the squid?

**47.** •• A firecracker in a coconut blows the coconut into three pieces. Two pieces of equal mass fly off south and west, perpendicular to each other, at speed $v_0$. The third piece has twice the mass as the other two. What are the speed and direction of the third piece? Give the direction as an angle east of north.

**48.** •• One billiard ball is shot east at 2.0 m/s. A second, identical billiard ball is shot west at 1.0 m/s. The balls have a glancing collision, not a head-on collision, deflecting the second ball by 90°and sending it north at 1.41 m/s. What are the speed and direction of the first ball after the collision? Give the direction as an angle south of east.

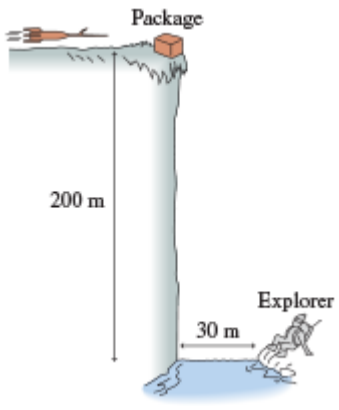
**49.** ••

**a.** A bullet of mass $m$ is fired into a block of mass $M$ that is at rest. The block, with the bullet embedded, slides distance $d$ across a horizontal surface. The coefficient of kinetic friction is $\mu_k$. Find an expression for the bullet's speed $v_{bullet}$.

**b.** What is the speed of a 10 g bullet that, when fired into a 10 kg stationary wood block, causes the block to slide 5.0 cm across a wood table?

**50.** •• You are part of a search-and-rescue mission that has been called out to look for a lost explorer. You've found the missing explorer, but, as Figure P11.50 shows, you're separated from him by a 200-m-high cliff and a 30-m-wide raging river. To save his life, you need to get a 5.0 kg package of emergency supplies across the river. Unfortunately, you can't throw the package hard enough to make it across. Fortunately, you happen to have a 1.0 kg rocket intended for launching flares. Improvising quickly, you attach a sharpened stick to the front of the rocket, so that it will impale itself into the package of supplies, then fire the rocket at ground level toward the supplies. What minimum speed must the rocket have just before impact in order to save the explorer's life?

**Figure P11.50**



**51.** •• **INT** An object at rest on a flat, horizontal surface explodes into two fragments, one seven times as massive as the other. The heavier fragment slides 8.2 m before stopping. How far does the lighter fragment slide? Assume that both fragments have the same coefficient of kinetic friction.

**52.** •• **INT** A 1500 kg weather rocket accelerates upward at 10 $m/s^2$. It explodes 2.0 s after liftoff and breaks into two fragments, one twice as massive as the other. Photos reveal that the lighter fragment traveled straight up and reached a maximum height of 530 m. What were the speed and direction of the heavier fragment just after the explosion?

**53.** •• **INT** In a ballistics test, a 25 g bullet traveling horizontally at 1200 m/s goes through a 30-cm-thick 350 kg stationary target and emerges with a speed of 900 m/s. The target is free to slide on a smooth horizontal surface. What is the target's speed just after the bullet emerges?

**54.** •• Two 500 g blocks of wood are 2.0 m apart on a frictionless table. A 10 g bullet is fired at 400 m/s toward the blocks. It passes all the way through the first block, then embeds itself in the second block. The speed of the first block immediately afterward is 6.0 m/s. What is the speed of the second block after the bullet stops in it?

**55.** ••• **INT** A 100 g granite cube slides down a 40° frictionless ramp. At the bottom, just as it exits onto a horizontal table, it collides with a 200 g steel cube at rest. How high above the table should the granite cube be released to give the steel cube a speed of 150 cm/s?

**56.** ••• **INT** You have been asked to design a "ballistic spring system" to measure the speed of bullets. A spring whose spring constant is $k$ is suspended from the ceiling. A block of mass $M$

hangs from the spring. A bullet of mass $m$ is fired vertically upward into the bottom of the block and stops in the block. The spring's maximum compression $d$ is measured.

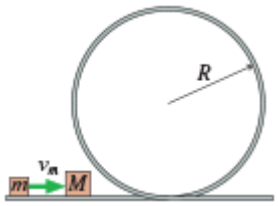
**a.** Find an expression for the bullet's speed $v_B$ in terms of $m$, $M$, $k$, and $d$.

**b.** What was the speed of a 10 g bullet if the block's mass is 2.0 kg and if the spring, with $k = 50\,\text{N/m}$, was compressed by 45 cm?

**57.** •• **INT** In Figure P11.57, a block of mass $m$ slides along a frictionless track with speed $v_m$. It collides with a stationary block of mass $M$. Find an expression for the minimum value of $v_m$ that will allow the second block to circle the loop-the-loop without falling off if the collision is (a) perfectly inelastic or (b) perfectly elastic.



**Figure P11.57**




**58.** •• The stoplight had just changed and a 2000 kg Cadillac had entered the intersection, heading north at 3.0 m/s, when it was struck by a 1000 kg eastbound Volkswagen. The cars stuck together and slid to a halt, leaving skid marks angled 35° north of east. How fast was the Volkswagen going just before the impact?

**59.** •• Ann (mass 50 kg) is standing at the left end of a 15-m-long, 500 kg cart that has frictionless wheels and rolls on a frictionless track. Initially both Ann and the cart are at rest.

Suddenly, Ann starts running along the cart at a speed of 5.0 m/s relative to the cart. How far will Ann have run *relative to the ground* when she reaches the right end of the cart?

**60.** ••• **CALC** Force $F_x = (10\text{ N})\ \sin(2\pi t/4.0\text{ s})$ is exerted on a 250 g particle during the interval $0\text{ s} \le t \le 2.0\text{ s}$. If the particle starts from rest, what is its speed at $t = 2.0$ s?

**61.** •• **CALC** A 500 g particle has velocity $v_x = -5.0\,\text{m/s}$ at $t = -2\text{ s}$. Force $F_x = (4 - t^2)$ N, where $t$ is in s, is exerted on the particle between $t = -2\text{ s}$ and $t = 2\text{ s}$. This force increases from 0 N at $t = 2\text{ s}$ to 4 N at $t = 0\text{ s}$ and then back to 0 N at $t = 2\text{ s}$. What is the particle's velocity at $t = 2\text{ s}$?

**62.** •• A 30 ton rail car and a 90 ton rail car, initially at rest, are connected together with a giant but massless compressed spring between them. When released, the 30 ton car is pushed away at a speed of 4.0 m/s relative to the 90 ton car. What is the speed of the 30 ton car relative to the ground?

**63.** ••• **INT** A 20 g ball is fired horizontally with speed $v_0$ toward a 100 g ball hanging motionless from a 1.0-m-long string. The balls undergo a head-on, perfectly elastic collision, after which the 100 g ball swings out to a maximum angle $\theta_{\text{max}} = 50^\circ$. What was $v_0$?

**64.** •• A 100 g ball moving to the right at 4.0 m/s catches up and collides with a 400 g ball that is moving to the right at 1.0 m/s. If the collision is perfectly elastic, what are the speed and direction of each ball after the collision?

**65.** •• **INT** A 100 g ball moving to the right at 4.0 m/s collides head-on with a 200 g ball that is moving to the left at 3.0 m/s.

**a.** If the collision is perfectly elastic, what are the speed and direction of each ball after the collision?

**b.** If the collision is perfectly inelastic, what are the speed and direction of the combined balls after the collision?

**66.** •• **INT** Old naval ships fired 10 kg cannon balls from a 200 kg cannon. It was very important to stop the recoil of the cannon, since otherwise the heavy cannon would go careening across the deck of the ship. In one design, a large spring with spring constant 20,000 N/m was placed behind the cannon. The other end of the spring braced against a post that was firmly anchored to the ship's frame. What was the speed of the cannon ball if the spring compressed 50 cm when the cannon was fired?

**67.** •• A proton (mass 1 u) is shot toward an unknown target nucleus at a speed of $2.50 \times 10^6$ m/s. The proton rebounds with its speed reduced by 25% while the target nucleus acquires a speed of $3.12 \times 10^5$ m/s. What is the mass, in atomic mass units, of the target nucleus?

**68.** •• The nucleus of the polonium isotope $^{214}\mathrm{Po}(\mathrm{mass\ 214\ u})$ is radioactive and decays by emitting an alpha particle (a helium nucleus with mass 4 u). Laboratory experiments measure the speed of the alpha particle to be $1.92 \times 10^7$ m/s. Assuming the polonium nucleus was initially at rest, what is the recoil speed of the nucleus that remains after the decay?

**69.** •• A neutron is an electrically neutral subatomic particle with a mass just slightly greater than that of a proton. A free neutron is radioactive and decays after a few minutes into other subatomic particles. In one experiment, a neutron at rest was observed to decay into a proton (mass $1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg) and an electron (mass $9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg). The proton and electron were shot out back-to-back. The proton speed was measured to be

$1.0 \times 10^5$ m/s and the electron speed was $3.0 \times 10^7$ m/s. No other decay products were detected.

**a.** Did momentum seem to be conserved in the decay of this neutron?

> **Note**
>
> Experiments such as this were first performed in the 1930s and seemed to indicate a failure of the law of conservation of momentum. In 1933, Wolfgang Pauli postulated that the neutron might have a *third* decay product that is virtually impossible to detect. Even so, it can carry away just enough momentum to keep the total momentum conserved. This proposed particle was named the *neutrino,* meaning "little neutral one." Neutrinos were, indeed, discovered nearly 20 years later.

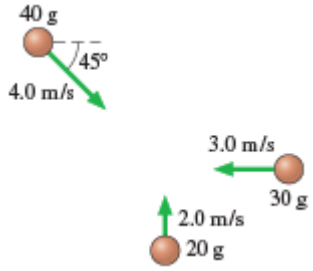
**b.** If a neutrino was emitted in the above neutron decay, in which direction did it travel? Explain your reasoning.

**c.** How much momentum did this neutrino "carry away" with it?

**70.** •• A 20 g ball of clay traveling east at 2.0 m/s collides with a 30 g ball of clay traveling 30° south of west at 1.0 m/s. What are the speed and direction of the resulting 50 g blob of clay?

**71.** •• Figure P11.71 shows a collision between three balls of clay. The three hit simultaneously and stick together. What are the speed and direction of the resulting blob of clay?

**Figure P11.71**




**72.** •• A 2100 kg truck is traveling east through an intersection at 2.0 m/s when it is hit simultaneously from the side and the rear. (Some people have all the luck!) One car is a 1200 kg compact traveling north at 5.0 m/s. The other is a 1500 kg midsize traveling east at 10 m/s. The three vehicles become entangled and slide as one body. What are their speed and direction just after the collision?

**73.** •• A rocket in deep space has an empty mass of 150 kg and exhausts the hot gases of burned fuel at 2500 m/s. It is loaded with 600 kg of fuel, which it burns in 30 s. What is the rocket's speed 10 s, 20 s, and 30 s after launch?

**74.** ••

**a.** To understand why rockets often have multiple stages, first consider a single-stage rocket with an empty mass of 200 kg, 800 kg of fuel, and a 2000 m/s exhaust speed. If fired in deep space, what is the rocket's maximum speed?

**b.** Now divide the rocket into two stages, each with an empty mass of 100 kg, 400 kg of fuel, and a 2000 m/s exhaust speed. The first stage is released after it runs out of fuel. What is the top speed of the second stage? You'll need to consider how the equation for $v_{max}$ should be altered when a rocket is not starting from rest.

In Problems 75, 76, 77, 78 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem, including a pictorial representation.

**75.** $(0.10\ \text{kg})\,(40\ \text{m/s}) - (0.10\ \text{kg})\,(-30\ \text{m/s}) = \frac{1}{2}(1400\ \text{N})\,\Delta\text{t}$

**76.** $(600\ \text{kg})\,(4.0\ \text{m/s}) = (400\ \text{g})\,(3.0\ \text{m/s}) + (200\ \text{g})\,(v_{ix})_2$

**77.** $(3000\ \text{kg})\,v_{fx} = (2000\ \text{kg})\,(5.0\ \text{m/s}) + (1000\ \text{kg})\,(-4.0\ \text{m/s})$

**78.**
$$(0.10\ \text{kg} + 0.20\ \text{kg})\,v_{1x} = (0.10\ \text{kg})\,(3.0\ \text{m/s})$$
$$\tfrac{1}{2}(0.30\ \text{kg})\,(0\ \text{m/s})^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}(3.0\ \text{N/m})\,(\Delta x_2)^2$$
$$= \tfrac{1}{2}(0.30\ \text{kg})\,(v_{1x})^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}(3.0\ \text{N/m})\,(0\ \text{m})^2$$

## Challenge Problems

**79.** ••• A 1000 kg cart is rolling to the right at 5.0 m/s. A 70 kg man is standing on the right end of the cart. What is the speed of the cart if the man suddenly starts running to the left with a speed of 10 m/s relative to the cart?

**80.** ••• A spaceship of mass $2.0 \times 10^6$ kg is cruising at a speed of $5.0 \times 10^6$ m/s when the antimatter reactor fails, blowing the ship into three pieces. One section, having a mass of $5.0 \times 10^5$ kg, is blown straight backward with a speed of $2.0 \times 10^6$ m/s. A second piece, with mass $8.0 \times 10^5$ kg, continues forward at $1.0 \times 10^6$ m/s. What are the direction and speed of the third piece?

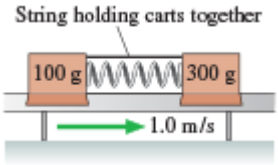
**81.** ••• A 20 kg wood ball hangs from a 2.0-m-long wire. The maximum tension the wire can withstand without breaking is 400 N. A 1.0 kg projectile traveling horizontally hits and

embeds itself in the wood ball. What is the greatest speed this projectile can have without causing the wire to break?

**82.** ••• A two-stage rocket is traveling at 1200 m/s with respect to the earth when the first stage runs out of fuel. Explosive bolts release the first stage and push it backward with a speed of 35 m/s relative to the second stage. The first stage is three times as massive as the second stage. What is the speed of the second stage after the separation?

**83.** ••• The air-track carts in Figure CP11.83 are sliding to the right at 1.0 m/s. The spring between them has a spring constant of 120 N/m and is compressed 4.0 cm. The carts slide past a flame that burns through the string holding them together. Afterward, what are the speed and direction of each cart?

**Figure P11.83**




**84.** ••• **CALC** Section 11.6 found an equation for $v_{max}$ of a rocket fired in deep space. What is $v_{max}$ for a rocket fired vertically from the surface of an airless planet with free-fall acceleration $g$? Referring to Section 11.6, you can write an equation for $\Delta P_y$, the change of momentum in the vertical direction, in terms of $dm$ and $dv_y$. $\Delta P_y$ is no longer zero because now gravity delivers an impulse. Rewrite the momentum equation by including the impulse due to gravity during the time $dt$ during which the mass changes by $dm$. Pay attention to signs! Your equation will have three differentials, but two are related

through the fuel burn rate $R$. Use this relationship—again pay attention to signs; $m$ is decreasing—to write your equation in terms of $dm$ and $dv_y$. Then integrate to find a modified expression for $v_{max}$ at the instant all the fuel has been burned.

**a.** What is $v_{max}$ for a vertical launch from an airless planet? Your answer will be in terms of $m_R$, the empty rocket mass; $m_{F0}$, the initial fuel mass; $v_{ex}$, the exhaust speed; $R$, the fuel burn rate; and $g$.

**b.** A rocket with a total mass of 330,000 kg when fully loaded burns all 280,000 kg of fuel in 250 s. The engines generate 4.1 MN of thrust. What is this rocket's speed at the instant all the fuel has been burned if it is launched in deep space? If it is launched vertically from the earth?

# Knowledge Structure Part II: Conservation Laws

## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part II?

- **Work** causes a system's energy to change. It is a transfer of energy to or from the environment.
- **Energy** can be *transformed* within a system, but the **total energy** of an isolated system does not change.
- An **impulse** causes a system's momentum to change.
- Momentum can be *exchanged* within a system, but the **total momentum** of an isolated system does not change.

## Laws: What laws of physics govern energy and momentum?

**Energy principle**

$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}} \quad \text{or} \quad K_{\text{i}} + U_{\text{i}} + W_{\text{ext}} = K_{\text{f}} + U_{\text{f}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}}$

**Conservation of energy**

For an isolated system ($W_{\text{ext}} = 0$), the total energy $E_{\text{sys}} = K + U + E_{\text{th}}$ is conserved. $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = 0$.

For an isolated, nondissipative system, the **mechanical energy** $E_{\text{mech}} = K + U$ is conserved.

**Momentum principle**

$\Delta \vec{p} = \vec{J}$

**Conservation of momentum**

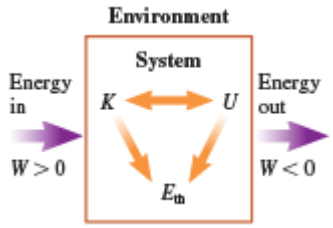
For an isolated system ( $\vec{J} = \vec{0}$ ), the total momentum is conserved.

$\Delta \vec{P} = \vec{0}$ .

# Models: What are the most common models for using conservation laws?

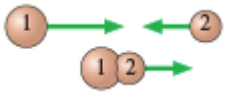
## Basic energy model

- Energy is a property of the system.
- Energy is *transformed* within the system without loss.
- Energy is *transferred* to and from the system by forces that do *work*.
  - $W > 0$ for energy added.
  - $W < 0$ for energy removed.
  - $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E = W_{\text{ext}}$

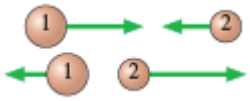



## Collision model

- **Perfectly inelastic collision**: Objects stick together and move with a common final velocity.



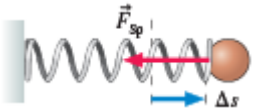
    - Momentum is conserved.
    - $(m_1 + m_2)v_{fx} = m_1(v_{ix})_1 + m_2(v_{ix})_2$
- **Perfectly elastic collision**: Objects bounce apart with no loss of energy.




    - Momentum and energy are both conserved.

## Other models and approximations

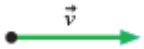
- An **isolated system** does not interact with its environment.
    - For energy, an isolated system has no work done on it.
    - For momentum, an isolated system experiences no impulse.
- **Thermal energy** is the microscopic energy of moving atoms and stretched bonds.
- An **ideal spring** obeys **Hooke's law** for all displacements: $(F_{\text{Sp}})_s = -k\Delta s$.



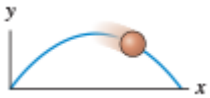

- The **impulse approximation** ignores forces that are small compared to impulsive forces during the brief time of a collision or explosion.

# Tools What are the most important tools for using energy and momentum?

- Kinetic energy: $K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
    - Kinetic energy is an energy of *motion*.




- Gravitational potential energy: $U_{\mathrm{G}} = mgy$




- Elastic potential energy: $U_{\mathrm{Sp}} = \frac{1}{2}k(\Delta s)^2$

  - Potential energy is an energy of *position*.
- Momentum: $\overrightarrow{p} = m\overrightarrow{v}$.
- Force acting through a displacement does work.
  - Constant force:

$$W = \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \Delta\overrightarrow{r} = F(\Delta r)\cos\theta$$

  - Variable force:

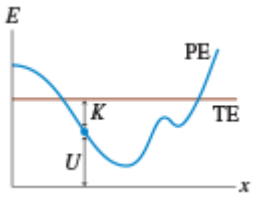
$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int_{s_{\mathrm{i}}}^{s_{\mathrm{f}}} F_s \, ds \\ &= \text{area under the } F_s\text{-versus-}s \text{ curve} \end{aligned}$$

- Force acting over time delivers an impulse:

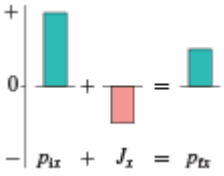
$$\begin{aligned} J_x &= \int_{t_{\mathrm{i}}}^{t_{\mathrm{f}}} F_x \, dt \\ &= \text{area under the } F_x\text{-versus-}t \text{ curve} \end{aligned}$$

- Energy diagrams

- Visualize speed changes and turning points. $F_x$ = negative of the slope of the curve.



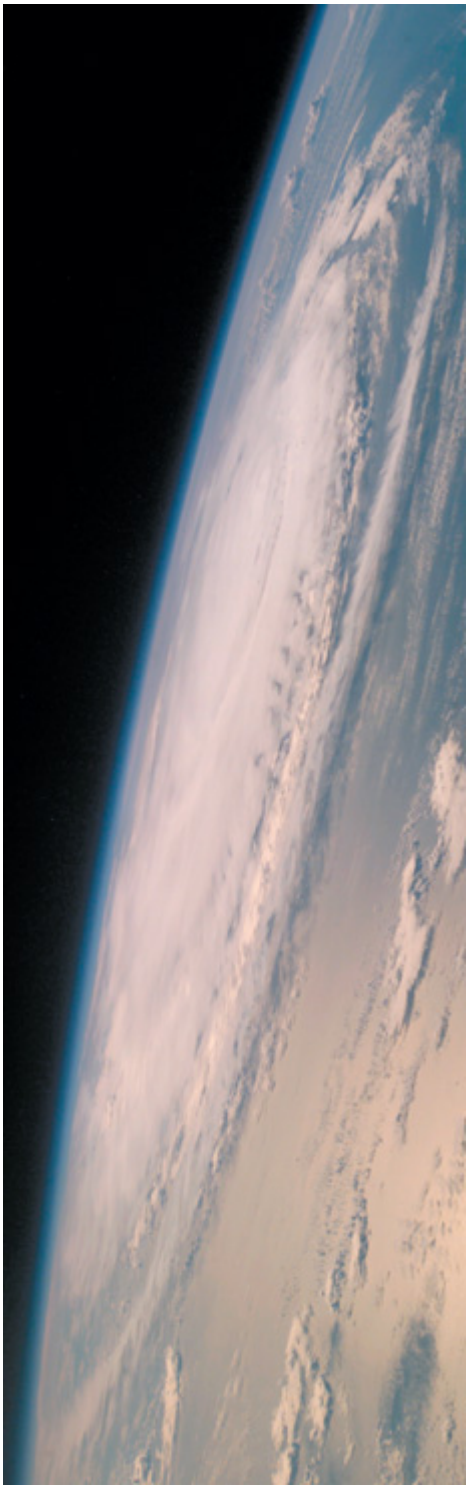

- Bar charts
  - Momentum and energy conservation.




- Before-and-after pictorial representation.
  - Important problem-solving tool.

# Part III: Applications of Newtonian Mechanics





A hurricane is a fluid—the air—moving on a rotating sphere—the earth—under the influence of gravity. Understanding hurricanes is very much an application of

# Overview

## Power Over Our Environment

Early humans had to endure whatever nature provided. Only within the last few thousand years have agriculture and technology provided some level of control over the environment. And it has been a mere couple of centuries since machines, and later electronics, began to do much of our work and provide us with “creature comforts."

It’s no coincidence that machines began to appear about a century after Galileo, Newton, and others ignited what we now call the *scientific revolution*. The machines and other devices we take for granted today are direct consequences of scientific knowledge and the scientific method.

Parts I and II have established Newton’s theory of motion, the foundation of modern science. Most of the applications will be developed in other science and engineering courses, but we’re now in a good position to examine a few of the more practical aspects of Newtonian mechanics.

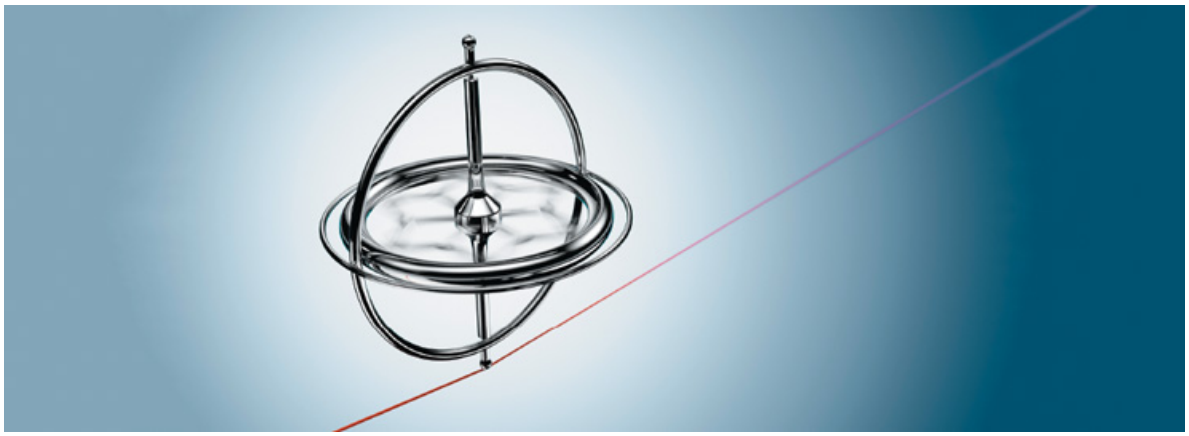
Our goal for Part III is to apply our newfound theory to three important topics:

- **Rotation.** Rotation is a very important form of motion, but to understand rotational motion we’ll need to introduce a new model—the *rigid-body model*. We’ll then be able to study rolling wheels and spinning space stations. Rotation will also lead to the law of conservation of angular momentum.

- **Gravity.** By adding one more law, Newton's law of gravity, we'll be able to understand much about the physics of the space station, communication satellites, the solar system, and interplanetary travel.
- **Fluids.** Liquids and gases *flow*. Surprisingly, it takes no new physics to understand the basic mechanical properties of fluids. By applying our understanding of force, we'll be able to understand what pressure is, how a steel ship can float, and how fluids flow through pipes.

Newton's laws of motion and the conservation laws, especially conservation of energy, will be the tools that allow us to analyze and understand a variety of interesting and practical applications.

# Chapter 12
# Rotation of a Rigid Body



Not all motion can be described as that of a particle. Rotation requires the idea of an extended object.

**In This Chapter**

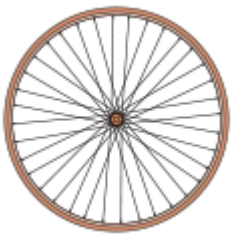
you will learn to understand and apply the physics of rotation.

## What is a rigid body?

An object whose size and shape don't change as it moves is called a rigid body. A rigid body is characterized by its moment of inertia *I*, which is the rotational equivalent of mass. We'll consider

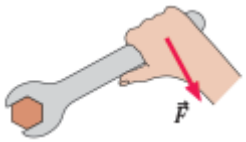
- Rotation about an axle.
- Rolling without slipping.

Looking Back Section 6.1 Equilibrium



## What is torque?

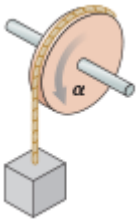
Torque is the tendency or ability of a force to rotate an object about a pivot point. You'll learn that torque depends on both the force *and* where the force is applied. A longer wrench provides a larger torque.




## What does torque do?

Torque is to rotation what force is to linear motion. Torque $\tau$ causes an object to have angular acceleration. Newton's second law for rotation is $\alpha = \tau / I$. Much of rotational dynamics will look familiar because it is analogous to linear dynamics.

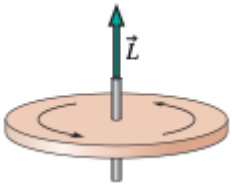
Looking Back Section 6.2 Newton's second law




## What is angular momentum?

Angular momentum is to rotation what momentum is to linear motion. Angular momentum is an object's tendency to "keep rotating." Angular momentum $\vec{L}$ is a *vector* pointing along the

rotation axis. You'll use angular momentum to understand the precession of a spinning top or gyroscope.

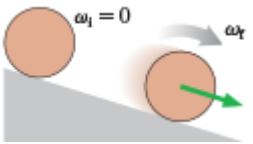



## What is conserved in rotational motion?

The mechanical energy of a rotating object includes its rotational kinetic energy $\frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$. This is analogous to linear kinetic energy.

- Mechanical energy is conserved for frictionless, rotating systems.
- Angular momentum is conserved for isolated systems.

Looking Back Section 10.4 Conservation of energy; Section 11.2 Conservation of momentum




## Why is rigid-body motion important?

The world is full of rotating objects, from windmill turbines to the gyroscopes used in navigation. The wheels on your bicycle or car roll without slipping. Scientists investigate rotating molecules and rotating galaxies. No understanding of motion is complete without understanding rotational motion, and this chapter will develop the tools you need. We'll also expand our understanding of equilibrium by exploring the conditions under which objects *don't* rotate.

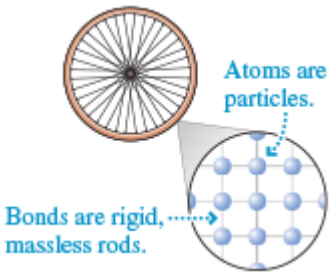
# 12.1 Rotational Motion 

Thus far, our study of motion has focused almost exclusively on the *particle model*, in which an object is represented as a mass at a single point in space. As we expand our study of motion to rotation, we need to consider *extended objects* whose size and shape *do* matter. Thus this chapter will be based on the **rigid-body model:**

MODEL 12.1 **Rigid-body model**

A **rigid body** is an extended object whose size and shape do not change as it moves.

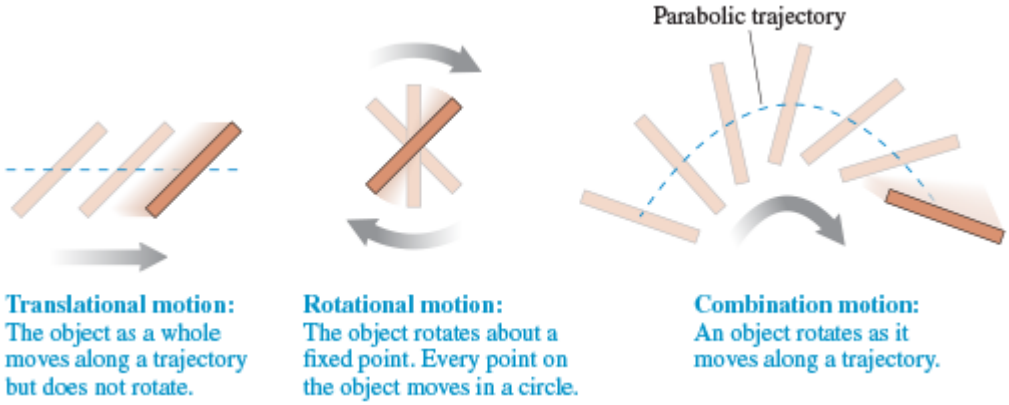
- Particle-like atoms are held together by rigid massless rods.
- A rigid body cannot be stretched, compressed, or deformed. All points on the body have the same angular velocity and angular acceleration.
- Limitations: Model fails if an object changes shape or is deformed.




Workbook Exercise 1

Figure 12.1 illustrates the three basic types of motion of a rigid body: **translational motion, rotational motion,** and **combination motion.**

**Figure 12.1**




Three basic types of motion of a rigid body.

# Brief Review of Rotational Kinematics

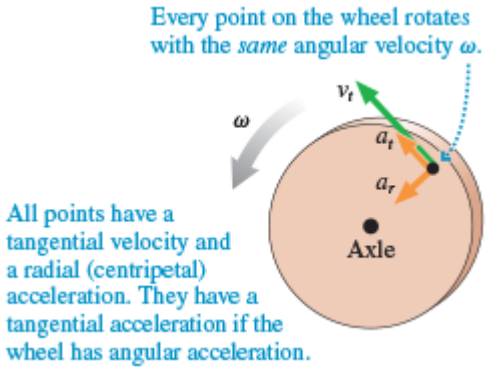
Rotation is an extension of circular motion, so we begin with a brief summary of Chapter 4. **A review of** Sections 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 **is highly recommended.** Figure 12.2 shows a wheel rotating on an axle. Its angular velocity

**(12.1)**

$$\omega = \frac{d\theta}{dt}$$

is the rate at which the wheel rotates. The SI units of $\omega$ are radians per second (rad/s), but revolutions per second (rev/s) and revolutions per minute (rpm) are frequently used. Notice that all points have equal angular velocities, so we can refer to the angular velocity $\omega$ *of the wheel.*

**Figure 12.2**




Rotational motion.

If the wheel is speeding up or slowing down, its angular acceleration is

**(12.2)**

$$\alpha = \frac{d\omega}{dt}$$



The units of angular acceleration are rad/s$^2$. Angular acceleration is the *rate* at which the angular velocity $\omega$ changes, just as the linear acceleration is the rate at which the linear velocity $v$ changes. Table 12.1 summarizes the kinematic equations for rotation with constant angular acceleration.

## Table 12.1

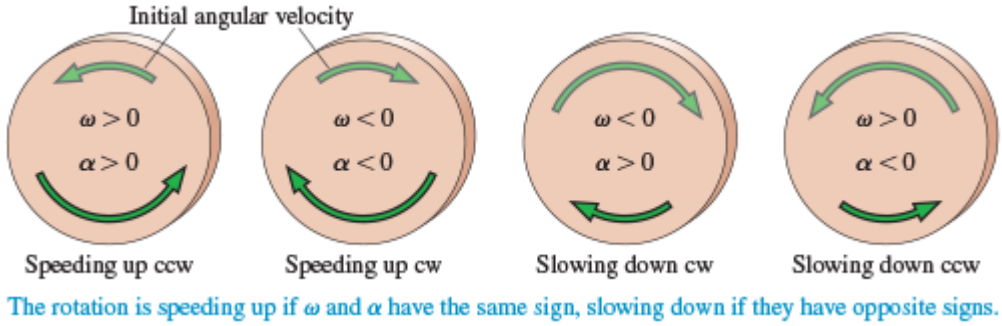
| |
|---|
| $\omega_f = \omega_i + \alpha\,\Delta t$ |
| $\theta_f = \theta_i + \omega_i\,\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\,\alpha(\Delta t)^2$ |
| $\omega_f^2 = \omega_i^2 + 2\alpha\,\Delta\theta$ |

Rotational kinematics for constant angular acceleration

Figure 12.3 reminds you of the sign conventions for angular velocity and acceleration. They will be especially important in the present chapter. Be careful with the sign of $\alpha$. Just as with linear acceleration,

positive and negative values of $\alpha$ can't be interpreted as simply "speeding up" and "slowing down."

## Figure 12.3




The signs of angular velocity and angular acceleration.

A point at distance $r$ from the rotation axis has instantaneous velocity and acceleration, shown in Figure 12.2, given by

**(12.3)**

$$v_r = 0 \qquad a_r = \frac{v_t^2}{r} = \omega^2 r$$
$$v_t = r\omega \qquad a_t = r\alpha$$

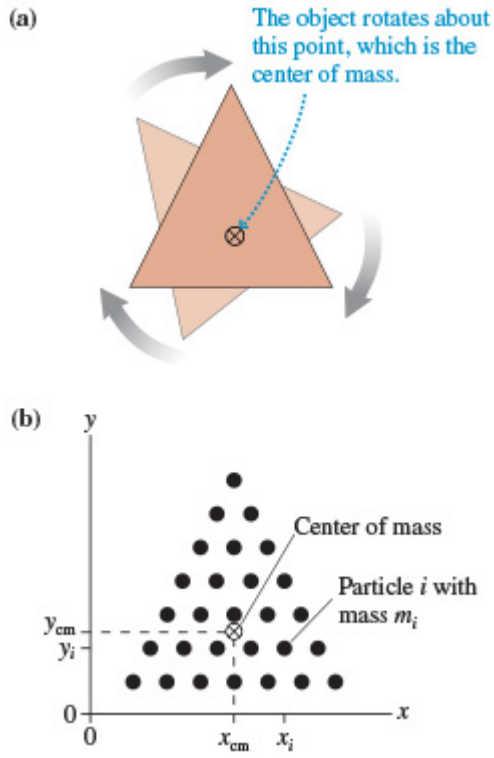
The sign convention for $\omega$ implies that $v_t$ and $a_t$ are positive if they point in the counterclockwise (ccw) direction, negative if they point in the clockwise (cw) direction.

# 12.2 Rotation About the Center of Mass



Imagine yourself floating in a space capsule deep in space. Suppose you take an object like that shown in Figure 12.4a and spin it so that it simply rotates but has no translational motion as it floats beside you. *About what point does it rotate?* That is the question we need to answer.

**Figure 12.4**




Rotation about the center of mass.

An unconstrained object (i.e., one not on an axle or a pivot) on which there is no net force rotates about a point called the **center of mass.** The center of mass remains motionless while every other point in the object undergoes circular motion around it. You need not go deep into space to

demonstrate rotation about the center of mass. If you have an air table, a flat object rotating on the air table rotates about its center of mass.

To locate the center of mass, Figure 12.4b models the object as a set of particles numbered $i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$. Particle $i$ has mass $m_i$ and is located at position $(x_i, y_i)$. We'll prove later in this section that the center of mass is located at position

---

**(12.4)**

$$\begin{aligned} x_{\text{cm}} &= \frac{1}{M}\sum_i m_i x_i = \frac{m_1x_1 + m_2x_2 + m_3x_3 + \cdots}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 + \cdots} \\ y_{\text{cm}} &= \frac{1}{M}\sum_i m_i y_i = \frac{m_1y_1 + m_2y_2 + m_3y_3 + \cdots}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 + \cdots} \end{aligned}$$

where $M = m_1 + m_2 + m_3 + \cdots$ is the object's total mass.

Let's see if Equations 12.4 make sense. Suppose you have an object consisting of $N$ particles, all with the same mass $m$. That is, $m_1 = m_2 = \cdots = m_N = m$. We can factor the $m$ out of the numerator, and the denominator becomes simply $Nm$. The $m$ cancels, and the $x$-coordinate of the center of mass is

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_N}{N} = x_{\text{average}}$$

In this case, $x_{\text{cm}}$ is simply the *average* $x$-coordinate of all the particles. Likewise, $y_{\text{cm}}$ will be the average of all the $y$-coordinates.

This *does* make sense! If the particle masses are all the same, the center of mass should be at the center of the object. And the "center of the object"

is the average position of all the particles. To allow for *unequal* masses, Equations 12.4 are called *weighted averages*. Particles of higher mass count more than particles of lower mass, but the basic idea remains the same. **The center of mass is the mass-weighted center of the object.**

### Example 12.1 The center of mass of a barbell

A barbell consists of a 500 g ball and a 2.0 kg ball connected by a massless 50-cm-long rod.

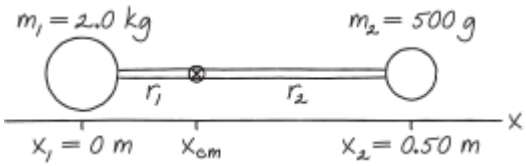
**a.** Where is the center of mass?

**b.** What is the speed of each ball if they rotate about the center of mass at 40 rpm?

**MODEL** Model the barbell as a rigid body.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.5 shows the two masses. We've chosen a coordinate system in which the masses are on the $x$-axis with the 2.0 kg mass at the origin.

**Figure 12.5**




Finding the center of mass.

**SOLVE**

**a.** We can use Equations 12.4 to calculate that the center of mass is

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_2 x_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$
$$= \frac{(2.0\ \text{kg})(0.0\ \text{m}) + (0.50\ \text{kg})(0.50\ \text{m})}{2.0\ \text{kg} + 0.50\ \text{kg}} = 0.10\ \text{m}$$

$y_{\text{cm}} = 0$ because all the masses are on the $x$-axis. The center of mass is 20% of the way from the 2.0 kg ball to the 0.50 kg ball.

**b.** Each ball rotates about the center of mass. The radii of the circles are $r_1 = 0.10$ m and $r_2 = 0.40$ m. The tangential velocities are $(v_i)_t = r_i\omega$, but this equation requires $\omega$ to be in rad/s. The conversion is

$$\omega = 40\ \frac{\text{rev}}{\text{min}} \times \frac{1\ \text{min}}{60\ \text{s}} \times \frac{2\pi\ \text{rad}}{1\ \text{rev}} = 4.19\ \text{rad/s}$$

Consequently,

$$(v_1)t = r_1\omega = (1.10\,\text{m})(4.19\,\text{rad/s}) = 0.42\,\text{m/s}$$
$$(v_2)t = r_2\omega = (0.40\,\text{m})(4.19\,\text{rad/s}) = 1.68\,\text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** The center of mass is closer to the heavier ball than to the lighter ball. We expected this because $x_{\text{cm}}$ is a mass-weighted average of the positions. But the lighter mass moves faster because it is farther from the rotation axis.

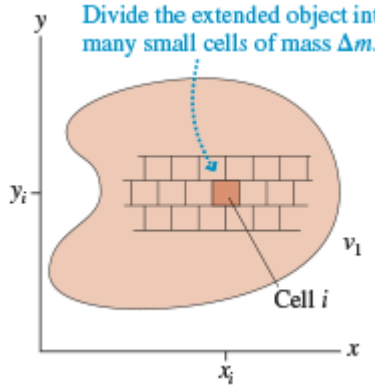
## Finding the Center of Mass by Integration

For any realistic object, carrying out the summations of Equations 12.4 over all the atoms in the object is not practical. Instead, as Figure 12.6 shows, we can divide an extended object into many small cells or boxes, each with the same very small mass $\Delta m$. We will number the cells 1, 2, 3,

…, just as we did the particles. Cell $i$ has coordinates $(x_i, y_i)$ and mass $m_i = \Delta m$. The center-of-mass coordinates are then

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M}\sum_i x_i\,\Delta m \quad \text{and} \quad y_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M}\sum_i y_i\,\Delta m$$

**Figure 12.6**




Calculating the center of mass of an extended object.

Now, as you might expect, we'll let the cells become smaller and smaller, with the total number increasing. As each cell becomes infinitesimally small, we can replace $\Delta m$ with $dm$ and the sum by an integral. Then

**(12.5)**

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M}\int x\,dm \quad \text{and} \quad y_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M}\int y\,dm$$

Equations 12.5 are a formal definition of the center of mass, but they are *not* ready to integrate in this form. First, integrals are carried out over *coordinates*, not over masses. Before we can integrate, we must replace $dm$ by an equivalent expression involving a coordinate differential such

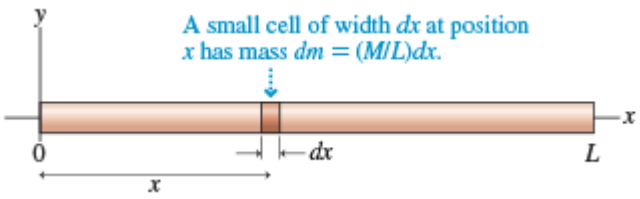
as $dx$ or $dy$. Second, no limits of integration have been specified. The procedure for using Equations 12.5 is best shown with an example.

### Example 12.2 The center of mass of a rod

Find the center of mass of a thin, uniform rod of length $L$ and mass $M$. Use this result to find the tangential acceleration of one tip of a 1.60-m-long rod that rotates about its center of mass with an angular acceleration of 6.0 rad/s$^2$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.7 shows the rod. We've chosen a coordinate system such that the rod lies along the $x$-axis from 0 to $L$. Because the rod is "thin," we'll assume that $y_{cm} = 0$.

**Figure 12.7**




Finding the center of mass of a long, thin rod.

**SOLVE** Our first task is to find $x_{cm}$, which lies somewhere on the $x$-axis. To do this, we divide the rod into many small cells of mass $dm$. One such cell, at position $x$, is shown. The cell's width is $dx$. Because the rod is *uniform*, the mass of this little cell is the *same fraction* of the total mass $M$ that $dx$ is of the total length $L$. That is,

$$\frac{dm}{M} = \frac{dx}{L}$$

Consequently, we can express $dm$ in terms of the coordinate differential $dx$ as

$$dm = \frac{M}{L}dx$$

> **Note**
>
> The change of variables from $dm$ to the differential of a coordinate is *the* key step in calculating the center of mass.

With this expression for $dm$, Equation 12.5 for $x_{\text{cm}}$ becomes

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M}\left(\frac{M}{L}\int x\,dx\right) = \frac{1}{L}\int_0^L x\,dx$$

where in the last step we've noted that summing "all the mass in the rod" means integrating from $x = 0$ to $x = L$. This is a straightforward integral to carry out, giving

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{L}\left[\frac{x^2}{2}\right]_0^L = \frac{1}{L}\left[\frac{L^2}{2} - 0\right] = \tfrac{1}{2}L$$

The center of mass is at the center of the rod, as you probably guessed. For a 1.60-m-long rod, each tip of the rod rotates in a circle with $r = \frac{1}{2}L = 0.80\text{ m}$. The tangential acceleration, the rate at which the tip is speeding up, is

$$a_t = r\alpha = (0.80\text{ m})(6.0\,\text{rad/s}^2) = 4.8\text{ m/s}^2$$



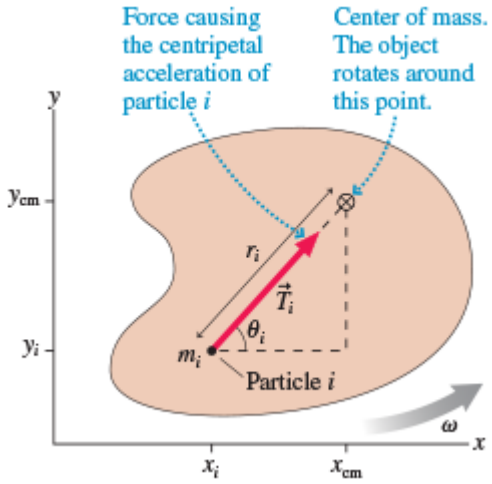
> **Note**
>
> For any symmetrical object of uniform density, the center of mass is at the physical center of the object.

To see where the center-of-mass equations come from, Figure 12.8 shows an object rotating about its center of mass. Particle $i$ is moving in a circle, so it *must* have a centripetal acceleration. Acceleration requires a force, and this force is due to tension in the molecular bonds that hold the object together. Force $\vec{T}_i$ on particle $i$ has magnitude

**(12.6)**

$$T_i = m_i(a_i)_r = m_i r_i \omega^2$$

## Figure 12.8




Finding the center of mass.

where we used Equation 12.3 for $a_r$. All points in a rigid rotating object have the *same* angular velocity, so $\omega$ doesn't need a subscript.

At every instant of time, the internal tension forces are all paired as action/reaction forces, equal in magnitude but opposite in direction, so the sum of all the tension forces must be zero. That is, $\sum \vec{T}_i = \vec{0}$. The $x$-component of this sum is

**(12.7)**

$$\sum_i (T_i)_x = \sum_i T_i \cos\theta_i = \sum_i \left(m_i r_i \omega^2\right) \cos\theta_i = 0$$

You can see from Figure 12.8 that $\cos\theta_i = (x_{\text{cm}} - x_i)/r_i$. Thus

**(12.8)**

$$\sum_i (T_i)_x = \sum_i \left(m_i r_i \omega^2\right) \frac{x_{\text{cm}} - x_i}{r_i} = \left(\sum_i m_i x_{\text{cm}} - \sum_i m_i x_i\right) \omega^2 = 0$$

This equation will be true if the term in parentheses is zero. $x_{\text{cm}}$ is a constant, so we can bring it outside the summation to write

**(12.9)**

$$\sum_i m_i x_{\text{cm}} - \sum_i m_i x_i = \left(\sum_i m_i\right) x_{\text{cm}} - \sum_i m_i x_i = M x_{\text{cm}} - \sum_i m_i x_i = 0$$

where we used the fact that $\sum m_i$ is simply the object's total mass $M$. Solving for $x_{\text{cm}}$, we find the $x$-coordinate of the object's center of mass to be

**(12.10)**

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_i m_i x_i = \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_2 x_2 + m_3 x_3 + \cdots}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 + \cdots}$$

This was Equation 12.4. The $y$-equation is found similarly.

## Stop to Think 12.1

A baseball bat is cut into two pieces at its center of mass. Which end is heavier?

**a.** The handle end (left end).

**b.** The hitting end (right end).

**c.** The two ends weigh the same.

# 12.3 Rotational Energy



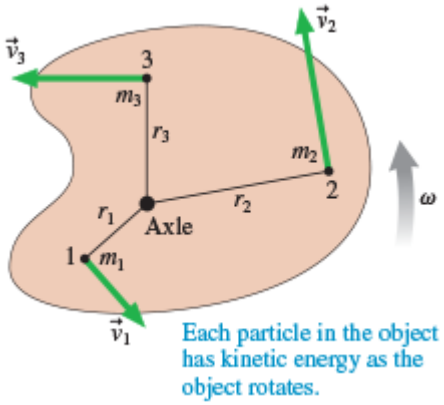
A rotating rigid body—whether it's rotating freely about its center of mass or constrained to rotate on an axle—has kinetic energy because all atoms in the object are in motion. The kinetic energy due to rotation is called **rotational kinetic energy.**

Figure 12.9 shows a few of the particles making up a solid object that rotates with angular velocity $\omega$. Particle $i$, which rotates in a circle of radius $r_i$, moves with speed $v_i = r_i\omega$. The object's rotational kinetic energy is the sum of the kinetic energies of each of the particles:

**(12.11)**

$$\begin{aligned} K_{\text{rot}} &= \tfrac{1}{2}m_1{v_1}^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}m_2{v_2}^2 + \cdots \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}m_1{r_1}^2\omega^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}m_2{r_2}^2\omega^2 + \cdots = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(\sum_i m_i r_i^2\right)\omega^2 \end{aligned}$$

**Figure 12.9**




Rotational kinetic energy is due to the motion of the particles.

The quantity $\sum m_i r_i^2$ is called the object's **moment of inertia *I***:

(12.12)

$$I = m_1 {r_1}^2 + m_2 {r_2}^2 + m_3 {r_3}^2 + \cdots = \sum_i m_i r_i^2$$

The units of moment of inertia are kg m$^2$. **An object's moment of inertia depends on the axis of rotation.** Once the axis is specified, allowing the values of $r_i$ to be determined, the moment of inertia *about that axis* can be calculated from Equation 12.12.

Written using the moment of inertia $I$, the rotational kinetic energy is

(12.13)

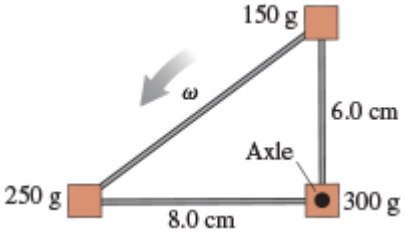
$$K_{\text{rot}} = \tfrac{1}{2} I \omega^2$$

> **Note**
>
> Rotational kinetic energy is *not* a new form of energy. It is the familiar kinetic energy of motion, simply expressed in a form that is convenient for rotational motion. Notice the analogy with the familiar $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$.

**Example 12.3 A rotating widget**

Students participating in an engineering project design the triangular widget seen in Figure 12.10. The three masses, held together by lightweight plastic rods, rotate in the plane of the page about an axle passing through the right-angle corner. At what angular velocity does the widget have 100 mJ of rotational energy?

**Figure 12.10**




The rotating widget.

**MODEL** Model the widget as a rigid body consisting of three particles connected by massless rods.

**SOLVE** Rotational energy is $K = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$. The moment of inertia is measured about the rotation axis, thus

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \sum_i m_i r_i^2 = (0.25\,\text{kg})\,(0.080\,\text{m})^2 + (0.15\,\text{kg})\,(0.060\,\text{m})^2 \\ &\qquad + (0.30\,\text{kg})\,(0\,\text{m})^2 \\ &= 2.14 \times 10^{-3}\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

The largest mass makes no contribution to $I$ because it is on the rotation axis with $r = 0$. With $I$ known, the angular velocity is

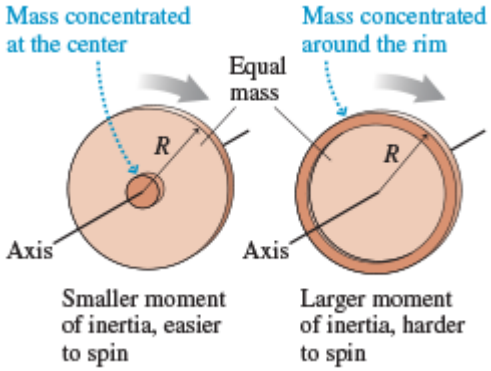
$$\begin{aligned} \omega &= \sqrt{\frac{2K}{I}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\,(0.10\,\text{J})}{2.14 \times 10^{-3}\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^2}} \\ &= 9.67\,\text{rad/s} \times \frac{1\,\text{rev}}{2\pi\,\text{rad}} = 1.54\,\text{rev/s} = 92\,\text{rpm} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The moment of inertia depends on the distance of each mass from the rotation axis. The moment of inertia would be different for an axle passing through either of the other two masses, and thus the required angular velocity would be different.

Before rushing to calculate moments of inertia, let's get a better understanding of the meaning. First, notice that **moment of inertia is the rotational equivalent of mass.** It plays the same role in Equation 12.13 as mass $m$ in the now-familiar $K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$. Recall that the quantity we call *mass* was actually defined as the *inertial mass*. Objects with larger mass have a larger *inertia*, meaning that they're harder to accelerate. Similarly, an object with a larger moment of inertia is harder to rotate. The fact that *moment of inertia* retains the word "inertia" reminds us of this.

Consider the two wheels shown in Figure 12.11. They have the same total mass $M$ and the same radius $R$. As you probably know from experience, it's much easier to spin the wheel whose mass is concentrated at the center than to spin the one whose mass is concentrated around the rim. This is because having the mass near the center (smaller values of $r_i$) lowers the moment of inertia.

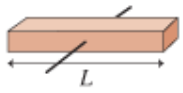
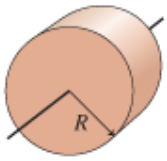
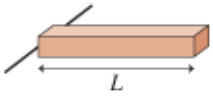
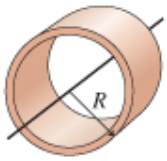
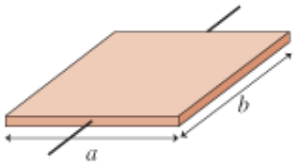
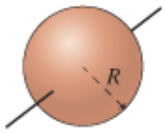
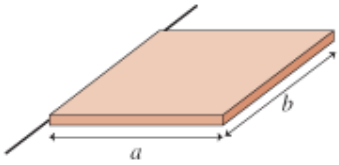
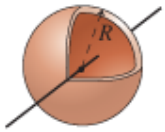
## Figure 12.11




Moment of inertia depends on both the mass and how the mass is distributed.

Moments of inertia for many solid objects are tabulated and found online. You would need to compute $I$ yourself only for an object of unusual shape. Table 12.2 is a short list of common moments of inertia. We'll see in the next section where these come from, but do notice how $I$ depends on the rotation axis.

## Table 12.2

| Object and axis | Picture | $I$ | Object and axis | Picture | $I$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thin rod, about center |   | $\frac{1}{12}ML^2$ | Cylinder or disk, about center |   | $\frac{1}{2}MR^2$ |
| Thin rod, about end |   | $\frac{1}{3}ML^2$ | Cylindrical hoop, about center |   | $MR^2$ |
| Plane or slab, about center |   | $\frac{1}{12}Ma^2$ | Solid sphere, about diameter |   | $\frac{2}{5}MR^2$ |
| Plane or slab, about edge |   | $\frac{1}{3}Ma^2$ | Spherical shell, about diameter |   | $\frac{2}{3}MR^2$ |

Moments of inertia of objects with uniform density

If the rotation axis is not through the center of mass, then rotation may cause the center of mass to move up or down. In that case, the object's gravitational potential energy $U_{\mathrm{G}} = Mgy_{\mathrm{cm}}$ will change. If there are no dissipative forces (i.e., if the axle is frictionless) and if no work is done by external forces, then the mechanical energy

(12.14)



$$E_{\mathrm{mech}} = K_{\mathrm{rot}} + U_{\mathrm{G}} = \tfrac{1}{2}I\omega^2 + Mgy_{\mathrm{cm}}$$

is a conserved quantity.

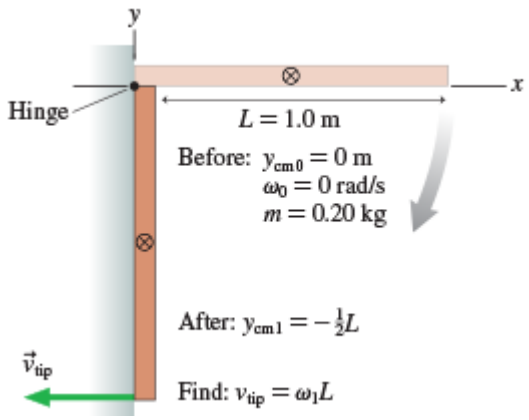
### Example 12.4 The speed of a rotating rod

A 1.0-m-long, 200 g rod is hinged at one end and connected to a wall. It is held out horizontally, then released. What is the speed of the tip of the rod as it hits the wall?

**MODEL** The mechanical energy is conserved if we assume the hinge is frictionless. The rod's gravitational potential energy is transformed into rotational kinetic energy as it "falls."

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.12 is a familiar before-and-after pictorial representation of the rod.

**Figure 12.12**




A before-and-after pictorial representation of the rod.

**SOLVE** Mechanical energy is conserved, so we can equate the rod's final mechanical energy to its initial mechanical energy:

$$\tfrac{1}{2}I{\omega_1}^2 + Mgy_{\text{cm1}} = \tfrac{1}{2}I{\omega_0}^2 + Mgy_{\text{cm0}}$$

The initial conditions are $\omega_0 = 0$ and $y_{\text{cm0}} = 0$. The center of mass moves to $y_{\text{cm1}} = -\frac{1}{2}L$ as the rod hits the wall. From Table 12.2

we find $I = \frac{1}{3}ML^2$ for a rod rotating about one end. Thus

$$\tfrac{1}{2}I{\omega_1}^2 + Mgy_{\text{cm1}} = \tfrac{1}{6}ML^2{\omega_1}^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}MgL = 0$$

We can solve this for the rod's angular velocity as it hits the wall:

$$\omega_1 = \sqrt{\frac{3g}{L}}$$

The tip of the rod is moving in a circle with radius $r = L$. Its final speed is

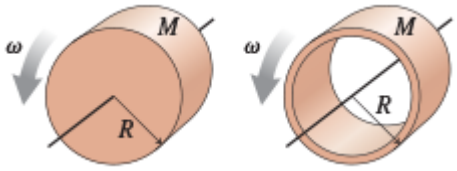
$$v_{\text{tip}} = \omega_1 L = \sqrt{3gL} = 5.4 \text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** $5.4 \text{ m/s} = 12$ mph, which seems plausible for a meter-long rod swinging through 90°.

## Stop to Think 12.2

A solid cylinder and a cylindrical shell, each with radius *R* and mass *M*, rotate about their axes with the same angular velocity $\omega$. Which has more kinetic energy?

**a.** The solid cylinder.
**b.** The cylindrical shell.
**c.** They have the same kinetic energy.
**d.** Neither has kinetic energy because they are only rotating, not moving.



# 12.4 Calculating Moment of Inertia

The equation for rotational energy is easy to write, but we can't make use of it without knowing an object's moment of inertia. Unlike mass, we can't measure moment of inertia by putting an object on a scale. And while we can guess that the center of mass of a symmetrical object is at the physical center of the object, we can *not* guess the moment of inertia of even a simple object. To find $I$, we really must carry through the calculation.

Equation 12.12 defines the moment of inertia as a sum over all the particles in the system. As we did for the center of mass, we can replace the individual particles with cells 1, 2, 3, … of mass $\Delta m$. Then the moment of inertia summation can be converted to an integration:

**(12.15)**

$$I = \sum_i r_i^2 \, \Delta m \xrightarrow[\Delta m \to 0]{} I = \int r^2 \, dm$$

where $r$ is the distance from the rotation axis. If we let the rotation axis be the $z$-axis, then we can write the moment of inertia as

**(12.16)**

$$I = \int \left(x^2 + y^2\right) \, dm \qquad \text{(rotation about the } z\text{-axis)}$$

> **Note**
>
> You *must* replace *dm* by an equivalent expression involving a

coordinate differential such as *dx* or *dy* before you can carry out the integration.

You can use any coordinate system to calculate the coordinates $x_{cm}$ and $y_{cm}$ of the center of mass. But the moment of inertia is defined for rotation about a particular axis, and $r$ is measured from that axis. Thus the coordinate system used for moment-of-inertia calculations *must* have its origin at the pivot point.

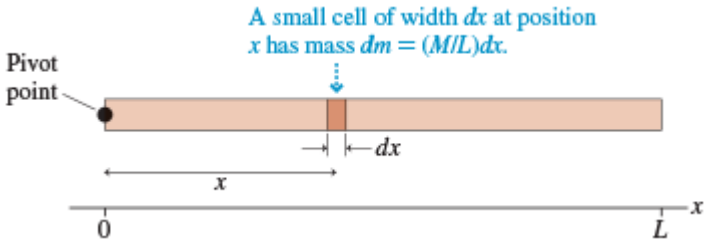
**Example 12.5 Moment of inertia of a rod about a pivot at one end**

Find the moment of inertia of a thin, uniform rod of length $L$ and mass $M$ that rotates about a pivot at one end.

**MODEL** An object's moment of inertia depends on the axis of rotation. In this case, the rotation axis is at the end of the rod.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.13 defines an $x$-axis with the origin at the pivot point.

**Figure 12.13**




Setting up the integral to find the moment of inertia of a rod.

**SOLVE** Because the rod is thin, we can assume that $y \approx 0$ for all points on the rod. Thus

$$I = \int x^2 \, dm$$

The small amount of mass $dm$ in the small length $dx$ is $dm = (M/L) \, dx$, as we found in Example 12.2. The rod extends from $x = 0$ to $x = L$, so the moment of inertia about one end is

$$I_{\text{end}} = \frac{M}{L} \int_0^L x^2 \, dx = \frac{M}{L} \left[ \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^L = \tfrac{1}{3} ML^2$$

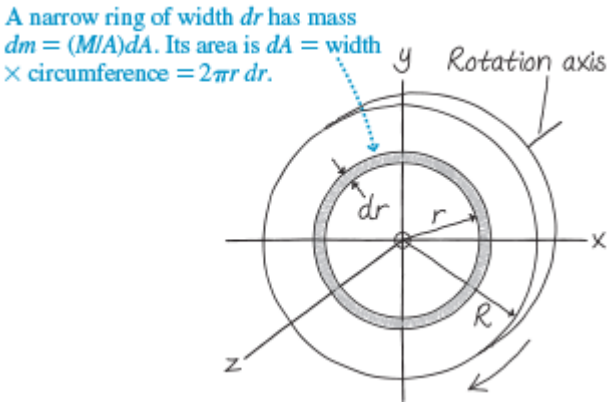
**ASSESS** The moment of inertia involves a product of the total mass $M$ with the *square* of a length, in this case $L$. All moments of inertia have a similar form, although the fraction in front will vary. This is the result shown earlier in Table 12.2.

**Example 12.6 Moment of inertia of a circular disk about an axis through the center**

Find the moment of inertia of a circular disk of radius $R$ and mass $M$ that rotates on an axis passing through its center.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.14 shows the disk and defines distance $r$ from the axis.

**Figure 12.14**




Setting up the integral to find the moment of inertia of a disk.

---

**SOLVE** This is a situation of great practical importance. To solve this problem, we need to use a two-dimensional integration scheme that you learned in calculus. Rather than dividing the disk into little boxes, let's divide it into narrow *rings* of mass $dm$. Figure 12.14 shows one such ring, of radius $r$ and width $dr$. Let $dA$ represent the area of this ring. The mass $dm$ in this ring is the same fraction of the total mass $M$ as $dA$ is of the total area $A$. That is,

$$\frac{dm}{M} = \frac{dA}{A}$$

Thus the mass in the small area $dA$ is

$$dm = \frac{M}{A}dA$$

This is the reasoning we used to find the center of mass of the rod in Example 12.2, only now we're using it in two dimensions.



The total area of the disk is $A = \pi R^2$, but what is $dA$? If we imagine unrolling the little ring, it would form a long, thin rectangle of length $2\pi r$ and height $dr$. Thus the *area* of this little ring is $dA = 2\pi r\, dr$. With this information we can write

$$dm = \frac{M}{\pi R^2}(2\pi r\, dr) = \frac{2M}{R^2} r\, dr$$

Now we have an expression for $dm$ in terms of a coordinate differential $dr$, so we can proceed to carry out the integration for $I$. Using Equation 12.15, we find

$$I_{\text{disk}} = \int r^2\, dm = \int r^2 \left(\frac{2M}{R^2} r\, dr\right) = \frac{2M}{R^2} \int_0^R r^3\, dr$$

where in the last step we have used the fact that the disk extends from $r = 0$ to $r = R$. Performing the integration gives

$$I_{\text{disk}} = \frac{2M}{R^2}\left[\frac{r^4}{4}\right]_0^R = \tfrac{1}{2} M R^2$$

**ASSESS** Once again, the moment of inertia involves a product of the total mass $M$ with the *square* of a length, in this case $R$.

If a complex object can be divided into simpler pieces 1, 2, 3,… whose moments of inertia $I_1$, $I_2$, $I_3$ … are already known, the moment of inertia of the entire object is

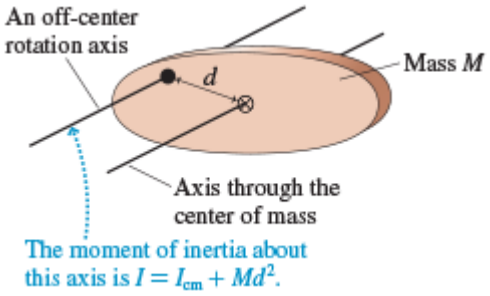
**(12.17)**

$$I_{\text{object}} = I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + \cdots$$

## The Parallel-Axis Theorem

The moment of inertia depends on the rotation axis. Suppose you need to know the moment of inertia for rotation about the off-center axis in Figure 12.15. You can find this quite easily if you know the moment of inertia for rotation around a *parallel axis* through the center of mass.

**Figure 12.15**




An off-center axis.

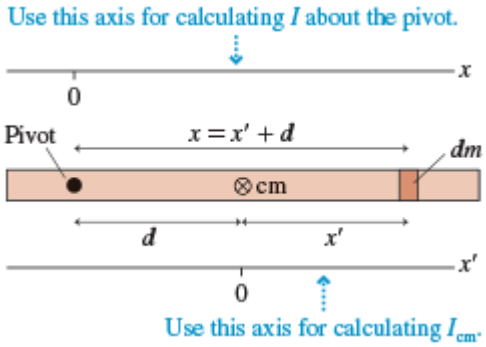
If the axis of interest is distance $d$ from a parallel axis through the center of mass, the moment of inertia is

**(12.18)**

$$I = I_{\text{cm}} + Md^2$$

Equation 12.18 is called the **parallel-axis theorem.** We'll give a proof for the one-dimensional object shown in Figure 12.16.

## Figure 12.16




Proving the parallel-axis theorem.

The $x$-axis has its origin at the rotation axis, and the $x'$-axis has its origin at the center of mass. You can see that the coordinates of $dm$ along these two axes are related by $x = x' + d$. By definition, the moment of inertia about the rotation axis is

$$I = \int x^2\, dm = \int (x' + d)^2\, dm = \int (x')^2\, dm + 2d \int x'\, dm + d^2 \int dm \tag{12.19}$$

The first of the three integrals on the right, by definition, is the moment of inertia $I_{\text{cm}}$ about the center of mass. The third is simply $Md^2$ because adding up (integrating) all the $dm$ gives the total mass $M$.

If you refer back to Equations 12.5, the definition of the center of mass, you'll see that the middle integral on the right is equal to $Mx'_{\text{cm}}$. But $x'_{\text{cm}} = 0$ because we specifically chose the $x'$-axis to have its origin at the center of mass. Thus the second integral is zero and we end up with Equation 12.18. The proof in two dimensions is similar.

**Example 12.7 The moment of inertia of a thin rod**

Find the moment of inertia of a thin rod with mass $M$ and length $L$ about an axis one-third of the length from one end.

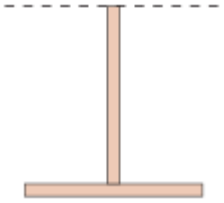
**SOLVE** From Table 12.2 we know the moment of inertia about the center of mass is $\frac{1}{12}ML^2$. The center of mass is at the center of the rod. An axis $\frac{1}{3}L$ from one end is $d = \frac{1}{6}L$ from the center of mass. Using the parallel-axis theorem, we have

$$I = I_{\text{cm}} + Md^2 = \frac{1}{12}ML^2 + M\left(\frac{1}{6}L\right)^2 = \frac{1}{9}ML^2$$

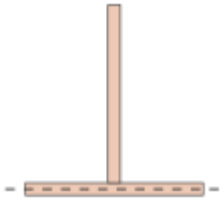
Stop to Think 12.3

Four Ts are made from two identical rods of equal mass and length. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the moments of inertia $I_a$ to $I_d$ for rotation about the dashed line.

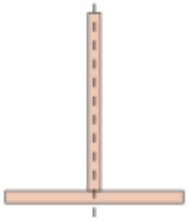
**a.**



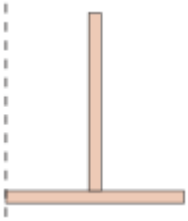
**b.**



**c.**



**d.**

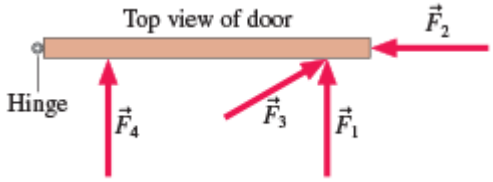


# 12.5 Torque



Consider the common experience of pushing open a door. Figure 12.17 is a top view of a door hinged on the left. Four pushing forces are shown, all of equal strength. Which of these will be most effective at opening the door?

**Figure 12.17**




The four forces have different effects on the swinging door.

Force $\overrightarrow{F}_1$ will open the door, but force $\overrightarrow{F}_2$, which pushes straight at the hinge, will not. Force $\overrightarrow{F}_3$ will open the door, but not as easily as $\overrightarrow{F}_1$. What about $\overrightarrow{F}_4$? It is perpendicular to the door, it has the same magnitude as $\overrightarrow{F}_1$, but you know from experience that pushing close to the hinge is not as effective as pushing at the outer edge of the door.

The ability of a force to cause a rotation depends on three factors:

1. The magnitude $F$ of the force.
2. The distance $r$ from the point of application to the pivot.
3. The angle at which the force is applied.

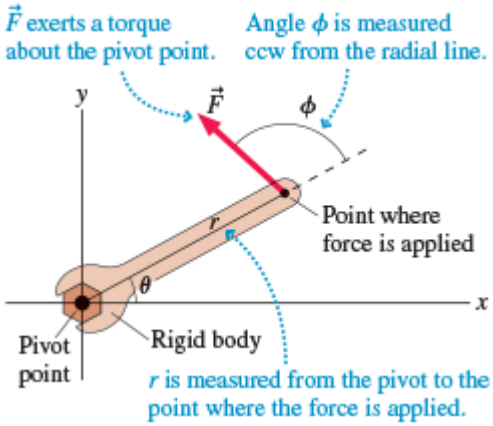
We can incorporate these three factors into a single quantity called the *torque*. Figure 12.18 shows a force $\overrightarrow{F}$ trying to rotate the wrench and

nut about a *pivot point*—the axis about which the nut will rotate. We say that this force exerts a **torque** $\tau$ (Greek tau), which we define as

**(12.20)**

$$\tau \equiv rF \sin \phi$$

## Figure 12.18




Force $\vec{F}$ exerts a torque about the pivot point.

Torque depends on the three properties we just listed: the magnitude of the force, its distance from the pivot, and its angle. Loosely speaking, $\tau$ measures the "effectiveness" of the force at causing an object to rotate about a pivot. **Torque is the rotational equivalent of force.**

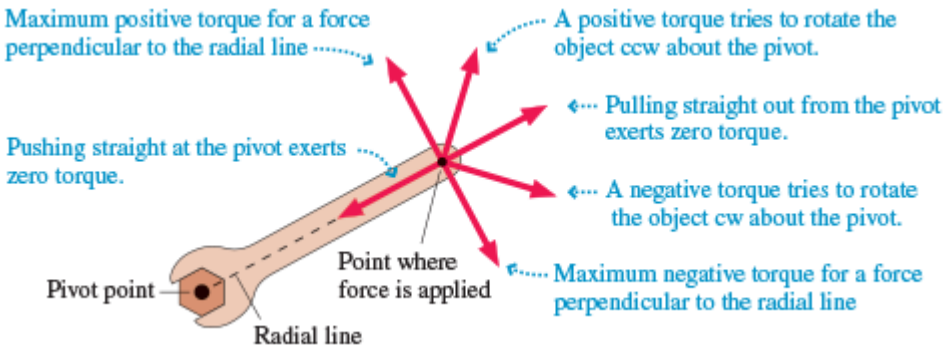
> **Note**
>
> Angle $\phi$ is measured *counterclockwise* from the dashed line that extends outward along the radial line. This is consistent with our sign convention for the angular position $\theta$.

The SI units of torque are newton-meters, abbreviated N m. Although we defined $1\text{N m} = 1\ \text{J}$ during our study of energy, torque is not an energy-

related quantity and so we do *not* use joules as a measure of torque.

Torque, like force, has a sign. A torque that tries to rotate the object in a ccw direction is positive while a negative torque gives a cw rotation. Figure 12.19 summarizes the signs. Notice that a force pushing straight toward the pivot or pulling straight out from the pivot exerts *no* torque.

## Figure 12.19




Signs and strengths of the torque.

> **Note**
>
> Torque differs from force in a very important way. Torque is calculated or measured *about a pivot point.* To say that a torque is 20 N m is meaningless. You need to say that the torque is 20 N m about a particular point. Torque can be calculated about any pivot point, but its value depends on the point chosen because this choice determines $r$ and $\phi$.

Your foot exerts a torque that rotates the crank.

Returning to the door of Figure 12.17, you can see that $\vec{F}_1$ is most effective at opening the door because $\vec{F}_1$ exerts the largest torque *about the pivot point.* $\vec{F}_3$ has equal magnitude, but it is applied at an angle less than 90° and thus exerts less torque. $\vec{F}_2$, pushing straight at the hinge with $\phi = 0^\circ$, exerts no torque at all. And $\vec{F}_4$, with a smaller value for $r$, exerts less torque than $\vec{F}_1$.



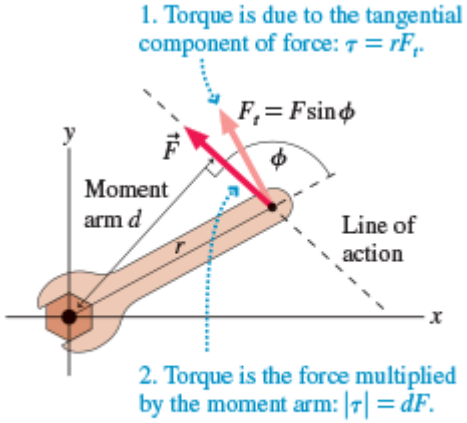
## Interpreting Torque

Torque can be interpreted from two perspectives, as shown in Figure 12.20. First, the quantity $F \sin \phi$ is the tangential force component $F_t$. Consequently, the torque is

**(12.21)**

$$\tau = rF_t$$

**Figure 12.20**




Two useful interpretations of the torque.

In other words, torque is the product of $r$ with the force component $F_t$ that is tangent to the circular path followed by this point on the wrench.

This interpretation makes sense because the radial component of $\vec{F}$ points straight at the pivot point and cannot exert a torque.

A second perspective, widely used in applications, is based on the idea of a *moment arm*. Figure 12.20 shows the **line of action,** the line along which the force acts. The minimum distance between the pivot point and the line of action—the length of a line drawn *perpendicular to the line of action*—is called the **moment arm** (or the *lever arm) d.* Because $\sin(180^\circ - \phi) = \sin\phi$, it is easy to see that $d = r\sin\phi$. Thus the torque $rF\sin\theta$ can also be written

**(12.22)**

$$|\tau| = dF$$

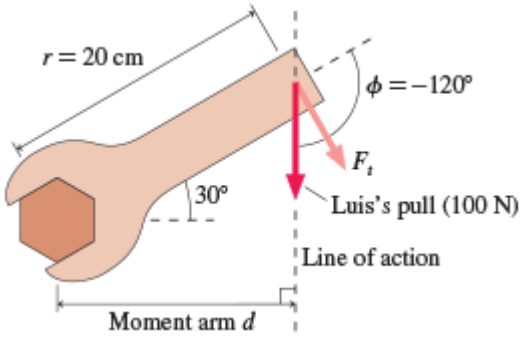
> **Note**
>
> Equation 12.22 gives only $|\tau|$, the magnitude of the torque; the sign has to be supplied by observing the direction in which the torque acts.

**Example 12.8 Applying a torque**

Luis uses a 20-cm-long wrench to turn a nut. The wrench handle is tilted 30° above the horizontal, and Luis pulls straight down on the end with a force of 100 N. How much torque does Luis exert on the nut?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.21 shows the situation. The angle is a negative $\phi = -120^\circ$ because it is *clockwise* from the radial line.

**Figure 12.21**




A wrench being used to turn a nut.

---

**SOLVE** The tangential component of the force is

$$F_t = F \sin \phi = -86.6 \text{ N}$$

According to our sign convention, $F_t$ is negative because it points in a cw direction. The torque, from Equation 12.21, is

$$\tau = rF_t = (0.20\,\text{m})\,(-86.6\,\text{N}) = -17\,\text{N m}$$

Alternatively, Figure 12.21 has drawn the *line of action* by extending the force vector forward and backward. The *moment arm*, the distance between the pivot point and the line of action, is

$$d = r \sin(60^\circ) = 0.17\,\text{m}$$

Inserting the moment arm in Equation 12.22 gives

$$|\tau| = dF = (0.17\,\text{m})\,(100\,\text{N}) = 17\,\text{N m}$$

The torque acts to give a cw rotation, so we insert a minus sign to end up with

$$\tau = -17\,\text{N m}$$

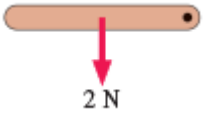
**ASSESS** The largest possible torque, if Luis pulled perpendicular to the 20-cm-long wrench, would have a magnitude of 20 N m. Pulling at an angle will reduce this, so 17 N m is a reasonable answer.

## Stop to Think 12.4

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the five torques $\tau_a$ to $\tau_e$. The rods all have the same length and are pivoted at the dot.

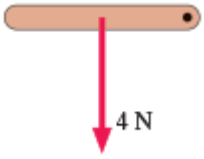
**a.**

**b.**

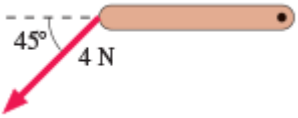



**c.**

**d.**




**e.**



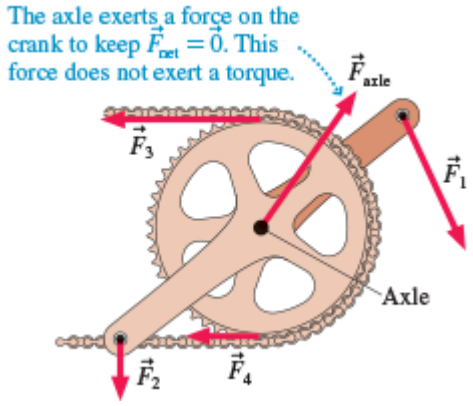



# Net Torque

Figure 12.22 shows the forces acting on the crankset of a bicycle. The crankset is free to rotate about the axle, but the axle prevents it from having any translational motion relative to the bike frame. It does so by

exerting force $\vec{F}_{\text{axle}}$ on the crankset to balance the other forces and keep $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$.

**Figure 12.22**




The forces exert a net torque about the pivot point.

Forces $\vec{F}_1$, $\vec{F}_2$, $\vec{F}_3, \ldots$ exert torques $\tau_1$, $\tau_2$, $\tau_3$,... on the crankset, but $\vec{F}_{\text{axle}}$ does *not* exert a torque because it is applied at the pivot point and has zero moment arm. Thus the *net* torque about the axle is the sum of the torques due to the applied forces:

**(12.23)**

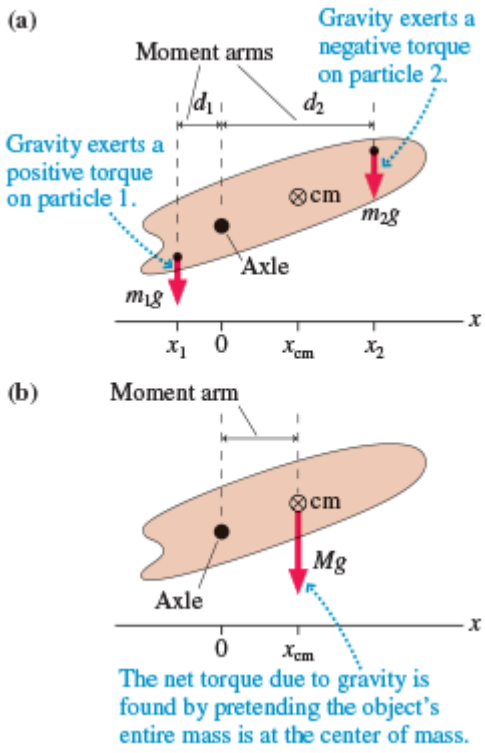
$$\tau_{\text{net}} = \tau_1 + \tau_2 + \tau_3 + \cdots = \sum_i \tau_i$$

# Gravitational Torque

Gravity exerts a torque on many objects. If the object in Figure 12.23 is released, a torque due to gravity will cause it to rotate around the axle. To calculate the torque about the axle, we start with the fact that gravity acts on *every* particle in the object, exerting a downward force of magnitude $F_i = m_i g$ on particle $i$. The *magnitude* of the gravitational

torque on particle $i$ is $|\tau_i| = d_i m_i g$, where $d_i$ is the moment arm. But we need to be careful with signs.

## Figure 12.23




Gravitational torque.

A moment arm must be a positive number because it's a distance. If we establish a coordinate system with the origin at the axle, then you can see from Figure 12.23a that the moment arm $d_i$ of particle $i$ is $|x_i|$. A particle to the right of the axle (positive $x_i$) experiences a *negative* torque because gravity tries to rotate this particle in a clockwise direction. Similarly, a particle to the left of the axle (negative $x_i$) has a positive torque. The torque is opposite in sign to $x_i$, so we can get the sign right by writing

**(12.24)**

$$\tau_i = -x_i m_i g = -(m_i x_i) g$$

The net torque due to gravity is found by summing Equation 12.24 over all particles:

**(12.25)**

$$\tau_{\text{grav}} = \sum_i \tau_i = \sum_i (-m_i x_i g) = -\left(\sum_i m_i x_i\right) g$$

But according to the definition of center of mass, Equations 12.4, $\sum m_i x_i = M x_{\text{cm}}$. Thus the torque due to gravity is

---

**(12.26)**

$$\tau_{\text{grav}} = -Mgx_{\text{cm}}$$

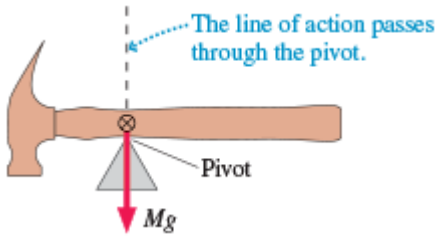
where $x_{\text{cm}}$ is the position of the center of mass *relative to the axis of rotation.*

Equation 12.26 has the simple interpretation shown in Figure 12.23b. $Mg$ is the net gravitational force on the entire object, and $x_{\text{cm}}$ is the moment arm between the rotation axis and the center of mass. The gravitational torque on an extended object of mass $M$ is equivalent to the torque of a *single* force vector $\vec{F}_{\text{G}} = -Mg\hat{j}$ acting at the object's center of mass.

In other words, **the gravitational torque is found by treating the object as if all its mass were concentrated at the center of mass.** This is the basis for the well-known technique of finding an object's center of mass by balancing it. An object will balance on a pivot, as shown in Figure 12.24, only if the center of mass is directly above the pivot point. If the

pivot is *not* under the center of mass, the gravitational torque will cause the object to rotate.

### Figure 12.24



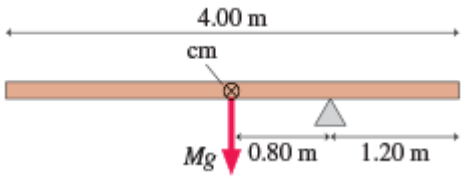

An object balances on a pivot that is directly under the center of mass.

> **Note**
>
> The point at which gravity acts is also called the *center of gravity.* As long as gravity is uniform over the object—always true for earthbound objects—there's no difference between center of mass and center of gravity.

### Example 12.9 The gravitational torque on a beam

The 4.00-m-long, 500 kg steel beam shown in Figure 12.25 is supported 1.20 m from the right end. What is the gravitational torque about the support?

### Figure 12.25




A steel beam supported at one point.

**MODEL** The center of mass of the beam is at the midpoint. $x_{\text{cm}} = -0.80\,\text{m}$ is measured from the pivot point.

**SOLVE** This is a straightforward application of Equation 12.26. The gravitational torque is

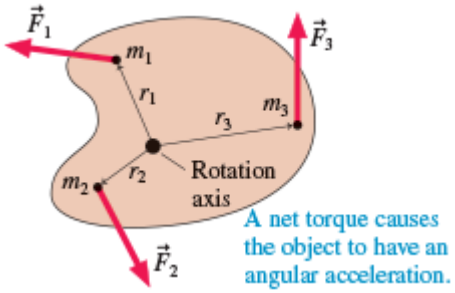
$$\tau_{\text{grav}} = -Mgx_{\text{cm}} = -\left(500\,\text{kg}\right)\left(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2\right)\left(-0.80\,\text{m}\right) = 3920\,\text{N m}$$

**ASSESS** The torque is positive because gravity tries to rotate the beam ccw. Notice that the beam in Figure 12.25 is *not* in equilibrium. It will fall over unless other forces, not shown, are supporting it.

# 12.6 Rotational Dynamics[308]

What does a torque do? **A torque causes an angular acceleration**. To see why, Figure 12.26 shows a rigid body undergoing *pure rotational motion* about a fixed and unmoving axis. This might be a rotation about the object's center of mass, such as we considered in Section 12.2. Or it might be an object, such as a turbine, rotating on an axle.

**Figure 12.26**




The external forces exert a torque about the rotation axis.

The forces $\overrightarrow{F}_1$, $\overrightarrow{F}_2$, $\overrightarrow{F}_3$, ... in Figure 12.26 are external forces acting on particles of masses $m_1$, $m_2$, $m_3$,... that are part of the rigid body. These forces exert torques $\tau_1$, $\tau_2$, $\tau_3$,... about the rotation axis. The *net* torque on the object is the sum of the torques:

**(12.27)**

$$\tau_{\text{net}} = \sum_i \tau_i$$

Focus on particle $i$, which is acted on by force $\overrightarrow{F}_i$ and undergoes circular motion with radius $r_i$. In Chapter 8, we found that the radial component of $\overrightarrow{F}_i$ is responsible for the centripetal acceleration of circular motion,

while the tangential component $(F_i)_t$ causes the particle to speed up or slow down with a tangential acceleration $(a_i)_t$. Newton's second law is

**(12.28)**

$$(F_i)_t = m_i(a_i)_t = m_i r_i \alpha$$

where in the last step we used the relationship between tangential and angular acceleration: $a_t = r\alpha$. The angular acceleration $\alpha$ does not have a subscript because *all particles in the object have the same angular acceleration.* That is, $\alpha$ is the angular acceleration of the entire object.

Multiplying both sides by $r_i$ gives

**(12.29)**

$$r_i(F_i)_t = m_i r_i^2 \alpha$$

But $r_i(F_i)_t$ is the torque $\tau_i$ about the axis on particle $i$; hence Newton's second law for a single particle in the object is

**(12.30)**

$$\tau_i = m_i r_i^2 \alpha$$

Returning now to Equation 12.27, we see that the net torque on the object is

**(12.31)**

$$\tau_{\text{net}} = \sum_i \tau_i = \sum_i m_i r_i^2 \alpha = \left( \sum_i m_i r_i^2 \right) \alpha$$

In the last step, we factored out $\alpha$ by using the key idea that every particle in a rotating rigid body has the *same* angular acceleration.

You'll recognize the quantity in parentheses as the moment of inertia. Substituting $I$ into Equation 12.31 puts the final piece of the puzzle into place. An object that experiences a net torque $\tau_{\text{net}}$ about the axis of rotation undergoes an angular acceleration

**(12.32)**

$$\alpha = \frac{\tau_{\text{net}}}{I} \qquad \text{(Newton's second law for rotational motion)}$$

where $I$ is the object's moment of inertia *about the rotation axis.* This result, Newton's second law for rotation, is the fundamental equation of rigid-body dynamics.

In practice we often write $\tau_{\text{net}} = I\alpha$, but Equation 12.32 better conveys the idea that **torque is the cause of angular acceleration.** In the absence of a net torque ($\tau_{\text{net}} = 0$), the object either does not rotate ($\omega = 0$) or rotates with *constant* angular velocity ($\omega = \text{constant}$).

Table 12.3 summarizes the analogies between linear and rotational dynamics.

## Table 12.3

| Rotational dynamics | | Linear dynamics | |
|---|---|---|---|
| torque (N m) | $\tau_{\text{net}}$ | force (N) | $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ |
| moment of inertia (kg m$^2$) | $I$ | mass (kg) | $m$ |
| angular acceleration (rad/s$^2$) | $\alpha$ | acceleration (m/s$^2$) | $\vec{a}$ |
| second law | $\alpha = \tau_{\text{net}}/I$ | second law | $\vec{a} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}/m$ |

Rotational and linear dynamics

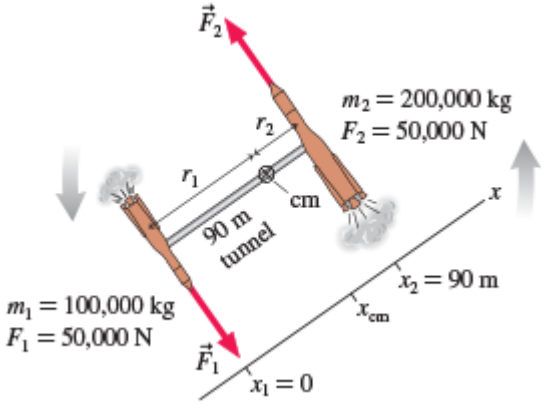
### Example 12.10 Rotating rockets

Far out in space, a 100,000 kg rocket and a 200,000 kg rocket are docked at opposite ends of a motionless 90-m-long connecting tunnel. The tunnel is rigid and its mass is much less than that of either rocket. The rockets start their engines simultaneously, each generating 50,000 N of thrust in opposite directions. What is the structure's angular velocity after 30 s?

**MODEL** The entire structure can be modeled as two masses at the ends of a massless, rigid rod. There's no net force, so the structure does not undergo translational motion, but the thrusts do create torques that will give the structure angular acceleration and cause it to rotate. We'll assume the thrust forces are perpendicular to the connecting tunnel. This is an unconstrained rotation, so the structure will rotate about its center of mass.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.27 shows the rockets and defines distances $r_1$ and $r_2$ from the center of mass.

#### Figure 12.27




The thrusts exert a torque on the structure.

**SOLVE** Our strategy will be to use Newton's second law to find the angular acceleration, followed by rotational kinematics to find $\omega$. We'll need to determine the moment of inertia, and that requires knowing the distances of the two rockets from the rotation axis. As we did in Example 12.1, we choose a coordinate system in which the masses are on the $x$-axis and in which $m_1$ is at the origin. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_{\text{cm}} &= \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_2 x_2}{m_1 + m_2} \\ &= \frac{(100{,}000\,\text{kg})\,(0\,\text{m}) + (200{,}000\,\text{kg})\,(90\,\text{m})}{100{,}000\,\text{kg} \;+\; 200{,}000\,\text{kg}} = 60\,\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

The structure's center of mass is $r_1 = 60\,\text{m}$ from the 100,000 kg rocket and $r_2 = 30\,\text{m}$ from the 200,000 kg rocket. The moment of inertia about the center of mass is

$$I = m_1 {r_1}^2 + m_2 {r_2}^2 = 540{,}000{,}000\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^2$$

The two rocket thrusts exert net torque

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\text{net}} &= r_1 F_1 + r_2 F_2 = (60\,\text{m})\,(50{,}000\,\text{N}) + (30\,\text{m})\,(50{,}000\,\text{N}) \\ &= 4{,}500{,}000\,\text{N}\,\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

With $I$ and $\tau_{\text{net}}$ now known, we can use Newton's second law to find the angular acceleration:

$$\alpha = \frac{\tau}{I} = \frac{4{,}500{,}000\,\text{N}\,\text{m}}{540{,}000{,}000\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^2} = 0.00833\,\text{rad/s}^2$$

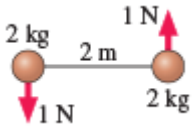
After 30 seconds, the structure's angular velocity is

$$\omega = \alpha\,\Delta t = 0.25\,\text{rad/s}$$

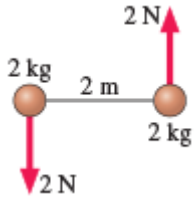
## Stop to Think 12.5

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the angular accelerations $\alpha_a$ to $\alpha_d$.

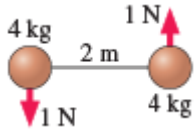
**a.**



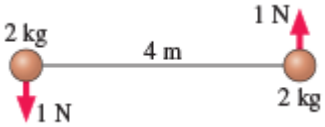

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**



# 12.7 Rotation About a Fixed Axis



In this section we'll look at rigid bodies that rotate about a fixed axis. The problem-solving strategy for rotational dynamics is very similar to that for linear dynamics.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY12.1 Rotational dynamics problems**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the object as a rigid body.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation to clarify the situation, define coordinates and symbols, and list known information.

- Identify the axis about which the object rotates.
- Identify forces and determine their distances from the axis. For most problems it will be useful to draw a free-body diagram.
- Identify any torques caused by the forces and the signs of the torques.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on Newton's second law for rotational motion:

$$\tau_{\text{net}} = I\alpha \qquad \text{or} \qquad \alpha = \frac{\tau_{\text{net}}}{I}$$

- Find the moment of inertia in Table 12.2 or, if needed, calculate it as an integral or by using the parallel-axis theorem.
- Use rotational kinematics to find angles and angular velocities.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 28

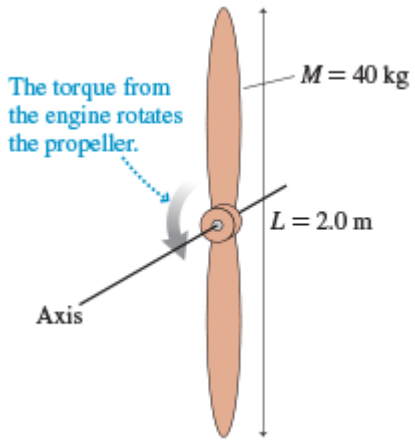
### Example 12.11 Starting an airplane engine

The engine in a small airplane is specified to have a torque of 60 N m. This engine drives a 2.0-m-long, 40 kg propeller. On start-up, how long does it take the propeller to reach 200 rpm?

**MODEL** The propeller can be modeled as a rigid rod that rotates about its center. The engine exerts a torque on the propeller.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.28 shows the propeller and the rotation axis.

**Figure 12.28**




A rotating airplane propeller.

**SOLVE** The moment of inertia of a rod rotating about its center is found from Table 12.2:

$$I = \tfrac{1}{12} ML^2 = \tfrac{1}{12} (40\,\text{kg}) (2.0\,\text{m})^2 = 13.33\,\text{kg m}^2$$

The 60 N m torque of the engine causes an angular acceleration

$$\alpha = \frac{\tau}{I} = \frac{60\,\text{N m}}{13.33\,\text{kg m}^2} = 4.50\,\text{rad/s}^2$$

The time needed to reach $\omega_\text{f} = 200\,\text{rpm} = 3.33\,\text{rev/s} = 20.9\,\text{rad/s}$ is

$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta\omega}{\alpha} = \frac{\omega_\text{f} - \omega_\text{i}}{\alpha} = \frac{20.9\,\text{rad/s} - 0\,\text{rad/s}}{4.5\,\text{rad/s}^2} = 4.6\,\text{s}$$

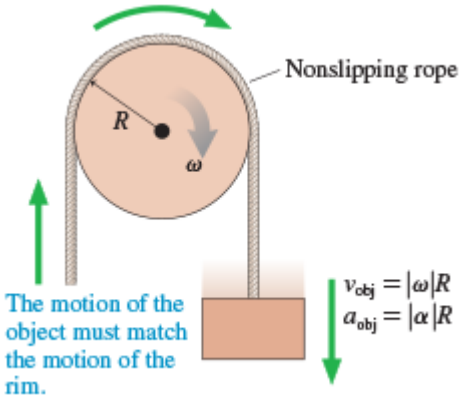
**ASSESS** We've assumed a constant angular acceleration, which is reasonable for the first few seconds while the propeller is still turning slowly. Eventually, air resistance and friction will cause opposing torques and the angular acceleration will decrease. At full speed, the negative torque due to air resistance and friction cancels the torque of the engine. Then $\tau_\text{net} = 0$ and the propeller turns at *constant* angular velocity with no angular acceleration.



## Constraints Due to Ropes and Pulleys

Many important applications of rotational dynamics involve objects, such as pulleys, that are connected via ropes or belts to other objects. Figure 12.29 shows a rope passing over a pulley and connected to an object in linear motion. If the rope does not slip as the pulley rotates, then the rope's speed $v_\text{rope}$ must exactly match the speed of the rim of the pulley, which is $v_\text{rim} = |\omega| R$. If the pulley has an angular acceleration, the rope's acceleration $a_\text{rope}$ must match the *tangential* acceleration of the rim of the pulley, $a_t = |\alpha| R$.

**Figure 12.29**




The rope's motion must match the motion of the rim of the pulley.

The object attached to the other end of the rope has the same speed and acceleration as the rope. Consequently, an object connected to a pulley of radius $R$ by a rope that does not slip must obey the constraints

**(12.33)**

$$\begin{aligned} v_{\text{obj}} &= |\omega| R \\ a_{\text{obj}} &= |\alpha| R \end{aligned} \qquad \text{(motion constraints for a nonslipping rope)}$$

These constraints are very similar to the acceleration constraints introduced in Chapter 7 for two objects connected by a string or rope.

> **Note**
>
> The constraints are given as magnitudes. Specific problems will need to introduce signs that depend on the direction of motion and on the choice of coordinate system.

## The Constant-Torque Model

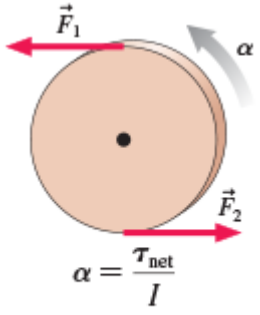
If all the torques exerted on an object are constant, the object rotates with constant angular acceleration. Even if the torques aren't perfectly

constant, there are many situations where it's reasonable to model them as if they were. The **constant-torque model,** analogous to the constant-force model of Section 6.2, is the most important model of rotational dynamics.

MODEL 12.2 **Constant torque**

For objects on which the net torque is constant.

- Model the object as a rigid body with constant angular acceleration.
- Take into account constraints due to ropes and pulleys.
- Mathematically:
  - **Newton's second law is** $\tau_{\text{net}} = I\alpha$.
  - Use the kinematics of constant angular acceleration.
- Limitations: Model fails if the torque isn't constant.



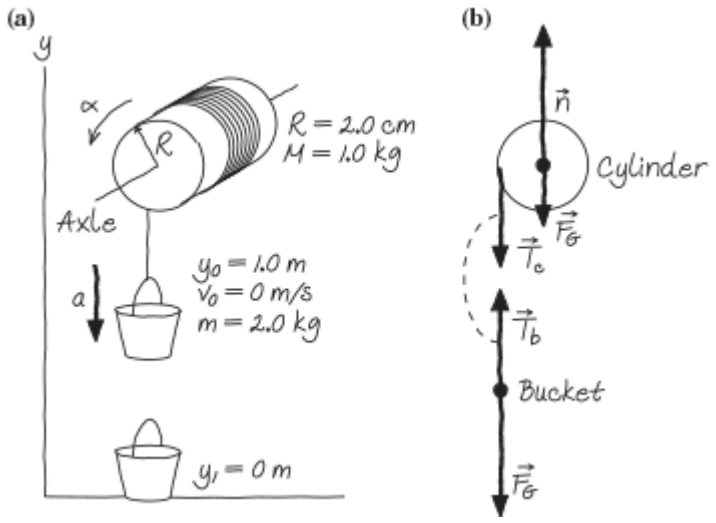
The object has constant angular acceleration.

**Example 12.12 Lowering a bucket**

A 2.0 kg bucket is attached to a massless string that is wrapped around a 1.0 kg, 4.0-cm-diameter cylinder, as shown in Figure

12.30a. The cylinder rotates on an axle through the center. The bucket is released from rest 1.0 m above the floor. How long does it take to reach the floor?

## Figure 12.30




The falling bucket turns the cylinder.

**MODEL** Assume the string does not slip.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.30b shows the free-body diagram for the cylinder and the bucket. The string tension exerts an upward force on the bucket and a downward force on the outer edge of the cylinder. The string is massless, so these two tension forces act as if they are an action/reaction pair: $T_\mathrm{b} = T_\mathrm{c} = T$.

**SOLVE** Newton's second law applied to the linear motion of the bucket is

$$ma_y = T - mg$$



where, as usual, the $y$-axis points upward. What about the cylinder? The only torque comes from the string tension. The moment arm

for the tension is $d = R$, and the torque is positive because the string turns the cylinder ccw. Thus $\tau_{\text{string}} = TR$ and Newton's second law for the rotational motion is

$$\alpha = \frac{\tau_{\text{net}}}{I} = \frac{TR}{\frac{1}{2}MR^2} = \frac{2T}{MR}$$

The moment of inertia of a cylinder rotating about a center axis was taken from Table 12.2.

The last piece of information we need is the constraint due to the fact that the string doesn't slip. Equation 12.33 relates only the absolute values, but in this problem $\alpha$ is positive (ccw acceleration) while $a_y$is negative (downward acceleration). Hence

$$a_y = -\alpha R$$

Using $\alpha$ from the cylinder's equation in the constraint, we find

$$a_y = -\alpha R = -\frac{2T}{MR}R = -\frac{2T}{M}$$

Thus the tension is $T = -\frac{1}{2}Ma_y$. If we use this value of the tension in the bucket's equation, we can solve for the acceleration:

$$\begin{aligned} ma_y &= -\tfrac{1}{2}Ma_y - mg \\ a_y &= -\frac{g}{(1 + M/2m)} = -7.84\,\text{m/s}^2 \end{aligned}$$

The time to fall through $\Delta y = -1.0$ m is found from kinematics:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta y &= \tfrac{1}{2}a_y(\Delta t)^2 \\ \Delta t &= \sqrt{\frac{2\Delta y}{a_y}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\,(-1.0\,\text{m})}{-7.84\,\text{m/s}^2}} = 0.50\,\text{s} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The expression for the acceleration gives $a_y = -g$ if $M = 0$. This makes sense because the bucket would be in free fall if there were no cylinder. When the cylinder has mass, the downward force of gravity on the bucket has to accelerate the bucket *and* spin the cylinder. Consequently, the acceleration is reduced and the bucket takes longer to fall.

# 12.8 Static Equilibrium 312

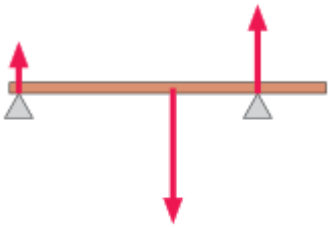
An extended object that is completely stationary is in *static equilibrium*. It has no linear acceleration ($\vec{a} = \vec{0}$) and no angular acceleration ($\alpha = 0$). Thus, from Newton's laws, the conditions for static equilibrium are no net force *and* no net torque. These two rules are the basis for a branch of engineering, called *statics*, that analyzes buildings, dams, bridges, and other structures in static equilibrium.

Section 6.1 introduced the model of mechanical equilibrium for objects that can be represented as particles. For extended objects, we have the **static equilibrium model.**

MODEL 12.3 **Static equilibrium**

For extended objects at rest.

- Model the object as a rigid body with no acceleration.
- Mathematically:
  - No net force: $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum \vec{F}_i = \vec{0}$, and
  - No net torque: $\tau_{\text{net}} = \sum \tau_i = 0$
- The torque is zero about *every* point, so use any point that is convenient for the pivot point.
- Limitations: Model fails if either the forces or the torques aren't balanced.



$\vec{a} = \vec{0} \quad \alpha = 0$

The object is at rest.

For any point you choose, an object that is not rotating is not rotating about that point. This seems to be a trivial statement, but it has an important implication: For a rigid body in static equilibrium, the net torque is zero about *any* point. You can use any point you wish as the pivot point for calculating torque. Even so, some choices are better than others for problem solving. As the examples will show, it's often best to choose a point at which several forces act because the torques exerted by those forces will be zero.

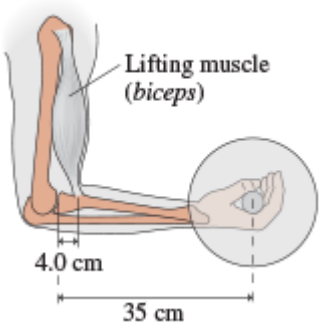
Structures such as bridges are analyzed in engineering statics.

### Example 12.13 Lifting weights

Weightlifting can exert extremely large forces on the body's joints and tendons. In the *strict curl* event, a standing athlete uses both arms to lift a barbell by moving only his forearms, which pivot at the elbows. The record weight lifted in the strict curl is over 200

pounds (about 900 N). Figure 12.31 shows the arm bones and the biceps, the main lifting muscle when the forearm is horizontal. What is the tension in the tendon connecting the biceps muscle to the bone while a 900 N barbell is held stationary in this position?

**Figure 12.31**

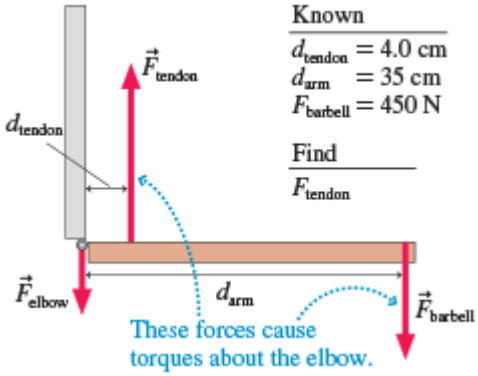



An arm holding a barbell.

**MODEL** Model the arm as two rigid rods connected by a hinge. We'll ignore the arm's weight because it is so much less than that of the barbell. Although the tendon pulls at a slight angle, it is close enough to vertical that we'll treat it as such.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.32 shows the forces acting on our simplified model of the forearm. The biceps pulls the forearm up against the upper arm at the elbow, so the force $\vec{F}_{\text{elbow}}$ *on* the forearm at the elbow—a force due to the upper arm—is a downward force.

**Figure 12.32**




A pictorial representation of the forces involved.

---

**SOLVE** Static equilibrium requires both the net force *and* the net torque on the forearm to be zero. Only the $y$-component of force is relevant, and setting it to zero gives a first equation:

$$\sum F_y = F_{\text{tendon}} - F_{\text{elbow}} - F_{\text{barbell}} = 0$$

Because each arm supports half the weight of the barbell, $F_{\text{barbell}} = 450\,\text{N}$. We don't know either $F_{\text{tendon}}$ or $F_{\text{elbow}}$, nor does the force equation give us enough information to find them. But the fact that the net torque also must be zero gives us that extra information. The torque is zero about *every* point, so we can choose any point we wish to calculate the torque. The elbow joint is a convenient point because force $\vec{F}_{\text{elbow}}$ exerts no torque about this point; its moment arm is zero. Thus the torque equation is

$$\tau_{\text{net}} = d_{\text{tendon}} F_{\text{tendon}} - d_{\text{arm}} F_{\text{barbell}} = 0$$

The tension in the tendon tries to rotate the arm ccw, so it produces a positive torque. Similarly, the torque due to the barbell is negative. We can solve the torque equation for $F_{\text{tendon}}$ to find

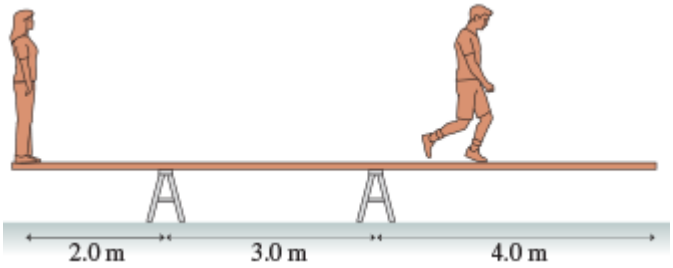
$$F_{\text{tendon}} = F_{\text{barbell}} \frac{d_{\text{arm}}}{d_{\text{tendon}}} = (450\,\text{N}) \frac{35\,\text{cm}}{4.0\,\text{cm}} = 3900\,\text{N}$$

**ASSESS** The short distance $d_{\text{tendon}}$ from the tendon to the elbow joint means that the force supplied by the biceps has to be very large to counter the torque generated by a force applied at the opposite end of the forearm. Although we ended up not needing the force equation in this problem, we could now use it to calculate that the force exerted at the elbow is $F_{\text{elbow}} = 3450\,\text{N}$. These large forces can easily damage the tendon or the elbow.

### Example 12.14 Walking the plank

Adrienne (50 kg) and Bo (90 kg) are playing on a 100 kg rigid plank resting on the supports seen in Figure 12.33. If Adrienne stands on the left end, can Bo walk all the way to the right end without the plank tipping over? If not, how far can he get past the support on the right?

**Figure 12.33**



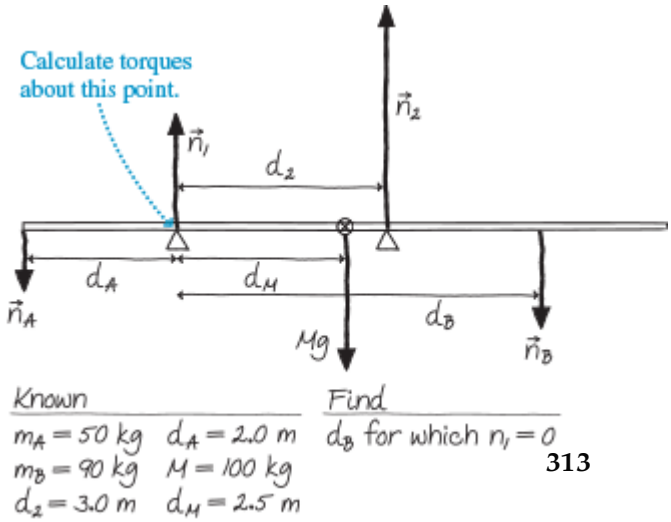

Adrienne and Bo on the plank.

**MODEL** Model the plank as a uniform rigid body with its center of mass at the center.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.34 shows the forces acting on the plank. Both supports exert upward forces. $\vec{n}_{\text{A}}$ and $\vec{n}_{\text{B}}$ are the normal

forces of Adrienne's and Bo's feet pushing down on the board.

## Figure 12.34






A pictorial representation of the forces on the plank.

**SOLVE** Because the plank is resting on the supports, not held down, forces $\vec{n}_1$ and $\vec{n}_2$ must point upward. (The supports could pull down if the plank were nailed to them, but that's not the case here.) Force $\vec{n}_1$ will decrease as Bo moves to the right, and the tipping point occurs when $n_1 = 0$. The plank remains in static equilibrium right up to the tipping point, so both the net force and the net torque on it are zero. The force equation is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_y &= n_1 + n_2 - n_\mathrm{A} - n_\mathrm{B} - Mg \\ &= n_1 + n_2 - m_\mathrm{A} g - m_\mathrm{B} g - Mg = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Adrienne is at rest, with zero net force, so her downward force on the board, an action/reaction pair with the upward normal force of the board on her, equals her weight: $n_\mathrm{A} = m_\mathrm{A} g$. Bo's center of mass oscillates up and down as he walks, so he's *not* in equilibrium and, strictly speaking, $n_\mathrm{B} \neq m_\mathrm{B} g$. But we'll assume that he edges

out onto the board slowly, with minimal bouncing, in which case $n_B = m_B g$ is a reasonable approximation.

We can again choose any point we wish for calculating torque. Let's use the support on the left. Adrienne and the support on the right exert positive torques about this point; the other forces exert negative torques. Force $\vec{n}_1$ exerts no torque because it acts at the pivot point. Thus the torque equation is

$$\tau_{net} = d_A m_A g - d_B m_B g - d_M M g + d_2 n_2 = 0$$

At the tipping point, where $n_1 = 0$, the force equation gives $n_2 = (m_A + m_B + M)\, g$. Substituting this into the torque equation and then solving for Bo's position give

$$d_B = \frac{d_A m_A - d_M M + d_2 (m_A + m_B + M)}{m_B} = 6.3 \text{ m}$$

Bo doesn't quite make it to the end. The plank tips when he's 6.3 m past the left support, our pivot point, and thus 3.3 m past the support on the right.

**ASSESS** We could have solved this problem somewhat more simply had we chosen the support on the right for calculating the torques. However, you might not recognize the "best" point for calculating the torques in a problem. The point of this example is that it doesn't matter which point you choose.

### Example 12.15 Will the ladder slip?

A 3.0-m-long ladder leans against a frictionless wall at an angle of 60°. What is the minimum value of $\mu_s$, the coefficient of static

friction with the ground, that prevents the ladder from slipping?

---

**MODEL** The ladder is a rigid rod of length $L$. To not slip, it must be in both translational equilibrium ($\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$) and rotational equilibrium ($\tau_{\text{net}} = 0$).

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.35 shows the ladder and the forces acting on it.

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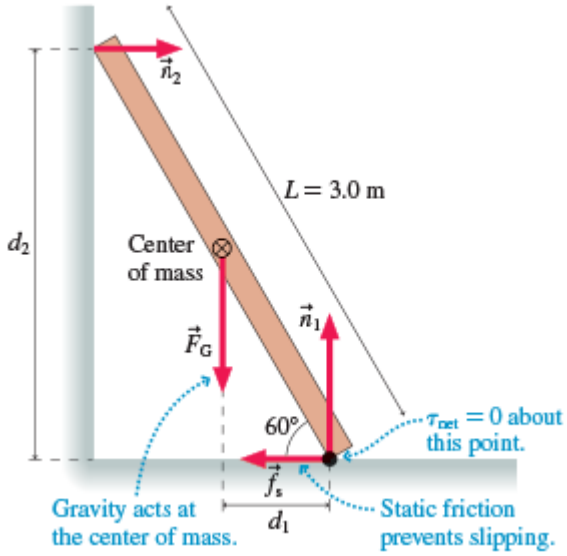
**Figure 12.35**




A ladder in total equilibrium.

---

**SOLVE** The $x$- and $y$-components of $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$ are

$$\sum F_x = n_2 - f_s = 0$$
$$\sum F_y = n_1 - Mg = 0$$

The net torque is zero about *any* point, so which should we choose? The bottom corner of the ladder is a good choice because two forces pass through this point and have no torque about it. The torque about the bottom corner is

$$\tau_{\text{net}} = d_1 F_{\text{G}} - d_2 n_2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(L\cos\ 60^\circ)Mg - (L\sin 60^\circ)n_2 = 0$$

The signs are based on the observation that $\vec{F}_{\text{G}}$ would cause the ladder to rotate ccw while $\vec{n}_2$ would cause it to rotate cw. All together, we have three equations in the three unknowns $n_1$, $n_2$, and $f_s$. If we solve the third for $n_2$,



$$n_2 = \frac{\tfrac{1}{2}(L\cos 60^\circ)Mg}{L\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{Mg}{2\tan 60^\circ}$$

we can then substitute this into the first to find

$$f_{\text{s}} = \frac{Mg}{2\tan 60^\circ}$$

Our model of friction is $f_{\text{s}} \le f_{\text{s max}} = \mu_{\text{s}} n_1$. We can find $n_1$ from the second equation: $n_1 = Mg$. Using this, the model of static friction tells us that

$$f_{\text{s}} \le \mu_{\text{s}} Mg$$

Comparing these two expressions for $f_s$, we see that $\mu_s$ must obey

$$\mu_{\text{s}} \ge \frac{1}{2\tan 60^\circ} = 0.29$$

Thus the minimum value of the coefficient of static friction is 0.29.

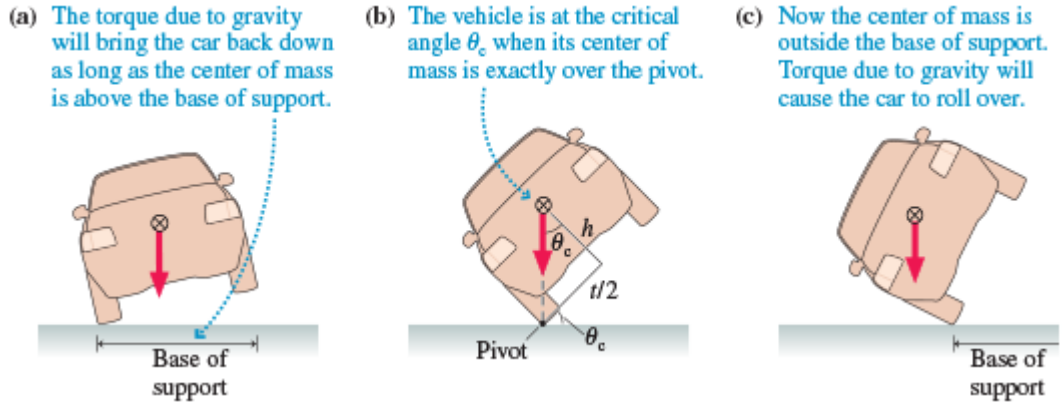
**ASSESS** You know from experience that you can lean a ladder or other object against a wall if the ground is "rough," but it slips if the surface is too smooth. 0.29 is a "medium" value for the coefficient of static friction, which is reasonable.

# Balance and Stability

If you tilt a box up on one edge by a small amount and let go, it falls back down. If you tilt it too much, it falls over. And if you tilt "just right," you can get the box to balance on its edge. What determines these three possible outcomes?

Figure 12.36 illustrates the idea with a car, but the results are general and apply in many situations. As long as the object's center of mass remains over the base of support, torque due to gravity will rotate the object back to its equilibrium position.

## Figure 12.36




Stability depends on the position of the center of mass.

A *critical angle* $\theta_c$ is reached when the center of mass is directly over the pivot point. This is the point of balance, with no net torque. For vehicles, the distance between the tires is called the track width $t$. If the height of the center of mass is $h$, you can see from Figure 12.36 b that the critical angle is

$$\theta_c = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{t}{2h}\right)$$

For passenger cars with $h \approx 0.33t$, the critical angle is $\theta_c \approx 57^\circ$. But for a sport utility vehicle (SUV) with $h \approx 0.47t$, a higher center of mass, the critical angle is only $\theta_c \approx 47^\circ$. Various automobile safety groups have determined that a vehicle with $\theta_c > 50^\circ$ is unlikely to roll over in an accident. A rollover becomes increasingly likely when $\theta_c$ is reduced below 50°. The general rule is that **a wider base of support and/or a lower center of mass improve stability.**

This dancer balances *en pointe* by having her center of mass directly over her toes, her base of support.

## Stop to Think 12.6

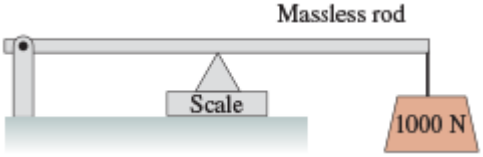
What does the scale read?

**a.** 500 N

**b.** 1000 N

**c.** 2000 N

**d.** 4000 N

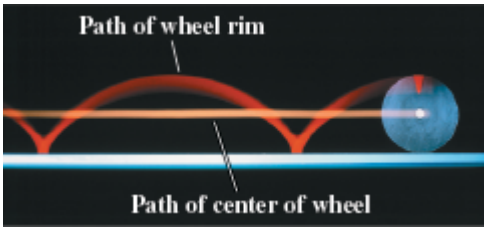


# 12.9 Rolling Motion



Rolling is a *combination motion* in which an object rotates about an axis that is moving along a straight-line trajectory. For example, Figure 12.37 is a time-exposure photo of a rolling wheel with one lightbulb on the axis and a second lightbulb at the edge. The axis light moves straight ahead, but the edge light moves along a curve. Let's see if we can understand this interesting motion. We'll consider only objects that roll without slipping.

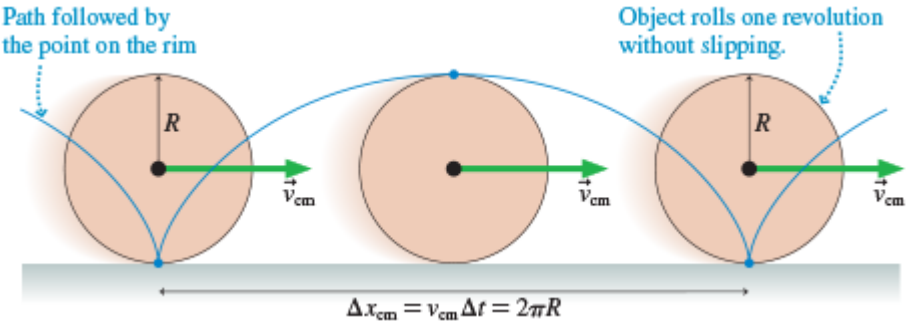
**Figure 12.37**




The trajectories of the center of a wheel and of a point on the rim are seen in a time-exposure photograph.

Figure 12.38 shows a round object—a wheel or a sphere—that rolls forward exactly one revolution. The point that had been on the bottom follows the curve you saw in Figure 12.37 to the top and back to the bottom. *Because the object doesn't slip,* the center of mass moves forward exactly one circumference: $\Delta x_{\text{cm}} = 2\pi R$.

**Figure 12.38**




An object rolling through one revolution.

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We can also write the distance traveled in terms of the velocity of the center of mass: $\Delta x_{\text{cm}} = v_{\text{cm}}\ \Delta t$. But $\Delta t$, the time it takes the object to make one complete revolution, is nothing other than the rotation period $T$. In other words, $\Delta x_{\text{cm}} = v_{\text{cm}} T$.

These two expressions for $\Delta x_{\text{cm}}$ come from two perspectives on the motion: one looking at the rotation and the other looking at the translation of the center of mass. But it's the same distance no matter how you look at it, so these two expressions must be equal. Consequently,

**(12.34)**

$$\Delta x_{\text{cm}} = 2\pi R = v_{\text{cm}} T$$

If we divide by $T$, we can write the center-of-mass velocity as

**(12.35)**

$$v_{\text{cm}} = \frac{2\pi}{T} R$$

But $2\pi/T$ is the angular velocity $\omega$, as you learned in Chapter 4, leading to

(12.36)

$$v_{\text{cm}} = R\omega$$

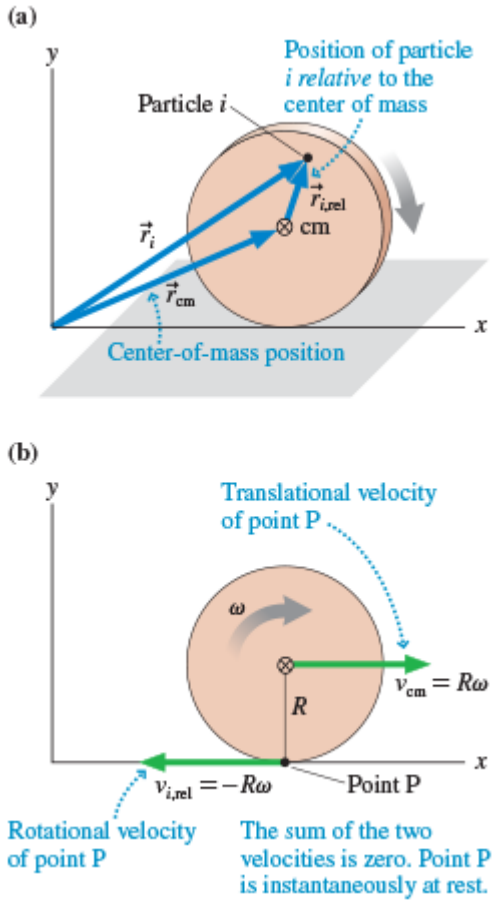
Equation 12.36 is the **rolling constraint,** the basic link between translation and rotation for objects that roll without slipping.

Let's look carefully at a particle in the rolling object. As Figure 12.39 a shows, the position vector $\vec{r}_i$ for particle $i$ is the vector sum $\vec{r}_i = \vec{r}_{\text{cm}} + \vec{r}_{i,\text{rel}}$. Taking the time derivative of this equation, we can write the velocity of particle $i$ as

(12.37)

$$\vec{v}_i = \vec{v}_{\text{cm}} + \vec{v}_{i,\text{rel}}$$

## Figure 12.39



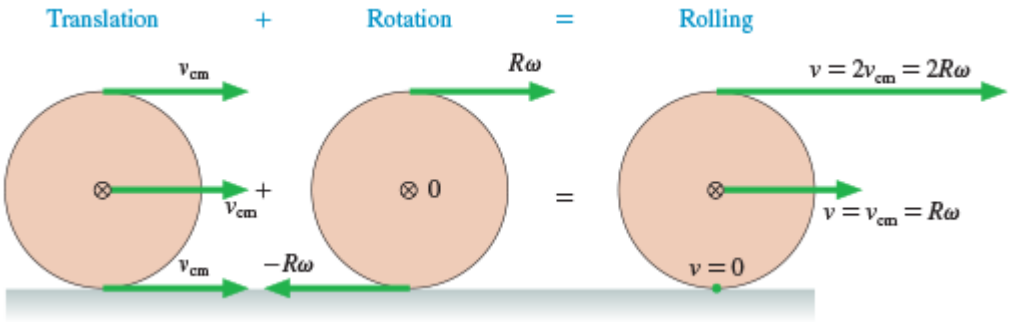
In other words, the velocity of particle $i$ can be divided into two parts: the velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{cm}}$ of the object as a whole plus the velocity $\vec{v}_{i,\text{rel}}$ of particle $i$ relative to the center of mass (i.e., the velocity that particle $i$ would have if the object were only rotating and had no translational motion).

Figure 12.39 b applies this idea to point P at the very bottom of the rolling object, the point of contact between the object and the surface. This point is moving around the center of the object at angular velocity $\omega$, so $v_{i,\,\text{rel}} = -R\omega$. The negative sign indicates that the motion is cw. At the same time, the center-of-mass velocity, Equation 12.36, is $v_{\text{cm}} = R\omega$. Adding these, we find that the velocity of point *P*, the lowest point, is $v_i = 0$. In other words, **the point on the bottom of a rolling object is instantaneously at rest.**

Although this seems surprising, it is really what we mean by "rolling without slipping." If the bottom point had a velocity, it would be moving horizontally relative to the surface. In other words, it would be slipping or sliding across the surface. To roll without slipping, the bottom point, the point touching the surface, must be at rest.

Figure 12.40 shows how the velocity vectors at the top, center, and bottom of a rotating wheel are found by adding the rotational velocity vectors to the center-of-mass velocity. You can see that $v_{\text{bottom}} = 0$ and that $v_{\text{top}} = 2R\omega = 2v_{\text{cm}}$.

**Figure 12.40**



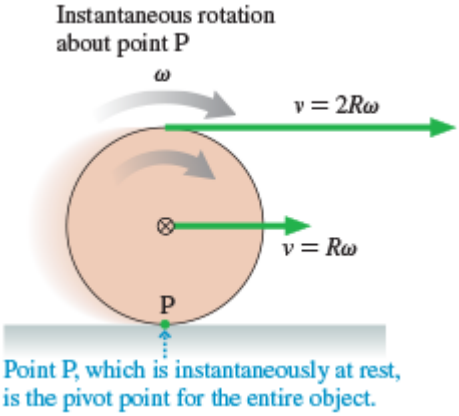

Rolling without slipping is a combination of translation and rotation.

# Kinetic Energy of a Rolling Object

We found earlier that the rotational kinetic energy of a rigid body in pure rotational motion is $K_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$. Now we would like to find the kinetic energy of an object that rolls without slipping, a combination of rotational and translation motion.

We begin with the observation that the bottom point in Figure 12.41 is instantaneously at rest. Consequently, we can think of an axis through P as an *instantaneous axis of rotation*. The idea of an instantaneous axis of rotation seems a little far-fetched, but it is confirmed by looking at the instantaneous velocities of the center point and the top point. We found these in Figure 12.40 and they are shown again in Figure 12.41. They are exactly what you would expect as the tangential velocity $v_t = r\omega$ for rotation about P at distances $R$ and $2R$.

**Figure 12.41**




Rolling motion is an instantaneous rotation about point P.

From this perspective, the object's motion is pure rotation about point P. Thus the kinetic energy is that of pure rotation:

**(12.38)**

$$K = K_{\text{rotation about P}} = \frac{1}{2} I_{\text{P}} \omega^2$$

$I_{\text{P}}$ is the moment of inertia for rotation about point P. We can use the parallel-axis theorem to write $I_{\text{P}}$ in terms of the moment of inertia $I_{\text{cm}}$ about the center of mass. Point P is displaced by distance $d = R$; thus

$$I_{\text{P}} = I_{\text{cm}} + MR^2$$

Using this expression in Equation 12.38 gives us the kinetic energy:

**(12.39)**

$$K = \frac{1}{2} I_{\text{cm}} \omega^2 + \frac{1}{2} M (R\omega)^2$$

We know from the rolling constraint that $R_{\omega}$ is the center-of-mass velocity $v_{\text{cm}}$. Thus the kinetic energy of a rolling object is

(12.40)

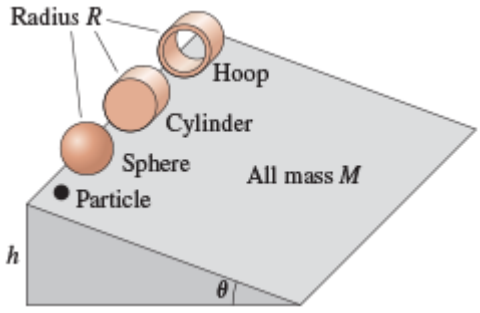
$$K_{\text{rolling}} = \frac{1}{2} I_{\text{cm}} \omega^2 + \frac{1}{2} M {v_{\text{cm}}}^2 = K_{\text{rot}} + K_{\text{cm}}$$

In other words, **the rolling motion of a rigid body can be described as a translation of the center of mass (with kinetic energy $K_{\text{cm}}$) plus a rotation about the center of mass (with kinetic energy $K_{\text{rot}}$).**

## The Great Downhill Race

Figure 12.42 shows a contest in which a sphere, a cylinder, and a circular hoop, all of mass $M$ and radius $R$, are placed at height $h$ on a slope of angle $\theta$. All three are released from rest at the same instant of time and roll down the ramp without slipping. To make things more interesting, they are joined by a particle of mass $M$ that slides down the ramp without friction. Which one will win the race to the bottom of the hill? Does rotation affect the outcome?

**Figure 12.42**




Which will win the downhill race?

An object's initial gravitational potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy as it rolls (or slides, in the case of the particle). The kinetic

energy, as we just discovered, is a combination of translational and rotational kinetic energy. If we choose the bottom of the ramp as the zero point of potential energy, the statement of energy conservation $K_\mathrm{f} = U_\mathrm{i}$ can be written



**(12.41)**

$$\tfrac{1}{2} I_\mathrm{cm} \omega^2 + \tfrac{1}{2} M {v_\mathrm{cm}}^2 = Mgh$$

The translational and rotational velocities are related by $\omega = v_\mathrm{cm}/R$. In addition, notice from Table 12.2 that the moments of inertia of all the objects can be written in the form

**(12.42)**

$$I_\mathrm{cm} = cMR^2$$

where $c$ is a constant that depends on the object's geometry. For example, $c = \frac{2}{5}$ for a sphere but $c = 1$ for a circular hoop. Even the particle can be represented by $c = 0$, which eliminates the rotational kinetic energy.

With this information, Equation 12.41 becomes

$$\tfrac{1}{2}(cMR^2)\left(\frac{v_\mathrm{cm}}{R}\right)^2 + \tfrac{1}{2} M {v_\mathrm{cm}}^2 = \tfrac{1}{2} M\,(1+c)\,{v_\mathrm{cm}}^2 = Mgh$$

Thus the finishing speed of an object with $I = cMR^2$ is

**(12.43)**

$$v_\mathrm{cm} = \sqrt{\frac{2gh}{1+c}}$$

The final speed is independent of both $M$ and $R$, but it does depend on the *shape* of the rolling object. The particle, with the smallest value of $c$,

will finish with the highest speed, while the circular hoop, with the largest $c$, will be the slowest. In other words, the rolling aspect of the motion *does* matter!

We can use Equation 12.43 to find the acceleration $a_{\text{cm}}$ of the center of mass. The objects move through distance $\Delta x = h/\sin\theta$, so we can use constant-acceleration kinematics to find

**(12.44)**

$$\begin{aligned} {v_{\text{cm}}}^2 &= 2a_{\text{cm}}\Delta x \\ a_{\text{cm}} &= \frac{{v_{\text{cm}}}^2}{2\Delta x} = \frac{2gh/(1+c)}{2h/\sin\theta} = \frac{g\sin\theta}{1+c} \end{aligned}$$

Recall, from Chapter 2, that $a_{\text{particle}} = g\sin\theta$ is the acceleration of a particle sliding down a frictionless incline. We can use this fact to write Equation 12.44 in an interesting form:

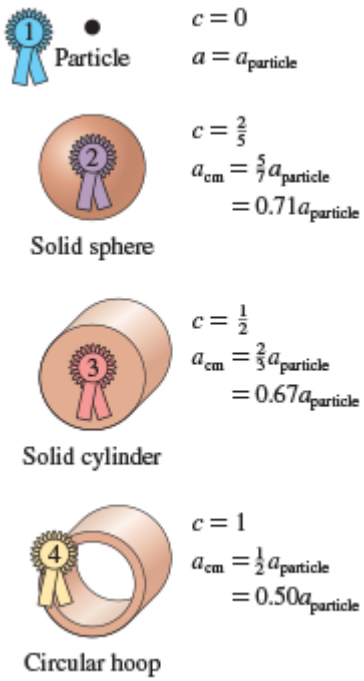
**(12.45)**

$$a_{\text{cm}} = \frac{a_{\text{particle}}}{1+c}$$

This analysis leads us to the conclusion that **the acceleration of a rolling object is less—in some cases significantly less—than the acceleration of a particle.** The reason is that the energy has to be shared between translational kinetic energy and rotational kinetic energy. A particle, by contrast, can put all its energy into translational kinetic energy.

Figure 12.43 shows the results of the race. The simple particle wins by a fairly wide margin. Of the solid objects, the sphere has the largest acceleration. Even so, its acceleration is only 71% the acceleration of a particle. The acceleration of the circular hoop, which comes in last, is a mere 50% that of a particle.

## Figure 12.43




And the winner is …

> **Note**
>
> The objects having the largest acceleration are those whose mass is most concentrated near the center. Placing the mass far from the center, as in the hoop, increases the moment of inertia. Thus it requires a larger effort to get a hoop rolling than to get a sphere of equal mass rolling.

# 12.10 The Vector Description of Rotational Motion

Rotation about a fixed axis, such as an axle, can be described in terms of a scalar angular velocity $\omega$ and a scalar torque $\tau$, using a plus or minus sign to indicate the direction of rotation. This is very much analogous to the one-dimensional kinematics of Chapter 2. For more general rotational motion, angular velocity, torque, and other quantities must be treated as *vectors*. We won't go into much detail because the subject rapidly gets very complicated, but we will sketch some important basic ideas.

## The Angular Velocity Vector

Figure 12.44 shows a rotating rigid body. We can define an angular velocity vector $\vec{\omega}$ as follows:

- The magnitude of $\vec{\omega}$ is the object's angular velocity $\omega$.
- $\vec{\omega}$ points along the axis of rotation in the direction given by the *right-hand rule* illustrated in Figure 12.44.

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**Figure 12.44**

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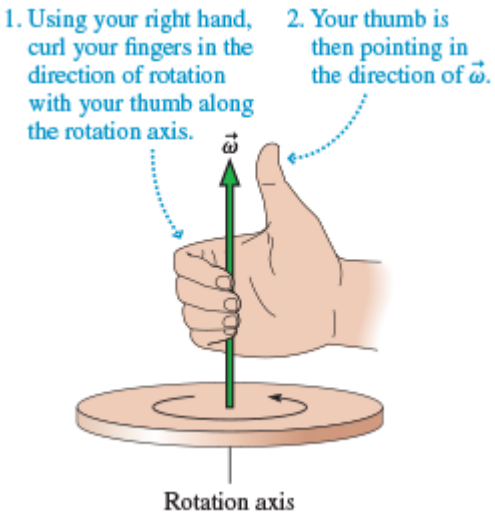



The angular velocity vector $\vec{\omega}$ is found using the right-hand rule.

---

If the object rotates in the *xy*-plane, the vector $\vec{\omega}$ points along the *z*-axis. The scalar angular velocity $\omega = v_t/r$ that we've been using is now seen to be $\omega_z$, the *z*-component of the vector $\vec{\omega}$. You should convince yourself that the sign convention for $\omega$ (positive for ccw rotation, negative for cw rotation) is equivalent to having the vector $\vec{\omega}$ pointing in the positive *z*-direction or the negative *z*-direction.

## The Cross Product of Two Vectors

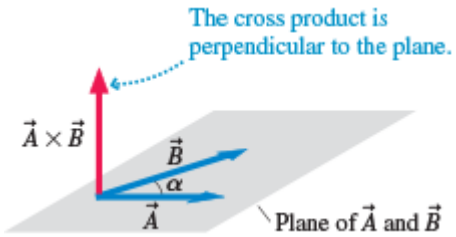
We defined the torque exerted by force $\vec{F}$ to be $\tau = rF\sin\phi$. The quantity *F* is the magnitude of the force vector $\vec{F}$, and the distance *r* is really the magnitude of the position vector $\vec{r}$. Hence torque looks very much like a product of the two vectors $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{F}$. Previously, in conjunction with the definition of work, we introduced the dot product of two vectors: $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\alpha$, where $\alpha$ is the angle between the vectors. $\tau = rF \sin \phi$ is a different way of multiplying vectors that depends on the *sine* of the angle between them.

Figure 12.45 shows two vectors, $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$, with angle $\alpha$ between them. We define the **cross product** of $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ as the vector

**(12.46)**

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} \equiv (AB \sin \alpha, \text{in the direction given by the right-hand rule})$$

## Figure 12.45



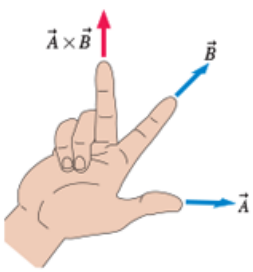

The cross product $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$, is a vector perpendicular to the plane of vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$.

The symbol × between the vectors is *required* to indicate a cross product. The cross product is also called the **vector product** because the result is a vector.

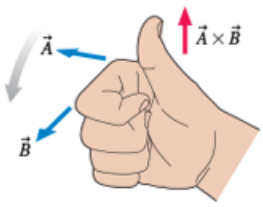
The **right-hand rule,** which specifies the direction of $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$, can be stated in three different but equivalent ways:

**Using the right-hand rule**

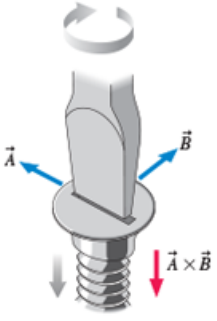
Spread your *right* thumb and index finger apart by angle $\alpha$. Bend your middle finger so that it is *perpendicular* to your thumb and index finger. Orient your hand so that your thumb points in the direction of $\vec{A}$ and your index finger in the direction of $\vec{B}$. Your middle finger now points in the direction of $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$.




Make a loose fist with your *right* hand with your thumb extended outward. Orient your hand so that your thumb is perpendicular to the plane of $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ and your fingers are curling *from* the line of vector $\vec{A}$ *toward* the line of vector $\vec{B}$. Your thumb now points in the direction of $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$.




Imagine using a screwdriver to turn the slot in the head of a screw from the direction of $\vec{A}$ to the direction of $\vec{B}$. The screw will move either "in" or "out." The direction in which the screw moves is the direction of $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$.

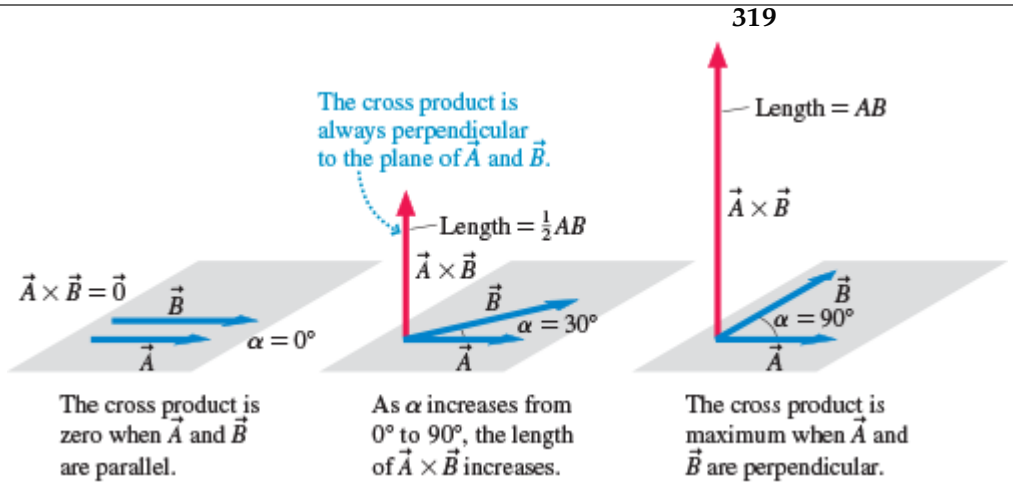


These methods are easier to demonstrate than to describe in words! Your instructor will show you how they work. Some individuals find one method of thinking about the direction of the cross product easier than the others, but they all work, and you'll soon find the method that works best for you.

Referring back to Figure 12.45, you should use the right-hand rule to convince yourself that the cross product $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ is a vector that points *upward*, perpendicular to the plane of $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$. Figure 12.46 shows that the cross product, like the dot product, depends on the angle between the two vectors. Notice the two special cases: $\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \vec{0}$ when $\alpha = 0^\circ$ (parallel vectors) and $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ has its maximum magnitude $AB$ when $\alpha = 90^\circ$ (perpendicular vectors).

## Figure 12.46



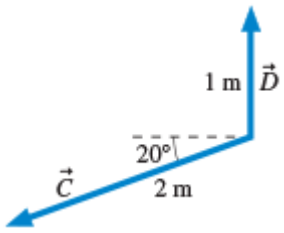



The magnitude of the cross-product vector increases from 0 to $AB$ as $\alpha$ increases from 0° to 90°.

### Example 12.16 Calculating a cross product

Figure 12.47 shows vectors $\vec{C}$ and $\vec{D}$ in the plane of the page. What is the cross product $\vec{E} = \vec{C} \times \vec{D}$?

**Figure 12.47**




Vectors $\vec{C}$ and $\vec{D}$.

**SOLVE** The angle between the two vectors is $\alpha = 110^\circ$. Consequently, the magnitude of the cross product is

$$E = CD \sin \alpha = (2\,\text{m})\,(1\,\text{m})\ \sin\ (110^\circ) = 1.88\,\text{m}^2$$

The direction of $\vec{E}$ is given by the right-hand rule. To curl your right fingers from $\vec{C}$ to $\vec{D}$, you have to point your thumb *into* the page. Alternatively, if you turned a screwdriver from $\vec{C}$ to $\vec{D}$ you would be driving a screw *into* the page. Thus

$$\vec{E} = (1.88\,\text{m}^2, \text{into page})$$

**ASSESS** Notice that $\vec{E}$ has units of $\text{m}^2$.

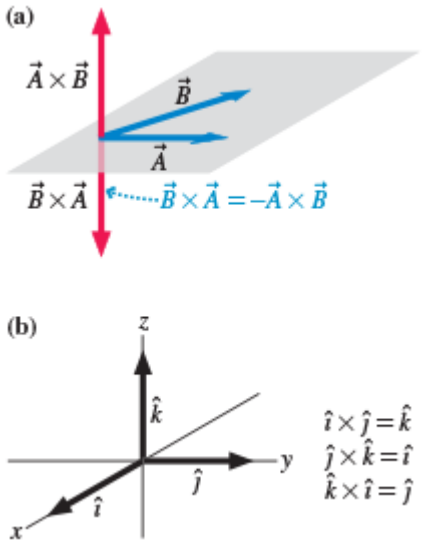
The cross product has three important properties:

1. The product $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ is *not* equal to the product $\vec{B} \times \vec{A}$. That is, the cross product does not obey the commutative rule $ab = ba$

that you know from arithmetic. In fact, you can see from the right-hand rule that the product $\vec{B} \times \vec{A}$ points in exactly the opposite direction from $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$. Thus, as Figure 12.48a shows,

$$\vec{B} \times \vec{A} = -\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$$

**Figure 12.48**




Properties of the cross product.

2. In a *right-handed coordinate system*, which is the standard coordinate system of science and engineering, the $z$-axis is oriented relative to the $xy$-plane such that the unit vectors obey $\hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k}$. This is shown in Figure 12.48b. You can also see from this figure that $\hat{j} \times \hat{k} = \hat{i}$ and $\hat{k} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j}$.
3. The derivative of a cross product is

**(12.47)**

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \frac{d\vec{A}}{dt} \times \vec{B} + \vec{A} \times \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt}$$

## Torque

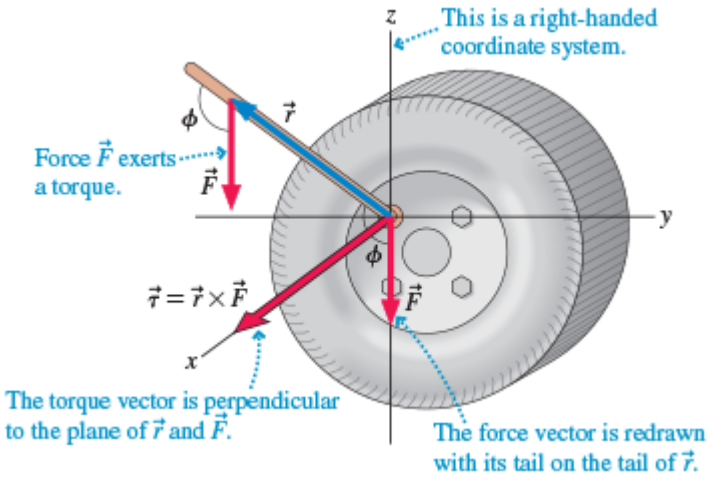
Now let's return to torque. As a concrete example, Figure 12.49 on the next page shows a long wrench being used to loosen the nuts holding a car wheel on. We've established a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nut, so force $\vec{F}$ exerts a torque about the origin. Let's define a *torque vector*

**(12.48)**

$$\vec{\tau} \equiv \vec{r} \times \vec{F}$$



## Figure 12.49




The torque vector.

If we place the vector tails together in order to use the right-hand rule, we see that the torque vector is perpendicular to the plane of $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{F}$. The angle between the vectors is $\phi$, so the magnitude of the torque is $\tau = rF|\sin\ \phi|$.

You can see that the scalar torque $\tau = rF \sin\ \phi$ we've been using is really the component along the rotation axis—in this case $\tau_x$—of the vector $\vec{\tau}$.

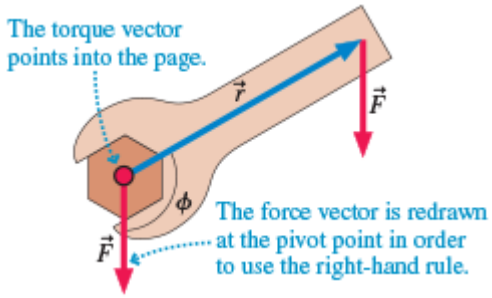
This is the basis for our earlier sign convention for $\tau$. In Figure 12.49, where the force causes a ccw rotation, the torque vector points in the positive $x$-direction, and thus $\tau_x$ is positive.

### Example 12.17 Wrench torque revisited

Example 12.8 found the torque that Luis exerts on a nut by pulling on the end of a wrench. What is the torque vector?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.50 shows the position vector $\vec{r}$, drawn from the pivot point to the point where the force is applied. The figure also redraws the force vector $\vec{F}$ at the pivot point, not because force is applied there but because it's easiest to use the right-hand rule if the vectors are drawn with their tails together.

**Figure 12.50**




Calculating the torque vector.

**SOLVE** We already know the magnitude of the torque, 17 N m, from Example 12.8. Now we need to apply the right-hand rule. If you place your right thumb along $\vec{r}$ and your index finger along $\vec{F}$, which is somewhat awkward, you'll see that your middle finger points into the page. Alternatively, make a loose fist of your right hand, then orient your fist so that your fingers curl *from* $\vec{r}$ *toward*

$\overrightarrow{F}$. Doing so requires your thumb to point into the page. Using either method, we conclude that

$$\overrightarrow{\tau} = (17\,\mathrm{N\,m}, \text{into page})$$

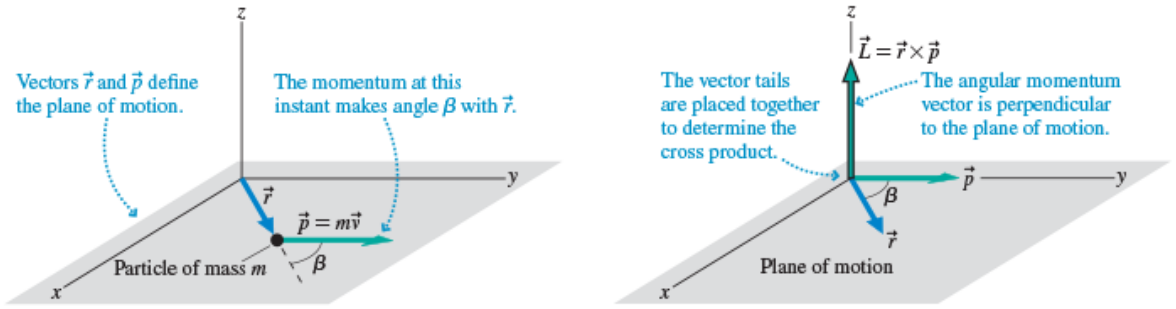
# 12.11 Angular Momentum[321]

Figure 12.51 shows a particle that, at this instant, is located at position $\vec{r}$ and is moving with momentum $\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$. Together, $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{p}$ define the *plane of motion*. We define the particle's **angular momentum** $\vec{L}$ relative to the origin to be the vector

**(12.49)**

$$\vec{L} \equiv \vec{r} \times \vec{p} = (mrv \sin \beta, \text{direction of right-hand rule})$$

**Figure 12.51**




The angular momentum vector $\vec{L}$.

Because of the cross product, **the angular momentum vector is perpendicular to the plane of motion.** The units of angular momentum are kg $m^2/s$.

> **Note**
>
> Angular momentum is the rotational equivalent of linear

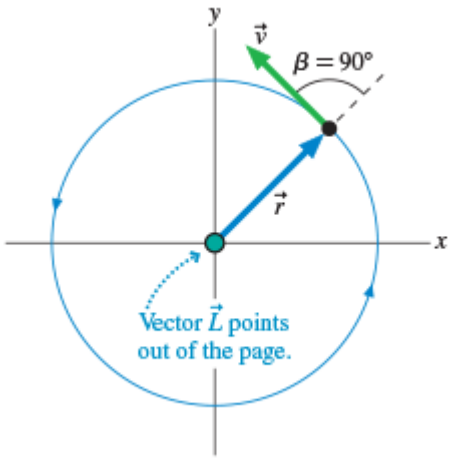
momentum in much the same way that torque is the rotational equivalent of force. Notice that the vector definitions are parallel: $\vec{\tau} \equiv \vec{r} \times \vec{F}$ and $\vec{L} \equiv \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$.

Angular momentum, like torque, is *about* the point from which $\vec{r}$ is measured. A different origin would yield a different angular momentum. Angular momentum is especially simple for a particle in circular motion. As Figure 12.52 shows, the angle $\beta$ between $\vec{p}$ (or $\vec{v}$) and $\vec{r}$ is always 90° if we make the obvious choice of measuring $\vec{r}$ from the center of the circle. For motion in the $xy$-plane, the angular momentum vector $\vec{L}$—which must be perpendicular to the plane of motion—is entirely along the $z$-axis:

**(12.50)**

$$L_z = mrv_t \qquad \text{(particle in circular motion)}$$

## Figure 12.52




Angular momentum of circular motion.

where $v_t$ is the tangential component of velocity. Our sign convention for $v_t$ makes $L_z$, like $\omega$, positive for a ccw rotation, negative for a cw rotation.

In Chapter 11, we found that Newton's second law for a particle can be written $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = d\vec{p}/dt$. There's a similar connection between torque and angular momentum. To show this, we take the time derivative of $\vec{L}$:

**(12.51)**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} &= \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r} \times \vec{p}) = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \times \vec{p} + \vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} \\ &= \vec{v} \times \vec{p} + \vec{r} \times \vec{F}_{\text{net}}\end{aligned}$$

where we used Equation 12.47 for the derivative of a cross product. We also used the definitions $\vec{v} = d\vec{r}/dt$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = d\vec{p}/dt$.

Vectors $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{p}$ are parallel, and the cross product of two parallel vectors is $\vec{0}$. Thus the first term in Equation 12.51 vanishes. The second term $\vec{r} \times \vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ is the net torque, $\vec{\tau}_{\text{net}} = \vec{\tau}_1 + \vec{\tau}_2 + \cdots$, so we arrive at

**(12.52)**

$$\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = \vec{\tau}_{\text{net}}$$

Equation 12.52, which says **a net torque causes the particle's angular momentum to change**, is the rotational equivalent of $d\vec{p}/dt = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}$.

## Angular Momentum of a Rigid Body

Equation 12.52 is the angular momentum of a single particle. The angular momentum of a rigid body composed of particles with individual angular momenta $\vec{L}_1, \vec{L}_2, \vec{L}_3, \ldots$ is the vector sum

(12.53)

$$\vec{L} = \vec{L}_1 + \vec{L}_2 + \vec{L}_3 + \cdots = \sum_i \vec{L}_i$$

We can combine Equations 12.52 and 12.53 to find the rate of change of the system's angular momentum:

---

(12.54)

$$\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = \sum_i \frac{d\vec{L}_i}{dt} = \sum_i \vec{\tau}_i = \vec{\tau}_{\text{net}}$$



Because any internal forces are action/reaction pairs of forces, acting with the same strength in opposite directions, the net torque due to internal forces is zero. Thus the only forces that contribute to the net torque are external forces exerted on the system by the environment.

For a system of particles, **the rate of change of the system's angular momentum is the net torque on the system.** Equation 12.54 is analogous to the Chapter 11 result $d\vec{P}/dt = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}$, which says that the rate of change of a system's total linear momentum is the net force on the system.

## Conservation of Angular Momentum

A net torque on a rigid body causes its angular momentum to change. Conversely, the angular momentum does *not* change—it is *conserved*—for a system with no net torque. This is the basis of the law of conservation of angular momentum.

## Law of conservation of angular momentum

The angular momentum $\vec{L}$ of an isolated system ($\vec{\tau}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$) is conserved. The final angular momentum $\vec{L}_{\text{f}}$ is equal to the initial angular momentum $\vec{L}_{\text{i}}$. Both the magnitude *and* the direction of $\vec{L}$ are unchanged.

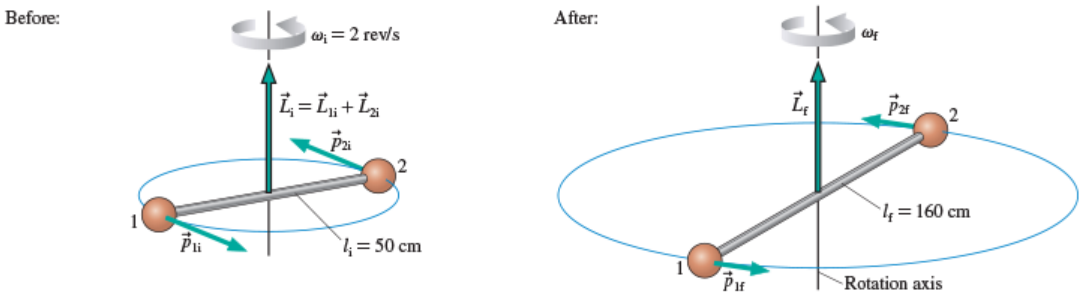
### Example 12.18 An expanding rod

Two equal masses are at the ends of a massless 50-cm-long rod. The rod spins at 2.0 rev/s about an axis through its midpoint. Suddenly, a compressed gas expands the rod out to a length of 160 cm. What is the rotation frequency after the expansion?

**MODEL** The forces push outward from the pivot and exert no torques. Thus the system's angular momentum is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.53 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. The angular momentum vectors $\vec{L}_{\text{i}}$ and $\vec{L}_{\text{f}}$ are perpendicular to the plane of motion.

**Figure 12.53**



The system before and after the rod expands.

**SOLVE** The particles are moving in circles, so each has angular momentum $L = mrv_t = mr^2\omega = \frac{1}{4}ml^2\omega$, where we used $r = \frac{1}{2}l$. Thus the initial angular momentum of the system is

$$L_\text{i} = \tfrac{1}{4}ml_\text{i}^2\omega_\text{i} + \tfrac{1}{4}ml_\text{i}^2\omega_\text{i} = \tfrac{1}{2}ml_\text{i}^2\omega_\text{i}$$

Similarly, the angular momentum after the expansion is $L_\text{f} = \frac{1}{2}ml_\text{f}^2\omega_\text{f}$. Angular momentum is conserved as the rod expands, thus

$$\tfrac{1}{2}ml_\text{f}^2\omega_\text{f} = \tfrac{1}{2}ml_\text{i}^2\omega_\text{i}$$

Solving for $\omega_\text{f}$, we find

$$\omega_\text{f} = \left(\frac{l_\text{i}}{l_\text{f}}\right)^2 \omega_\text{i} = \left(\frac{50\,\text{cm}}{160\,\text{cm}}\right)^2 (2.0\,\text{rev/s}) = 0.20\,\text{rev/s}$$

**ASSESS** The values of the masses weren't needed. All that matters is the ratio of the lengths.

## Angular Momentum and Angular Velocity



The analogy between linear and rotational motion has been so consistent that you might expect one more. The Chapter 9 result equation $\vec{P} = M\vec{v}$, which we can now write as $M\vec{v}_\text{cm}$ because it is translational motion of the object as a whole, might give us reason to anticipate that angular momentum and angular velocity are related by $\vec{L} = I\vec{\omega}$. Unfortunately, the analogy breaks down here. For an arbitrarily shaped object, the angular momentum vector and the angular velocity vector

don't necessarily point in the same direction. The general relationship between $\vec{L}$ and $\vec{\omega}$ is beyond the scope of this text.

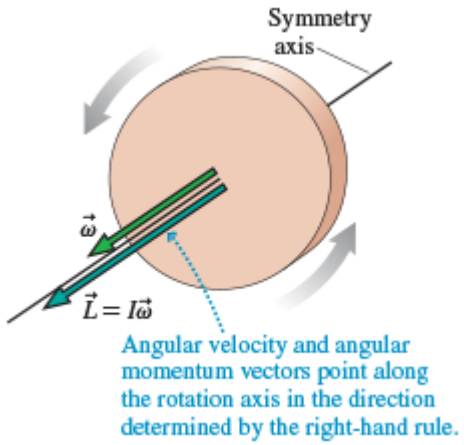
The good news is that the analogy *does* continue to hold in two important situations: the rotation of a *symmetrical* object about the symmetry axis and the rotation of any object about a fixed axle. For example, the axis of a cylinder or disk is a symmetry axis, as is any diameter through a sphere. In these two situations, the angular momentum and angular velocity are related by

**(12.55)**

$$\vec{L} = I\vec{\omega} \qquad \text{(rotation about a fixed axle or axis of symmetry)}$$

This relationship is shown for a spinning disk in Figure 12.54. Equation 12.55 is particularly important for applying the law of conservation of angular momentum.

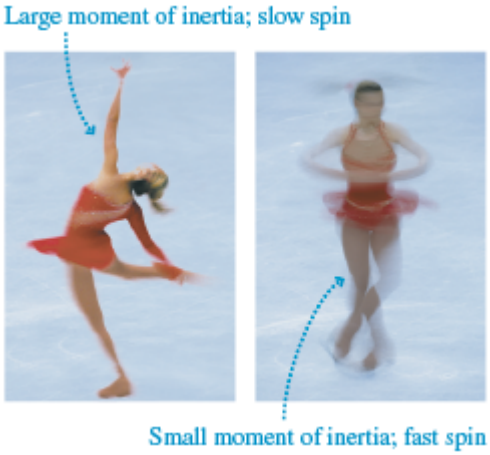
## Figure 12.54




The angular momentum vector about an axis of symmetry.

If an object's angular momentum is conserved, its angular speed is inversely proportional to its moment of inertia. The rotation of the rod in Example 12.18 slowed dramatically as it expanded because its moment of inertia increased. Similarly, the ice skater in Figure 12.55 uses her moment of inertia to control her spin. She spins faster if she pulls in her arms, decreasing her moment of inertia. Similarly, extending her arms increases her moment of inertia, and her angular velocity drops until she can skate out of the spin. It's all a matter of conserving angular momentum.

## Figure 12.55




An ice skater's rotation speed depends on her moment of inertia.

Table 12.4 summarizes the analogies between linear and angular quantities.

## Table 12.4

| Angular motion | Linear motion |
|---|---|
| $K_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2} I\omega^2$ | $K_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{2} M v_{\text{cm}}^2$ |
| $\vec{L} = I\vec{\omega}$ * | $\vec{P} = M\vec{v}_{\text{cm}}$ |
| $d\vec{L}/dt = \vec{\tau}_{\text{net}}$ | $d\vec{P}/dt = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ |
| The angular momentum of a system is conserved if there is no net torque. | The linear momentum of a system is conserved if there is no net force. |

*Rotation about an axis of symmetry.

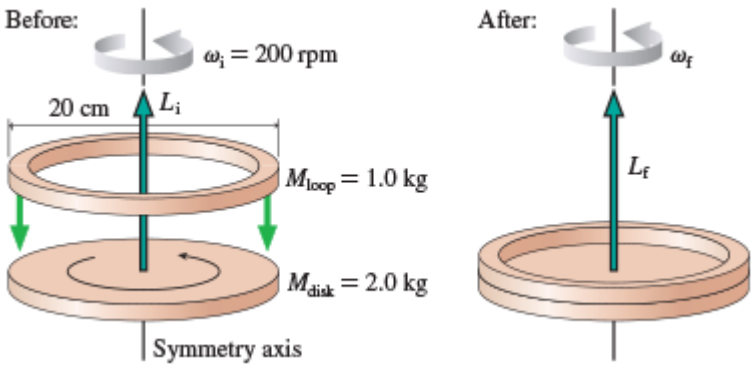
### Example 12.19 Two interacting disks

A 20-cm-diameter, 2.0 kg solid disk is rotating at 200 rpm. A 20-cm-diameter, 1.0 kg circular loop is dropped straight down onto the rotating disk. Friction causes the loop to accelerate until it is "riding" on the disk. What is the final angular velocity of the combined system?

**MODEL** The friction between the two objects creates torques that speed up the loop and slow down the disk. But these torques are internal to the combined disk + loop system, so $\tau_{\text{net}} = 0$ and the *total* angular momentum of the disk + loop system is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.56 is a before-and-after pictorial representation. Initially only the disk is rotating, at angular velocity $\vec{\omega}_{\text{i}}$. The rotation is about an axis of symmetry, so the angular momentum $\vec{L} = I\vec{\omega}$ is parallel to $\vec{\omega}$. At the end of the problem, $\vec{\omega}_{\text{disk}} = \vec{\omega}_{\text{loop}} = \vec{\omega}_{\text{f}}$.

**Figure 12.56**




The circular loop drops onto the rotating disk.

**SOLVE** Both angular momentum vectors point along the rotation axis. Conservation of angular momentum tells us that the magnitude of $\vec{L}$ is unchanged. Thus

$$L_\mathrm{f} = I_\mathrm{disk}\omega_\mathrm{f} + I_\mathrm{loop}\omega_\mathrm{f} = L_\mathrm{i} = I_\mathrm{disk}\omega_\mathrm{i}$$

Solving for $\omega_\mathrm{f}$ gives

$$\omega_\mathrm{f} = \frac{I_\mathrm{disk}}{I_\mathrm{disk} + I_\mathrm{loop}}\omega_\mathrm{i}$$

The moments of inertia for a disk and a loop can be found in Table 12.2, leading to

$$\omega_\mathrm{f} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}M_\mathrm{disk}R^2}{\frac{1}{2}M_\mathrm{disk}R^2 + M_\mathrm{loop}R^2}\omega_\mathrm{i} = 100 \text{ rpm}$$

**ASSESS** The angular velocity has been reduced to half its initial value, which seems reasonable.

## Stop to Think 12.7

Two buckets spin around in a horizontal circle on frictionless bearings. Suddenly, it starts to rain. As a result,

**a.** The buckets continue to rotate at constant angular velocity because the rain is falling vertically while the buckets move in a horizontal plane.

**b.** The buckets continue to rotate at constant angular velocity because the total mechanical energy of the bucket + rain system is conserved.

**c.** The buckets speed up because the potential energy of the rain is transformed into kinetic energy.

**d.** The buckets slow down because the angular momentum of the bucket + rain system is conserved.

**e.** Both a and b.

**f.** None of the above.

# 12.12 Advanced Topic: Precession of a Gyroscope

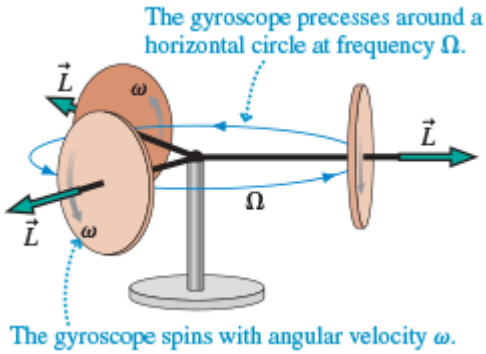
Rotating objects can exhibit surprising and unexpected behaviors. For example, a common lecture demonstration makes use of a bicycle wheel with two handles along the axis. The wheel is spun, then handed to an unsuspecting student who is asked to turn the spinning wheel 90°. Surprisingly, this is *very hard to do*. The reason is that the angular momentum is a *vector*, so the wheel's rotation axis—the direction of $\vec{L}$—is highly resistant to change. If the wheel is spinning fast, a *large* torque is required to turn the wheel's axis.

We'll look at a related example: the precession of a gyroscope. A **gyroscope** —whether it's a toy or a precision instrument used for navigation—is a rapidly spinning wheel or disk whose axis of rotation can assume any orientation. As it spins, it has angular momentum $\vec{L} = I\vec{\omega}$ along the rotation axis. A navigation gyroscope is mounted in gimbals that allow it to spin with virtually no torque from the environment. Once its axis is pointed north, conservation of angular momentum will ensure that the axis continues to point north no matter how the ship or plane moves.

We want to consider a horizontal gyroscope, with the disk spinning in a vertical plane, that is supported at only one end of its axle, as shown in Figure 12.57. You would expect it to simply fall over—but it doesn't. Instead, the axle remains horizontal, parallel to the ground, while the entire gyroscope slowly rotates in a horizontal plane. This steady change in the orientation of the rotation axis is called **precession**, and we say

that the gyroscope precesses about its point of support. The **precession frequency** Ω (capital Greek omega) is much less than the disk's rotation frequency $\omega$. Note that Ω, like $\omega$, is in rad/s.

## Figure 12.57

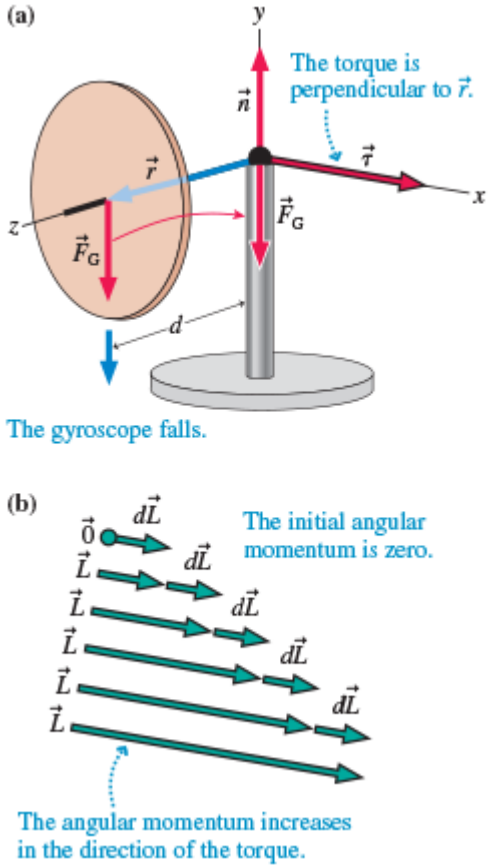



A spinning gyroscope precesses in a horizontal plane.

You might object that angular momentum is not conserved during precession. This is true. The *magnitude* of $\vec{L}$ is constant, but its *direction* is changing. However, angular momentum is conserved only for an isolated system, one on which there is no net torque. The spinning gyroscope is *not* an isolated system because gravity is exerting a torque on it. Indeed, understanding the relationship between the gravitational torque and the angular momentum is the key to understanding why the gyroscope precesses.

Figure 12.58a shows a gyroscope that is *not* spinning. When released, it most definitely falls over by rotating about the point of support until the disk hits the table. Because the motion is *rotation*, rather than the translational motion of a gyroscope that is simply dropped, we can analyze it using the concepts of torque and angular momentum.

## Figure 12.58




The gravitational torque on a nonspinning gyroscope causes it to fall over.

---

There are two forces acting on the gyroscope: gravity pulling downward at the disk's center of mass (we'll assume that the axle is massless) and the normal force of the support pushing upward. The normal force exerts no torque about the pivot point because it acts at the pivot point, so **the net torque on the gyroscope is entirely a gravitational torque:**



**(12.56)**

$$\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}_{\mathrm{G}} = Mgd\,\hat{i}$$

where $d = \left|\vec{r}\right|$ is the distance from the pivot to the center of the disk. To evaluate the cross product, we redrew $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{G}}$ at the pivot and established a coordinate system with the *z*-axis along the axle. Vectors $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{F}_G$ are perpendicular ($\sin\alpha = 1$), and by using the right-hand rule we see that $\vec{\tau}$ points along the *x*-axis.

We found in the previous section that a torque causes the angular momentum to change. In particular,

**(12.57)**

$$\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = \vec{\tau}$$

So in a small interval of time $dt$, the torque causes the gyroscope's angular momentum about the point of support to change by $d\vec{L} = \vec{\tau}\, dt$.

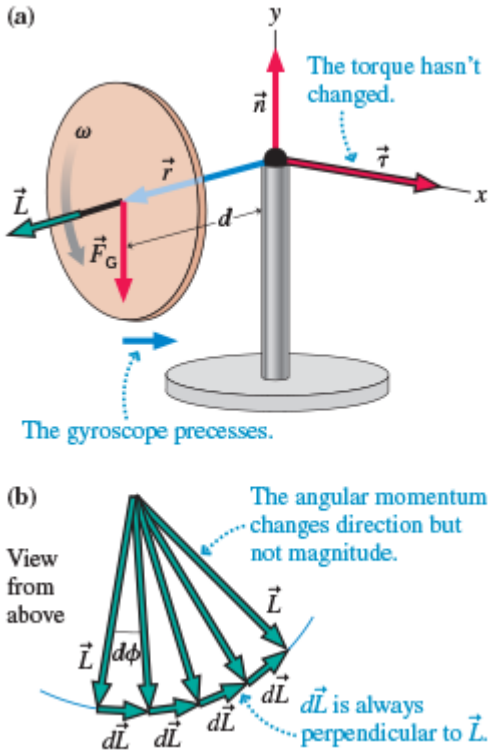
Figure 12.58b shows graphically what happens. Initially, when the gyroscope is first released, $\vec{L} = \vec{0}$. After a small interval of time, the gyroscope acquires a small amount of angular momentum $d\vec{L}$ in the direction of $\vec{\tau}$, the $\hat{i}$ direction. An angular momentum along the $x$-axis means that the gyroscope is rotating in the $yz$-plane—which is exactly what it does as it starts to fall. During the next interval of time, $\vec{L}$ increases a bit more in the $\hat{i}$ direction, and then a bit more. This is what we expect as the falling gyroscope picks up speed, increasing its angular momentum.

Now the magnitude of $\vec{\tau}$ does not remain constant—the angle between $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{G}}$ changes as the gyroscope falls, changing the cross product—so integrating Equation 12.57 symbolically is very difficult. Nonetheless, the *direction* of $\vec{\tau}$ is always the $\hat{i}$ direction, so we can see that the angular momentum keeps increasing in the $\hat{i}$ direction as the gyroscope falls.

What's different about a spinning gyroscope that causes it to precess rather than fall? In Figure 12.59a we've again just released the gyroscope, its axle is again along the $z$-axis, but now it's spinning with

angular velocity $\vec{\omega} = \omega\hat{k}$. Consequently, the gyroscope has initial angular momentum $\vec{L} = I\vec{\omega} = I\omega\hat{k}$ along the $z$-axis. The torque is exactly as we calculated above, and that torque again causes the angular momentum to change by $d\vec{L} = \vec{\tau}\, dt$. **The only difference is that the gyroscope starts with initial angular momentum**—but that makes all the difference.

## Figure 12.59




For a spinning gyroscope, the gravitational torque changes the direction but not the magnitude of the angular momentum.

Figure 12.59b, looking down from above, shows the initial angular momentum $\vec{L}$. A very small time interval $dt$ after we release the gyroscope, its angular momentum will have changed to $\vec{L} + d\vec{L}$. The small *change* in angular momentum, $d\vec{L}$, is parallel to the torque and thus *perpendicular* to the spinning gyroscope's angular momentum $\vec{L}$. Because we're adding vectors, not scalars, the "new" angular momentum has rotated to a new position but *not* increased in magnitude. So during $dt$,

the angular momentum—and thus the entire gyroscope—rotates through a small angle $d\phi$ in the horizontal plane.

The torque vector is always perpendicular to the axle, and thus $d\vec{L}$ is always perpendicular to $\vec{L}$. With each subsequent time interval $dt$, the gyroscope rotates through another small angle $d\phi$ while the magnitude of the angular momentum (and hence the disk's angular velocity $\omega$) is unchanged. The gyroscope is precessing in the horizontal plane!



You've encountered a similar situation previously. If a ball is initially at rest, pulling on it with a string causes the ball to accelerate (increasing $\vec{v}$) in the direction of the pull. That is, $\vec{v}$ increases in magnitude but doesn't change direction. But if a ball on a string is in uniform circular motion, a force directed to the center—the string tension—has a very different effect. $d\vec{v}$ points toward the center, because that's the direction of the centripetal acceleration, but now $d\vec{v}$ is perpendicular to $\vec{v}$. Adding them as vectors to get $\vec{v} + d\vec{v}$ changes the *direction* of the velocity vector but not its magnitude. Then, as now, having an initial vector ($\vec{v}$ or $\vec{L}$) leads to very different behavior than not having an initial vector.

The small horizontal rotation $d\phi$ is a small piece of the precession. Because it occurs during the small time interval $dt$, the *rate* of horizontal rotation—the precession frequency—is

**(12.58)**

$$\Omega = \frac{d\phi}{dt}$$

In Figure 12.59b the small length $dL$ is the arc length spanned by $d\phi$, hence $d\phi = dL/L$ and the precession frequency is

(12.59)

$$\Omega = \frac{dL/L}{dt} = \frac{dL/dt}{L}$$

From Equations 12.56 and 12.57, $dL/dt = \tau = Mgd$. Further, the gyroscope's angular momentum has magnitude $L = I\omega$, where $I$ is the moment of inertia of the disk rotating about the axle. Thus the precession frequency of the gyroscope—in rad/s—is

(12.60)

$$\Omega = \frac{Mgd}{I\omega}$$

Because the spin angular velocity $\omega$ is in the denominator, a very rapidly spinning gyroscope precesses very slowly. As the gyroscope runs down, due to any little bit of friction, it begins to precess faster and faster.

We have made one tacit assumption. As the gyroscope precesses, the precessional motion has its own angular momentum along the vertical axis. The gyroscope's angular momentum $\vec{L}$ is not simply the angular momentum of the spinning disk, as we assumed, but the vector sum $\vec{L}_{\text{spin}} + \vec{L}_{\text{precess}}$. As long as the gyroscope precesses slowly, with $\Omega \ll \omega$, the precessional angular momentum is very small compared to the spin angular momentum and our assumption is well justified. But toward the end of the gyroscope's motion, as $\omega$ decreases and $\Omega$ increases, our model of precession breaks down and the gyroscope's motion becomes more complex.

**Example 12.20 A precessing gyroscope**

A gyroscope used in a lecture demonstration consists of a 120 g, 7.0-cm-diameter solid disk that rotates on a lightweight axle. From the center of the disk to the end of the axle is 5.0 cm. When spun, placed on a stand, and released, the gyroscope is observed to precess with a period of 1.0 s. How fast, in rpm, is it spinning?

---

**SOLVE** The precession frequency is given by Equation 12.60. The moment of inertia of a disk of mass $M$ and radius $R$ about an axis through its center is $I = \frac{1}{2}MR^2$. Inserting this into Equation 12.60, we see that the precession frequency

$$\Omega = \frac{Mgd}{I\omega} = \frac{Mgd}{\frac{1}{2}MR^2\omega} = \frac{2gd}{\omega R^2}$$

is actually independent of the gyroscope's mass. Solving for $\omega$ gives

$$\omega = \frac{2gd}{\Omega R^2}$$

A precession period of 1.0 s corresponds to the precession frequency

$$\Omega = \frac{2\pi\,\text{rad}}{1.0\,\text{s}} = 6.28\,\text{rad/s}$$

Thus the gyroscope's spin angular velocity is

$$\omega = \frac{2\,(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)\,(0.050\,\text{m})}{(6.28\,\text{rad/s})\,(0.035\,\text{m})^2} = 127\,\text{rad/s}$$

Converting to rpm gives

$$\omega = 127\,\text{rad/s} \times \frac{1\,\text{rev}}{2\pi\,\text{rad}} \times \frac{60\,\text{s}}{1\ \text{min}} = 1200\,\text{rpm}$$

**ASSESS** 1200 rpm is 20 rev/s. That seems reasonable for a spinning top or gyroscope. And $\Omega \ll \omega$, so our precession model of the gyroscope is valid.



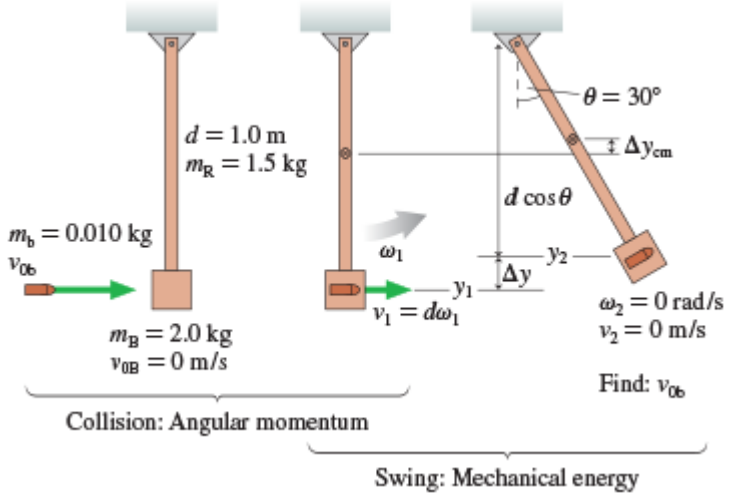
### Challenge Example 12.21 The ballistic pendulum revisited

A 2.0 kg block hangs from the end of a 1.5 kg,1.0-m-long rod, together forming a pendulum that swings from a frictionless pivot at the top end of the rod. A 10 g bullet is fired horizontally into the block, where it sticks, causing the pendulum to swing out to a 30° angle. What was the speed of the bullet?

**MODEL** Model the rod as a uniform rod that can rotate around one end, and assume the block is small enough to model as a particle. There are no external torques on the bullet + block + rod system, so angular momentum is conserved in the inelastic collision. Further, the mechanical energy of the system is conserved after (but not during) the collision as the pendulum swings outward.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 12.60 is a pictorial representation. This is a two-part problem, so we've separated the collision's before-and-after from the pendulum swing's before-and-after. The end of the collision is the beginning of the swing.

Figure 12.60




Pictorial representation of the bullet hitting the pendulum.

**SOLVE** This is a *ballistic pendulum*. Example 11.5 considered a simpler ballistic pendulum with a mass on a string, rather than on a rod, and a review of that example is highly recommended. The key to both is that a different conservation law applies to each part of the problem.

Angular momentum is conserved in the collision, thus $L_1 = L_0$. Before the collision, the angular momentum—which we'll measure about the pendulum's pivot point—is entirely that of the bullet. The angular momentum of a particle is $L = mrv \sin \beta$. An instant before the collision, just as the bullet reaches the block, $r = d$ and, because $\vec{v}$ is perpendicular to $\vec{r}$ at that instant, $\beta = 90^\circ$. Thus $L_0 = m_b d v_{0b}$. (This is the magnitude of the angular momentum; from the right-hand rule, the angular momentum vector points out of the page.)

An instant after the collision, but before the pendulum has had time to move, the rod has angular velocity $\omega_1$ and the block, with the embedded bullet, is moving in a circle with speed $v_1 = \omega_1 r = \omega_1 d$. The angular momentum of the block + bullet system is that of a particle, still with $\beta = 90^\circ$, while that of the rod—an object rotating

on a fixed axle—is $I_{\text{rod}}\omega_1$. Thus the post-collision angular momentum is

$$L_1 = (m_{\text{B}} + m_{\text{b}})\, v_1 r + I_{\text{rod}}\omega_1 = (m_{\text{B}} + m_{\text{b}})\, d^2\omega_1 + \tfrac{1}{3}m_{\text{R}}d^2\omega_1$$

The moment of inertia of the rod was taken from Table 12.2.

Equating the before-and-after angular momenta, then solving for $v_{0\text{b}}$, gives

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\text{b}} d v_{0\text{b}} &= (m_{\text{B}} + m_b)\, d^2\omega_1 + \tfrac{1}{3}m_{\text{R}}d^2\omega_1 \\ v_{0\text{b}} &= \frac{m_{\text{B}} + m_b + \frac{1}{3}m_{\text{R}}}{m_b} d\omega_1 = 251 d\omega_1 \end{aligned}$$

Once we know $\omega_1$, which we'll find from energy conservation in the swing, we'll be able to compute the bullet's speed.

Mechanical energy is conserved during the swing, but you must be careful to include all the energies. The kinetic energy has two components: the translational kinetic energy of the block + bullet system and the rotational kinetic energy of the rod. The gravitational potential energy also has two components: the potential energy of the block + bullet system and the potential energy of the rod. The latter changes because the center of mass moves upward as the rod swings. Thus the energy conservation statement is

$$\begin{aligned} \tfrac{1}{2}(m_{\text{B}} + m_{\text{b}})\, {v_2}^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}I_{\text{rod}}{\omega_2}^2 + (m_{\text{B}} + m_{\text{b}})\, g y_2 + m_{\text{R}} g y_{\text{cm2}} = \\ \tfrac{1}{2}(m_{\text{B}} + m_{\text{b}})\, {v_1}^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}I_{\text{rod}}{\omega_1}^2 + (m_{\text{B}} + m_{\text{b}})\, g y_1 + m_{\text{R}} g y_{\text{cm1}} \end{aligned}$$

Although this looks very complicated, you should convince yourself that we've done nothing more than add up two kinetic energies and two potential energies before and after the swing.

We know that $v_2 = 0$ and $\omega_2 = 0$ at the end of the swing, and that $v_1 = d\omega_1$ at the beginning. We also know the moment of inertia of a rod pivoted at one end. Combining the potential energy terms and using $\Delta y = y_\mathrm{f} - y_\mathrm{i}$, we thus have

$$\tfrac{1}{2}\left(m_\mathrm{B} + m_\mathrm{b} + \tfrac{1}{3}m_\mathrm{R}\right) d^2{\omega_1}^2 = \left(m_\mathrm{B} + m_\mathrm{b}\right) g\,\Delta y + m_\mathrm{R} g\,\Delta y_\mathrm{cm}$$

We see from Figure 12.60 that the block, at its highest point, is distance $d\cos\theta$ *below* the pivot. It started distance $d$ below the pivot, so the bullet + block system *gained* height $\Delta y = d - d\cos\theta = d\left(1 - \cos\theta\right)$. The rod's center of mass started distance $d/2$ below the pivot and rises only half as much as the block, so $\Delta y_\mathrm{cm} = \tfrac{1}{2}d(1 - \cos\theta)$. With these, the energy equation becomes

$$\tfrac{1}{2}\left(m_\mathrm{B} + m_\mathrm{b} + \tfrac{1}{3}m_\mathrm{R}\right) d^2{\omega_1}^2 = \left(m_\mathrm{B} + m_\mathrm{b} + \tfrac{1}{2}m_\mathrm{R}\right) gd\,\left(1 - \cos\theta\right)$$

We can now solve for $\omega_1$:

$$\omega_1 = \sqrt{\frac{m_\mathrm{B} + m_\mathrm{b} + \frac{1}{2}m_\mathrm{R}}{m_\mathrm{B} + m_\mathrm{b} + \frac{1}{3}m_\mathrm{R}}\,\frac{2\,g\left(1 - \cos\theta\right)}{d}} = 1.70\,\mathrm{rad/s}$$

and with that

$$v_\mathrm{0b} = 251\,d\omega_1 = 430\,\mathrm{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** 430 m/s seems a reasonable speed for a bullet. This was a challenging problem, but one that you can solve if you focus on the problem-solving strategies—drawing a careful pictorial representation, defining the system, and thinking about which conservation laws apply—rather than hunting for the "right" equation.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 12 has been to understand and apply the physics of rotation.

## General Principles

### Solving Rotational Dynamics Problems

**MODEL** Model the object as a **rigid body.**

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation.

**SOLVE** Use **Newton's second law** for rotational motion:

$$\alpha = \frac{\tau_{\text{net}}}{I}$$

Use rotational kinematics to find angles and angular velocities.

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

### Conservation Laws

**Energy** is conserved for an isolated system.

- Pure rotation $E = K_{\text{rot}} + U_{\text{G}} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2 + Mgy_{\text{cm}}$
- Rolling $E = K_{\text{rot}} + K_{\text{cm}} + U_{\text{G}} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2 + \frac{1}{2}M{v_{\text{cm}}}^2 + Mgy_{\text{cm}}$

**Angular momentum** is conserved if $\vec{\tau}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$.

- Particle $\overrightarrow{L} = \overrightarrow{r} \times \overrightarrow{p}$
- Rotation about a symmetry axis or fixed axle $\overrightarrow{L} = I\overrightarrow{\omega}$

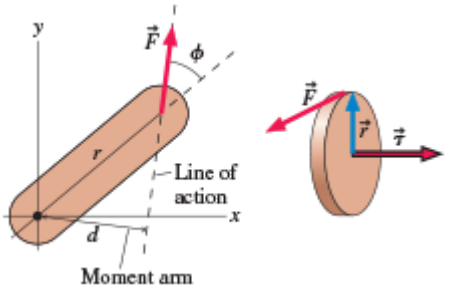
# Important Concepts

**Torque** is the rotational equivalent of force:

$$\tau = rF\sin\phi = rF_t = dF$$

The vector description of torque is

$$\overrightarrow{\tau} = \overrightarrow{r} \times \overrightarrow{F}$$




A system of particles on which there is no net force undergoes unconstrained rotation about the **center of mass:**

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M}\int x\,dm \qquad y_{\text{cm}} = \frac{1}{M}\int y\,dm$$

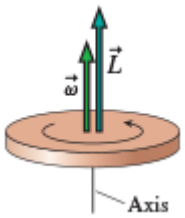
The gravitational torque on a body can be found by treating the body as a particle with all the mass $M$ concentrated at the center of mass.

## Vector description of rotation

Angular velocity $\overrightarrow{\omega}$ points along the rotation axis in the direction of the right-hand rule.

For a rigid body rotating about a fixed axle or an axis of symmetry, the angular momentum is $\overrightarrow{L} = I\overrightarrow{\omega}$.

Newton's second law is $\frac{d\overrightarrow{L}}{dt} = \overrightarrow{\tau}_{\text{net}}$.




The **moment of inertia**

$$I = \sum_i m_i r_i^2 = \int r^2 \, dm$$

is the rotational equivalent of mass. The moment of inertia depends on how the mass is distributed around the axis. If $I_{\text{cm}}$ is known, $I$ about a parallel axis distance $d$ away is given by the **parallel-axis theorem:** $I = I_{\text{cm}} + Md^2$.

# Applications

## Rigid-body model

- Size and shape do not change as the object moves.

- The object is modeled as particle-like atoms connected by massless, rigid rods.

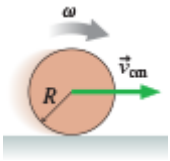
### Rigid-body equilibrium

An object is in total equilibrium only if both $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$ and $\vec{\tau}_{\text{net}} = \vec{0}$.

### Rolling motion

For an object that rolls without slipping

$$v_{\text{cm}} = R\omega$$
$$K = K_{\text{rot}} + K_{\text{cm}}$$




## Terms and Notation

rigid-body model

rigid body

translational motion

rotational motion

combination motion

center of mass

rotational kinetic energy, $K_{\text{rot}}$

moment of inertia, $I$

parallel-axis theorem

torque, $\tau$

line of action

moment arm, $d$

constant-torque model

static equilibrium model

rolling constraint

cross product

vector product

right-hand rule

angular momentum, $\overrightarrow{L}$

law of conservation of angular momentum

gyroscope

precession

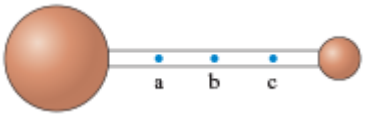
precession frequency

# Conceptual Questions



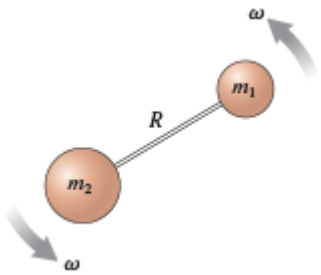
**1.** Is the center of mass of the dumbbell in Figure Q12.1 at point a, b, or c? Explain.

**Figure Q12.1**



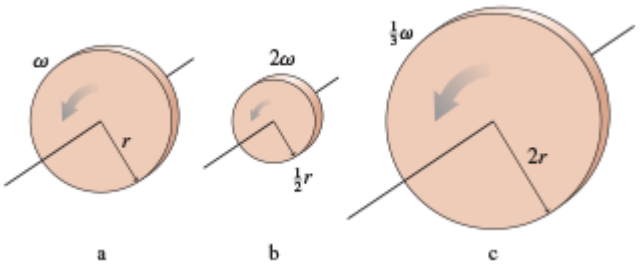

**2.** If the angular velocity $\omega$ is held constant, by what *factor* must $R$ change to double the rotational kinetic energy of the dumbbell in Figure Q12.2?

**Figure Q12.2**




**3.** Figure Q12.3 shows three rotating disks, all of equal mass. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, their rotational kinetic energies $K_a$ to $K_c$.

**Figure Q12.3**




**4.** Must an object be rotating to have a moment of inertia? Explain.

**5.** The moment of inertia of a uniform rod about an axis through its center is $\frac{1}{12}mL^2$. The moment of inertia about an axis at one end is $\frac{1}{3}mL^2$. Explain *why* the moment of inertia is larger about the end than about the center.

**6.** You have two solid steel spheres. Sphere 2 has twice the radius of sphere 1. By what *factor* does the moment of inertia $I_2$ of sphere 2 exceed the moment of inertia $I_1$ of sphere 1?

**7.** The professor hands you two spheres. They have the same mass, the same radius, and the same exterior surface. The professor claims that one is a solid sphere and the other is hollow. Can you determine which is which without cutting them open? If so, how? If not, why not?

**8.** Six forces are applied to the door in Figure Q12.8. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the six torques $\tau_a$ to $\tau_f$ about the hinge on the left. Explain.

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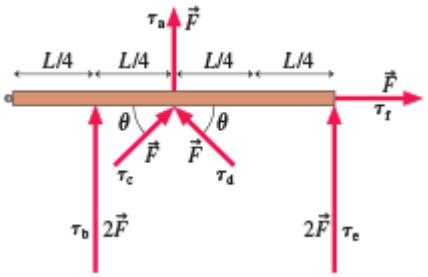
**Figure Q12.8**



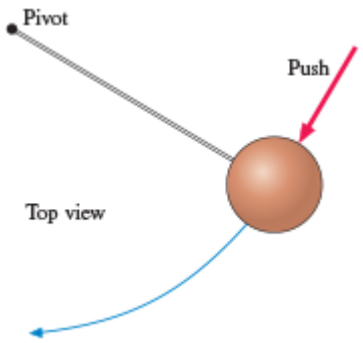
**9.** A student gives a quick push to a ball at the end of a massless, rigid rod, as shown in Figure Q12.9, causing the ball to rotate clockwise in a *horizontal* circle. The rod's pivot is frictionless.

**a.** As the student is pushing, is the torque about the pivot positive, negative, or zero?

**b.** After the push has ended, does the ball's angular velocity (i) steadily increase; (ii) increase for awhile, then hold steady; (iii) hold steady; (iv) decrease for awhile, then hold steady; or (v) steadily decrease? Explain.

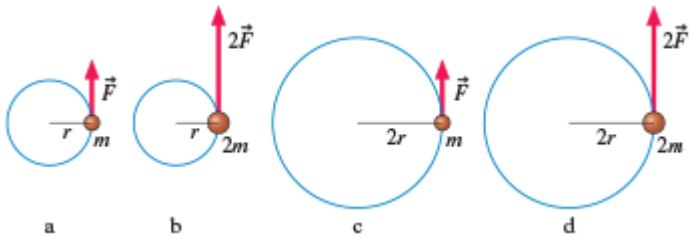
**c.** Right after the push has ended, is the torque positive, negative, or zero?

**Figure Q12.9**



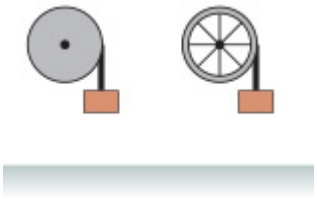

**10.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the angular accelerations $\alpha_a$ to $\alpha_d$ in Figure Q12.10. Explain.

**Figure Q12.10**



**11.** The solid cylinder and cylindrical shell in Figure Q12.11 have the same mass, same radius, and turn on frictionless, horizontal axles. (The cylindrical shell has lightweight spokes connecting the shell to the axle.) A rope is wrapped around each cylinder and tied to a block. The blocks have the same mass and are held the same height above the ground. Both blocks are released simultaneously. Which hits the ground first? Or is it a tie? Explain.

**Figure Q12.11**

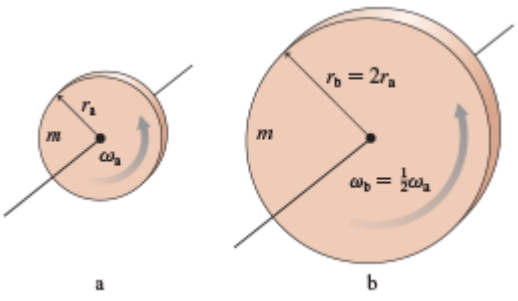


**12.** A diver in the pike position (legs straight, hands on ankles) usually makes only one or one-and-a-half rotations. To make two or three rotations, the diver goes into a tuck position (knees bent, body curled up tight). Why?



**13.** Is the angular momentum of disk a in Figure Q12.13 larger than, smaller than, or equal to the angular momentum of disk b? Explain.

**Figure Q12.13**



# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 12.1 Rotational Motion

**1.** •• A high-speed drill reaches 2000 rpm in 0.50 s.

**a.** What is the drill's angular acceleration?

**b.** Through how many revolutions does it turn during this first 0.50 s?

**2.** •• A skater holds her arms outstretched as she spins at 180 rpm. What is the speed of her hands if they are 140 cm apart?

**3.** •• A ceiling fan with 80-cm-diameter blades is turning at 60 rpm. Suppose the fan coasts to a stop 25 s after being turned off.

**a.** What is the speed of the tip of a blade 10 s after the fan is turned off?

**b.** Through how many revolutions does the fan turn while stopping?

**4.** ••• An 18-cm-long bicycle crank arm, with a pedal at one end, is attached to a 20-cm-diameter sprocket, the toothed disk around which the chain moves. A cyclist riding this bike increases her pedaling rate from 60 rpm to 90 rpm in 10 s.

**a.** What is the tangential acceleration of the pedal?

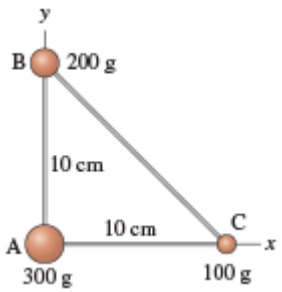
**b.** What length of chain passes over the top of the sprocket during this interval?

### Section 12.2 Rotation About the Center of Mass

**5.** • How far from the center of the earth is the center of mass of the earth + moon system? Data for the earth and moon can be found inside the back cover of the book.

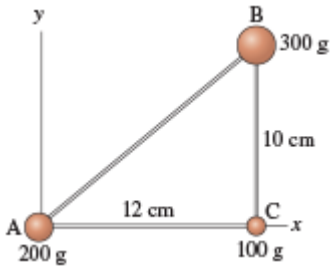
**6.** • The three masses shown in Figure EX12.6 are connected by massless, rigid rods. What are the coordinates of the center of mass?

**Figure EX12.6**




**7.** • The three masses shown in Figure EX12.7 are connected by massless, rigid rods. What are the coordinates of the center of mass?

**Figure EX12.7**




**8.** •• A 100 g ball and a 200 g ball are connected by a 30-cm-long, massless, rigid rod. The balls rotate about their center of mass at 120 rpm. What is the speed of the 100 g ball?

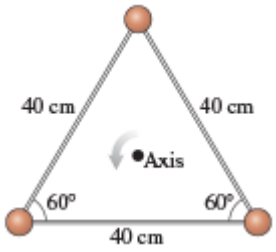
## Section 12.3 Rotational Energy

**9.** •• A thin, 100 g disk with a diameter of 8.0 cm rotates about an axis through its center with 0.15 J of kinetic energy. What is the speed of a point on the rim?

**10.** •• What is the rotational kinetic energy of the earth? Assume the earth is a uniform sphere. Data for the earth can be found inside the back cover of the book.

**11.** •• The three 200 g masses in Figure EX12.11 are connected by massless, rigid rods.

**Figure EX12.11**




**a.** What is the triangle's moment of inertia about the axis through the center?

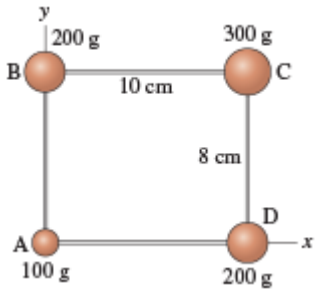
**b.** What is the triangle's kinetic energy if it rotates about the axis at 5.0 rev/s?

**12.** •• A drum major twirls a 96-cm-long, 400 g baton about its center of mass at 100 rpm. What is the baton's rotational kinetic energy?

## Section 12.4 Calculating Moment of Inertia

**13.** •• The four masses shown in Figure EX12.13 are connected by massless, rigid rods.

**Figure EX12.13**




**a.** Find the coordinates of the center of mass.

**b.** Find the moment of inertia about an axis that passes through mass A and is perpendicular to the page.

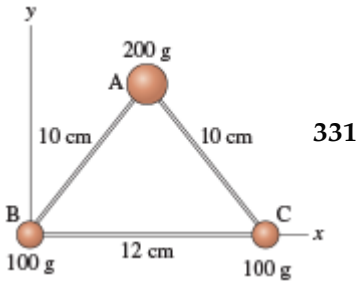
**14.** •• The four masses shown in Figure EX12.13 are connected by massless, rigid rods.

**a.** Find the coordinates of the center of mass.

**b.** Find the moment of inertia about a diagonal axis that passes through masses B and D.

**15.** • The three masses shown in Figure EX12.15 are connected by massless, rigid rods.

**Figure EX12.15**






**a.** Find the coordinates of the center of mass.

**b.** Find the moment of inertia about an axis that passes through mass A and is perpendicular to the page.

**c.** Find the moment of inertia about an axis that passes through masses B and C.

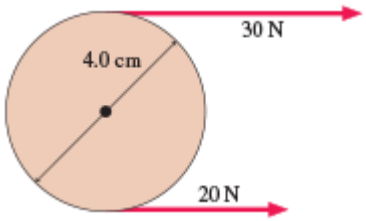
**16.** •• A 12-cm-diameter CD has a mass of 21 g. What is the CD's moment of inertia for rotation about a perpendicular axis (a) through its center and (b) through the edge of the disk?

**17.** •• A 25 kg solid door is 220 cm tall, 91 cm wide. What is the door's moment of inertia for (a) rotation on its hinges and (b) rotation about a vertical axis inside the door, 15 cm from one edge?

## Section 12.5 Torque

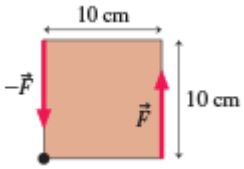
**18.** •• In Figure EX12.18, what is the net torque about the axle?

**Figure EX12.18**



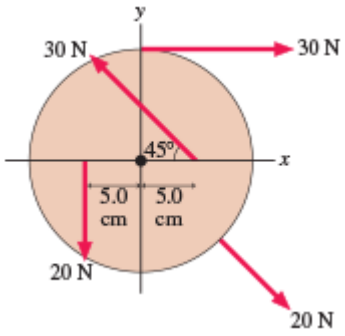

**19.** •• In Figure EX12.19, what magnitude force provides 5.0 N m net torque about the axle?

**Figure EX12.19**



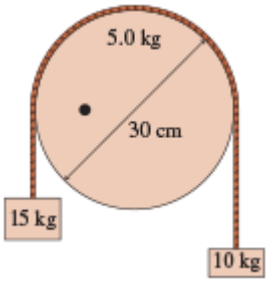

**20.** •• The 20-cm-diameter disk in Figure EX12.20 can rotate on an axle through its center. What is the net torque about the axle?

**Figure EX12.20**




**21.** •• The axle in Figure EX12.21 is half the distance from the center to the rim. What is the magnitude of the torque that the axle must apply to prevent the disk from rotating?

**Figure EX12.21**




**22.** •• A 4.0-m-long, 500 kg steel beam extends horizontally from the point where it has been bolted to the framework of a new building under construction. A 70 kg construction worker stands at the far end of the beam. What is the magnitude of the torque that the axle must apply to prevent the disk from rotating?

**23.** •• **BIO** An athlete at the gym holds a 3.0 kg steel ball in his hand. His arm is 70 cm long and has a mass of 3.8 kg, with the center of mass at 40% of the arm length. What is the magnitude of the torque about his shoulder due to the ball and the weight of his arm if he holds his arm

**a.** Straight out to his side, parallel to the floor?

**b.** Straight, but 45° below horizontal?

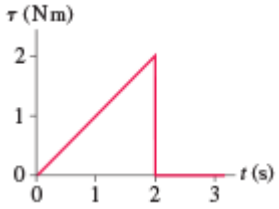
## Section 12.6 Rotational Dynamics

## Section 12.7 Rotation About a Fixed Axis

**24.** • An object's moment of inertia is 2.0 kg m$^2$. Its angular velocity is increasing at the rate of 4.0 rad/s per second. What is the net torque on the object?

**25.** •• An object whose moment of inertia is 4.0 kg m$^2$ experiences the torque shown in Figure EX12.25. What is the object's angular velocity at $t = 3.0\,\text{s}$? Assume it starts from rest.

**Figure EX12.25**




**26.** ••• A 1.0 kg ball and a 2.0 kg ball are connected by a 1.0-m-long rigid, massless rod. The rod is rotating cw about its center of mass at 20 rpm. What net torque will bring the balls to a halt in 5.0 s?

**27.** •• Starting from rest, a 12-cm-diameter compact disk takes 3.0 s to reach its operating angular velocity of 2000 rpm. Assume that the angular acceleration is constant. The disk's moment of inertia is $2.5 \times 10^{-5}\,\text{kg m}^2$.

**a.** How much net torque is applied to the disk?

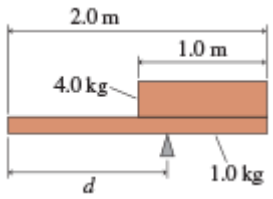
**b.** How many revolutions does it make before reaching full speed?

**28.** •• A 4.0 kg, 36-cm-diameter metal disk, initially at rest, can rotate on an axle along its axis. A steady 5.0 N tangential force is applied to the edge of the disk. What is the disk's angular velocity, in rpm, 4.0 s later?

## Section 12.8 Static Equilibrium

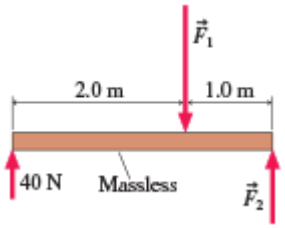
**29.** • The two objects in Figure EX12.29 are balanced on the pivot. What is distance $d$?

**Figure EX12.29**




**30.** •• The object shown in Figure EX12.30 is in equilibrium. What are the magnitudes of $\vec{F}_1$ and $\vec{F}_2$?

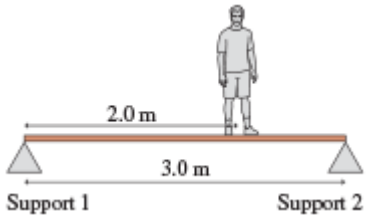
**Figure EX12.30**





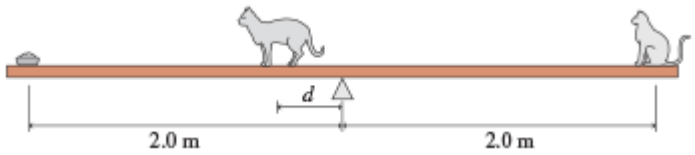

**31.** •• The 3.0-m-long, 100 kg rigid beam of Figure EX12.31 is supported at each end. An 80 kg student stands 2.0 m from support 1. How much upward force does each support exert on the beam?

**Figure EX12.31**




**32.** •• A 5.0 kg cat and a 2.0 kg bowl of tuna fish are at opposite ends of the 4.0-m-long seesaw of Figure EX12.32. How far to the left of the pivot must a 4.0 kg cat stand to keep the seesaw balanced?

**Figure EX12.32**




## Section 12.9 Rolling Motion

**33.** •• A car tire is 60 cm in diameter. The car is traveling at a speed of 20 m/s.

**a.** What is the tire's angular velocity, in rpm?

**b.** What is the speed of a point at the top edge of the tire?

**c.** What is the speed of a point at the bottom edge of the tire?

**34.** •• A 500 g, 8.0-cm-diameter can is filled with uniform, dense food. It rolls across the floor at 1.0 m/s. What is the can's kinetic energy?

**35.** •• An 8.0-cm-diameter, 400 g solid sphere is released from rest at the top of a 2.1-m-long, 25° incline. It rolls, without slipping, to the bottom.

**a.** What is the sphere's angular velocity at the bottom of the incline?

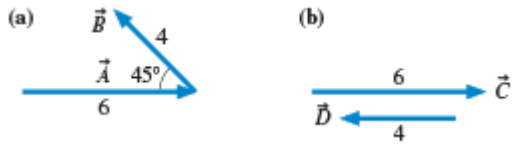
**b.** What fraction of its kinetic energy is rotational?

**36.** •• A solid sphere of radius $R$ is placed at a height of 30 cm on a 15° slope. It is released and rolls, without slipping, to the bottom. From what height should a circular hoop of radius $R$ be released on the same slope in order to equal the sphere's speed at the bottom?

## Section 12.10 The Vector Description of Rotational Motion

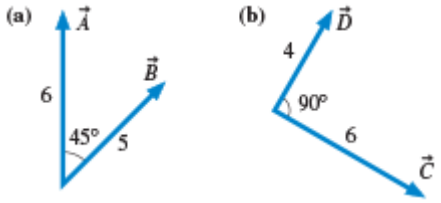
**37.** • Evaluate the cross products $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ and $\vec{C} \times \vec{D}$.

**Figure EX12.37**




**38.** • Evaluate the cross products $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ and $\vec{C} \times \vec{D}$.

**Figure EX12.38**




**39.** • Vector $\vec{A} = 3\,\hat{i} + \hat{j}$ and vector $\vec{B} = 3\,\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$. What is the cross product $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$?

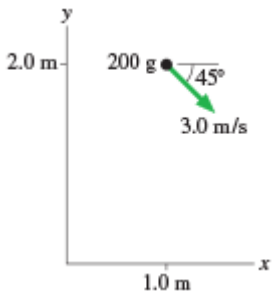
**40.** •• Force $\vec{F} = -10\hat{j}\,\text{N}$ is exerted on a particle at $\vec{r} = (5\hat{i} + 5\hat{j})\text{m}$. What is the torque on the particle about the origin?

**41.** •• A 1.3 kg ball on the end of a lightweight rod is located at $(x,\ y) = (3.0\,\text{m},\ 2.0\,\text{m})$, where the $y$-axis is vertical. The other end of the rod is attached to a pivot at $(x,\ y) = (0\,\text{m},\ 3.0\,\text{m})$. What is the torque about the pivot? Write your answer using unit vectors.

## Section 12.11 Angular Momentum

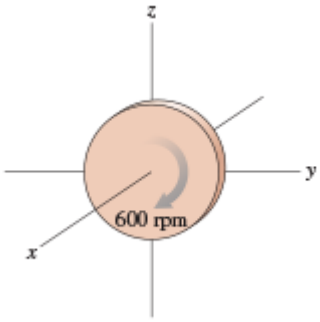
**42.** •• What are the magnitude and direction of the angular momentum relative to the origin of the 200 g particle in Figure EX12.42?

**Figure EX12.42**



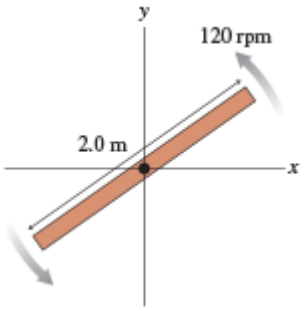

**43.** •• What is the angular momentum vector of the 2.0 kg, 4.0-cm-diameter rotating disk in Figure EX12.43?

**Figure EX12.43**



**44.** •• What is the angular momentum vector of the 500 g rotating bar in Figure EX12.44?

**Figure EX12.44**




**45.** •• How fast, in rpm, would a 5.0 kg, 22-cm-diameter bowling ball have to spin to have an angular momentum of 0.23 kg $m^2/s$?

**46.** •• A 2.0 kg, 20-cm-diameter turntable rotates at 100 rpm on frictionless bearings. Two 500 g blocks fall from above, hit the turntable simultaneously at opposite ends of a diameter, and stick. What is the turntable's angular velocity, in rpm, just after this event?

## Section 12.12 Precession of a Gyroscope

**47.** •• A 75 g, 6.0-cm-diameter solid spherical top is spun at 1200 rpm on an axle that extends 1.0 cm past the edge of the sphere. The tip of the axle is placed on a support. What is the top's precession frequency in rpm?

**48.** •• A toy gyroscope has a ring of mass $M$ and radius $R$ attached to the axle by lightweight spokes. The end of the axle is distance $R$ from the center of the ring. The gyroscope is spun at angular velocity $\omega$, then the end of the axle is placed on a support that allows the gyroscope to precess.

**a.** Find an expression for the precession frequency $\Omega$ in terms of $M$, $R$, $\omega$, and $g$.

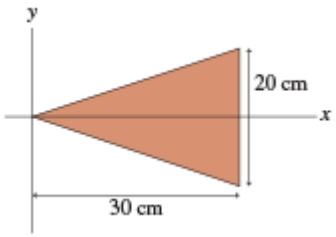
**b.** A 120 g, 8.0-cm-diameter gyroscope is spun at 1000 rpm and allowed to precess. What is the precession period?

## Problems

**49.** •• A 300 g ball and a 600 g ball are connected by a 40-cm-long massless, rigid rod. The structure rotates about its center of mass at 100 rpm. What is its rotational kinetic energy?

**50.** •• **CALC** An 800 g steel plate has the shape of the isosceles triangle shown in Figure P12.50. What are the $x$- and $y$-coordinates of the center of mass?

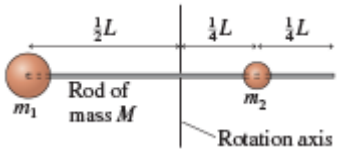
**Figure P12.50**




**Hint:** Divide the triangle into vertical strips of width $dx$, then relate the mass $dm$ of a strip at position $x$ to the values of $x$ and $dx$.

**51.** •• Determine the moment of inertia about the axis of the object shown in Figure P12.51.

**Figure P12.51**

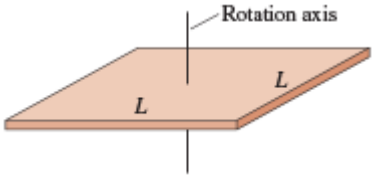



**52.** •• What is the moment of inertia of a 2.0 kg, 20-cm-diameter disk for rotation about an axis (a) through the center, and (b) through the edge of the disk?

**53.** •• **CALC** Calculate by direct integration the moment of inertia for a thin rod of mass $M$ and length $L$ about an axis located distance $d$ from one end. Confirm that your answer agrees with Table 12.2 when $d = 0$ and when $d = L/2$.

**54.** •• **CALC** Calculate the moment of inertia of the rectangular plate in Figure P12.54 for rotation about a perpendicular axis through the center.

**Figure P12.54**




**55.** •• **CALC INT**

**a.** A disk of mass $M$ and radius $R$ has a hole of radius $r$ centered on the axis. Calculate the moment of inertia of the disk.

**b.** Confirm that your answer agrees with Table 12.2 when $r = 0$ and when $r = R$.

**c.** A 4.0-cm-diameter disk with a 3.0-cm-diameter hole rolls down a 50-cm-long, 20° ramp. What is its speed at the bottom? What percent is this of the speed of a particle sliding down a frictionless ramp?

**56.** ••• **CALC** Consider a solid cone of radius $R$, height $H$, and mass $M$. The volume of a cone is $\frac{1}{3}\pi HR^2$.

**a.** What is the distance from the apex (the point) to the center of mass?

**b.** What is the moment of inertia for rotation about the axis of the cone?

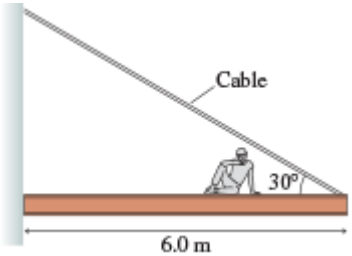
**Hint:** The moment of inertia can be calculated as the sum of the moments of inertia of lots of small pieces.

**57.** •• **BIO** A person's center of mass is easily found by having the person lie on a *reaction board.* A horizontal, 2.5-m-long, 6.1 kg reaction board is supported only at the ends, with one end resting on a scale and the other on a pivot. A 60 kg woman lies on the reaction board with her feet over the pivot. The scale reads 25 kg. What is the distance from the woman's feet to her center of mass?

**58.** •• A 3.0-m-long ladder, as shown in Figure 12.35, leans against a frictionless wall. The coefficient of static friction between the ladder and the floor is 0.40. What is the minimum angle the ladder can make with the floor without slipping?

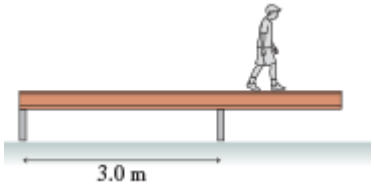
**59.** •• In Figure P12.59, an 80 kg construction worker sits down 2.0 m from the end of a 1450 kg steel beam to eat his lunch. What is the tension in the cable?

**Figure P12.59**



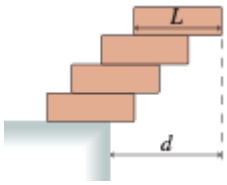
**60.** •• A 40 kg, 5.0-m-long beam is supported by, but not attached to, the two posts in Figure P12.60. A 20 kg boy starts walking along the beam. How close can he get to the right end of the beam without it falling over?

**Figure P12.60**




**61.** •• Your task in a science contest is to stack four identical uniform bricks, each of length $L$, so that the top brick is as far to the right as possible without the stack falling over. Is it possible, as Figure P12.61 shows, to stack the bricks such that no part of the top brick is over the table? Answer this question by determining the maximum possible value of $d$.

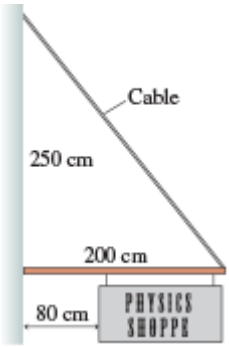
**Figure P12.61**




**62.** •• A 120-cm-wide sign hangs from a 5.0 kg, 200-cm-long pole. A cable of negligible mass supports the end of the rod as shown in Figure P12.62. What is the maximum mass of the sign if the maximum tension in the cable without breaking is 300 N?



**Figure P12.62**




**63.** •• A piece of modern sculpture consists of an 8.0-m-long, 150 kg stainless steel bar passing diametrically through a 50 kg copper sphere. The center of the sphere is 2.0 m from one end of the bar. To be mounted for display, the bar is oriented vertically, with the copper sphere at the lower end, then tilted 35° from vertical and held in place by one horizontal steel cable attached to the bar 2.0 m from the top end. What is the tension in the cable?

**64.** ••• **INT** Flywheels are large, massive wheels used to store energy. They can be spun up slowly, then the wheel's energy can be released quickly to accomplish a task that demands high power. An industrial flywheel has a 1.5 m diameter and a mass of 250 kg. Its maximum angular velocity is 1200 rpm.

**a.** A motor spins up the flywheel with a constant torque of 50 N m. How long does it take the flywheel to reach top speed?

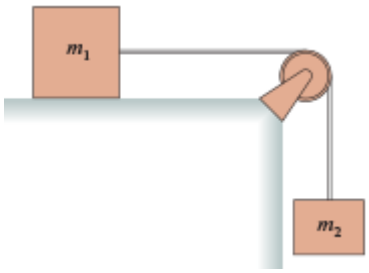
**b.** How much energy is stored in the flywheel?

**c.** The flywheel is disconnected from the motor and connected to a machine to which it will deliver energy. Half the energy stored in the flywheel is delivered in 2.0 s. What is the average power delivered to the machine?

**d.** How much torque does the flywheel exert on the machine?

**65.** •• **INT** Blocks of mass $m_1$ and $m_2$ are connected by a massless string that passes over the pulley in Figure P12.65. The pulley turns on frictionless bearings. Mass $m_1$ slides on a horizontal, frictionless surface. Mass $m_2$ is released while the blocks are at rest.

**Figure P12.65**

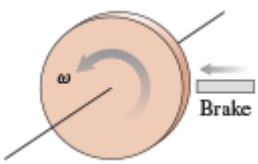



**a.** Assume the pulley is massless. Find the acceleration of $m_1$ and the tension in the string. This is a Chapter 7 review problem.

**b.** Suppose the pulley has mass $m_p$ and radius $R$. Find the acceleration of $m_1$ and the tensions in the upper and lower portions of the string. Verify that your answers agree with part a if you set $m_p = 0$.

**66.** •• The 2.0 kg, 30-cm-diameter disk in Figure P12.66 is spinning at 300 rpm. How much friction force must the brake apply to the rim to bring the disk to a halt in 3.0 s?

**Figure P12.66**



**67.** •• A 30-cm-diameter, 1.2 kg solid turntable rotates on a 1.2-cm-diameter, 450 g shaft at a constant 33 rpm. When you hit the stop switch, a brake pad presses against the shaft and brings the turntable to a halt in 15 seconds. How much friction force does the brake pad apply to the shaft?

**68.** •• Your engineering team has been assigned the task of measuring the properties of a new jet-engine turbine. You've previously determined that the turbine's moment of inertia is 2.6 kg $m^2$. The next job is to measure the frictional torque of the bearings. Your plan is to run the turbine up to a predetermined rotation speed, cut the power, and time how long it takes the turbine to reduce its rotation speed by 50%. Your data are given in the table. Draw an appropriate graph of the data and, from the slope of the best-fit line, determine the frictional torque.

| Rotation (rpm) | Time (s) |
|---|---|
| 1500 | 19 |
| 1800 | 22 |
| 2100 | 25 |
| 2400 | 30 |
| 2700 | 34 |

**69.** •• A hollow sphere is rolling along a horizontal floor at 5.0 m/s when it comes to a 30° incline. How far up the incline does it roll before reversing direction?

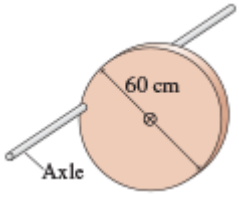
**70.** •• A 750 g disk and a 760 g ring, both 15 cm in diameter, are rolling along a horizontal surface at 1.5 m/s when they encounter a 15° slope. How far up the slope does each travel before rolling back down?

**71.** ••• A cylinder of radius $R$, length $L$, and mass $M$ is released from rest on a slope inclined at angle $\theta$. It is oriented to roll straight down the slope. If the slope were frictionless, the

cylinder would *slide* down the slope without rotating. What minimum coefficient of static friction is needed for the cylinder to roll down without slipping?

**72.** •• The 5.0 kg, 60-cm-diameter disk in Figure P12.72 rotates on an axle passing through one edge. The axle is parallel to the floor. The cylinder is held with the center of mass at the same height as the axle, then released.

**Figure P12.72**




**a.** What is the cylinder's initial angular acceleration?

**b.** What is the cylinder's angular velocity when it is directly below the axle?

**73.** •• A thin, uniform rod of length $L$ and mass $M$ is placed vertically on a horizontal table. If tilted ever so slightly, the rod will fall over.

**a.** What is the speed of the center of mass just as the rod hits the table if there's so much friction that the bottom tip of the rod does not slide?

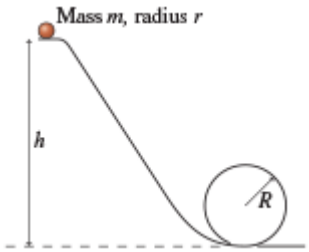


**b.** What is the speed of the center of mass just as the rod hits the table if the table is frictionless?

**74.** •• A long, thin rod of mass $M$ and length $L$ is standing straight up on a table. Its lower end rotates on a frictionless pivot. A very slight push causes the rod to fall over. As it hits the table, what are (a) the angular velocity and (b) the speed of the tip of the rod?

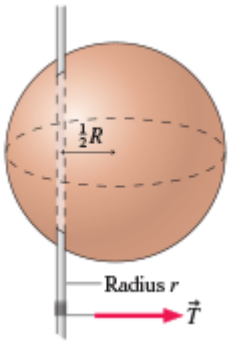
**75.** ••• The marble rolls down the track shown in Figure P12.75 and around a loop-the-loop of radius $R$. The marble has mass $m$ and radius $r$. What minimum height $h$ must the track have for the marble to make it around the loop-the-loop without falling off?

**Figure P12.75**




**76.** •• The sphere of mass $M$ and radius $R$ in Figure P12.76 is rigidly attached to a thin rod of radius $r$ that passes through the sphere at distance $\frac{1}{2}R$ from the center. A string wrapped around the rod pulls with tension $T$. Find an expression for the sphere's angular acceleration. The rod's moment of inertia is negligible.

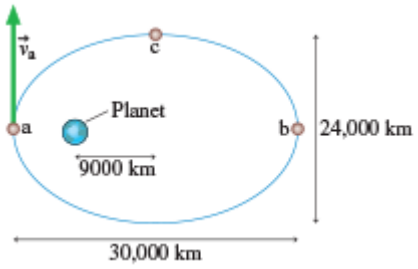
**Figure P12.76**




**77.** •• A satellite follows the elliptical orbit shown in Figure P12.77. The only force on the satellite is the gravitational

attraction of the planet. The satellite's speed at point a is 8000 m/s.

**Figure P12.77**




**a.** Does the satellite experience any torque about the center of the planet? Explain.

**b.** What is the satellite's speed at point b?

**c.** What is the satellite's speed at point c?

**78.** ••• A 10 g bullet traveling at 400 m/s strikes a 10 kg, 1.0-m-wide door at the edge opposite the hinge. The bullet embeds itself in the door, causing the door to swing open. What is the angular velocity of the door just after impact?

**79.** •• A 200 g, 40-cm-diameter turntable rotates on frictionless bearings at 60 rpm. A 20 g block sits at the center of the turntable. A compressed spring shoots the block radially outward along a frictionless groove in the surface of the turntable. What is the turntable's rotation angular velocity when the block reaches the outer edge?

**80.** •• Luc, who is 1.80 m tall and weighs 950 N, is standing at the center of a playground merry-go-round with his arms extended, holding a 4.0 kg dumbbell in each hand. The merry-go-round can be modeled as a 4.0-m-diameter disk with a weight of 1500 N. Luc's body can be modeled as a uniform 40-cm-diameter cylinder with massless arms extending to hands

that are 85 cm from his center. The merry-go-round is coasting at a steady 35 rpm when Luc brings his hands in to his chest. Afterward, what is the angular velocity, in rpm, of the merry-go-round?

**81.** ••• A merry-go-round is a common piece of playground equipment. A 3.0-m-diameter merry-go-round with a mass of 250 kg is spinning at 20 rpm. John runs tangent to the merry-go-round at 5.0 m/s, in the same direction that it is turning, and jumps onto the outer edge. John's mass is 30 kg. What is the merry-go-round's angular velocity, in rpm, after John jumps on?

**82.** ••• A 45 kg figure skater is spinning on the toes of her skates at 1.0 rev/s. Her arms are outstretched as far as they will go. In this orientation, the skater can be modeled as a cylindrical torso (40 kg, 20 cm average diameter, 160 cm tall) plus two rod-like arms (2.5 kg each, 66 cm long) attached to the outside of the torso. The skater then raises her arms straight above her head, where she appears to be a 45 kg, 20-cm-diameter, 200-cm-tall cylinder. What is her new angular velocity, in rev/s?

**83.** ••• During most of its lifetime, a star maintains an equilibrium size in which the inward force of gravity on each atom is balanced by an outward pressure force due to the heat of the nuclear reactions in the core. But after all the hydrogen "fuel" is consumed by nuclear fusion, the pressure force drops and the star undergoes a *gravitational collapse* until it becomes a *neutron star*. In a neutron star, the electrons and protons of the atoms are squeezed together by gravity until they fuse into neutrons. Neutron stars spin very rapidly and emit intense pulses of radio and light waves, one pulse per rotation. These "pulsing stars" were discovered in the 1960s and are called *pulsars*.

**a.** A star with the mass ($M = 2.0 \times 10^{30}\,\text{kg}$) and size ($R = 7.0 \times 10^{8}\,\text{m}$) of our sun rotates once every 30 days. After undergoing gravitational collapse, the star forms a pulsar that is observed by astronomers to emit radio pulses every 0.10 s. By treating the neutron star as a solid sphere, deduce its radius.

**b.** What is the speed of a point on the equator of the neutron star? Your answers will be somewhat too large because a star cannot be accurately modeled as a solid sphere. Even so, you will be able to show that a star, whose mass is $10^6$ larger than the earth's, can be compressed by gravitational forces to a size smaller than a typical state in the United States!

**84.** •• The earth's rotation axis, which is tilted 23.5° from the plane of the earth's orbit, today points to Polaris, the north star. But Polaris has not always been the north star because the earth, like a spinning gyroscope, precesses. That is, a line extending along the earth's rotation axis traces out a 23.5° cone as the earth precesses with a period of 26,000 years. This occurs because the earth is not a perfect sphere. It has an *equatorial bulge*, which allows both the moon and the sun to exert a gravitational torque on the earth. Our expression for the precession frequency of a gyroscope can be written $\Omega = \tau/I\omega$. Although we derived this equation for a specific situation, it's a valid result, differing by at most a constant close to 1, for the precession of any rotating object. What is the average gravitational torque on the earth due to the moon and the sun?

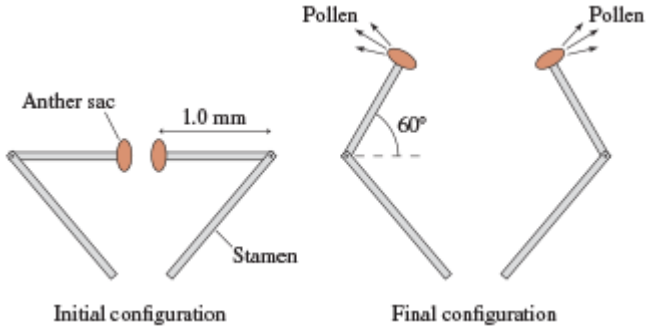
## Challenge Problems

**85.** ••• **BIO** The bunchberry flower has the fastest-moving parts ever observed in a plant. Initially, the stamens are held by the petals in a bent position, storing elastic energy like a coiled spring. When the petals release, the tips of the stamen act like medieval catapults, flipping through a 60° angle in just 0.30 ms to launch pollen from anther sacs at their ends. The human eye just sees a burst of pollen; only high-speed photography reveals the details. As Figure CP12.85 shows, we can model the stamen tip as a 1.0-mm-long, 10 $\mu$g rigid rod with a 10 $\mu$g anther sac at the end. Although oversimplifying, we'll assume a constant angular acceleration.

**a.** How large is the "straightening torque"?

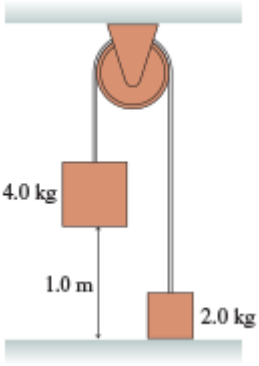
**b.** What is the speed of the anther sac as it releases its pollen?

**Figure CP12.85**




**86.** ••• The two blocks in Figure CP12.86 are connected by a massless rope that passes over a pulley. The pulley is 12 cm in diameter and has a mass of 2.0 kg. As the pulley turns, friction at the axle exerts a torque of magnitude 0.50 N m. If the blocks are released from rest, how long does it take the 4.0 kg block to reach the floor?

**Figure CP12.86**




**87.** ••• **CALC** A rod of length $L$ and mass $M$ has a nonuniform mass distribution. The linear mass density (mass per length) is $\lambda = cx^2$, where $x$ is measured from the *center* of the rod and $c$ is a constant.

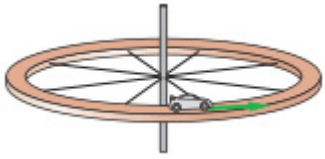
**a.** What are the units of $c$?

**b.** Find an expression for $c$ in terms of $L$ and $M$.

**c.** Find an expression in terms of $L$ and $M$ for the moment of inertia of the rod for rotation about an axis through the center.

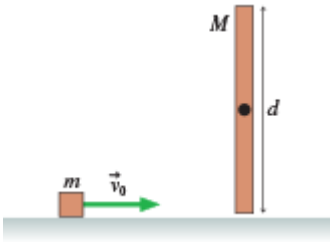
**88.** ••• In Figure CP12.88, a 200 g toy car is placed on a narrow 60-cm-diameter track with wheel grooves that keep the car going in a circle. The 1.0 kg track is free to turn on a frictionless, vertical axis. The spokes have negligible mass. After the car's switch is turned on, it soon reaches a steady speed of 0.75 m/s relative to the track. What then is the track's angular velocity, in rpm?

**Figure CP12.88**



**89.** ••• Figure CP12.89 shows a cube of mass $m$ sliding without friction at speed $v_0$. It undergoes a perfectly elastic collision with the bottom tip of a rod of length $d$ and mass $M = 2m$. The rod is pivoted about a frictionless axle through its center, and initially it hangs straight down and is at rest. What is the cube's velocity—both speed and direction—after the collision?

**Figure CP12.89**




**90.** ••• A 75 g, 30-cm-long rod hangs vertically on a frictionless, horizontal axle passing through its center. A 10 g ball of clay traveling horizontally at 2.5 m/s hits and sticks to the very bottom tip of the rod. To what maximum angle, measured from vertical, does the rod (with the attached ball of clay) rotate?

# Chapter 13
# Newton's Theory of Gravity

The Andromeda Galaxy—seen here in a false-color image showing ultraviolet (blue) and infrared (red) light—consists of billions of stars orbiting the galactic center.

**In This Chapter**

you will understand the motion of satellites and planets.

## What are Kepler's laws?

Before Galileo and the telescope, Kepler used naked-eye measurements to make three major discoveries:

- The planets move in elliptical orbits.
- Planets "sweep out" equal areas in equal times.
- For circular orbits, the square of a planet's period is proportional to the cube of the orbit's radius.

Kepler's discoveries were the first solid proof of Copernicus's assertion that earth and the other planets orbit the sun.

## What is Newton's theory?

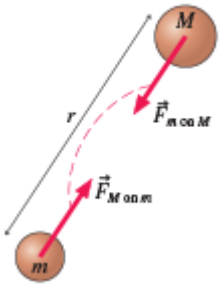
Newton proposed that *any* two masses *M* and *m* are attracted toward each other by a gravitational force of magnitude

$$F_{M\,\text{on}\,m} = F_{m\,\text{on}\,M} = \frac{GMm}{r^2}$$

where *r* is the distance between the masses and *G* is the gravitational constant.

- Newton's law is an inverse-square law.
- Newton's law predicts the value of *g*.

In addition to a specific force law for gravity, Newton's three laws of motion apply to all objects in the universe.




## What is gravitational energy?

The gravitational potential energy of two masses is

$$U_G = -\frac{GMm}{r}$$

Gravitational potential energy is negative, with a zero point at infinity. The $U_G = mgy$ that you learned in Chapter 10 is a

special case for objects very near the surface of a planet. Gravitationally interacting stars, planets, and satellites are always isolated systems, so mechanical energy is conserved.

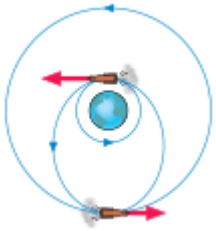
Looking Back Chapter 10 Potential energy and energy conservation

## What does the theory say about orbits?

Kepler's laws can be *derived* from Newton's theory of gravity:

- Orbits can be circular or elliptical.
- Orbits conserve energy and angular momentum.
- Geosynchronous orbits have the same period as the rotating planet.

Looking Back Sections 8.2, 8.3 Circular motion



## Why is the theory of gravity important?

Satellites, space stations, the GPS system, and future missions to planets all depend on Newton's theory of gravity. Our modern understanding of the cosmos—from stars and galaxies to the Big Bang—is based on understanding gravity. Newton's theories of motion and gravity were the beginnings of modern science.

# 13.1 A Little History



The study of the structure of the universe is called **cosmology.** The ancient Greeks developed a cosmological model, with the earth at the center of the universe while the moon, the sun, the planets, and the stars were points of light turning about the earth on large "celestial spheres." This viewpoint was further expanded by the second-century Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy (the P is silent). He developed an elaborate mathematical model of the solar system that quite accurately predicted the complex planetary motions.

Then, in 1543, the medieval world was turned on its head with the publication of Nicholas Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus.* Copernicus argued that it is not the earth at rest in the center of the universe—it is the sun! Furthermore, Copernicus asserted that all of the planets revolve about the sun (hence his title) in circular orbits.

## Tycho and Kepler

The greatest medieval astronomer was Tycho Brahe. For 30 years, from 1570 to 1600, Tycho compiled the most accurate astronomical observations the world had known. The invention of the telescope was still to come, but Tycho developed ingenious mechanical sighting devices that allowed him to determine the positions of stars and planets in the sky with unprecedented accuracy.

Tycho had a young mathematical assistant named Johannes Kepler. Kepler had become one of the first outspoken defenders of Copernicus,

and his goal was to find evidence for circular planetary orbits in Tycho's records. To appreciate the difficulty of this task, keep in mind that Kepler was working before the development of graphs or of calculus—and certainly before calculators! His mathematical tools were algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, and he was faced with thousands upon thousands of individual observations of planetary positions measured as angles above the horizon.

Many years of work led Kepler to discover that the orbits are not circles, as Copernicus claimed, but *ellipses*. Furthermore, the speed of a planet is not constant but varies as it moves around the ellipse.

**Kepler's laws,** as we call them today, state that

1. Planets move in elliptical orbits, with the sun at one focus of the ellipse.
2. A line drawn between the sun and a planet sweeps out equal areas during equal intervals of time.
3. The square of a planet's orbital period is proportional to the cube of the semimajor-axis length.

Figure 13.1a shows that an ellipse has two *foci* (plural of *focus*), and the sun occupies one of these. The long axis of the ellipse is the *major axis*, and half the length of this axis is called the *semimajor-axis length*. As the planet moves, a line drawn from the sun to the planet "sweeps out" an area. Figure 13.1b shows two such areas. Kepler's discovery that the areas are equal for equal $\Delta t$ implies that the planet moves faster when near the sun, slower when farther away.

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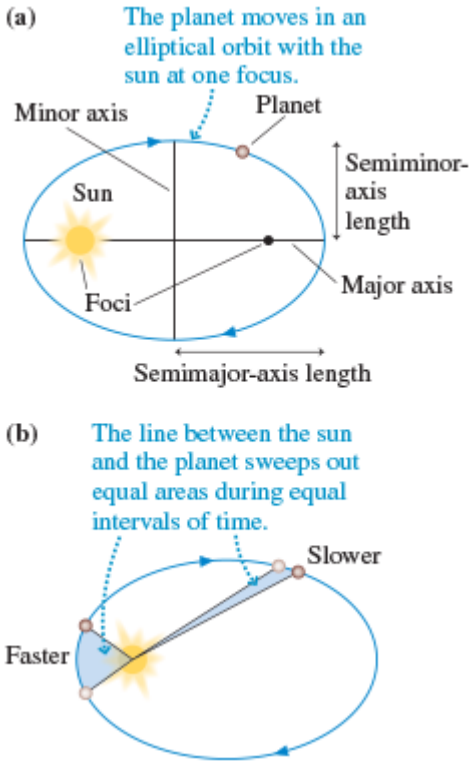
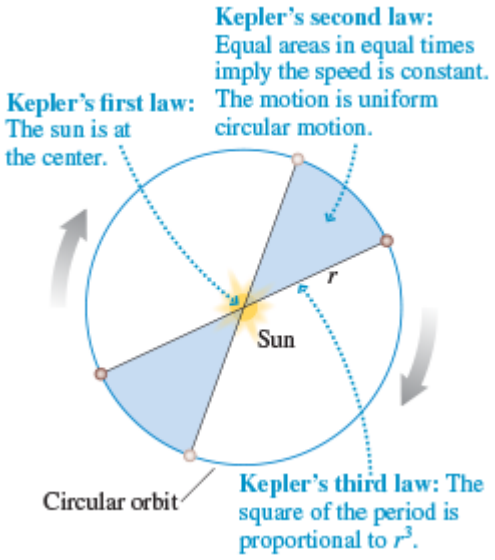
**Figure 13.1**




The elliptical orbit of a planet about the sun.

All the planets except Mercury have elliptical orbits that are only very slightly distorted circles. As Figure 13.2 shows, a circle is an ellipse in which the two foci move to the center, effectively making one focus, and the semimajor-axis length becomes the radius. Because the mathematics of ellipses is difficult, this chapter will focus on circular orbits.

## Figure 13.2



A circular orbit is a special case of an elliptical orbit.

Kepler published the first two of his laws in 1609, the same year in which Galileo first turned a telescope to the heavens. Through his telescope Galileo could *see* moons orbiting Jupiter, just as Copernicus had suggested the planets orbit the sun. He could *see* that Venus has phases, like the moon, which implied its orbital motion about the sun. By the time of Galileo's death in 1642, the Copernican revolution was complete.

# 13.2 Isaac Newton

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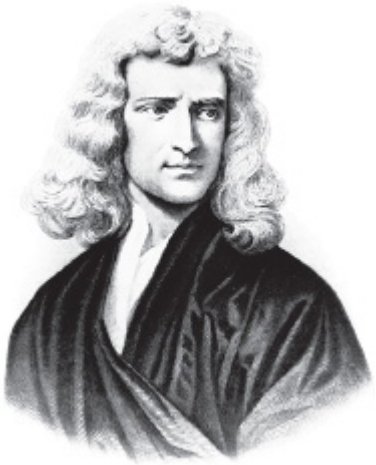
A popular image has Newton thinking of the idea of gravity after an apple fell on his head. This amusing story is at least close to the truth. Newton himself said that the "notion of gravitation" came to him as he "sat in a contemplative mood" and "was occasioned by the fall of an apple." It occurred to him that, perhaps, the apple was attracted to the *center* of the earth but was prevented from getting there by the earth's surface. And if the apple was so attracted, why not the moon? In other words, perhaps gravitation is a *universal* force between all objects in the universe! This is not shocking today, but no one before Newton had ever thought that the mundane motion of objects on earth had any connection at all with the stately motion of the planets through the heavens.



Isaac Newton, 1642–1727.

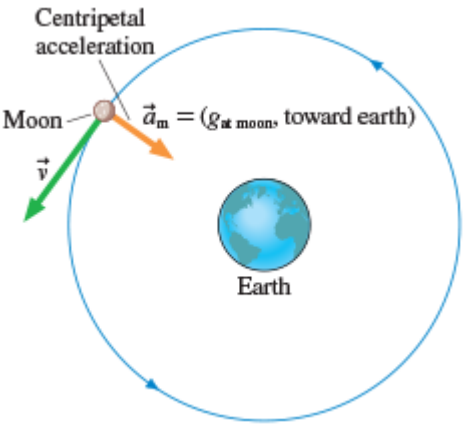
---

Suppose the moon's circular motion around the earth is due to the pull of the earth's gravity. Then, as you learned in Chapter 8 and is shown in Figure 13.3, the moon must be in *free fall* with the free-fall acceleration

$g_{\text{at moon}}$.

---

## Figure 13.3




The moon is in free fall around the earth.

> **Note**
>
> The symbol $g_{\text{moon}}$ is the free-fall acceleration caused by the *moon's* gravity—that is, the acceleration of a falling object on the moon. Here we're interested in the acceleration *of* the moon by the earth's gravity, which we'll call $g_{\text{at moon}}$.

The centripetal acceleration of an object in uniform circular motion is

**(13.1)**

$$a_r = g_{\text{at moon}} = \frac{{v_{\text{m}}}^2}{r_{\text{m}}}$$

The moon's speed is related to the radius $r_{\text{m}}$ and period $T_{\text{m}}$ of its orbit by $v_{\text{m}} = \text{circumference}/\text{period} = 2\pi r_{\text{m}} / T_{\text{m}}$. Combining these, Newton found

$$g_{\text{at moon}} = \frac{4\pi^2 r_{\text{m}}}{{T_{\text{m}}}^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 \left(3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m}\right)}{\left(2.36 \times 10^6 \text{ s}\right)^2} = 0.00272 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Astronomical measurements had established a reasonably good value for $r_{\text{m}}$ by the time of Newton, and the period

$T_{\text{m}} = 27.3$ Unknown node type: span $\left(2.36 \times 10^6 \text{ s}\right)$ was quite well known.

The moon's centripetal acceleration is significantly less than the free-fall acceleration on the earth's surface. In fact,

$$\frac{g_{\text{at moon}}}{g_{\text{on earth}}} = \frac{0.00272 \text{ m/s}^2}{9.80 \text{ m/s}^2} = \frac{1}{3600}$$

This is an interesting result, but it was Newton's next step that was critical. He compared the radius of the moon's orbit to the radius of the earth:

$$\frac{r_{\text{m}}}{R_{\text{e}}} = \frac{3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m}}{6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m}} = 60.2$$

> **Note**
>
> We'll use a lowercase *r*, as in $r_{\text{m}}$, to indicate the radius of an orbit. We'll use an uppercase *R*, as in $R_{\text{e}}$, to indicate the radius of a star or planet.

Newton recognized that $(60.2)^2$ is almost exactly 3600. Thus, he reasoned:

- If *g* has the value 9.80 at the earth's surface, and
- If the force of gravity and *g* decrease in size depending inversely on the square of the distance from the center of the earth,
- Then *g* will have exactly the value it needs at the distance of the moon to cause the moon to orbit the earth with a period of 27.3 days.

> *I deduced that the forces which keep the planets in their orbs must be reciprocally as the squares of their distances from the centers about which they revolve; and thereby compared the force requisite to keep the Moon in*

> *her orb with the force of gravity at the surface of the Earth; and found them answer pretty nearly.*
>
> Isaac Newton

His two ratios were not identical, but he found them to "answer pretty nearly" and knew that he had to be on the right track.

## Stop to Think 13.1

A satellite orbits the earth with constant speed at a height above the surface equal to the earth's radius. The magnitude of the satellite's acceleration is

**a.** $4g_{\text{on earth}}$

**b.** $2g_{\text{on earth}}$

**c.** $g_{\text{on earth}}$

**d.** $\frac{1}{2}g_{\text{on earth}}$

**e.** $\frac{1}{4}g_{\text{on earth}}$

**f.** 0

# 13.3 Newton's Law of Gravity

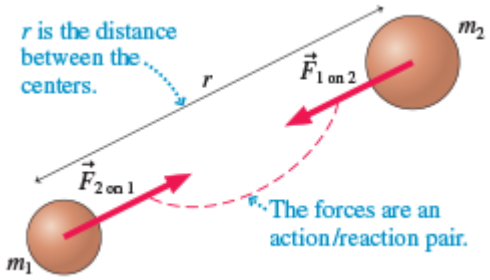


Newton proposed that *every* object in the universe attracts *every other* object with a force that is

1. Inversely proportional to the square of the distance between the objects.
2. Directly proportional to the product of the masses of the two objects.

To make these ideas more specific, Figure 13.4 shows masses $m_1$ and $m_2$ separated by distance $r$. Each mass exerts an attractive force on the other, a force that we call the **gravitational force.** These two forces form an action/reaction pair, so $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }2}$ is equal and opposite to $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }1}$. The magnitude of the forces is given by Newton's law of gravity.

**Figure 13.4**




The gravitational forces on masses $m_1$ and $m_2$.

Newton's law of gravity

If two objects with masses $m_1$ and $m_2$ are a distance $r$ apart, the objects exert attractive forces on each other of magnitude

**(13.2)**

$$F_{1 \text{ on } 2} = F_{2 \text{ on } 1} = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$$

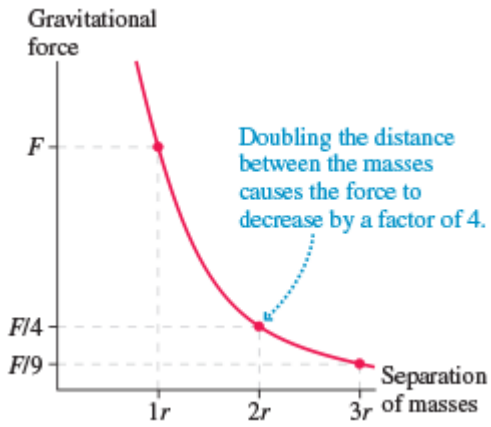
The forces are directed along the straight line joining the two objects.

The constant $G$, called the **gravitational constant,** is a proportionality constant necessary to relate the masses, measured in kilograms, to the force, measured in newtons. In the SI system of units, $G$ has the value

$$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}\,\mathrm{N\,m^2/kg^2}$$

Figure 13.5 is a graph of the gravitational force as a function of the distance between the two masses. As you can see, an inverse-square force decreases rapidly.

## Figure 13.5




The gravitational force is an inverse-square force.

Strictly speaking, Equation 13.2 is valid only for particles. However, Newton was able to show that this equation also applies to spherical objects, such as planets, if *r* is the distance between their centers. Our intuition and common sense suggest this to us, as they did to Newton. The rather difficult proof is not essential, so we will omit it.

## Gravitational Force and Weight

Knowing *G*, we can calculate the size of the gravitational force. Consider two 1.0 kg masses that are 1.0 m apart. According to Newton's law of gravity, these two masses exert an attractive gravitational force on each other of magnitude

$$F_{1\,\text{on}\,2} = F_{2\,\text{on}\,1} = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$$
$$= \frac{(6.67 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{N}\,\text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2)(1.0\,\text{kg})(1.0\,\text{kg})}{(1.0\,\text{m})^2} = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{N}$$

This is an exceptionally tiny force, especially when compared to the gravitational force of the entire earth on each mass: $F_\text{G} = mg = 9.8\,\text{N}$.

The fact that the gravitational force between two ordinary-size objects is so small is the reason we are not aware of it. You are being attracted to every object around you, but the forces are so tiny in comparison to the normal forces and friction forces acting on you that they are completely undetectable. Only when one (or both) of the masses is exceptionally large—planet-size—does the force of gravity become important.

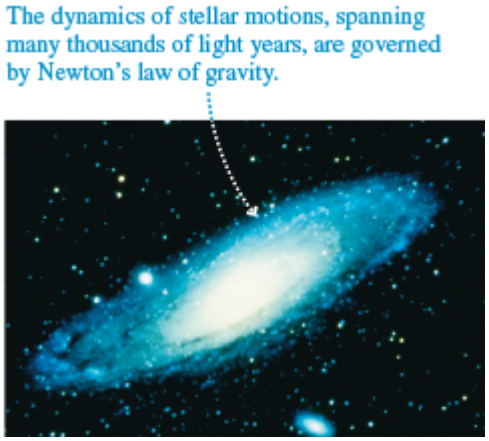


We find a more respectable result if we calculate the force *of the earth* on a 1.0 kg mass at the earth's surface:

$$F_{\text{earth on 1 kg}} = \frac{G m_e m_1 \text{ kg}}{{R_e}^2}$$
$$= \frac{(6.67 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2)(5.98 \times 10^{24}\,\text{kg})(1.0\,\text{kg})}{(6.37 \times 10^{6}\,\text{m})^2} = 9.8\,\text{N}$$

where the distance between the mass and the center of the earth is the earth's radius.

The earth's mass $M_e$ and radius $R_e$ were taken from Table 13.2 in Section 13.6. This table, which is also printed inside the back cover of the book, contains astronomical data that will be used for examples and homework.




A galaxy of $\approx 10^{11}$ stars spanning a distance greater than 100,000 light years.

The force $F_{\text{earth on 1 kg}} = 9.8$ N is exactly the weight of a stationary 1.0 kg mass: $F_G = mg = 9.8$ N. Is this a coincidence? Of course not. Weight—the upward force of a spring scale—exactly balances the downward gravitational force, so numerically they must be equal.

Although weak, gravity is a *long-range* force. No matter how far apart two objects may be, there is a gravitational attraction between them given by Equation 13.2. Consequently, gravity is the most ubiquitous force in the universe. It not only keeps your feet on the ground, it also keeps the

earth orbiting the sun, the solar system orbiting the center of the Milky Way galaxy, and the entire Milky Way galaxy performing an intricate orbital dance with other galaxies making up what is called the "local cluster" of galaxies.

## The Principle of Equivalence

Newton's law of gravity depends on a rather curious assumption. The concept of *mass* was introduced in Chapter 5 by considering the relationship between force and acceleration. The *inertial mass* of an object, which is the mass that appears in Newton's second law, is found by measuring the object's acceleration $a$ in response to force $F$:

**(13.3)**

$$m_{\text{inert}} = \text{inertial mass} = \frac{F}{a}$$

Gravity plays no role in this definition of mass.

The quantities $m_1$ and $m_2$ in Newton's law of gravity are being used in a very different way. Masses $m_1$ and $m_2$ govern the strength of the gravitational attraction between two objects. The mass used in Newton's law of gravity is called the **gravitational mass.** The gravitational mass of an object can be determined by measuring the attractive force exerted on it by another mass $M$ a distance $r$ away:

**(13.4)**

$$m_{\text{grav}} = \text{gravitational mass} = \frac{r^2 F_{M \text{ on } m}}{GM}$$

Acceleration does not enter into the definition of the gravitational mass.

These are two very different concepts of mass. Yet Newton, in his theory of gravity, asserts that the inertial mass in his second law is the very same mass that governs the strength of the gravitational attraction between two objects. The assertion that $m_{\text{grav}} = m_{\text{inert}}$ is called the **principle of equivalence.** It says that inertial mass is *equivalent to* gravitational mass.

As a hypothesis about nature, the principle of equivalence is subject to experimental verification or disproof. Many exceptionally clever experiments have looked for any difference between the gravitational mass and the inertial mass, and they have shown that any difference, if it exists at all, is less than 10 parts in a trillion! As far as we know today, the gravitational mass and the inertial mass are exactly the same thing.



But why should a quantity associated with the dynamics of motion, relating force to acceleration, have anything at all to do with the gravitational attraction? This is a question that intrigued Einstein and eventually led to his general theory of relativity, the theory about curved spacetime and black holes. General relativity is beyond the scope of this textbook, but it explains the principle of equivalence as a property of space itself.

## Newton's Theory of Gravity

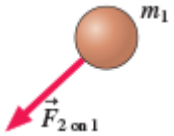
**Newton's theory of gravity** is more than just Equation 13.2. The *theory* of gravity consists of:

1. A specific force law for gravity, given by Equation 13.2, *and*
2. The principle of equivalence, *and*
3. An assertion that Newton's three laws of motion are universally applicable. These laws are as valid for heavenly bodies, the planets and stars, as for earthly objects.

Consequently, everything we have learned about forces, motion, and energy is relevant to the dynamics of satellites, planets, and galaxies.

## Stop to Think 13.2

The figure shows a binary star system. The mass of star 2 is twice the mass of star 1. Compared to $\vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}$, the magnitude of the force $\vec{F}_{2 \text{ on } 1}$ is



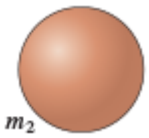

**a.** Four times as big.

**b.** Twice as big.

**c.** The same size.

**d.** Half as big.

**e.** One-quarter as big.



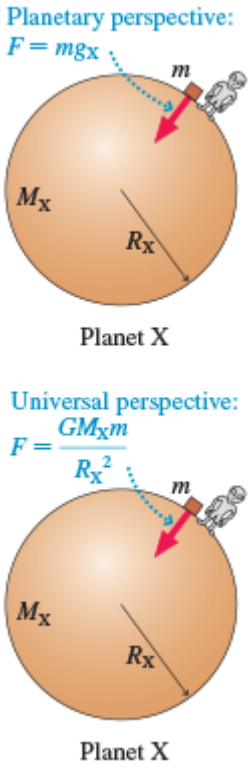
# 13.4 Little $g$ and Big $G$ 342

The familiar equation $F_G = mg$ works well when an object is on the surface of a planet, but $mg$ will not help us find the force exerted on the same object if it is in orbit around the planet. Neither can we use $mg$ to find the force of attraction between the earth and the moon. Newton's law of gravity provides a more fundamental starting point because it describes a *universal* force that exists between all objects.

To illustrate the connection between Newton's law of gravity and the familiar $F_G = mg$, Figure 13.6 shows an object of mass $m$ on the surface of Planet X. Planet X inhabitant Mr. Xhzt, standing on the surface, finds that the downward gravitational force is $F_G = mg_X$, where $g_X$, is the free-fall acceleration on Planet X.

---

**Figure 13.6**



We, taking a more cosmic perspective, reply, "Yes, that is the force *because* of a universal force of attraction between your planet and the object. The size of the force is determined by Newton's law of gravity."

We and Mr. Xhzt are both correct. Whether you think locally or globally, we and Mr. Xhzt must arrive at the *same numerical value* for the magnitude of the force. Suppose an object of mass $m$ is on the surface of a planet of mass $M$ and radius $R$. The local gravitational force is

**(13.5)**

$$F_{\mathrm{G}} = mg_{\mathrm{surface}}$$

where $g_{\mathrm{surface}}$ is the free-fall acceleration at the planet's surface. The force of gravitational attraction for an object on the surface ($r = R$), as given by Newton's law of gravity, is

**(13.6)**

$$F_{M\,\mathrm{on}\,m} = \frac{GMm}{R^2}$$

Because these are two names and two expressions for the same force, we can equate the right-hand sides to find that

**(13.7)**

$$g_{\mathrm{surface}} = \frac{GM}{R^2}$$

We have used Newton's law of gravity to *predict* the value of $g$ at the surface of a planet. The value depends on the mass and radius of the planet as well as on the value of $G$, which establishes the overall strength of the gravitational force.

The expression for $g_{\text{surface}}$ in Equation 13.7 is valid for any planet or star. Using the mass and radius of Mars, we can predict the Martian value of $g$:

$$g_{\text{Mars}} = \frac{GM_{\text{Mars}}}{{R_{\text{Mars}}}^2} = \frac{\left(6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{N}\,\text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(6.42 \times 10^{23}\ \text{kg}\right)}{\left(3.37 \times 10^{6}\ \text{m}\right)^2} = 3.8\ \text{m/s}^2$$

> **Note**
>
> We noted in Chapter 6 that measured values of $g$ are very slightly smaller on a rotating planet. We'll ignore rotation in this chapter.

## Decrease of $g$ with Distance

Equation 13.7 gives $g_{\text{surface}}$ at the surface of a planet. More generally, imagine an object of mass $m$ at distance $r > R$ from the center of a planet. Further, suppose that gravity from the planet is the only force acting on the object. Then its acceleration, the free-fall acceleration, is given by Newton's second law:

---

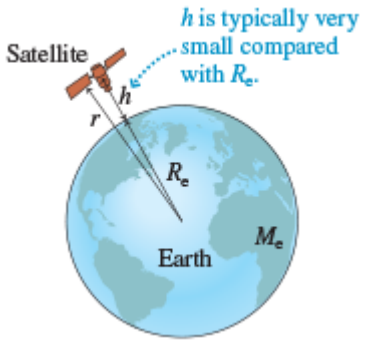
**(13.8)**

$$g = \frac{F_{M\text{ on }m}}{m} = \frac{GM}{r^2}$$

This more general result agrees with Equation 13.7 if $r = R$, but it allows us to determine the "local" free-fall acceleration at distances $r > R$. Equation 13.8 expresses Newton's discovery, with regard to the moon, that $g$ decreases inversely with the square of the distance.

Figure 13.7 shows a satellite orbiting at height $h$ above the earth's surface. Its distance from the center of the earth is $r = R_e + h$. Most people have a mental image that satellites orbit "far" from the earth, but in reality $h$ is typically 200 miles $\approx 3 \times 10^5$ m, while $R_e = 6.37 \times 10^6$ m. Thus the satellite is barely "skimming" the earth at a height only about 5% of the earth's radius!

## Figure 13.7




A satellite orbits the earth at height $h$.

The value of $g$ at height $h$ above the earth (i.e., above sea level) is

**(13.9)**

$$g = \frac{GM_e}{(R_e + h)^2} = \frac{GM_e}{R_e{}^2(1 + h/R_e)^2} = \frac{g_{\text{earth}}}{(1 + h/R_e)^2}$$

where $g_{\text{earth}} = 9.83\ \text{m/s}^2$ is the value calculated from Equation 13.7 for $h = 0$ on a nonrotating earth. Table 13.1 shows the value of $g$ evaluated at several values of $h$.

**Table 13.1**

| Height $h$ | Example | $g$ (m/s$^2$) |
|---|---|---|
| 0 m | ground | 9.83 |
| 4500 m | Mt. Whitney | 9.82 |
| 10,000 m | jet airplane | 9.80 |
| 300,000 m | space station | 8.90 |
| 35,900,000 m | communications satellite | 0.22 |

Variation of $g$ with height above the ground

> **Note**
>
> The free-fall acceleration of a satellite such as the space station is only slightly less than the ground-level value. An object in orbit is not "weightless" because there is no gravity in space but because it is in free fall, as you learned in Chapter 8.

## Weighing the Earth

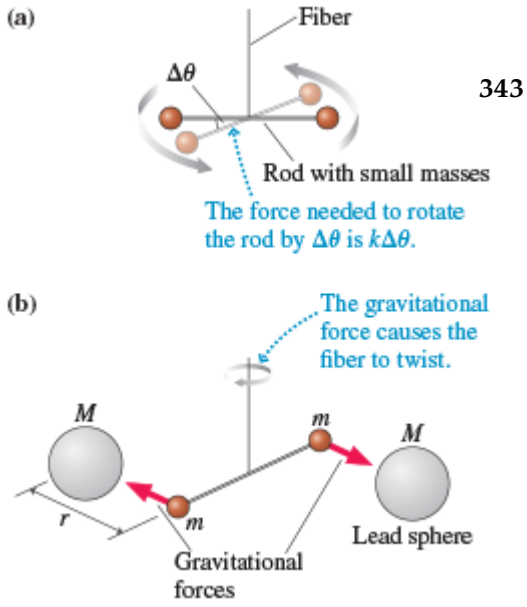
We can predict $g$ if we know the earth's mass. But how do we know the value of $M_e$? We cannot place the earth on a giant pan balance, so how is its mass known? Furthermore, how do we know the value of $G$?

Newton did not know the value of $G$. He could say that the gravitational force is proportional to the product $m_1m_2$ and inversely proportional to $r^2$, but he had no means of knowing the value of the proportionality constant.

Determining $G$ requires a *direct* measurement of the gravitational force between two known masses at a known separation. The small size of the gravitational force between ordinary-size objects makes this quite a feat. Yet the English scientist Henry Cavendish came up with an ingenious

way of doing so with a device called a *torsion balance.* Two fairly small masses $m$, typically about 10 g, are placed on the ends of a lightweight rod. The rod is hung from a thin fiber, as shown in Figure 13.8a, and allowed to reach equilibrium.

## Figure 13.8




Cavendish's experiment to measure $G$.

If the rod is then rotated slightly and released, a *restoring force* will return it to equilibrium. This is analogous to displacing a spring from equilibrium, and in fact the restoring force and the angle of displacement obey a version of Hooke's law: $F_{\text{restore}} = k\,\Delta\theta$. The "torsion constant" $k$ can be determined by timing the period of oscillations. Once $k$ is known, a force that twists the rod slightly away from equilibrium can be measured by the product $k\,\Delta\theta$. It is possible to measure very small angular deflections, so this device can be used to determine very small forces.

Two larger masses $M$ (typically lead spheres with $M \approx 10$ kg) are then brought close to the torsion balance, as shown in Figure 13.8b. The

gravitational attraction that they exert on the smaller hanging masses causes a very small but measurable twisting of the balance, enough to measure $F_{M \text{ on } m}$. Because $m$, $M$, and $r$ are all known, Cavendish was able to determine $G$ from

**(13.10)**

$$G = \frac{F_{M \text{ on } m} r^2}{Mm}$$

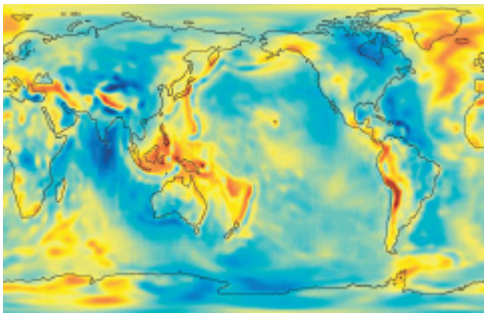
His first results were not highly accurate, but improvements over the years in this and similar experiments have produced the value of $G$ accepted today.

With an independently determined value of $G$, we can return to Equation 13.7 to find

**(13.11)**

$$M_{\text{e}} = \frac{g_{\text{earth}} {R_{\text{e}}}^2}{G}$$

We have weighed the earth! The value of $g_{\text{earth}}$ at the earth's surface is known with great accuracy from kinematics experiments. The earth's radius $R_{\text{e}}$ is determined by surveying techniques. Combining our knowledge from these very different measurements has given us a way to determine the mass of the earth.



The free-fall acceleration varies slightly due to mountains and to variation in the density of the earth's crust. This map shows the *gravitational anomaly,* with red regions of slightly stronger gravity and blue regions of slightly weaker gravity. The variation is tiny, less than 0.001 $m/s^2$.

---

The gravitational constant $G$ is what we call a *universal constant.* Its value establishes the strength of one of the fundamental forces of nature. As far as we know, the gravitational force between two masses would be the same anywhere in the universe. Universal constants tell us something about the most basic and fundamental properties of nature. You will soon meet other universal constants.

## Stop to Think 13.3

A planet has four times the mass of the earth, but the acceleration due to gravity on the planet's surface is the same as on the earth's surface. The planet's radius is

**a.** $4R_e$

**b.** $2R_e$

**c.** $R_e$

**d.** $\frac{1}{2}R_e$

**e.** $\frac{1}{4}R_e$

# 13.5 Gravitational Potential Energy



Gravitational problems are ideal for the conservation-law tools we developed in Chapters 9, 10 and 11. Because gravity is the only force, and it is a conservative force, both the momentum and the mechanical energy of the system $m_1 + m_2$ are conserved. To employ conservation of energy, however, we need to determine an appropriate form for the gravitational potential energy for two interacting masses.

The definition of potential energy that we developed in Chapter 11 is

**(13.12)**

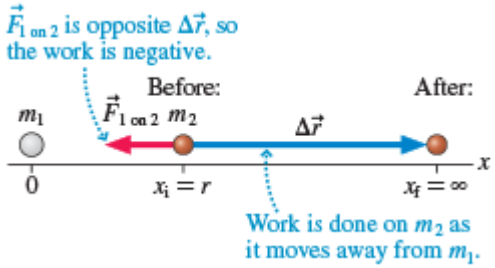
$$\Delta U = U_\mathrm{f} - U_\mathrm{i} = -W_\mathrm{c}\,(\mathrm{i} \to \mathrm{f})$$

where $W_\mathrm{c}\,(\mathrm{i} \to \mathrm{f})$ is the work done by a conservative force as a particle moves from position i to position f. For a flat earth, we used $F = -mg$ and the choice that $U = 0$ at the surface $(y = 0)$ to arrive at the now-familiar $U_\mathrm{G} = mgy$. This result for $U_\mathrm{G}$ is valid only for $y \ll R_\mathrm{e}$, when the earth's curvature and size are not apparent. We now need to find an expression for the gravitational potential energy of masses that interact over *large* distances.

Figure 13.9 shows two particles of mass $m_1$ and $m_2$. Let's calculate the work done on mass $m_2$ by the conservative force $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }2}$ as $m_2$ moves from an initial position at distance $r$ to a final position very far away. The force, which points to the left, is opposite the displacement; hence this force does *negative* work. Consequently, due to the minus sign in Equation 13.12, $\Delta U$ is *positive*. A pair of masses *gains* potential energy

as the masses move farther apart, just as a particle near the earth's surface gains potential energy as it moves to a higher altitude.

## Figure 13.9




Calculating the work done by the gravitational force as mass $m_2$ moves from $r$ to $\infty$.

We can establish a coordinate system with $m_1$ at the origin and $m_2$ moving along the $x$-axis. The gravitational force is a variable force, so we need the full definition of work:

**(13.13)**

$$W\,(\mathrm{i} \rightarrow \mathrm{f}) = \int_{x_\mathrm{i}}^{x_\mathrm{f}} F_x\,dx$$

$\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }2}$ points toward the left, so its $x$-component is $(F_{1\text{ on }2})_x = -Gm_1m_2\,/\,x^2$. As mass $m_2$ moves from $x_\mathrm{i} = r$ to $x_\mathrm{f} = \infty$, the potential energy changes by

**(13.14)**

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta U = U_{\text{at}\,\infty} - U_{\text{at}\,r} &= -\int_r^\infty (F_{1\text{ on }2})_x\,dx = -\int_r^\infty \left(\frac{-Gm_1m_2}{x^2}\right)dx \\ &= +Gm_1m_2\int_r^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2} = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{x}\bigg|_r^\infty = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r}\end{aligned}$$

> **Note**
>
> We chose to integrate along the $x$-axis, but the fact that gravity

> is a conservative force means that $\Delta U$ will have this value if $m_2$ moves from $r$ to $\infty$ along *any* path.

To proceed further, we need to choose the point where $U = 0$. We would like our choice to be valid for any star or planet, regardless of its mass and radius. This will be the case if we set $U = 0$ at the point where the interaction between the masses vanishes. According to Newton's law of gravity, the strength of the interaction is zero only when $r = \infty$. Two masses infinitely far apart will have no tendency, or potential, to move together, so we will *choose* to place the zero point of potential energy at $r = \infty$. That is, $U_{\text{at } \infty} = 0$.

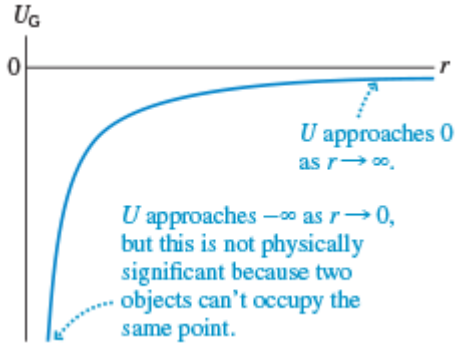
This choice gives us the gravitational potential energy of masses $m_1$ and $m_2$:

**(13.15)**

$$U_{\text{G}} = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r}$$

This is the potential energy of masses $m_1$ and $m_2$ when their *centers* are separated by distance $r$. Figure 13.10 is a graph of $U_{\text{G}}$ as a function of the distance $r$ between the masses. Notice that it asymptotically approaches 0 as $r \to \infty$.

**Figure 13.10**



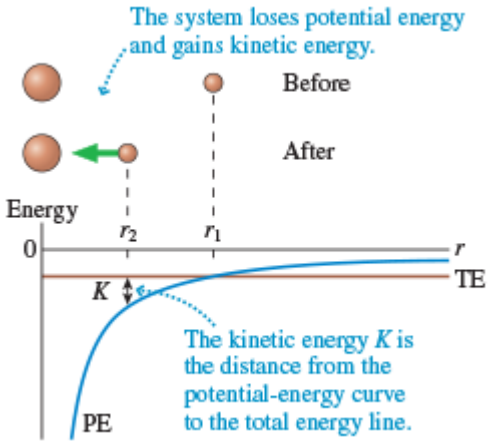

The gravitational potential-energy curve.

> **Note**
>
> Although Equation 13.15 looks rather similar to Newton's law of gravity, it depends only on $1/r$, *not* on $1/r^2$.

It may seem disturbing that the potential energy is negative, but we encountered similar situations in Chapter 10. All a negative potential energy means is that the potential energy of the two masses at separation $r$ is *less* than their potential energy at infinite separation. Only the *change* in $U$ has physical significance, and the change will be the same no matter where we place the zero of potential energy.

To illustrate, suppose two masses a distance $r_1$ apart are released from rest. How will they move? From a force perspective, you would note that each mass experiences an attractive force and accelerates toward the other. The energy perspective of Figure 13.11 tells the same thing. By moving toward smaller $r$ (that is, $r_1 \rightarrow r_2$), the system *loses* potential energy and *gains* kinetic energy while conserving $E_{\text{mech}}$. The system is "falling downhill," although in a more general sense than we think about on a flat earth.

**Figure 13.11**




Two masses gain kinetic energy as their separation decreases.

### Example 13.1 Crashing into the sun

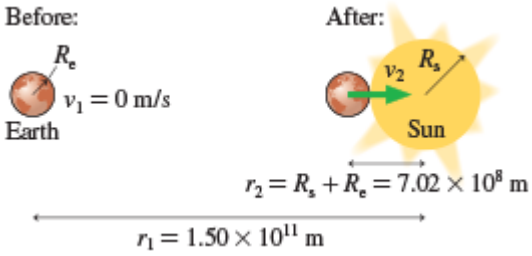
Suppose the earth suddenly came to a halt and ceased revolving around the sun. The gravitational force would then pull it directly into the sun. What would be the earth's speed as it crashed?

**MODEL** Model the earth and the sun as spherical masses. This is an isolated system, so its mechanical energy is conserved.



**VISUALIZE** Figure 13.12 is a before-and-after pictorial representation for this gruesome cosmic event. The "crash" occurs as the earth touches the sun, at which point the distance between their centers is $r_2 = R_s + R_e$. The initial separation $r_1$ is the radius of the earth's *orbit* about the sun, not the radius of the earth.

**Figure 13.12**



Before-and-after pictorial representation of the earth crashing into the sun (not to scale).

**SOLVE** Strictly speaking, the kinetic energy is the sum $K = K_{\text{earth}} + K_{\text{sun}}$. However, the sun is so much more massive than the earth that the lightweight earth does almost all of the moving. It is a reasonable approximation to consider the sun as remaining at rest. In that case, the energy conservation equation $K_2 + U_2 = K_1 + U_1$ is

$$\tfrac{1}{2} M_e {v_2}^2 - \frac{G M_s M_e}{R_s + R_e} = 0 - \frac{G M_s M_e}{r_1}$$

This is easily solved for the earth's speed at impact. Using data from Table 13.2, we find

$$v_2 = \sqrt{2GM_s \left( \frac{1}{R_s + R_e} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right)} = 6.13 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}$$

**Table 13.2**

| Planetary body | Mean distance from sun (m) | Period (years) | Mass (kg) | Mean radius (m) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sun | — | — | $1.99 \times 10^{30}$ | $6.96 \times 10^{8}$ |
| Moon | $3.84 \times 10^{8}$* | 27.3 days | $7.36 \times 10^{22}$ | $1.74 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Mercury | $5.79 \times 10^{10}$ | 0.241 | $3.18 \times 10^{23}$ | $2.43 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Venus | $1.08 \times 10^{11}$ | 0.615 | $4.88 \times 10^{24}$ | $6.06 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Earth | $1.50 \times 10^{11}$ | 1.00 | $5.98 \times 10^{24}$ | $6.37 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Mars | $2.28 \times 10^{11}$ | 1.88 | $6.42 \times 10^{23}$ | $3.37 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Jupiter | $7.78 \times 10^{11}$ | 11.9 | $1.90 \times 10^{27}$ | $6.99 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Saturn | $1.43 \times 10^{12}$ | 29.5 | $5.68 \times 10^{26}$ | $5.85 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Uranus | $2.87 \times 10^{12}$ | 84.0 | $8.68 \times 10^{25}$ | $2.33 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Neptune | $4.50 \times 10^{12}$ | 165 | $1.03 \times 10^{26}$ | $2.21 \times 10^{7}$ |

*Distance from earth.

Useful astronomical data

**ASSESS** The earth would be really flying along at over 1 million miles per hour as it crashed into the sun! It is worth noting that we do not have the mathematical tools to solve this problem using Newton's second law because the acceleration is not constant. But the solution is straightforward when we use energy conservation.

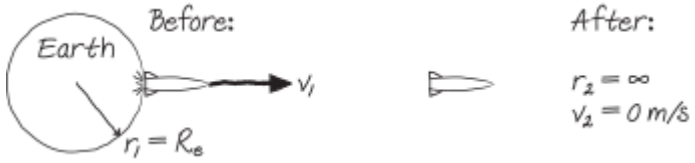
### Example 13.2 Escape speed

A 1000 kg rocket is fired straight away from the surface of the earth. What speed does the rocket need to "escape" from the gravitational pull of the earth and never return? Assume a nonrotating earth.

**MODEL** In a simple universe, consisting of only the earth and the rocket, an insufficient launch speed will cause the rocket eventually to fall back to earth. Once the rocket finally slows to a halt, gravity will ever so slowly pull it back. The only way the rocket can escape is to never stop $(v = 0)$ and thus never have a turning point! That is, the rocket must continue moving away from the earth forever. The *minimum* launch speed for escape, which is called the **escape speed,** will cause the rocket to stop $(v = 0)$ only as it reaches $r = \infty$. Now $\infty$, of course, is not a "place," so a statement like this means that we want the rocket's speed to approach $v = 0$ asymptotically as $r \rightarrow \infty$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 13.13 is a before-and-after pictorial representation.

**Figure 13.13**




Pictorial representation of a rocket launched with sufficient speed to escape the earth's gravity.

---

**SOLVE** Energy conservation $K_2 + U_2 = K_1 + U_1$ is

$$0 + 0 = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_1{}^2 - \frac{GM_\text{e}m}{R_\text{e}}$$

where we used the fact that both the kinetic and potential energy are zero at $r = \infty$. Thus the escape speed is

$$v_\text{escape} = v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2GM_\text{e}}{R_\text{e}}} = 11{,}200 \text{ m/s} \approx 25{,}000 \text{ mph}$$

**ASSESS** It is difficult to assess the answer to a problem with which we have no direct experience, although we certainly expected the escape speed to be very large. Notice that the problem was mathematically easy; the difficulty was deciding how to interpret it. That is why—as you have now seen many times—the "physics" of a problem consists of thinking, interpreting, and modeling. We will see variations on this problem in the future, with both gravity and electricity, so you might want to review the *reasoning* involved.

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## The Flat-Earth Approximation

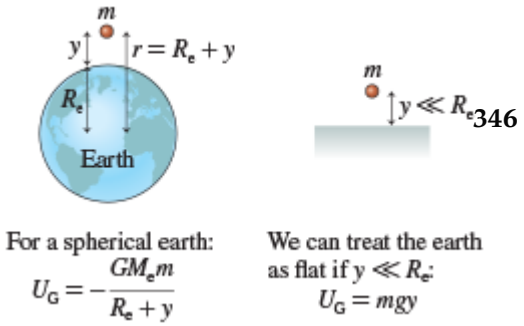
How does Equation 13.15 for the gravitational potential energy relate to our previous use of $U_\text{G} = mgy$ on a flat earth? Figure 13.14 shows an object of mass $m$ located at height $y$ above the surface of the earth. The

object's distance from the earth's center is $r = R_\text{e} + y$ and its gravitational potential energy is

**(13.16)**

$$U_\text{G} = -\frac{GM_\text{e}m}{r} = -\frac{GM_\text{e}m}{R_\text{e} + y} = -\frac{GM_\text{e}m}{R_\text{e}\left(1 + y/R_\text{e}\right)}$$

## Figure 13.14




Gravity on a flat earth.

where, in the last step, we factored $R_\text{e}$ out of the denominator.

Suppose the object is very close to the earth's surface ($y \ll R_\text{e}$). In that case, the ratio $y/R_\text{e} \ll 1$. There is an approximation you will learn about in calculus, called the *binomial approximation*, that says

**(13.17)**

$$(1 + x)^n \approx 1 + nx \qquad \text{if } x \ll 1$$

As an illustration, you can easily use your calculator to find that $1/1.01 = 0.9901$, to four significant figures. But suppose you wrote $1.01 = 1 + 0.01$. You could then use the binomial approximation to calculate

$$\frac{1}{1.01} = \frac{1}{1 + 0.01} = (1 + 0.01)^{-1} \approx 1 + (-1)(0.01) = 0.9900$$

You can see that the approximate answer is off by only 0.01%.

If we call $y/R_\text{e} = x$ in Equation 13.16 and use the binomial approximation, with $n = -1$, we find

**(13.18)**

$$U_\text{G}\,(\text{if } \; y \ll R_\text{e}) \approx -\frac{GM_\text{e}m}{R_\text{e}}\left(1 - \frac{y}{R_\text{e}}\right) = -\frac{GM_\text{e}m}{R_\text{e}} + m\left(\frac{GM_\text{e}}{{R_\text{e}}^2}\right)y$$

Now the first term is just the gravitational potential energy $U_0$ when the object is at ground level ($y = 0$). In the second term, you can recognize ${GM_\text{e}}/{{R_\text{e}}^2} = g_\text{earth}$ from the definition of $g$ in Equation 13.7. Thus we can write Equation 13.18 as

**(13.19)**

$$U_\text{G}\,(\text{if } \; y \ll R_\text{e}) = U_0 + mg_\text{earth}y$$

Although we chose $U_\text{G}$ to be zero when $r = \infty$, we are always free to change our minds. If we change the zero point of potential energy to be $U_0 = 0$ at the surface, which is the choice we made in Chapter 10, then Equation 13.19 becomes

**(13.20)**

$$U_\text{G}\,(\text{if } \; y \ll R_\text{e}) = mg_\text{earth}y$$

We can sleep easier knowing that Equation 13.15 for the gravitational potential energy is consistent with our earlier "flat-earth" expression for the potential energy.

**Example 13.3 The speed of a satellite**

A less-than-successful inventor wants to launch small satellites into orbit by launching them straight up from the surface of the earth at very high speed.

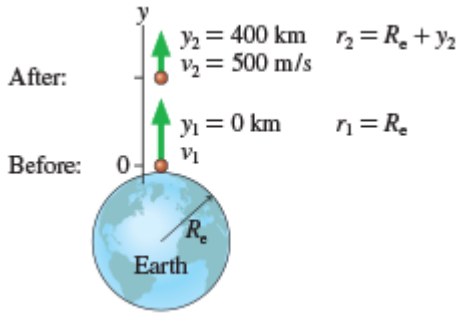
**a.** With what speed should he launch the satellite if it is to have a speed of 500 m/s at a height of 400 km? Ignore air resistance.

**b.** By what percentage would your answer be in error if you used a flat-earth approximation?

**MODEL** Mechanical energy is conserved if we ignore drag.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 13.15 shows a pictorial representation.

**Figure 13.15**




Pictorial representation of a satellite launched straight up.

**SOLVE**

**a.** Although the height is exaggerated in the figure, 400 km = 400,000 m is high enough that we cannot ignore the earth's spherical shape. The energy conservation equation $K_2 + U_2 = K_1 + U_1$ is

$$\tfrac{1}{2}m{v_2}^2 - \frac{GM_\text{e}m}{R_\text{e}+y_2} = \tfrac{1}{2}m{v_1}^2 - \frac{GM_\text{e}m}{R_\text{e}+y_1}$$

where we've written the distance between the satellite and the earth's center as $r = R_\text{e} + y$. The initial height is $y_1 = 0$. Notice that the satellite mass $m$ cancels and is not needed. Solving for the launch speed, we have

$$v_1 = \sqrt{{v_2}^2 + 2GM_\text{e}\left(\frac{1}{R_\text{e}} - \frac{1}{R_\text{e}+y_2}\right)} = 2770 \text{ m/s}$$

This is about 6000 mph, much less than the escape speed.

**b.** The calculation is the same in the flat-earth approximation except that we use $\text{U}_\text{G} = mgy$. Thus

$$\tfrac{1}{2}m{v_2}^2 + mgy_2 = \tfrac{1}{2}m{v_1}^2 + mgy_1$$
$$v_1 = \sqrt{{v_2}^2 + 2gy_2} = 2840 \text{ m/s}$$

The flat-earth value of 2840 m/s is 70 m/s too big. The error, as a percentage of the correct 2770 m/s, is

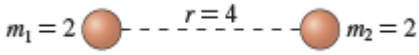
$$\text{error} = \frac{70}{2770} \times 100 = 2.5\%$$

**ASSESS** The true speed is less than the flat-earth approximation because the force of gravity decreases with height. Launching a rocket against a decreasing force takes less effort than it would with the flat-earth force of $mg$ at all heights.

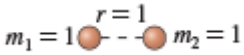
## Stop to Think 13.4

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the absolute values of the gravitational potential energies of these pairs of masses. The numbers give the relative masses and distances.

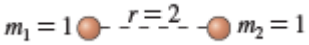
**a.**



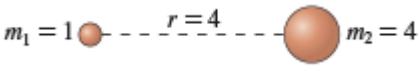

**b.**



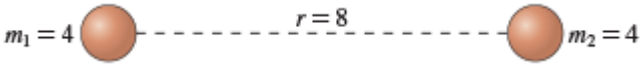

**c.**




**d.**




**e.**



# 13.6 Satellite Orbits and Energies



Solving Newton's second law to find the trajectory of a mass moving under the influence of gravity is mathematically beyond this textbook. It turns out that the solution is a set of elliptical orbits, which is Kepler's first law. Kepler had no *reason* why orbits should be ellipses rather than some other shape. Newton was able to show that ellipses are a *consequence* of his theory of gravity.

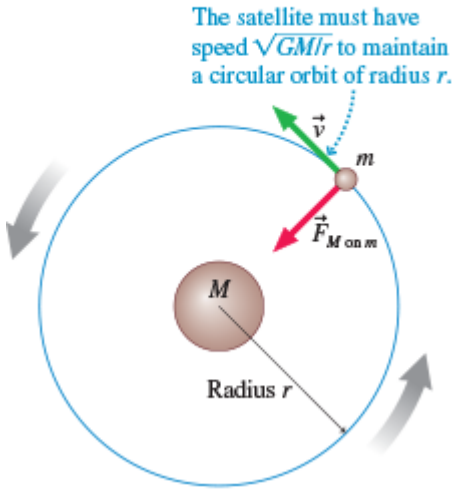
The mathematics of ellipses is rather difficult, so we will restrict most of our analysis to the limiting case in which an ellipse becomes a circle. Most planetary orbits differ only very slightly from being circular. The earth's orbit, for example has a (semiminor axis/semimajor axis) ratio of 0.99986—very close to a true circle!

Figure 13.16 shows a massive body $M$, such as the earth or the sun, with a lighter body $m$ orbiting it. The lighter body is called a **satellite,** even though it may be a planet orbiting the sun. For circular motion, where the gravitational force provides the centripetal acceleration $v^2/r$, Newton's second law for the satellite is

**(13.21)**

$$F_{M \text{ on } m} = \frac{GMm}{r^2} = ma_r = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

**Figure 13.16**




The orbital motion of a satellite due to the force of gravity.

Thus the speed of a satellite in a circular orbit is

**(13.22)**

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

The International Space Station appears to be floating, but it's actually traveling at nearly 8000 m/s as it orbits the earth.

A satellite must have this specific speed in order to have a circular orbit of radius $r$ about the larger mass $M$. If the velocity differs from this value, the orbit will become elliptical rather than circular. Notice that the orbital

speed does *not* depend on the satellite's mass $m$. This is consistent with our previous discovery, for motion on a flat earth, that motion due to gravity is independent of the mass.

**Example 13.4 The speed of the space station**

A small supply satellite needs to dock with the International Space Station. The ISS is in a near-circular orbit at a height of 420 km. What are the speeds of the ISS and the supply satellite in this orbit?

**SOLVE** Despite their different masses, the satellite and the ISS travel side by side with the same speed. They are simply in free fall together. Using $r = R_e + h$ with $h = 420\ \text{km} = 4.20 \times 10^5\ \text{m}$, we find the speed

$$\begin{aligned} v &= \sqrt{\frac{\left(6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(5.98 \times 10^{24}\ \text{kg}\right)}{6.79 \times 10^6\ \text{m}}} \\ &= 7660\ \text{m/s} \approx 17{,}000\ \text{mph} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The answer depends on the mass of the earth but *not* on the mass of the satellite.

## Kepler's Third Law

An important parameter of circular motion is the *period*. Recall that the period $T$ is the time to complete one full orbit. The relationship among speed, radius, and period is

(13.23)

$$v = \frac{\text{circumference}}{\text{period}} = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

We can find a relationship between a satellite's period and the radius of its orbit by using Equation 13.22 for $v$:

(13.24)

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

Squaring both sides and solving for $T$ give



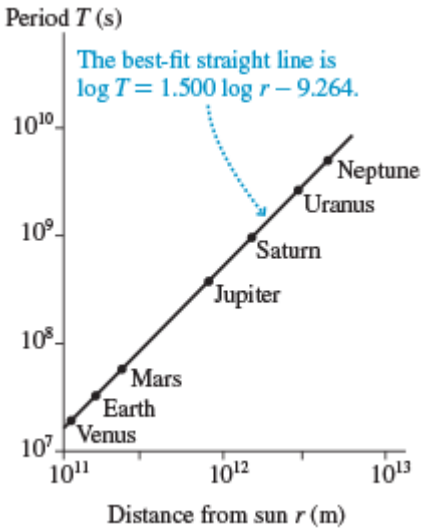
(13.25)

$$T^2 = \left(\frac{4\pi^2}{GM}\right) r^3$$

In other words, the *square* of the period is proportional to the *cube* of the radius. This is Kepler's third law. You can see that Kepler's third law is a direct consequence of Newton's law of gravity.

Table 13.2 contains astronomical information about the solar system. We can use these data to check the validity of Equation 13.25. Figure 13.17 is a graph of log $T$ versus log $r$ for all the planets in Table 13.2 except Mercury. Notice that the scales on each axis are increasing logarithmically—by *factors* of 10—rather than linearly. (Also, the vertical axis has converted $T$ to the SI units of s.) As you can see, the graph is a straight line with a best-fit equation

## Figure 13.17




The graph of log $T$ versus log $r$ for the planetary data of Table 13.2.

$$\log\ T = 1.500\ \log\ r - 9.264$$

Taking the logarithm of both sides of Equation 13.25, and using the logarithm properties $\log\ a^n = n \log\ a$ and $\log\,(ab) = \log\ a + \log\ b$, we have

$$\log\ T = \tfrac{3}{2}\log\ r + \tfrac{1}{2}\log\ \left(\frac{4\pi^2}{GM}\right)$$

In other words, theory predicts that the slope of a log $T$-versus-log $r$ graph should be exactly $\frac{3}{2}$. As Figure 13.17 shows, the solar-system data agree to an impressive four significant figures. A homework problem will let you use the $y$-intercept of the graph to determine the mass of the sun.

A particularly interesting application of Equation 13.25 is to communications satellites that are in **geosynchronous orbits** above the earth. These satellites have a period of 24 h = 86,400 s, making their orbital motion synchronous with the earth's rotation. As a result, a satellite in such an orbit appears to remain stationary over one point on

the earth's equator. Equation 13.25 allows us to compute the radius of an orbit with this period:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\text{geo}} &= R_{\text{e}} + h_{\text{geo}} = \left[\left(\frac{GM}{4\pi^2}\right) T^2\right]^{1/3} \\ &= \left[\left(\frac{\left(6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(5.98 \times 10^{24}\ \text{kg}\right)}{4\pi^2}\right)(86{,}400\ \text{s})^2\right]^{1/3} \\ &= 4.225 \times 10^7\ \text{m} \end{aligned} \tag{349}$$

The height of the orbit is

$$h_{\text{geo}} = r_{\text{geo}} - R_{\text{e}} = 3.59 \times 10^7\ \text{m} = 35{,}900\ \text{km} \approx 22{,}300\ \text{mi}$$

> **Note**
>
> When you use Equation 13.25, the period *must* be in SI units of s.

Geosynchronous orbits are much higher than the low-earth orbits used by the space station and remote-sensing satellites, where $h \approx 300$ km. Communications satellites in geosynchronous orbits were first proposed in 1948 by science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke, 10 years before the first artificial satellite of any type!

---

**Example 13.5 Extrasolar planets**

In recent years, astronomers have discovered thousands of planets orbiting nearby stars. These are called *extrasolar planets*. Suppose a planet is observed to have a 1200 day period as it orbits a star at the same distance that Jupiter is from the sun. What is the mass of the star in solar masses? (1 *solar mass* is defined to be the mass of the sun.)

**SOLVE** Here "day" means earth days, as used by astronomers to measure the period. Thus the planet's period in SI units is $T = 1200 \text{ days} = 1.037 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$. The orbital radius is that of Jupiter, which we can find in Table 13.2 to be $r = 7.78 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$. Solving Equation 13.25 for the mass of the star gives

$$\begin{aligned} M &= \frac{4\pi^2 r^3}{GT^2} = 2.59 \times 10^{31} \text{ kg} \times \frac{1 \text{ solar mass}}{1.99 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}} \\ &= 13 \text{ solar masses} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This is a large, but not extraordinary, star.

## Stop to Think 13.5

Two planets orbit a star. Planet 1 has orbital radius $r_1$ and planet 2 has $r_2 = 4r_1$. Planet 1 orbits with period $T_1$. Planet 2 orbits with period

**a.** $T_2 = 8T_1$
**b.** $T_2 = 4T_1$
**c.** $T_2 = 2T_1$
**d.** $T_2 = \frac{1}{2}T_1$
**e.** $T_2 = \frac{1}{4}T_1$
**f.** $T_2 = \frac{1}{8}T_1$

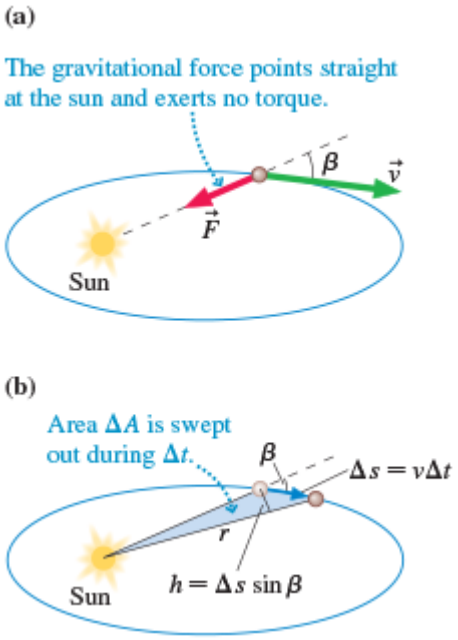
# Kepler's Second Law

Figure 13.18a shows a planet moving in an elliptical orbit. In Chapter 12 we defined a particle's *angular momentum* to be

**(13.26)**

$$L = mrv \sin \beta$$

## Figure 13.18




Angular momentum is conserved for a planet in an elliptical orbit.

where $\beta$ is the angle between $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{v}$. For a circular orbit, where $\beta$ is always 90°, this reduces to simply $L = mrv$.

The only force on the satellite, the gravitational force, points directly toward the star or planet that the satellite is orbiting and exerts no torque; thus **the satellite's angular momentum is conserved as it orbits.**

The satellite moves forward a small distance $\Delta s = v\,\Delta t$ during the small interval of time $\Delta t$. This motion defines the triangle of area $\Delta A$ shown in Figure 13.18b. $\Delta A$ is the area "swept out" by the satellite during $\Delta t$. You

can see that the height of the triangle is $h = \Delta s \sin \beta$, so the triangle's area is

**(13.27)**

$$\Delta A = \tfrac{1}{2} \times \text{ base} \times \text{height} = \tfrac{1}{2} \times r \times \Delta s \sin \beta = \tfrac{1}{2} rv \sin \beta \, \Delta t$$

The *rate* at which the area is swept out by the satellite as it moves is



**(13.28)**

$$\frac{\Delta A}{\Delta t} = \tfrac{1}{2} rv \sin \beta = \frac{mrv \sin \beta}{2m} = \frac{L}{2m}$$

The angular momentum *L* is conserved, so it has the same value at every point in the orbit. Consequently, the rate at which the area is swept out by the satellite is constant. This is Kepler's second law, which says that a line drawn between the sun and a planet sweeps out equal areas during equal intervals of time. We see that Kepler's second law is a consequence of the conservation of angular momentum.

Another consequence of angular momentum is that the orbital speed is constant only for a circular orbit. Consider the "ends" of an elliptical orbit, where *r* is a minimum or maximum. At these points, $\beta = 90^\circ$ and thus $L = mrv$. Because *L* is constant, the satellite's speed at the farthest point must be less than its speed at the nearest point. In general, a satellite slows as *r* increases, then speeds up as *r* decreases, to keep its angular momentum (and its energy) constant.

Kepler's laws summarize observational data about the motions of the planets. They were an outstanding achievement, but they did not form a theory. Newton put forward a *theory*, a specific set of relationships between force and motion that allows *any* motion to be understood and

calculated. Newton's theory of gravity has allowed us to *deduce* Kepler's laws and, thus, to understand them at a more fundamental level.

## Orbital Energetics

Let us conclude this chapter by thinking about the energetics of orbital motion. We found, with Equation 13.24, that a satellite in a circular orbit must have $v^2 = GM/r$. A satellite's speed is determined entirely by the size of its orbit. The satellite's kinetic energy is thus

**(13.29)**

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{GMm}{2r}$$

But $-GMm/r$ is the potential energy, $U_G$, so

**(13.30)**

$$K = -\frac{1}{2}U_G$$

This is an interesting result. In all our earlier examples, the kinetic and potential energy were two independent parameters. In contrast, a satellite can move in a circular orbit *only* if there is a very specific relationship between $K$ and $U$. It is not that $K$ and $U$ *have* to have this relationship, but if they do not, the trajectory will be elliptical rather than circular.

Equation 13.30 gives us the mechanical energy of a satellite in a circular orbit:

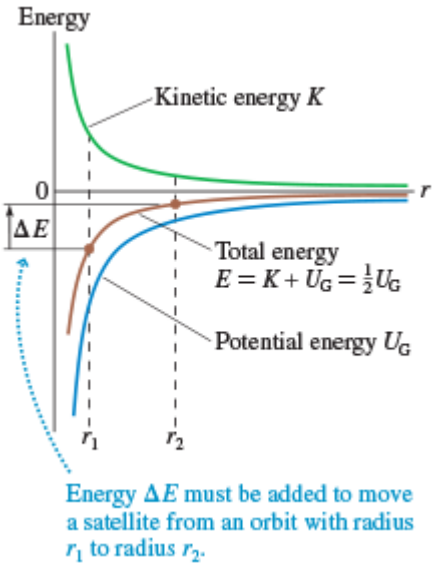
**(13.31)**

$$E_{mech} = K + U_G = \frac{1}{2}U_G$$

The gravitational potential energy is negative, hence the *total* mechanical energy is also negative. Negative total energy is characteristic of a **bound system,** a system in which the satellite is bound to the central mass by the gravitational force and cannot get away. The total energy of an unbound system must be ≥ 0 because the satellite can reach infinity, where $U = 0$, while still having kinetic energy. A negative value of $E_{\text{mech}}$ tells us that the satellite is unable to escape the central mass.

Figure 13.19 shows the energies of a satellite in a circular orbit as a function of the orbit's radius. Notice how $E_{\text{mech}} = \frac{1}{2}U_{\text{G}}$. This figure can help us understand the energetics of transferring a satellite from one orbit to another. Suppose a satellite is in an orbit of radius $r_1$ and we'd like it to be in a larger orbit of radius $r_2$. The kinetic energy at $r_2$ is less than at $r_1$ (the satellite moves more slowly in the larger orbit), but you can see that the total energy *increases* as $r$ increases. Consequently, transferring a satellite to a larger orbit requires a net energy increase $\Delta E > 0$. Where does this increase of energy come from?

## Figure 13.19






The kinetic, potential, and total energy of a satellite in a circular orbit.

Artificial satellites are raised to higher orbits by firing their rocket motors to create a forward thrust. This force does work on the satellite, and the energy principle of Chapter 10 tells us that this work increases the satellite's energy by $\Delta E_{\text{mech}} = W_{\text{ext}}$. Thus the energy to "lift" a satellite into a higher orbit comes from the chemical energy stored in the rocket fuel.

**Example 13.6 Raising a satellite**

How much work must be done to boost a 1000 kg communications satellite from a low earth orbit with $h = 300$ km to a geosynchronous orbit?

**SOLVE** The required work is $W_{\text{ext}} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}}$, and from Equation 13.31 we see that $\Delta E_{\text{mech}} = \frac{1}{2}\Delta U_{\text{G}}$. The initial orbit has radius $r_{\text{low}} = R_{\text{e}} + h = 6.67 \times 10^6$ m. We earlier found the radius of a geosynchronous orbit to be $4.22 \times 10^7$ m. Thus

$$W_{\text{ext}} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}} = \tfrac{1}{2}\Delta U_{\text{G}} = \tfrac{1}{2}(-GM_{\text{e}}m)\left(\frac{1}{r_{\text{geo}}} - \frac{1}{r_{\text{low}}}\right) = 2.52 \times 10^{10}\ \text{J}$$

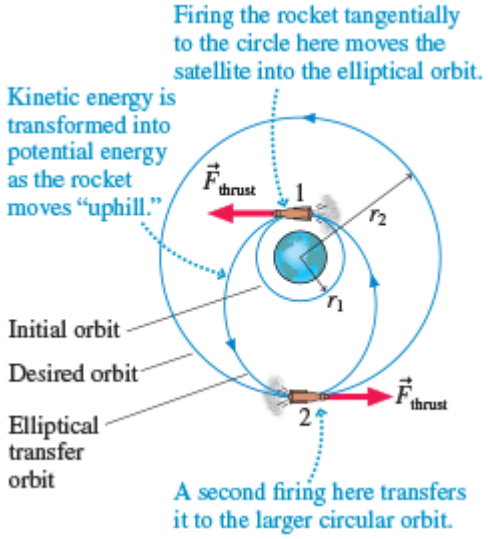
**ASSESS** It takes a lot of energy to boost satellites to high orbits!

You might think that the way to get a satellite into a larger orbit would be to point the thrusters toward the earth and blast outward. That would work fine *if* the satellite were initially at rest and moved straight out along a linear trajectory. But an orbiting satellite is already moving and has significant inertia. A force directed straight outward would *change* the satellite's velocity vector in that direction but would not cause it to *move* along that line. (Remember all those earlier motion diagrams for motion

along curved trajectories.) In addition, a force directed outward would be almost at right angles to the motion and would do essentially zero work. Navigating in space is not as easy as it appears in *Star Wars!*

To move the satellite in Figure 13.20 from the orbit with radius $r_1$ to the larger circular orbit of radius $r_2$, the thrusters are turned on at point 1 to apply a brief *forward* thrust force in the direction of motion, *tangent* to the circle. This force does a significant amount of work because the force is parallel to the displacement, so the satellite quickly gains kinetic energy $(\Delta K > 0)$. But $\Delta U_G = 0$ because the satellite does not have time to change its distance from the earth during a thrust of short duration. With the kinetic energy increased, but not the potential energy, the satellite no longer meets the requirement $K = -\frac{1}{2}U_G$ for a circular orbit. Instead, it goes into an elliptical orbit.

## Figure 13.20




Transferring a satellite to a larger circular orbit.

In the elliptical orbit, the satellite moves "uphill" toward point 2 by transforming kinetic energy into potential energy. At point 2, the satellite has arrived at the desired distance from earth and has the "right" value of

the potential energy, but its kinetic energy is now *less* than needed for a circular orbit. (The analysis is more complex than we want to pursue here. It will be left for a homework Challenge Problem.) If no action is taken, the satellite will continue on its elliptical orbit and "fall" back to point 1. But another *forward* thrust at point 2 increases its kinetic energy, without changing $U_G$, until the kinetic energy reaches the value $K = -\frac{1}{2}U_G$ required for a circular orbit. Presto! The second burn kicks the satellite into the desired circular orbit of radius $r_2$. The work $W_{ext} = \Delta E_{mech}$ is the *total* work done in both burns. It takes a more extended analysis to see how the work has to be divided between the two burns, but even without those details you now have enough knowledge about orbits and energy to understand the ideas that are involved.

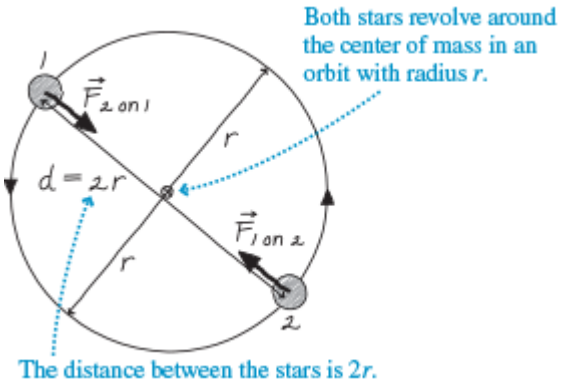
### Challenge Example 13.7 A binary star system

Astronomers discover a binary star system with a period of 90 days. Both stars have a mass twice that of the sun. How far apart are the two stars?

**MODEL** Model the stars as spherical masses exerting gravitational forces on each other.

**VISUALIZE** *An isolated system rotates around its center of mass.* Figure 13.21 shows the orbits and the forces. If $r$ is the distance of each star to the center of mass—the radius of that star's orbit—then the distance between the stars is $d = 2r$.

**Figure 13.21**




The binary star system.

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**SOLVE** Star 2 has only one force acting on it, $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }2}$, and that force has to provide the centripetal acceleration $v^2/r$ of circular motion. Newton's second law for star 2 is

$$F_{1\text{ on }2} = \frac{GM_1M_2}{d^2} = \frac{GM^2}{4r^2} = Ma_r = \frac{Mv^2}{r}$$

where we used $M_1 = M_2 = M$. The equation for star 1 is identical. The star's speed is related to the period and the circumference of its orbit by $v = 2\pi r/T$. With this, the force equation becomes

$$\frac{GM^2}{4r^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 Mr}{T^2}$$

Solving for $r$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} r &= \left[\frac{GMT^2}{16\pi^2}\right]^{1/3} \\ &= \left[\frac{\left(6.67\times10^{-11}\text{ N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(2\times1.99\times10^{30}\text{ kg}\right)\left(7.78\times10^{6}\text{ s}\right)^2}{16\pi^2}\right]^{1/3} \\ &= 4.67\times10^{10}\text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

The distance between the stars is $d = 2r = 9.3\times10^{10}$ m.

**ASSESS** The result is in the range of solar-system distances and thus is reasonable.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 13 has been to understand the motion of satellites and planets.

## General Principles

### Newton's Theory of Gravity

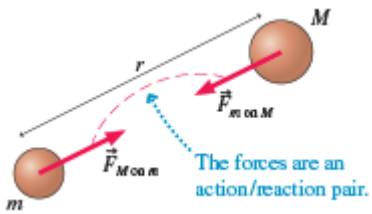
1. Two objects with masses $M$ and $m$ a distance $r$ apart exert attractive **gravitational forces** on each other of magnitude

$$F_{M \text{ on } m} = F_{m \text{ on } M} = \frac{GMm}{r^2}$$

where the **gravitational constant** is $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2$.

Gravity is an **inverse-square** force.

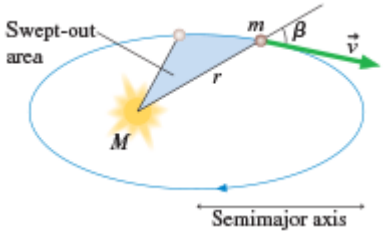
2. Gravitational mass and inertial mass are equivalent.
3. Newton's three laws of motion apply to all objects in the universe.




## Important Concepts

**Orbital motion** of a planet (or satellite) is described by **Kepler's laws:**

1. Orbits are ellipses with the sun (or planet) at one focus.
2. A line between the sun and the planet sweeps out equal areas during equal intervals of time.
3. The square of the planet's period $T$ is proportional to the cube of the orbit's semimajor axis.




**Circular orbits** are a special case of an ellipse. For a circular orbit around a mass $M$,

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}} \quad \text{and} \quad T^2 = \left(\frac{4\pi^2}{GM}\right) r^3$$

## Conservation of angular momentum

The angular momentum $L = mrv \sin \beta$ remains constant throughout the orbit. Kepler's second law is a consequence of this law.

## Orbital energetics

A satellite's mechanical energy $E_{\text{mech}} = K + U_{\text{G}}$ is conserved, where the gravitational potential energy is

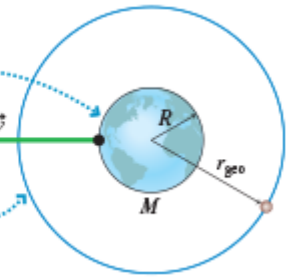
$$U_{\text{G}} = -\frac{GMm}{r}$$

For circular orbits, $K = -\frac{1}{2}U_{\text{G}}$ and $E_{\text{mech}} = \frac{1}{2}U_{\text{G}}$. Negative total energy is characteristic of a **bound system.**

# Applications

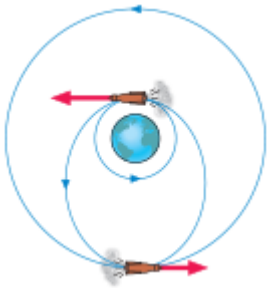
For a planet of mass $M$ and radius $R$:

- Free-fall acceleration on the surface is $g_{\text{surface}} = \dfrac{GM}{R^2}$
- **Escape speed** is $v_{\text{escape}} = \sqrt{\dfrac{2GM}{R}}$
- Radius of a **geosynchronous orbit** is $r_{\text{geo}} = \left(\dfrac{GM}{4\pi^2}T^2\right)^{1/3}$




To move a satellite to a larger orbit:

- Forward thrust to move to an elliptical transfer orbit
- A second forward thrust to move to the new circular orbit



# Terms and Notation

cosmology

Kepler's laws

gravitational force

Newton's law of gravity

gravitational constant, $G$

gravitational mass

principle of equivalence

Newton's theory of gravity

escape speed

satellite

geosynchronous orbit

bound system

# Conceptual Questions 

**1.** Is the earth's gravitational force on the sun larger than, smaller than, or equal to the sun's gravitational force on the earth? Explain.

**2.** The gravitational force of a star on orbiting planet 1 is $F_1$. Planet 2, which is twice as massive as planet 1 and orbits at twice the distance from the star, experiences gravitational force $F_2$. What is the ratio $F_1/F_2$?

**3.** A 1000 kg satellite and a 2000 kg satellite follow exactly the same orbit around the earth.

- **a.** What is the ratio $F_1/F_2$ of the gravitational force on the first satellite to that on the second satellite?
- **b.** What is the ratio $a_1/a_2$ of the acceleration of the first satellite to that of the second satellite?

**4.** How far away from the earth must an orbiting spacecraft be for the astronauts inside to be weightless? Explain.

**5.** A space station astronaut is working outside the station as it orbits the earth. If he drops a hammer, will it fall to earth? Explain why or why not.

**6.** The free-fall acceleration at the surface of planet 1 is 20 m/s$^2$. The radius and the mass of planet 2 are twice those of planet 1. What is $g$ on planet 2?

**7.** *Why* is the gravitational potential energy of two masses negative? Note that saying "because that's what the equation gives" is *not* an explanation.

**8.** The escape speed from Planet X is 10,000 m/s. Planet Y has the same radius as Planet X but is twice as dense. What is the escape

speed from Planet Y?

9. The mass of Jupiter is 300 times the mass of the earth. Jupiter orbits the sun with $T_{\text{Jupiter}} = 11.9$ yr in an orbit with $r_{\text{Jupiter}} = 5.2r_{\text{earth}}$. Suppose the earth could be moved to the distance of Jupiter and placed in a circular orbit around the sun. Which of the following describes the earth's new period? Explain.
    a. 1 yr
    b. Between 1 yr and 11.9 yr
    c. 11.9 yr
    d. More than 11.9 yr
    e. It would depend on the earth's speed.
    f. It's impossible for a planet of earth's mass to orbit at the distance of Jupiter.
10. Satellites in near-earth orbit experience a very slight drag due to the extremely thin upper atmosphere. These satellites slowly but surely spiral inward, where they finally burn up as they reach the thicker lower levels of the atmosphere. The radius decreases so slowly that you can consider the satellite to have a circular orbit at all times. As a satellite spirals inward, does it speed up, slow down, or maintain the same speed? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 13.3 Newton's Law of Gravity

**1.** • What is the ratio of the sun's gravitational force on you to the earth's gravitational force on you?

**2.** •• What is the ratio of the sun's gravitational force on the moon to the earth's gravitational force on the moon?

**3.** •• The centers of a 10 kg lead ball and a 100 g lead ball are separated by 10 cm.

**a.** What gravitational force does each exert on the other?

**b.** What is the ratio of this gravitational force to the gravitational force of the earth on the 100 g ball?

**4.** • What is the force of attraction between a 50 kg woman and a 70 kg man sitting 1.0 m apart?

**5.** •• The International Space Station orbits 300 km above the surface of the earth. What is the gravitational force on a 1.0 kg sphere inside the International Space Station?

**6.** •• Two 65 kg astronauts leave earth in a spacecraft, sitting 1.0 m apart. How far are they from the center of the earth when the gravitational force between them is as strong as the gravitational force of the earth on one of the astronauts?

**7.** •• A 20 kg sphere is at the origin and a 10 kg sphere is at $x = 20$ cm. At what position on the $x$-axis could you place a small mass such that the net gravitational force on it due to the spheres is zero?

## Section 13.4 Little $g$ and Big $G$

**8.** •

**a.** What is the free-fall acceleration at the surface of the sun?

**b.** What is the free-fall acceleration toward the sun at the distance of the earth?

**9.** •• What is the free-fall acceleration at the surface of (a) the moon and (b) Jupiter?

**10.** •• A sensitive gravimeter at a mountain observatory finds that the free-fall acceleration is 0.0075 m/s$^2$ less than that at sea level. What is the observatory's altitude?

**11.** • Saturn's moon Titan has a mass of $1.35 \times 10^{23}$ kg and a radius of 2580 km. What is the free-fall acceleration on Titan?

**12.** •• A newly discovered planet has a radius twice as large as earth's and a mass five times as large. What is the free-fall acceleration on its surface?

**13.** • Suppose we could shrink the earth without changing its mass. At what fraction of its current radius would the free-fall acceleration at the surface be three times its present value?

**14.** •• Planet Z is 10,000 km in diameter. The free-fall acceleration on Planet Z is 8.0 m/s$^2$.



**a.** What is the mass of Planet Z?

**b.** What is the free-fall acceleration 10,000 km above Planet Z's north pole?

## Section 13.5 Gravitational Potential Energy

**15.** • An astronaut on earth can throw a ball straight up to a height of 15 m. How high can he throw the ball on Mars?

**16.** •• What is the escape speed from Jupiter?

**17.** •• A rocket is launched straight up from the earth's surface at a speed of 15,000 m/s. What is its speed when it is very far away from the earth?

**18.** • A space station orbits the sun at the same distance as the earth but on the opposite side of the sun. A small probe is fired away from the station. What minimum speed does the probe need to escape the solar system?

**19.** •• A proposed *space elevator* would consist of a cable stretching from the earth's surface to a satellite, orbiting far in space, that would keep the cable taut. A motorized climber could slowly carry rockets to the top, where they could be launched away from the earth using much less energy. What would be the escape speed for a craft launched from a space elevator at a height of 36,000 km? Ignore the earth's rotation.

**20.** •• Nothing can escape the *event horizon* of a black hole, not even light. You can think of the event horizon as being the distance from a black hole at which the escape speed is the speed of light, $3.00 \times 10^8$ m/s, making all escape impossible. What is the radius of the event horizon for a black hole with a mass 5.0 times the mass of the sun? This distance is called the *Schwarzschild radius*.

**21.** •• You have been visiting a distant planet. Your measurements have determined that the planet's mass is twice that of earth but the free-fall acceleration at the surface is only one-fourth as large.

**a.** What is the planet's radius?

**b.** To get back to earth, you need to escape the planet. What minimum speed does your rocket need?

**22.** •• Two meteoroids are heading for earth. Their speeds as they cross the moon's orbit are 2.0 km/s.

**a.** The first meteoroid is heading straight for earth. What is its speed of impact?

**b.** The second misses the earth by 5000 km. What is its speed at its closest point?

**23.** •• A binary star system has two stars, each with the same mass as our sun, separated by $1.0 \times 10^{12}$ m. A comet is very far away and essentially at rest. Slowly but surely, gravity pulls the

comet toward the stars. Suppose the comet travels along a trajectory that passes through the midpoint between the two stars. What is the comet's speed at the midpoint?

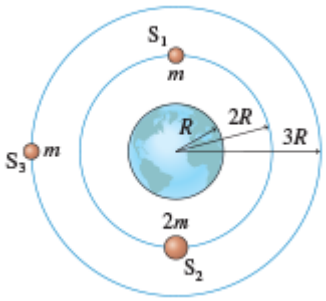
## Section 13.6 Satellite Orbits and Energies

**24.** •• The *asteroid belt* circles the sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. One asteroid has a period of 5.0 earth years. What are the asteroid's orbital radius and speed?

**25.** •• You are the science officer on a visit to a distant solar system. Prior to landing on a planet you measure its diameter to be $1.8 \times 10^7$ m and its rotation period to be 22.3 hours. You have previously determined that the planet orbits $2.2 \times 10^{11}$ m from its star with a period of 402 earth days. Once on the surface you find that the free-fall acceleration is 12.2 m/s$^2$. What is the mass of (a) the planet and (b) the star?

**26.** •• Three satellites orbit a planet of radius $R$, as shown in Figure EX13.26. Satellites $S_1$ and $S_3$ have mass $m$. Satellite $S_2$ has mass $2m$. Satellite $S_1$ orbits in 250 minutes and the force on $S_1$ is 10,000 N.

**Figure EX13.26**




**a.** What are the periods of $S_2$ and $S_3$?

**b.** What are the forces on $S_2$ and $S_3$?

**c.** What is the kinetic-energy ratio $K_1/K_3$ for $S_1$ and $S_3$?

**27.** •• A satellite orbits the sun with a period of 1.0 day. What is the radius of its orbit?

**28.** •• A new planet is discovered orbiting the star Vega in a circular orbit. The planet takes 55 earth years to complete one orbit around the star. Vega's mass is 2.1 times the sun's mass. What is the radius of the planet's orbit? Give your answer as a multiple of the radius of the earth's orbit.

**29.** •• A small moon orbits its planet in a circular orbit at a speed of 7.5 km/s. It takes 28 hours to complete one full orbit. What is the mass of the planet?

**30.** •• An earth satellite moves in a circular orbit at a speed of 5500 m/s. What is its orbital period?

**31.** •• What are the speed and altitude of a geosynchronous satellite orbiting Mars? Mars rotates on its axis once every 24.8 hours.

**32.** ••

**a.** At what height above the earth is the free-fall acceleration 10% of its value at the surface?

**b.** What is the speed of a satellite orbiting at that height?

**33.** •• In 2000, NASA placed a satellite in orbit around an asteroid. Consider a spherical asteroid with a mass of $1.0 \times 10^{16}$ kg and a radius of 8.8 km.

**a.** What is the speed of a satellite orbiting 5.0 km above the surface?

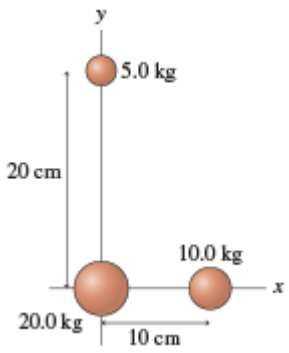
**b.** What is the escape speed from the asteroid?

**34.** •• Pluto moves in a fairly elliptical orbit around the sun. Pluto's speed at its closest approach of $4.43 \times 10^9$ km is 6.12 km/s What is Pluto's speed at the most distant point in its orbit, where it is $7.30 \times 10^9$ km from the sun?

# Problems

**35.** •• **INT** Figure P13.35 shows three masses. What are the magnitude and the direction of the net gravitational force on (a) the 20.0 kg mass and (b) the 5.0 kg mass? Give the direction as an angle cw or ccw from the $y$-axis.

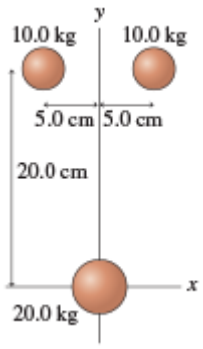
**Figure P13.35**




**36.** •• **INT** What are the magnitude and direction of the net gravitational force on the 20.0 kg mass in Figure P13.36?



**Figure P13.36**




**37.** •• What is the total gravitational potential energy of the three masses in Figure P13.35?

**38.** •• What is the total gravitational potential energy of the three masses in Figure P13.36?

**39.** •• Two spherical objects have a combined mass of 150 kg. The gravitational attraction between them is $8.00 \times 10^{-6}$ N when their centers are 20 cm apart. What is the mass of each?

**40.** ••• **INT** Two 100 kg lead spheres are suspended from 100-m-long massless cables. The tops of the cables have been carefully anchored *exactly* 1 m apart. By how much is the distance between the centers of the spheres less than 1 m?

**41.** •• A rogue black hole with a mass 12 times the mass of the sun drifts into the solar system on a collision course with earth. How far is the black hole from the center of the earth when objects on the earth's surface begin to lift into the air and "fall" up into the black hole? Give your answer as a multiple of the earth's radius.

**42.** ••• An object of mass $m$ is dropped from height $h$ above a planet of mass $M$ and radius $R$. Find an expression for the object's speed as it hits the ground.

**43.** ••• A projectile is shot straight up from the earth's surface at a speed of 10,000 km/h. How high does it go?

**44.** •• The unexplored planet Alpha Centauri III has a radius of $7.0 \times 10^6$ m. A visiting astronaut drops a rock, from rest, into a 100-m-deep crevasse. She records that it takes 6.0 s for the rock to reach the bottom. What is the mass of Alpha Centauri III?

**45.** •• An astronaut circling the earth at an altitude of 400 km is horrified to discover that a cloud of space debris is moving in the exact same orbit as his spacecraft, but in the opposite direction. The astronaut detects the debris when it is 25 km

away. How much time does he have to fire his rockets and change orbits?

**46.** •• **INT** Suppose that on earth you can jump straight up a distance of 45 cm. Asteroids are made of material with mass density 2800 kg/m$^3$. What is the maximum diameter of a spherical asteroid from which you could escape by jumping?

**47.** ••• **CALC** A rogue band of colonists on the moon declares war and prepares to use a catapult to launch large boulders at the earth. Assume that the boulders are launched from the point on the moon nearest the earth. For this problem you can ignore the rotation of the two bodies and the orbiting of the moon.

**a.** What is the minimum speed with which a boulder must be launched to reach the earth?
**Hint:** The minimum speed is not the escape speed. You need to analyze a three-body system.

**b.** Ignoring air resistance, what is the impact speed on earth of a boulder launched at this minimum speed?

**48.** ••• **INT** Two spherical asteroids have the same radius $R$. Asteroid 1 has mass $M$ and asteroid 2 has mass $2M$. The two asteroids are released from rest with distance $10R$ between their centers. What is the speed of each asteroid just before they collide?

**Hint:** You will need to use two conservation laws.

**49.** •• A starship is circling a distant planet of radius $R$. The astronauts find that the free-fall acceleration at their altitude is half the value at the planet's surface. How far above the surface are they orbiting? Your answer will be a multiple of $R$.

**50.** ••• The two stars in a binary star system have masses $2.0 \times 10^{30}$ kg and $6.0 \times 10^{30}$ kg. They are separated by $2.0 \times 10^{12}$ m. What are

**a.** The system's rotation period, in years?

**b.** The speed of each star?

**51.** ••• A 4000 kg lunar lander is in orbit 50 km above the surface of the moon. It needs to move out to a 300-km-high orbit in order to link up with the mother ship that will take the astronauts home. How much work must the thrusters do?

**52.** ••• The 75,000 kg space shuttle used to fly in a 250-km-high circular orbit. It needed to reach a 610-km-high circular orbit to service the Hubble Space Telescope. How much energy was required to boost it to the new orbit?

**53.** ••• How much energy would be required to move the earth into a circular orbit with a radius 1.0 km larger than its current radius?

**54.** •• NASA would like to place a satellite in orbit around the moon such that the satellite always remains in the same position over the lunar surface. What is the satellite's altitude?

**55.** •• In 2014, the European Space Agency placed a satellite in orbit around comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko and then landed a probe on the surface. The actual orbit was elliptical, but we'll approximate it as a 50-km-diameter circular orbit with a period of 11 days.

**a.** What was the satellite's orbital speed around the comet? (Both the comet and the satellite are orbiting

the sun at a much higher speed.)

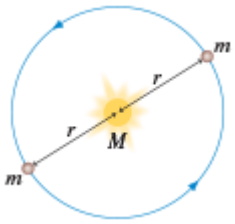
**b.** What is the mass of the comet?

**c.** The lander was pushed from the satellite, toward the comet, at a speed of 70 cm/s, and it then fell—taking about 7 hours—to the surface. What was its landing speed? The comet's shape is irregular, but on average it has a diameter of 3.6 km.

**56.** •• A satellite orbiting the earth is directly over a point on the equator at 12:00 midnight every two days. It is not over that point at any time in between. What is the radius of the satellite's orbit?

**57.** ••• Figure P13.57 shows two planets of mass $m$ orbiting a star of mass $M$. The planets are in the same orbit, with radius $r$, but are always at opposite ends of a diameter. Find an exact expression for the orbital period $T$.

**Figure P13.57**




**Hint:** Each planet feels two forces.



**58.** •• Figure 13.17 showed a graph of log $T$ versus log $r$ for the planetary data given in Table 13.2. Such a graph is called a *log-log graph*. The scales in Figure 13.17 are logarithmic, not linear, meaning that each division along the axis corresponds to a *factor* of 10 increase in the value. Strictly speaking, the

"correct" labels on the $y$-axis should be 7, 8, 9, and 10 because these are the logarithms of $10^7, \ldots, 10^{10}$.

**a.** Consider two quantities $u$ and $v$ that are related by the expression $v^p = Cu^q$, where $C$ is a constant. The exponents $p$ and $q$ are not necessarily integers. Define $x = \log u$ and $y = \log v$. Find an expression for $y$ in terms of $x$.

**b.** What *shape* will a graph of $y$ versus $x$ have? Explain.

**c.** What *slope* will a graph of $y$ versus $x$ have? Explain.

**d.** Use the experimentally determined "best-fit" line in Figure 13.17 to find the mass of the sun.

**59.** •• Large stars can explode as they finish burning their nuclear fuel, causing a *supernova*. The explosion blows away the outer layers of the star. According to Newton's third law, the forces that push the outer layers away have *reaction forces* that are inwardly directed on the core of the star. These forces compress the core and can cause the core to undergo a *gravitational collapse*. The gravitational forces keep pulling all the matter together tighter and tighter, crushing atoms out of existence. Under these extreme conditions, a proton and an electron can be squeezed together to form a neutron. If the collapse is halted when the neutrons all come into contact with each other, the result is an object called a *neutron star*, an entire star consisting of solid nuclear matter. Many neutron stars rotate about their axis with a period of $\approx 1$ s and, as they do so, send out a pulse of electromagnetic waves once a second. These stars were discovered in the 1960s and are called *pulsars*.

**a.** Consider a neutron star with a mass equal to the sun, a radius of 10 km, and a rotation period of 1.0 s. What is the speed of a point on the equator of the star?

**b.** What is $g$ at the surface of this neutron star?

**c.** A stationary 1.0 kg mass has a weight on earth of 9.8 N. What would be its weight on the star?

**d.** How many revolutions per minute are made by a satellite orbiting 1.0 km above the surface?

**e.** What is the radius of a geosynchronous orbit?

**60.** •• The solar system is 25,000 light years from the center of our Milky Way galaxy. One *light year* is the distance light travels in one year at a speed of $3.0 \times 10^8$ m/s. Astronomers have determined that the solar system is orbiting the center of the galaxy at a speed of 230 km/s.

**a.** Assuming the orbit is circular, what is the period of the solar system's orbit? Give your answer in years.

**b.** Our solar system was formed roughly 5 billion years ago. How many orbits has it completed?

**c.** The gravitational force on the solar system is the net force due to all the matter inside our orbit. Most of that matter is concentrated near the center of the galaxy. Assume that the matter has a spherical distribution, like a giant star. What is the approximate mass of the galactic center?

**d.** Assume that the sun is a typical star with a typical mass. If galactic matter is made up of stars, approximately how many stars are in the center of the galaxy?

Astronomers have spent many years trying to determine how many stars there are in the Milky Way. The number of stars seems to be only about 10% of what you found in part d. In other words, about 90% of the mass of the galaxy appears to be in some form other than stars. This is called the *dark matter* of the universe. No one knows what the dark matter is. This is one of the outstanding scientific questions of our day.

**61.** •• Three stars, each with the mass of our sun, form an equilateral triangle with sides $1.0 \times 10^{12}$ m long. (This triangle would just about fit within the orbit of Jupiter.) The triangle has to rotate, because otherwise the stars would crash together in the center. What is the period of rotation?

**62.** •• Comets move around the sun in very elliptical orbits. At its closet approach, in 1986, Comet Halley was $8.79 \times 10^7$ km from the sun and moving with a speed of 54.6 km/s. What was the comet's speed when it crossed Neptune's orbit in 2006?

**63.** ••• A 55,000 kg space capsule is in a 28,000-km-diameter circular orbit around the moon. A brief but intense firing of its engine in the forward direction suddenly decreases its speed by 50%. This causes the space capsule to go into an elliptical orbit. What are the space capsule's (a) maximum and (b) minimum distances from the center of the moon in its new orbit?

**Hint:** You will need to use two conservation laws.

In Problems 64, 65, 66 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Draw a pictorial representation.

**c.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**64.**
$$\frac{\left(6.67\times10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(5.68\times10^{26}\ \text{kg}\right)}{r^2}$$
$$=\frac{\left(6.67\times10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(5.98\times10^{24}\ \text{kg}\right)}{\left(6.37\times10^{6}\ \text{m}\right)^2}$$

**65.**
$$\frac{\left(6.67\times10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(5.98\times10^{24}\ \text{kg}\right)(1000\ \text{kg})}{r^2}$$
$$=\frac{(1000\ \text{kg})\left(1997\ \text{m/s}\right)^2}{r}$$

**66.**
$$\tfrac{1}{2}(100\ \text{kg})\,{v_2}^2$$
$$-\frac{\left(6.67\times10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(7.36\times10^{22}\ \text{kg}\right)(100\ \text{kg})}{1.74\times10^{6}\ \text{m}}$$
$$=0-\frac{\left(6.67\times10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2\right)\left(7.36\times10^{22}\ \text{kg}\right)(100\ \text{kg})}{3.48\times10^{6}\ \text{m}}$$

## Challenge Problems

**67.** ••• Two Jupiter-size planets are released from rest $1.0\times10^{11}$ m apart. What are their speeds as they crash together?

**68.** ••• A satellite in a circular orbit of radius $r$ has period $T$. A satellite in a nearby orbit with radius $r+\Delta r$, where $\Delta r \ll r$, has the very slightly different period $T+\Delta T$.

**a.** Show that

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T}=\frac{3}{2}\frac{\Delta r}{r}$$

**b.** Two earth satellites are in parallel orbits with radii 6700 km and 6701 km. One day they pass each other, 1 km

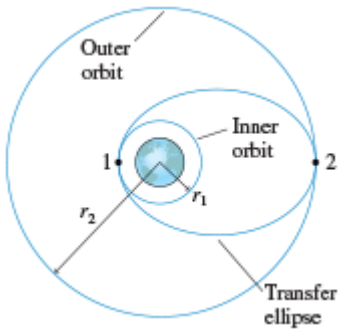
apart, along a line radially outward from the earth. How long will it be until they are again 1 km apart?

**69.** ••• While visiting Planet Physics, you toss a rock straight up at 11 m/s and catch it 2.5 s later. While you visit the surface, your cruise ship orbits at an altitude equal to the planet's radius every 230 min. What are the (a) mass and (b) radius of Planet Physics?

**70.** ••• A moon lander is orbiting the moon at an altitude of 1000 km. By what percentage must it decrease its speed so as to just graze the moon's surface one-half period later?

**71.** ••• Let's look in more detail at how a satellite is moved from one circular orbit to another. Figure CP13.71 shows two circular orbits, of radii $r_1$ and $r_2$, and an elliptical orbit that connects them. Points 1 and 2 are at the ends of the semimajor axis of the ellipse.

**Figure CP13.71**




**a.** A satellite moving along the elliptical orbit has to satisfy two conservation laws. Use these two laws to prove that the velocities at points 1 and 2 are

$$v'_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2GM\,(r_2/r_1)}{r_1 + r_2}} \quad \text{and} \quad v'_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2GM\,(r_2/r_1)}{r_1 + r_2}}$$

The prime indicates that these are the velocities on the elliptical orbit. Both reduce to Equation 13.22 if $r_1 = r_2 = r$.

**b.** Consider a 1000 kg communications satellite that needs to be boosted from an orbit 300 km above the earth to a geosynchronous orbit 35,900 km above the earth. Find the velocity $v_1$ on the inner circular orbit and the velocity $v'_1$ at the low point on the elliptical orbit that spans the two circular orbits.

**c.** How much work must the rocket motor do to transfer the satellite from the circular orbit to the elliptical orbit?

**d.** Now find the velocity $v'_2$ at the high point of the elliptical orbit and the velocity $v_2$ of the outer circular orbit.

**e.** How much work must the rocket motor do to transfer the satellite from the elliptical orbit to the outer circular orbit?

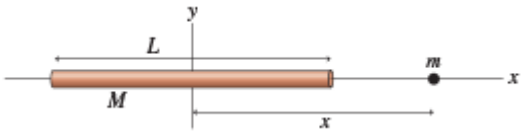
**f.** Compute the total work done and compare your answer to the result of Example 13.6.

**72.** ••• **CALC** Figure CP13.72 shows a particle of mass $m$ at distance $x$ from the center of a very thin cylinder of mass $M$ and length $L$. The particle is outside the cylinder, so $x > L/2$.

**a.** Calculate the gravitational potential energy of these two masses.

**b.** Use what you know about the relationship between force and potential energy to find the magnitude of the gravitational force on $m$ when it is at position $x$.

**Figure CP13.72**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# Chapter 14
# Fluids and Elasticity

A defining characteristic of any fluid is that—like this waterfall—it flows.

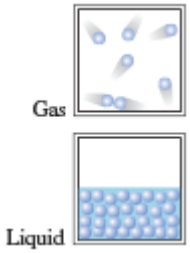
**In This Chapter**

you will learn about systems that flow or deform.

## What is a fluid?

A fluid is a substance that flows. Both gases and liquids are fluids.

- A gas is compressible. The molecules move freely with few interactions.
- A liquid is incompressible. The molecules are weakly bound to one another.



## What is pressure?

Fluids exert forces on the walls of their containers. Pressure is the force-to-area ratio *F*/*A*.

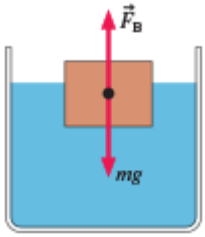
- Pressure in liquids, called hydrostatic pressure, is due to gravity. Pressure increases with depth.
- Pressure in gases is primarily thermal. Pressure is constant in a container.

## What is buoyancy?

Buoyancy is the upward force a fluid exerts on an object.

- Archimedes' principle says that the buoyant force equals the weight of the displaced fluid.
- An object floats if the buoyant force is sufficient to balance the object's weight.

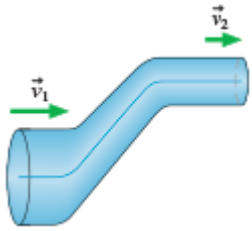
Looking Back Section 6.1 Equilibrium




## How does a fluid flow?

An ideal fluid—an incompressible, nonviscous fluid flowing smoothly—flows along streamlines. Bernoulli's equation, a

statement of energy conservation, relates the pressures, speeds, and heights at two points on a streamline.

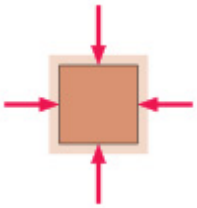



## What is elasticity?

Elasticity describes how objects deform under stress. An object's

- Young's modulus characterizes how it stretches when pulled.
- Bulk modulus tells us how much it is compressed by pressure.

Looking Back Section 9.4 Restoring forces



## Why are fluids important?

Gases and liquids are two of the three common states of matter. Scientists study atmospheres and oceans, while engineers use the controlled flow of fluids in a vast number of applications. This chapter will let you see how Newton's laws can be applied to systems that can flow or deform.

# 14.1 Fluids



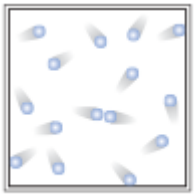
Quite simply, a **fluid** is a substance that flows. Because they flow, fluids take the shape of their container rather than retaining a shape of their own. You may think that gases and liquids are quite different, but both are fluids, and their similarities are often more important than their differences.

The detailed behavior of gases and, especially, liquids can be complex. Fortunately, the essential characteristics of gases and liquids are captured in simple molecular models that are related to the ball-and-spring model of solids that we presented in Section 5.2.

MODEL 14.1 **Molecular model of gases and liquids**

Gases and liquids are fluids—they flow and exert pressure.

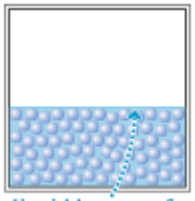
- **Gases**
  - Molecules move freely through space.
  - Molecules do not interact except for occasional collisions with each other or the walls.
  - Molecules are far apart, so a gas is *compressible*.



A gas fills the container.

- **Liquids**

- Molecules are weakly bound and stay close together.
- A liquid is *incompressible* because the molecules can't get any closer.
- Weak bonds allow the molecules to move around.



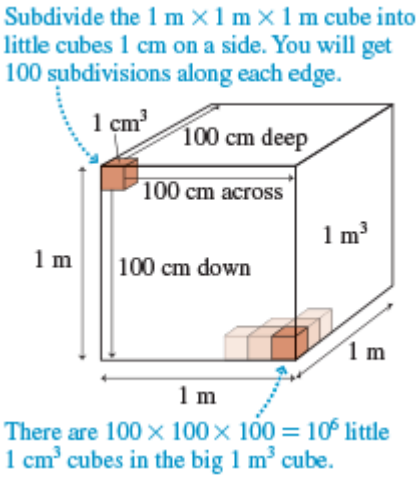
A liquid has a surface.

## Volume and Density

One important parameter that characterizes a macroscopic system is its volume $V$, the amount of space the system occupies. The SI unit of volume is $m^3$. Nonetheless, both $cm^3$ and, to some extent, liters (L) are widely used metric units of volume. In most cases, you *must* convert these to $m^3$ before doing calculations.

While it is true that $1\,\text{m} = 100\,\text{cm}$, it is *not* true that $1\,\text{m}^3 = 100\,\text{cm}^3$. Figure 14.1 shows that the volume conversion factor is $1\,\text{m}^3 = 10^6\,\text{cm}^3$. A liter is $1000\,\text{cm}^3$, so $1\,\text{m}^3 = 10^3\,\text{L}$. A milliliter (1 mL) is the same as 1 $cm^3$.

**Figure 14.1**




There are $10^6$ cm$^3$ in 1 m$^3$.

---



A system is also characterized by its *density*. Suppose you have several blocks of copper, each of different size. Each block has a different mass $m$ and a different volume $V$. Nonetheless, all the blocks are copper, so there should be some quantity that has the *same* value for all the blocks, telling us, "This is copper, not some other material." The most important such parameter is the *ratio* of mass to volume, which we call the **mass density** $\rho$ (lowercase Greek rho):

**(14.1)**

$$\rho = \frac{m}{V} \quad (\text{mass density})$$

Conversely, an object of density $\rho$ has mass $m = \rho V$.

The SI units of mass density are kg/m$^3$. Nonetheless, units of g/cm$^3$ are widely used. You need to convert these to SI units before doing most calculations. You must convert both the grams to kilograms and the cubic centimeters to cubic meters. The net result is the conversion factor

$$1\,\text{g/cm}^3 = 1000\,\text{kg/m}^3$$

The mass density is usually called simply "the density" if there is no danger of confusion. However, we will meet other types of density as we go along, and sometimes it is important to be explicit about which density you are using. Table 14.1 provides a short list of mass densities of various fluids. Notice the enormous difference between the densities of gases and liquids. Gases have lower densities because the molecules in gases are farther apart than in liquids.

**Table 14.1**

| Substance | $\rho$ (kg/m$^3$) |
|---|---|
| Helium gas | 0.18 |
| Air | 1.29 |
| Gasoline | 680 |
| Ethyl alcohol | 790 |
| Benzene | 880 |
| Oil (typical) | 900 |
| Water | 1000 |
| Seawater | 1030 |
| Glycerin | 1260 |
| Mercury | 13,600 |

Densities of fluids at standard temperature (0°C) and pressure (1 atm)

What does it *mean* to say that the density of gasoline is 680 kg/m$^3$ or, equivalently, 0.68 g/cm$^3$? Density is a mass-to-volume ratio. It is often described as the "mass per unit volume," but for this to make sense you have to know what is meant by "unit volume." Regardless of which system of length units you use, a **unit volume** is one of those units cubed. For example, if you measure lengths in meters, a unit volume is 1 m$^3$. But 1 cm$^3$ is a unit volume if you measure lengths in centimeters, and 1 mi$^3$ is a unit volume if you measure lengths in miles.

Density is the mass of one unit of volume, whatever the units happen to be. To say that the density of gasoline is 680 kg/m$^3$ is to say that the mass of 1 m$^3$ of gasoline is 680 kg. The mass of 1 cm$^3$ of gasoline is 0.68 g, so the density of gasoline in those units is 0.68 g/cm$^3$.

The mass density is independent of the object's size. Mass and volume are parameters that characterize a *specific piece* of some substance—say copper—whereas the mass density characterizes the substance itself. All pieces of copper have the same mass density, which differs from the mass density of any other substance.

### Example 14.1 Weighing the air

What is the mass of air in a living room with dimensions $4.0\,\text{m} \times 6.0\,\text{m} \times 2.5\,\text{m}$?

**MODEL** Table 14.1 gives air density at a temperature of 0°C. The air density doesn't vary significantly over a small range of temperatures (we'll study this issue in a later chapter), so we'll use this value even though most people keep their living room warmer than 0°C.

**SOLVE** The room's volume is

$$V = (4.0\,\text{m}) \times (6.0\,\text{m}) \times (2.5\,\text{m}) = 60\ \text{m}^3$$

The mass of the air is

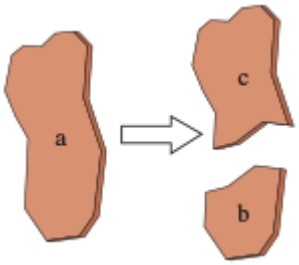
$$m = \rho V = (1.29\,\text{kg/m}^3) \times (60\ \text{m}^3) = 77\,\text{kg}$$

**ASSESS** This is perhaps more mass than you might have expected from a substance that hardly seems to be there. For comparison, a

swimming pool this size would contain 60,000 kg of water.

## Stop to Think 14.1

A piece of glass is broken into two pieces of different size. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the mass densities of pieces a, b, and c.



# 14.2 Pressure

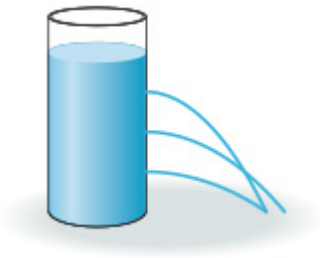


"Pressure" is a word we all know and use. You probably have a commonsense idea of what pressure is. For example, you feel the effects of varying pressure against your eardrums when you swim underwater or take off in an airplane. Cans of whipped cream are "pressurized" to make the contents squirt out when you press the nozzle. It's hard to open a "vacuum sealed" jar of jelly the first time, but easy after the seal is broken.

You've probably seen water squirting out of a hole in the side of a container, as in Figure 14.2. Notice that the water emerges at greater speed from a hole at greater depth. And you've probably felt the air squirting out of a hole in a bicycle tire or inflatable air mattress. These observations suggest that

- "Something" pushes the water or air *sideways*, out of the hole.
- In a liquid, the "something" is larger at greater depths. In a gas, the "something" appears to be the same everywhere.

**Figure 14.2**



Water pressure pushes the water *sideways*, out of the holes.

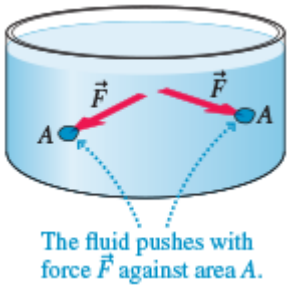
Our goal is to turn these everyday observations into a precise definition of pressure.

Figure 14.3 shows a fluid—either a liquid or a gas—pressing against a small area $A$ with force $\vec{F}$. This is the force that pushes the fluid out of a hole. In the absence of a hole, $\vec{F}$ pushes against the wall of the container. Let's define the **pressure** at this point in the fluid to be the ratio of the force to the area on which the force is exerted:

**(14.2)**

$$p = \frac{F}{A}$$

## Figure 14.3




The fluid presses against area $A$ with force $\vec{F}$.

Notice that pressure is a scalar, not a vector. You can see, from Equation 14.2, that a fluid exerts a force of magnitude

**(14.3)**

$$F = pA$$

on a surface of area $A$. The force is *perpendicular* to the surface.

> **Note**
>
> Pressure itself is *not* a force, even though we sometimes talk

> informally about “the force exerted by the pressure.” The correct statement is that the *fluid* exerts a force on a surface.

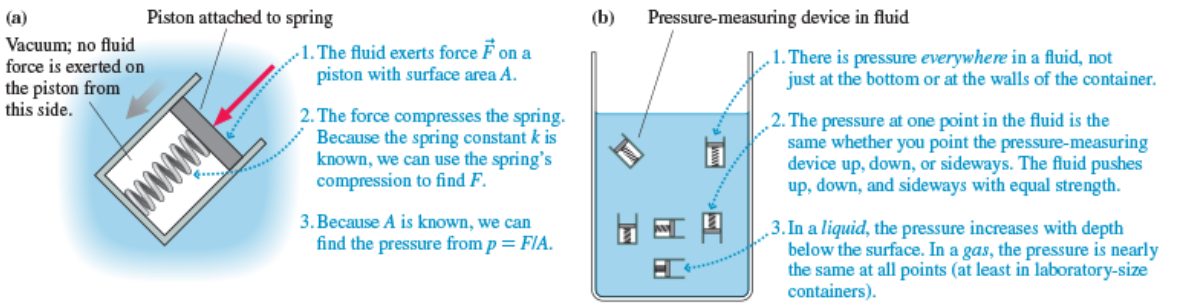
From its definition, pressure has units of $\mathrm{N/m^2}$. The SI unit of pressure is the **pascal**, defined as

$$1\,\text{pascal} = 1\,\text{Pa} \equiv 1\,\mathrm{N/m^2}$$

This unit is named for the 17th-century French scientist Blaise Pascal, who was one of the first to study fluids. Large pressures are often given in kilopascals, where $1\,\mathrm{kPa} = 1000\,\mathrm{Pa}$.

Equation 14.2 is the basis for the simple pressure-measuring device shown in Figure 14.4a. Because the spring constant $k$ and the area $A$ are known, we can determine the pressure by measuring the compression of the spring. Once we've built such a device, we can place it in various liquids and gases to learn about pressure. Figure 14.4b shows what we can learn from a series of simple experiments.

## Figure 14.4




Learning about pressure.

The first statement in Figure 14.4b is especially important. Pressure exists at *all* points within a fluid, not just at the walls of the container. You may recall that tension exists at *all* points in a string, not only at its ends where it is tied to an object. We understood tension as the different

parts of the string *pulling* against each other. Pressure is an analogous idea, except that the different parts of a fluid are *pushing* against each other.

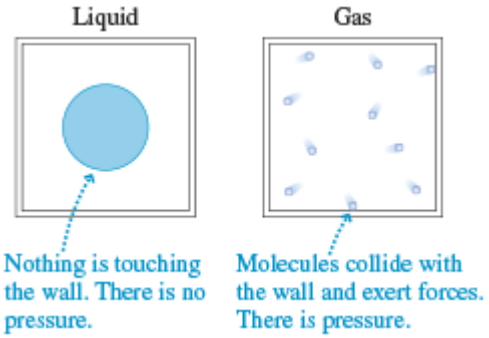
## Causes of Pressure

Gases and liquids are both fluids, but they have some important differences. Liquids are nearly incompressible; gases are highly compressible. The molecules in a liquid attract each other via molecular bonds; the molecules in a gas do not interact other than through occasional collisions. These differences affect how we think about pressure in gases and liquids.

Imagine that you have two sealed jars, each containing a small amount of mercury and nothing else. All the air has been removed from the jars. Suppose you take the two jars into orbit on the space station, where they are weightless. One jar you keep cool, so that the mercury is a liquid. The other you heat until the mercury becomes a gas. What can we say about the pressure in these two jars?

As Figure 14.5 shows, molecular bonds hold the liquid mercury together. It might quiver like Jello, but it remains a cohesive drop floating in the center of the jar. The liquid drop exerts no forces on the walls, so there's *no* pressure in the jar containing the liquid. (If we actually did this experiment, a very small fraction of the mercury would be in the vapor phase and create what is called *vapor pressure.)*

**Figure 14.5**

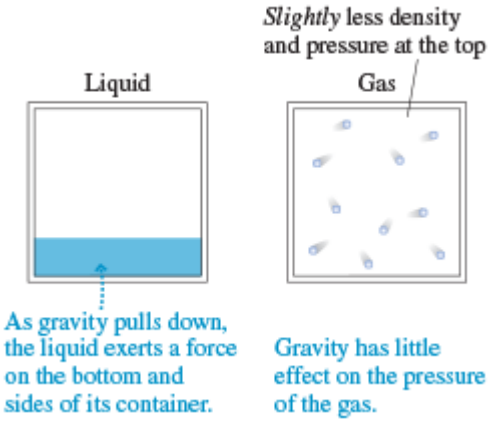



A liquid and a gas in a weightless environment.

The gas is different. The gas molecules collide with the wall of the container, and each bounce exerts a force on the wall. The force from any one collision is incredibly small, but there are an extraordinarily large number of collisions every second. These collisions cause the gas to have a pressure. We will do the calculation in Chapter 20.

Figure 14.6 shows the jars back on earth. Because of gravity, the liquid now fills the bottom of the jar and exerts a force on the bottom and the sides. Liquid mercury is incompressible, so the volume of liquid in Figure 14.6 is the same as in Figure 14.5. There is still no pressure on the top of the jar (other than the very small vapor pressure).

## Figure 14.6




Gravity affects the pressure of the fluids.

At first glance, the situation in the gas-filled jar seems unchanged from Figure 14.5. However, the earth's gravitational pull causes the gas density to be *slightly* more at the bottom of the jar than at the top. Because the pressure due to collisions is proportional to the density, the pressure is *slightly* larger at the bottom of the jar than at the top.

Thus there appear to be two contributions to the pressure in a container of fluid:

1. A *gravitational contribution* that arises from gravity pulling down on the fluid. Because a fluid can flow, forces are exerted on both the bottom and sides of the container. The gravitational contribution depends on the strength of the gravitational force.
2. A *thermal contribution* due to the collisions of freely moving gas molecules with the walls. The thermal contribution depends on the absolute temperature of the gas.

A detailed analysis finds that these two contributions are not entirely independent of each other, but the distinction is useful for a basic understanding of pressure. Let's see how these two contributions apply to different situations.



## Pressure in Gases

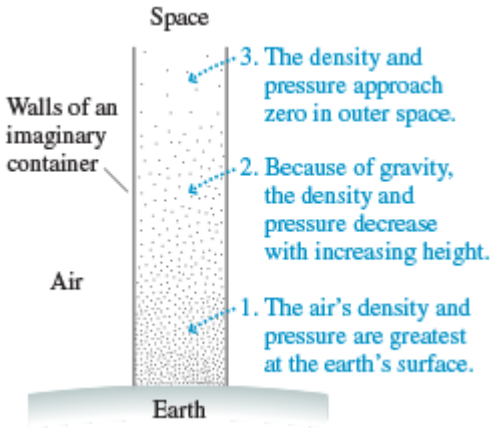
The pressure in a laboratory-size container of gas is due almost entirely to the thermal contribution. A container would have to be ≈ 100 m tall for gravity to cause the pressure at the top to be even 1% less than the pressure at the bottom. Laboratory-size containers are much less than 100 m tall, so we can quite reasonably assume that $p$ has the *same* value at all points in a laboratory-size container of gas.

Decreasing the number of molecules in a container decreases the gas pressure simply because there are fewer collisions with the walls. If a container is completely empty, with no atoms or molecules, then the pressure is $p = 0\,\text{Pa}$. This is a *perfect vacuum*. No perfect vacuum exists in nature, not even in the most remote depths of outer space, because it is impossible to completely remove every atom from a region of space. In practice, a **vacuum** is an enclosed space in which $p \ll 1\,\text{atm}$. Using $p = 0\,\text{Pa}$ is then a very good approximation.

## Atmospheric Pressure

The earth's atmosphere is *not* a laboratory-size container. The height of the atmosphere is such that the gravitational contribution to pressure *is* important. As Figure 14.7 shows, the density of air slowly decreases with increasing height until approaching zero in the vacuum of space. Consequently, the pressure of the air, what we call the *atmospheric pressure* $p_{\text{atmos}}$, decreases with height. The air pressure is less in Denver than in Miami.

**Figure 14.7**




The pressure and density decrease with increasing height in the atmosphere.

The atmospheric pressure *at sea level* varies slightly with the weather, but the global average sea-level pressure is 101,300 Pa. Consequently, we define the **standard atmosphere** as

$$1\,\text{standard atmosphere} = 1\,\text{atm} \equiv 101{,}300\,\text{pa} = 101.3\,\text{kPa}$$

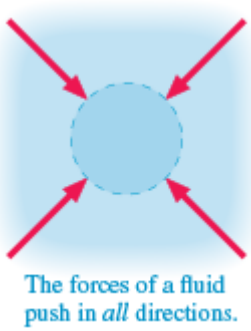
The standard atmosphere, usually referred to simply as "atmospheres," is a commonly used unit of pressure. But it is not an SI unit, so you must convert atmospheres to pascals before doing most calculations with pressure.

> **Note**
>
> Unless you happen to live right at sea level, the atmospheric pressure around you is somewhat less than 1 atm. Pressure experiments use a barometer to determine the actual atmospheric pressure. For simplicity, this textbook will always assume that the pressure of the air is $p_{\text{atmos}} = 1\,\text{atm}$ unless stated otherwise.

Given that the pressure of the air at sea level is 101.3 kPa, you might wonder why the weight of the air doesn't crush your forearm when you rest it on a table. Your forearm has a surface area of $\approx 200\,\text{cm}^2 = 0.02\,\text{m}^2$, so the force of the air pressing against it is $\approx 2000\,\text{N}$ ($\approx 450\,\text{pounds}$). How can you even lift your arm?

The reason, as Figure 14.8 shows, is that a fluid exerts pressure forces in *all* directions. There *is* a downward force of ≈ 2000 N on your forearm, but the air underneath your arm exerts an upward force of the same magnitude. The *net* force is very close to zero. (To be accurate, there is a net *upward* force called the buoyant force. We'll study buoyancy in Section 14.4. The buoyant force of the air is usually too small to notice.)

## Figure 14.8




Pressure forces in a fluid push with equal strength in all directions.

But, you say, there isn't any air under my arm if I rest it on a table. Actually, there is. There would be a *vacuum* under your arm if there were no air. Imagine placing your arm on the top of a large vacuum cleaner suction tube. What happens? You feel a downward force as the vacuum cleaner "tries to suck your arm in." However, the downward force you feel is not a *pulling* force from the vacuum cleaner. It is the *pushing* force of the air above your arm *when the air beneath your arm is removed and cannot push back.* Air molecules do not have hooks! They have no ability to "pull" on your arm. The air can only push.

Vacuum cleaners, suction cups, and other similar devices are powerful examples of how strong atmospheric pressure forces can be *if* the air is removed from one side of an object so as to produce an unbalanced force. The fact that we are *surrounded* by the fluid allows us to move around in the air, just as we swim underwater, oblivious of these strong forces.

### Example 14.2 A suction cup

A 10.0-cm-diameter suction cup is pushed against a smooth ceiling. What is the maximum mass of an object that can be suspended

from the suction cup without pulling it off the ceiling? The mass of the suction cup is negligible.

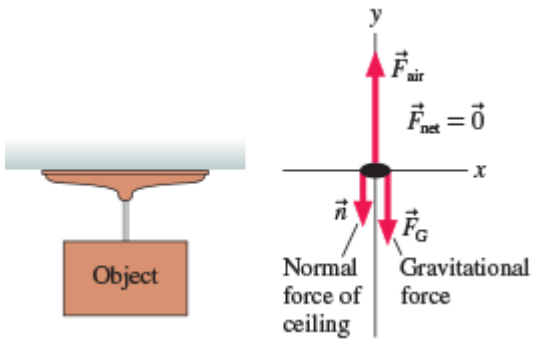
---

**MODEL** Pushing the suction cup against the ceiling pushes the air out. We'll assume that the volume enclosed between the suction cup and the ceiling is a perfect vacuum with $p = 0\,\text{Pa}$. We'll also assume that the pressure in the room is 1 atm.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 14.9 shows a free-body diagram of the suction cup stuck to the ceiling. The downward normal force of the ceiling is distributed around the rim of the suction cup, but in the particle model we can show this as a single force vector.

---

**Figure 14.9**




A suction cup is held to the ceiling by air pressure pushing upward on the bottom.

---

**SOLVE** The suction cup remains stuck to the ceiling, in static equilibrium, as long as $F_{\text{air}} = n + F_{\text{G}}$. The magnitude of the upward force exerted by the air is

$$F_{\text{air}} = pA = p\pi r^2 = (101{,}300\,\text{Pa})\,\pi\,(0.050\,\text{m})^2 = 796\,\text{N}$$

There is no downward force from the air in this case because there is no air inside the cup. Increasing the hanging mass decreases the

normal force $n$ by an equal amount. The maximum weight has been reached when $n$ is reduced to zero. Thus

$$(F_{\mathrm{G}})_{\mathrm{max}} = mg = F_{\mathrm{air}} = 796\,\mathrm{N}$$
$$m = \frac{796\ \mathrm{N}}{g} = 81\,\mathrm{kg}$$

**ASSESS** The suction cup can support a mass of up to 81 kg if all the air is pushed out, leaving a perfect vacuum inside. A real suction cup won't achieve a perfect vacuum, but suction cups can hold substantial weight.

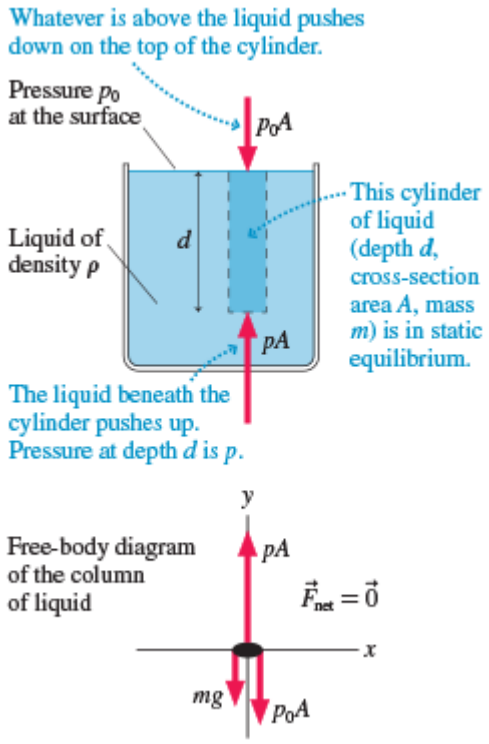
## Pressure in Liquids

Gravity causes a liquid to fill the bottom of a container. Thus it's not surprising that the pressure in a liquid is due almost entirely to the gravitational contribution. We'd like to determine the pressure at depth $d$ below the surface of the liquid. We will assume that the liquid is at rest; flowing liquids will be considered later in this chapter.



The shaded cylinder of liquid in Figure 14.10 extends from the surface to depth $d$. This cylinder, like the rest of the liquid, is in static equilibrium with $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{net}} = \vec{0}$. Three forces act on this cylinder: the gravitational force $mg$ on the liquid in the cylinder, a downward force $p_0A$ due to the pressure $p_0$ at the surface of the liquid, and an upward force $pA$ due to the liquid beneath the cylinder pushing up on the bottom of the cylinder. This third force is a consequence of our earlier observation that different parts of a fluid push against each other. Pressure $p$, which is what we're trying to find, is the pressure at the bottom of the cylinder.

## Figure 14.10




Measuring the pressure at depth $d$ in a liquid.

The upward force balances the two downward forces, so

**(14.4)**

$$pA = p_0 A + mg$$

The liquid is a cylinder of cross-section area $A$ and height $d$. Its volume is $V = Ad$ and its mass is $m = \rho V = \rho Ad$. Substituting this expression for the mass of the liquid into Equation 14.4, we find that the area $A$ cancels from all terms. The pressure at depth $d$ in a liquid is

**(14.5)**

$$p = p_0 + \rho g d \qquad \text{(hydrostatic pressure at depth } d\text{)}$$

where $\rho$ is the liquid's density. Because the fluid is at rest, the pressure given by Equation 14.5 is called the **hydrostatic pressure.** The fact that $g$ appears in Equation 14.5 reminds us that this is a gravitational contribution to the pressure.

As expected, $p = p_0$ at the surface, where $d = 0$. Pressure $p_0$ is often due to the air or other gas above the liquid. $p_0 = 1\,\text{atm} = 101.3\,\text{kPa}$ for a liquid that is open to the air. However, $p_0$ can also be the pressure due to a piston or a closed surface pushing down on the top of the liquid.

> **Note**
>
> Equation 14.5 assumes that the liquid is *incompressible;* that is, its density $\rho$ doesn't increase with depth. This is an excellent assumption for liquids, but not a good one for a gas, which *is* compressible.

**Example 14.3 The pressure on a submarine**

A submarine cruises at a depth of 300 m. What is the pressure at this depth? Give the answer in both pascals and atmospheres.

**SOLVE** The density of seawater, from Table 14.1, is $\rho = 1030\,\text{kg/m}^3$. The pressure at depth $d = 300\,\text{m}$ is found from Equation 14.5 to be

$$\begin{aligned} p = p_0 + \rho g d &= 1.013 \times 10^5\,\text{Pa} \\ &\quad + (1030\,\text{kg/m}^3)(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)(300\,\text{m}) = 3.13 \times 10^6\,\text{Pa} \end{aligned}$$

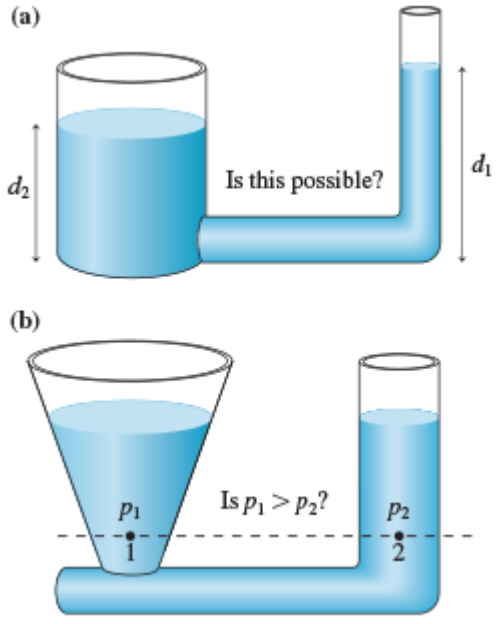
Converting the answer to atmospheres gives

$$p = 3.13 \times 10^6\,\text{Pa} \times \frac{1\,\text{atm}}{1.013 \times 10^5\,\text{Pa}} = 30.9\,\text{atm}$$

**ASSESS** The pressure deep in the ocean is very large. Windows on submersibles must be very thick to withstand the large forces.

The hydrostatic pressure in a liquid depends only on the depth and the pressure at the surface. This observation has some important implications. Figure 14.11a shows two connected tubes. It's certainly true that the larger volume of liquid in the wide tube weighs more than the liquid in the narrow tube. You might think that this extra weight would push the liquid in the narrow tube higher than in the wide tube. But it doesn't. If $d_1$ were larger than $d_2$, then, according to the hydrostatic pressure equation, the pressure at the bottom of the narrow tube would be higher than the pressure at the bottom of the wide tube. This *pressure difference* would cause the liquid to *flow* from right to left until the heights were equal.

## Figure 14.11




Some properties of a liquid in hydrostatic equilibrium are not what you might expect.

Thus a first conclusion: **A connected liquid in hydrostatic equilibrium rises to the same height in all open regions of the container.**

Figure 14.11b shows two connected tubes of different shape. The conical tube holds more liquid above the dotted line, so you might think that $p_1 > p_2$. But it isn't. Both points are at the same depth, thus $p_1 = p_2$. If $p_1$ were larger than $p_2$, the pressure at the bottom of the left tube would be larger than the pressure at the bottom of the right tube. This would cause the liquid to flow until the pressures were equal.

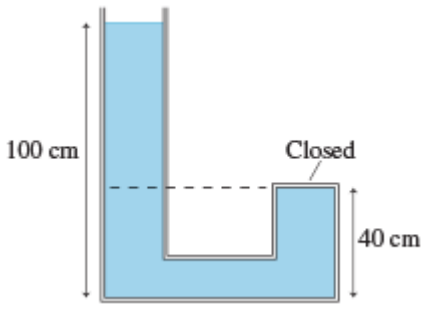
Thus a second conclusion: **The pressure is the same at all points on a horizontal line through a connected liquid in hydrostatic equilibrium.**

> **Note**
>
> Both of these conclusions are restricted to liquids in hydrostatic equilibrium. The situation is different for flowing fluids, as we'll see later in the chapter.

### Example 14.4 Pressure in a closed tube

Water fills the tube shown in Figure 14.12. What is the pressure at the top of the closed tube?

**Figure 14.12**




A water-filled tube.

**MODEL** This is a liquid in hydrostatic equilibrium. The closed tube is not an open region of the container, so the water cannot rise to an equal height. Nevertheless, the pressure is still the same at all points on a horizontal line. In particular, the pressure at the top of the closed tube equals the pressure in the open tube at the height of the dashed line. Assume $p_0 = 1.00\,\text{atm}$.

**SOLVE** A point 40 cm above the bottom of the open tube is at a depth of 60 cm. The pressure at this depth is

$$\begin{aligned} p &= p_0 + \rho g d \\ &= 1.013 \times 10^5\,\text{Pa} + (1000\,\text{kg/m}^3)\,(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)(0.60\,\text{m}) \\ &= 1.072 \times 10^5\,\text{Pa} = 1.06\,\text{atm} \end{aligned}$$

This is the pressure at the top of the closed tube.

**ASSESS** The water in the open tube *pushes* the water in the closed tube up against the top of the tube, which is why the pressure is greater than 1 atm.

We can draw one more conclusion from the hydrostatic pressure equation $p = p_0 + \rho g d$. If we change the pressure $p_0$ at the surface to $p_1$, the pressure at depth $d$ becomes $p' = p_1 + \rho g d$. The *change* in pressure $\Delta p = p_1 - p_0$ is the same at all points in the fluid, independent of the size or shape of the container. This idea, that **a change in the pressure at one point in an incompressible fluid appears undiminished at all points in the fluid,** was first recognized by Blaise Pascal and is called **Pascal's principle.**

For example, if we compressed the air above the open tube in Example 14.4 to a pressure of 1.5 atm, an increase of 0.5 atm, the pressure at the top of the closed tube would increase to 1.56 atm. Pascal's principle is the basis for hydraulic systems, as we'll see in the next section.

## Stop to Think 14.2

Water is slowly poured into the container until the water level has risen into tubes A, B, and C. The water doesn't overflow from any of the tubes. How do the water depths in the three columns compare to each other?

**a.** $d_A > d_B > d_C$

**b.** $d_A < d_B < d_C$

**c.** $d_A = d_B = d_C$

**d.** $d_A = d_C > d_B$

**e.** $d_A = d_C < d_B$

# 14.3 Measuring and Using Pressure



The pressure in a fluid is measured with a *pressure gauge*. The fluid pushes against some sort of spring, and the spring's displacement is registered by a pointer on a dial.

Many pressure gauges, such as tire gauges and the gauges on air tanks, measure not the actual or absolute pressure $p$ but what is called **gauge pressure.** The gauge pressure, denoted $p_{\text{g}}$, is the pressure *in excess* of 1 atm. That is,

**(14.6)**

$$p_{\text{g}} = p - 1\,\text{atm}$$

You must add $1\,\text{atm} = 101.3\,\text{kPa}$ to the reading of a pressure gauge to find the absolute pressure $p$ that you need for doing most science or engineering calculations: $p = p_{\text{g}} + 1\,\text{atm}$.

A tire-pressure gauge reads the gauge pressure $p_{\text{g}}$, not the absolute pressure $p$.

**Example 14.5 An underwater pressure gauge**

An underwater pressure gauge reads 60 kPa. What is its depth?

**MODEL** The gauge reads gauge pressure, not absolute pressure.

**SOLVE** The hydrostatic pressure at depth $d$, with $p_0 = 1\,\text{atm}$, is $p = 1\,\text{atm} + \rho g d$. Thus the gauge pressure is

$$p_\text{g} = p - 1\,\text{atm} = (1\,\text{atm} + \rho g d) - 1\,\text{atm} = \rho g d$$

The term $\rho g d$ is the pressure *in excess* of atmospheric pressure and thus *is* the gauge pressure. Solving for $d$, we find

$$d = \frac{60{,}000\,\text{Pa}}{(1000\,\text{kg/m}^3)(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)} = 6.1\,\text{m}$$

## Solving Hydrostatic Problems

We now have enough information to formulate a set of rules for thinking about hydrostatic problems.

TACTICS BOX 14.1 **Hydrostatics**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Draw a picture.** Show open surfaces, pistons, boundaries, and other features that affect pressure. Include height and area measurements and fluid densities. Identify the points at which you need to find the pressure.
2. **Determine the pressure at surfaces.**
   - **Surface open to the air:** $p_0 = p_\text{atmos}$, usually 1 atm.
   - **Surface covered by a gas:** $p_0 = p_\text{gas}$.

- **Closed surface:** $p = F/A$, where $F$ is the force the surface, such as a piston, exerts on the fluid.

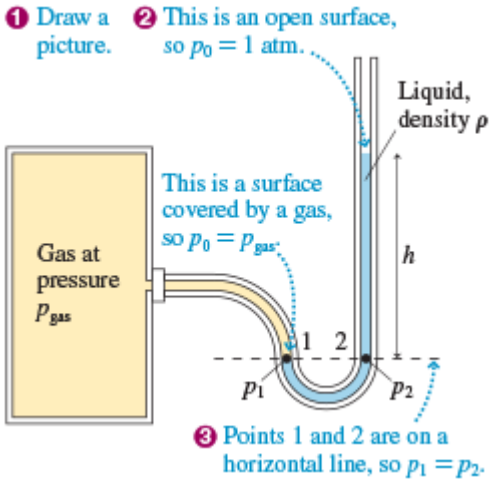
3. **Use horizontal lines.** Pressure in a connected fluid is the same at any point along a horizontal line.
4. **Allow for gauge pressure.** Pressure gauges read $p_g = p - 1\,\text{atm}$.
5. **Use the hydrostatic pressure equation.** $p = p_0 + \rho g d$.

Workbook Exercises 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

## Manometers and Barometers

Gas pressure is sometimes measured with a device called a *manometer*. A manometer, shown in Figure 14.13, is a U-shaped tube connected to the gas at one end and open to the air at the other end. The tube is filled with a liquid—usually mercury—of density $\rho$. The liquid is in static equilibrium. A scale allows the user to measure the height $h$ of the right side above the left side.

**Figure 14.13**




A manometer is used to measure gas pressure.

Steps 1–3 from Tactics Box 14.1 lead to the conclusion that the pressures $p_1$ and $p_2$ must be equal. Pressure $p_1$, at the surface on the left, is simply the gas pressure: $p_1 = p_{\text{gas}}$. Pressure $p_2$ is the hydrostatic pressure at depth $d = h$ in the liquid on the right: $p_2 = 1\,\text{atm} + \rho g h$. Equating these two pressures gives

**(14.7)**

$$p_{\text{gas}} = 1\,\text{atm} + \rho g h$$



Figure 14.13 assumed $p_{\text{gas}} > 1\,\text{atm}$, so the right side of the liquid is higher than the left. Equation 14.7 is also valid for $p_{\text{gas}} < 1\,\text{atm}$ if the distance of the right side *below* the left side is considered to be a negative value of $h$.

### Example 14.6 Using a manometer

The pressure of a gas cell is measured with a mercury manometer. The mercury is 36.2 cm higher in the outside arm than in the arm connected to the gas cell.

**a.** What is the gas pressure?

**b.** What is the reading of a pressure gauge attached to the gas cell?

**SOLVE**

**a.** From Table 14.1, the density of mercury is $\rho = 13{,}600\,\text{kg/m}^3$. Equation 14.7 with $h = 0.362\,\text{m}$ gives

$$p_{\text{gas}} = 1\,\text{atm} + \rho g h = 149.5\,\text{kPa}$$

We had to change 1 atm to 101,300 Pa before adding.

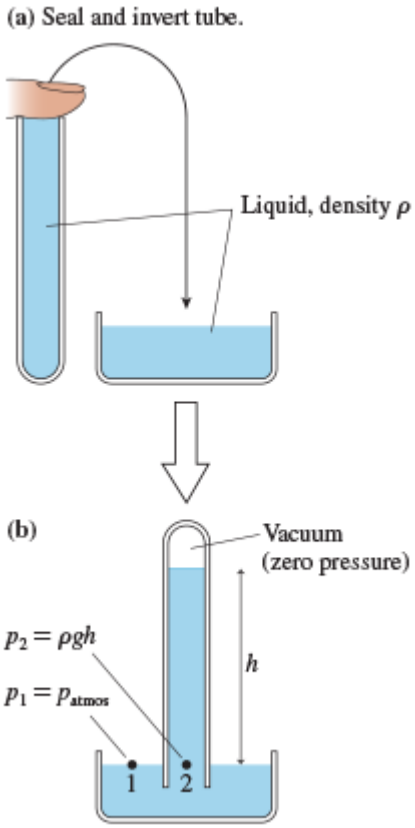
Converting the result to atmospheres, we have $p_{\text{gas}} = 1.476\,\text{atm}$.

**b.** The pressure gauge reads gauge pressure:

$p_{\text{g}} = p - 1\,\text{atm} = 0.476\,\text{atm}$ or 48.2 kPa.

Another important pressure-measuring instrument is the *barometer*, which is used to measure the atmospheric pressure $p_{\text{atmos}}$. Figure 14.14a shows a glass tube, sealed at the bottom, that has been completely filled with a liquid. If we temporarily seal the top end, we can invert the tube and place it in a beaker of the same liquid. When the temporary seal is removed, some, but not all, of the liquid runs out, leaving a liquid column in the tube that is a height $h$ above the surface of the liquid in the beaker. This device, shown in Figure 14.14b, is a barometer. What does it measure? And why doesn't *all* the liquid in the tube run out?

**Figure 14.14**




A barometer.

We can analyze the barometer much as we did the manometer. Points 1 and 2 in Figure 14.14b are on a horizontal line drawn even with the surface of the liquid. The liquid is in hydrostatic equilibrium, so the pressure at these two points must be equal. Liquid runs out of the tube only until a balance is reached between the pressure at the base of the tube and the pressure of the air.

You can think of a barometer as rather like a seesaw. If the pressure of the atmosphere increases, it presses down on the liquid in the beaker. This forces liquid up the tube until the pressures at points 1 and 2 are equal. If the atmospheric pressure falls, liquid has to flow out of the tube to keep the pressures equal at these two points.

The pressure at point 2 is the pressure due to the weight of the liquid in the tube plus the pressure of the gas above the liquid. But in this case

there is no gas above the liquid! Because the tube had been completely full of liquid when it was inverted, the space left behind when the liquid ran out is a vacuum (ignoring a very slight *vapor pressure* of the liquid, negligible except in extremely precise measurements). Thus pressure $p_2$ is simply $p_2 = \rho g h$.

Equating $p_1$ and $p_2$ gives

**(14.8)**

$$p_{\text{atmos}} = \rho g h$$

Thus we can measure the atmosphere's pressure by measuring the height of the liquid column in a barometer.



The average air pressure at sea level causes a column of mercury in a mercury barometer to stand 760 mm above the surface. Knowing that the density of mercury is 13,600 kg/m$^3$ (at (at 0°C), we can use Equation 14.8 to find that the average atmospheric pressure is

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\text{atoms}} &= \rho_{\text{Hg}} g h = (13{,}600\,\text{kg/m}^3)(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)(0.760\,\text{m}) \\ &= 1.013 \times 10^5\,\text{Pa} = 101.3\,\text{kPa} \end{aligned}$$

This is the value given earlier as "one standard atmosphere."

The barometric pressure varies slightly from day to day as the weather changes. Weather systems are called *high-pressure systems* or *low-pressure systems,* depending on whether the local sea-level pressure is higher or lower than one standard atmosphere. Higher pressure is usually associated with fair weather, while lower pressure portends rain.

## Pressure Units

In practice, pressure is measured in several different units. This plethora of units and abbreviations has arisen historically as scientists and engineers working on different subjects (liquids, high-pressure gases, low-pressure gases, weather, etc.) developed what seemed to them the most convenient units. These units continue in use through tradition, so it is necessary to become familiar with converting back and forth between them. Table 14.2 gives the basic conversions.

**Table 14.2**

| Unit | Abbreviation | Conversion to 1 atm | Uses |
|---|---|---|---|
| pascal | Pa | 101.3 kPa | SI unit: 1 Pa = 1 $N/m^2$ |
| atmosphere | atm | 1 atm | general |
| millimeters of mercury | mm of Hg | 760 mm of Hg | gases and barometric pressure |
| inches of mercury | in | 29.92 in | barometric pressure in U.S. weather forecasting |
| pounds per square inch | psi | 14.7 psi | engineering and industry |

Pressure units

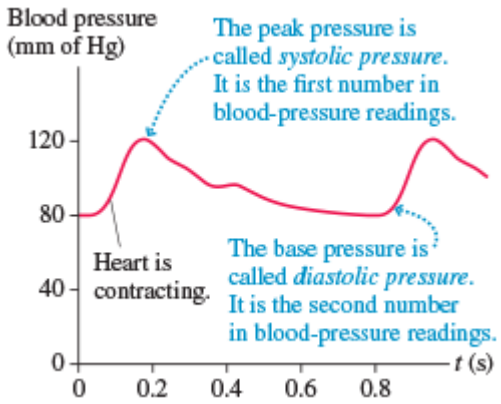
## Blood Pressure

The last time you had a medical checkup, the doctor may have told you something like "Your blood pressure is 120 over 80." What does that mean?

About every 0.8 s, assuming a pulse rate of 75 beats per minute, your heart "beats." The heart muscles contract and push blood out into your aorta. This contraction, like squeezing a balloon, raises the pressure in your heart. The pressure increase, in accordance with Pascal's principle, is transmitted through all your arteries.

Figure 14.15 is a pressure graph showing how blood pressure changes during one cycle of the heartbeat. The medical condition of *high blood pressure* usually means that your resting systolic pressure is higher than necessary for blood circulation. The high pressure causes undue stress and strain on your entire circulatory system, often leading to serious medical problems. Low blood pressure can cause you to get dizzy if you stand up quickly because the pressure isn't adequate to pump the blood up to your brain.

## Figure 14.15




Blood pressure during one cycle of a heartbeat.

Blood pressure is measured with a cuff that goes around your arm. The doctor or nurse pressurizes the cuff, places a stethoscope over the artery in your arm, then slowly releases the pressure while watching a pressure gauge. Initially, the cuff squeezes the artery shut and cuts off the blood flow. When the cuff pressure drops below the systolic pressure, the pressure pulse during each beat of your heart forces the artery open briefly and a squirt of blood goes through. You can feel this, and the doctor or nurse records the pressure when she hears the blood start to flow. This is your systolic pressure.

This pulsing of the blood through your artery lasts until the cuff pressure reaches the diastolic pressure. Then the artery remains open continuously and the blood flows smoothly. This transition is easily heard in the stethoscope, and the doctor or nurse records your diastolic pressure.

Blood pressure is measured in millimeters of mercury. And it is a gauge pressure, the pressure in excess of 1 atm. A fairly typical blood pressure of a healthy young adult is 120/80, meaning that the systolic pressure is $p_g = 120\,\text{mm of Hg}$ (absolute pressure $p = 880\,\text{mm of Hg}$) and the diastolic pressure is 80 mm of Hg.

## The Hydraulic Lift

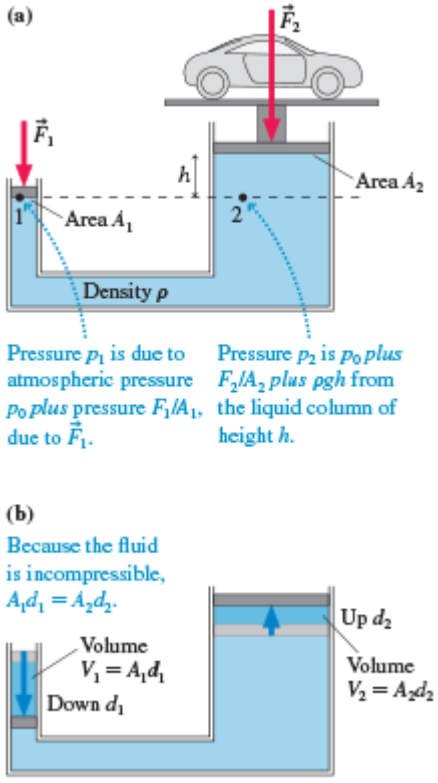
The use of pressurized liquids to do useful work is a technology known as **hydraulics.** Pascal's principle is the fundamental idea underlying hydraulic devices. If you increase the pressure at one point in a liquid by pushing a piston in, that pressure increase is transmitted to all points in the liquid. A second piston at some other point in the fluid can then push outward and do useful work.

The brake system in your car is a hydraulic system. Stepping on the brake pushes a piston into the *master brake cylinder* and increases the pressure in the *brake fluid.* The fluid itself hardly moves, but the pressure increase is transmitted to the four wheels where it pushes the brake pads against the spinning brake disk. You've used a pressurized liquid to achieve the useful goal of stopping your car.

One advantage of hydraulic systems over simple mechanical linkages is the possibility of *force multiplication.* To see how this works, we'll analyze a *hydraulic lift,* such as the one that lifts your car at the repair shop. Figure

14.16a shows force $\vec{F}_2$, due to the weight of the car, pressing down on a liquid via a piston of area $A_2$. A much smaller force $\vec{F}_1$ presses down on a piston of area $A_1$. Can this system possibly be in equilibrium?

## Figure 14.16




A hydraulic lift.

As you now know, the hydrostatic pressure is the same at all points along a horizontal line through a fluid. Consider the line passing through the liquid/piston interface on the left in Figure 14.16a. Pressures $p_1$ and $p_2$ must be equal, thus

**(14.9)**

$$p_0 + \frac{F_1}{A_1} = p_0 + \frac{F_2}{A_2} + \rho gh$$

The atmosphere presses equally on both sides, so $p_0$ cancels. The system is in static equilibrium if

**(14.10)**

$$F_2 = \frac{A_2}{A_1} F_1 - \rho g h A_2$$

> **Note**
>
> Force $\vec{F}_2$ is the force of the heavy object pushing *down* on the liquid. According to Newton's third law, the liquid pushes *up* on the object with a force of equal magnitude. Thus $F_2$ in Equation 14.10 is the "lifting force."

Suppose we need to lift the car higher. If piston 1 is pushed down distance $d_1$ as in Figure 14.16b, it displaces volume $V_1 = A_1 d_1$ of liquid. Because the liquid is incompressible, $V_1$ must equal the volume $V_2 = A_2\, d_2$ added beneath piston 2 as it rises distance $d_2$. That is,

**(14.11)**

$$d_2 = \frac{d_1}{A_2/A_1}$$

The distance is *divided* by the same factor as that by which force is multiplied. A small force may be able to support a heavy weight, but you have to push the small piston a large distance to raise the heavy weight by a small amount.

This conclusion is really just a statement of energy conservation. Work is done *on* the liquid by a small force pushing the liquid through a large displacement. Work is done *by* the liquid when it lifts the heavy weight through a small distance. A full analysis must consider the fact that the gravitational potential energy of the liquid is also changing, so we can't

simply equate the output work to the input work, but you can see that energy considerations require piston 1 to move farther than piston 2.

### Example 14.7 Lifting a car

The hydraulic lift at a car repair shop is filled with oil. The car rests on a 25-cm-diameter piston. To lift the car, compressed air is used to push down on a 6.0-cm-diameter piston. What does the pressure gauge read when a 1300 kg car is 2.0 m above the compressed-air piston?

**MODEL** Assume that the oil is incompressible. Its density, from Table 14.1, is 900 kg/m$^3$.

**SOLVE** $F_2$ is the weight of the car pressing down on the piston: $F_2 = mg = 12{,}700\,\text{N}$. The piston areas are $A_1 = \pi(0.030\,\text{m})^2 = 0.00283\,\text{m}^2$ and $A_2 = \pi(0.125\,\text{m})^2 = 0.0491\,\text{m}^2$. The force required to hold the car at height $h = 2.0\,\text{m}$ is found by solving Equation 14.10 for $F_1$:

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= \frac{A_1}{A_2}F_2 + \rho g h A_1 \\ &= \frac{0.00283\,\text{m}^2}{0.0491\,\text{m}^2} \times 12{,}700\,\text{N} + (900\,\text{kg/m}^3)(9.8\,\text{m/s}^2)(2.0\,\text{m})(0.00283\,\text{m}^2) \\ &= 782\,\text{N} \end{aligned}$$

The pressure applied to the fluid by the compressed-air piston is

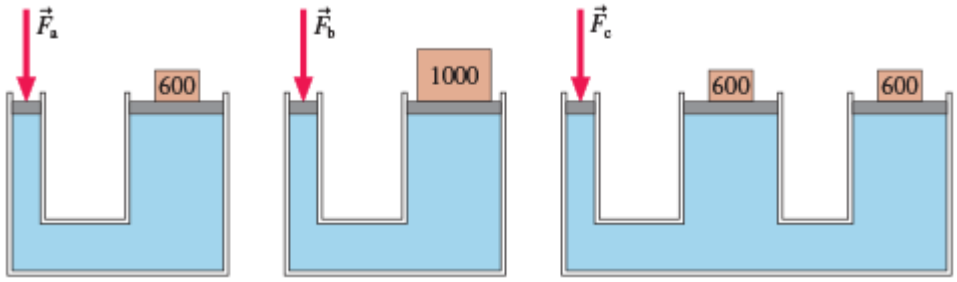
$$\frac{F_1}{A_1} = \frac{782\,\text{N}}{0.00283\,\text{m}^2} = 2.76 \times 10^5\,\text{Pa} = 2.7\,\text{atm}$$

This is the pressure *in excess* of atmospheric pressure, which is what a pressure gauge measures, so the gauge reads, depending on its units, 276 kPa or 2.7 atm.

**ASSESS** 782 N is roughly the weight of an average adult man. The multiplication factor $A_2/A_1 = 17$ makes it quite easy for this much force to lift the car.

## Stop to Think 14.3

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the magnitudes of the forces $\vec{F}_a$, $\vec{F}_b$, and $\vec{F}_c$ required to balance the masses. The masses are in kilograms, the three smaller cylinders have the same diameter, and the four larger cylinders have the same diameter.



# 14.4 Buoyancy

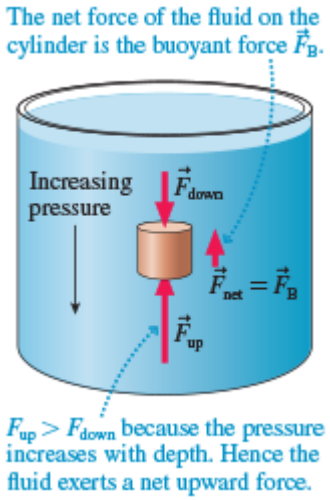


A rock, as you know, sinks like a rock. Wood floats on the surface of a lake. A penny with a mass of a few grams sinks, but a massive steel aircraft carrier floats. How can we understand these diverse phenomena?

An air mattress floats effortlessly on the surface of a swimming pool. But if you've ever tried to push an air mattress underwater, you know it is nearly impossible. As you push down, the water pushes up. This net upward force of a fluid is called the **buoyant force.**

The basic reason for the buoyant force is easy to understand. Figure 14.17 shows a cylinder submerged in a liquid. The pressure in the liquid increases with depth, so the pressure at the bottom of the cylinder is larger than at the top. Both cylinder ends have equal area, so force $\vec{F}_{\text{up}}$ is larger than force $\vec{F}_{\text{down}}$. (Remember that pressure forces push in *all* directions.) Consequently, the pressure in the liquid exerts a *net upward force* on the cylinder of magnitude $F_{\text{net}} = F_{\text{up}} - F_{\text{down}}$. This is the buoyant force.

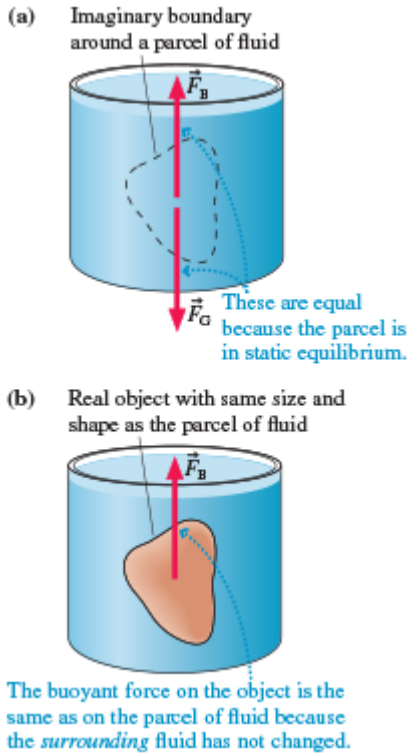
**Figure 14.17**




The buoyant force arises because the fluid pressure at the bottom of the cylinder is larger than at the top.

The submerged cylinder illustrates the idea in a simple way, but the result is not limited to cylinders or to liquids. Suppose we isolate a parcel of fluid of arbitrary shape and volume by drawing an imaginary boundary around it, as shown in Figure 14.18a on the next page. This parcel is in static equilibrium. Consequently, the gravitational force pulling down on the parcel must be balanced by an upward force. The upward force, which is exerted on this parcel of fluid by the surrounding fluid, is the buoyant force $\vec{F}_B$. The buoyant force matches the weight of the fluid: $F_B = mg$.

## Figure 14.18




The buoyant force.

Imagine that we could somehow remove this parcel of fluid and instantaneously replace it with an object of exactly the same shape and size, as shown in Figure 14.18b. Because the buoyant force is exerted by the *surrounding* fluid, and the surrounding fluid hasn't changed, the buoyant force on this new object is *exactly the same* as the buoyant force on the parcel of fluid that we removed.

When an object (or a portion of an object) is immersed in a fluid, it *displaces* fluid that would otherwise fill that region of space. This fluid is called the **displaced fluid.** The displaced fluid's volume is exactly the volume of the portion of the object that is immersed in the fluid. Figure 14.18 leads us to conclude that the magnitude of the upward buoyant force matches the weight of this displaced fluid.

This idea was first recognized by the ancient Greek mathematician and scientist Archimedes, perhaps the greatest scientist of antiquity, and

today we know it as *Archimedes' principle*.

### Archimedes' principle

A fluid exerts an upward buoyant force $\vec{F}_{\text{B}}$ on an object immersed in or floating on the fluid. The magnitude of the buoyant force equals the weight of the fluid displaced by the object.

Suppose the fluid has density $\rho_{\text{f}}$ and the object displaces volume $V_{\text{f}}$ of fluid. The mass of the displaced fluid is $m_{\text{f}} = \rho_{\text{f}} V_{\text{f}}$ and so its weight is $m_{\text{f}} g = \rho_{\text{f}} V_{\text{f}} g$. Thus Archimedes' principle in equation form is

**(14.12)**

$$F_{\text{B}} = \rho_{\text{f}} V_{\text{f}} g$$

> **Note**
> It is important to distinguish the density and volume of the displaced fluid from the density and volume of the object. To do so, we'll use subscript f for the fluid and o for the object.

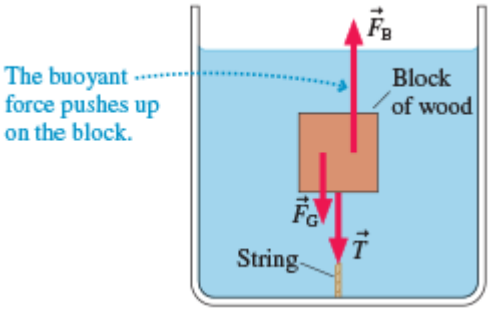
**Example 14.8 Holding a block of wood underwater**

A $10\,\text{cm} \times 10\,\text{cm} \times 10\,\text{cm}$ block of wood with density $700\ \text{kg/m}^3$ is held underwater by a string tied to the bottom of the container. What is the tension in the string?

**MODEL** The buoyant force is given by Archimedes' principle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 14.19 shows the forces acting on the wood.

## Figure 14.19




The forces acting on the submerged wood.

**SOLVE** The block is in equilibrium, so

$$\sum F_y = F_B - T - m_o g = 0$$

Thus the tension is $T = F_B - m_o g$. The mass of the block is $m_o = \rho_o V_o$, and the buoyant force, given by Equation 14.12, is $F_B = \rho_f V_f g$. Thus

$$T = \rho_f V_f g - \rho_o V_o g = (\rho_f - \rho_o) V_o g$$

where we've used the fact that $V_f = V_o$ for a completely submerged object. The volume is $V_o = 1000\,\text{cm}^3 = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m}^3$, and hence the tension in the string is

$$\begin{aligned} T = &((1000\,\text{kg}/\text{m}^3) - (700\,\text{kg}/\text{m}^3)) \\ &\times (1.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m}^3)(9.8\,\text{m}/\text{s}^2) = 2.9\,\text{N} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The tension depends on the *difference* in densities. The tension would vanish if the wood density matched the water density.

# Float or Sink?

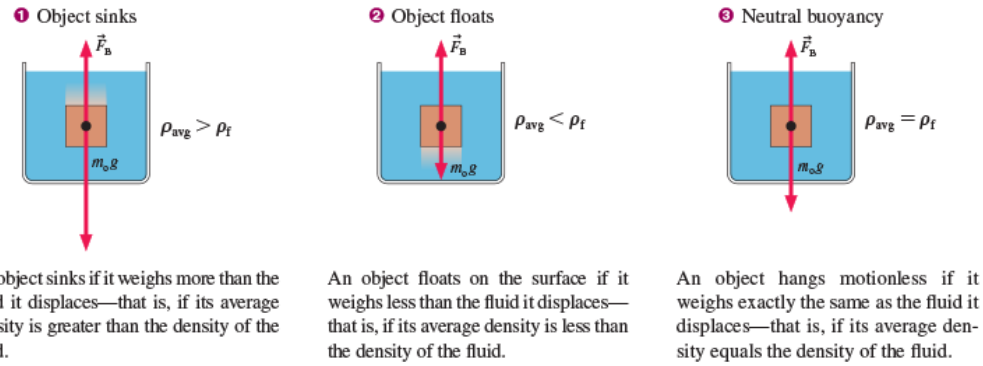
If you *hold* an object underwater and then release it, it floats to the surface, sinks, or remains "hanging" in the water. How can we predict which it will do? The net force on the object an instant after you release it is $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = (F_{\text{B}} - m_{\text{o}}g)\hat{k}$. Whether it heads for the surface or the bottom depends on whether the buoyant force $F_{\text{B}}$ is larger or smaller than the object's weight $m_{\text{o}}g$.

The magnitude of the buoyant force is $\rho_{\text{f}} V_{\text{f}}\, g$. The weight of a uniform object, such as a block of steel, is simply $\rho_{\text{o}}\, V_{\text{o}}\, g$. But a compound object, such as a scuba diver, may have pieces of varying density. If we define the **average density** to be $\rho_{\text{avg}} = m_{\text{o}}/V_{\text{o}}$, the weight of a compound object is $\rho_{\text{avg}} V_{\text{o}} g$.

Comparing $\rho_{\text{f}} V_{\text{f}}\, g$ to $\rho_{\text{avg}} V_{\text{o}} g$, and noting that $V_{\text{f}} = V_{\text{o}}$ for an object that is fully submerged, we see that an object floats or sinks depending on whether the fluid density $\rho_{\text{f}}$ is larger or smaller than the object's average density $\rho_{\text{avg}}$. If the densities are equal, the object is in static equilibrium and hangs motionless. This is called **neutral buoyancy.** These conditions are summarized in Tactics Box 14.2.

TACTICS BOX 14.2 **Finding whether an object floats or sinks**

**Mastering Physics**




An object sinks if it weighs more than the fluid it displaces—that is, if its average density is greater than the density of the fluid.

An object floats on the surface if it weighs less than the fluid it displaces—that is, if its average density is less than the density of the fluid.

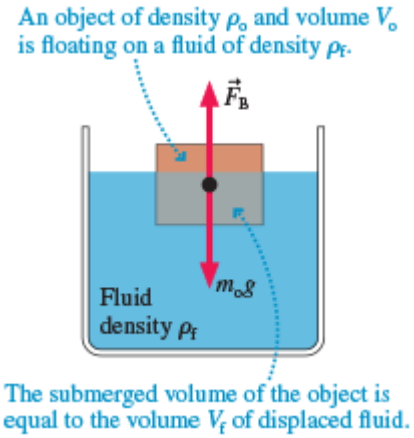
An object hangs motionless if it weighs exactly the same as the fluid it displaces—that is, if its average density equals the density of the fluid.

Workbook Exercises 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

As an example, steel is denser than water, so a chunk of steel sinks. Oil is less dense than water, so oil floats on water. Fish use *swim bladders* filled with air and scuba divers use weighted belts to adjust their average density to match the density of water. Both are examples of neutral buoyancy.

If you release a block of wood underwater, the net upward force causes the block to shoot to the surface. Then what? Let's begin with a *uniform* object such as the block shown in Figure 14.20. This object contains nothing tricky, like indentations or voids. Because it's floating, it must be the case that $\rho_o < \rho_f$.

**Figure 14.20**




A floating object is in static equilibrium.

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Now that the object is floating, it's in static equilibrium. The upward buoyant force, given by Archimedes' principle, exactly balances the downward weight of the object. That is,



**(14.13)**

$$F_B = \rho_f V_f g = m_o g = \rho_o V_o g$$

In this case, the volume of the displaced fluid is *not* the same as the volume of the object. In fact, we can see from Equation 14.13 that the volume of fluid displaced by a floating object of uniform density is

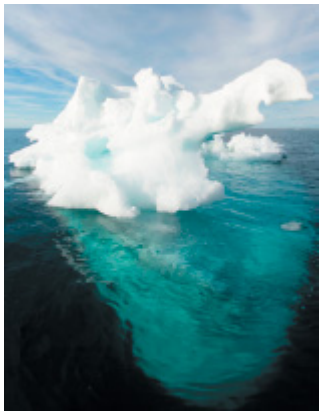
**(14.14)**

$$V_f = \frac{\rho_o}{\rho_f} V_o < V_o$$

You've often heard it said that "90% of an iceberg is underwater." Equation 14.14 is the basis for that statement. Most icebergs break off glaciers and are fresh-water ice with a density of 917 kg/m$^3$. The density of seawater is 1030 kg/m$^3$. Thus

$$V_f = \frac{917\ \text{kg/m}^3}{1030\ \text{kg/m}^3} V_o = 0.89 V_o$$

$V_f$ the displaced water, is the volume of the iceberg that is underwater. You can see that, indeed, 89% of the volume of an iceberg is underwater.



About 90% of an iceberg is underwater.

**Note**

Equation 14.14 applies only to *uniform* objects. It does not apply to boats, hollow spheres, or other objects of nonuniform composition.

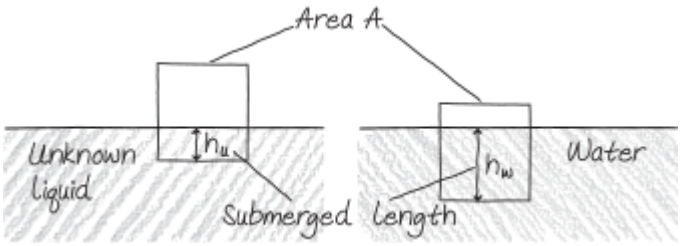
**Example 14.9 Measuring the density of an unknown liquid**

You need to determine the density of an unknown liquid. You notice that a block floats in this liquid with 4.6 cm of the side of the block submerged. When the block is placed in water, it also floats but with 5.8 cm submerged. What is the density of the unknown liquid?

**MODEL** The block is an object of uniform composition.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 14.21 shows the block and defines the cross-section area $A$ and submerged lengths $h_u$ in the unknown liquid and $h_w$ in water.

## Figure 14.21




More of the block is submerged in water than in an unknown liquid.

**SOLVE** The block is floating, so Equation 14.14 applies. The block displaces volume $V_u = Ah_u$ of the unknown liquid. Thus

$$V_u = Ah_u = \frac{\rho_o}{\rho_u} V_o$$

Similarly, the block displaces volume $V_w = Ah_w$ of the water, leading to

$$V_w = Ah_w = \frac{\rho_o}{\rho_w} V_o$$

Because there are two fluids, we've used subscripts w for water and u for the unknown in place of the fluid subscript f. The product $\rho_o V_o$ appears in both equations; hence

$$\rho_u \, Ah_u = \rho_w Ah_w$$

The area $A$ cancels, and the density of the unknown liquid is

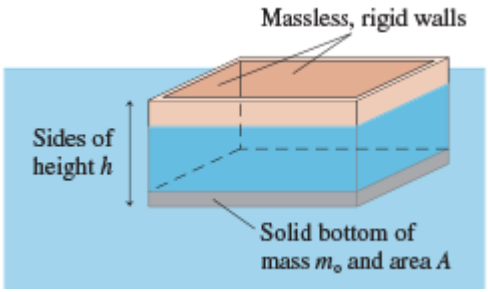
$$\rho_u = \frac{h_w}{h_u} \rho_w = \frac{5.8 \text{ cm}}{4.6 \text{ cm}} \times 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3 = 1260 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

**ASSESS** Comparison with Table 14.1 shows that the unknown liquid is likely to be glycerin.

# Boats

We'll conclude by designing a boat. Figure 14.22 is a physicist's idea of a boat. Four massless but rigid walls are attached to a solid steel plate of mass $m_o$ and area $A$. As the steel plate settles down into the water, the sides allow the boat to displace a volume of water much larger than that displaced by the steel alone. The boat will float if the weight of the displaced water equals the weight of the boat.

**Figure 14.22**




A physicist's boat.

In terms of density, the boat will float if $\rho_{\text{avg}} < \rho_{\text{f}}$. If the sides of the boat are height $h$, the boat's volume is $V_o = Ah$ and its average density is $\rho_{\text{avg}} = m_o/V_o = m_o/Ah$. The boat will float if

**(14.15)**

$$\rho_{\text{avg}} = \frac{m_o}{Ah} < \rho_{\text{f}}$$

Thus the minimum height of the sides, a height that would allow the boat to float (in perfectly still water!) with water right up to the rails, is

**(14.16)**

$$h_{\text{min}} = \frac{m_o}{\rho_{\text{f}} A}$$

As a quick example, a $5\,\text{m} \times 10\,\text{m}$ steel "barge" with a 2-cm-thick floor has an area of 50 $\text{m}^2$ and a mass of 7900 kg. The minimum height of the massless walls, as given by Equation 14.16, is 16 cm.

Real ships and boats are more complicated, but the same idea holds true. Whether it's made of concrete, steel, or lead, **a boat will float if its geometry allows it to displace enough water to equal the weight of the boat**.

### Stop to Think 14.4

An ice cube is floating in a glass of water that is filled entirely to the brim. When the ice cube melts, the water level will

**a.** Fall.
**b.** Stay the same, right at the brim.
**c.** Rise, causing the water to spill.

# 14.5 Fluid Dynamics



The wind blowing through your hair, a white-water river, and oil gushing from an oil well are examples of fluids in motion. We've focused thus far on fluid statics, but it's time to turn our attention to fluid dynamics.

Fluid flow is a complex subject. Many aspects, especially turbulence and the formation of eddies, are still not well understood and are areas of current science and engineering research. We will avoid these difficulties by using a simplified model. The **ideal-fluid model** provides a good, though not perfect, description of fluid flow in many situations. It captures the essence of fluid flow while eliminating unnecessary details.

MODEL 14.2 **Ideal fluid**

Applies to liquids and gases. A fluid can be considered *ideal* if

- The fluid is *incompressible*.
- The fluid is *nonviscous*.
  - **Viscosity**, a fluid's resistance to flow, is analogous to kinetic friction.
  - Nonviscous flow is analogous to friction-free motion.
- The flow is *laminar*.
  - **Laminar flow** occurs when the fluid velocity at each point in the fluid is constant. The flow is smooth; it doesn't change or fluctuate.
- Limitations: The model fails if
  - the fluid has significant viscosity.

- the flow is *turbulent* rather than laminar.

Workbook Exercise 20

The rising smoke in the photograph of Figure 14.23 begins as laminar flow, recognizable by the smooth contours, but at some point undergoes a transition to turbulent flow. A laminar-to-turbulent transition is not uncommon in fluid flow. The ideal-fluid model can be applied to the laminar flow, but not to the turbulent flow.

**Figure 14.23**

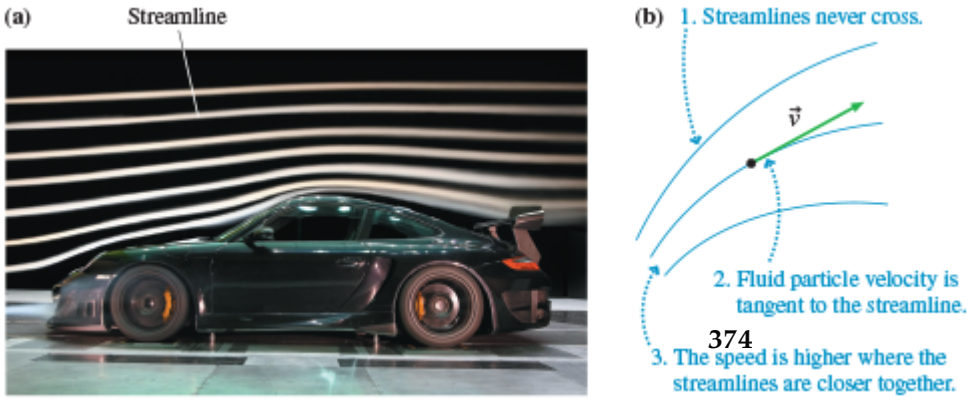
Rising smoke changes from laminar flow to turbulent flow.

## The Equation of Continuity

Figure 14.24a shows smoke being used to help engineers visualize the airflow around a car in a wind tunnel. The smoothness of the flow tells us this is laminar flow. But notice also how the individual smoke trails retain their identity. They don't cross or get mixed together. Each smoke trail

represents a **streamline** in the fluid. Figure 14.24b illustrates three important properties of streamlines.

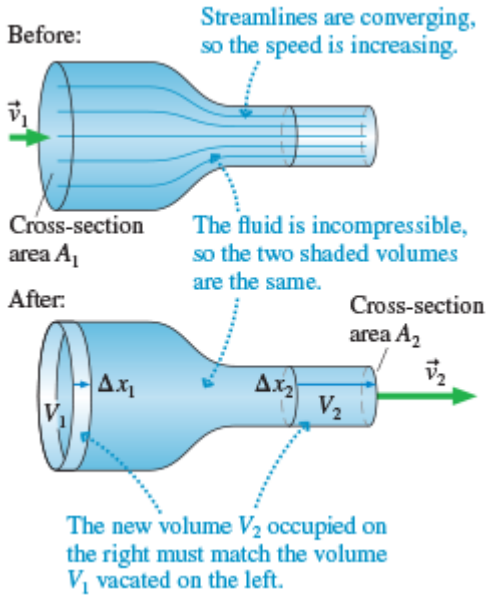
## Figure 14.24




Particles in an ideal fluid move along streamlines.

A key observation is that the flow speed changes as the streamlines get closer together or farther apart. In Figure 14.25, where an ideal fluid flows through a tube, the streamlines get closer together as the tube gets narrower, so the flow speed must increase. To understand quantitatively how the speed changes, focus on the shaded volume of fluid as it moves through the tube.

## Figure 14.25




The flow speed changes as a tube's cross-section area changes.

An ideal fluid is incompressible, so this shaded portion of the fluid moves forward *without changing volume*. If the flow speed on the left side of the tube is $v_1$, then during a time interval $\Delta t$ the shaded fluid moves forward distance $\Delta x_1 = v_1\,\Delta t$ and "vacates" volume $V_1 = A_1\,\Delta x_1 = A_1 v_1\,\Delta t$. (New fluid moves in to fill this volume, but we're focusing on the shaded portion of the fluid.) On the right side of the tube, where the flow speed is $v_2$, the shaded fluid moves forward distance $\Delta x_2 = v_2\,\Delta t$ and occupies a new volume $V_2 = A_2\,\Delta x_2 = A_2 v_2\,\Delta t$. These two volumes must be equal, leading to the conclusion that

**(14.17)**

$$v_1 A_1 = v_2 A_2$$

Equation 14.17 is called the **equation of continuity**, and it is one of two important equations for the flow of an ideal fluid. The equation of continuity says that **flow is faster in narrower parts of a tube, slower in**

**wider parts**. You're familiar with this conclusion from many everyday observations. For example, water is shot from the narrow nozzle in Figure 14.26 much faster than it's flowing through the wider hose.

## Figure 14.26

Narrowing the cross section increases the water's speed.

The quantity

**(14.18)**

$$Q = vA$$

is called the **volume flow rate.** The SI units of $Q$ are $m^3/s$, although in practice $Q$ may be measured in $cm^3/s$, liters per minute, or, in the United States, gallons per minute. Another way to express the meaning of the equation of continuity is to say that **the volume flow rate is constant at all points in a tube.**

### Example 14.10 River rafting

A 20-m-wide, 4.0-m-deep river with a triangular cross section flows at a lazy 1.0 m/s. As it makes its way to the sea, the river enters a gorge where rocky walls confine it to a width of 4.0 m and a depth

of 6.0 m, again with a triangular cross section. What is the river's volume flow rate? And what is its speed through the gorge?

---

**MODEL** Model the flowing river as an ideal fluid.

**SOLVE** A triangular river cross section of width $w$ and depth $d$ has cross-section area $\mathrm{A} = \frac{1}{2}wd$. In the first part of the river,

$$A_1 = \frac{1}{2}(20\text{ m})(4.0\text{ m}) = 40\text{ m}^2$$

and thus the river's flow rate is

$$Q = v_1 A_1 = (1.0\text{ m/s})(40\text{ m}^2) = 40\text{ m}^3/\text{s}$$

The volume flow rate is the same at all points along the river, including the gorge. The gorge has cross-section area

$$A_2 = \frac{1}{2}(4.0\text{ m})(6.0\text{ m}) = 12\text{ m}^2$$

Thus the river's speed through the gorge is

$$v_2 = \frac{Q}{A_2} = \frac{40\text{ m}^3/\text{s}}{12\text{ m}^2} = 3.3\text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** A river speed of 3.3 m/s, or about 7 mph, is typical of a Class III whitewater-rafting river. For a 6-m-deep river, some whitewater and waves on the surface don't greatly affect our assumption of smooth flow through a perfectly triangular cross section.



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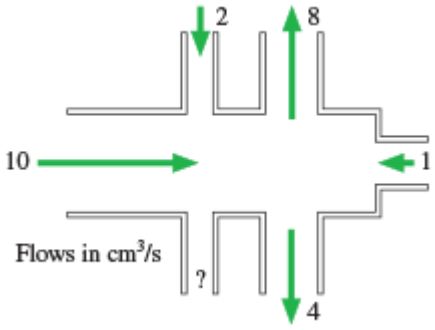
## Stop to Think 14.5

The figure shows volume flow rates (in $cm^3/s$) for all but one tube. What is the volume flow rate through the unmarked tube? Is the flow direction in or out?




## Bernoulli's Equation

The equation of continuity is one of two important relationships for ideal fluids. The other is a statement of energy conservation. The general statement of the energy principle that you learned in Chapter 10 is

**(14.19)**

$$\Delta K + \Delta U = W_{\text{ext}}$$

where $W_{\text{ext}}$ is the work done by any external forces.

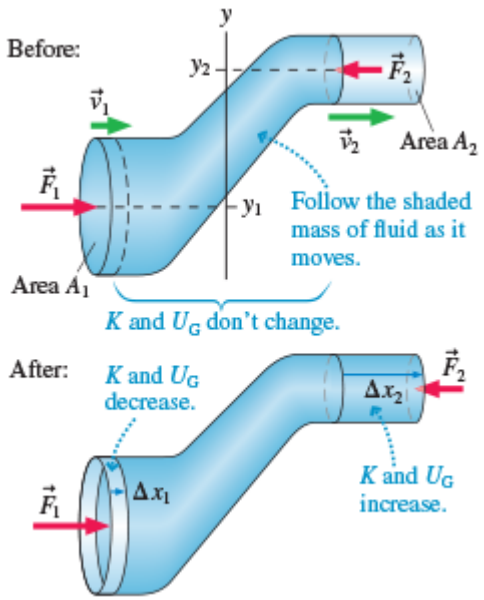
Let's see how this applies to the fluid flowing through the tube of Figure 14.27. This is the situation we considered in Figure 14.25, but now the tube changes height. The more darkly shaded volume of fluid is the system to which we will apply Equation 14.19. Work is done on this system by pressure forces from the *surrounding* fluid in the tube. The unseen fluid to the left of our system exerts force $\vec{F}_1 = (p_1 A_1, \text{ to the right})$, where $p_1$ is the fluid pressure at this point in the tube and $A_1$ is the cross-section area. During a small time interval $\Delta t$,

this force pushes the fluid through displacement $\Delta \vec{r}_1 = (\Delta x_1, \text{ to the right})$ and does work

**(14.20)**

$$W_1 = \vec{F}_1 \cdot \Delta \vec{r}_1 = F_1 \, \Delta x_1 = (p_1 A_1) \, \Delta x_1 = p_1 \, (A_1 \, \Delta x_1) = p_1 V$$

## Figure 14.27




Energy analysis of fluid flow through a tube.

The $A_1$ and $\Delta x_1$ enter the equation from different terms, but they conveniently combine to give $V = A_1 \, \Delta x_1$, the volume "vacated" by the shaded fluid as it's pushed forward.

The situation is much the same on the right edge of the system, where the surrounding fluid exerts a pressure force $\vec{F}_2 = (p_2 A_2, \text{ to the left})$. However, force $\vec{F}_2$ is *opposite* the displacement $\Delta \vec{r}_2$, which introduces a minus sign into the dot product for the work, giving

**(14.21)**

$$W_2 = \vec{F}_2 . \Delta \vec{r}_2 = -F_2 \Delta x_2 = -(p_2 A_2)\Delta x_2 = -p_2 (A_2 \Delta x_2) = -p_2 V$$

Because the fluid is incompressible, the volume $V = A_2 \Delta x_2$ "gained" on the right side is exactly the same as that lost on the left. Altogether, the work done on the system by the surrounding fluid is

**(14.22)**

$$W_{\text{ext}} = W_1 + W_2 = (p_1 - p_2)V$$

The work depends on the *pressure difference* $p_1 - p_2$.

Now let's see what happens to the system's potential and kinetic energy. Most of the system does not change during time interval $\Delta t$; it's fluid at the same height moving at the same speed. All we need to consider are the volumes $V$ at the two ends. On the right, the system *gains* kinetic and gravitational potential energy as the fluid moves into volume $V$. Simultaneously, the system *loses* kinetic and gravitational potential energy on the left as fluid vacates volume $V$.

The mass of fluid in volume $V$ is $m = \rho V$, where $\rho$ is the fluid density. Thus the net change in the system's gravitational potential energy during $\Delta t$ is

**(14.23)**

$$\Delta U_G = mgy_2 - mgy_1 = \rho V g y_2 - \rho V g y_1$$

Similarly, the system's change in kinetic energy is

**(14.24)**

$$\Delta K = \frac{1}{2} m {v_2}^2 - \frac{1}{2} m {v_1}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \rho V {v_2}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \rho V {v_1}^2$$

Combining Equations 14.22, 14.23, and 14.24 gives us the energy equation for the fluid in the flow tube:

**(14.25)**

$$\frac{1}{2}\rho V{v_2}^2 - \frac{1}{2}\rho V{v_1}^2 + \rho V g y_2 - \rho V g y_1 = p_1 V - p_2 V$$

The volume $V$ cancels out of all the terms. Regrouping terms, we have

---

**(14.26)**

$$p_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_1}^2 + \rho g y_1 = p_2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_2}^2 + \rho g y_2$$

Equation 14.26 is called **Bernoulli's equation.** It is named for the 18th-century Swiss scientist Daniel Bernoulli, who made some of the earliest studies of fluid dynamics.

Bernoulli's equation is really nothing more than a statement about work and energy. It is sometimes useful to express Bernoulli's equation in the alternative form

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**(14.27)**

$$p + \frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 + \rho g y = \text{constant}$$

This version of Bernoulli's equation tells us that the quantity $p + \frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 + \rho g y$ remains constant along a streamline.

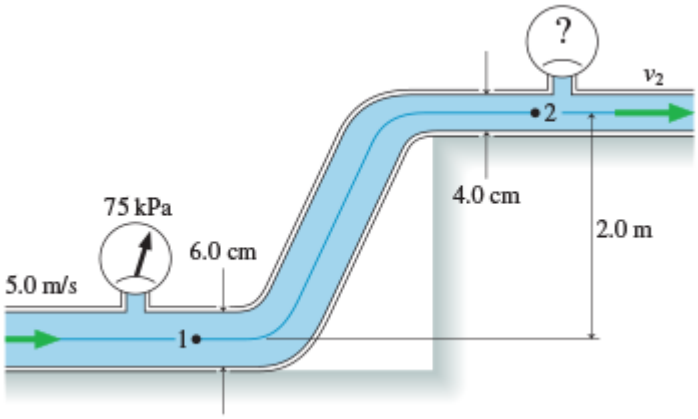
**Note**

Using Bernoulli's equation is very much like using the law of conservation of energy. Rather than identifying a "before" and "after," you want to identify two points on a streamline. As the following examples show, Bernoulli's equation is often used in conjunction with the equation of continuity.

## Example 14.11 An irrigation system

Water flows through the pipes shown in Figure 14.28. The water's speed through the lower pipe is 5.0 m/s and a pressure gauge reads 75 kPa. What is the reading of the pressure gauge on the upper pipe?

### Figure 14.28




The water pipes of an irrigation system.

**MODEL** Treat the water as an ideal fluid obeying Bernoulli's equation. Consider a streamline connecting point 1 in the lower pipe with point 2 in the upper pipe.

**SOLVE** Bernoulli's equation, Equation 14.26, relates the pressure, fluid speed, and heights at points 1 and 2. It is easily solved for the pressure $p_2$ at point 2:

$$\begin{aligned} p_2 &= p_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_1}^2 - \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_2}^2 + \rho g y_1 - \rho g y_2 \\ &= p_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho({v_1}^2 - {v_2}^2) + \rho g\,(y_1 - y_2) \end{aligned}$$

All quantities on the right are known except $v_2$, and that is where the equation of continuity will be useful. The cross-section areas and water speeds at points 1 and 2 are related by

$$v_1 A_1 = v_2 A_2$$

from which we find

$$v_2 = \frac{A_1}{A_2}\,v_1 = \frac{{r_1}^2}{{r_2}^2}\,v_1 = \frac{(0.030\,\text{m})^2}{(0.020\,\text{m})^2}\,(5.0\,\text{m/s}) = 11.25\ \text{m/s}$$

The pressure at point 1 is $p_1 = 75\,\text{kPa} + 1\,\text{atm} = 176{,}300\,\text{Pa}$. We can now use the above expression for $p_2$ to calculate $p_2 = 105{,}900\ \text{Pa}.$. This is the absolute pressure; the pressure gauge on the upper pipe will read

$$p_2 = 105{,}900\ \text{Pa} - 1\ \text{atm} = 4.6\,\text{kPa}$$

**ASSESS** Reducing the pipe size decreases the pressure because it makes $v_2 > v_1$. Gaining elevation also reduces the pressure.

**Example 14.12 Hydroelectric power**

Small hydroelectric plants in the mountains sometimes bring the water from a reservoir down to the power plant through enclosed tubes. In one such plant, the 100-cm-diameter intake tube in the base of the dam is 50 m below the reservoir surface. The water drops 200 m through the tube before flowing into the turbine through a 50-cm-diameter nozzle.

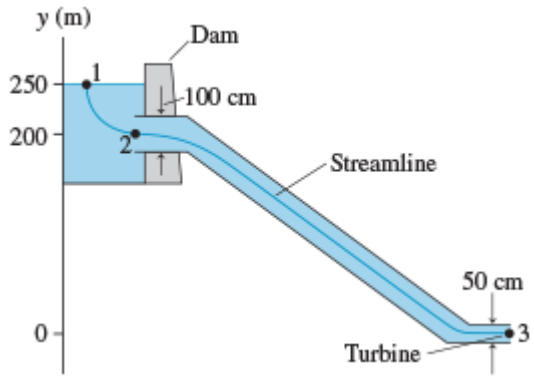
**a.** What is the water speed into the turbine?

**b.** By how much does the inlet pressure differ from the hydrostatic pressure at that depth?

**MODEL** Treat the water as an ideal fluid obeying Bernoulli's equation. Consider a streamline that begins at the surface of the reservoir and ends at the exit of the nozzle. The pressure at the surface is $p_1 = p_{\text{atmos}}$ and $v_1 \approx 0\,\text{m/s}$. The water discharges into air, so $p_3 = p_{\text{atmos}}$ at the exit.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 14.29 is a pictorial representation of the situation.

## Figure 14.29




Pictorial representation of the water flow to a hydroelectric plant.

**SOLVE**

**a.** Bernoulli's equation, with $v_1 = 0\,\text{m/s}$ and $y_3 = 0\,\text{m}$, is

$$p_{\text{atmos}} + \rho g y_1 = p_{\text{atmos}} + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_3}^2$$

The power plant is in the mountains, where $p_{\text{atmos}} < 1\,\text{atm}$, but $p_{\text{atmos}}$ occurs on both sides of Bernoulli's equation and cancels. Solving for $v_3$ gives

$$v_3 = \sqrt{2gy_1} = \sqrt{2(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2)(250\ \text{m})} = 70\ \text{m/s}$$

**b.** You might expect the pressure $p_2$ at the intake to be the hydrostatic pressure $p_{\text{atmos}} + \rho g d$ at depth $d$. But the water is *flowing* into the intake tube, so it's not in static equilibrium. We can find the intake speed $v_2$ from the equation of continuity:

$$v_2 = \frac{A_3}{A_2}\,v_3 = \frac{{r_3}^2}{{r_2}^2}\,\sqrt{2gy_1}$$

The intake is along the streamline between points 1 and 3, so we can apply Bernoulli's equation to points 1 and 2:

$$p_{\text{atmos}} + \rho g y_1 = p_2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_2}^2 + \rho g y_2$$

Solving this equation for $p_2$, and noting that $y_1 - y_2 = d$, we find

$$
\begin{aligned}
p_2 &= p_{\text{atmos}} + \rho g(y_1 - y_2) - \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_2}^2 \\
&= p_{\text{atmos}} + \rho g d - \frac{1}{2}\rho\left(\frac{r_3}{r_2}\right)^4 (2gy_1) \\
&= p_{\text{static}} - \rho g y_1 \left(\frac{r_3}{r_2}\right)^4
\end{aligned}
$$

The intake pressure is *less* than hydrostatic pressure by the amount

$$\rho g y_1 \left(\frac{r_3}{r_2}\right)^4 = 153{,}000 \text{ Pa } = 1.5 \text{ atm}$$

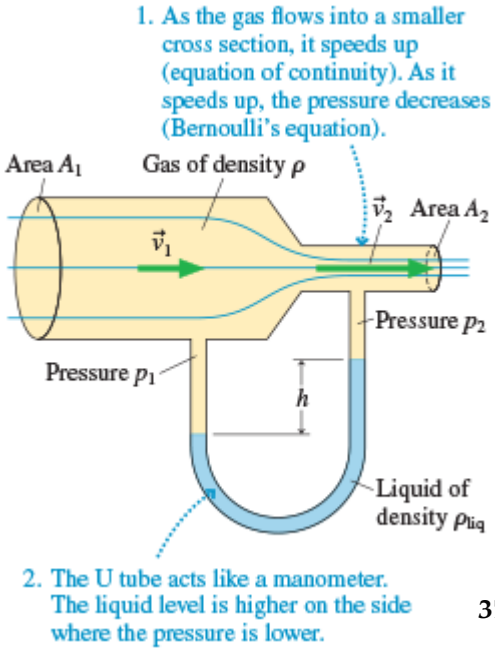
**ASSESS** The water's exit speed from the nozzle is the same as if it fell 250 m from the surface of the reservoir. This isn't surprising because we've assumed a nonviscous (i.e., frictionless) liquid. "Real" water would have less speed but still flow very fast.

## Two Applications

The speed of a flowing gas is often measured with a device called a **Venturi tube.** Venturi tubes measure gas speeds in environments as different as chemistry laboratories, wind tunnels, and jet engines.

Figure 14.30 shows gas flowing through a tube that changes from cross-section area $A_1$ to area $A_2$. A U-shaped glass tube containing liquid of density $\rho_{\text{liq}}$ connects the two segments of the flow tube. When gas flows through the horizontal tube, the liquid stands height $h$ higher in the side of the U tube connected to the narrow segment of the flow tube.

## Figure 14.30






A Venturi tube measures gas-flow speeds.

Figure 14.30 shows how a Venturi tube works. We can make this analysis quantitative and determine the gas-flow speed from the liquid height $h$. Two pieces of information we have to work with are Bernoulli's equation

**(14.28)**

$$p_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_1}^2 + \rho g y_1 = p_2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_2}^2 + \rho g y_2$$

and the equation of continuity

**(14.29)**

$$v_2 A_2 = v_1 A_1$$

In addition, the hydrostatic equation for the liquid tells us that the pressure $p_2$ above the right tube differs from the pressure $p_1$ above the left tube by $\rho_{liq} g h$. That is,

**(14.30)**

$$p_2 = p_1 - \rho_{\text{liq}} g h$$

First we use Equations 14.29 and 14.30 to eliminate $v_2$ and $p_2$ in Bernoulli's equation:

**(14.31)**

$$p_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho {v_1}^2 = (p_1 - \rho_{\text{liq}} g h) + \frac{1}{2}\rho \left(\frac{A_1}{A_2}\right)^2 {v_1}^2$$

The potential energy terms have disappeared because $y_1 = y_2$ for a horizontal tube. Equation 14.31 can now be solved for $v_1$, then $v_2$ is obtained from Equation 14.29. We'll skip a few algebraic steps and go right to the result:

**(14.32)**

$$v_1 = A_2 \sqrt{\frac{2\rho_{\text{liq}} g h}{\rho({A_1}^2 - {A_2}^2)}}$$

$$v_2 = A_1 \sqrt{\frac{2\rho_{\text{liq}} g h}{\rho({A_1}^2 - {A_2}^2)}}$$

Equations 14.32 are reasonably accurate as long as the flow speeds are much less than the speed of sound, about 340 m/s. The Venturi tube is an example of the power of Bernoulli's equation.

As a final example, we can use Bernoulli's equation to understand, at least qualitatively, how airplane wings generate *lift*. Figure 14.31 shows the cross section of an airplane wing. This shape is called an *airfoil*.

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**Figure 14.31**

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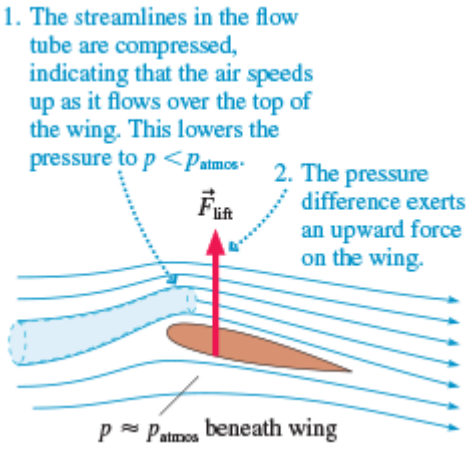


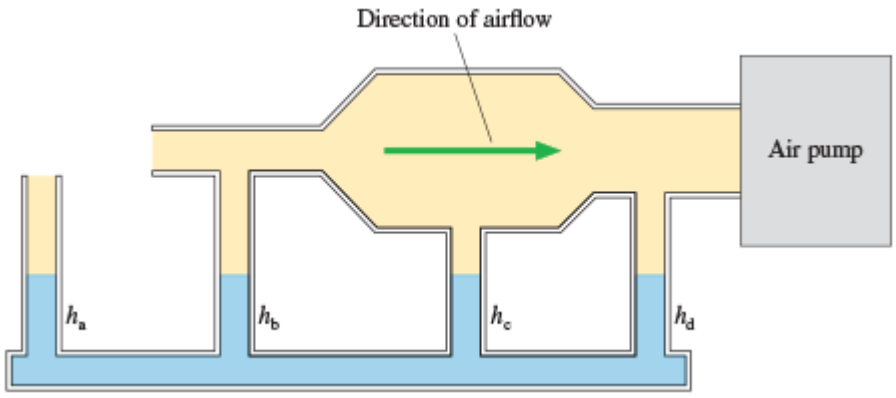

Airflow over a wing generates lift by creating unequal pressures above and below.

Although you usually think of an airplane moving through the air, in the airplane's reference frame it is the air that flows across a stationary wing. As it does, the streamlines must separate. The bottom of the wing does not significantly alter the streamlines going under the wing. But the streamlines going over the top of the wing get bunched together. As we've seen, with the equation of continuity, the flow speed has to increase when streamlines get closer together. Consequently, the air speed increases as it flows across the top of the wing.

If the air speed increases, then, from Bernoulli's equation, the air pressure must decrease. And if the air pressure above the wing is less than the air pressure below, the air will exert a net *upward* force on the wing. The upward force of the air due to the pressure difference across the wing is called **lift**. A full understanding of lift in aerodynamics involves other, more complicated factors, such as the creation of vortices on the trailing edge of the wing, but our introduction to fluid dynamics has given you enough tools to at least begin to understand how airplanes stay aloft.

## Stop to Think 14.6

Rank in order, from highest to lowest, the liquid heights $h_a$ to $h_d$. The airflow is from left to right.



# 14.6 Elasticity

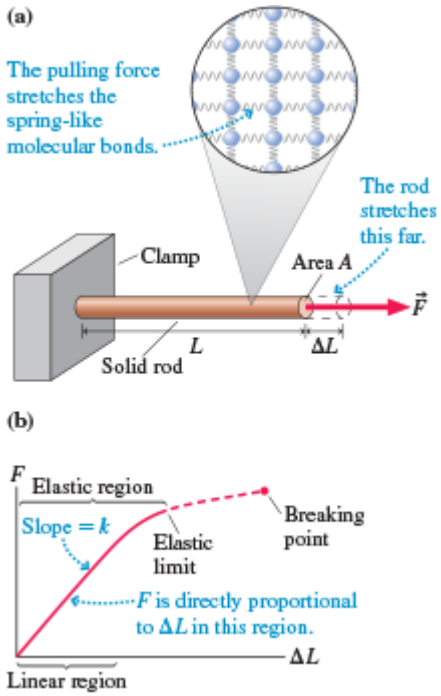


The final subject to explore in this chapter is elasticity. Although elasticity applies primarily to solids rather than fluids, you will see that similar ideas come into play.

## Tensile Stress and Young's Modulus

Suppose you clamp one end of a solid rod while using a strong machine to pull on the other with force $\vec{F}$. Figure 14.32a shows the experimental arrangement. We usually think of solids as being, well, solid. But any material, be it plastic, concrete, or steel, will stretch as the spring-like molecular bonds expand.

**Figure 14.32**




Stretching a solid rod.

Figure 14.32b shows graphically the amount of force needed to stretch the rod by the amount $\Delta L$. This graph contains several regions of interest. First is the *elastic region*, ending at the *elastic limit*. As long as $\Delta L$ is less than the elastic limit, the rod will return to its initial length $L$ when the force is removed. Just such a reversible stretch is what we mean when we say a material is *elastic*. A stretch beyond the elastic limit will permanently deform the object; it will not return to its initial length when the force is removed. And, not surprisingly, there comes a point when the rod breaks.

For most materials, the graph begins with a *linear region*, which is where we will focus our attention. If $\Delta L$ is within the linear region, the force needed to stretch the rod is

**(14.33)**

$$F = k\,\Delta L$$

where $k$ is the slope of the graph. You'll recognize Equation 14.33 as none other than Hooke's law.

The difficulty with Equation 14.33 is that the proportionality constant $k$ depends both on the composition of the rod—whether it is, say, steel or aluminum—and on the rod's length and cross-section area. It would be useful to characterize the elastic properties of steel in general, or aluminum in general, without needing to know the dimensions of a specific rod.

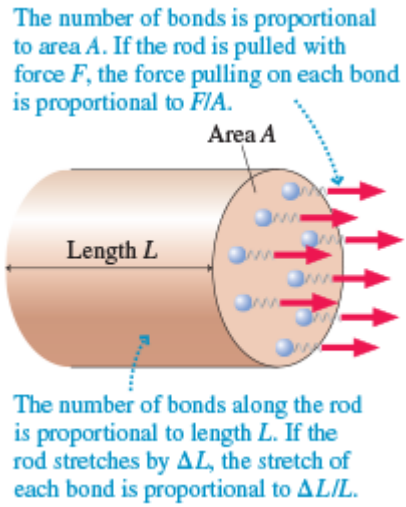
We can meet this goal by thinking about Hooke's law at the atomic scale. The elasticity of a material is directly related to the spring constant of the molecular bonds between neighboring atoms. As Figure 14.33 shows, the force pulling each bond is proportional to the quantity $F/A$. This force

causes each bond to stretch by an amount proportional to $\Delta L/L$. We don't know what the proportionality constants are, but we don't need to. Hooke's law applied to a molecular bond tells us that the force pulling on a bond is proportional to the amount that the bond stretches. Thus $F/A$ must be proportional to $\Delta L/L$. We can write their proportionality as

**(14.34)**

$$\frac{F}{A} = Y\frac{\Delta L}{L}$$

## Figure 14.33




A material's elasticity is directly related to the spring constant of the molecular bonds.

The proportionality constant $Y$ is called **Young's modulus.** It is directly related to the spring constant of the molecular bonds, so it depends on the material from which the object is made but *not* on the object's geometry.

A comparison of Equations 14.33 and 14.34 shows that Young's modulus can be written as $Y = kL/A$. This is not a definition of Young's modulus but simply an expression for making an experimental

determination of the value of Young's modulus. This $k$ is the spring constant of the rod seen in Figure 14.32. It is a quantity easily measured in the laboratory.

The quantity $F/A$, where $A$ is the cross-section area, is called **tensile stress.** Notice that it is essentially the same definition as pressure. Even so, tensile stress differs in that the stress is applied in a particular direction whereas pressure forces are exerted in all directions. Another difference is that stress is measured in $\text{N/m}^2$ rather than pascals. The quantity $\Delta L/L$, the fractional increase in the length, is called **strain.** Strain is dimensionless. The numerical values of strain are always very small because solids cannot be stretched very much before reaching the breaking point.



With these definitions, Equation 14.34 can be written

**(14.35)**

$$\text{stress} = Y \times \text{strain}$$

Because strain is dimensionless, Young's modulus $Y$ has the same dimensions as stress, namely $\text{N/m}^2$. Table 14.3 gives values of Young's modulus for several common materials. Large values of $Y$ characterize materials that are stiff and rigid. "Softer" materials, at least relatively speaking, have smaller values of $Y$. You can see that steel has a larger Young's modulus than aluminum.

---

**Table 14.3**

| Substance | Young's modulus ($N/m^2$) | Bulk modulus ($N/m^2$) |
|---|---|---|
| Steel | $20 \times 10^{10}$ | $16 \times 10^{10}$ |
| Copper | $11 \times 10^{10}$ | $14 \times 10^{10}$ |
| Aluminum | $7.0 \times 10^{10}$ | $7.6 \times 10^{10}$ |
| Concrete | $3 \times 10^{10}$ | – |
| Wood (Douglas fir) | $1 \times 10^{10}$ | – |
| Plastic (polystyrene) | $0.3 \times 10^{10}$ | – |
| Mercury | – | $2.9 \times 10^{10}$ |
| Water | – | $0.22 \times 10^{10}$ |

Elastic properties of various materials

We introduced Young's modulus by considering how materials stretch. But Equation 14.35 and Young's modulus also apply to the compression of materials. Compression is particularly important in engineering applications, where beams, columns, and support foundations are compressed by the load they bear. Concrete is often compressed, as in columns that support highway overpasses, but rarely stretched.

Concrete is a widely used building material because it is relatively inexpensive and, with its large Young's modulus, it has tremendous compressional strength.

> **Note**
>
> Whether the rod is stretched or compressed, Equation 14.35 is valid only in the linear region of the graph in Figure 14.32b. The breaking point is usually well outside the linear region, so you can't use Young's modulus to compute the maximum possible stretch or compression.

**Example 14.13 Stretching a wire**

A 2.0-m-long, 1.0-mm-diameter wire is suspended from the ceiling. Hanging a 4.5 kg mass from the wire stretches the wire's length by 1.0 mm. What is Young's modulus for this wire? Can you identify the material?

**MODEL** The hanging mass creates tensile stress in the wire.

**SOLVE** The force pulling on the wire, which is simply the weight of the hanging mass, produces tensile stress

$$\frac{F}{A} = \frac{mg}{\pi r^2} = \frac{(4.5\text{ kg})(9.80\text{ m/s}^2)}{\pi(0.0005\text{ m})^2} = 5.6 \times 10^7\text{ N/m}^2$$

The resulting stretch of 1.0 mm is a strain of $\Delta L/L = (1.0\,\text{mm})/(2000\,\text{mm}) = 5.0 \times 10^{-4}$. Thus Young's modulus for the wire is

$$Y = \frac{F/A}{\Delta L/L} = 11 \times 10^{10}\text{ N/m}^2$$

Referring to Table 14.3, we see that the wire is made of copper.

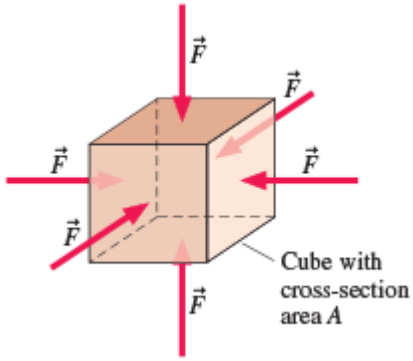
## Volume Stress and the Bulk Modulus

Young's modulus characterizes the response of an object to being pulled in one direction. Figure 14.34 shows an object being squeezed in all directions. For example, objects under water are squeezed from all sides by the water pressure. The force per unit area $F/A$ applied to *all* surfaces of an object is called the **volume stress.** Because the force pushes equally

on all sides, the volume stress (unlike the tensile stress) really is the same as pressure $p$.



## Figure 14.34




An object is compressed by pressure forces pushing equally on all sides.

No material is perfectly rigid. A volume stress applied to an object compresses its volume slightly. The **volume strain** is defined as $\Delta V/V$. The volume strain is a *negative* number because the volume stress *decreases* the volume.

Volume stress, or pressure, is linearly proportional to the volume strain, much as the tensile stress is linearly proportional to the strain in a rod. That is,

**(14.36)**

$$\frac{F}{A} = p = -B\frac{\Delta V}{V}$$

where $B$ is called the **bulk modulus.** The negative sign in Equation 14.36 ensures that the pressure is a positive number. Table 14.3 gives values of the bulk modulus for several materials. Smaller values of $B$ correspond to materials that are more easily compressed. Both solids and

liquids can be compressed and thus have a bulk modulus, whereas Young's modulus applies only to solids.

### Example 14.14 Compressing a sphere

A 1.00-m-diameter solid steel sphere is lowered to a depth of 10,000 m in a deep ocean trench. By how much does its diameter shrink?

**MODEL** The water pressure applies a volume stress to the sphere.

**SOLVE** The water pressure at $d = 10{,}000\,\text{m}$ is

$$p = p_0 + \rho g d = 1.01 \times 10^8\ \text{Pa}$$

where we used the density of seawater. The bulk modulus of steel, taken from Table 14.3, is $16 \times 10^{10}\ \text{N/m}^2$. Thus the volume strain is

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = -\frac{p}{B} = -\frac{1.01 \times 10^8\,\text{Pa}}{16 \times 10^{10}\,\text{Pa}} = -6.3 \times 10^{-4}$$

The volume of a sphere is $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$. If the radius changes by the infinitesimal amount $dr$, we can use calculus to find that the volume changes by

$$dV = \tfrac{4}{3}\pi d(r^3) = \tfrac{4}{3}\pi \times 3r^2 dr = 4\pi r^2 dr$$

Thus $\Delta V = 4\,\pi r^2 \Delta r$ is a quite good approximation for very small changes in the sphere's radius and volume. Using this, the volume strain is

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \frac{4\pi r^2\,\Delta r}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} = \frac{3\,\Delta r}{r} = -6.3 \times 10^{-4}$$

Solving for $\Delta r$ gives $\Delta r = -1.05 \times 10^{-4}$ m $= -0.105$ mm. The diameter changes by twice this, decreasing 0.21 mm.

**ASSESS** The immense pressure of the deep ocean causes only a tiny change in the sphere's diameter. You can see that treating solids and liquids as incompressible is an excellent approximation under nearly all circumstances.

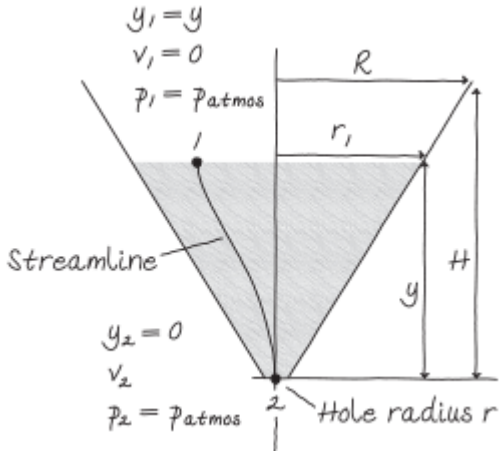
### Challenge Example 14.15 Draining a cone

A conical tank of radius $R$ and height $H$, pointed end down, is full of water. A small hole of radius $r$ is opened at the bottom of the tank, with $r << R$ so that the tank drains slowly. Find an expression for the time $T$ it takes to drain the tank completely.

**MODEL** Model the water as an ideal fluid. We can use Bernoulli's equation to relate the flow speed from the hole to the height of the water in the cone.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 14.35 is a pictorial representation. Because the tank drains slowly, we've assumed that the water velocity at the top surface is always very close to zero: $v_1 = 0$. The pressure at the surface is $p_1 = p_{\text{atmos}}$. The water discharges into air, so we also have $p_2 = p_{\text{atmos}}$ at the exit.

**Figure 14.35**




Pictorial representation of water draining from a tank.

**SOLVE** As the tank drains, the water height $y$ decreases from $H$ to 0. If we can find an expression for $dy/dt$, the *rate* at which the water height changes, we'll be able to find $T$ by integrating from "full tank" at $t = 0$ to "empty tank" at $t = T$. Our starting point is the rate at which water flows out of the hole at the bottom—the volume flow rate $Q = v_2 A_2 = \pi r^2 v_2$, where $v_2$ is the exit speed. The volume of water inside the tank is changing at the rate

$$\frac{dV_{\text{water}}}{dt} = -Q = -\pi r^2 v_2$$

where the minus sign shows that the volume is *decreasing* with time.

We need to relate both $V_{\text{water}}$ and $v_2$ to the height $y$ of the water surface. The volume of a cone is $V = \frac{1}{3} \times \text{base} \times \text{height}$, so the cone of water has volume $V_{\text{water}} = \frac{1}{3}\,\pi {r_1}^2\, y$. Based on the similar triangles in Figure 14.35, $r_1/R = y/H$. Thus $r_1 = (R/H)y$ and

$$V_{\text{water}} = \frac{\pi R^2}{3H^2}\, y^3$$

Taking the time derivative, we find

$$\frac{dV_{\text{water}}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}\left[\frac{\pi R^2}{3H^2}\, y^3\right] = \frac{\pi R^2}{H^2}\, y^2\, \frac{dy}{dt}$$

This relates the rate at which the volume changes to the rate at which the height changes.

We can next relate $v_2$ to the water height $y$ by using Bernoulli's equation to connect the conditions at the surface (point 1) to conditions at the exit (point 2):

$$p_1 + \tfrac{1}{2}\,\rho {v_1}^2 + \rho g y_1 = p_2 + \tfrac{1}{2}\,\rho {v_2}^2 + \rho g y_2$$

With $p_1 = p_2$, $v_1 = 0$, $y_1 = y$, and $y_2 = 0$ at the bottom, Bernoulli's equation simplifies to $\rho g y = \tfrac{1}{2}\,\rho {v_2}^2$. Thus the exit speed of the water is

$$v_2 = \sqrt{2gy}$$

The exit speed decreases as the water height drops because the pressure at the bottom is less.

With this information, our equation for the rate at which the volume is changing becomes

$$\frac{dV_{\text{water}}}{dt} = \frac{\pi R^2}{H^2}\, y^2\, \frac{dy}{dt} = -\pi r^2 v_2 = -\pi r^2\, \sqrt{2gy}$$

In preparation for integration, we need to get all the $y$'s on one side of the equation and $dt$ on the other. Rearranging gives

$$dt = -\frac{R^2}{r^2 H^2\, \sqrt{2g}}\, y^{3/2}\, dy$$

We need to integrate this from the beginning, with $y = H$ at $t = 0$, to the moment the tank is empty, with $y = 0$ at $t = T$:

$$\int_0^T dt = T = -\frac{R^2}{r^2 H^2 \sqrt{2g}} \int_H^0 y^{3/2}\, dy = \frac{R^2}{r^2 H^2 \sqrt{2g}} \int_0^H y^{3/2}\, dy$$

The minus sign was eliminated by reversing the integration limits. Performing the integration gives us the desired result for the time to drain the tank:

$$T = \frac{R^2}{r^2 H^2 \sqrt{2g}} \int_0^H y^{3/2}\, dy = \frac{R^2}{r^2 H^2 \sqrt{2g}} \left[\frac{2}{5} y^{5/2}\right]_0^H$$
$$= \frac{2}{5}\, \frac{R^2}{r^2} \sqrt{\frac{H}{2g}}$$

**ASSESS** Making the tank larger by increasing $R$ or $H$ increases the time needed to drain. Making the hole at the bottom larger—a larger value of $r$—decreases the time. These are as we would have expected, giving us confidence in our result.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 14 has been to learn about systems that flow or deform.

## General Principles

### Fluid Statics

#### Gases

- Freely moving particles
- Compressible
- Pressure primarily thermal
- Pressure is constant in a laboratory-size container

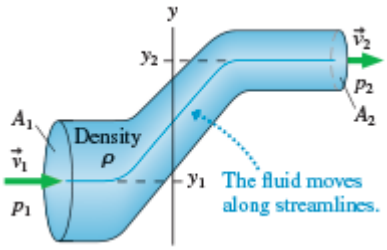
#### Liquids

- Loosely bound particles
- Incompressible
- Pressure primarily gravitational
- Hydrostatic pressure at depth $d$ is $p = p_0 + pgd$

### Fluid Dynamics

#### Ideal-fluid model

- Incompressible
- Nonviscous
- Smooth, laminar flow




### Equation of continuity

$$v_1 A_1 = v_2 A_2$$

### Bernoulli's equation

$$p_1 + \tfrac{1}{2}\rho {v_1}^2 + \rho g y_1 = p_2 + \tfrac{1}{2}\rho {v_2}^2 + \rho g y_2$$

Bernoulli's equation is a statement of energy conservation.

## Important Concepts

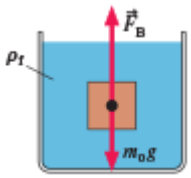
**Density** $\rho = m/V$, where $m$ is mass and $V$ is volume.

**Pressure** $p = F/A$, where $F$ is the magnitude of the fluid force and $A$ is the area on which the force acts.

- Pressure exists at all points in a fluid.
- Pressure pushes equally in all directions.
- Pressure is constant along a horizontal line.
- Gauge pressure is $p_\text{g} = p - 1\ \text{atm}$.

## Applications

**Buoyancy** is the upward force of a fluid on an object.




### Archimedes' principle

The magnitude of the buoyant force equals the weight of the fluid displaced by the object.

**Sink**

$\rho_{\text{avg}} > \rho_{\text{f}} \quad F_{\text{B}} < m_{\text{o}}g$

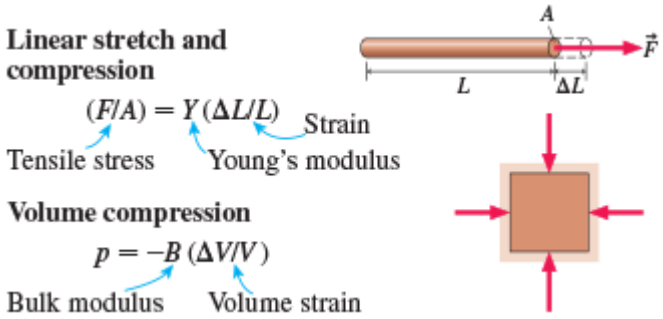
**Rise to surface**

$\rho_{\text{avg}} < \rho_{\text{f}} \quad F_{\text{B}} > m_{\text{o}}g$

**Neutrally buoyant**

$\rho_{\text{avg}} = \rho_{\text{f}} \quad F_{\text{B}} = m_{\text{o}}g$

**Elasticity** describes the deformation of solids and liquids under stress.




## Terms and Notation

fluid

gas

liquid

mass density, $\rho$

unit volume

pressure, $p$

pascal, Pa

vacuum

standard atmosphere, atm

hydrostatic pressure

Pascal's principle

gauge pressure, $p_g$

hydraulics

buoyant force

displaced fluid

Archimedes' principle

average density, $\rho_{avg}$

neutral buoyancy

ideal-fluid model

viscosity

laminar flow

streamline

equation of continuity

volume flow rate, $Q$

Bernoulli's equation

Venturi tube

lift

Young's modulus, $Y$

tensile stress

strain

volume stress

volume strain

bulk modulus, $B$

# Conceptual Questions 383

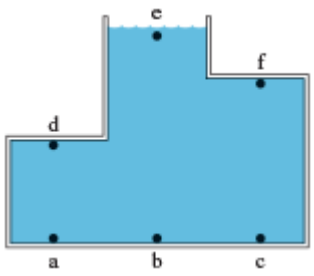
**1.** An object has density $\rho$.

**a.** Suppose each of the object's three dimensions is increased by a factor of 2 without changing the material of which the object is made. Will the density change? If so, by what factor? Explain.

**b.** Suppose each of the object's three dimensions is increased by a factor of 2 without changing the object's mass. Will the density change? If so, by what factor? Explain.

**2.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the pressures at a, b, and c in Figure Q14.2. Explain.

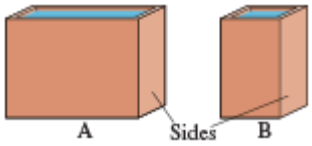
**Figure Q14.2**




**3.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the pressures at d, e, and f in Figure Q14.2. Explain.

**4.** Figure Q14.4 shows two rectangular tanks, A and B, full of water. They have equal depths and equal thicknesses (the dimension into the page) but different widths.

**Figure Q14.4**

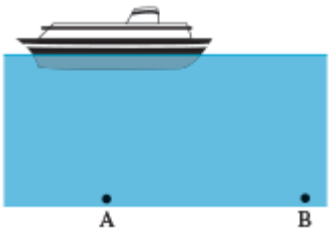



**a.** Compare the forces the water exerts on the bottoms of the tanks. Is $F_A$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to $F_B$? Explain.

**b.** Compare the forces the water exerts on the sides of the tanks. Is $F_A$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to $F_B$? Explain.

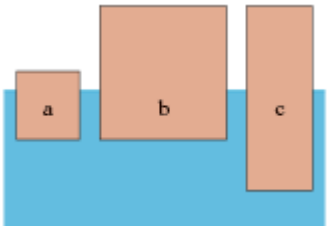
**5.** In Figure Q14.5, is $p_A$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to $p_B$? Explain.

**Figure Q14.5**




**6.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the densities of blocks a, b, and c in Figure Q14.6. Explain.

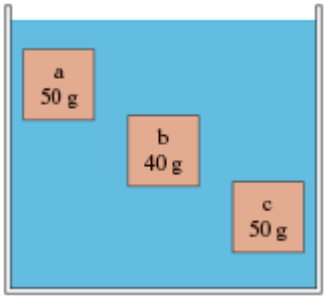
**Figure Q14.6**




**7.** Blocks a, b, and c in Figure Q14.7 have the same volume. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the sizes of the buoyant forces

$F_a$, $F_b$, and $F_c$ on a, b, and c. Explain.

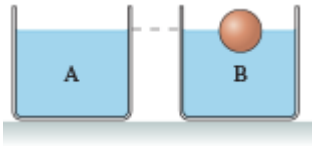
**Figure Q14.7**




**8.** Blocks a, b, and c in Figure Q14.7 have the same density. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the sizes of the buoyant forces $F_a$, $F_b$, and $F_c$ on a, b, and c. Explain.

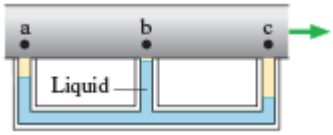
**9.** The two identical beakers in Figure Q14.9 are filled to the same height with water. Beaker B has a plastic sphere floating in it. Which beaker, with all its contents, weighs more? Or are they equal? Explain.

**Figure Q14.9**




**10.** Gas flows through the pipe of Figure Q14.10. You can't see into the pipe to know how the inner diameter changes. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the gas speeds $v_a$, $v_b$, and $v_c$ at points a, b, and c. Explain.

**Figure Q14.10**



**11.** Wind blows over the house in Figure Q14.11. A window on the ground floor is open. Is there an airflow through the house? If so, does the air flow in the window and out the chimney, or in the chimney and out the window? Explain.

**Figure Q14.11**

**12.** A 2000 N force stretches a wire by 1 mm. A second wire of the same material is twice as long and has twice the diameter. How much force is needed to stretch it by 1 mm? Explain.

**13.** A wire is stretched right to the breaking point by a 5000 N force. A longer wire made of the same material has the same diameter. Is the force that will stretch it right to the breaking point larger than, smaller than, or equal to 5000 N? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 14.1 Fluids

**1.** •• What is the volume in mL of 55 g of a liquid with density 1100 kg/m$^3$?

**2.** • Cylinders A and B have equal heights. Cylinder A is filled with helium gas at 1.0 atm pressure and 0°C.The diameter of cylinder B is half that of cylinder A, and cylinder B is filled with glycerin. What is the ratio of the fluid mass in cylinder B to that in cylinder A?

**3.** ••

**a.** 50 g of gasoline are mixed with 50 g of water. What is the average density of the mixture?

**b.** 50 $cm^3$ of gasoline are mixed with 50 $cm^3$ of water. What is the average density of the mixture?

**4.** •• A 6.0 m × 12.0 m swimming pool slopes linearly from a 1.0 m depth at one end to a 3.0 m depth at the other. What is the mass of water in the pool?

## Section 14.2 Pressure

**5.** •• A 1.0-m-diameter vat of liquid is 2.0 m deep. The pressure at the bottom of the vat is 1.3 atm. What is the mass of the liquid in the vat?

**6.** • The deepest point in the ocean is 11 km below sea level, deeper than Mt. Everest is tall. What is the pressure in atmospheres at this depth?

**7.** • A 3.0-cm-diameter tube is held upright and filled to the top with mercury. The mercury pressure at the bottom of the tube —the pressure in excess of atmospheric pressure—is 50 kPa. How tall is the tube?

**8.** ••

**a.** What volume of water has the same mass as 8.0 $m^3$ of ethyl alcohol?

**b.** If this volume of water is in a cubic tank, what is the pressure at the bottom?

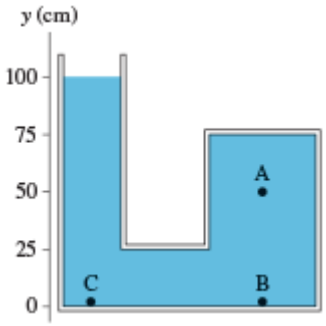
**9.** •• A 50-cm-thick layer of oil floats on a 120-cm-thick layer of water. What is the pressure at the bottom of the water layer?

**10.** •• An ocean-going research submarine has a 20-cm-diameter window 8.0 cm thick. The manufacturer says the window can withstand forces up to $1.0 \times 10^6$ N. What is the submarine's maximum safe depth? The pressure inside the submarine is maintained at 1.0 atm.

**11.** •• A 20-cm-diameter circular cover is placed over a 10-cm-diameter hole that leads into an evacuated chamber. The pressure in the chamber is 20 kPa. How much force is required to pull the cover off?

**12.** •• The container shown in Figure EX14.12 is filled with oil. It is open to the atmosphere on the left.

**Figure EX14.12**




**a.** What is the pressure at point A?

**b.** What is the pressure difference between points A and B? Between points A and C?

## Section 14.3 Measuring and Using Pressure

**13.** • What is the height of a water barometer at atmospheric pressure?

**14.** •• What is the minimum hose diameter of an ideal vacuum cleaner that could lift a 10 kg (22 lb) dog off the floor?

**15.** •• How far must a 2.0-cm-diameter piston be pushed down into one cylinder of a hydraulic lift to raise an 8.0-cm-diameter piston by 20 cm?

## Section 14.4 Buoyancy

**16.** • A 6.00-cm-diameter sphere with a mass of 89.3 g is neutrally buoyant in a liquid. Identify the liquid.

**17.** •• A $2.0\,\text{cm} \times 2.0\,\text{cm} \times 6.0\,\text{cm}$ block floats in water with its long axis vertical. The length of the block above water is 2.0 cm. What is the block's mass density?

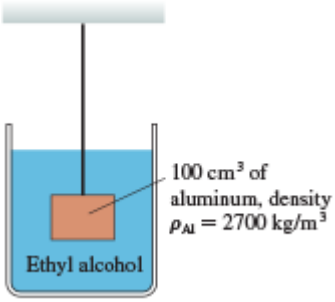
**18.** •• Astronauts visiting a new planet find a lake filled with an unknown liquid. They have with them a plastic cube, 6.0 cm on each side, with a density of 840 kg/m$^3$. First they weigh the cube with a spring scale, measuring a weight of 21 N. Then they float the cube in the lake and find that two-thirds of the cube is submerged. At what depth in the lake will the pressure be twice the atmospheric pressure of 85 kPa?

**19.** •• A sphere completely submerged in water is tethered to the bottom with a string. The tension in the string is one-third the weight of the sphere. What is the density of the sphere?

**20.** •• A 5.0 kg rock whose density is 4800 kg/m$^3$ is suspended by a string such that half of the rock's volume is under water. What is the tension in the string?

**21.** •• What is the tension of the string in Figure EX14.21?

**Figure EX14.21**




**22.** •• A 10-cm-diameter, 20-cm-tall steel cylinder ($\rho_{\text{steel}} = 7900\,\text{kg/m}^3$) floats in mercury. The axis of the cylinder is perpendicular to the surface. What length of steel is above the surface?

**23.** • You need to determine the density of a ceramic statue. If you suspend it from a spring scale, the scale reads 28.4 N. If you then lower the statue into a tub of water, so that it is completely submerged, the scale reads 17.0 N. What is the statue's density?

**24.** •• Styrofoam has a density of 150 kg/m³. What is the maximum mass that can hang without sinking from a 50-cm-diameter Styrofoam sphere in water? Assume the volume of the mass is negligible compared to that of the sphere.



**25.** •• You and your friends are playing in the swimming pool with a 60-cm-diameter beach ball. How much force would be needed to push the ball completely under water?

## Section 14.5 Fluid Dynamics

**26.** • Water flows through a 2.5-cm-diameter hose at 3.0 m/s. How long, in minutes, will it take to fill a 600 L child's wading pool?

**27.** •• A long horizontal tube has a square cross section with sides of width $L$. A fluid moves through the tube with speed $v_0$. The tube then changes to a circular cross section with diameter $L$. What is the fluid's speed in the circular part of the tube?

**28.** •• A 1.0-cm-diameter pipe widens to 2.0 cm, then narrows to 5.0 mm. Liquid flows through the first segment at a speed of 4.0 m/s.

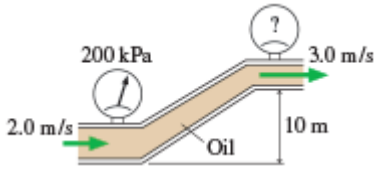
**a.** What is the speed in the second and third segments?

**b.** What is the volume flow rate through the pipe?

**29.** • A bucket is filled with water to a height of 23 cm, then a plug is removed from a 4.0-mm-diameter hole in the bottom of the bucket. As the water begins to pour out of the hole, how fast is it moving?

**30.** •• What does the top pressure gauge read in Figure EX14.30?

**Figure EX14.30**




**31.** ••• **BIO** A 2.0 mL syringe has an inner diameter of 6.0 mm, a needle inner diameter of 0.25 mm, and a plunger pad diameter (where you place your finger) of 1.2 cm. A nurse uses the syringe to inject medicine into a patient whose blood pressure is 140/100.

**a.** What is the minimum force the nurse needs to apply to the syringe?

**b.** The nurse empties the syringe in 2.0 s. What is the flow speed of the medicine through the needle?

## Section 14.6 Elasticity

**32.** • A 70 kg mountain climber dangling in a crevasse stretches a 50-m-long, 1.0-cm-diameter rope by 8.0 cm. What is Young's modulus for the rope?

**33.** •• An 80-cm-long, 1.0-mm-diameter steel guitar string must be tightened to a tension of 2000 N by turning the tuning screws. By how much is the string stretched?

**34.** •• A 3.0-m-tall, 50-cm-diameter concrete column supports a 200,000 kg load. By how much is the column compressed?

**35.** ••

**a.** What is the pressure at a depth of 5000 m in the ocean?

**b.** What is the fractional volume change $\Delta V/V$ of seawater at this pressure?

**c.** What is the density of seawater at this pressure?

**36.** •• A large 10,000 L aquarium is supported by four wood posts (Douglas fir) at the corners. Each post has a square $4.0\,\text{cm} \times 4.0\,\text{cm}$ cross section and is 80 cm tall. By how much is each post compressed by the weight of the aquarium?

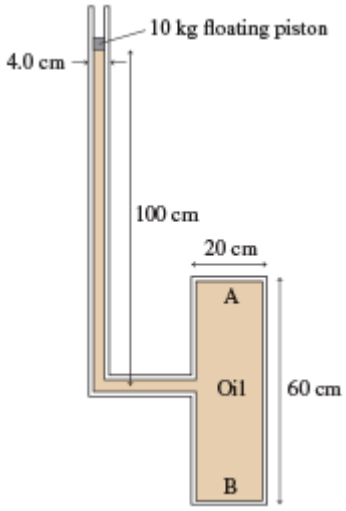
**37.** •• A 5.0-m-diameter solid aluminum sphere is launched into space. By how much does its diameter increase? Give your answer in $\mu m$.

## Problems

**38.** ••

**a.** In Figure P14.38, how much force does the fluid exert on the end of the cylinder at A?

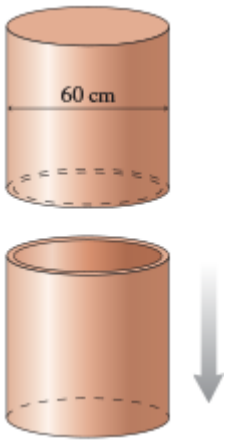
**Figure P14.38**




**b.** How much force does the fluid exert on the end of the cylinder at B?

**39.** • The two 60-cm-diameter cylinders in Figure P14.39, closed at one end, open at the other, are joined to form a single cylinder, then the air inside is removed.

**Figure P14.39**




**a.** How much force does the atmosphere exert on the flat end of each cylinder?

**b.** Suppose one cylinder is bolted to a sturdy ceiling. How many 100 kg football players would need to hang from the lower cylinder to pull the two cylinders apart?

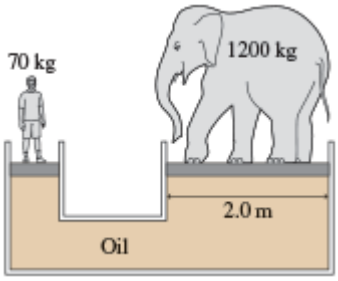
**40.** •• **BIO** *Postural hypotension* is the occurrence of low systolic blood pressure when a person stands up too quickly from a reclining position. A brain blood pressure lower than 90 mm of Hg can cause fainting or lightheadedness. In a healthy adult, the automatic constriction and expansion of blood vessels keep the brain blood pressure constant while posture is changing, but disease or aging can weaken this response. If the blood pressure in your brain is 118 mm of Hg while lying down, what would it be when you stand up if this automatic response failed? Assume your brain is 40 cm from your heart and the density of blood is 1060 kg/m$^3$.

**41.** •• A friend asks you how much pressure is in your car tires. You know that the tire manufacturer recommends 30 psi, but it's been a while since you've checked. You can't find a tire gauge in the car, but you do find the owner's manual and a ruler. Fortunately, you've just finished taking physics, so you tell your friend, "I don't know, but I can figure it out." From the owner's manual you find that the car's mass is 1500 kg. It seems reasonable to assume that each tire supports one-fourth of the weight. With the ruler you find that the tires are 15 cm wide and the flattened segment of the tire in contact with the road is 13 cm long. What answer—in psi—will you give your friend?

**42.** ••

**a.** The 70 kg student in Figure P14.42 balances a 1200 kg elephant on a hydraulic lift. What is the diameter of the piston the student is standing on?

**Figure P14.42**



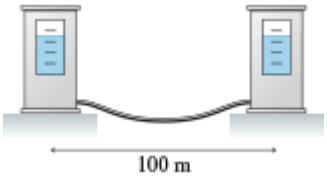

**b.** When a second student joins the first, the piston sinks 35 cm. What is the second student's mass?

**43.** ••• A 55 kg cheerleader uses an oil-filled hydraulic lift to hold four 110 kg football players at a height of 1.0 m. If her piston is 16 cm in diameter, what is the diameter of the football players' piston?

**44.** •• A U-shaped tube, open to the air on both ends, contains mercury. Water is poured into the left arm until the water column is 10.0 cm deep. How far upward from its initial position does the mercury in the right arm rise?

**45.** •• Geologists place *tiltmeters* on the sides of volcanoes to measure the displacement of the surface as magma moves inside the volcano. Although most tiltmeters today are electronic, the traditional tiltmeter, used for decades, consisted of two or more water-filled metal cans placed some distance apart and connected by a hose. Figure P14.45 shows two such cans, each having a window to measure the water height. Suppose the cans are placed so that the water level in both is initially at the 5.0 cm mark. A week later, the water level in can 2 is at the 6.5 cm mark.

**Figure P14.45**




**a.** Did can 2 move up or down relative to can 1? By what distance?

**b.** Where is the water level now in can 1?

**46.** •• Glycerin is poured into an open U-shaped tube until the height in both sides is 20 cm. Ethyl alcohol is then poured into one arm until the height of the alcohol column is 20 cm. The two liquids do not mix. What is the difference in height between the top surface of the glycerin and the top surface of the alcohol?

**47.** •• **CALC** An aquarium of length $L$, width (front to back) $W$, and depth $D$ is filled to the top with liquid of density $\rho$.

**a.** Find an expression for the force of the liquid on the bottom of the aquarium.

**b.** Find an expression for the force of the liquid on the front window of the aquarium.

**c.** Evaluate the forces for a 100-cm-long, 35-cm-wide, 40-cm-deep aquarium filled with water.

**48.** •• **CALC** It's possible to use the ideal-gas law to show that the density of the earth's atmosphere decreases exponentially with height. That is, $\rho = \rho_0 \exp(-z/z_0)$, where $z$ is the height above sea level, $\rho_0$ is the density at sea level (you can use the Table 14.1 value), and $z_0$ is called the *scale height* of the atmosphere.

**a.** Determine the value of $z_0$.

**Hint:** What is the weight of a column of air?

**b.** What is the density of the air in Denver, at an elevation of 1600 m? What percent of sea-level density is this?

**49.** •• **BIO** The average density of the body of a fish is 1080 kg/m$^3$. To keep from sinking, a fish increases its volume by inflating an internal air bladder, known as a swim bladder, with air. By what percent must the fish increase its volume to be neutrally buoyant in fresh water? The density of air at 20°C is 1.19 kg/m$^3$.

**50.** •• **CALC** A cylinder with cross-section area $A$ floats with its long axis vertical in a liquid of density $\rho$.

**a.** Pressing down on the cylinder pushes it deeper into the liquid. Find an expression for the force needed to push the cylinder distance $x$ deeper into the liquid and hold it there.

**b.** A 4.0-cm-diameter cylinder floats in water. How much work must be done to push the cylinder 10 cm deeper into the water?

**51.** •• A less-dense liquid of density $\rho_1$ floats on top of a more-dense liquid of density $\rho_2$. A uniform cylinder of length $l$ and density $\rho$, with $\rho_1 < \rho < \rho_2$, floats at the interface with its long axis vertical. What fraction of the length is in the more-dense liquid?



**52.** •• A 30-cm-tall, 4.0-cm-diameter plastic tube has a sealed bottom. 250 g of lead pellets are poured into the bottom of the tube, whose mass is 30 g, then the tube is lowered into a liquid. The tube floats with 5.0 cm extending above the surface. What is the density of the liquid?

**53.** •• One day when you come into physics lab you find several plastic hemispheres floating like boats in a tank of fresh water. Each lab group is challenged to determine the heaviest rock that can be placed in the bottom of a plastic boat without sinking it. You get one try. Sinking the boat gets you no points,

and the maximum number of points goes to the group that can place the heaviest rock without sinking. You begin by measuring one of the hemispheres, finding that it has a mass of 21 g and a diameter of 8.0 cm. What is the mass of the heaviest rock that, in perfectly still water, won't sink the plastic boat?

**54.** ••• **INT** A spring with spring constant 35 N/m is attached to the ceiling, and a 5.0-cm-diameter, 1.0 kg metal cylinder is attached to its lower end. The cylinder is held so that the spring is neither stretched nor compressed, then a tank of water is placed underneath with the surface of the water just touching the bottom of the cylinder. When released, the cylinder will oscillate a few times but, damped by the water, quickly reach an equilibrium position. When in equilibrium, what length of the cylinder is submerged?

**55.** ••• A plastic "boat" with a 25 $cm^2$ square cross section floats in a liquid. One by one, you place 50 g masses inside the boat and measure how far the boat extends below the surface. Your data are as follows:

| Mass added (g) | Depth (cm) |
|---|---|
| 50 | 2.9 |
| 100 | 5.0 |
| 150 | 6.6 |
| 200 | 8.6 |

Draw an appropriate graph of the data and, from the slope and intercept of the best-fit line, determine the mass of the boat and the density of the liquid.

**56.** ••• A 355 mL soda can is 6.2 cm in diameter and has a mass of 20 g. Such a soda can half full of water is floating upright in water. What length of the can is above the water level?

**57.** •• A nuclear power plant draws $3.0 \times 10^6$ L/min of cooling water from the ocean. If the water is drawn in through two parallel, 3.0-m-diameter pipes, what is the water speed in each pipe?

**58.** ••

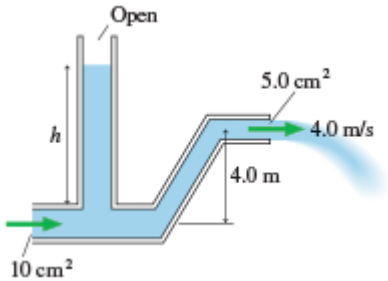
**a.** A liquid of density $\rho$ flows at speed $v_0$ through a horizontal pipe that expands smoothly from diameter $d_0$ to a larger diameter $d_1$. The pressure in the narrower section is $p_0$. Find an expression for the pressure $p_1$ in the wider section.

**b.** A pressure gauge reads 50 kPa as water flows at 10.0 m/s through a 16.8-cm-diameter horizontal pipe. What is the reading of a pressure gauge after the pipe has expanded to 20.0 cm in diameter?

**59.** ••• **BIO** A tree loses water to the air by the process of *transpiration* at the rate of 110 g/h. This water is replaced by the upward flow of sap through vessels in the trunk. If the trunk contains 2000 vessels, each 100 $\mu$m in diameter, what is the upward speed of the sap in each vessel? The density of tree sap is 1040 kg/m$^3$.

**60.** •• Water flows from the pipe shown in Figure P14.60 with a speed of 4.0 m/s.

**Figure P14.60**

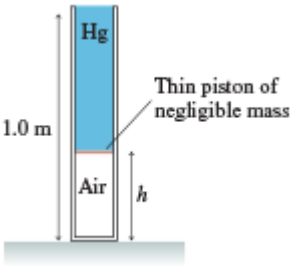


**a.** What is the water pressure as it exits into the air?

**b.** What is the height $h$ of the standing column of water?

**61.** •• The 1.0-m-tall cylinder in Figure P14.61 contains air at a pressure of 1 atm. A very thin, frictionless piston of negligible mass is placed at the top of the cylinder, to prevent any air from escaping, then mercury is slowly poured into the cylinder until no more can be added without the cylinder overflowing. What is the height $h$ of the column of compressed air?

**Figure P14.61**




**Hint:** Boyle's law, which you learned in chemistry, says $p_1V_1 = p_2V_2$ for a gas compressed at constant temperature, which we will assume to be the case.

**62.** ••• Water flowing out of a 16-mm-diameter faucet fills a 2.0 L bottle in 10 s. At what distance below the faucet has the water stream narrowed to 10 mm diameter?

**63.** •• Water from a vertical pipe emerges as a 10-cm-diameter cylinder and falls straight down 7.5 m into a bucket. The water exits the pipe with a speed of 2.0 m/s. What is the diameter of the column of water as it hits the bucket?

**64.** •• A 2.0-m-diameter vertical cylinder, open at the top, is filled with ethyl alcohol to the 2.5 m mark. A worker pulls a plug from a hole 55 cm from the bottom, causing the fluid level to

begin dropping at a rate of 3.4 mm/min. What is the diameter of the hole?

**65.** • A hurricane wind blows across a $6.0\,\text{m} \times 15.0\,\text{m}$ flat roof at a speed of 130 km/h.

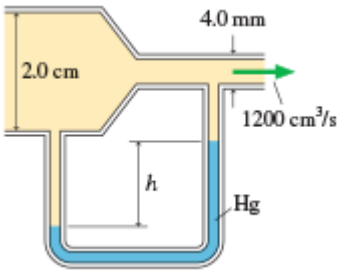
**a.** Is the air pressure above the roof higher or lower than the pressure inside the house? Explain.

**b.** What is the pressure difference?

**c.** How much force is exerted on the roof? If the roof cannot withstand this much force, will it "blow in" or "blow out"?

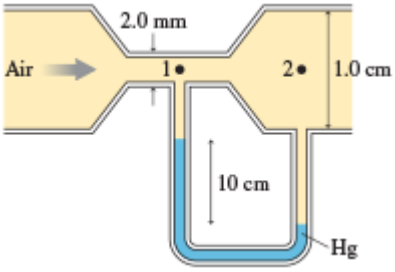
**66.** ••• Air flows through the tube shown in Figure P14.66 at a rate of 1200 $\text{cm}^3/\text{s}$. Assume that air is an ideal fluid. What is the height $h$ of mercury in the right side of the U-tube?

**Figure P14.66**




**67.** •• Air flows through the tube shown in Figure P14.67. Assume that air is an ideal fluid.

**Figure P14.67**



**a.** What are the air speeds $v_1$ and $v_2$ at points 1 and 2?

**b.** What is the volume flow rate?

**68.** •• **INT** A water tank of height $h$ has a small hole at height $y$. The water is replenished to keep $h$ from changing. The water squirting from the hole has range $x$. The range approaches zero as $y \rightarrow 0$ because the water squirts right onto the ground. The range also approaches zero as $y \rightarrow$ h because the horizontal velocity becomes zero. Thus there must be some height $y$ between 0 and $h$ for which the range is a maximum.

**a.** Find an algebraic expression for the flow speed $v$ with which the water exits the hole at height $y$.

**b.** Find an algebraic expression for the range of a particle shot horizontally from height $y$ with speed $v$.

**c.** Combine your expressions from parts a and b. Then find the maximum range $x_{\text{max}}$ and the height $y$ of the hole. "Real" water won't achieve quite this range because of viscosity, but it will be close.

**69.** •••

**a.** A cylindrical tank of radius $R$, filled to the top with a liquid, has a small hole in the side, of radius $r$, at distance $d$ below the surface. Find an expression for the volume flow rate through the hole.

**b.** A 4.0-mm-diameter hole is 1.0 m below the surface of a 2.0-m-diameter tank of water. What is the rate, in mm/min, at which the water level will initially drop if the water is not replenished?

**70.** •• **BIO** There is a disk of cartilage between each pair of vertebrae in your spine. Young's modulus for cartilage is $1.0 \times 10^6\ \text{N/m}^2$. Suppose a relaxed disk is 4.0 cm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick. If a disk in the lower spine supports half the

weight of a 66 kg person, by how many mm does the disk compress?

## Challenge Problems

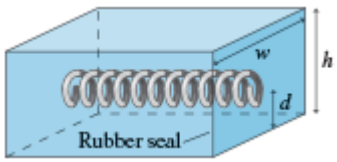
**71.** ••• The bottom of a steel "boat" is a $5.0\text{ m} \times 10\text{ m} \times 2.0\text{ cm}$ piece of steel ($\rho_{\text{steel}} = 7900\text{ kg/m}^3$). The sides are made of 0.50-cm-thick steel. What minimum height must the sides have for this boat to float in perfectly calm water?

**72.** ••• **CALC** The tank shown in Figure CP14.72 is completely filled with a liquid of density $\rho$. The right face is not permanently attached to the tank but, instead, is held against a rubber seal by the tension in a spring. To prevent leakage, the spring must both pull with sufficient strength *and* prevent a torque from pushing the bottom of the right face out.

**a.** What minimum spring tension is needed?

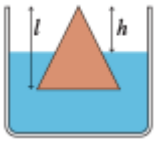
**b.** If the spring has the minimum tension, at what height $d$ from the bottom must it be attached?

**Figure CP14.72**



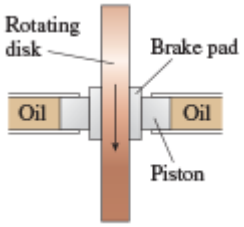

**73.** ••• In Figure CP14.73, a cone of density $\rho_o$ and total height $l$ floats in a liquid of density $\rho_f$. The height of the cone above the liquid is $h$. What is the ratio $h/l$ of the exposed height to the total height?

**Figure CP14.73**




**74.** ••• Disk brakes, such as those in your car, operate by using pressurized oil to push outward on a piston. The piston, in turn, presses brake pads against a spinning rotor or wheel, as seen in Figure CP14.74. Consider a 15 kg industrial grinding wheel, 26 cm in diameter, spinning at 900 rpm. The brake pads are actuated by 2.0-cm-diameter pistons, and they contact the wheel an average distance 12 cm from the axis. If the coefficient of kinetic friction between the brake pad and the wheel is 0.60, what oil pressure is needed to stop the wheel in 5.0 s?

**Figure CP14.74**




**75.** ••• **CALC** In addition to the buoyant force, an object moving in a liquid experiences a *linear* drag force $\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = (bv, \text{ direction opposite the motion})$, where $b$ is a constant. For a sphere of radius $R$, the drag constant can be shown to be $b = 6\pi\eta R$, where $\eta$ is the *viscosity* of the liquid. Consider a sphere of radius $R$ and density $\rho$ that is released from rest at the surface of a liquid with density $\rho_f$.

**a.** Find an expression in terms of $R$, $\eta$, $g$, and the densities for the sphere's *terminal speed* $v_{\text{term}}$ as it falls through

the liquid.

**b.** Solve Newton's second law to find an expression for $v_y(t)$, the sphere's vertical velocity as a function of time as it falls. Pay careful attention to signs!

**c.** Water at 20°C has viscosity $\eta = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}$ Pa s. Aluminum has density 2700 kg/m$^3$. If a 3.0-mm-diameter aluminum pellet is dropped into water, what is its terminal speed, and how long does it take to reach 90% of its terminal speed?

# Knowledge Structure Part III: Applications of Newtonian Mechanics



## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part III?

- Newton's laws of motion together with the conservation laws for energy and momentum form what is called **Newtonian mechanics.** Part III has introduced relatively little new physics and instead has focused on applying Newtonian mechanics to new situations.
- Rotational motion is analogous to linear motion.
- With Newton's law of gravity, we can use Newtonian mechanics to understand the motions of satellites and planets.
- Liquids and gases cannot be modeled as particles. Even so, fluids still obey Newtonian laws of statics and motion.

## Laws: What laws of physics govern these applications?

**Newton's second law for rotation**

A net torque causes an extended object to have angular acceleration: $\tau_{\text{net}} = I\alpha$

**Conservation of angular momentum**

For an isolated system $(\tau_{\text{net}} = 0)$, the total angular momentum is

conserved: $\Delta \vec{L} = \vec{0}$.

**Newton's law of gravity**

The attractive force between two objects separated by $r$ is $F_{m \text{ on } M} = F_{M \text{ on } m} = \frac{GMm}{r^2}$.

**Bernoulli's equation**

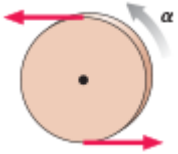
For two points along a streamline of a flowing fluid, $p_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho v_1^2 + \rho g y_1 = p_2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho v_2^2 + \rho g y_2$.

# Models: What are the most important models of Part III?

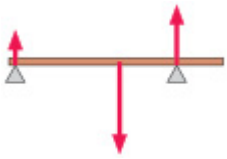
## Rotation models

- A **rigid body** is an extended object whose size and shape do not change.
  - Particle-like atoms held together by bonds that are massless, rigid rods.

- A rigid body that experiences a **constant torque** undergoes constant angular acceleration.
  - Obeys Newton's second law for rotation.

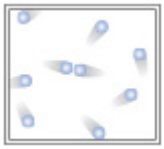


- An extended object is in **static equilibrium** if and only if there are no net force *and* no net torque.

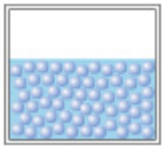


## Fluid models

- A **gas** fills its container.
  - Molecules move freely.
  - Molecules are far apart.
  - A gas is compressible.



- A **liquid** has a well-defined surface.
  - Molecules are loosely bound.
  - Molecules are close together.
  - A liquid is incompressible.



- An **ideal fluid** obeys Bernoulli's equation.
  - Incompressible
  - Nonviscous
  - Smooth, laminar flow

# Tools: What are the most important tools introduced in Part III?

## Rotation

- Rotational/linear analogs:

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Moment of inertia $I$ | Mass $m$ |
  | Torque $\tau$ | Force $F$ |
  | Angular acceleration $\alpha$ | Acceleration $a$ |
  | Angular momentum $\vec{L}$ | Momentum $\vec{p}$ |

- Rotational kinetic energy: $K = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$
- **Torque**: $\tau = rF \sin \phi = rF_{||} = dF$
  - $d$ is the moment arm or lever arm.
  - Vector torque is $\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}$.
- **Angular momentum**: $\vec{L} = I \vec{\omega}$
- Rolling motion:
  - Rolling without slipping: $v_{\text{cm}} = R\omega$
  - $K = K_{\text{cm}} + K_{\text{rot}}$

## Gravity

- Newton's theory of gravity predicts Kepler's three observational laws. We can summarize them as:
  - Planets and satellites move in elliptical orbits.
  - Angular momentum is conserved.
  - For circular orbits, the square of the period is proportional to the cube of the orbit's radius.
- Gravitational potential energy:

$$U_{\text{G}} = -\frac{GMm}{r}$$

    - The potential energy is negative with a zero at infinity
    - **Escape speed** is the minimum speed needed to reach infinity.

## Fluids

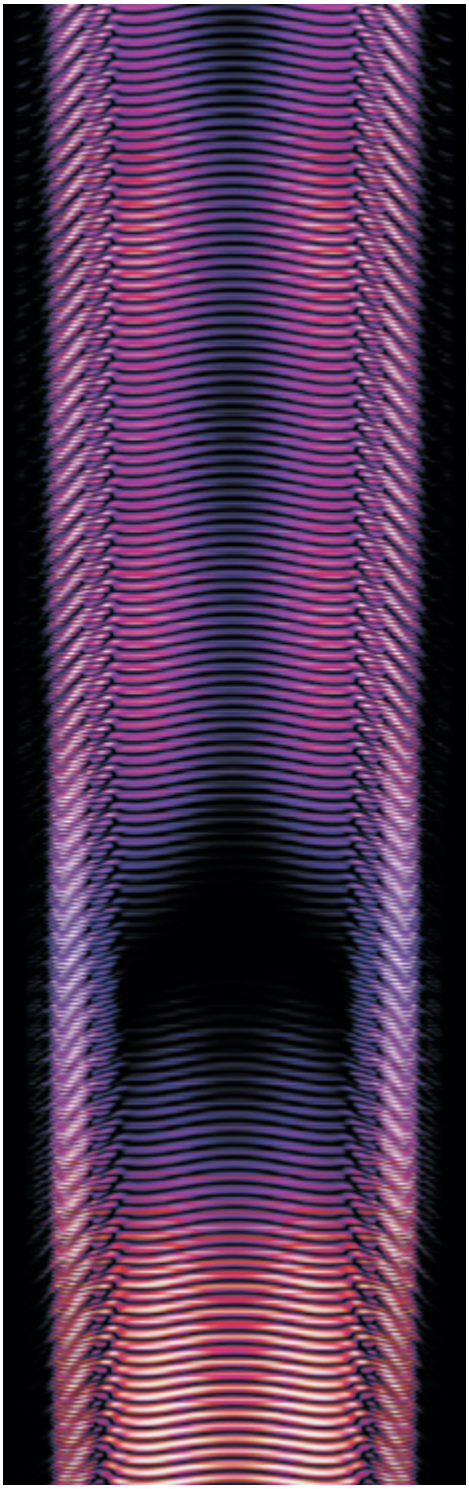
- **Pressure** $p = F/A$ exists at all points in a fluid.
    - Gas pressure is primarily thermal.
    - Liquid pressure is primarily gravitational.
    - Hydrostatic pressure at depth $d$:

$$p = p_0 + \rho g d$$

- **Archimedes' principle** says that the upward buoyant force equals the weight of the displaced liquid.
    - An object floats if its average density is less than the fluid density.
- **Equation of continuity**: $v_1 A_1 = v_2 A_2$
    - Relates two points on a streamline.
    - $v$ is the flow speed.
    - $A$ is the cross-section area.

# Part IV: Oscillations and Waves





The song of a humpback whale can travel hundreds of kilometers underwater. This graph uses a procedure called wavelet analysis to study the frequency structure of a humpback whale song.

# Overview

## The Wave Model

Parts I, II and III of this text have been primarily about the physics of particles. You've seen that systems ranging from balls and rockets to planets can be thought of as particles or as systems of particles. A *particle* is one of the two fundamental models of classical physics. The other, to which we now turn our attention, is a *wave*.

Waves are ubiquitous in nature. Familiar examples include

- Undulating ripples on a pond.
- The swaying ground of an earthquake.
- A vibrating guitar string.
- The sweet sound of a flute.
- The colors of the rainbow.

The physics of oscillations and waves is the subject of Part IV. The most basic oscillation, called *simple harmonic motion*, is still the motion of a particle. But oscillators are the sources of waves, and the mathematical description of oscillation will carry over to the mathematical description of waves.

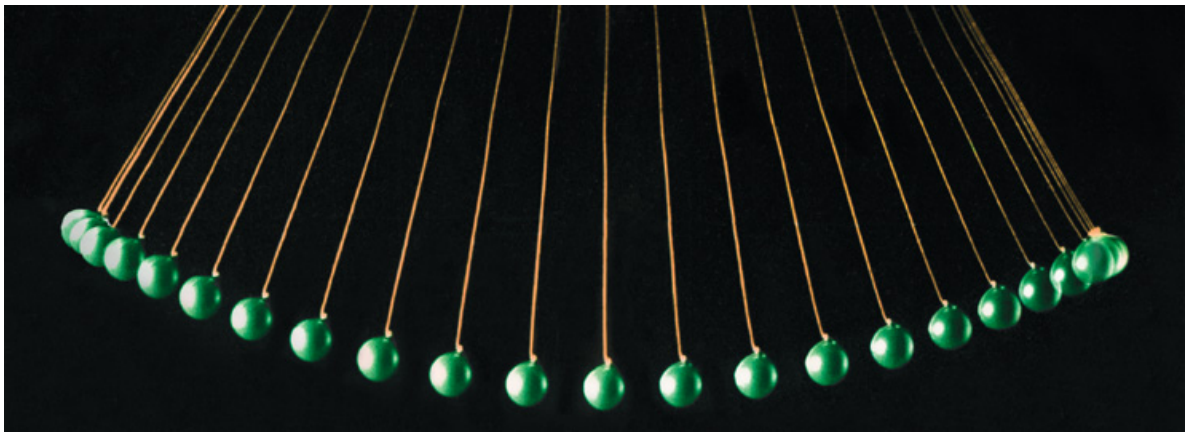
A wave, in contrast with a particle, is diffuse, spread out, not to be found at a single point in space. We will start with waves traveling outward through some medium, like the spreading ripples after a pebble hits a pool of water. These are called *traveling waves*. An investigation of what happens when waves travel through each other will lead us to *standing waves*, which are essential for understanding phenomena ranging from those as common as musical instruments to as complex as lasers and the

electrons in atoms. We'll also study one of the most important defining characteristics of waves—their ability to exhibit *interference*.

Our exploration of wave phenomena will call upon sound waves, light waves, and vibrating strings for examples, but our goal will be to emphasize the unity and coherence that are common to *all* types of waves. Later, in Part VII, we will devote three chapters to light and optics, perhaps the most important application of waves. Although light is an electromagnetic wave, your understanding of those chapters will depend on nothing more than the "waviness" of light. If you wish, you can proceed to those chapters immediately after finishing Part IV. The electromagnetic aspects of light waves will be taken up in Chapter 31.

# Chapter 15
# Oscillations





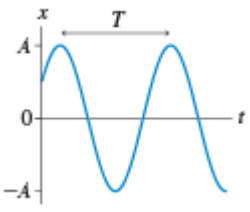
A pendulum swinging back and forth is one of the most common examples of simple harmonic motion.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn about systems that oscillate in simple harmonic motion.

## What are oscillations?

Oscillatory motion is a repetitive motion back and forth around an equilibrium position. We'll describe oscillations in terms of their amplitude, period, and frequency. The most important oscillation is simple harmonic motion (SHM), where the position and velocity graphs are sinusoidal.

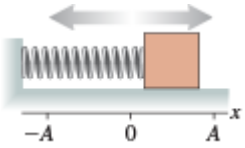


## What things undergo SHM?

The prototype of SHM is a mass oscillating on a spring. Lessons learned from this system apply to all SHM.

- A pendulum is a classic example of SHM.
- Any system with a linear restoring force undergoes SHM.

Looking Back Section 9.4 Restoring forces

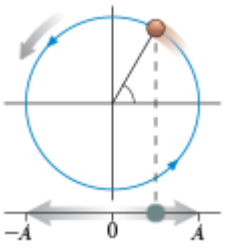



## How is SHM related to circular motion?

The projection of uniform circular motion onto a line oscillates back and forth in SHM.

- This link to circular motion will help us develop the mathematics of SHM.
- A phase constant, based on the angle on a circle, will describe the initial conditions.

Looking Back Section 4.4 Circular motion

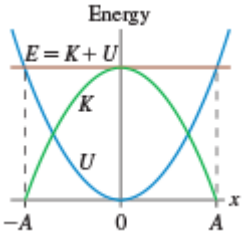



## Is energy conserved in SHM?

If there is no friction or other dissipative force, the mechanical energy of an oscillating system is conserved. Energy is

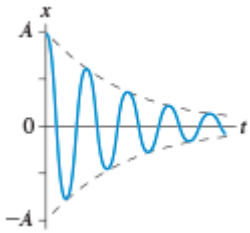
transformed back and forth between kinetic and potential energy. Energy conservation is an important problem-solving strategy.

Looking Back Sections 10.3, 10.4, and 10.5 Elastic potential energy and energy diagrams




## What if there's friction?

If there's dissipation, the system "runs down." This is called a damped oscillation. The oscillation amplitude undergoes exponential decay. But the amplitude can grow very large when an oscillatory system is *driven* at its natural frequency. This is called resonance.




## Why is SHM important?

Simple harmonic motion is one of the most common and important motions in science and engineering.

- Oscillations and vibrations occur in mechanical, electrical, chemical, and atomic systems. Understanding how a system might oscillate is an important part of engineering design.

- More complex oscillations can be understood in terms of SHM.
- Oscillations are the sources of waves, which we'll study in the next two chapters.

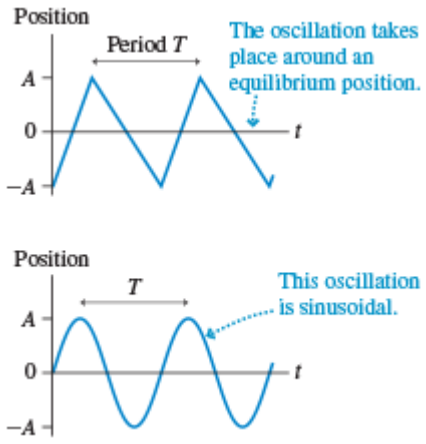
# 15.1 Simple Harmonic Motion

One of the most common and important types of motion is **oscillatory motion**—a repetitive motion back and forth around an equilibrium position. Swinging chandeliers, vibrating guitar strings, the electrons in cell phone circuits, and even atoms in solids are all undergoing oscillatory motion. In addition, oscillations are the sources of *waves*, our subject in the following two chapters. Oscillations play a major role in all fields of science and engineering.

Figure 15.1 shows position-versus-time graphs for two different oscillating systems. The shape of the graph depends on the details of the oscillator, but all oscillators have two things in common:

1. The oscillations take place around an equilibrium position.
2. The motion is *periodic*, repeating at regular intervals of time.

**Figure 15.1**




Examples of oscillatory motion.

The time to complete one full cycle, or one oscillation, is called the **period** of the oscillation. Period is represented by the symbol $T$.

A system can oscillate in many ways, but the most fundamental oscillation is the smooth *sinusoidal* oscillation (i.e., like a sine or cosine) of Figure 15.1. This sinusoidal oscillation is called **simple harmonic motion,** abbreviated SHM. You'll learn in more advanced courses that *any* oscillation can be represented as a sum of sinusoidal oscillations, so SHM is the basis for understanding all oscillatory motion.

The prototype of simple harmonic motion is a mass oscillating on a spring. Figure 15.2 shows an air-track glider attached to a spring. If the glider is pulled out a few centimeters and released, it oscillates back and forth. The graph shows an actual air-track measurement in which the glider's position was recorded 20 times per second. This is a position-versus-time graph that has been rotated 90° from its usual orientation to match the motion of the glider. You can see that it's a sinusoidal oscillation—simple harmonic motion.

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**Figure 15.2**

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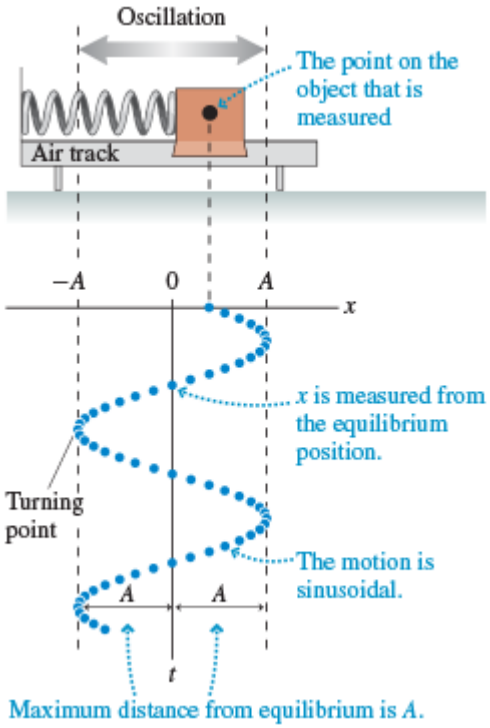



A prototype simple-harmonic-motion experiment.

As Figures 15.1 and 15.2 show, an oscillator moves back and forth between $x = -A$ and $x = +A$, where $A$, the **amplitude** of the motion, is the maximum displacement from equilibrium. Notice that the amplitude is the distance from the *axis* to a maximum or minimum, *not* the distance from the minimum to the maximum.

Period and amplitude are two important characteristics of oscillatory motion. A third is the **frequency,** $f$, which is the number of cycles or oscillations completed per second. If one cycle takes $T$ seconds, the oscillator can complete $1/T$ cycles each second. That is, period and frequency are inverses of each other:

**(15.1)**

$$f = \frac{1}{T} \quad \text{or} \quad T = \frac{1}{f}$$

The units of frequency are **hertz,** abbreviated Hz, named in honor of the German physicist Heinrich Hertz, who produced the first artificially generated radio waves in 1887. By definition,

$$1\ \text{Hz} \ \equiv\ 1\ \text{cycle per second} = 1\ \text{s}^{-1}$$

We will often deal with very rapid oscillations and make use of the units shown in Table 15.1. For example, electrons oscillating back and forth at 101 MHz in an FM radio circuit have an oscillation period $T = 1/(101 \times 10^6\ \text{Hz}) = 9.9 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{s} = 9.9\,\text{ns}$.

**Table 15.1**

| Frequency | Period |
|---|---|
| $10^3$ Hz = 1 kilohertz = 1 kHz | 1 ms |
| $10^6$ Hz = 1 megahertz = 1 MHz | 1 $\mu$s |
| $10^9$ Hz = 1 gigahertz = 1 GHz | 1 ns |

Units of frequency



> **Note**
>
> Uppercase and lowercase letters *are* important. 1 MHz is $1\,\text{megahertz} = 10^6$ Hz, but 1 mHz is $1\,\text{millihertz} = 10^{-3}$ Hz!

## Kinematics of Simple Harmonic Motion

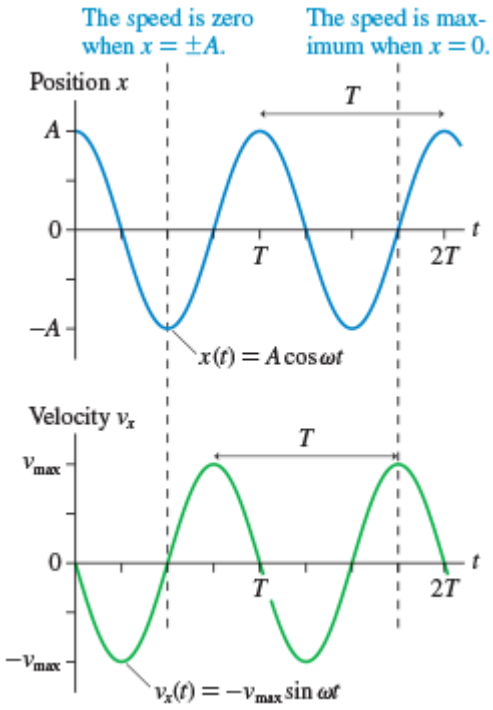
We'll start by *describing* simple harmonic motion mathematically—that is, with kinematics. Then in Section 15.4 we'll take up the dynamics of how forces *cause* simple harmonic motion.

Figure 15.3 shows a SHM position graph—such as the one generated by the air-track glider—in its "normal" position. For the moment we'll assume that the oscillator starts at maximum displacement

$(x = +A)$ at $t = 0$. Also shown is the oscillator's velocity-versus-time graph, which we can deduce from the slope of the position graph.

- The instantaneous velocity is zero at the instants when $x = \pm A$ because the slope of the position graph is zero. These are the *turning points* in the motion.
- The position graph has maximum slope when $x = 0$, so these are points of maximum speed. When $x = 0$ with a positive slope—maximum speed to the right—the instantaneous velocity is $v_x = +v_{\text{max},}$ where $v_{\text{max}}$ is the amplitude of the velocity curve. Similarly, $v_x = -v_{\text{max}}$ when $x = 0$ with a negative slope—maximum speed to the left.

## Figure 15.3




Position and velocity graphs for simple harmonic motion.

Although these are empirical observations (we don't yet have any "theory" of oscillation), we can see that the position graph, with a

maximum at $t = 0$, is a cosine function with amplitude $A$ and period $T$. We can write this as

**(15.2)**

$$x(t) = A\cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right)$$

where the notation $x(t)$ indicates that $x$ is a *function* of time $t$.

> **Note**
>
> The arguments of sine and cosine functions are in *radians*. This will be true throughout our study of oscillations and waves. Be sure to set your calculator to radian mode before doing calculations.

Because $\cos(0\,\text{rad}) = \cos(2\pi\,\text{rad}) = 1$, we can see that $x = A$ at $t = 0$ and again at $t = T$. In other words, this is a cosine function with amplitude $A$ and period $T$. Notice that $x$ passes through zero at $t = \frac{1}{4}T$ and $t = \frac{3}{4}T$ because $\cos\left(\frac{1}{2}\pi\right) = \cos\left(\frac{3}{2}\pi\right) = 0$.

We can write Equation 15.2 in two alternative forms. First, because the oscillation frequency is $f = 1/T$, we can write

**(15.3)**

$$x(t) = A\cos(2\pi f t)$$

Second, recall from Chapter 4 that a particle in circular motion has *angular velocity* $\omega$ that is related to the period by $\omega = 2\pi/T$, where $\omega$ is in rad/s. For oscillations and waves, $\omega$ is called the **angular frequency**. We can write the position in terms of $\omega$ as

(15.4)

$$x(t) = A\cos(\omega t)$$

Most of our work with oscillations and waves will be in terms of the angular frequency.

Now that we've defined $f = 1/T$, we see that $\omega$, $f$, and $T$ are related by

(15.5)

$$\omega(\text{in rad/s}) = \frac{2\pi}{T} = 2\pi f(\text{in Hz})$$

Be careful! Both $f$ and $\omega$ are frequencies, but they're not the same and they're not interchangeable. Frequency $f$ is the true frequency, in cycles per second, and it's always measured in Hz. Angular frequency $\omega$ is useful because it's related to the angle of the cosine function and, as you'll learn in the next section, to a circular-motion analog of SHM, but it's always in rad/s.

Just as the position graph is a cosine function, you can see that the velocity graph in Figure 15.3 is an "upside-down" sine function with the same period. We can write the velocity function as

(15.6)

$$v_x(t) = -v_{\max}\sin\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right)$$

where the minus sign inverts the graph. This function is zero at $t = 0$ and again at $t = T$.

> **Note**
>
> $v_{\max}$ is the maximum *speed* and thus is a *positive* number.

We deduced Equation 15.6 from the experimental results, but we could equally well find it from the position function of Equation 15.2. After all, velocity is the time derivative of position. Table 15.2 reminds you of the derivatives of the sine and cosine functions. Using the derivative of the position function, we find

**(15.7)**

$$v_x(t) = \frac{dx}{dt} = -\frac{2\pi A}{T}\sin\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right) = -2\pi f A \sin(2\pi f t) = -\omega A \sin \omega t$$

**Table 15.2**

| |
|---|
| $\frac{d}{dt}\left(a\sin(bt+c)\right) = +ab\cos(bt+c)$ |
| $\frac{d}{dt}\left(a\cos(bt+c)\right) = -ab\sin(bt+c)$ |

Derivatives of sine and cosine functions

Comparing Equation 15.7, the mathematical definition of velocity, to Equation 15.6, the empirical description, we see that the maximum speed of an oscillation is

**(15.8)**

$$v_{\max} = \frac{2\pi A}{T} = 2\pi f A = \omega A$$

Not surprisingly, the object has a greater maximum speed if you stretch the spring farther and give the oscillation a larger amplitude.

**Example 15.1 A system in simple harmonic motion**

An air-track glider is attached to a spring, pulled 20.0 cm to the right, and released at $t = 0$ s. It makes 15 oscillations in 10.0 s.

**a.** What is the period of oscillation?

**b.** What is the object's maximum speed?

**c.** What are the position and velocity at $t = 0.800$ s?

**MODEL** An object oscillating on a spring is in SHM.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The oscillation frequency is

$$f = \frac{15 \text{ oscillations}}{10.0 \text{ s}} = 1.50 \text{ oscillations/s} = 1.50 \text{ Hz}$$

Thus the period is $T = 1/f = 0.667\,\text{s}$.

**b.** The oscillation amplitude is $A = 0.200\,\text{m}$. Thus

$$v_{\max} = \frac{2\pi A}{T} = \frac{2\pi(0.200 \text{ m})}{0.667 \text{ s}} = 1.88\,\text{m/s}$$

**c.** The object starts at $x = +A$ at $t = 0\,\text{s}$. This is exactly the oscillation described by Equations 15.2 and 15.6. The position at $t = 0.800\,\text{s}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} x &= A\cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right) = (0.200 \text{ m})\cos\left(\frac{2\pi(0.800\,\text{s})}{0.667\,\text{s}}\right) \\ &= (0.200 \text{ m})\cos(7.54\,\text{rad}) = 0.0625 \text{ m} = 6.25 \text{ cm} \end{aligned}$$

The velocity at this instant of time is

$$v_x = -v_{\max} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right) = -(1.88\,\text{m/s}) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi(0.800\,\text{s})}{0.667\,\text{s}}\right)$$
$$= -(1.88\,\text{m/s}) \sin(7.54\,\text{rad}) = -1.79\,\text{m/s} = -179\,\text{cm/s}$$

At $t = 0.800\,\text{s}$, which is slightly more than one period, the object is 6.25 cm to the right of equilibrium and moving to the *left* at 179 cm/s. Notice the use of radians in the calculations.

**Example 15.2 Finding the time**

A mass oscillating in simple harmonic motion starts at $x = A$ and has period $T$. At what time, as a fraction of $T$, does the object first pass through $x = \frac{1}{2}A$?

**SOLVE** Figure 15.3 showed that the object passes through the equilibrium position $x = 0$ at $t = \frac{1}{4}T$. This is one-quarter of the total distance in one-quarter of a period. You might expect it to take $\frac{1}{8}T$ to reach $\frac{1}{2}A$, but this is not the case because the SHM graph is not linear between $x = A$ and $x = 0$. We need to use $x(t) = A\cos(2\pi t/T)$. First, we write the equation with $x = \frac{1}{2}A$:

$$x = \frac{A}{2} = A\cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right)$$

Then we solve for the time at which this position is reached:

$$t = \frac{T}{2\pi}\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{T}{2\pi}\frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{1}{6}T$$

**ASSESS** The motion is slow at the beginning and then speeds up, so it takes longer to move from $x = A$ to $x = \frac{1}{2}A$ than it does to move from $x = \frac{1}{2}A$ to $x = 0$ . Notice that the answer is independent of the amplitude $A$.

## Stop to Think 15.1

An object moves with simple harmonic motion. If the amplitude and the period are both doubled, the object's maximum speed is

**a.** Quadrupled.
**b.** Doubled.
**c.** Unchanged.
**d.** Halved.
**e.** Quartered.

# 15.2 SHM and Circular Motion



The graphs of Figure 15.3 and the position function $x(t) = A\cos\omega t$ are for an oscillation in which the object just happened to be at $x_0 = A$ at $t = 0$. But you will recall that $t = 0$ is an arbitrary choice, the instant of time when you or someone else starts a stopwatch. What if you had started the stopwatch when the object was at $x_0 = -A$, or when the object was somewhere in the middle of an oscillation? In other words, what if the oscillator had different *initial conditions?* The position graph would still show an oscillation, but neither Figure 15.3 nor $x(t) = A\cos\omega t$ would describe the motion correctly.

To learn how to describe the oscillation for other initial conditions it will help to turn to a topic you studied in Chapter 4—circular motion. There's a very close connection between simple harmonic motion and circular motion.

Imagine you have a turntable with a small ball glued to the edge. Figure 15.4a shows how to make a "shadow movie" of the ball by projecting a light past the ball and onto a screen. The ball's shadow oscillates back and forth as the turntable rotates. This is certainly periodic motion, with the same period as the turntable, but is it simple harmonic motion?

---

**Figure 15.4**

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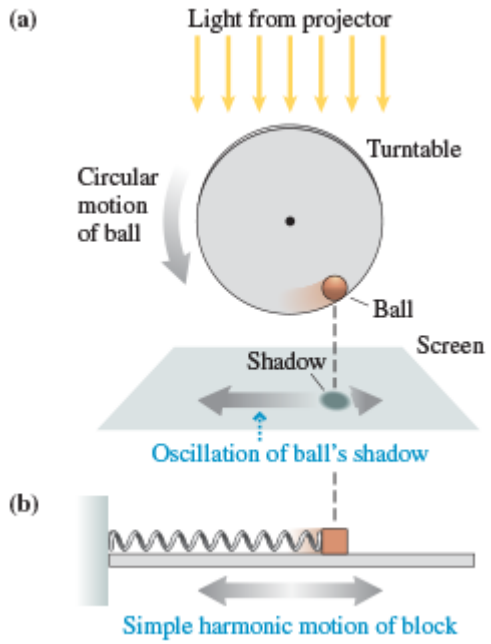



A projection of the circular motion of a rotating ball matches the simple harmonic motion of an object on a spring.

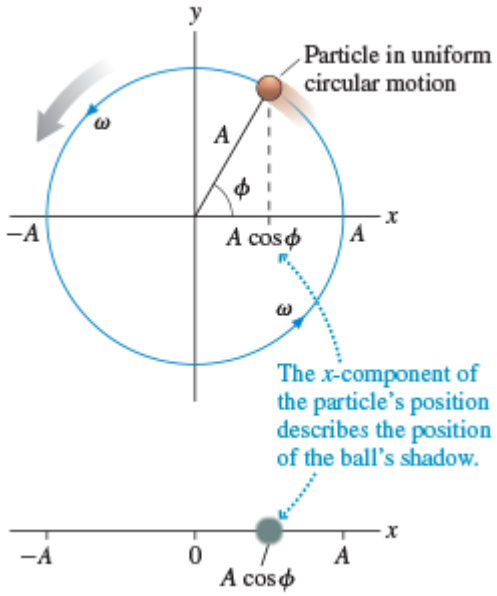
To find out, you could place a real object on a real spring directly below the shadow, as shown in Figure 15.4b. If you did so, and if you adjusted the turntable to have the same period as the spring, you would find that the shadow's motion exactly matches the simple harmonic motion of the object on the spring. **Uniform circular motion projected onto one dimension is simple harmonic motion.**

To understand this, consider the particle in Figure 15.5. It is in uniform circular motion, moving *counterclockwise* in a circle with radius $A$. As in Chapter 4, we can locate the particle by the angle $\phi$ measured counterclockwise (ccw) from the $x$-axis. Projecting the ball's shadow onto a screen in Figure 15.4 is equivalent to observing just the $x$-component of the particle's motion. Figure 15.5 shows that the $x$-component, when the particle is at angle $\phi$, is

**(15.9)**

$$x = A\cos\phi$$

## Figure 15.5




A particle in uniform circular motion with radius $A$ and angular velocity $\omega$.

Recall that the particle's *angular velocity*, in rad/s, is

**(15.10)**

$$\omega = \frac{d\phi}{dt}$$

This is the rate at which the angle $\phi$ is increasing. If the particle starts from $\phi_0 = 0$ at $t = 0$, its angle at a later time $t$ is simply

**(15.11)**

$$\phi = \omega t$$

As $\phi$ increases, the particle's $x$-component is

**(15.12)**

$$x(t) = A\cos\omega t$$

This is identical to Equation 15.4 for the position of a mass on a spring! Thus the $x$-component of a particle in uniform circular motion is simple harmonic motion.

> **Note**
>
> When used to describe oscillatory motion, $\omega$ is called the *angular frequency* rather than the angular velocity. The angular frequency of an oscillator has the same numerical value, in rad/s, as the angular velocity of the corresponding particle in circular motion.

The names and units can be a bit confusing until you get used to them. It may help to notice that *cycle* and *oscillation* are not true units. Unlike the "standard meter" or the "standard kilogram," to which you could compare a length or a mass, there is no "standard cycle" to which you can compare an oscillation. Cycles and oscillations are simply counted events. Thus the frequency $f$ has units of hertz, where $1\ \text{Hz} = 1\ \text{s}^{-1}$. We may *say* "cycles per second" just to be clear, but the actual units are only "per second."

The radian is the SI unit of angle. However, the radian is a *defined* unit. Further, its definition as a ratio of two lengths ($\theta = s/r$) makes it a pure number without dimensions. As we noted in Chapter 4, the unit of angle, be it radians or degrees, is really just a *name* to remind us that we're dealing with an angle. The $2\pi$ in the equation $\omega = 2\pi f$ (and in similar situations), which is stated without units, *means* $2\pi$ rad/cycle. When multiplied by the frequency $f$ in cycles/s, it gives the frequency in rad/s. That is why, in this context, $\omega$ is called the angular *frequency*.

> **Note**
>
> *Hertz* is specifically "cycles per second" or "oscillations per

> second." It is used for *f* but *not* for $\omega$. We'll always be careful to use rad/s for $\omega$, but you should be aware that many books give the units of $\omega$ as simply $s^{-1}$.

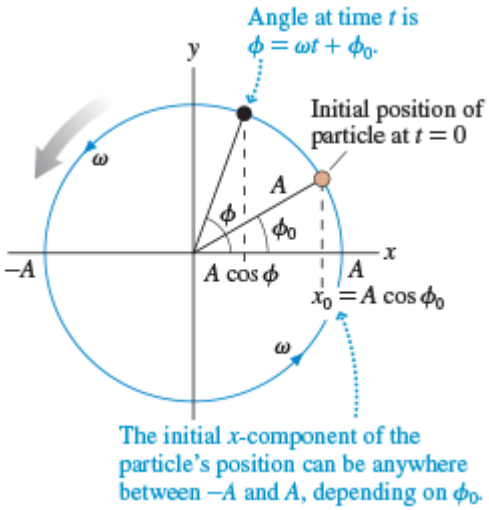
## Initial Conditions: The Phase Constant

Now we're ready to consider the issue of other initial conditions. The particle in Figure 15.5 started at $\phi_0 = 0$. This was equivalent to an oscillator starting at the far right edge, $x_0 = A$. Figure 15.6 shows a more general situation in which the initial angle $\phi_0$ can have any value. The angle at a later time $t$ is then

**(15.13)**

$$\phi = \omega t + \phi_0$$

**Figure 15.6**




A particle in uniform circular motion with initial angle $\phi_0$.

In this case, the particle's projection onto the $x$-axis at time $t$ is

**(15.14)**

$$x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

If Equation 15.14 describes the particle's projection, then it must also be the position of an oscillator in simple harmonic motion. The oscillator's velocity $v_x$ is found by taking the derivative $dx/dt$. The resulting equations,

---

**(15.15)**

$$x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$
$$v_x(t) = -\omega A\sin(\omega t + \phi_0) = -v_{\max}\sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

are the two primary kinematic equations of simple harmonic motion.

The quantity $\phi = \omega t + \phi_0$, which steadily increases with time, is called the **phase** of the oscillation. The phase is simply the *angle* of the circular-motion particle whose shadow matches the oscillator. The constant $\phi_0$ is called the **phase constant.** It is determined by the *initial conditions* of the oscillator.

To see what the phase constant means, set $t = 0$ in Equations 15.15:

**(15.16)**

$$x_0 = A\cos\phi_0$$
$$v_{0x} = -\omega A\sin\phi_0$$

The position $x_0$ and velocity $v_{0x}$ at $t = 0$ are the initial conditions. **Different values of the phase constant correspond to different starting points on the circle and thus to different initial conditions**.

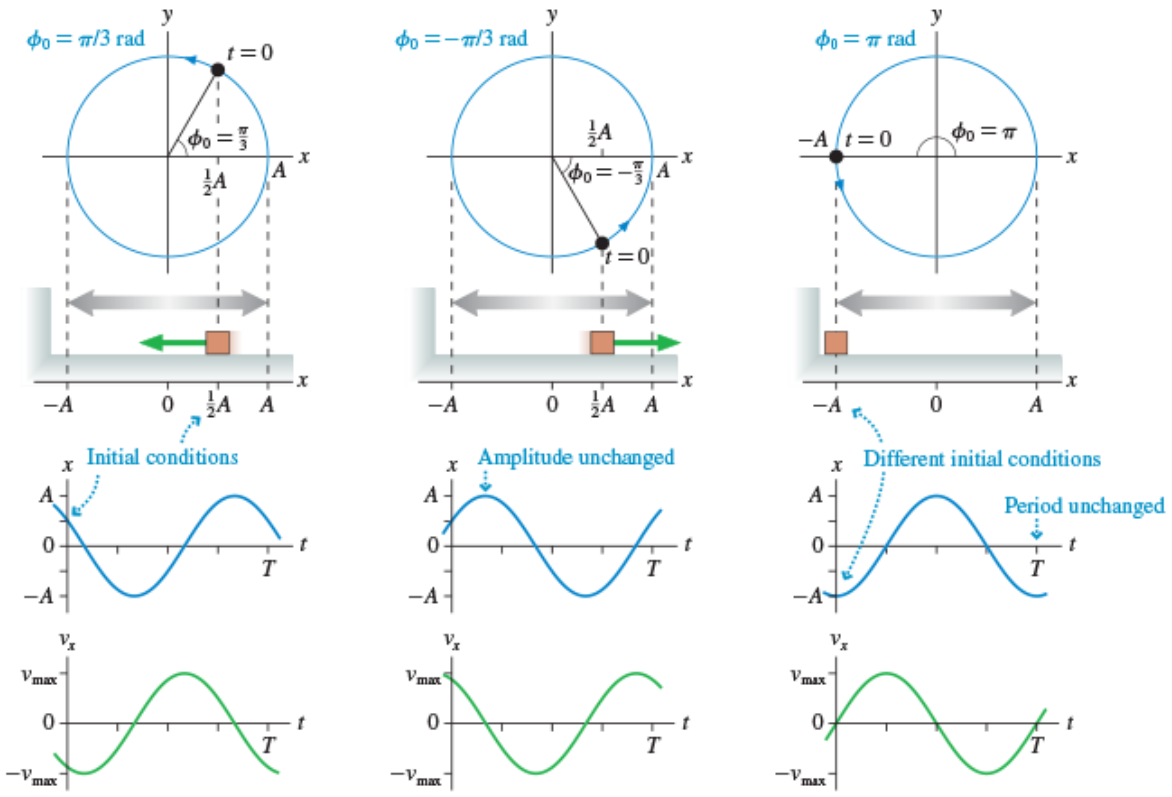
The cosine function of Figure 15.3 and the equation $x(t) = A\cos\omega t$ are for an oscillation with $\phi_0 = 0$ rad. You can see from Equations 15.16

that $\phi_0 = 0$ rad implies $x_0 = A$ and $v_0 = 0$. That is, the particle starts from rest at the point of maximum displacement.

Figure 15.7, on the next page, illustrates these ideas by looking at three values of the phase constant:
$\phi_0 = \pi/3\,\text{rad}\,(60^\circ)$, $-\pi/3\,\text{rad}\,(-60^\circ)$, and $\pi\,\text{rad}\,(180^\circ)$. Notice that $\phi_0 = \pi/3$ rad and $\phi_0 = -\pi/3$ rad have the same starting position, $x_0 = \frac{1}{2}A$. This is a property of the cosine function in Equation 15.16. But these are *not* the same initial conditions. In one case the oscillator starts at $\frac{1}{2}A$ while moving to the left, in the other case it starts at $\frac{1}{2}A$ while moving to the right. You can distinguish between the two by visualizing the motion.



## Figure 15.7




Different initial conditions are described by different values of the phase constant.

All values of the phase constant $\phi_0$ between 0 and $\pi$ rad correspond to a particle in the upper half of the circle and *moving to the left.* Thus $v_{0x}$ is negative. All values of the phase constant $\phi_0$ between $\pi$ and $2\pi$ rad (or, as they are usually stated, between $-\pi$ and 0 rad) have the particle in the lower half of the circle and *moving to the right.* Thus $v_{0x}$ is positive. If you're told that the oscillator is at $x = \frac{1}{2}A$ and moving to the right at $t = 0$, then the phase constant must be $\phi_0 = -\pi/3$ rad, not $+\pi/3$ rad.

**Example 15.3 Using the initial conditions**

An object on a spring oscillates with a period of 0.80 s and an amplitude of 10 cm. At $t = 0$ s, it is 5.0 cm to the left of equilibrium and moving to the left. What are its position and direction of motion at $t = 2.0$ s?

**MODEL** An object oscillating on a spring is in simple harmonic motion.

**SOLVE** We can find the phase constant $\phi_0$ from the initial condition $x_0 = -5.0\text{ cm} = A\cos\phi_0$. This condition gives 

$$\phi_0 = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{x_0}{A}\right) = \cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = \pm\frac{2}{3}\pi\text{ rad} = \pm 120^\circ$$

Because the oscillator is moving to the *left* at $t = 0$, it is in the upper half of the circular-motion diagram and must have a phase constant between 0 and $\pi$ rad. Thus $\phi_0$ is $\frac{2}{3}\pi$ rad. The angular frequency is

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T} = \frac{2\pi}{0.80\text{ s}} = 7.85\,\text{rad/s}$$

Thus the object's position at time $t = 2.0$ s is

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) \\ &= (10\,\text{cm})\cos\left((7.85\,\text{rad/s})(2.0\,\text{s}) + \frac{2}{3}\pi\right) \\ &= (10\,\text{cm})\cos(17.8\,\text{rad}) = 5.0\,\text{cm} \end{aligned}$$

The object is now 5.0 cm to the right of equilibrium. But which way is it moving? There are two ways to find out. The direct way is to calculate the velocity at $t = 2.0$ s:

$$v_x = -\omega A\sin(\omega t + \phi_0) = +68\ \text{cm/s}$$

The velocity is positive, so the motion is to the right. Alternatively, we could note that the phase at $t = 2.0\,\text{s}$ is $\phi = 17.8\,\text{rad}$. Dividing by $\pi$, you can see that

$$\phi = 17.8\ \text{rad} = 5.67\pi\ \text{rad} = (4\pi + 1.67\pi)\ \text{rad}$$

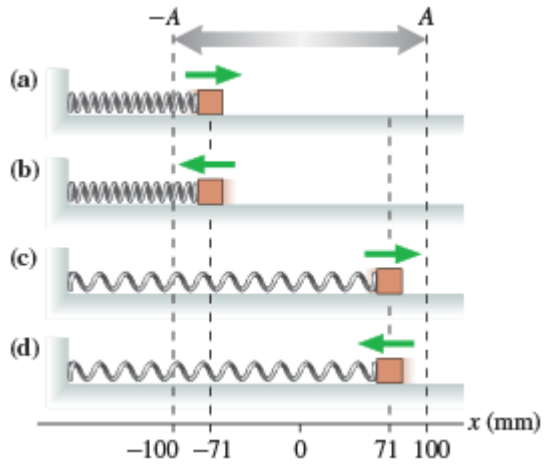
The $4\pi$ rad represents two complete revolutions. The "extra" phase of $1.67\pi$ rad falls between $\pi$ and $2\pi$ rad, so the particle in the circular-motion diagram is in the lower half of the circle and moving to the right.

**Note**

The inverse-cosine function $\cos^{-1}$ is a *two-valued* function. Your calculator returns a single value, an angle between 0 rad and $\pi$ rad. But the negative of this angle is also a solution. As Example 15.3 demonstrates, you must use additional information to choose between them.

## Stop to Think 15.2

The figure shows four oscillators at $t = 0$. Which one has the phase constant $\phi_0 = \pi/4\,\text{rad}$?



# 15.3 Energy in SHM

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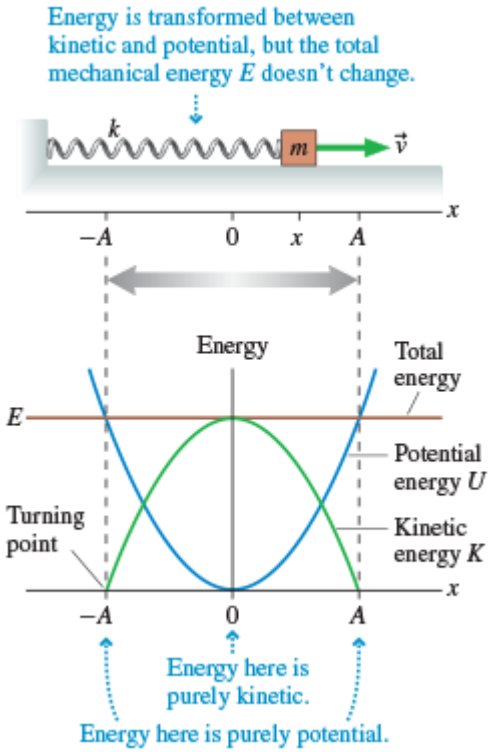
We've begun to develop the mathematical language of simple harmonic motion, but thus far we haven't included any physics. We've made no mention of the mass of the object or the spring constant of the spring. An energy analysis, using the tools of Chapter 10, is a good starting place.

Figure 15.8 shows an object oscillating on a spring, our prototype of simple harmonic motion. Now we'll specify that the object has mass $m$, the spring has spring constant $k$, and the motion takes place on a frictionless surface. You learned in Chapter 10 that the elastic potential energy when the object is at position $x$ is $U_{\text{Sp}} = \frac{1}{2}k(\Delta x)^2$, where $\Delta x = x - x_{\text{eq}}$ is the displacement from the equilibrium position $x_{\text{eq}}$. In this chapter we'll always use a coordinate system in which $x_{\text{eq}} = 0$, making $\Delta x = x$. There's no chance for confusion with gravitational potential energy, so we can omit the subscript Sp and write the elastic potential energy as

**(15.17)**

$$U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

**Figure 15.8**




Energy transformations during SHM.

Thus the mechanical energy of an object oscillating on a spring is

**(15.18)**

$$E = K + U = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

The lower portion of Figure 15.8 is an energy diagram, showing the parabolic potential-energy curve $U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$ and the kinetic energy $K = E - U$. Recall that a particle oscillates between the *turning points* where the total energy line $E$ crosses the potential-energy curve. The left turning point is at $x = -A$, and the right turning point is at $x = +A$. To go beyond these points would require a negative kinetic energy, which is physically impossible.

You can see that **the particle has purely potential energy at $x = \pm A$ and purely kinetic energy as it passes through the equilibrium point at $x = 0$.** At maximum displacement, with $x = \pm A$ and $v = 0$, the energy is

**(15.19)**

$$E(\text{at } x = \pm A) = U = \frac{1}{2}kA^2$$

At $x = 0$, where $v = \pm v_{\text{max}}$, the energy is

**(15.20)**

$$E(\text{at } x = 0) = K = \frac{1}{2}m(v_{\text{max}})^2$$

The system's mechanical energy is conserved because the surface is frictionless and there are no external forces, so the energy at maximum displacement and the energy at maximum speed, Equations 15.19 and 15.20, must be equal. That is

**(15.21)**

$$\frac{1}{2}m(v_{\text{max}})^2 = \frac{1}{2}kA^2$$

Thus the maximum speed is related to the amplitude by

**(15.22)**

$$v_{\text{max}} = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}A$$

This is a relationship based on the physics of the situation.

Earlier, using kinematics, we found that

**(15.23)**

$$v_{\text{max}} = \frac{2\pi A}{T} = 2\pi f A = \omega A$$

Comparing Equations 15.22 and 15.23, we see that frequency and period of an oscillating spring are determined by the spring constant $k$ and the object's mass $m$:

---

**(15.24)**

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \quad f = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \quad T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

These three expressions are really only one equation. They say the same thing, but each expresses it in slightly different terms.

Equations 15.24 tell us that the period and frequency are related to the object's mass $m$ and the spring constant $k$. It is perhaps surprising, but **the period and frequency do not depend on the amplitude $A$**. A small oscillation and a large oscillation have the same period.

## Conservation of Energy

Because energy is conserved, we can combine Equations 15.18, 15.19, and 15.20 to write

---

**(15.25)**

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2 = \frac{1}{2}kA^2 = \frac{1}{2}m(v_{\text{max}})^2 \quad \text{(conservation of energy)}$$

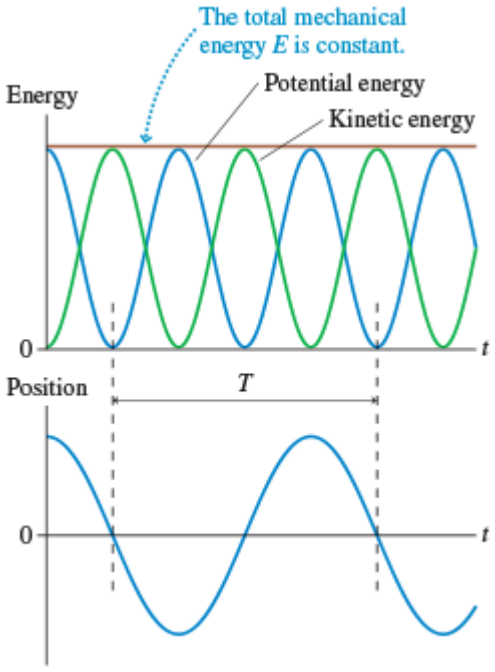
Any pair of these expressions may be useful, depending on the known information. For example, you can use the amplitude $A$ to find the speed at any point $x$ by combining the first and second expressions for $E$. The speed $v$ at position $x$ is

**(15.26)**

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}(A^2 - x^2)} = \omega\sqrt{A^2 - x^2}$$

Figure 15.9 shows graphically how the kinetic and potential energy change with time. They both oscillate but remain *positive* because $x$ and $v$ are squared. Energy is continuously being transformed back and forth between the kinetic energy of the moving block and the stored potential energy of the spring, but their sum remains constant. Notice that $K$ and $U$ both oscillate *twice* each period; make sure you understand why.

## Figure 15.9




Kinetic energy, potential energy, and the total mechanical energy for simple harmonic motion.

### Example 15.4 Using conservation of energy

A 500 g block on a spring is pulled a distance of 20 cm and released. The subsequent oscillations are measured to have a period of 0.80 s.

**a.** At what position or positions is the block's speed 1.0 m/s?

**b.** What is the spring constant?

---

**MODEL** The motion is SHM. Energy is conserved.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The block starts from the point of maximum displacement, where $E = U = \frac{1}{2}kA^2$. At a later time, when the position is $x$ and the speed is $v$, energy conservation requires

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2 = \frac{1}{2}kA^2 \tag{399}$$

Solving for $x$, we find

$$x = \sqrt{A^2 - \frac{mv^2}{k}} = \sqrt{A^2 - \left(\frac{v}{\omega}\right)^2}$$

where we used $k/m = \omega^2$ from Equation 15.24. The angular frequency is easily found from the period: $\omega = 2\pi/T = 7.85\,\text{rad/s}$. Thus

$$x = \sqrt{(0.20\text{ m})^2 - \left(\frac{1.0\text{ m/s}}{7.85\text{ rad/s}}\right)^2} = \pm 0.15\text{ m} = \pm 15\text{ cm}$$

There are two positions because the block has this speed on either side of equilibrium.

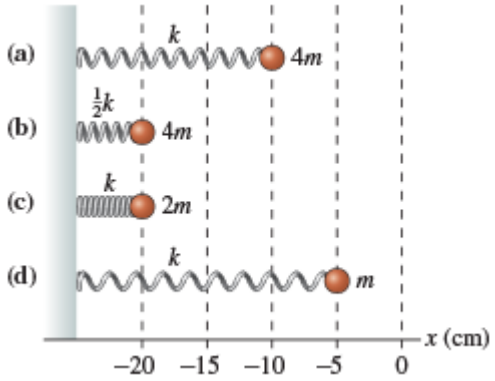
**b.** Although part a did not require that we know the spring constant, it is straightforward to find from Equation 15.24:

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

$$k = \frac{4\pi^2 m}{T^2} = \frac{4\pi^2(0.50\text{ kg})}{(0.80\text{ s})^2} = 31\text{ N/m}$$

## Stop to Think 15.3

The four springs shown here have been compressed from their equilibrium position at $x = 0$ cm. When released, the attached mass will start to oscillate. Rank in order, from highest to lowest, the maximum speeds of the masses.

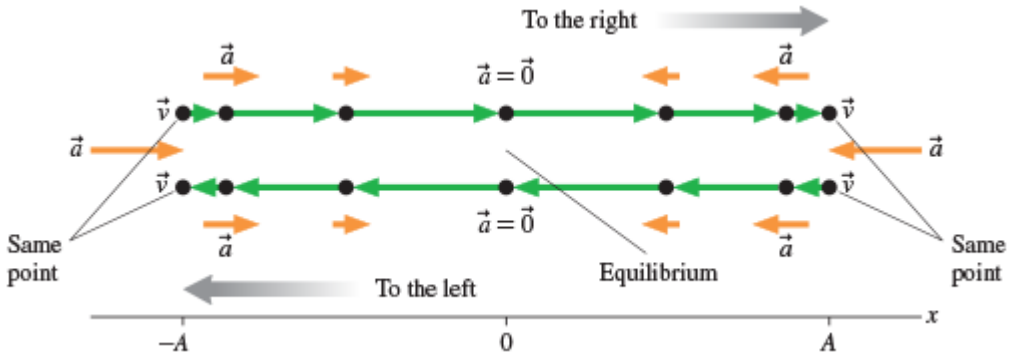


# 15.4 The Dynamics of SHM

Our analysis thus far has been based on the experimental observation that the oscillation of a spring "looks" sinusoidal. It's time to look at force and acceleration and to see that Newton's second law *predicts* sinusoidal motion.

A motion diagram will help us visualize the object's acceleration. Figure 15.10 shows one cycle of the motion, separating motion to the left and motion to the right to make the diagram clear. As you can see, the object's velocity is large as it passes through the equilibrium point at $x = 0$, but $\vec{v}$ is *not changing* at that point. Acceleration measures the *change* of the velocity; hence $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ at $x = 0$.

**Figure 15.10**




Motion diagram of simple harmonic motion. The left and right motions are separated vertically for clarity but really occur along the same line.

In contrast, the velocity is changing rapidly at the turning points. At the right turning point, $\vec{v}$ changes from a right-pointing vector to a left-pointing vector. Thus the acceleration $\vec{a}$ at the right turning point is large and *to the left*. In one-dimensional motion, the acceleration

component $a_x$ has a large *negative* value at the right turning point. Similarly, the acceleration $\vec{a}$ at the left turning point is large and *to the right*. Consequently, $a_x$ has a large positive value at the left turning point.

Our motion-diagram analysis suggests that the acceleration $a_x$ is most positive when the displacement is most negative, most negative when the displacement is a maximum, and zero when $x = 0$. This is confirmed by taking the derivative of the velocity:

**(15.27)**

$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(-\omega A \sin \omega t) = -\omega^2 A \cos \omega t$$

then graphing it.

Figure 15.11 shows the position graph that we started with in Figure 15.3 and the corresponding acceleration graph. Comparing the two, you can see that the acceleration graph looks like an upside-down position graph. In fact, because $x = A \cos \omega t$, Equation 15.27 for the acceleration can be written

**(15.28)**

$$a_x = -\omega^2 x$$

---

**Figure 15.11**

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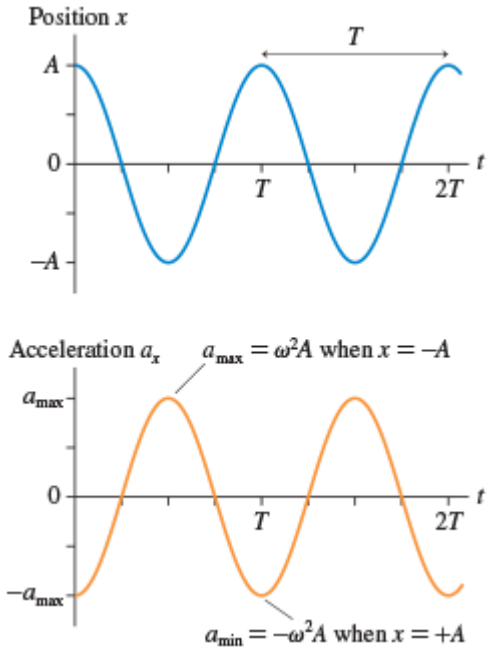
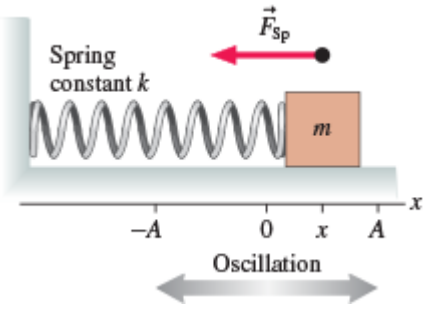



Position and acceleration graphs for an oscillating spring. We've chosen $\phi_0 = 0$.

That is, **the acceleration is proportional to the negative of the displacement.** The acceleration is, indeed, most positive when the displacement is most negative and is most negative when the displacement is most positive.

Recall that the acceleration is related to the net force by Newton's second law. Consider again our prototype mass on a spring, shown in Figure 15.12. This is the simplest possible oscillation, with no distractions due to friction or gravitational forces. We will assume the spring itself to be massless.

## Figure 15.12



The prototype of simple harmonic motion: a mass oscillating on a horizontal spring without friction.

---

You learned in Chapter 9 that the spring force is given by Hooke's law:

**(15.29)**

$$(F_{\text{Sp}})_x = -k\Delta x$$

The minus sign indicates that the spring force is a **restoring force,** a force that always points back toward the equilibrium position. If we place the origin of the coordinate system at the equilibrium position, as we've done throughout this chapter, then $\Delta x = x$ and Hooke's law is simply $(F_{\text{Sp}})_x = -kx$.

The $x$-component of Newton's second law for the object attached to the spring is

**(15.30)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = (F_{\text{Sp}})_x = -kx = ma_x$$

Equation 15.30 is easily rearranged to read

**(15.31)**

$$a_x = -\frac{k}{m}x$$

You can see that Equation 15.31 is identical to Equation 15.28 if the system oscillates with angular frequency $\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$. We previously found this expression for $\omega$ from an energy analysis. Our experimental observation that the acceleration is proportional to the *negative* of the displacement is exactly what Hooke's law would lead us to expect. That's the good news.

The bad news is that $a_x$ is not a constant. As the object's position changes, so does the acceleration. Nearly all of our kinematic tools have been based on constant acceleration. We can't use those tools to analyze oscillations, so we must go back to the very definition of acceleration:

$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt} = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

Acceleration is the second derivative of position with respect to time. If we use this definition in Equation 15.31, it becomes

---

**(15.32)**

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -\frac{k}{m}x \quad \text{(equation of motion for a mass on a spring)}$$

Equation 15.32, which is called the **equation of motion,** is a second-order differential equation. Unlike other equations we've dealt with, Equation 15.32 cannot be solved by direct integration. We'll need to take a different approach.

## Solving the Equation of Motion

The solution to an algebraic equation such as $x^2 = 4$ is a number. The solution to a differential equation is a *function.* The $x$ in Equation 15.32 is really $x(t)$, the position as a function of time. The solution to this equation is a function $x(t)$ whose second derivative is the function itself multiplied by $(-k/m)$.

One important property of differential equations that you will learn about in math is that the solutions are *unique*. That is, there is only *one* solution to Equation 15.32 that satisfies the initial conditions. If we were able to *guess* a solution, the uniqueness property would tell us that we had found the *only* solution. That might seem a rather strange way to solve equations, but in fact differential equations are frequently solved by using your knowledge of what the solution needs to look like to guess an appropriate function. Let us give it a try!

An optical technique called *interferometry* reveals the bell-like vibrations of a wine glass.

---

We know from experimental evidence that the oscillatory motion of a spring appears to be sinusoidal. Let us *guess* that the solution to Equation 15.32 should have the functional form

**(15.33)**

$$x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

where $A$, $\omega$ and $\phi_0$, are unspecified constants that we can adjust to any values that might be necessary to satisfy the differential equation.

If you were to guess that a solution to the algebraic equation $x^2 = 4$ is $x^2 = 2$, you would verify your guess by substituting it into the original

equation to see if it works. We need to do the same thing here: Substitute our guess for *x(t)* into Equation 15.32 to see if, for an appropriate choice of the three constants, it works. To do so, we need the second derivative of *x(t)*. That is straightforward:



**(15.34)**

$$x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -\omega A\sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$$
$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -\omega^2 A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

If we now substitute the first and third of Equations 15.34 into Equation 15.32, we find

**(15.35)**

$$-\omega^2 A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) = -\frac{k}{m}A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

Equation 15.35 will be true at all instants of time if and only if $\omega^2 = k/m$. There do not seem to be any restrictions on the two constants $A$ and $\phi_0$—they are determined by the initial conditions.

So we have found—by guessing!—that *the* solution to the equation of motion for a mass oscillating on a spring is

**(15.36)**

$$x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

where the angular frequency

(15.37)

$$\omega = 2\pi f = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

is determined by the mass and the spring constant.

> **Note**
>
> Once again we see that the oscillation frequency is independent of the amplitude *A*.

Equations 15.36 and 15.37 seem somewhat anticlimactic because we've been using these results for the last several pages. But keep in mind that we had been *assuming* $x = A\cos\omega t$ simply because the experimental observations "looked" like a cosine function. We've now justified that assumption by showing that Equation 15.36 really is the solution to Newton's second law for a mass on a spring. **The *theory* of oscillation, based on Hooke's law for a spring and Newton's second law, is in good agreement with the experimental observations.**

---

**Example 15.5 Analyzing an oscillator**

---

At $t = 0$ s, a 500 g block oscillating on a spring is observed moving to the right at $x = 15$ cm. It reaches a maximum displacement of 25 cm at $t = 0.30$ s.

**a.** Draw a position-versus-time graph for one cycle of the motion.

**b.** What is the maximum force on the block, and what is the first time at which this occurs?

**MODEL** The motion is simple harmonic motion.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The position equation of the block is $x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$. We know that the amplitude is $A = 0.25$ m and that $x_0 = 0.15$ m. From these two pieces of information we obtain the phase constant:

$$\phi_0 = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{x_0}{A}\right) = \cos^{-1}(0.60) = \pm 0.927\,\text{rad}$$

The object is initially moving to the right, which tells us that the phase constant must be between –$\pi$ and 0 rad. Thus $\phi_0 = -0.927$ rad. The block reaches its maximum displacement $x_{\max} = A$ at time $t = 0.30$ s. At that instant of time

$$x_{\max} = A \ = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

This equation can be true only if $\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) = 1$, which requires $\omega t + \phi_0 = 0$. Thus

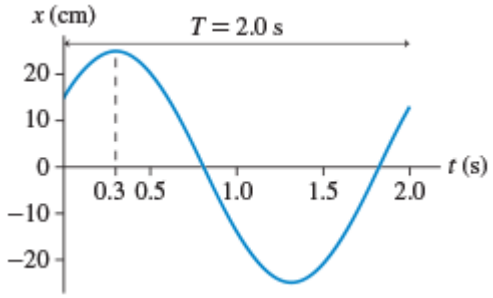
$$\omega = \frac{-\phi_0}{t} = \frac{-(-0.927\,\text{rad})}{0.30\,\text{s}} = 3.09\ \text{rad/s}$$

Now that we know $\omega$, it is straightforward to compute the period:

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = 2.0\,\text{s}$$

Figure 15.13 graphs $x(t) = (25\text{ cm})\cos(3.09t - 0.927)$, where $t$ is in s, from $t = 0$ s to $t = 2.0$ s.

**Figure 15.13**




Position-versus-time graph for the oscillator of Example 15.5.

**b.** We found the acceleration of SHM to be $a_x = -\omega^2 x$, so the force on the block at position $x$ is $F_x = -m\omega^2 x$. The force will be a maximum, $F_{\text{max}} = m\omega^2 A$, when $x$ reaches its minimum displacement $x = -A$. For the block,

$$F_{\text{max}} = (0.50\text{ kg})(3.09\text{ rad/s})^2(0.25\text{ m}) = 1.2\text{ N}$$

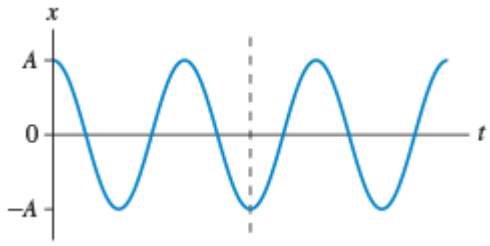
This occurs exactly half a period (1.0 s) after the block reaches its maximum displacement, thus at $t = 1.3$ s.

**ASSESS** A 2 s period is a modest oscillation, so we don't expect the block's acceleration to be extreme. A maximum force of 1.2 N on a 0.5 kg block causes a maximum acceleration of 2.4 m/s², which seems reasonable.

## Stop to Think 15.4

This is the position graph of a mass on a spring. What can you say about the velocity and the force at the instant indicated by the dashed line?

**a.** Velocity positive; force to the right.
**b.** Velocity negative; force to the right.
**c.** Velocity zero; force to the right.
**d.** Velocity positive; force to the left.
**e.** Velocity negative; force to the left.
**f.** Velocity zero; force to the left.
**g.** Velocity and force both zero.

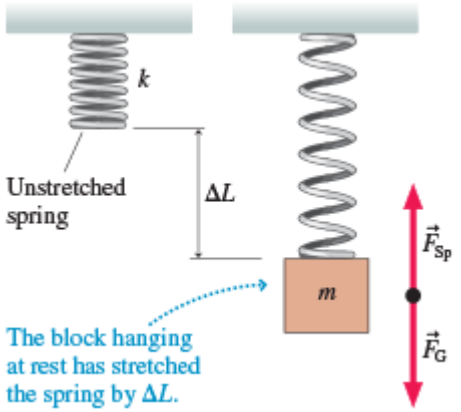


# 15.5 Vertical Oscillations 403

We have focused our analysis on a horizontally oscillating spring. But the typical demonstration you'll see in class is a mass bobbing up and down on a spring hung vertically from a support. Is it safe to assume that a vertical oscillation has the same mathematical description as a horizontal oscillation? Or does the additional force of gravity change the motion? Let us look at this more carefully.

Figure 15.14 shows a block of mass $m$ hanging from a spring of spring constant $k$. An important fact to notice is that the equilibrium position of the block is *not* where the spring is at its unstretched length. At the equilibrium position of the block, where it hangs motionless, the spring has stretched by $\Delta L$.

**Figure 15.14**




Gravity stretches the spring.

Finding $\Delta L$ is an equilibrium problem in which the upward spring force balances the downward gravitational force on the block. The $y$-component of the spring force is given by Hooke's law:

**(15.38)**

$$(F_{\text{Sp}})_y = -k\,\Delta y = +k\,\Delta L$$

Equation 15.38 makes a distinction between $\Delta L$, which is simply a *distance* and is a positive number, and the displacement $\Delta y$. The block is displaced downward, so $\Delta y = -\Delta L$. Newton's first law for the block in equilibrium is

**(15.39)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = (F_{\text{Sp}})_y + (F_{\text{G}})_y = k\,\Delta L - mg = 0$$

from which we can find

**(15.40)**

$$\Delta L = \frac{mg}{k}$$

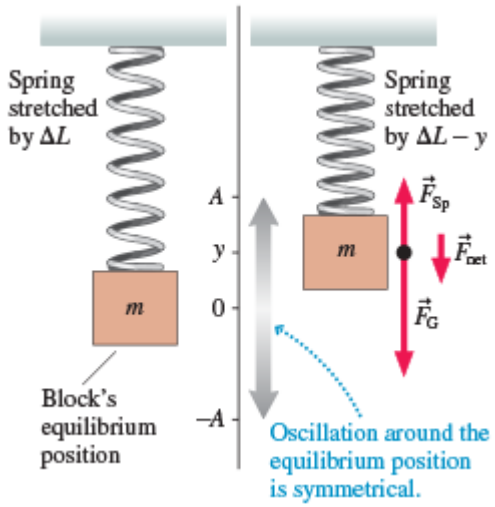
This is the distance the spring stretches when the block is attached to it.

Let the block oscillate around this equilibrium position, as shown in Figure 15.15. We've now placed the origin of the $y$-axis at the block's equilibrium position in order to be consistent with our analyses of oscillations throughout this chapter. If the block moves upward, as the figure shows, the spring gets shorter compared to its equilibrium length, but the spring is still *stretched* compared to its unstretched length in Figure 15.14. When the block is at position $y$, the spring is stretched by an amount $\Delta L - y$ and hence exerts an *upward* spring force $F_{\text{Sp}} = k(\Delta L - y)$. The net force on the block at this point is

**(15.41)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = (F_{\text{Sp}})_y + (F_{\text{G}})_y = k(\Delta L - y) - mg = (k\Delta L - mg) - ky$$

## Figure 15.15




The block oscillates around the equilibrium position.

But $k\,\Delta L - mg$ is zero, from Equation 15.40, so the net force on the block is simply

**(15.42)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_y = -ky$$

Equation 15.42 for vertical oscillations is *exactly* the same as Equation 15.30 for horizontal oscillations, where we found $(F_{\text{net}})_x = -kx$. That is, the restoring force for vertical oscillations is identical to the restoring force for horizontal oscillations. The role of gravity is to determine where the equilibrium position is, but it doesn't affect the oscillatory motion around the equilibrium position.

Because the net force is the same, Newton's second law has exactly the same oscillatory solution:

**(15.43)**

$$y(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

with, again, $\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$. **The vertical oscillations of a mass on a spring are the same simple harmonic motion as those of a block on a horizontal spring.** This is an important finding because it was not obvious that the motion would still be simple harmonic motion when gravity was included.

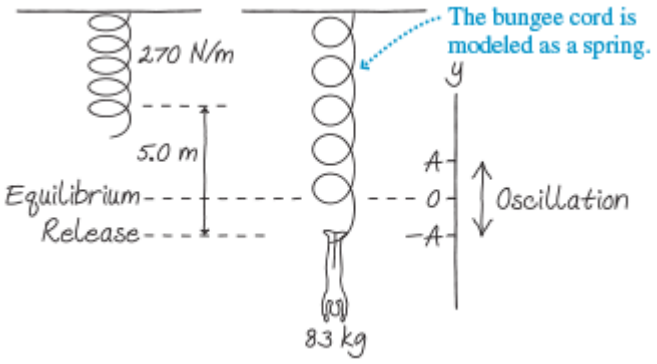
### Example 15.6 Bungee oscillations

An 83 kg student hangs from a bungee cord with spring constant 270 N/m. The student is pulled down to a point where the cord is 5.0 m longer than its unstretched length, then released. Where is the student, and what is his velocity 2.0 s later?

**MODEL** A bungee cord can be modeled as a spring. Vertical oscillations on the bungee cord are SHM.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 15.16 shows the situation.

**Figure 15.16**




A student on a bungee cord oscillates about the equilibrium position.

**SOLVE** Although the cord is stretched by 5.0 m when the student is released, this is *not* the amplitude of the oscillation. Oscillations occur around the equilibrium position, so we have to begin by

finding the equilibrium point where the student hangs motionless. The cord stretch at equilibrium is given by Equation 15.40:

$$\Delta L = \frac{mg}{k} = 3.0 \text{ m}$$

Stretching the cord 5.0 m pulls the student 2.0 m below the equilibrium point, so $A = 2.0$ m. That is, the student oscillates with amplitude $A = 2.0$ m about a point 3.0 m beneath the bungee cord's original end point. The student's position as a function of time, as measured from the equilibrium position, is



$$y(t) = (2.0 \text{ m}) \cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

where $\omega = \sqrt{k/m} = 1.80$ rad/s.

The initial condition

$$y_0 = A \cos \phi_0 = -A$$

requires the phase constant to be $\phi_0 = \pi$ rad. At $t = 2.0$ s the student's position and velocity are

$$\begin{aligned} y &= (2.0\,\text{m}) \cos\left((1.80\,\text{rad/s})\,(2.0\,\text{s}) + \pi\,\text{rad}\right) = 1.8\,\text{m} \\ v_y &= -\omega A \sin\left(\omega t + \phi_0\right) = -1.6\,\text{m/s} \end{aligned}$$

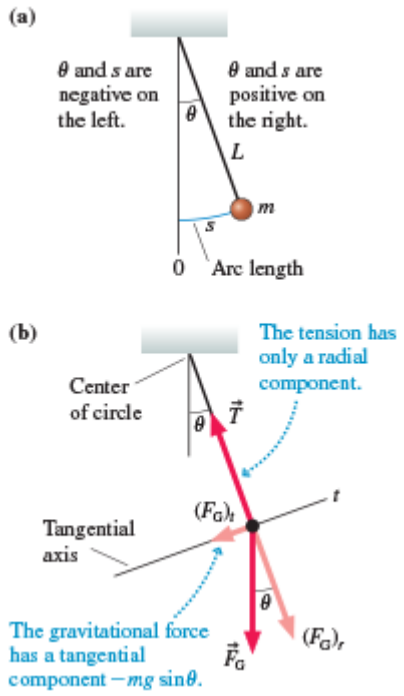
The student is 1.8 m *above* the equilibrium position, or 1.2 m *below* the original end of the cord. Because his velocity is negative, he's passed through the highest point and is heading down.

# 15.6 The Pendulum



Now let's look at another very common oscillator: a pendulum. Figure 15.17a shows a mass $m$ attached to a string of length $L$ and free to swing back and forth. The pendulum's position can be described by the arc of length $s$, which is zero when the pendulum hangs straight down. Because angles are measured ccw, $s$ and $\theta$ are positive when the pendulum is to the right of center, negative when it is to the left.

## Figure 15.17




Pendulum motion

Two forces are acting on the mass: the string tension $\vec{T}$ and gravity $\vec{F}_G$. As we did with circular motion, it will be useful to divide the forces into tangential components, parallel to the motion, and radial components

parallel to the string. These are shown on the free-body diagram of Figure 15.17b.

Newton's second law for the tangential component, parallel to the motion, is

**(15.44)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = \sum F_t = (F_{\text{G}})_t = -mg\sin\theta = ma_t$$

Using $a_t = d^2s/dt^2$ for acceleration "around" the circle, and noting that the mass cancels, we can write Equation 15.44 as

**(15.45)**

$$\frac{d^2s}{dt^2} = -g\sin\theta$$

This is the equation of motion for an oscillating pendulum. The sine function makes this equation more complicated than the equation of motion for an oscillating spring.

## The Small-Angle Approximation

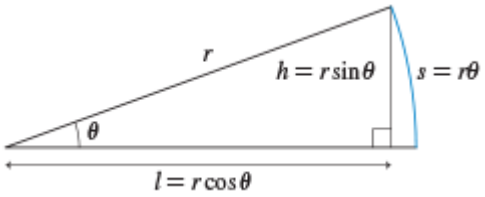
Suppose we restrict the pendulum's oscillations to *small angles* of less than about 10°. This restriction allows us to make use of an interesting and important piece of geometry.

Figure 15.18 shows an angle $\theta$ and a circular arc of length $s = r\theta$. A right triangle has been constructed by dropping a perpendicular from the top of the arc to the axis. The height of the triangle is $h = r\sin\theta$. Suppose that the angle $\theta$ is "small," which, in practice, means $\theta \ll 1$ rad.

In that case there is very little difference between $h$ and $s$. If $h \approx s$, then $r \sin\theta \approx r\theta$. It follows that

$$\sin\,\theta \approx \theta \quad \text{if} \quad \theta \ll 1\,\text{rad}$$

**Figure 15.18**




The geometrical basis of the small-angle approximation.

The result that $\sin\theta \approx \theta$ for small angles is called the **small-angle approximation.** We can similarly note that $l \approx r$ for small angles. Because $l \approx r\cos\theta$, it follows that

$$\cos\,\theta \approx 1 \quad \text{if} \quad \theta \ll 1\,\text{rad}$$

Finally, we can take the ratio of sine and cosine to find $\tan\theta \approx \sin\theta \approx \theta$. We will have other occasions to use the small-angle approximation throughout the remainder of this text.

> **Note**
>
> The small-angle approximation is valid *only* if angle θ is in radians!

How small does $\theta$ have to be to justify using the small-angle approximation? It's easy to use your calculator to find that the small-angle approximation is good to three significant figures, an error of ≤ 0.1%, up to angles of ≈ 0.10 rad(≈ 5°). In practice, we will use the approximation up to about 10°, but for angles any larger it rapidly loses validity and produces unacceptable results.

If we restrict the pendulum to $\theta < 10^\circ$, we can use $\sin\theta \approx \theta$. In that case, Equation 15.44 for the net force on the mass is

$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = -mg\sin\theta \approx -mg\theta = -\frac{mg}{L}s$$

where, in the last step, we used the fact that angle $\theta$ is related to the arc length by $\theta = s/L$. Then the equation of motion becomes

**(15.46)**

$$\frac{d^2s}{dt^2} = \frac{(F_{\text{net}})_t}{m} = -\frac{g}{L}s$$

This is *exactly* the same as Equation 15.32 for a mass oscillating on a spring. The names are different, with $x$ replaced by $s$ and $k/m$ by $g/L$, but that does not make it a different equation.

Because we know the solution to the spring problem, we can immediately write the solution to the pendulum problem just by changing variables and constants:

**(15.47)**

$$s(t) = A\,\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) \qquad \text{or} \qquad \theta(t) = \theta_{\text{max}}\,\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

The angular frequency

---

**(15.48)**

$$\omega = 2\pi f = \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}}$$

is determined by the length of the string. The pendulum is interesting in that **the frequency, and hence the period, is independent of the mass.** It depends only on the length of the pendulum. The amplitude $A$ and the phase constant $\phi_0$ are determined by the initial conditions, just as they were for an oscillating spring.

### Example 15.7 The maximum angle of a pendulum

A 300 g mass on a 30-cm-long string oscillates as a pendulum. It has a speed of 0.25 m/s as it passes through the lowest point. What maximum angle does the pendulum reach?

**MODEL** Assume that the angle remains small, in which case the motion is simple harmonic motion.

**SOLVE** The angular frequency of the pendulum is

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}} = \sqrt{\frac{9.8\ \text{m/s}^2}{0.30\ \text{m}}} = 5.72\ \text{rad/s}$$

The speed at the lowest point is $v_{\max} = \omega A$, so the amplitude is

$$A = s_{\max} = \frac{v_{\max}}{\omega} = \frac{0.25\,\text{m/s}}{5.72\,\text{rad/s}} = 0.0437\,\text{m}$$

The maximum angle, at the maximum arc length $s_{\max}$, is

$$\theta_{\max} = \frac{s_{\max}}{L} = \frac{0.0437\ \text{m}}{0.30\ \text{m}} = 0.146\ \text{rad} = 8.3^\circ$$

**ASSESS** Because the maximum angle is less than 10°, our analysis based on the small-angle approximation is reasonable.

### Example 15.8 The gravimeter

Deposits of minerals and ore can alter the local value of the free-fall acceleration because they tend to be denser than surrounding rocks. Geologists use a *gravimeter*—an instrument that accurately measures the local free-fall acceleration—to search for ore deposits. One of the simplest gravimeters is a pendulum. To achieve the highest accuracy, a stopwatch is used to time 100 oscillations of a pendulum of different lengths. At one location in the field, a geologist makes the following measurements:

| Length (m) | Time (s) |
|---|---|
| 0.500 | 141.7 |
| 1.000 | 200.6 |
| 1.500 | 245.8 |
| 2.000 | 283.5 |

What is the local value of $g$?



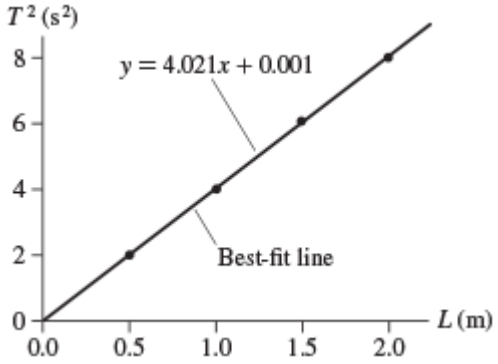
**MODEL** Assume the oscillation angle is small, in which case the motion is simple harmonic motion with a period independent of the mass of the pendulum. Because the data are known to four significant figures (± 1 mm on the length and ± 0.1 s on the timing, both of which are easily achievable), we expect to determine $g$ to four significant figures.

**SOLVE** From Equation 15.48, using $f = 1/T$ , we find

$$T^2 = \left(2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}\right)^2 = \frac{4\pi^2}{g}L$$

That is, the square of a pendulum's period is proportional to its length. Consequently, a graph of $T^2$ versus $L$ should be a straight line passing through the origin with slope $4\pi^2/g$. We can use the experimentally measured slope to determine $g$. Figure 15.19 is a graph of the data, with the period found by dividing the measured time by 100.

**Figure 15.19**




Graph of the square of the pendulum's period versus its length.

As expected, the graph is a straight line passing through the origin. The slope of the best-fit line is 4.021 s$^2$/m. Consequently,

$$g = \frac{4\pi^2}{\text{slope}} = \frac{4\pi^2}{4.021\,\text{s}^2/\text{m}} = 9.818\,\text{m/s}^2$$

**ASSESS** The fact that the graph is linear and passes through the origin confirms our model of the situation. Had this *not* been the case, we would have had to conclude either that our model of the pendulum as a simple, small-angle pendulum was not valid or that our measurements were bad. This is an important reason for having multiple data points rather than using only one length.

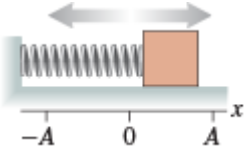
# The Simple-Harmonic-Motion Model

You can begin to see how, in a sense, we have solved *all* simple-harmonic-motion problems once we have solved the problem of the horizontal spring. The restoring force of a spring, $F_{\text{Sp}} = -kx$, is directly proportional to the displacement $x$ from equilibrium. The pendulum's restoring force, in the small-angle approximation, is directly proportional to the displacement $s$. A restoring force that is directly proportional to the displacement from equilibrium is called a **linear restoring force.** For *any* linear restoring force, the equation of motion is identical to the spring equation (other than perhaps using different symbols). Consequently, any system with a linear restoring force will undergo simple harmonic motion around the equilibrium position.

This is why an oscillating spring is the prototype of SHM. Everything that we learn about an oscillating spring can be applied to the oscillations of any other linear restoring force, ranging from the vibration of airplane wings to the motion of electrons in electric circuits.

MODEL 15.1 **Simple harmonic motion**

For any system with a restoring force that's linear or can be well approximated as linear.

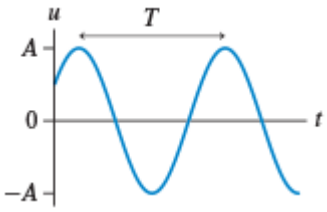



- Motion is SHM around the equilibrium position.
- Frequency and period are independent of the amplitude.
- Mathematically:

- For an appropriate position variable $u$, the equation of motion can be written

$$d^2u/dt^2 = -Cu$$

where $C$ is a collection of constants.




- The angular frequency is $\omega = \sqrt{C}$.
- The position and velocity are

$$u = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) \;\; v_u = -v_{\max}\sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

where $A$ and $\phi_0$ are determined by the initial conditions.

- Mechanical energy is conserved.

- Limitations: Model fails if the restoring force deviates significantly from linear.

Workbook Exercise 22

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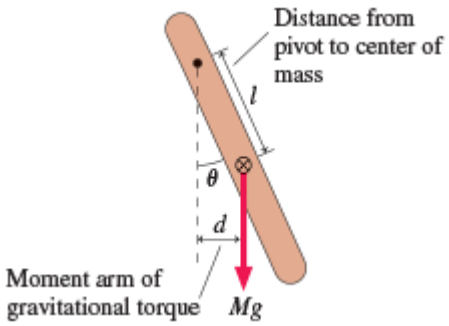
# The Physical Pendulum

A mass on a string is often called a *simple pendulum*. But you can also make a pendulum from any solid object that swings back and forth on a pivot under the influence of gravity. This is called a *physical pendulum*.

Figure 15.20 shows a physical pendulum of mass $M$ for which the distance between the pivot and the center of mass is $l$. The moment arm of the gravitational force acting at the center of mass is $d = l \sin \theta$, so the gravitational torque is

$$\tau = -Mgd = -Mgl \sin \theta$$

**Figure 15.20**




A physical pendulum.

The torque is negative because, for positive $\theta$, it's causing a clockwise rotation. If we restrict the angle to being small ($\theta < 10^\circ$), as we did for the simple pendulum, we can use the small-angle approximation to write

**(15.49)**

$$\tau = -Mgl\theta$$

Gravity exerts a linear restoring torque on the pendulum—that is, the torque is directly proportional to the angular displacement $\theta$—so we expect the physical pendulum to undergo SHM.

From Chapter 12, Newton's second law for rotational motion is

$$\alpha = \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = \frac{\tau}{I}$$

where $I$ is the object's moment of inertia about the pivot point. Using Equation 15.49 for the torque, we find

**(15.50)**

$$\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = \frac{-Mgl}{I}\theta$$

The equation of motion is of the form $d^2\theta/dt^2 = -C\theta$, so the model for simple harmonic motion tells us that the motion is SHM with angular frequency

**(15.51)**

$$\omega = 2\pi f = \sqrt{\frac{Mgl}{I}}$$

It appears that the frequency depends on the mass of the pendulum, but recall that the moment of inertia is directly proportional to $M$. Thus $M$ cancels and the frequency of a physical pendulum, like that of a simple pendulum, is independent of mass.

**Example 15.9 A swinging leg as a pendulum**

A student in a biomechanics lab measures the length of his leg, from hip to heel, to be 0.90 m. What is the frequency of the pendulum motion of the student's leg? What is the period?

**MODEL** We can model a human leg reasonably well as a rod of uniform cross section, pivoted at one end (the hip) to form a physical pendulum. For small-angle oscillations it will undergo

SHM. The center of mass of a uniform leg is at the midpoint, so $l = L/2$.

**SOLVE** The moment of inertia of a rod pivoted about one end is $I = \frac{1}{3}ML^2$, so the pendulum frequency is

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{Mgl}{I}} = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{Mg(L/2)}{ML^2/3}} = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{3g}{2L}} = 0.64\,\text{Hz}$$

The corresponding period is $T = 1/f = 1.6$ s. Notice that we didn't need to know the mass.

**ASSESS** As you walk, your legs do swing as physical pendulums as you bring them forward. The frequency is fixed by the length of your legs and their distribution of mass; it doesn't depend on amplitude. Consequently, you don't increase your walking speed by taking more rapid steps—changing the frequency is difficult. You simply take longer strides, changing the amplitude but not the frequency.

## Stop to Think 15.5

One person swings on a swing and finds that the period is 3.0 s. A second person of equal mass joins him. With two people swinging, the period is

**a.** 6.0 s

**b.** >3.0 s but not necessarily 6.0 s

**c.** 3.0 s

**d.** <3.0 s but not necessarily 1.5 s

**e.** 1.5 s

**f.** Can't tell without knowing the length

# 15.7 Damped Oscillations[408]

A pendulum left to itself gradually slows down and stops. The sound of a ringing bell gradually dies away. All real oscillators do run down—some very slowly but others quite quickly—as friction or other dissipative forces transform their mechanical energy into the thermal energy of the oscillator and its environment. An oscillation that runs down and stops is called a **damped oscillation.**

The shock absorbers in cars and trucks are heavily damped springs. The vehicle's vertical motion, after hitting a rock or a pothole, is a damped oscillation.

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There are many possible reasons for the dissipation of energy, such as air resistance, friction, and internal forces within a metal spring as it flexes. The forces involved in dissipation are complex, but a simple *linear drag* model gives a quite accurate description of most damped oscillations. That is, we'll assume a drag force that depends linearly on the velocity as

**(15.52)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{drag}} = -b\vec{v} \quad (\text{model of the drag force})$$

where the minus sign is the mathematical statement that the force is always opposite in direction to the velocity in order to slow the object.

The **damping constant** $b$ depends in a complicated way on the shape of the object *and* on the viscosity of the air or other medium in which the particle moves. The damping constant plays the same role in our model of drag that the coefficient of friction does in our model of friction.

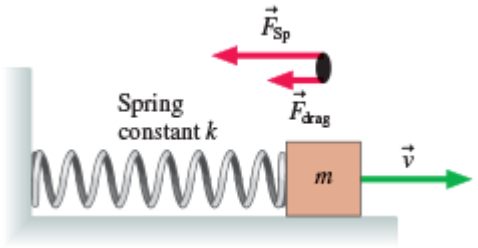
The units of $b$ need to be such that they will give units of force when multiplied by units of velocity. As you can confirm, these units are kg/s. A value $b = 0$ kg/s corresponds to the limiting case of no resistance, in which case the mechanical energy is conserved. A typical value of $b$ for a spring or a pendulum in air is $\leq 0.10$ kg/s. Objects moving in a liquid can have significantly larger values of $b$.

Figure 15.21 shows a mass oscillating on a spring in the presence of a drag force. With the drag included, Newton's second law is

**(15.53)**

$$(F_{\text{net}})_x = (F_{\text{Sp}})_x + (F_{\text{drag}})_x = -kx - bv_x = ma_x$$

## Figure 15.21




An oscillating mass in the presence of a drag force.

Using $v_x = dx/dt$ and $a_x = d^2x/dt^2$, we can write Equation 15.53 as

(15.54)

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \frac{b}{m}\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{k}{m}x = 0$$

Equation 15.54 is the equation of motion of a damped oscillator. If you compare it to Equation 15.32, the equation of motion for a block on a frictionless surface, you'll see that it differs by the inclusion of the term involving $dx/dt$.

Equation 15.54 is another second-order differential equation. We will simply assert (and, as a homework problem, you can confirm) that the solution is

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(15.55)

$$x(t) = Ae^{-bt/2m}\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) \qquad \text{(damped oscillator)}$$

where the angular frequency is given by

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(15.56)

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m} - \frac{b^2}{4m^2}} = \sqrt{{\omega_0}^2 - \frac{b^2}{4m^2}}$$

Here $\omega_0 = \sqrt{k/m}$ is the angular frequency of an undamped oscillator ($b = 0$). The constant $e$ is the base of natural logarithms, so $e^{-bt/2m}$ is an *exponential function*. Because $e^0 = 1$, Equation 15.55 reduces to our previous $x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$ when $b = 0$. This makes sense and gives us confidence in Equation 15.55.

# Lightly Damped Oscillators

A *lightly damped* oscillator, which oscillates many times before stopping, is one for which $b/2m \ll \omega_0$. In that case, $\omega \approx \omega_0$ is a good approximation. That is, light damping does not affect the oscillation frequency.

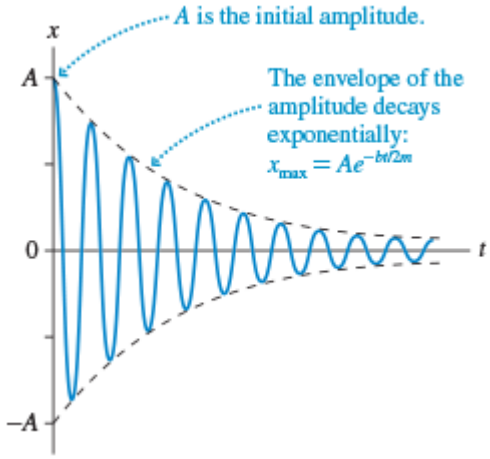
Figure 15.22 is a graph of the position $x(t)$ for a lightly damped oscillator, as given by Equation 15.55. To keep things simple, we've assumed that the phase constant is zero. Notice that the term $Ae^{-bt/2m}$, which is shown by the dashed line, acts as a slowly varying amplitude:

**(15.57)**

$$x_{\max}(t) = Ae^{-bt/2m}$$



**Figure 15.22**




Position-versus-time graph for a lightly damped oscillator.

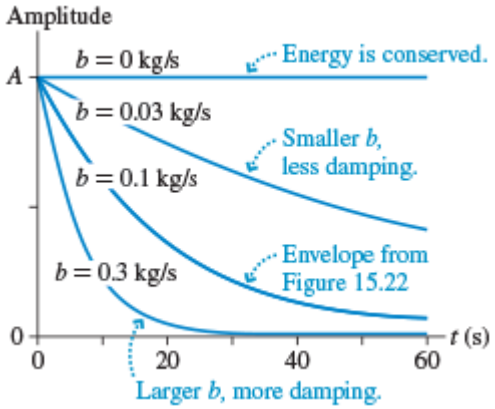
where $A$ is the *initial* amplitude, at $t = 0$. The oscillation keeps bumping up against this line, slowly dying out with time.

A slowly changing line that provides a border to a rapid oscillation is called the **envelope** of the oscillations. In this case, the oscillations have

an *exponentially decaying envelope*. Make sure you study Figure 15.22 long enough to see how both the oscillations and the decaying amplitude are related to Equation 15.55.

Changing the amount of damping, by changing the value of $b$, affects how quickly the oscillations decay. Figure 15.23 shows just the envelope $x_{max}(t)$ for several oscillators that are identical except for the value of the damping constant $b$. (You need to imagine a rapid oscillation within each envelope, as in Figure 15.22.) Increasing $b$ causes the oscillations to damp more quickly, while decreasing $b$ makes them last longer.

## Figure 15.23




Oscillation envelopes for several values of $b$, mass 1.0 kg.

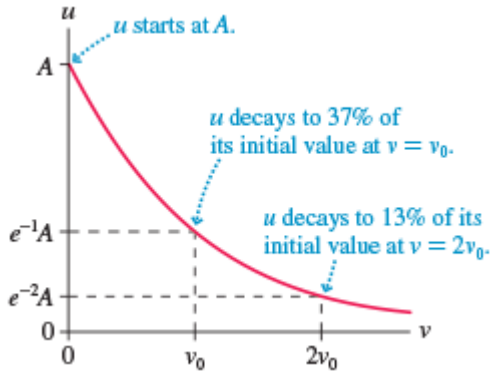
MATHEMATICAL ASIDE **Exponential decay**

**Exponential decay** occurs in a vast number of physical systems of importance in science and engineering. Mechanical vibrations, electric circuits, and nuclear radioactivity all exhibit exponential decay.

The mathematical analysis of physical systems frequently leads to solutions of the form

$$u = Ae^{-v/v_0} = A\ \exp(-v/v_0)$$

where exp is the *exponential function.* The number $e = 2.71828...$ is the base of natural logarithms in the same way that 10 is the base of ordinary logarithms.




A graph of $u$ illustrates what we mean by exponential decay. It starts with $u = A$ at $v = 0$ (because $e^0 = 1$) and then steadily decays, asymptotically approaching zero. The quantity $v_0$ is called the *decay constant.* When $v = v_0,\ u = e^{-1}A = 0.37A$. When $v = 2v_0,\ u = e^{-2}A = 0.13A$.

The decay constant $v_0$ must have the same units as $v$. If $v$ represents position, then $v_0$ is a length; if $v$ represents time, then $v_0$ is a time interval. In a specific situation, $v_0$ is often called the *decay length* or the *decay time.* It is the length or time in which the quantity decays to 37% of its initial value.

No matter what the process is or what $u$ represents, **a quantity that decays exponentially decays to 37% of its initial value when one decay constant has passed.** Thus exponential decay is a universal behavior. The decay curve always looks exactly

like the figure shown here. Once you've learned the properties of exponential decay, you'll immediately know how to apply this knowledge to a new situation.

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The mechanical energy of a damped oscillator is *not* conserved because of the drag force. We previously found the energy of an undamped oscillator to be $E = \frac{1}{2}kA^2$. This is still valid for a lightly damped oscillator if we replace $A$ with the slowly decaying amplitude $x_{\text{max}}$. Thus

**(15.58)**

$$E(t) = \tfrac{1}{2}k(x_{\text{max}})^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}k(Ae^{-bt/2m})^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}kA^2e^{-bt/m}$$

Here $A$ is the initial amplitude, so $\frac{1}{2}kA^2$ is the initial energy, which we call $E_0$. Let's define the **time constant** $\tau$ (also called the *decay constant* or the *decay time*) to be

**(15.59)**

$$\tau = \frac{m}{b}$$

Because $b$ has units of kg/s, $\tau$ has units of seconds. With this, we can write the energy decay as

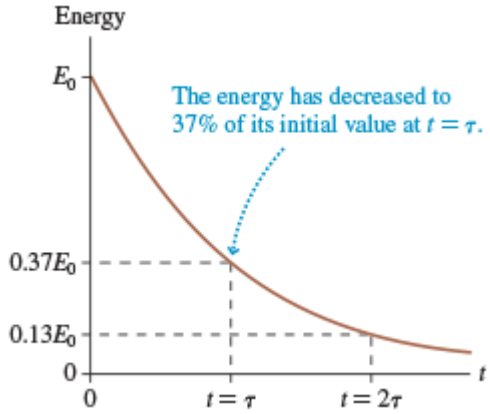
**(15.60)**

$$E(t) = E_0e^{-t/\tau}$$

In other words, **a lightly damped oscillator's mechanical energy decays exponentially with time constant $\tau$.**

As Figure 15.24 shows, the time constant is the amount of time needed for the energy to decay to $e^{-1}$, or 37%, of its initial value. We say that the time constant $\tau$ measures the "characteristic time" during which the energy of the oscillation is dissipated. Roughly two-thirds of the initial energy is gone after one time constant has elapsed, and nearly 90% has dissipated after two time constants have gone by.

**Figure 15.24**




Energy decay of a lightly damped oscillator.

For practical purposes, we can speak of the time constant as the *lifetime* of the oscillation—about how long it lasts. Mathematically, there is never a time when the oscillation is "over." The decay approaches zero asymptotically, but it never gets there in any finite time. The best we can do is define a characteristic time when the motion is "almost over," and that is what the time constant $\tau$ does.

**Example 15.10 A damped pendulum**

A 500 g mass swings on a 60-cm-string as a pendulum. The amplitude is observed to decay to half its initial value after 35 oscillations.

**a.** What is the time constant for this oscillator?

**b.** At what time will the *energy* have decayed to half its initial value?

---

**MODEL** The motion is a damped oscillation.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The initial amplitude at $t = 0$ is $x_{\max} = A$. After 35 oscillations the amplitude is $x_{\max} = \frac{1}{2}A$. The period of the pendulum is

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{0.60\text{ m}}{9.8\text{ m/s}^2}} = 1.55\text{ s}$$

so 35 oscillations have occurred at $t = 54.2$ s.

The amplitude of oscillation at time $t$ is given by Equation 15.57: $x_{\max}(t) = Ae^{-bt/2m} = Ae^{-t/2\tau}$. In this case,

$$\frac{1}{2}A = Ae^{-(54.2\text{ s})/2\tau}$$

Notice that we do not need to know $A$ itself because it cancels out. To solve for $\tau$, we take the natural logarithm of both sides of the equation:

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\ln 2 = \ln e^{-(54.2\text{ s})/2\tau} = -\frac{54.2\text{ s}}{2\tau}$$

This is easily rearranged to give

$$\tau = \frac{54.2\,\text{s}}{2\ln 2} = 39\,\text{s}$$

If desired, we could now determine the damping constant to be $b = m/\tau = 0.013\,\text{kg/s}$.

**b.** The energy at time $t$ is given by

$$E(t) = E_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

The time at which an exponential decay is reduced to $\frac{1}{2}E_0$ half its initial value, has a special name. It is called the **half-life** and given the symbol $t_{1/2}$. The concept of the half-life is widely used in applications such as radioactive decay. To relate $t_{1/2}$ to $\tau$, we first write

$$E(\text{at } t = t_{1/2}) = \tfrac{1}{2}E_0 = E_0 e^{-t_{1/2}/\tau}$$

The $E_0$ cancels, giving

$$\tfrac{1}{2} = e^{-t_{1/2}/\tau}$$

Again, we take the natural logarithm of both sides:

$$\ln\left(\tfrac{1}{2}\right) = -\ln 2 = \ln e^{-t_{1/2}/\tau} = -t_{1/2}/\tau$$

Finally, we solve for $t_{1/2}$:

$$t_{1/2} = \tau \ln 2 = 0.693\tau$$

This result that $t_{1/2}$ is 69% of $\tau$ is valid for any exponential decay. In this particular problem, half the energy is gone at

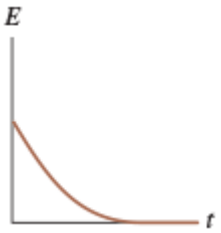
$$t_{1/2} = (0.693)(39\text{ s}) = 27\text{ s}$$

**ASSESS** The oscillator loses energy faster than it loses amplitude. This is what we should expect because the energy depends on the *square* of the amplitude.

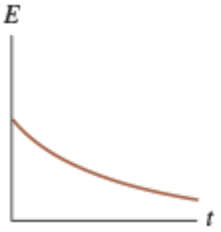
## Stop to Think 15.6

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the time constants $\tau_a$ to $\tau_d$ of the decays shown in the figure. All the graphs have the same scale.

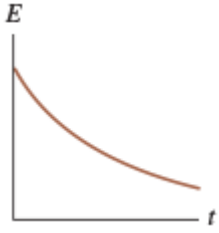
**a.**



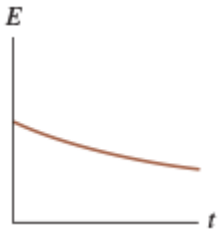

**b.**




**c.**



**d.**



# 15.8 Driven Oscillations and Resonance

Thus far we have focused on the free oscillations of an isolated system. Some initial disturbance displaces the system from equilibrium, and it then oscillates freely until its energy is dissipated. These are very important situations, but they do not exhaust the possibilities. Another important situation is an oscillator that is subjected to a periodic external force. Its motion is called a **driven oscillation.**

A simple example of a driven oscillation is pushing a child on a swing, where your push is a periodic external force applied to the swing. A more complex example is a car driving over a series of equally spaced bumps. Each bump causes a periodic upward force on the car's shock absorbers, which are big, heavily damped springs. The electromagnetic coil on the back of a loudspeaker cone provides a periodic magnetic force to drive the cone back and forth, causing it to send out sound waves. Air turbulence moving across the wings of an aircraft can exert periodic forces on the wings and other aerodynamic surfaces, causing them to vibrate if they are not properly designed.

As these examples suggest, driven oscillations have many important applications. However, driven oscillations are a mathematically complex subject. We will simply hint at some of the results, saving the details for more advanced classes.

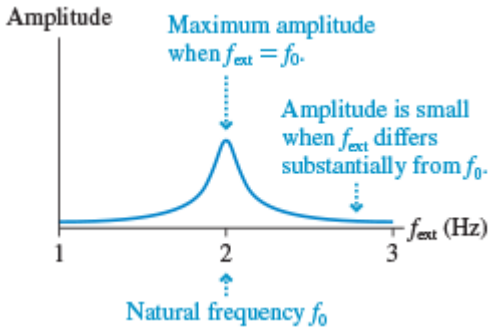
Consider an oscillating system that, when left to itself, oscillates at a frequency $f_0$. We will call this the **natural frequency** of the oscillator. The

natural frequency for a mass on a spring is $\sqrt{k/m}/2\pi$, but it might be given by some other expression for another type of oscillator. Regardless of the expression, $f_0$ is simply the frequency of the system if it is displaced from equilibrium and released.

Suppose that this system is subjected to a *periodic* external force of frequency $f_{\text{ext}}$. This frequency, which is called the **driving frequency**, is completely independent of the oscillator's natural frequency $f_0$. Somebody or something in the environment selects the frequency $f_{\text{ext}}$ of the external force, causing the force to push on the system $f_{\text{ext}}$ times every second.

Although it is possible to solve Newton's second law with an external driving force, we will be content to look at a graphical representation of the solution. The most important result is that the oscillation amplitude depends very sensitively on the frequency $f_{\text{ext}}$ of the driving force. The response to the driving frequency is shown in Figure 15.25 for a system with $m = 1.0$ kg, a natural frequency $f_0 = 2.0$ Hz, and a damping constant $b = 0.20$ kg/s. This graph of amplitude versus driving frequency, called the **response curve**, occurs in many different applications.

## Figure 15.25




The response curve of a driven oscillator at frequencies near its natural frequency of 2.0 Hz.

When the driving frequency is substantially different from the oscillator's natural frequency, at the right and left edges of Figure 15.25, the system oscillates but the amplitude is very small. The system simply does not respond well to a driving frequency that differs much from $f_0$. As the driving frequency gets closer and closer to the natural frequency, the amplitude of the oscillation rises dramatically. After all, $f_0$ is the frequency at which the system "wants" to oscillate, so it is quite happy to respond to a driving frequency near $f_0$. Hence the amplitude reaches a maximum when the driving frequency exactly matches the system's natural frequency: $f_{\text{ext}} = f_0$.

The amplitude can become exceedingly large when the frequencies match, especially if the damping constant is very small. Figure 15.26 shows the same oscillator with three different values of the damping constant. There's very little response if the damping constant is increased to 0.80 kg/s, but the amplitude for $f_{\text{ext}} = f_0$ becomes very large when the damping constant is reduced to 0.08 kg/s. This large-amplitude response to a driving force whose frequency matches the natural frequency of the system is a phenomenon called **resonance.** The condition for resonance is



**(15.61)**

$$f_{\text{ext}} = f_0 \quad (\text{resonance condition})$$

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**Figure 15.26**

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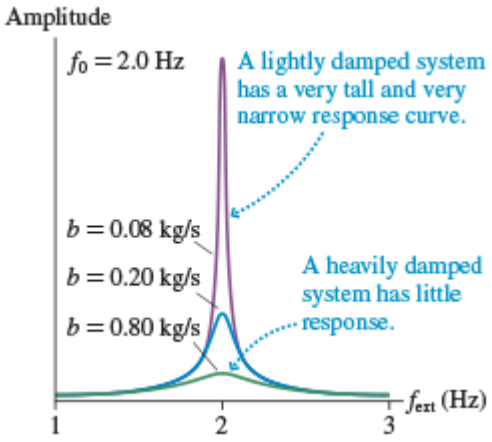


The resonance amplitude becomes higher and narrower as the damping constant decreases.

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Within the context of driven oscillations, the natural frequency $f_0$ is often called the **resonance frequency.**

An important feature of Figure 15.26 is how the amplitude and width of the resonance depend on the damping constant. A heavily damped system responds fairly little, even at resonance, but it responds to a wide range of driving frequencies. Very lightly damped systems can reach exceptionally high amplitudes, but notice that the range of frequencies to which the system responds becomes narrower and narrower as $b$ decreases.

A singer or musical instrument can shatter a crystal goblet by matching the goblet's natural oscillation frequency.

---

This allows us to understand why a few singers can break crystal goblets but not inexpensive, everyday glasses. An inexpensive glass gives a "thud" when tapped, but a fine crystal goblet "rings" for several seconds. In physics terms, the goblet has a much longer time constant than the glass. That, in turn, implies that the goblet is very lightly damped while the ordinary glass is heavily damped (because the internal forces within the glass are not those of a high-quality crystal structure).

The singer causes a sound wave to impinge on the goblet, exerting a small driving force at the frequency of the note she is singing. If the singer's frequency matches the natural frequency of the goblet—resonance! Only the lightly damped goblet, like the top curve in Figure 15.26, can reach amplitudes large enough to shatter. The restriction, though, is that its natural frequency has to be matched very precisely. The sound also has to be very loud.

**Challenge Example 15.11 A swinging pendulum**

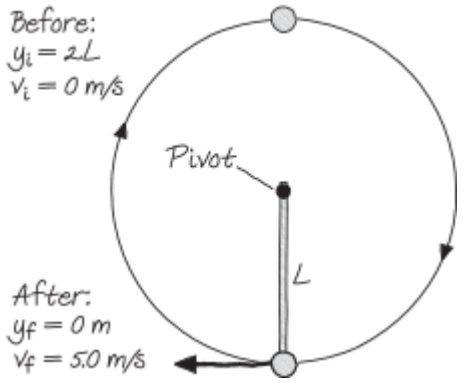
A pendulum consists of a massless, rigid rod with a mass at one end. The other end is pivoted on a frictionless pivot so that the rod can rotate in a complete circle. The pendulum is inverted, with the mass directly above the pivot point, then released. The speed of the mass as it passes through the lowest point is 5.0 m/s. If the pendulum later undergoes small-amplitude oscillations at the bottom of the arc, what will its frequency be?

**MODEL** This is a simple pendulum because the rod is massless. However, our analysis of a pendulum used the small-angle approximation. It applies only to the small-amplitude oscillations at the end, *not* to the pendulum swinging down from the inverted

position. Fortunately, energy is conserved throughout, so we can analyze the big swing using conservation of mechanical energy.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 15.27 is a pictorial representation of the pendulum swinging down from the inverted position. The pendulum length is $L$, so the initial height is $2L$.

## Figure 15.27




Before-and-after pictorial representation of the pendulum swinging down from an inverted position.

**SOLVE** The frequency of a simple pendulum is $f = \sqrt{g/L}/2\pi$. We're not given $L$, but we can find it by analyzing the pendulum's swing down from an inverted position. Mechanical energy is conserved, and the only potential energy is gravitational potential energy. Conservation of mechanical energy $K_\mathrm{f} + U_\mathrm{Gf} = K_i + U_\mathrm{Gi}$, with $U_\mathrm{G} = mgy$, is

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_\mathrm{f}^2 + mgy_\mathrm{f} = \frac{1}{2}mv_\mathrm{i}^2 + mgy_\mathrm{i}$$

The mass cancels, which is good since we don't know it, and two terms are zero. Thus

$$\frac{1}{2}v_\mathrm{f}^2 = g(2L) = 2gL$$

Solving for $L$, we find

$$L = \frac{{v_f}^2}{4g} = \frac{(5.0\,\text{m/s})^2}{4(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)} = 0.638\,\text{m}$$

Now we can calculate the frequency:

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{g}{L}} = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{9.80\,\text{m/s}^2}{0.638\,\text{m}}} = 0.62\,\text{Hz}$$

**ASSESS** The frequency corresponds to a period of about 1.5 s, which seems reasonable.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 15 has been to learn about systems that oscillate in simple harmonic motion.

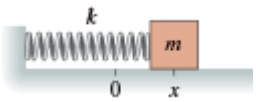
## General Principles

### Dynamics

SHM occurs when a **linear restoring force** acts to return a system to an equilibrium position.

#### Horizontal spring

$(F_{\text{net}})_x = -kx$




#### Vertical spring

The origin is at the equilibrium position $\Delta L = mg/k$.

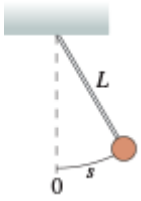
$(F_{\text{net}})_y = -ky$

**Both:** $\omega = \sqrt{\dfrac{k}{m}} \qquad T = 2\pi\sqrt{\dfrac{m}{k}}$

### Simple pendulum

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}}$$

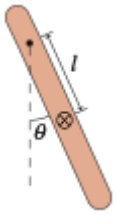
$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$




### Physical pendulum

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{Mgl}{l}}$$

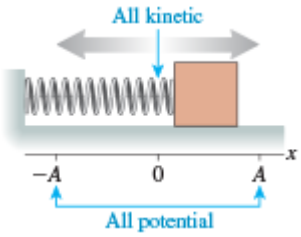
$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{I}{Mgl}}$$




## Energy

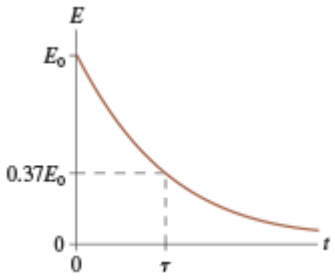
If there is no friction or dissipation, kinetic and potential energy are alternately transformed into each other, but the total mechanical energy $E = K + U$ is conserved.

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \tfrac{1}{2}mv^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}kx^2 \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}m(v_{\max})^2 \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}kA^2 \end{aligned}$$




The energy of a lightly damped oscillator decays exponentially

$$E = E_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$



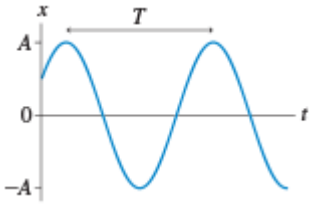

where $\tau$ is the **time constant**.

# Important Concepts

**Simple harmonic motion (SHM)** is a sinusoidal oscillation with period $T$ and amplitude $A$.

## Frequency

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$




## Angular frequency

$$\omega = 2\pi f = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

**Position**

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) \\ &= A\cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T} + \phi_0\right) \end{aligned}$$

**Velocity** $v_x(t) = -v_{\max}\sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$ with maximum speed $v_{\max} = \omega A$

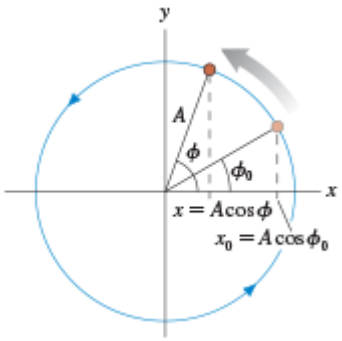
**Acceleration** $a_x(t) = -\omega^2 x(t) = -\omega^2 A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$

SHM is the projection onto the $x$-axis of **uniform circular motion.**

$\phi = \omega t + \phi_0$ is the **phase**

The position at time $t$ is

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= A\cos\phi \\ &= A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0) \end{aligned}$$



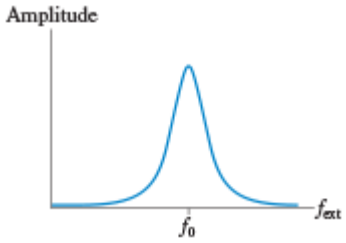

The **phase constant** $\phi_0$ is determined by the initial conditions:

$$x_0 = A\cos\phi_0 \qquad v_{0x} = -\omega A\sin\phi_0$$

# Applications

## Resonance

When a system is driven by a periodic external force, it responds with a large-amplitude oscillation if $f_{\text{ext}} \approx f_0$, where $f_0$ is the system's natural oscillation frequency, or **resonant frequency.**

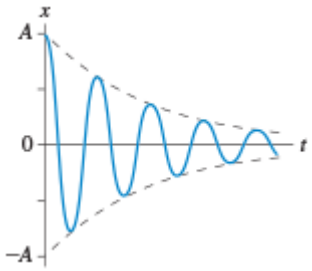



## Damping

If there is a drag force $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{drag}} = -b\overrightarrow{v}$, where $b$ is the damping constant, then (for lightly damped systems)

$$x(t) = Ae^{-bt/2m}\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$

The time constant for energy loss is $\tau = m/b$.




# Terms and Notation

oscillatory motion

period, $T$

simple harmonic motion, SHM

amplitude, $A$

frequency, $f$

hertz, Hz

angular frequency, $\omega$

phase, $\phi$

phase constant, $\phi_0$

restoring force

equation of motion

small-angle approximation

linear restoring force

damped oscillation

damping constant, $b$

envelope

exponential decay

time constant, $\tau$

half-life, $t_{1/2}$

driven oscillation

natural frequency, $f_0$

driving frequency, $f_{\text{ext}}$

response curve

resonance

resonance frequency, $f_0$

# Conceptual Questions 

**1.** A block oscillating on a spring has period $T = 2$ s . What is the period if:

**a.** The block's mass is doubled? Explain. Note that you do not know the value of either $m$ or $k$, so do *not* assume any particular values for them. The required analysis involves thinking about ratios.

**b.** The value of the spring constant is quadrupled?

**c.** The oscillation amplitude is doubled while $m$ and $k$ are unchanged?

**2.** A pendulum on Planet X, where the value of $g$ is unknown, oscillates with a period $T = 2$ s . What is the period of this pendulum if:

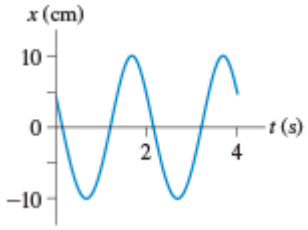
**a.** Its mass is doubled? Explain. Note that you do not know the value of $m$, $L$, or $g$, so do not assume any specific values. The required analysis involves thinking about ratios.

**b.** Its length is doubled?

**c.** Its oscillation amplitude is doubled?

**3.** Figure Q15.3 shows a position-versus-time graph for a particle in SHM. What are (a) the amplitude $A$, (b) the angular frequency $\omega$ and (c) the phase constant $\phi_0$?

**Figure Q15.3**




**4.** Figure Q15.4 shows a position-versus-time graph for a particle in SHM.

**a.** What is the phase constant $\phi_0$? Explain.

**b.** What is the phase of the particle at each of the three numbered points on the graph?

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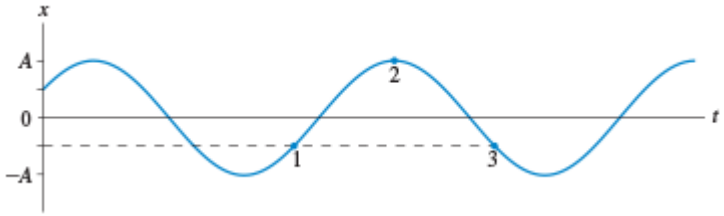
**Figure Q15.4**




**5.** Equation 15.25 states that $\frac{1}{2}kA^2 = \frac{1}{2}m(v_{\max})^2$. What does this mean? Write a couple of sentences explaining how to interpret this equation.

**6.** A block oscillating on a spring has an amplitude of 20 cm. What will the amplitude be if the total energy is doubled? Explain.

**7.** A block oscillating on a spring has a maximum speed of 20 cm/s. What will the block's maximum speed be if the total energy is doubled? Explain.

**8.** The solid disk and circular hoop in Figure Q15.8 have the same radius and the same mass. Each can swing back and forth as a pendulum from a pivot at the top edge. Which, if either, has the larger period of oscillation?

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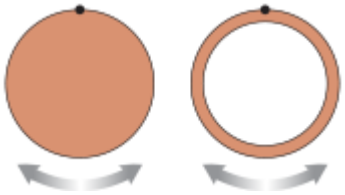
## Figure Q15.8



**9.** Figure Q15.9 shows the potential-energy diagram and the total energy line of a particle oscillating on a spring.

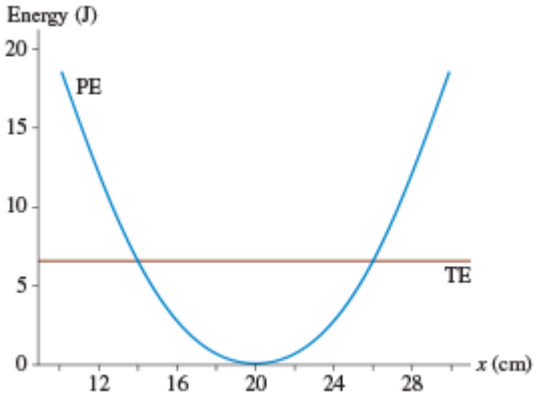
**a.** What is the spring's equilibrium length?

**b.** Where are the turning points of the motion? Explain.

**c.** What is the particle's maximum kinetic energy?

**d.** What will be the turning points if the particle's total energy is doubled?

## Figure Q15.9




**10.** Suppose the damping constant $b$ of an oscillator increases.

**a.** Is the medium more resistive or less resistive?

**b.** Do the oscillations damp out more quickly or less quickly?

**c.** Is the time constant $\tau$ increased or decreased?

**11.** **a.** Describe the difference between $\tau$ and $T$. Don't just *name* them; say what is different about the physical concepts

they represent.

**b.** Describe the difference between $\tau$ and $t_{1/2}$.

**12.** What is the difference between the driving frequency and the natural frequency of an oscillator?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 15.1 Simple Harmonic Motion

**1.** • An air-track glider attached to a spring oscillates between the 10 cm mark and the 60 cm mark on the track. The glider completes 10 oscillations in 33 s. What are the (a) period, (b) frequency, (c) angular frequency, (d) amplitude, and (e) maximum speed of the glider?

**2.** •• An air-track glider is attached to a spring. The glider is pulled to the right and released from rest at $t = 0$ s. It then oscillates with a period of 2.0 s and a maximum speed of 40 cm/s.

**a.** What is the amplitude of the oscillation?

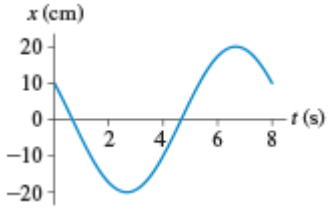
**b.** What is the glider's position at $t = 0.25$ s?

**3.** • When a guitar string plays the note "A," the string vibrates at 440 Hz. What is the period of the vibration?

**4.** •• An object in SHM oscillates with a period of 4.0 s and an amplitude of 10 cm. How long does the object take to move from $x = 0.0$ cm to $x = 6.0$ cm?

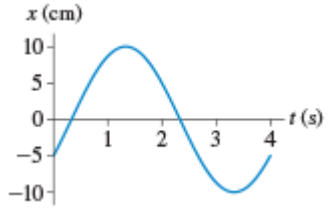
**5.** • What are the (a) amplitude, (b) frequency, and (c) phase constant of the oscillation shown in Figure EX15.5?

**Figure EX15.5**




**6.** •• What are the (a) amplitude, (b) frequency, and (c) phase constant of the oscillation shown in Figure EX15.6?

**Figure EX15.6**



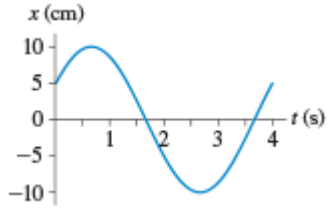

**7.** •• Figure EX15.7 is the position-versus-time graph of a particle in simple harmonic motion.

**a.** What is the phase constant?

**b.** What is the velocity at $t = 0$ s?

**c.** What is $v_{max}$?

**Figure EX15.7**



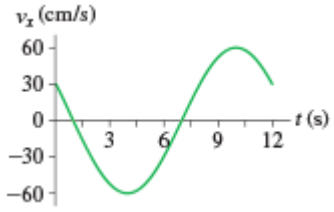
**8.** •• Figure EX15.8 is the velocity-versus-time graph of a particle in simple harmonic motion.

**a.** What is the amplitude of the oscillation?

**b.** What is the phase constant?

**c.** What is the position at $t = 0$ s?

**Figure EX15.8**




**9.** •• An object in simple harmonic motion has an amplitude of 4.0 cm, a frequency of 2.0 Hz, and a phase constant of $2\pi/3$ rad. Draw a position graph showing two cycles of the motion.

**10.** •• An object in simple harmonic motion has an amplitude of 8.0 cm, a frequency of 0.25 Hz, and a phase constant of $-\pi/2$ rad. Draw a position graph showing two cycles of the motion.

**11.** • An object in simple harmonic motion has amplitude 4.0 cm and frequency 4.0 Hz, and at $t = 0$ s it passes through the equilibrium point moving to the right. Write the function $x(t)$ that describes the object's position.

**12.** • An object in simple harmonic motion has amplitude 8.0 cm and frequency 0.50 Hz. At $t = 0$ s it has its most negative position. Write the function $x(t)$ that describes the object's position.



**13.** •• An air-track glider attached to a spring oscillates with a period of 1.5 s. At $t = 0$ s the glider is 5.00 cm left of the equilibrium position and moving to the right at 36.3 cm/s.

**a.** What is the phase constant?

**b.** What is the phase at $t = 0$ s, 0.5 s, 1.0 s, and 1.5 s?

## Section 15.3 Energy in SHM

## Section 15.4 The Dynamics of SHM

**14.** • A block attached to a spring with unknown spring constant oscillates with a period of 2.0 s. What is the period if

**a.** The mass is doubled?

**b.** The mass is halved?

**c.** The amplitude is doubled?

**d.** The spring constant is doubled?

Parts a to d are independent questions, each referring to the initial situation.

**15.** •• A 200 g air-track glider is attached to a spring. The glider is pushed in 10 cm and released. A student with a stopwatch finds that 10 oscillations take 12.0 s. What is the spring constant?

**16.** •• A 200 g mass attached to a horizontal spring oscillates at a frequency of 2.0 Hz. At $t = 0$ s, the mass is at $x = 5.0$ cm and has $v_x = -30$ cm/s. Determine:

**a.** The period.

**b.** The angular frequency.

**c.** The amplitude.

**d.** The phase constant.

**e.** The maximum speed.

**f.** The maximum acceleration.

**g.** The total energy.

**h.** The position at $t = 0.40$ s.

**17.** •• The position of a 50 g oscillating mass is given by $x(t) = (2.0\text{ cm})\cos(10t - \pi/4)$, where $t$ is in s. Determine:

**a.** The amplitude.

**b.** The period.

**c.** The spring constant.

**d.** The phase constant.

**e.** The initial conditions.

**f.** The maximum speed.

**g.** The total energy.

**h.** The velocity at $t = 0.40$ s.

**18.** •• A 1.0 kg block is attached to a spring with spring constant 16 N/m. While the block is sitting at rest, a student hits it with a hammer and almost instantaneously gives it a speed of 40 cm/s. What are

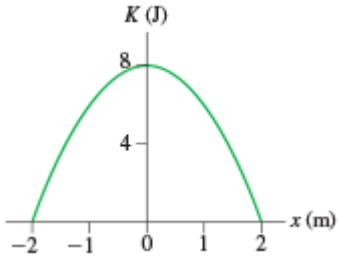
**a.** The amplitude of the subsequent oscillations?

**b.** The block's speed at the point where $x = \frac{1}{2}A$?

**19.** •• **INT** A student is bouncing on a trampoline. At her highest point, her feet are 55 cm above the trampoline. When she lands, the trampoline sags 15 cm before propelling her back up. For how long is she in contact with the trampoline?

**20.** •• Figure EX15.20 is a kinetic-energy graph of a mass oscillating on a *very* long horizontal spring. What is the spring constant?

**Figure EX15.20**




## Section 15.5 Vertical Oscillations

**21.** • A spring is hanging from the ceiling. Attaching a 500 g physics book to the spring causes it to stretch 20 cm in order to come to equilibrium.

**a.** What is the spring constant?

**b.** From equilibrium, the book is pulled down 10 cm and released. What is the period of oscillation?

**c.** What is the book's maximum speed?

**22.** •• A spring with spring constant 15 N/m hangs from the ceiling. A ball is attached to the spring and allowed to come to rest. It is then pulled down 6.0 cm and released. If the ball makes 30 oscillations in 20 s, what are its (a) mass and (b) maximum speed?

**23.** •• A spring is hung from the ceiling. When a block is attached to its end, it stretches 2.0 cm before reaching its new equilibrium length. The block is then pulled down slightly and released. What is the frequency of oscillation?

## Section 15.6 The Pendulum

**24.** • A grandfather clock ticks each time the pendulum passes through the lowest point. If the pendulum is modeled as a simple pendulum, how long must it be for the ticks to occur once a second?

**25.** •• A 200 g ball is tied to a string. It is pulled to an angle of 8.0° and released to swing as a pendulum. A student with a stopwatch finds that 10 oscillations take 12 s. How long is the string?

**26.** • A mass on a string of unknown length oscillates as a pendulum with a period of 4.0 s. What is the period if

**a.** The mass is doubled?

**b.** The string length is doubled?

**c.** The string length is halved?

**d.** The amplitude is doubled?

Parts a to d are independent questions, each referring to the initial situation.



**27.** • **INT** What is the length of a pendulum whose period on the moon matches the period of a 2.0-m-long pendulum on the earth?

**28.** • **INT** What is the period of a 1.0-m-long pendulum on (a) the earth and (b) Venus?

**29.** • **INT** Astronauts on the first trip to Mars take along a pendulum that has a period on earth of 1.50 s. The period on Mars turns out to be 2.45 s. What is the free-fall acceleration on Mars?

**30.** ••• A 100 g mass on a 1.0-m-long string is pulled 8.0° to one side and released. How long does it take for the pendulum to reach 4.0° on the opposite side?

**31.** •• **INT** A uniform steel bar swings from a pivot at one end with a period of 1.2 s. How long is the bar?

## Section 15.7 Damped Oscillations

## Section 15.8 Driven Oscillations and Resonance

**32.** • A 2.0 g spider is dangling at the end of a silk thread. You can make the spider bounce up and down on the thread by tapping lightly on his feet with a pencil. You soon discover that you can give the spider the largest amplitude on his little bungee cord if you tap exactly once every second. What is the spring constant of the silk thread?

**33.** •• The amplitude of an oscillator decreases to 36.8% of its initial value in 10.0 s. What is the value of the time constant?

**34.** •• In a science museum, a 110 kg brass pendulum bob swings at the end of a 15.0-m-long wire. The pendulum is started at exactly 8:00 A.M. every morning by pulling it 1.5 m to the side and releasing it. Because of its compact shape and smooth surface, the pendulum's damping constant is only 0.010 kg/s. At exactly 12:00 noon, how many oscillations will the pendulum have completed and what is its amplitude?

**35.** • **BIO** Vision is blurred if the head is vibrated at 29 Hz because the vibrations are resonant with the natural frequency of the eyeball in its socket. If the mass of the eyeball is 7.5 g, a typical value, what is the effective spring constant of the musculature that holds the eyeball in the socket?

**36.** •• A 350 g mass on a 45-cm-long string is released at an angle of 4.5° from vertical. It has a damping constant of 0.010 kg/s. After 25 s, (a) how many oscillations has it completed and (b) how much energy has been lost?

## Problems

**37.** •• The motion of a particle is given by $x(t) = (25\,\text{cm})\cos(10t)$, where $t$ is in s. What is the first time at which the kinetic energy is twice the potential energy?

**38.** ••

**a.** 38. When the displacement of a mass on a spring is $\frac{1}{2}A$, what fraction of the energy is kinetic energy and what fraction is potential energy?

**b.** At what displacement, as a fraction of $A$, is the energy half kinetic and half potential?

**39.** •• For a particle in simple harmonic motion, show that $v_{\text{max}} = (\pi/2)v_{\text{avg}}$, where $v_{\text{avg}}$ is the average speed during one

cycle of the motion.

**40.** •• A 100 g block attached to a spring with spring constant 2.5 N/m oscillates horizontally on a frictionless table. Its velocity is 20 cm/s when $x = -5.0$ cm.

**a.** What is the amplitude of oscillation?

**b.** What is the block's maximum acceleration?

**c.** What is the block's position when the acceleration is maximum?

**d.** What is the speed of the block when $x = 3.0$ cm?

**41.** •• A 0.300 kg oscillator has a speed of 95.4 cm/s when its displacement is 3.00 cm and 71.4 cm/s when its displacement is 6.00 cm. What is the oscillator's maximum speed?

**42.** •• **BIO** An ultrasonic transducer, of the type used in medical ultrasound imaging, is a very thin disk ($m = 0.10$ g) driven back and forth in SHM at 1.0 MHz by an electromagnetic coil.

**a.** The maximum restoring force that can be applied to the disk without breaking it is 40,000 N. What is the maximum oscillation amplitude that won't rupture the disk?

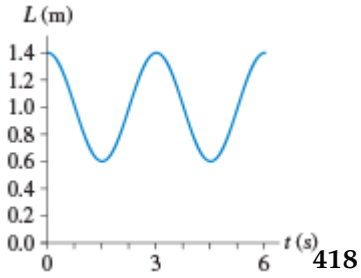
**b.** What is the disk's maximum speed at this amplitude?

**43.** •• **BIO** Astronauts in space cannot weigh themselves by standing on a bathroom scale. Instead, they determine their mass by oscillating on a large spring. Suppose an astronaut attaches one end of a large spring to her belt and the other end to a hook on the wall of the space capsule. A fellow astronaut then pulls her away from the wall and releases her. The spring's length as a function of time is shown in Figure P15.43.

**a.** What is her mass if the spring constant is 240 N/m?

**b.** What is her speed when the spring's length is 1.2 m?

## Figure P15.43






**44.** •• Your lab instructor has asked you to measure a spring constant using a dynamic method—letting it oscillate—rather than a static method of stretching it. You and your lab partner suspend the spring from a hook, hang different masses on the lower end, and start them oscillating. One of you uses a meter stick to measure the amplitude, the other uses a stopwatch to time 10 oscillations. Your data are as follows:

| Mass (g) | Amplitude (cm) | Time (s) |
|---|---|---|
| 100 | 6.5 | 7.8 |
| 150 | 5.5 | 9.8 |
| 200 | 6.0 | 10.9 |
| 250 | 3.5 | 12.4 |

Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine the spring constant.

**45.** •• A 5.0 kg block hangs from a spring with spring constant 2000 N/m. The block is pulled down 5.0 cm from the equilibrium position and given an initial velocity of 1.0 m/s back toward equilibrium. What are the (a) frequency, (b) amplitude, and (c) total mechanical energy of the motion?

**46.** ••• A 200 g block hangs from a spring with spring constant 10 N/m. At $t = 0$ s the block is 20 cm below the equilibrium point and moving upward with a speed of 100 cm/s. What are the block's

**a.** Oscillation frequency?

**b.** Distance from equilibrium when the speed is 50 cm/s?

**c.** Distance from equilibrium at $t = 1.0$ s?

**47.** •• A block hangs in equilibrium from a vertical spring. When a second identical block is added, the original block sags by 5.0 cm. What is the oscillation frequency of the two-block system?

**48.** •• **INT** A 75 kg student jumps off a bridge with a 12-m-long bungee cord tied to his feet. The massless bungee cord has a spring constant of 430 N/m.

**a.** How far below the bridge is the student's lowest point?

**b.** How far below the bridge is the student's resting position after the oscillations have been fully damped?

**49.** •• **INT** Scientists are measuring the properties of a newly discovered elastic material. They create a 1.5-m-long, 1.6-mm-diameter cord, attach an 850 g mass to the lower end, then pull the mass down 2.5 mm and release it. Their high-speed video camera records 36 oscillations in 2.0 s. What is Young's modulus of the material?

**50.** ••• **INT** A mass hanging from a spring oscillates with a period of 0.35 s. Suppose the mass and spring are swung in a horizontal circle, with the free end of the spring at the pivot. What rotation frequency, in rpm, will cause the spring's length to stretch by 15%?

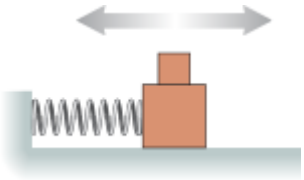
**51.** •• A compact car has a mass of 1200 kg. Assume that the car has one spring on each wheel, that the springs are identical, and that the mass is equally distributed over the four springs.

**a.** What is the spring constant of each spring if the empty car bounces up and down 2.0 times each second?

**b.** What will be the car's oscillation frequency while carrying four 70 kg passengers?

**52.** •• **INT** The two blocks in Figure P15.52 oscillate on a frictionless surface with a period of 1.5 s. The upper block just begins to slip when the amplitude is increased to 40 cm. What is the coefficient of static friction between the two blocks?

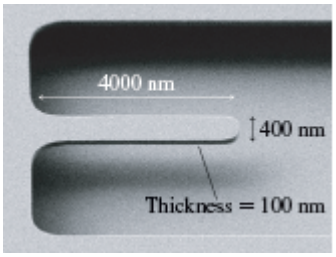
**Figure P15.52**



**53.** •• **INT** A 1.00 kg block is attached to a horizontal spring with spring constant 2500 N/m. The block is at rest on a frictionless surface. A 10 g bullet is fired into the block, in the face opposite the spring, and sticks. What was the bullet's speed if the subsequent oscillations have an amplitude of 10.0 cm?

**54.** ••• **BIO** It has recently become possible to "weigh" DNA molecules by measuring the influence of their mass on a nano-oscillator. Figure P15.54 shows a thin rectangular cantilever etched out of silicon (density 2300 kg/m$^3$) with a small gold dot (not visible) at the end. If pulled down and released, the end of the cantilever vibrates with SHM, moving up and down like a diving board after a jump. When bathed with DNA molecules whose ends have been modified to bind with gold, one or more molecules may attach to the gold dot. The addition of their mass causes a very slight—but measurable—decrease in the oscillation frequency.

**Figure P15.54**




A vibrating cantilever of mass $M$ can be modeled as a block of mass $\frac{1}{3}M$ attached to a spring. (The factor of $\frac{1}{3}$ arises from the moment of inertia of a bar pivoted at one end.) Neither the mass nor the spring constant can be determined very accurately — perhaps to only two significant figures—but the oscillation frequency can be measured with very high precision simply by counting the oscillations. In one experiment, the cantilever was initially vibrating at exactly 12 MHz. Attachment of a DNA molecule caused the frequency to decrease by 50 Hz. What was the mass of the DNA?

**55.** •• It is said that Galileo discovered a basic principle of the pendulum—that the period is independent of the amplitude—by using his pulse to time the period of swinging lamps in the cathedral as they swayed in the breeze. Suppose that one oscillation of a swinging lamp takes 5.5 s.



**a.** How long is the lamp chain?

**b.** What maximum speed does the lamp have if its maximum angle from vertical is 3.0°?

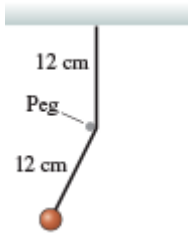
**56.** •• **BIO** Orangutans can move by *brachiation*, swinging like a pendulum beneath successive handholds. If an orangutan has arms that are 0.90 m long and repeatedly swings to a 20° angle, taking one swing after another, estimate its speed of forward motion in m/s. While this is somewhat beyond the range of validity of the small-angle approximation, the standard results for a pendulum are adequate for making an estimate.

**57.** •• **INT** The pendulum shown in Figure P15.57 is pulled to a 10° angle on the left side and released.

**a.** What is the period of this pendulum?

**b.** What is the pendulum's maximum angle on the right side?

**Figure P15.57**




**58.** •• **INT** A uniform rod of mass $M$ and length $L$ swings as a pendulum on a pivot at distance $L/4$ from one end of the rod. Find an expression for the frequency $f$ of small-angle oscillations.

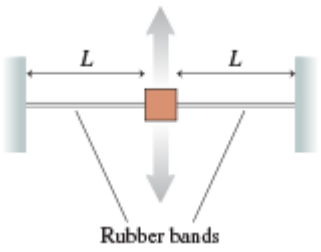
**59.** •• **BIO** Interestingly, there have been several studies using cadavers to determine the moments of inertia of human body parts, information that is important in biomechanics. In one study, the center of mass of a 5.0 kg lower leg was found to be 18 cm from the knee. When the leg was allowed to pivot at the knee and swing freely as a pendulum, the oscillation frequency was 1.6 Hz. What was the moment of inertia of the lower leg about the knee joint?

**60.** •• **INT** A 500 g air-track glider attached to a spring with spring constant 10 N/m is sitting at rest on a frictionless air track. A 250 g glider is pushed toward it from the far end of the track at a speed of 120 cm/s. It collides with and sticks to the 500 g glider. What are the amplitude and period of the subsequent oscillations?

**61.** •• **INT** A 200 g block attached to a horizontal spring is oscillating with an amplitude of 2.0 cm and a frequency of 2.0 Hz. Just as it passes through the equilibrium point, moving to the right, a sharp blow directed to the left exerts a 20 N force for 1.0 ms. What are the new (a) frequency and (b) amplitude?

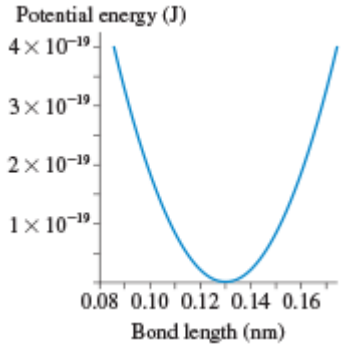
**62.** •• Figure P15.62 is a top view of an object of mass $m$ connected between two stretched rubber bands of length $L$. The object rests on a frictionless surface. At equilibrium, the tension in each rubber band is $T$. Find an expression for the frequency of oscillations *perpendicular* to the rubber bands. Assume the amplitude is sufficiently small that the magnitude of the tension in the rubber bands is essentially unchanged as the mass oscillates.

**Figure P15.62**




**63.** •• **INT** A molecular bond can be modeled as a spring between two atoms that vibrate with simple harmonic motion. Figure P15.63 shows an SHM approximation for the potential energy of an HCl molecule. Because the chlorine atom is so much more massive than the hydrogen atom, it is reasonable to assume that the hydrogen atom ($m = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg) vibrates back and forth while the chlorine atom remains at rest. Use the graph to estimate the vibrational frequency of the HCl molecule.

## Figure P15.63




**64.** •• **INT** A penny rides on top of a piston as it undergoes vertical simple harmonic motion with an amplitude of 4.0 cm. If the frequency is low, the penny rides up and down without difficulty. If the frequency is steadily increased, there comes a point at which the penny leaves the surface.

**a.** At what point in the cycle does the penny first lose contact with the piston?

**b.** What is the maximum frequency for which the penny just barely remains in place for the full cycle?

**65.** •• On your first trip to Planet X you happen to take along a 200 g mass, a 40-cm-long spring, a meter stick, and a stopwatch. You're curious about the free-fall acceleration on Planet X, where ordinary tasks seem easier than on earth, but you can't find this information in your Visitor's Guide. One night you suspend the spring from the ceiling in your room and hang the mass from it. You find that the mass stretches the spring by 31.2 cm. You then pull the mass down 10.0 cm and release it. With the stopwatch you find that 10 oscillations take 14.5 s. Based on this information, what is $g$?

**66.** ••• **INT** Suppose a large spherical object, such as a planet, with radius $R$ and mass $M$ has a narrow tunnel passing diametrically through it. A particle of mass $m$ is inside the

tunnel at a distance $x \leq R$ from the center. It can be shown that the net gravitational force on the particle is due entirely to the sphere of mass with radius $r \leq x$; there is no net gravitational force from the mass in the spherical shell with $r > x$.

**a.** Find an expression for the gravitational force on the particle, assuming the object has uniform density. Your expression will be in terms of $x$, $R$, $m$, $M$, and any necessary constants.

**b.** You should have found that the gravitational force is a linear restoring force. Consequently, in the absence of air resistance, objects in the tunnel will oscillate with SHM. Suppose an intrepid astronaut exploring a 150-km-diameter, $3.5 \times 10^{18}$ kg asteroid discovers a tunnel through the center. If she jumps into the hole, how long will it take her to fall all the way through the asteroid and emerge on the other side?

**67.** •• The 15 g head of a bobble-head doll oscillates in SHM at a frequency of 4.0 Hz.

**a.** What is the spring constant of the spring on which the head is mounted?

**b.** The amplitude of the head's oscillations decreases to 0.5 cm in 4.0 s. What is the head's damping constant?

**68.** •• An oscillator with a mass of 500 g and a period of 0.50 s has an amplitude that decreases by 2.0% during each complete oscillation. If the initial amplitude is 10 cm, what will be the amplitude after 25 oscillations?

**69.** ••• A spring with spring constant 15.0 N/m hangs from the ceiling. A 500 g ball is attached to the spring and allowed to come to rest. It is then pulled down 6.0 cm and released. What

is the time constant if the ball's amplitude has decreased to 3.0 cm after 30 oscillations?

**70.** ••• A captive James Bond is strapped to a table beneath a huge pendulum made of a 2.0-m-diameter uniform circular metal blade rigidly attached, at its top edge, to a 6.0-m-long, massless rod. The pendulum is set swinging with a 10° amplitude when its lower edge is 3.0 m above the prisoner, then the table slowly starts ascending at 1.0 mm/s. After 25 minutes, the pendulum's amplitude has decreased to 7.0°. Fortunately, the prisoner is freed with a mere 30 s to spare. What was the speed of the lower edge of the blade as it passed over him for the last time?

**71.** •• A 250 g air-track glider is attached to a spring with spring constant 4.0 N/m. The damping constant due to air resistance is 0.015 kg/s. The glider is pulled out 20 cm from equilibrium and released. How many oscillations will it make during the time in which the amplitude decays to $e^{-1}$ of its initial value?

**72.** •• A 200 g oscillator in a vacuum chamber has a frequency of 2.0 Hz. When air is admitted, the oscillation decreases to 60% of its initial amplitude in 50 s. How many oscillations will have been completed when the amplitude is 30% of its initial value?

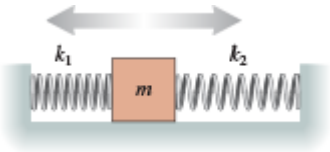
**73.** •• Prove that the expression for $x(t)$ in Equation 15.55 is a solution to the equation of motion for a damped oscillator, Equation 15.54, if and only if the angular frequency $\omega$ is given by the expression in Equation 15.56.

**74.** •• A block on a frictionless table is connected as shown in Figure P15.74 to two springs having spring constants $k_1$ and $k_2$. Show that the block's oscillation frequency is given by

$$f = \sqrt{{f_1}^2 + {f_2}^2}$$

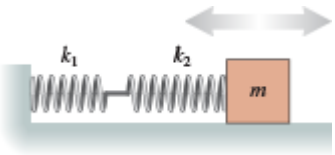
where $f_1$ and $f_2$ are the frequencies at which it would oscillate if attached to spring 1 or spring 2 alone.

**Figure P15.74**




**75.** •• A block on a frictionless table is connected as shown in Figure P15.75 to two springs having spring constants $k_1$ and $k_2$. Find an expression for the block's oscillation frequency $f$ in terms of the frequencies $f_1$ and $f_2$ at which it would oscillate if attached to spring 1 or spring 2 alone.

**Figure P15.75**

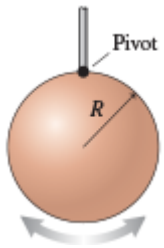



## Challenge Problems

**76.** ••• A 15-cm-long, 200 g rod is pivoted at one end. A 20 g ball of clay is stuck on the other end. What is the period if the rod and clay swing as a pendulum?

**77.** ••• A solid sphere of mass $M$ and radius $R$ is suspended from a thin rod, as shown in Figure CP15.77. The sphere can swing back and forth at the bottom of the rod. Find an expression for the frequency $f$ of small-angle oscillations.

**Figure CP15.77**




**78.** ••• **CALC** A uniform rod of length $L$ oscillates as a pendulum about a pivot that is a distance $x$ from the center.

**a.** For what value of $x$, in terms of $L$, is the oscillation period a minimum?

**b.** What is the minimum oscillation period of a 15 kg, 1.0-m-long steel bar?

**79.** ••• A spring is standing upright on a table with its bottom end fastened to the table. A block is dropped from a height 3.0 cm above the top of the spring. The block sticks to the top end of the spring and then oscillates with an amplitude of 10 cm. What is the oscillation frequency?

**80.** ••• The analysis of a simple pendulum assumed that the mass was a particle, with no size. A realistic pendulum is a small, uniform sphere of mass $M$ and radius $R$ at the end of a massless string, with $L$ being the distance from the pivot to the center of the sphere.

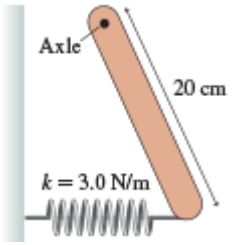
**a.** Find an expression for the period of this pendulum.

**b.** Suppose $M = 25$ g, $R = 1.0$ cm, and $L = 1.0$ m, typical values for a real pendulum. What is the ratio $T_{\text{real}}/T_{\text{simple}}$, where $T_{\text{real}}$ is your expression from part a and $T_{\text{simple}}$ is the expression derived in this chapter?

**81.** ••• Figure CP15.81 shows a 200 g uniform rod pivoted at one end. The other end is attached to a horizontal spring. The spring is neither stretched nor compressed when the rod hangs

straight down. What is the rod's oscillation period? You can assume that the rod's angle from vertical is always small.

## Figure CP15.81



# Chapter 16
# Traveling Waves

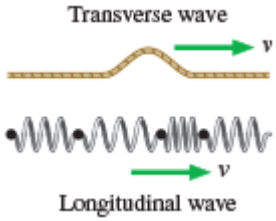
This surfer is "catching a wave." At the same time, he's seeing light waves and hearing sound waves.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn the basic properties of traveling waves.

## What is a wave?

A wave is a disturbance traveling through a medium. In a transverse wave, the displacement is perpendicular to the direction of travel. In a longitudinal wave, the displacement is parallel to the direction of travel.

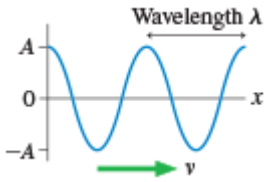



## What are some wave properties?

A wave is characterized by:

- Wave speed: How fast it travels through the medium.
- Wavelength: The distance between two neighboring crests.
- Frequency: The number of oscillations per second.
- Amplitude: The maximum displacement.

Looking Back Sections 15.1, 15.2 Properties of simple harmonic motion

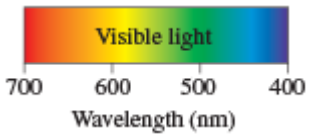



## Are sound and light waves?

Yes! Very important waves.

- Sound waves are longitudinal waves.
- Light waves are transverse waves.

The colors of visible light correspond to different wavelengths.

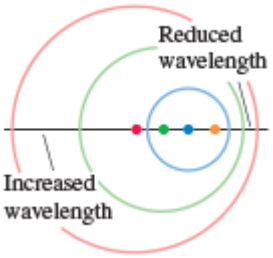



## Do waves carry energy?

They do. The rate at which a wave delivers energy to a surface is the intensity of the wave. For sound waves, we'll use a logarithmic decibel scale to characterize the loudness of a sound.

## What is the Doppler effect?

The frequency and wavelength of a wave are shifted if there is relative motion between the source and the observer of the waves. This is called the Doppler effect. It explains why the pitch of an ambulance siren drops as it races past you.




## How will I use waves?

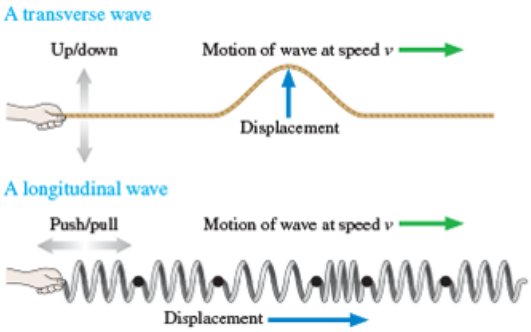
Waves are literally everywhere. Communications systems from radios to cell phones to fiber optics use waves. Sonar and radar and medical ultrasound use waves. Music and musical instruments are all about waves. Waves are present in the oceans, the atmosphere, and the earth. This chapter and the next will allow you to understand and work with a wide variety of waves that you may meet in your career.

# 16.1 An Introduction to Waves

From sound and light to ocean waves and seismic waves, we're surrounded by waves. Understanding musical instruments, cell phones, or lasers requires a knowledge of waves. With this chapter we shift our focus from the particle model to a new **wave model** that emphasizes those aspects of wave behavior common to all waves.

The wave model is built around the idea of a **traveling wave**, which is an organized disturbance traveling with a well-defined wave speed. We'll begin our study of traveling waves by looking at two distinct wave motions.

**Two types of traveling waves**




A **transverse wave** is a wave in which the displacement is *perpendicular* to the direction in which the wave travels. For example, a wave travels along a string in a horizontal direction while the particles that make up the string oscillate vertically. Electromagnetic waves are also transverse waves because the electromagnetic fields oscillate perpendicular to the direction in which the wave travels.

In a **longitudinal wave,** the particles in the medium are displaced *parallel* to the direction in which the wave travels. Here we see a chain of masses connected by springs. If you give the first mass in the chain a sharp push, a disturbance travels down the chain by compressing and expanding the springs. Sound waves in gases and liquids are the most well known examples of longitudinal waves.

We can also classify waves on the basis of what is "waving":

1. **Mechanical waves** travel only within a material *medium*, such as air or water. Two familiar mechanical waves are sound waves and water waves.
2. **Electromagnetic waves**, from radio waves to visible light to x rays, are a self-sustaining oscillation of the *electromagnetic field*.

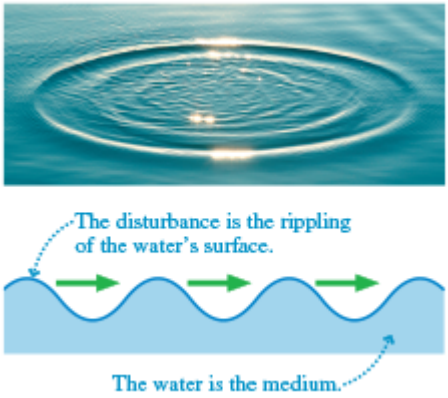
Electromagnetic waves require no material medium and can travel through a vacuum.

The **medium** of a mechanical wave is the substance through or along which the wave moves. For example, the medium of a water wave is the water, the medium of a sound wave is the air, and the medium of a wave on a stretched string is the string. A medium must be *elastic*. That is, a restoring force of some sort brings the medium back to equilibrium after it has been displaced or disturbed. The tension in a stretched string pulls the string back straight after you pluck it. Gravity restores the level surface of a lake after the wave generated by a boat has passed by.

As a wave passes through a medium, the atoms of the medium—we'll simply call them the particles of the medium—are displaced from equilibrium. This is a **disturbance** of the medium. The water ripples of Figure 16.1 are a disturbance of the water's surface. A pulse traveling down a string is a disturbance, as are the wake of a boat and the sonic boom created by a jet traveling faster than the speed of sound. **The disturbance of a wave is an *organized* motion of the particles in the medium,** in contrast to the *random* molecular motions of thermal energy.

## Figure 16.1






Ripples on a pond are a traveling wave.

# Wave Speed

A wave disturbance is created by a *source*. The source of a wave might be a rock thrown into water, your hand plucking a stretched string, or an oscillating loudspeaker cone pushing on the air. Once created, the disturbance travels outward through the medium at the **wave speed** $v$. This is the speed with which a ripple moves across the water or a pulse travels down a string.

> **Note**
>
> The disturbance propagates through the medium, but the medium as a whole does not move! The ripples on the pond (the disturbance) move outward from the splash of the rock, but there is no outward flow of water from the splash. **A wave transfers energy, but it does not transfer any material or substance outward from the source**.

As an example, we'll prove in Section 16.4 that the wave speed on a string stretched with tension $T_s$ is

**(16.1)**

$$v_{\text{string}} = \sqrt{\frac{T_s}{\mu}} \qquad \text{(wave speed on a stretched string)}$$

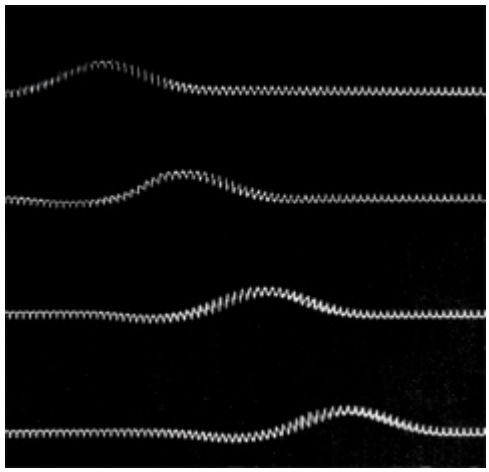
where $\mu$ is the string's **linear density**, its mass-to-length ratio:

**(16.2)**

$$\mu = \frac{m}{L}$$

The SI unit of linear density is kg/m. A fat string has a larger value of $\mu$ than a skinny string made of the same material. Similarly, a steel wire has

a larger value of $\mu$ than a plastic string of the same diameter. We'll assume that strings are *uniform*, meaning the linear density is the same everywhere along the length of the string.



This sequence of photographs shows a wave pulse traveling along a spring.

> **Note**
>
> The subscript s on the symbol $T_s$ for the string's tension distinguishes it from the symbol $T$ for the *period* of oscillation.

Equation 16.1 is the wave *speed*, not the wave velocity, so $v_{\text{string}}$ always has a positive value. Every point on a wave travels with this speed. You can increase the wave speed either by *increasing* the string's tension (make it tighter) or by *decreasing* the string's linear density (make it skinnier).

**Example 16.1 Measuring the linear density**

A 2.00-m-long metal wire is attached to a motion sensor, stretched horizontally to a pulley 1.50 m away, then connected to a 2.00 kg hanging mass that provides tension. A mechanical pick plucks a horizontal segment of wire right at the pulley, creating a small wave pulse that travels along the wire. The plucking motion starts a

timer that is stopped by the motion sensor when the pulse reaches the end of the wire. What is the wire's linear density if the pulse takes 18.0 ms to travel the length of the wire?

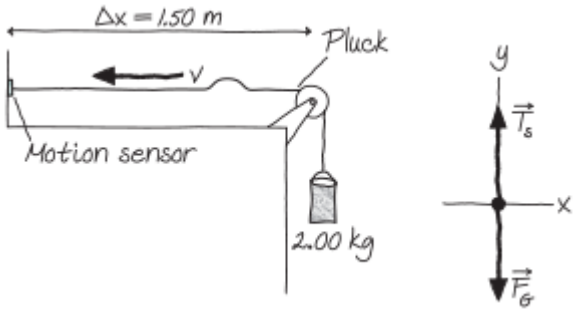
---

**MODEL** Model the pulse as a traveling wave and the pulley as frictionless.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 16.2 is a pictorial representation. The free-body diagram is for the hanging mass.



**Figure 16.2**




A wave pulse on a wire.

**SOLVE** The wave speed on a wire is determined by the wire's linear density $\mu$ and tension $T_s$. By measuring the wave speed and the tension, we can determine the linear density. The hanging mass is in equilibrium, with no net force, so we see from the free-body diagram that the tension throughout the wire (because the pulley is frictionless) is $T_s = F_G = Mg = 19.6$ N. Because the wave pulse travels 1.50 m in 18.0 ms, its speed is

$$v = \frac{1.50 \text{ m}}{0.0180 \text{ s}} = 83.3 \text{ m/s}$$

Thus, from Equation 16.1, the wire's linear density is

$$\mu = \frac{T_s}{v^2} = \frac{19.6\ \text{N}}{(83.3\ \text{m/s})^2} = 2.82 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{kg/m} = 2.82\ \text{g/m}$$

Linear densities of strings are often stated in g/m, although these are not SI units. You must use kg/m in any calculations.

**ASSESS** A meter of thin wire is likely to have a mass of a few grams, so a linear density of a few g/m is reasonable. Note that the total length of the wire was not relevant.

The wave speed on a string is a property of the string—its tension and linear density. In general, **the wave speed is a property *of the medium***. The wave speed depends on the restoring forces within the medium but not at all on the shape or size of the pulse, how the pulse was generated, or how far it has traveled.

## Stop to Think 16.1

Which of the following actions would make a pulse travel faster along a stretched string? More than one answer may be correct. If so, give all that are correct.

**a.** Move your hand up and down more quickly as you generate the pulse.
**b.** Move your hand up and down a larger distance as you generate the pulse.
**c.** Use a heavier string of the same length, under the same tension.
**d.** Use a lighter string of the same length, under the same tension.

**e.** Stretch the string tighter to increase the tension.

**f.** Loosen the string to decrease the tension.

**g.** Put more force into the wave.

# 16.2 One-Dimensional Waves

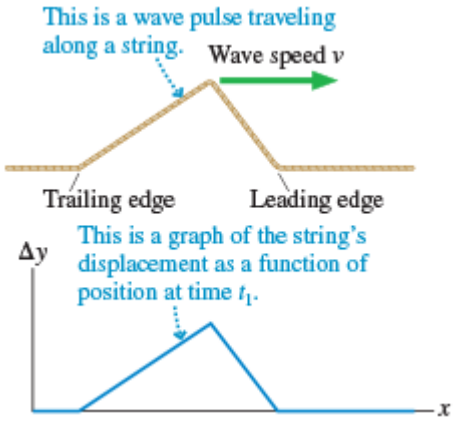
To understand waves we must deal with functions of *two* variables. Until now, we have been concerned with quantities that depend only on time, such as $x(t)$ or $v(t)$. Functions of the one variable $t$ are appropriate for a particle because a particle is only in one place at a time, but a wave is not localized. It is spread out through space at each instant of time. To describe a wave mathematically requires a function that specifies not only an instant of time (when) but also a point in space (where).

Rather than leaping into mathematics, we will start by thinking about waves graphically. Consider the wave pulse shown moving along a stretched string in Figure 16.3. (We will consider somewhat artificial triangular and square-shaped pulses in this section to make clear where the edges of the pulse are.) The graph shows the string's displacement $\Delta y$ at a particular instant of time $t_1$ as a function of position $x$ along the string. This is a "snapshot" of the wave, much like what you might make with a camera whose shutter is opened briefly at $t_1$. A graph that shows the wave's displacement as a function of position at a single instant of time is called a **snapshot graph**. For a wave on a string, a snapshot graph is literally a picture of the wave at this instant.

---

**Figure 16.3**

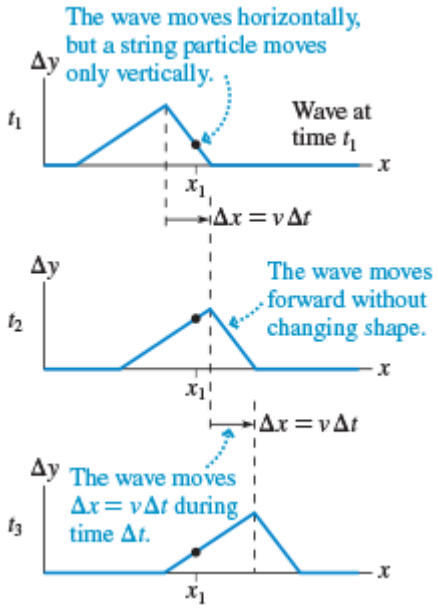
---




A snapshot graph of a wave pulse on a string.

Figure 16.4 shows a sequence of snapshot graphs as the wave of Figure 16.3 continues to move. These are like successive frames from a video. Notice that the wave pulse moves forward distance $\Delta x = v\Delta t$ during the time interval $\Delta t$. That is, the wave moves with constant speed.

## Figure 16.4

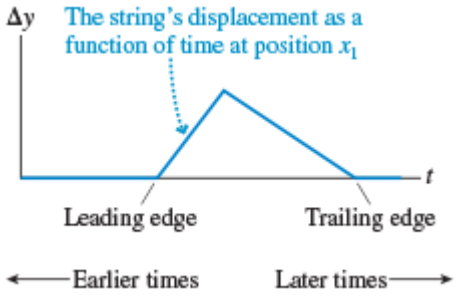



A sequence of snapshot graphs shows the wave in motion.

A snapshot graph tells only half the story. It tells us *where* the wave is and how it varies with position, but only at one instant of time. It gives us no information about how the wave *changes* with time. As a different way of

portraying the wave, suppose we follow the dot marked on the string in Figure 16.4 and produce a graph showing how the displacement of this dot changes with time. The result, shown in Figure 16.5, is a displacement-versus-time graph at a single position in space. A graph that shows the wave's displacement as a function of time at a single position in space is called a **history graph**. It tells the history of that particular point in the medium.

## Figure 16.5



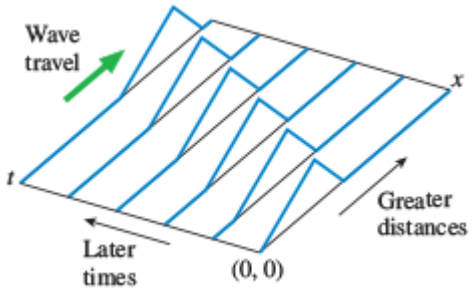

A history graph for the dot on the string in Figure 16.4.

You might think we have made a mistake; the graph of Figure 16.5 is reversed compared to Figure 16.4. It is not a mistake, but it requires careful thought to see why. As the wave moves toward the dot, the steep **leading edge** causes the dot to rise quickly. On the displacement-versus-time graph, *earlier* times (smaller values of $t$) are to the *left* and later times (larger $t$) to the right. Thus the leading edge of the wave is on the *left* side of the Figure 16.5 history graph. As you move to the right on Figure 16.5 you see the slowly falling **trailing edge** of the wave as it moves past the dot at later times.

The snapshot graph of Figure 16.3 and the history graph of Figure 16.5 portray complementary information. The snapshot graph tells us how things look throughout all of space, but at only one instant of time. The history graph tells us how things look at all times, but at only one

position in space. We need them both to have the full story of the wave. An alternative representation of the wave is the series of graphs in Figure 16.6, where we can get a clearer sense of the wave moving forward. But graphs like these are essentially impossible to draw by hand, so it is necessary to move back and forth between snapshot graphs and history graphs.

### Figure 16.6

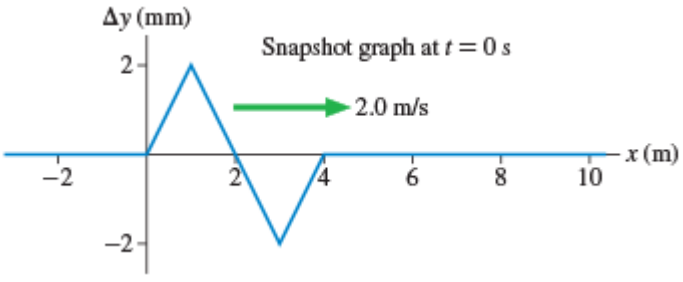



An alternative look at a traveling wave.

### Example 16.2 Finding a history graph from a snapshot graph

Figure 16.7 is a snapshot graph at $t = 0\,\text{s}$ of a wave moving to the right at a speed of 2.0 m/s. Draw a history graph for the position $x = 8.0\,\text{m}$.

### Figure 16.7

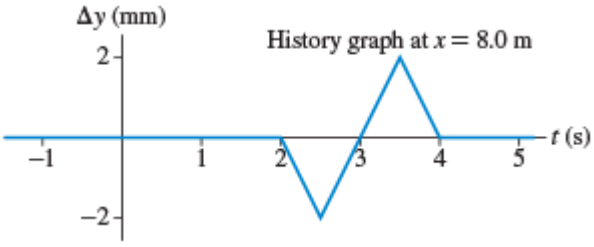



A snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s.

**MODEL** This is a wave traveling at constant speed. The pulse moves 2.0 m to the right every second.

**VISUALIZE** The snapshot graph of Figure 16.7 shows the wave at all points on the $x$-axis at $t = 0$ s. You can see that nothing is happening at $x = 8.0$ m at this instant of time because the wave has not yet reached $x = 8.0$ m. In fact, at $t = 0$ s the leading edge of the wave is still 4.0 m away from $x = 8.0$ m. Because the wave is traveling at 2.0 m/s, it will take 2.0 s for the leading edge to reach $x = 8.0$ m. Thus the history graph for $x = 8.0$ m will be zero until $t = 2.0$ s. The first part of the wave causes a *downward* displacement of the medium, so immediately after $t = 2.0$ s the displacement at $x = 8.0$ m will be negative. The negative portion of the wave pulse is 2.0 m wide and takes 1.0 s to pass $x = 8.0$ m, so the midpoint of the pulse reaches $x = 8.0$ m at $t = 3.0$ s. The positive portion takes another 1.0 s to go past, so the trailing edge of the pulse arrives at $t = 4.0$ s. You could also note that the trailing edge was initially 8.0 m away from $x = 8.0$ m and needed 4.0 s to travel that distance at 2.0 m/s. The displacement at $x = 8.0$ m returns to zero at $t = 4.0$ s and remains zero for all later times. This information is all portrayed on the history graph of Figure 16.8.

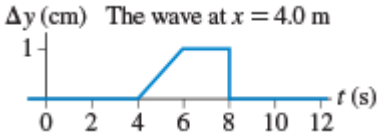
## Figure 16.8



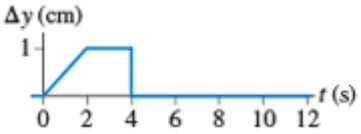

The corresponding history graph at $x = 8.0$ m.

## Stop to Think 16.2

The graph at the right is the history graph at $x = 4.0$ m of a wave traveling to the right at a speed of 2.0 m/s. Which is the history graph of this wave at $x = 0$ m?



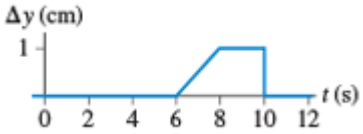

**a.**




**b.**

**c.**

**d.**



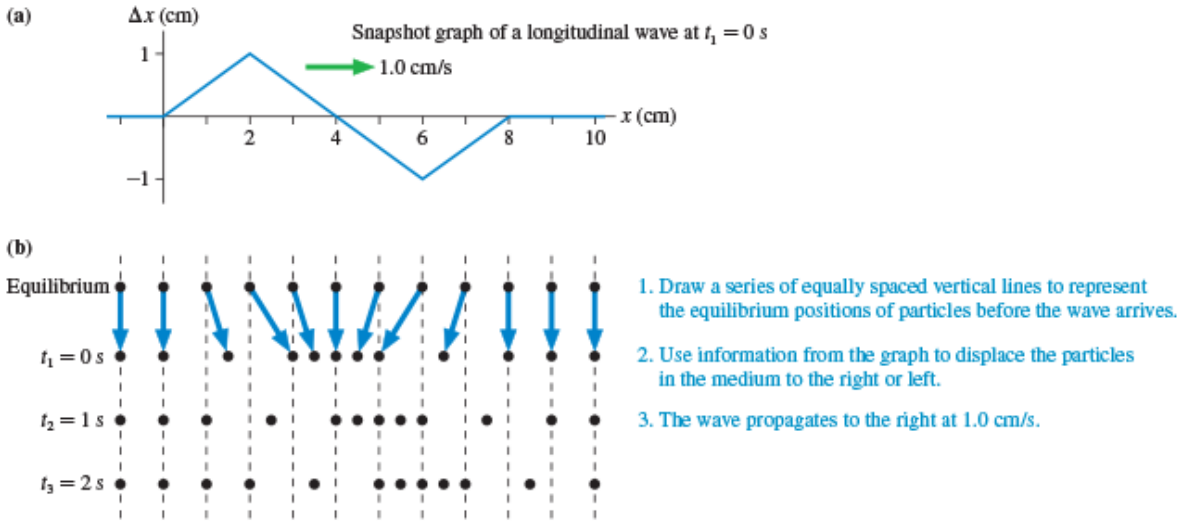

# Longitudinal Waves

For a wave on a string, a transverse wave, the snapshot graph is literally a picture of the wave. Not so for a longitudinal wave, where the particles in

the medium are displaced parallel to the direction in which the wave is traveling. Thus the displacement is $\Delta x$ rather than $\Delta y$, and a snapshot graph is a graph of $\Delta x$ versus $x$.

Figure 16.9a is a snapshot graph of a longitudinal wave, such as a sound wave. It's purposefully drawn to have the same shape as the string wave in Example 16.2. Without practice, it's not clear what this graph tells us about the particles in the medium.

## Figure 16.9




Visualizing a longitudinal wave.

To help you find out, Figure 16.9b provides a tool for visualizing longitudinal waves. In the second row, we've used information from the graph to displace the particles in the medium to the right or to the left of their equilibrium positions. For example, the particle at $x = 1.0$ cm has been displaced 0.5 cm to the right because the snapshot graph shows $\Delta x = 0.5$ cm at $x = 1.0$ cm. We now have a picture of the longitudinal wave pulse at $t_1 = 0$ s. You can see that the medium is compressed to higher density at the center of the pulse and, to compensate, expanded to lower density at the leading and trailing edges. Two more lines show the

medium at $t_2 = 1$ s and $t_3 = 2$ s so that you can see the wave propagating through the medium at 1.0 cm/s.



## The Displacement

A traveling wave causes the particles of the medium to be displaced from their equilibrium positions. Because one of our goals is to develop a mathematical representation to describe all types of waves, we'll use the generic symbol $D$ to stand for the *displacement* of a wave of any type. But what do we mean by a "particle" in the medium? And what about electromagnetic waves, for which there is no medium?

You've probably seen or participated in "the wave" at a sporting event. The wave moves around the stadium, but the people (the medium) simply undergo small displacements from their equilibrium positions.

---

For a string, where the atoms stay fixed relative to each other, you can think of either the atoms themselves or very small segments of the string as being the particles of the medium. $D$ is then the perpendicular displacement $\Delta y$ of a point on the string. For a sound wave, $D$ is the longitudinal displacement $\Delta x$ of a small volume of fluid. For any other mechanical wave, $D$ is the appropriate displacement. Even electromagnetic waves can be described within the same mathematical representation if $D$ is interpreted as a yet-undefined *electromagnetic field strength*, a "displacement" in a more abstract sense as an electromagnetic wave passes through a region of space.

Because the displacement of a particle in the medium depends both on *where* the particle is (position $x$) and on *when* you observe it (time $t$), $D$ must be a function of the two variables $x$ and $t$. That is,

$$D(x,t) = \text{the displacement at time } t \text{ of a particle at position } x$$

The values of *both* variables—where and when—must be specified before you can evaluate the displacement $D$.

# 16.3 Sinusoidal Waves 

A wave source that oscillates with simple harmonic motion (SHM) generates a **sinusoidal wave**. For example, a loudspeaker cone that oscillates in SHM radiates a sinusoidal sound wave. The sinusoidal electromagnetic waves broadcast by television and FM radio stations are generated by electrons oscillating back and forth in the antenna wire with **SHM. The frequency *f* of the wave is the frequency of the oscillating source.**

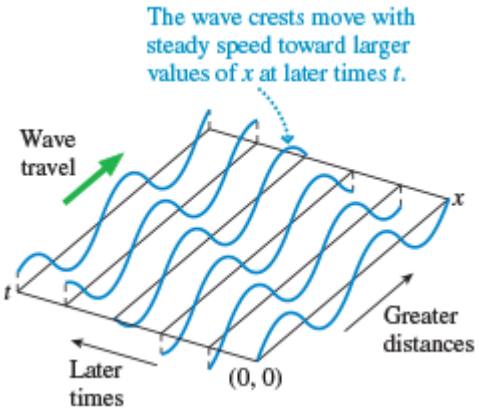
Figure 16.10 shows a sinusoidal wave moving through a medium. To understand how this wave propagates, let's look at history and snapshot graphs. Figure 16.11a is a history graph, showing the displacement of the medium at one point in space. Each particle in the medium undergoes simple harmonic motion with frequency *f*, so this graph of SHM is identical to the graphs you learned to work with in Chapter 15. The *period* of the wave, shown on the graph, is the time interval for one cycle of the motion. The period is related to the wave frequency *f* by

**(16.3)**

$$T = \frac{1}{f}$$

exactly as in simple harmonic motion. The **amplitude *A*** of the wave is the maximum value of the displacement. The crests of the wave have displacement $D_{\text{crest}} = A$ and the troughs have displacement $D_{\text{trough}} = -A$.

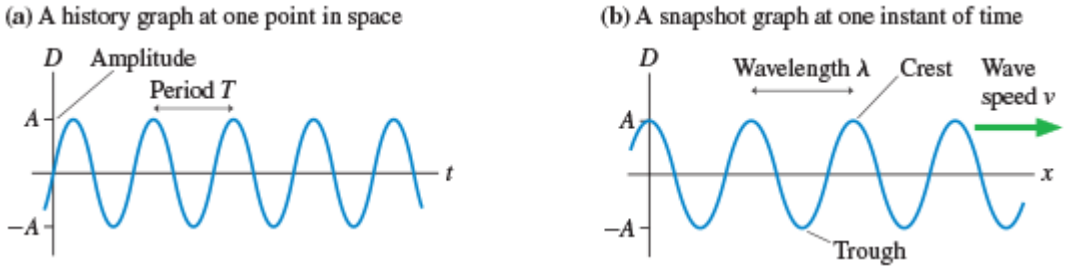
**Figure 16.10**




A sinusoidal wave moving along the $x$-axis.

Displacement versus time is only half the story. Figure 16.11b shows a snapshot graph for the same wave at one instant in time. Here we see the wave stretched out in space, moving to the right with speed $v$. An important characteristic of a sinusoidal wave is that it is *periodic in space* as well as in time. As you move from left to right along the "frozen" wave in the snapshot graph, the disturbance repeats itself over and over. The distance spanned by one cycle of the motion is called the **wavelength** of the wave. Wavelength is symbolized by $\lambda$ (lowercase Greek lambda) and, because it is a length, it is measured in units of meters. The wavelength is shown in Figure 16.11b as the distance between two crests, but it could equally well be the distance between two troughs.

## Figure 16.11




History and snapshot graphs for a sinusoidal wave.

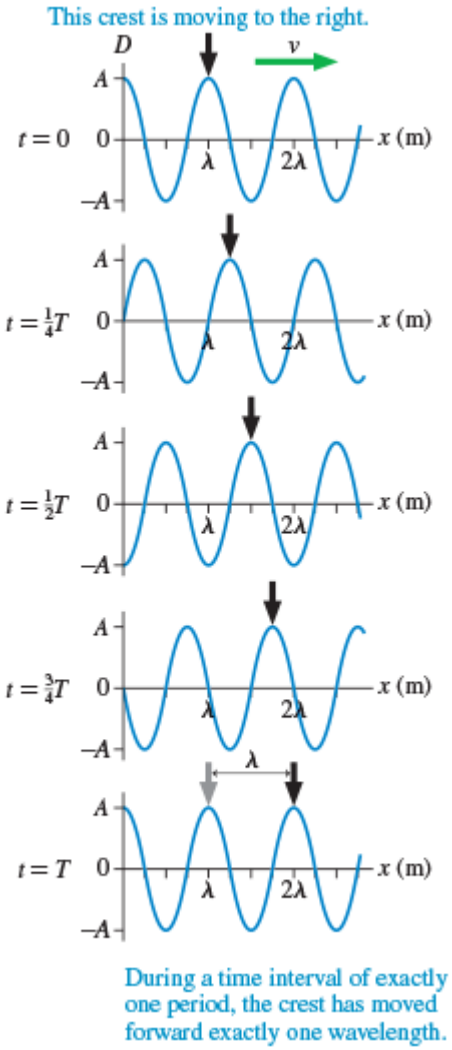
**Note**

Wavelength is the spatial analog of period. The period $T$ is the *time* in which the disturbance at a single point in space repeats itself. The wavelength $\lambda$ is the *distance* in which the disturbance at one instant of time repeats itself.

## The Fundamental Relationship for Sinusoidal Waves

There is an important relationship between the wavelength and the period of a wave. Figure 16.12 shows this relationship through five snapshot graphs of a sinusoidal wave at time increments of one-quarter of the period $T$. One full period has elapsed between the first graph and the last, which you can see by observing the motion at a fixed point on the $x$-axis. Each point in the medium has undergone exactly one complete oscillation.

**Figure 16.12**




A series of snapshot graphs at time increments of one-quarter of the period $T$.

The critical observation is that the wave crest marked by an arrow has moved one full wavelength between the first graph and the last. That is, **during a time interval of exactly one period $T$, each crest of a sinusoidal wave travels forward a distance of exactly one wavelength $\lambda$.** Because speed is distance divided by time, the wave speed must be

**(16.4)**

$$v = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}} = \frac{\lambda}{T}$$

Because $f = 1/T$, it is customary to write Equation 16.4 in the form

(16.5)

$$v = \lambda f$$

Although Equation 16.5 has no special name, it is *the* fundamental relationship for periodic waves. When using it, keep in mind the *physical* meaning that a wave moves forward a distance of one wavelength during a time interval of one period.

> **Note**
>
> Wavelength and period are defined only for *periodic* waves, so Equations 16.4 and 16.5 apply only to periodic waves. A wave pulse has a wave speed, but it doesn't have a wavelength or a period. Hence Equations 16.4 and 16.5 cannot be applied to wave pulses.

Because the wave speed is a property of the medium while the wave frequency is a property of the oscillating source, it is often useful to write Equation 16.5 as

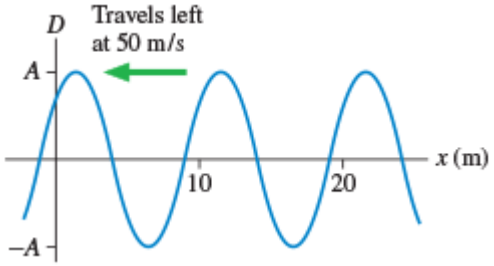
(16.6)

$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f} = \frac{\text{property of the medium}}{\text{property of the source}}$$

The wavelength is a *consequence* of a wave of frequency $f$ traveling through a medium in which the wave speed is $v$.

## Stop to Think 16.3

What is the frequency of this traveling wave?




**a.** 0.1 Hz

**b.** 0.2 Hz

**c.** 2 Hz

**d.** 5 Hz

**e.** 10 Hz

**f.** 500 Hz

## The Mathematics of Sinusoidal Waves

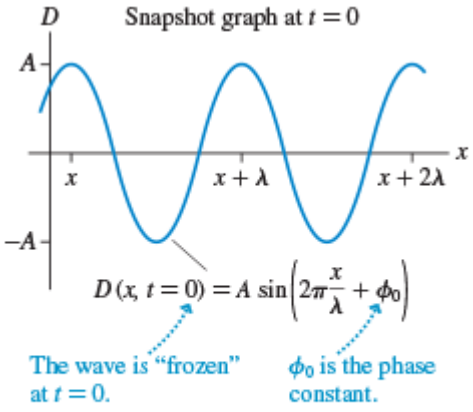
Figure 16.13 on the next page shows a snapshot graph at $t = 0$ of a sinusoidal wave. The sinusoidal function that describes the displacement of this wave is

**(16.7)**

$$D(x, t = 0) = A \sin\left(2\pi\frac{x}{\lambda} + \phi_0\right)$$

where the notation $D(x, t = 0)$ means that we've frozen the time at $t = 0$ to make the displacement a function of only $x$. The term $\phi_0$ is a *phase constant* that characterizes the initial conditions. (We'll return to the phase constant momentarily.)

**Figure 16.13**






A sinusoidal wave.

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The function of Equation 16.7 is periodic with period $\lambda$. We can see this by writing

$$\begin{aligned} D(x+\lambda) &= A \sin\left(2\pi\frac{(x+\lambda)}{\lambda} + \phi_0\right) = A \sin\left(2\pi\frac{x}{\lambda} + \phi_0 + 2\pi \,\text{rad}\right) \\ &= A\sin\left(2\pi\frac{x}{\lambda} + \phi_0\right) = D(x) \end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that $\sin(a + 2\pi\,\text{rad}) = \sin a$. In other words, the disturbance created by the wave at $x + \lambda$ is exactly the same as the disturbance at $x$.

The next step is to set the wave in motion. We can do this by replacing $x$ in Equation 16.7 with $x - vt$. To see why this works, recall that the wave moves distance $vt$ during time $t$. In other words, whatever displacement the wave has at position $x$ at time $t$, the wave must have had that same displacement at position $x - vt$ at the earlier time $t = 0$. Mathematically, this idea can be captured by writing

**(16.8)**

$$D(x,t) = D(x - vt, t = 0)$$

Make sure you understand how this statement describes a wave moving in the positive $x$-direction at speed $v$.

This is what we were looking for. $D(x, t)$ is the general function describing the traveling wave. It's found by taking the function that describes the wave at $t = 0$—the function of Equation 16.7—and replacing $x$ with $x - vt$. Thus the displacement equation of a sinusoidal wave traveling in the positive $x$-direction at speed $v$ is

**(16.9)**

$$D(x,t) = A\sin\left(2\pi\frac{x-vt}{\lambda} + \phi_0\right) = A\sin\left(2\pi\left(\frac{x}{\lambda} - \frac{t}{T}\right) + \phi_0\right)$$

In the last step we used $v = \lambda f = \lambda/T$ to write $v/\lambda = 1/T$. The function of Equation 16.9 is not only periodic in space with period $\lambda$, it is also periodic in time with period $T$. That is, $D(x, t + T) = D(x, t)$.

It will be useful to introduce two new quantities. First, recall from simple harmonic motion the *angular frequency*

**(16.10)**

$$\omega = 2\pi f = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

The units of $\omega$ are rad/s, although many textbooks use simply $s^{-1}$.

You can see that $\omega$ is $2\pi$ times the reciprocal of the period in time. This suggests that we define an analogous quantity, called the **wave number** ***k***, that is $2\pi$ times the reciprocal of the period in space:

**(16.11)**

$$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

The units of $k$ are rad/m, although many textbooks use simply $\mathrm{m}^{-1}$.

> **Note**
>
> The wave number $k$ is *not* a spring constant, even though it uses the same symbol. This is a most unfortunate use of symbols, but every major textbook and professional tradition uses the same symbol $k$ for these two very different meanings, so we have little choice but to follow along.

We can use the fundamental relationship $v = \lambda f$ to find an analogous relationship between $\omega$ and $k$:

**(16.12)**

$$v = \lambda f = \frac{2\pi}{k}\frac{\omega}{2\pi} = \frac{\omega}{k}$$

which is usually written

---

**(16.13)**

$$\omega = vk$$

Equation 16.13 contains no new information. It is a variation of Equation 16.5, but one that is convenient when working with $k$ and $\omega$.

If we use the definitions of Equations 16.10 and 16.11, Equation 16.9 for the displacement can be written

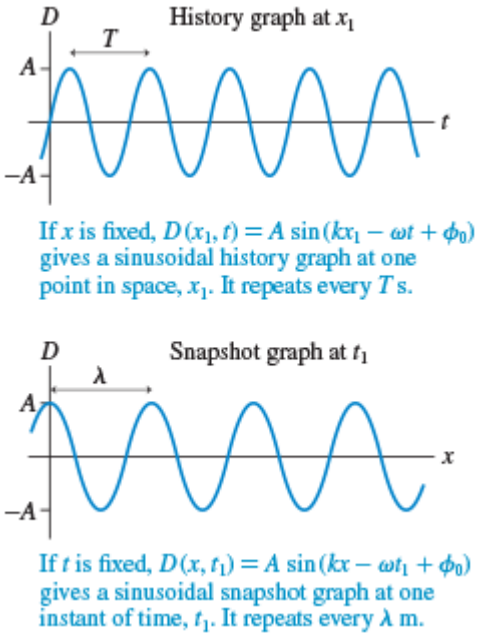
**(16.14)**

$$D(x,t) = A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$$
(sinusoidal wave traveling in the positive $x$-direction)

A sinusoidal wave traveling in the negative $x$-direction is $A\sin(kx + \omega t + \phi_0)$. Equation 16.14 is graphed versus $x$ and $t$ in Figure 16.14.



## Figure 16.14




Interpreting the equation of a sinusoidal traveling wave.

You learned in Section 15.2 that the initial conditions of an oscillator can be characterized by a phase constant. The same is true for a sinusoidal wave. At $(x,t) = (0\text{ m}, 0\text{ s})$ Equation 16.14 becomes

**(16.15)**

$$D(0\text{ m}, 0\text{ s}) = A\sin\phi_0$$

Different values of $\phi_0$ describe different initial conditions for the wave.

### Example 16.3 Analyzing a sinusoidal wave

A sinusoidal wave with an amplitude of 1.00 cm and a frequency of 100 Hz travels at 200 m/s in the positive $x$-direction. At $t = 0$ s, the point $x = 1.00$ m is on a crest of the wave.

**a.** Determine the values of $A$, $v$, $\lambda$, $k$, $f$, $\omega$, $T$, and $\phi_0$ for this wave.

**b.** Write the equation for the wave's displacement as it travels.

**c.** Draw a snapshot graph of the wave at $t = 0$ s.

**VISUALIZE** The snapshot graph will be sinusoidal, but we must do some numerical analysis before we know how to draw it.

**SOLVE**

**a.** There are several numerical values associated with a sinusoidal traveling wave, but they are not all independent. From the problem statement itself we learn that

$$A = 1.00 \text{ cm} \qquad v = 200 \,\text{m/s} \qquad f = 100 \text{ Hz}$$

We can then find:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\lambda = v/f = 2.00 \text{ m} \\
&k = 2\pi/f = \pi \text{ rad/m or } 3.14 \text{ rad/m} \\
&\omega = 2\pi f = 628 \text{ rad/s} \\
&T = 1/f = 0.0100 \text{ s} = 10.0 \text{ ms}
\end{aligned}$$

The phase constant $\phi_0$ is determined by the initial conditions. We know that a wave crest, with displacement $D = A$, is passing $x_0 = 1.00\ \text{m}$ at $t_0 = 0\ \text{s}$. Equation 16.14 at $x_0$ and $t_0$ is

$$D(x_0, t_0) = A = A\sin[k(1.00\ \text{m}) + \phi_0]$$

This equation is true only if $\sin[k(1.00\ \text{m}) + \phi_0] = 1$, which requires

$$k(1.00\ \text{m}) + \phi_0 = \frac{\pi}{2}\text{rad}$$

Solving for the phase constant gives

$$\phi_0 = \frac{\pi}{2}\text{rad} - (\pi\ \text{rad/m})(1.00\ \text{m}) = -\frac{\pi}{2}\text{rad}$$

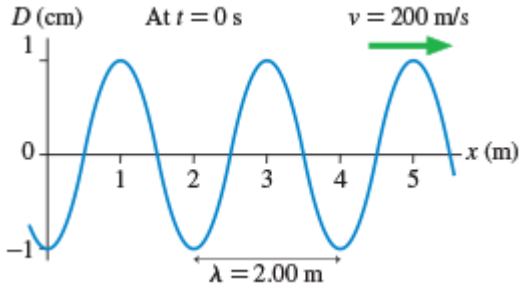
**b.** With the information gleaned from part a, the wave's displacement is

$$\begin{aligned} D\,(x,t) = {} & 1.00\ \text{cm}\times \\ & \sin\left[(3.14\ \text{rad/m})\,x - (628\ \text{rad/s})\,t - \pi/2\ \text{rad}\right] \end{aligned}$$

Notice that we included units with $A$, $k$, $\omega$, and $\phi_0$.

**c.** We know that $x = 1.00\ \text{m}$ is a wave crest at $t = 0\ \text{s}$ and that the wavelength is $\lambda = 2.00\ \text{m}$. Because the origin is $\lambda/2$ away from the crest at $x = 1.00\ \text{m}$, we expect to find a wave trough at $x = 0$. This is confirmed by calculating $D(0\ \text{m},\ 0\ \text{s}) = (1.00\ \text{cm})\sin(-\pi/2\ \text{rad}) = -1.00\ \text{cm}$. Figure 16.15 is a snapshot graph that portrays this information.

**Figure 16.15**




A snapshot graph at $t$ = 0 s of the sinusoidal wave of Example 16.3.

## The Velocity of a Particle in the Medium

As a sinusoidal wave travels along the $x$-axis with speed $v$, the particles of the medium oscillate back and forth in SHM. For a transverse wave, such as a wave on a string, the oscillation is in the $y$-direction. For a longitudinal sound wave, the particles oscillate in the $x$-direction, parallel to the propagation. We can use the displacement equation, Equation 16.14, to find the velocity of a particle in the medium.

At time $t$, the displacement of the medium at position $x$ is

**(16.16)**

$$D(x,t) = A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

The velocity of the medium—**which is not the same as the velocity of the wave along the string**—is the time derivative of Equation 16.16:

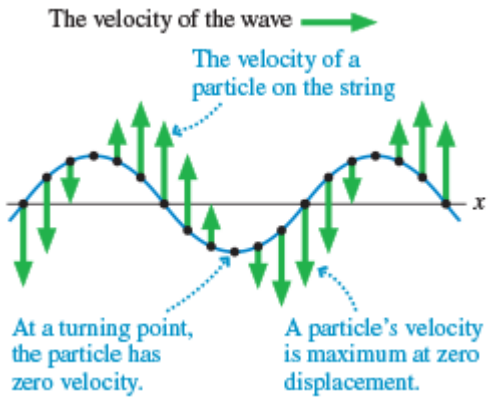
**(16.17)**

$$v = \frac{dD}{dt} = -\omega A\cos(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

Thus the maximum speed of particles in the medium is $v_{\max} = \omega A$. This is the same result we found for simple harmonic motion because the

motion of the medium *is* simple harmonic motion. Figure 16.16 shows velocity vectors *of the particles* at different points along a string as a sinusoidal wave moves from left to right.

## Figure 16.16




A snapshot graph of a wave on a string with vectors showing the velocity *of the string* at various points.

> **Note**
>
> Creating a wave of larger amplitude increases the speed of particles in the medium, but it does *not* change the speed of the wave *through* the medium.

# 16.4 Advanced Topic: The Wave Equation on a String



*Why* do waves propagate along a string? We've described wave motion—the kinematics of waves—but not explained why it occurs. The motion of a string, like that of a baseball, is governed by Newton's second law. But a baseball can be modeled as a moving particle. To explain waves, we need to see how Newton's laws apply to a *continuous* object that is spread out in space.

This section will be significantly more mathematical than any analysis that we've done so far, so it will be good to get an overview of where we're going. We have two primary goals:

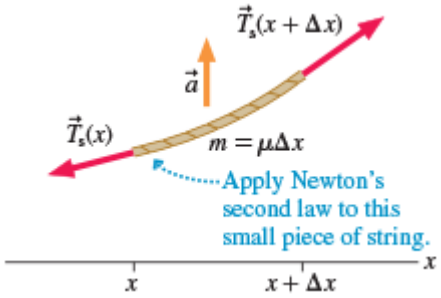
- To use Newton's second law to find an *equation of motion* for displacements on a string. This is called the *wave equation*. We'll see that Equation 16.14, the displacement of a sinusoidal wave, is a solution to the wave equation.
- To predict the wave speed on a string.

Although we'll derive the wave equation for a string, the equation itself occurs in many other contexts in science and engineering. Wherever this equation arises, the solutions are traveling waves.

Figure 16.17 shows a small piece of string that is displaced from its equilibrium position. This piece is at position $x$ and has a small horizontal width $\Delta x$. We're going to apply Newton's second law, the familiar $F_{\text{net}} = ma$, to this little piece of string. Notice that it's curved, so the

tension forces at the ends are *not* opposite each other. This is essential in order for there to be a net force.

## Figure 16.17




Apply Newton's second law to this small piece of string.

We'll begin by making the realistic assumption that the wave amplitude $A$ is much smaller than the wavelength $\lambda$. On average, the string "rises" distance $A$ over a "run" of $\lambda/4$. If $A \ll \lambda$, then the slope of the string is always very small. That is, the string itself and the tension vectors are always very close to being horizontal. (Our drawings greatly exaggerate the amplitude for clarity.)

This assumption has two immediate implications. First, a small-amplitude wave doesn't noticeably increase the length of the string. With no additional stretching, the string tension $T_s$ is not altered by the wave. Second, because the string is always very close to being horizontal, there's virtually no difference between the actual length of the piece of string in Figure 16.17 and its horizontal width $\Delta x$. Thus the mass of this little piece of string is $m = \mu\Delta x$, where, you'll recall, $\mu$ is the string's linear density (mass per unit length).

Because we know the mass, let's start with the $ma$ side of Newton's second law. For a transverse wave, this little piece of string oscillates perpendicular to the direction of wave propagation. For wave motion

along the $x$-axis, the string accelerates in the $y$-direction. If we had *only* this little piece of string, not an entire string, we would model it as a particle and write its acceleration as $a_y = dv_y/dt = d^2y/dt^2$. The acceleration of a particle, as you've learned, is the second derivative of its position with respect to time.

But the string isn't a particle. At any instant of time, different pieces of the string have different accelerations. To find the acceleration at a specific point on the string, we want to know how the displacement varies with $t$ at that specific value of $x$. Or, because the displacement $D(x, t)$ is a function of two variables, we want to know the rate at which $D(x, t)$ changes with respect to $t$ at a specific value of $x$. In multivariable calculus, the rate of change of a function with respect to one variable while all other variables are held fixed is called a **partial derivative.** Partial, because by holding other variables constant we're only partially examining the many ways in which the function could change.

Partial derivatives have a special notation, using a "curly $d$." The velocity of our little piece of string is written

**(16.18)**

$$v_y = \frac{\partial D}{\partial t}$$

and its acceleration is

**(16.19)**

$$a_y = \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2}$$

Don't panic if you've not reached partial derivatives in calculus. They are evaluated exactly like regular derivatives, but the partial-derivative

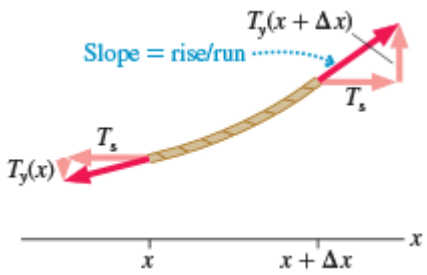
notation means "treat all the other variables as if they were constants." Using the partial derivative, we find the first half of Newton's second law for our little piece of string is

**(16.20)**

$$ma_y = \mu \, \Delta x \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2}$$

Now we can turn our attention to finding the net force on this little piece of string. The type of analysis we're going to do may be new to you, but it is widely used in more advanced science and engineering courses. Figure 16.18 shows our little piece of the string, this time with the tension forces—one at each end of the string—resolved into $x$- and $y$-components.

## Figure 16.18




Finding the net force on the string.

Strictly speaking, the tension force $T_s$ is tangent to the string. However, our small-amplitude assumption, requiring this piece of string to be almost horizontal, means there is virtually no distinction between $T_s$ and its horizontal component. (This is the small-angle approximation $\cos\theta \approx 1$ if $\theta \ll 1$ rad.) Thus we've identified the two horizontal components as $T_s$. Because they are equal but opposite, the net horizontal force is zero. This has to be true because each piece of this transverse wave accelerates only in the $y$-direction.

The net force on this little piece of string in the transverse direction (the $y$-direction) is

**(16.21)**

$$F_{\text{net }y} = T_y(x + \Delta x) + T_y(x)$$

The notation $T_y(x)$ means "the $y$-component of the string tension at position $x$ on the string." And we're adding, not subtracting, because this is a formal statement that the net force is the sum of all forces.

You can see, from the force triangle in Figure 16.18, that the ratio $T_y(x + \Delta x)/T_s$—rise over run—is the *slope of the string* at position $x + \Delta x$. This is a key part of the analysis, so make sure you understand it. The slope is the derivative of the string's displacement with respect to $x$ *at this specific instant of time*. We're holding $t$ constant while looking at the spatial variation of the string, so this is another partial derivative:

**(16.22)**

$$\text{string slope} = \frac{\partial D}{\partial x}$$

At the right end of this little piece of string, at position $x + \Delta x$, the $y$-component of the tension is

**(16.23)**

$$T_y(x + \Delta x) = (\text{slope at } x + \Delta x) \times T_s = T_s \frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\bigg|_{x+\Delta x}$$

where the subscript on the partial derivative means to evaluate the slope at $x + \Delta x$. The same analysis holds at the left end, position $x$, with one change: Because $T_s$ points toward the left, a "negative run," the ratio $T_y(x)/T_s$ is the *negative* of the string slope. Thus

**(16.24)**

$$T_y(x) = -(\text{slope at } x) \times T_\text{s} = -T_\text{s} \left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right|_x$$

Combining Equations 16.23 and 16.24, we find that the net force on this little piece of string is

**(16.25)**

$$F_{\text{net}\,y} = T_y(x + \Delta x) + T_y(x) = T_\text{s} \left[ \left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right|_{x+\Delta x} - \left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right|_x \right]$$

If this little piece of string were straight, the two slopes would be the same and there would be no net force. As we noted above, the string *has* to have a curvature to have a net force.

We're almost done. We know the net force on this little piece of string (Equation 16.25) and we know its mass and acceleration (Equation 16.20). Because $F_{\text{net}\,y} = ma_y$, we can equate these two results:

**(16.26)**

$$T_\text{s} \left[ \left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right|_{x+\Delta x} - \left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right|_x \right] = \mu\,\Delta x \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2}$$

Dividing by $\mu\,\Delta x$, we have

**(16.27)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} = \frac{T_\text{s}}{\mu} \times \frac{\left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right|_{x+\Delta x} - \left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right|_x}{\Delta x}$$

Recall, from calculus, that the derivative of the function $f(x)$ is defined as

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \left[ \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} \right]$$

This is exactly what we have on the right side of Equation 16.27 if we let the width of our little piece of string approach zero: $\Delta x \to 0$. The function for which we're evaluating the difference between $x + \Delta x$ and $x$ is the partial derivative $\partial D / \partial x$, and the derivative of a derivative is a second derivative.



Thus in the limit $\Delta x \to 0$, Equation 16.27 becomes

---

**(16.28)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} = \frac{T_\text{s}}{\mu} \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{(wave equation for a string)}$$

Equation 16.28 is the *wave equation for a string*. It's really Newton's second law in disguise, but written for a continuous object where the displacement is a function of both position and time. Just like Newton's second law for a particle, it governs the dynamics of motion on a string.

## Traveling Wave Solutions

The equation of motion for a simple harmonic oscillator turned out to be a second-order differential equation. Although there are systematic ways to solve differential equations, we noted that—because solutions are unique—we can sometimes use what we know about a situation to *guess* the solution. The same is true for Equation 16.28, which is a *partial differential equation*. We have reason to think that sinusoidal waves can

travel on stretched strings, so let's guess that a solution to Equation 16.28 is

**(16.29)**

$$D(x,t) = A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

where the minus sign gives a wave traveling in the $+x$-direction and—from Equation 16.13—the wave speed is $v = \omega/k$.

To evaluate this possible solution we need its second partial derivatives. With respect to position we have

**(16.30)**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial D}{\partial x} &= kA\cos(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)\\ \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial x^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}\right) = -k^2 A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)\end{aligned}$$

and with respect to time we have

**(16.31)**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial D}{\partial t} &= -\omega A\cos(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)\\ \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{\partial D}{\partial t}\right) = -\omega^2 A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)\end{aligned}$$

Substituting the second partial derivatives into the wave equation, Equation 16.28, gives

**(16.32)**

$$-\omega^2 A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0) = \frac{T_\text{s}}{\mu}(-k^2 A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0))$$

This will be true only if

**(16.33)**

$$\omega^2 = \frac{T_s}{\mu} k^2$$

But $\omega/k$ is the wave speed $v$, so what we've found is that the sinusoidal wave of Equation 16.1 *is* a solution to the wave equation, but only if the wave travels with speed

---

**(16.34)**

$$v = \frac{\omega}{k} = \sqrt{\frac{T_s}{\mu}}$$

You should be able to convince yourself that we would have arrived at the same result if we had started with $D(x,t) = A\sin(kx + \omega t + \phi_0)$ for a wave traveling in the $-x$-direction.



Let's summarize. We used Newton's second law for a small piece of the string to come up with an equation for the dynamics of motion on a string. We then showed that a solution to this equation is a sinusoidal traveling wave, and we made a specific prediction for the wave speed in terms of two properties or characteristics of the string: its tension and its mass density. Thus the answer to the question with which we started this section—*why* do waves propagate along a string—is that wave motion is simply a consequence of Newton's second law, the relationship between force and acceleration, when applied to a continuous object.

With Equation 16.9 in hand, we can write Equation 16.28 as

(16.35)

$$\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} = v^2 \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} \quad \text{(the general wave equation)}$$

We derived Equation 16.28 specifically for a string, but *any* physical system that obeys Equation 16.35 for some type of displacement $D$ will have sinusoidal waves traveling with speed $v$. Equation 16.35 is called the **wave equation**, and it occurs over and over in science and engineering. We will see it again in this chapter in our analysis of sound waves. And much later, in Chapter 31, we'll discover that Electromagnetic fields also obey this equation. Thus electromagnetic waves exist, and we'll be able to predict that all electromagnetic waves, regardless of wavelength, travel through vacuum with the same speed—the speed of light.

**Example 16.4 Generating a sinusoidal wave**

A very long string with $\mu = 2.0$ g/m is stretched along the $x$-axis with a tension of 5.0 N. At $x = 0$ m it is tied to a 100 Hz simple harmonic oscillator that vibrates perpendicular to the string with an amplitude of 2.0 mm. The oscillator is at its maximum positive displacement at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** Write the displacement equation for the traveling wave on the string.

**b.** At $t = 5.0$ ms, what is the string's displacement at a point 2.7 m from the oscillator?

**MODEL** The oscillator generates a sinusoidal traveling wave on a string. The displacement of the wave has to match the displacement of the oscillator at $x = 0$ m.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The equation for the displacement is

$$D(x,t) = A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

with $A$, $k$, $\omega$, and $\phi_0$ to be determined. The wave amplitude is the same as the amplitude of the oscillator that generates the wave, so $A = 2.0$ mm. The oscillator has its maximum displacement $y_{\text{osc}} = A = 2.0$ mm at $t = 0$ s, thus

$$D(0\text{ m}, 0\text{ s}) = A\sin(\phi_0) = A$$

This requires the phase constant to be $\phi_0 = \pi/2$ rad. The wave's frequency is $f = 100$ Hz, the frequency of the source; therefore the angular frequency is $\omega = 2\pi f = 200\pi$ rad/s. We still need $k = 2\pi/\lambda$, but we do not know the wavelength. However, we have enough information to determine the wave speed, and we can then use either $\lambda = v/f$ or $k = \omega/v$. The speed is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T_{\text{s}}}{\mu}} = \sqrt{\frac{5.0\text{ N}}{0.0020\text{ kg/m}}} = 50\text{ m/s}$$

Using $v$, we find $\lambda = 0.50$ m and $k = 2\pi/\lambda = 4\pi$ rad/m. Thus the wave's displacement equation is

$$D(x,t) = (2.0\text{ mm})\times \\ \sin\left[2\pi((2.0\text{ m}^{-1})x - (100\text{ s}^{-1})t) + \pi/2\text{ rad}\right]$$

Notice that we have separated out the $2\pi$. This step is not essential, but for some problems it makes subsequent steps easier.

**b.** The wave's displacement at $t = 5.0\text{ ms} = 0.0050\text{ s}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} D(x, t = 5.0\text{ ms}) &= (2.0\text{ mm})\sin(4\pi x - \pi\text{ rad} + \pi/2\text{ rad}) \\ &= (2.0\text{ mm})\sin(4\pi x - \pi/2\text{ rad}) \end{aligned}$$

At $x = 2.7\text{ m}$ (calculator set to radians!), the displacement is

$$D(2.7\text{ m}, 5.0\text{ ms}) = 1.6\text{ mm}$$

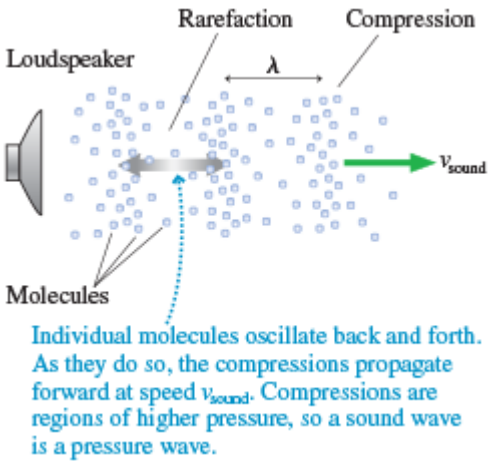
# 16.5 Sound and Light 

Although there are many kinds of waves in nature, two are especially significant for us as humans. These are sound waves and light waves, the basis of hearing and seeing.

## Sound Waves

We usually think of sound waves traveling in air, but sound can travel through any gas, through liquids, and even through solids. Figure 16.19 shows a loudspeaker cone vibrating back and forth in a fluid such as air or water. Each time the cone moves forward, it collides with the molecules and pushes them closer together. A half cycle later, as the cone moves backward, the fluid has room to expand and the density decreases a little. These regions of higher and lower density (and thus higher and lower pressure) are called **compressions** and **rarefactions**.

**Figure 16.19**




A sound wave is a sequence of compressions and rarefactions.

This periodic sequence of compressions and rarefactions travels outward from the loudspeaker as a longitudinal sound wave. When the wave reaches your ear, the oscillating pressure causes your eardrum to vibrate. These vibrations are transferred into your inner ear and perceived as sound.

The speed of sound waves depends on the compressibility of the medium. As Table 16.1 shows, the speed is faster in liquids and solids (relatively incompressible) than in gases (highly compressible). For sound waves in air, the speed at temperature $T$ (in °C) is

**(16.36)**

$$v_{\text{sound in air}} = 331 \text{ m/s} \times \sqrt{\frac{T(^\circ\text{C}) + 273}{273}}$$

**Table 16.1**

| Medium | Speed (m/s) |
|---|---|
| Air (0°C) | 331 |
| Air (20°C) | 343 |
| Helium (0°C) | 970 |
| Ethyl alcohol | 1170 |
| Water (20°C) | 1480 |
| Granite | 6000 |
| Aluminum | 6420 |

The speed of sound

We'll derive this result in Section 16.6, but recall from chemistry that adding 273 to a Celsius temperature converts it to an absolute temperature in kelvins. The speed of sound increases with increasing temperature but, interestingly, does *not* depend on the air pressure. For air at room temperature (20°C),

$$v_{\text{sound in air}} = 343\ \text{m/s} \qquad (\text{sound speed in air at } 20^\circ\text{C})$$

**This is the value you should use when solving problems unless you're given temperature information.**

A speed of 343 m/s is high, but not extraordinarily so. A distance as small as 100 m is enough to notice a slight delay between when you see something, such as a person hammering a nail, and when you hear it. The time required for sound to travel 1 km is $t = (1000\ \text{m})/(343\ \text{m/s}) \approx 3\ \text{s}$. You may have learned to estimate the distance to a bolt of lightning by timing the number of seconds between when you see the flash and when you hear the thunder. Because sound takes 3 s to travel 1 km, the time divided by 3 gives the distance in kilometers. Or, in English units, the time divided by 5 gives the distance in miles.

This ultrasound image is an example of using high-frequency sound waves to "see" within the human body.

---

Your ears are able to detect sound waves with frequencies between roughly 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz, or 20 kHz. You can use the fundamental relationship $v_{\text{sound}} = \lambda f$ to calculate that a 20 Hz sound wave has a 17-m-long wavelength, while the wavelength of a 20 kHz note is a mere 17 mm. Low frequencies are perceived as "low-pitch" bass notes, while high frequencies are heard as "high-pitch" treble notes. Your high-frequency

range of hearing can deteriorate with age (10 kHz is the average upper limit at age 65) or as a result of exposure to very loud sounds.

Sound waves exist at frequencies well above 20 kHz, even though humans can't hear them. These are called *ultrasonic* frequencies. Oscillators vibrating at frequencies of many MHz generate the ultrasonic waves used in ultrasound medical imaging. A 3 MHz wave traveling through water (which is basically what your body is) at a sound speed of 1480 m/s has a wavelength of about 0.5 mm. It is this very small wavelength that allows ultrasound to image very small objects. We'll see why when we study *diffraction* in Chapter 33.

## Electromagnetic Waves

A light wave is an *electromagnetic wave*, a self-sustaining oscillation of the electromagnetic field. Other electromagnetic waves, such as radio waves, microwaves, and ultraviolet light, have the same physical characteristics as light waves even though we cannot sense them with our eyes. It is easy to demonstrate that light will pass unaffected through a container from which all the air has been removed, and light reaches us from distant stars through the vacuum of interstellar space. Such observations raise interesting but difficult questions. If light can travel through a region in which there is no matter, then what is the *medium* of a light wave? What is it that is waving?

It took scientists over 50 years, most of the 19th century, to answer this question. We will examine the answers in more detail in Chapter 31 after we introduce the ideas of electric and magnetic fields. For now we can say that light waves are a "self-sustaining oscillation of the electromagnetic field." That is, the displacement $D$ is an electric or

magnetic field. Being self-sustaining means that electromagnetic waves require *no material medium* in order to travel; hence electromagnetic waves are not mechanical waves. Fortunately, we can learn about the wave properties of light without having to understand electromagnetic fields.

It was predicted theoretically in the late 19th century and has been subsequently confirmed, that all electromagnetic waves travel through vacuum with the same speed, called the *speed of light*. The value of the speed of light is

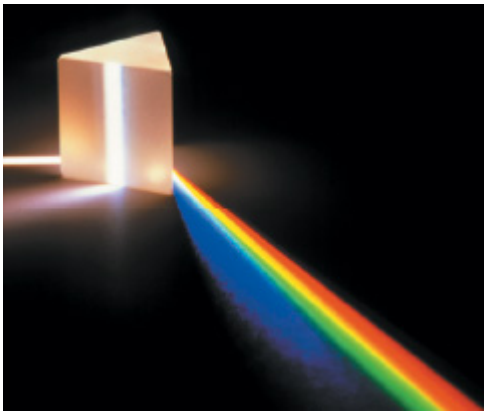


$$v_{\text{light}} = c = 299{,}792{,}458 \text{ m/s} \qquad \text{(electromagnetic wave speed in vacuum)}$$

where the special symbol $c$ is used to designate the speed of light. (This is the $c$ in Einstein's famous formula $E = mc^2$.) Now *this* is really moving—about one million times faster than the speed of sound in air!

> **Note**
>
> $c = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ is the appropriate value to use in calculations.

The wavelengths of light are extremely small. You will learn in Chapter 33 how these wavelengths are determined, but for now we will note that visible light is an electromagnetic wave with a wavelength (in air) in the range of roughly 400 nm $(400 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m})$ to 700 nm$(700 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m})$. Each wavelength is perceived as a different color, with the longer wavelengths seen as orange or red light and the shorter wavelengths seen as blue or violet light. A prism is able to spread the different wavelengths apart, from which we learn that "white light" is all the colors, or wavelengths, combined. The spread of colors seen with a prism, or seen in a rainbow, is called the *visible spectrum*.



White light passing through a prism is spread out into a band of colors called the *visible spectrum*.

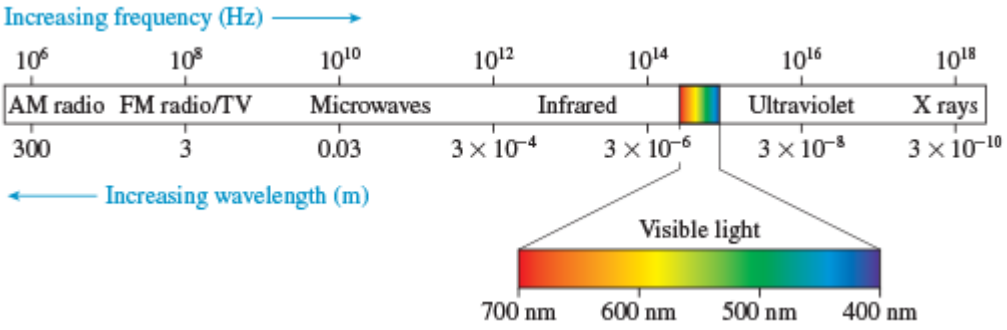
If the wavelengths of light are unbelievably small, the oscillation frequencies are unbelievably large. The frequency for a 600 nm wavelength of light (orange) is

$$f = \frac{v}{\lambda} = \frac{3.00 \times 10^{8}\ \text{m/s}}{600 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{m}} = 5.00 \times 10^{14}\ \text{Hz}$$

The frequencies of light waves are roughly a factor of a trillion ($10^{12}$) higher than sound frequencies.

Electromagnetic waves exist at many frequencies other than the rather limited range that our eyes detect. One of the major technological advances of the 20th century was learning to generate and detect electromagnetic waves at many frequencies, ranging from low-frequency radio waves to the extraordinarily high frequencies of x rays. Figure 16.20 shows that the visible spectrum is a small slice of the much broader **electromagnetic spectrum**.

**Figure 16.20**




The electromagnetic spectrum from $10^6$ Hz to $10^{18}$ Hz.

**Example 16.5 Traveling at the speed of light**

A satellite exploring Jupiter transmits data to the earth as a radio wave with a frequency of 200 MHz. What is the wavelength of the electromagnetic wave, and how long does it take the signal to travel 800 million kilometers from Jupiter to the earth?

**SOLVE** Radio waves are sinusoidal electromagnetic waves traveling with speed $c$. Thus

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{2.00 \times 10^8 \text{ Hz}} = 1.5 \text{ m}$$

The time needed to travel $800 \times 10^6 \text{ km} = 8.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$ is

$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta x}{c} = \frac{8.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}}{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} = 2700 \text{ s} = 45 \text{ min}$$

## The Index of Refraction

Light waves travel with speed $c$ in a vacuum, but they slow down as they pass through transparent materials such as water or glass or even, to a

very slight extent, air. The slowdown is a consequence of interactions between the electromagnetic field of the wave and the electrons in the material. The speed of light in a material is characterized by the material's **index of refraction** $n$, defined as

**(16.37)**

$$n = \frac{\text{speed of light in a vacuum}}{\text{speed of light in the material}} = \frac{c}{v}$$

The index of refraction of a material is always greater than 1 because $v < c$. A vacuum has $n = 1$ exactly. Table 16.2 shows the index of refraction for several materials. You can see that liquids and solids have larger indices of refraction than gases.

---

**Table 16.2**

| Material | Index of refraction |
|---|---|
| Vacuum | 1 exactly |
| Air | 1.0003 |
| Water | 1.33 |
| Glass | 1.50 |
| Diamond | 2.42 |

Typical indices of refraction

---

> **Note**
>
> An accurate value for the index of refraction of air is relevant only in very precise measurements. We will assume $n_{\text{air}} = 1.00$ in this text.

If the speed of a light wave changes as it enters into a transparent material, such as glass, what happens to the light's frequency and wavelength? Because $v = \lambda f$, either $\lambda$ or $f$ or both have to change when $v$ changes.

As an analogy, think of a sound wave in the air as it impinges on the surface of a pool of water. As the air oscillates back and forth, it periodically pushes on the surface of the water. These pushes generate the compressions of the sound wave that continues on into the water. Because each push of the air causes one compression of the water, the frequency of the sound wave in the water must be *exactly the same* as the frequency of the sound wave in the air. In other words, **the frequency of a wave is the frequency of the source. It does not change as the wave moves from one medium to another.**

The same is true for electromagnetic waves; the frequency does not change as the wave moves from one material to another.

Figure 16.21 shows a light wave passing through a transparent material with index of refraction $n$. As the wave travels through vacuum it has wavelength $\lambda_{\text{vac}}$ and frequency $f_{\text{vac}}$ such that $\lambda_{\text{vac}} f_{\text{vac}} = c$. In the material, $\lambda_{\text{mat}} f_{\text{mat}} = v = c/n$. The frequency does not change as the wave enters ($f_{\text{mat}} = f_{\text{vac}}$), so the wavelength must. The wavelength in the material is

**(16.38)**

$$\lambda_{\text{mat}} = \frac{v}{f_{\text{mat}}} = \frac{c}{n f_{\text{mat}}} = \frac{c}{n f_{\text{vac}}} = \frac{\lambda_{\text{vac}}}{n}$$

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**Figure 16.21**

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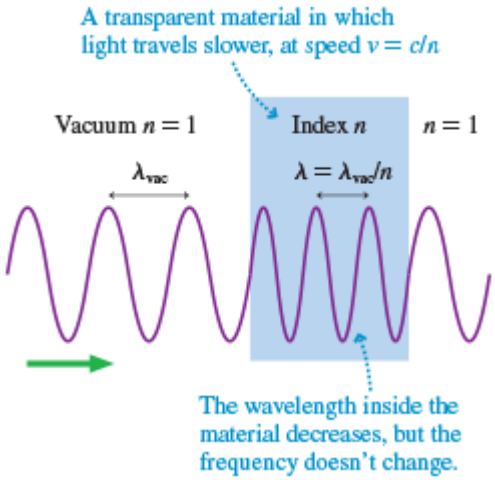



Light passing through a transparent material with index of refraction $n$.

The wavelength in the transparent material is less than the wavelength in vacuum. This makes sense. Suppose a marching band is marching at one step per second at a speed of 1 m/s. Suddenly they slow their speed to $\frac{1}{2}$m/s but maintain their march at one step per second. The only way to go slower while marching at the same pace is to take *smaller steps*. When a light wave enters a material, the only way it can go slower while oscillating at the same frequency is to have a *smaller wavelength*.

### Example 16.6 Light traveling through glass

Orange light with a wavelength of 600 nm is incident upon a 1.00-mm-thick glass microscope slide.

**a.** What is the light speed in the glass?

**b.** How many wavelengths of the light are inside the slide?



**SOLVE**

**a.** From Table 16.2 we see that the index of refraction of glass is $n_{\text{glass}} = 1.50$. Thus the speed of light in glass is

$$v_{\text{glass}} = \frac{c}{n_{\text{glass}}} = \frac{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{1.50} = 2.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

**b.** The wavelength inside the glass is

$$\lambda_{\text{glass}} = \frac{\lambda_{\text{vas}}}{n_{\text{glass}}} = \frac{600 \text{ nm}}{1.50} = 400 \text{ nm} = 4.00 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$$

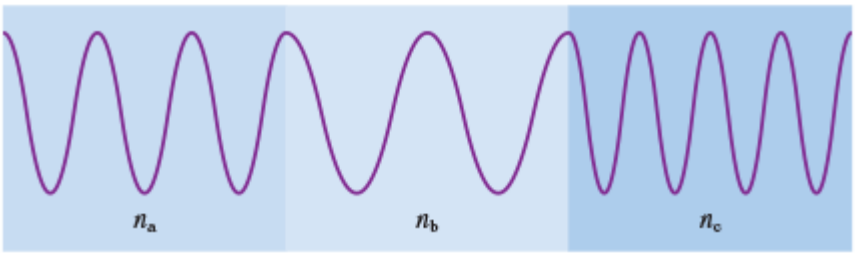
$N$ wavelengths span a distance $d = N\lambda$, so the number of wavelengths in $d = 1.00$ mm is

$$N = \frac{d}{f} = \frac{1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}}{4.00 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}} = 2500$$

**ASSESS** The fact that 2500 wavelengths fit within 1 mm shows how small the wavelengths of light are.

## Stop to Think 16.4

A light wave travels from left to right through three transparent materials of equal thickness. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the indices of refraction $n_a$, $n_b$, and $n_c$.



# The Wave Model

We introduced the concept of a *wave model* at the beginning of this chapter. Now we're in a position to articulate what this means.

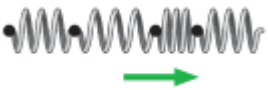
MODEL 16.1 **The wave model**

A wave is an organized disturbance that travels.

- Two classes of waves:
  - **Mechanical waves** travel through a medium.
  - **Electromagnetic waves** travel through vacuum.
- Two types of waves:
  - **Transverse waves** are displaced perpendicular to the direction in which the wave travels.

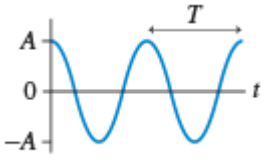
Transverse wave

  - **Longitudinal waves** are displaced parallel to the direction in which the wave travels.



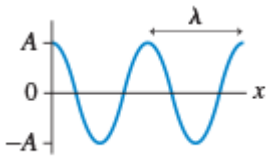
Longitudinal wave

- The **wave speed** is a property of the medium.
- Sinusoidal waves are periodic in both time (period) and space (wavelength).



History graph

- The wave frequency is the oscillation frequency of the source.
- The fundamental relationship for periodic waves is $v = \lambda f$. This says that wave moves forward one wavelength during one period.



Snapshot graph

# 16.6 Advanced Topic: The Wave Equation in a Fluid



In Section 16.4 we used Newton's second law to show that traveling waves can propagate on a stretched string *and* to predict the wave speed in terms of properties of the string. Now we wish to do the same for sound waves—longitudinal waves propagating through a fluid.

A sound wave is a sequence of compressions and rarefactions in which the fluid is alternately compressed and expanded. A substance's compressibility is characterized by its *bulk modulus* $B$, which you met in Section 14.6 when we looked at the elastic properties of materials. If excess pressure $p$ is applied to an object of volume $V$, then the fractional change in volume—the fraction by which it's compressed—is

**(16.39)**

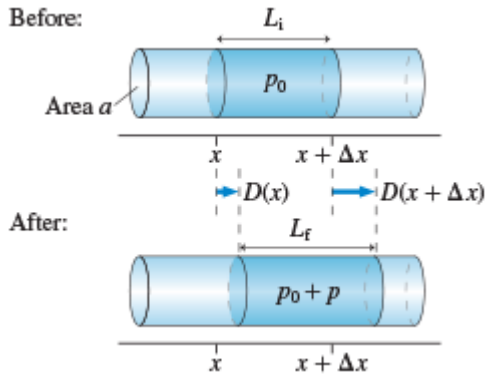
$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = -\frac{p}{B}$$

The minus sign indicates that the volume *decreases* when pressure is applied. Gases are much more compressible than liquids, so gases have much smaller values of $B$ than liquids.

Let's apply this to a fluid—either a liquid or a gas. Figure 16.22 shows a small cylindrical piece of fluid with equilibrium pressure $p_0$ located between positions $x$ and $x + \Delta x$. The initial length and volume of this little piece of fluid are $L_\text{i} = \Delta x$ and $V_\text{i} = aL_\text{i} = a\Delta x$. Notice that we use $a$ for area in this chapter so that there is no conflict with $A$ for amplitude. Suppose the pressure changes to $p_0 + p$. The volume of this little piece of

fluid will either decrease (compression) or increase (expansion), depending on whether $p$ is positive or negative.

## Figure 16.22




An element of fluid changes volume as the pressure changes.

The volume changes only if the ends of the cylinder undergo *different* displacements. (Equal displacements would shift the cylinder but not change its volume.) In the bottom half of Figure 16.22 we see that the left end of the cylinder has undergone displacement $D(x, t)$ while the displacement at the right end is $D(x + \Delta x, t)$. Now the cylinder has length

**(16.40)**

$$L_f = L_i + (D(x + \Delta x, t) - D(x, t))$$

and consequently its volume has *changed* by

**(16.41)**

$$\Delta V = a(L_f - L_i) = a(D(x + \Delta x, t) - D(x, t))$$

Substituting both the initial volume and the volume change into Equation 16.39, we have

(16.42)

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \frac{a(D(x+\Delta x,t) - D(x,t))}{a\Delta x} = -\frac{p}{B}$$

After canceling the $a$, you can see that, just as in Section 16.4, we're left —in the limit $\Delta x \to 0$—with the definition of the derivative of $D$ with respect to $x$. It is again a *partial* derivative because we're holding the variable $t$ constant. Thus we find that the fluid pressure (or, to be exact, the pressure deviation from $p_0$) at position $x$ is related to the displacement of the medium by

(16.43)

$$p(x,t) = -B\frac{\partial D}{\partial x}$$

The pressure depends on how rapidly the fluid's displacement changes with position.

We anticipate that we'll discover sinusoidal sound waves later in this section, so a displacement wave of amplitude $A$,

(16.44)

$$D(x,t) = A\sin(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

is associated with a pressure wave

(16.45)

$$\begin{aligned} p(x,\,t) = -B\frac{\partial D}{\partial x} &= -kBA\,\cos(kx - \omega t + \phi_0) \\ &= -p_{\max}\,\cos(kx - \omega t + \phi_0) \end{aligned}$$

The *pressure amplitude,* or maximum pressure, is

(16.46)

$$P_{\text{max}} = kBA = \frac{2\pi f BA}{v_{\text{sound}}}$$

where we used $\omega = 2\pi f = vk$ (Equation 16.13) in the last step to write the result in terms of the wave's speed and frequency. In other words, a sound wave is not just a traveling wave of molecular displacement. **A sound wave is also a traveling pressure wave.**

As an example, a quite loud 100 decibel, 500 Hz sound wave in air has a pressure amplitude of 2 Pa. That is, the pressure varies around atmospheric pressure by ±2 Pa. You can use Equation 16.46 and $B_{\text{air}} = 1.42 \times 10^5$ Pa to find that the amplitude of the oscillating air molecules is a microscopic 1.5 $\mu$m.

Figure 16.23 uses Equations 16.44 and 16.45 to draw snapshot graphs of displacement and pressure for a sound wave propagating to the right. Positive displacement pushes molecules to the right while negative displacement pushes them to the left, so molecules pile up (a compression) at points where the displacement is changing from positive to negative. These are the points where the displacement has the *most negative slope* and thus, from Equation 16.43, the greatest pressure.



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**Figure 16.23**

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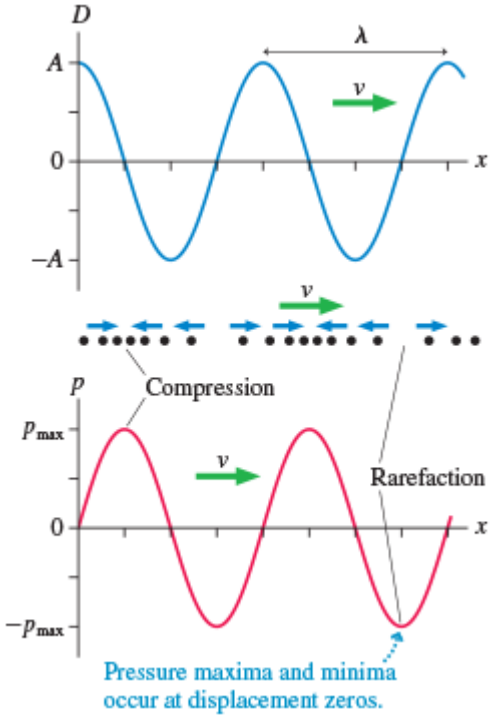



Snapshot graphs of the sound displacement and pressure.

In general, the pressure wave has a maximum or minimum at points where the displacement wave is zero, and vice versa. This observation will help us understand standing sound waves in Chapter 17.

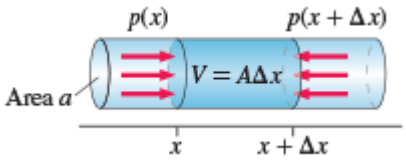
## Predicting the Speed of Sound

Let's return to our small, cylindrical piece of fluid and this time, in Figure 16.24 on the next page, apply Newton's second law to it. The fluid pressure at position $x$ is $p(x, t)$, and this pressure pushes the cylinder to the right with force $ap(x, t)$. At the same time, the fluid at position $x + \Delta x$ has pressure $p(x + \Delta x, t)$, and it pushes the cylinder to the left with force $ap(x + \Delta x, t)$. The net force is

**(16.47)**

$$F_{\text{net } x} = ap(x,t) - ap(x + \Delta x, t) = -a(p(x + \Delta x, t) - p(x,t))$$

**Figure 16.24**




Fluid pressure exerts a net force on the cylinder.

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The minus sign arises because the pressure forces push in opposite directions.

Newton's second law is $F_{\text{net } x} = ma_x$. The cylinder's mass is $m = \rho V = \rho a\ \Delta x$, where $\rho$ is the fluid density. (Don't confuse area $a$ with acceleration $a_x$!) The acceleration, just as in our analysis of a string, is the second partial derivative of displacement with respect to time. Thus the second law for our little cylinder of fluid is

**(16.48)**

$$F_{\text{net } x} = -a(p(x + \Delta x, t) - p(x, t)) = ma_x = \rho a\ \Delta x \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2}$$

The area $a$ cancels, and a slight rearrangement gives

**(16.49)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{p(x + \Delta x, t) - p(x, t)}{\Delta x} \rightarrow -\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

where, once again, we have a derivative in the limit $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$.

Fortunately, we already found, in Equation 16.43, that $p = -B\partial D/\partial x$. Substituting this for $p$ in Equation 16.49 gives

**(16.50)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} = \frac{B}{\rho}\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial x^2}$$

Equation 16.50 is a wave equation! Just as in our analysis of a string, applying Newton's second law to a small piece of the medium has led to a wave equation. We've already shown that a sinusoidal traveling wave, Equation 16.44, is a solution, so we don't need to prove it again. Further, by comparing Equation 16.50 to the general wave equation, Equation 16.35, we can predict the speed of sound in a fluid:



(16.51)

$$v_{\text{sound}} = \sqrt{\frac{B}{\rho}}$$

Table 16.3 gives values of the bulk modulus for several common fluids.

**Table 16.3**

| Medium | $B$ (Pa) |
|---|---|
| Mercury (20°C) | $2.85 \times 10^{10}$ |
| Water (20°C) | $2.18 \times 10^{9}$ |
| Ethyl alcohol (20°C) | $1.06 \times 10^{9}$ |
| Helium (0°C, 1 atm) | $1.688 \times 10^{5}$ |
| Air (0°C, 1 atm) | $1.418 \times 10^{5}$ |

Bulk moduli of common fluids

**Example 16.7 The speed of sound in water**

Predict the speed of sound in water at 20°C.

**SOLVE** From Table 16.3, the bulk modulus of water at 20°C is $2.18 \times 10^9$ Pa. The density of water is usually given as 1000 kg/m$^3$, but this is at 4°C. To three significant figures, the density at 20°C is 998 kg/m$^3$. Thus we predict

$$v_{\text{sound}} = \sqrt{\frac{2.18 \times 10^9 \text{ Pa}}{998 \text{ kg/m}^3}} = 1480 \text{ m/s}$$

This is exactly the value given earlier in Table 16.1.

For gases, both $B$ and $\rho$ are proportional to the pressure, so their ratio is independent of pressure. At 0°C and 1 atm, the density of air is $\rho_0 = 1.292 \text{ kg/m}^3$. Thus the speed of sound in air at 0°C is

**(16.52)**

$$v_{\text{sound in air}} = \sqrt{\frac{B_0}{\rho_0}} = \sqrt{\frac{1.418 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}}{1.292 \text{ kg/m}^3}} = 331 \text{ m/s} \qquad (\text{at } 0^\circ\text{C})$$

exactly as shown in Table 16.1.

You can use the ideal-gas law to show that the density (at constant pressure) of a gas is inversely proportional to its absolute temperature $T$ in kelvins. If the density at 0°C and 1 atm is $\rho_0$, then the density at temperature $T$ is

**(16.53)**

$$\rho_T = \rho_0 \frac{273}{T(\text{K})} = \rho_0 \frac{273}{T(^\circ\text{C}) + 273}$$

where we used $0^\circ\text{C} = 273\ \text{K}$ to convert kelvin to °C. Thus a general expression for the speed of sound in air is

**(16.54)**

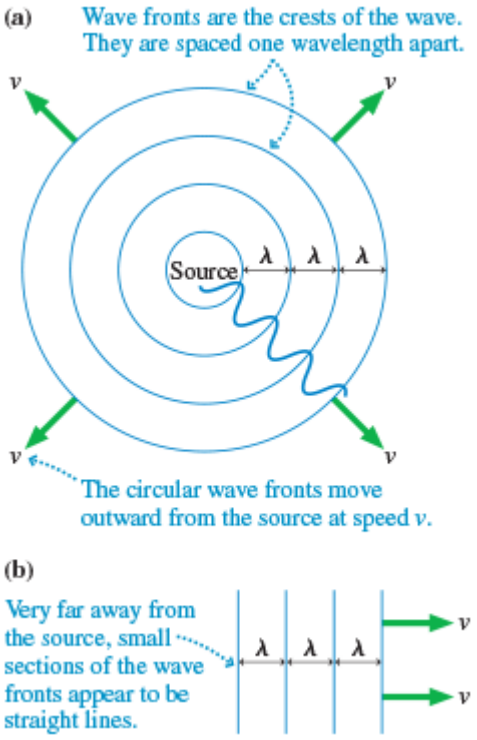
$$v_{\text{sound in air}} = \sqrt{\frac{B}{\rho}} = \sqrt{\frac{B_0}{\rho_0}\frac{T(^\circ\text{C}) + 273}{273}} = 331\ \text{m/s} \times \sqrt{\frac{T(^\circ\text{C}) + 273}{273}}$$

This was the expression given without proof in Section 16.5. Now we see that it comes from the wave equation for sound with a little help from the ideal-gas law.

# 16.7 Waves in Two and Three Dimensions

Suppose you were to take a photograph of ripples spreading on a pond. If you mark the location of the *crests* on the photo, your picture would look like Figure 16.25a. The lines that locate the crests are called **wave fronts**, and they are spaced precisely one wavelength apart. The diagram shows only a single instant of time, but you can imagine a movie in which you would see the wave fronts moving outward from the source at speed $v$. A wave like this is called a **circular wave**. It is a two-dimensional wave that spreads across a surface.

## Figure 16.25




The wave fronts of a circular or spherical wave.

Although the wave fronts are circles, you would hardly notice the curvature if you observed a small section of the wave front very, very far away from the source. The wave fronts would appear to be parallel lines, still spaced one wavelength apart and traveling at speed $v$. A good example is an ocean wave reaching a beach. Ocean waves are generated by storms and wind far out at sea, hundreds or thousands of miles away. By the time they reach the beach where you are working on your tan, the crests appear to be straight lines. An aerial view of the ocean would show a wave diagram like Figure 16.25b.

Many waves of interest, such as sound waves or light waves, move in three dimensions. For example, loudspeakers and lightbulbs emit **spherical waves**. That is, the crests of the wave form a series of concentric spherical shells separated by the wavelength $\lambda$. In essence, the waves are three-dimensional ripples. It will still be useful to draw wave-front diagrams such as Figure 16.25, but now the circles are slices through the spherical shells locating the wave crests.

If you observe a spherical wave very, very far from its source, the small piece of the wave front that you can see is a little patch on the surface of a very large sphere. If the radius of the sphere is sufficiently large, you will not notice the curvature and this little patch of the wave front appears to be a plane. Figure 16.26 illustrates the idea of a **plane wave**.

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**Figure 16.26**

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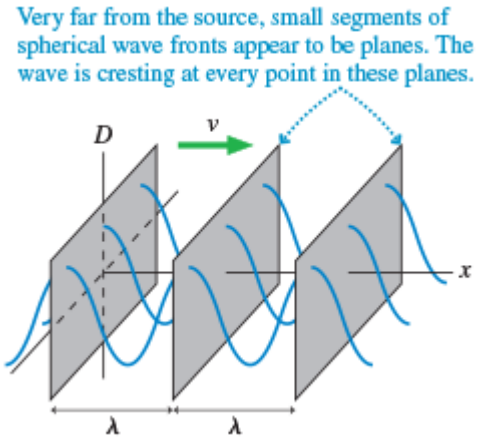



A plane wave.

To visualize a plane wave, imagine standing on the $x$-axis facing a sound wave as it comes toward you from a very distant loudspeaker. Sound is a longitudinal wave, so the particles of medium oscillate toward you and away from you. If you were to locate all of the particles that, at one instant of time, were at their maximum displacement toward you, they would all be located in a plane perpendicular to the travel direction. This is one of the wave fronts in Figure 16.26, and all the particles in this plane are doing exactly the same thing at that instant of time. This plane is moving toward you at speed $v$. There is another plane one wavelength behind it where the molecules are also at maximum displacement, yet another two wavelengths behind the first, and so on.

Because a plane wave's displacement depends on $x$ but not on $y$ or $z$, the displacement function $D(x, t)$ describes a plane wave just as readily as it does a one-dimensional wave. Once you specify a value for $x$, the displacement is the same at every point in the $yz$-plane that slices the $x$-axis at that value (i.e., one of the planes shown in Figure 16.26).

> **Note**
>
> There are no perfect plane waves in nature, but many waves of practical interest can be modeled as plane waves.

We can describe a circular wave or a spherical wave by changing the mathematical description from $D(x, t)$ to $D(r, t)$, where $r$ is the radial distance measured outward from the source. Then the displacement of the medium will be the same at every point on a spherical surface. In particular, a sinusoidal spherical wave with wave number $k$ and angular frequency $\omega$ is written

**(16.55)**

$$D(r,t) = A(r)\sin(kr - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

Other than the change of $x$ to $r$, the only difference is that the amplitude is now a function of $r$. A one-dimensional wave propagates with no change in the wave amplitude. But circular and spherical waves spread out to fill larger and larger volumes of space. To conserve energy, an issue we'll look at later in the chapter, the wave's amplitude has to decrease with increasing distance $r$. This is why sound and light decrease in intensity as you get farther from the source. We don't need to specify exactly how the amplitude decreases with distance, but you should be aware that it does.

## Phase and Phase Difference

Section 15.2 introduced the concept of *phase* for an oscillator in simple harmonic motion. Phase is also important for waves. The **phase** of a sinusoidal wave, denoted $\phi$, is the quantity $(kx - \omega t + \phi_0)$. Phase will be an important concept in Chapter 17, where we will explore the consequences of adding various waves together. For now, we can note that the wave fronts seen in Figures 16.25 and 16.26 are "surfaces of constant phase." To see this, write the displacement as simply

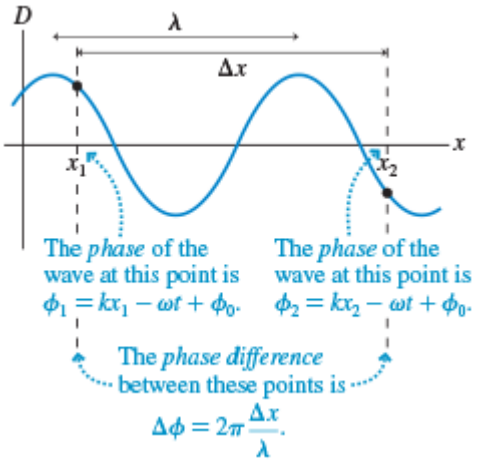
$D(x,t) = A\sin\phi$. Because each point on a wave front has the same displacement, the phase must be the same at every point.

It will be useful to know the *phase difference* $\Delta\phi$ between two different points on a sinusoidal wave. Figure 16.27 shows two points on a sinusoidal wave at time $t$. The phase difference between these points is

**(16.56)**

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\phi &= \phi_2 - \phi_1 = (kx_2 - \omega t + \phi_0) - (kx_1 - \omega t + \phi_0)\\ &= k(x_2 - x_1) = k\Delta x = 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda}\end{aligned}$$

## Figure 16.27




The phase difference between two points on a wave.

That is, **the phase difference between two points on a wave depends on only the ratio of their separation $\Delta x$ to the wavelength $\lambda$.** For example, two points on a wave separated by $\Delta x = \frac{1}{2}\lambda$ have a phase difference $\Delta\phi = \pi$ rad.

An important consequence of Equation 16.56 is that **the phase difference between two adjacent wave fronts is $\Delta\phi = 2\pi$ rad**. This follows from the fact that two adjacent wave fronts are separated by

$\Delta x = \lambda$. This is an important idea. Moving from one crest of the wave to the next corresponds to changing the *distance* by $\lambda$ and changing the *phase* by $2\pi$ rad.

**Example 16.8 The phase difference between two points on a sound wave**

A 100 Hz sound wave travels with a wave speed of 343 m/s.

**a.** What is the phase difference between two points 60.0 cm apart along the direction the wave is traveling?

**b.** How far apart are two points whose phase differs by 90°?



**MODEL** Treat the wave as a plane wave traveling in the positive $x$-direction.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The phase difference between two points is

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi \frac{\Delta x}{\lambda}$$

In this case, $\Delta x = 60.0 \text{ cm} = 0.600 \text{ m}$. The wavelength is

$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f} = \frac{343 \text{ m/s}}{100 \text{ Hz}} = 3.43 \text{ m}$$

and thus

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi \frac{0.600 \text{ m}}{3.43 \text{ m}} = 0.350\pi \text{ rad} = 63.0^\circ$$

**b.** A phase difference $\Delta\phi = 90^\circ$ is $\pi/2$ rad. This will be the phase difference between two points when $\Delta x/\lambda = \frac{1}{4}$, or when $\Delta x = \lambda/4$. Here, with $\lambda = 3.43$ m, $\Delta x = 85.8$ cm.

**ASSESS** The phase difference increases as Δx increases, so we expect the answer to part b to be larger than 60 cm.

## Stop to Think 16.5

What is the phase difference between the crest of a wave and the adjacent trough?

**a.** -2π *rad*
**b.** 0 *rad*
**c.** π/4 *rad*
**d.** π/2 *rad*
**e.** π *rad*
**f.** 3π *rad*

# 16.8 Power, Intensity, and Decibels



A traveling wave transfers energy from one point to another. The sound wave from a loudspeaker sets your eardrum into motion. Light waves from the sun warm the earth. The *power* of a wave is the rate, in joules per second, at which the wave transfers energy. As you learned in Chapter 9, power is measured in watts. A loudspeaker might emit 2 W of power, meaning that energy in the form of sound waves is radiated at the rate of 2 joules per second.

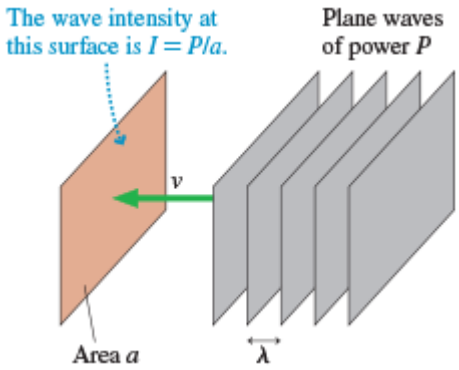
A focused light, like that of a projector, is more *intense* than the diffuse light that goes in all directions. Similarly, a loudspeaker that beams its sound forward into a small area produces a louder sound in that area than a speaker of equal power that radiates the sound in all directions. Quantities such as brightness and loudness depend not only on the rate of energy transfer, or power, but also on the *area* that receives that power.

Figure 16.28 shows a wave impinging on a surface of area $a$. The surface is perpendicular to the direction in which the wave is traveling. This might be a real, physical surface, such as your eardrum or a photovoltaic cell, but it could equally well be a mathematical surface in space that the wave passes right through. If the wave has power $P$, we define the **intensity** $I$ of the wave to be

**(16.57)**

$$I = \frac{P}{a} = \text{power-to-area ratio}$$

## Figure 16.28




Plane waves of power $P$ impinge on area $a$ with intensity $I = P/a$.

The SI units of intensity are W/m$^2$. Because intensity is a power-to-area ratio, a wave focused into a small area will have a larger intensity than a wave of equal power that is spread out over a large area.

### Example 16.9 The intensity of a laser beam

A typical red laser pointer emits 1.0 mW of light power into a 1.0-mm-diameter laser beam. What is the intensity of the laser beam?

**MODEL** The laser beam is a light wave.

**SOLVE** The light waves of the laser beam pass through a mathematical surface that is a circle of diameter 1.0 mm. The intensity of the laser beam is

$$I = \frac{P}{a} = \frac{P}{\pi r^2} = \frac{0.0010\ \text{W}}{\pi(0.00050\ \text{m})^2} = 1300\ \text{W/m}^2$$

**ASSESS** This is roughly the intensity of sunlight at noon on a summer day. The difference between the sun and a small laser is not their intensities, which are about the same, but their powers.

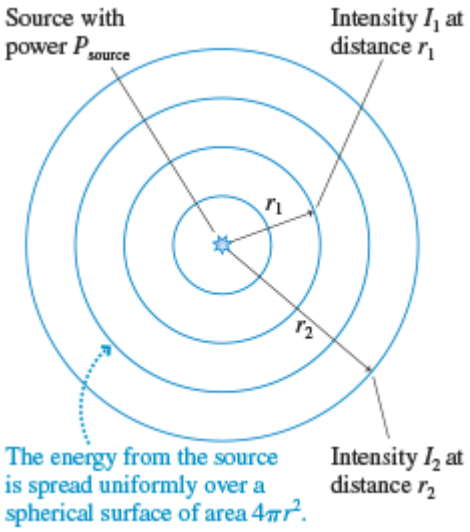
The laser has a small power of 1 mW. It can produce a very intense wave only because the area through which the wave passes is very small. The sun, by contrast, radiates a total power $P_{\text{sun}} \approx 4 \times 10^{26}$ W. This immense power is spread through *all* of space, producing an intensity of 1400 W/m$^2$ at a distance of $1.5 \times 10^{11}$ m, the radius of the earth's orbit.

If a source of spherical waves radiates uniformly in all directions, then, as Figure 16.29 on the next page shows, the power at distance $r$ is spread uniformly over the surface of a sphere of radius $r$. The surface area of a sphere is $a = 4\pi r^2$, so the intensity of a uniform spherical wave is

**(16.58)**

$$I = \frac{P_{\text{source}}}{4\pi r^2} \qquad \text{(intensity of a uniform spherical wave)}$$

**Figure 16.29**




A source emitting uniform spherical waves.

The inverse-square dependence of $r$ is really just a statement of energy conservation. The source emits energy at the rate $P$ joules per second.

The energy is spread over a larger and larger area as the wave moves outward. Consequently, the energy *per unit area* must decrease in proportion to the surface area of a sphere.

If the intensity at distance $r_1$ is $I_1 = P_{\text{source}}/4\pi {r_1}^2$ and the intensity at $r_2$ is $I_2 = P_{\text{source}}/4\pi {r_2}^2$, then you can see that the intensity *ratio* is

**(16.59)**

$$\frac{I_1}{I_2} = \frac{{r_2}^2}{{r_1}^2}$$

You can use Equation 16.59 to compare the intensities at two distances from a source without needing to know the power of the source.

> **Note**
>
> Wave intensities are strongly affected by reflections and absorption. Equations 16.58 and 16.59 apply to situations such as the light from a star or the sound from a firework exploding high in the air. Indoor sound does *not* obey a simple inverse-square law because of the many reflecting surfaces.

For a sinusoidal wave, each particle in the medium oscillates back and forth in simple harmonic motion. You learned in Chapter 15 that a particle in SHM with amplitude $A$ has energy $E = \frac{1}{2}kA^2$, where $k$ is the spring constant of the medium, not the wave number. It is this oscillatory energy of the medium that is transferred, particle to particle, as the wave moves through the medium.

Because a wave's intensity is proportional to the rate at which energy is transferred through the medium, and because the oscillatory energy in the medium is proportional to the *square* of the amplitude, we can infer that

**(16.60)**

$$I \propto A^2$$

That is, **the intensity of a wave is proportional to the square of its amplitude**. If you double the amplitude of a wave, you increase its intensity by a factor of 4.

# Sound Intensity Level

Human hearing spans an extremely wide range of intensities, from the *threshold of hearing* at $\approx 1 \times 10^{-12}\ \mathrm{W/m^2}$ (at midrange frequencies) to the *threshold of pain* at ≈ 10 W/m². If we want to make a scale of loudness, it's convenient and logical to place the zero of our scale at the threshold of hearing. To do so, we define the **sound intensity level**, expressed in **decibels** (dB), as



**(16.61)**

$$\beta = (10\ \mathrm{dB}) \log_{10}\left(\frac{I}{I_0}\right)$$

where $I_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{-12}\ \mathrm{W/m^2}$. The symbol $\beta$ is the Greek letter beta. Notice that $\beta$ is computed as a base-10 logarithm, not a natural logarithm.

The decibel is named after Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone. Sound intensity level is actually dimensionless because it's formed from the ratio of two intensities, so decibels are just a *name* to remind us that we're dealing with an intensity *level* rather than a true intensity.

Right at the threshold of hearing, where $I = I_0$, the sound intensity level is

$$\beta = (10\ \text{dB}) \log_{10}\left(\frac{I_0}{I_0}\right) = (10\ \text{dB}) \log_{10}(1) = 0\ \text{dB}$$

Note that 0 dB doesn't mean no sound; it means that, for most people, no sound is heard. Dogs have more sensitive hearing than humans, and most dogs can easily perceive a 0 dB sound. The sound intensity level at the pain threshold is

$$\beta = (10\ \text{dB}) \log_{10}\left(\frac{10\ \text{W/m}^2}{10^{-12}\ \text{W/m}^2}\right) = (10\ \text{dB}) \log_{10}(10^{13}) = 130\ \text{dB}$$

The major point to notice is that the sound intensity level increases by 10 dB each time the actual intensity increases by a *factor* of 10. For example, the sound intensity level increases from 70 dB to 80 dB when the sound intensity increases from $10^{-5}$ W/m$^2$ to $10^{-4}$ W/m$^2$. Perception experiments find that sound is perceived as "twice as loud" when the intensity increases by a factor of 10. In terms of decibels, we can say that the perceived loudness of a sound doubles with each increase in the sound intensity level by 10 dB.

Table 16.4 gives the sound intensity levels for a number of sounds. Although 130 dB is the threshold of pain, quieter sounds can damage your hearing. A fairly short exposure to 120 dB can cause damage to the hair cells in the ear, but lengthy exposure to sound intensity levels of over 85 dB can produce damage as well.

---

**Table 16.4**

| Sound | $\beta$ (dB) |
|---|---|
| Threshold of hearing | 0 |
| Person breathing, at 3 m | 10 |
| A whisper, at 1 m | 20 |
| Quiet room | 30 |
| Outdoors, no traffic | 40 |
| Quiet restaurant | 50 |
| Normal conversation, at 1 m | 60 |
| Busy traffic | 70 |
| Vacuum cleaner, for user | 80 |
| Niagara Falls, at viewpoint | 90 |
| Snowblower, at 2 m | 100 |
| Stereo, at maximum volume | 110 |
| Rock concert | 120 |
| Threshold of pain | 130 |
| Loudest football stadium | 140 |

Sound intensity levels of common sounds

### Example 16.10 Blender noise

The blender making a smoothie produces a sound intensity level of 83 dB. What is the intensity of the sound? What will the sound intensity level be if a second blender is turned on?

**SOLVE** We can solve Equation 16.61 for the sound intensity, finding $I = I_0 \times 10^{\beta/10\ \text{dB}}$. Here we used the fact that 10 raised to a power is an "antilogarithm." In this case,

$$I = (1.0 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{W/m}^2) \times 10^{8.3} = 2.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{W/m}^2$$

A second blender doubles the sound power and thus raises the intensity to $I = 4.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{W/m}^2$. The new sound intensity level is

$$\beta = (10\ \text{dB}) \log_{10} \left( \frac{4.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{W/m}^2}{1.0 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{W/m}^2} \right) = 86\ \text{dB}$$

**ASSESS** In general, doubling the actual sound intensity increases the decibel level by 3 dB.

## Stop to Think 16.6

Four trumpet players are playing the same note. If three of them suddenly stop, the sound intensity level decreases by

**a.** 40 dB

**b.** 12 dB

**c.** 6 dB

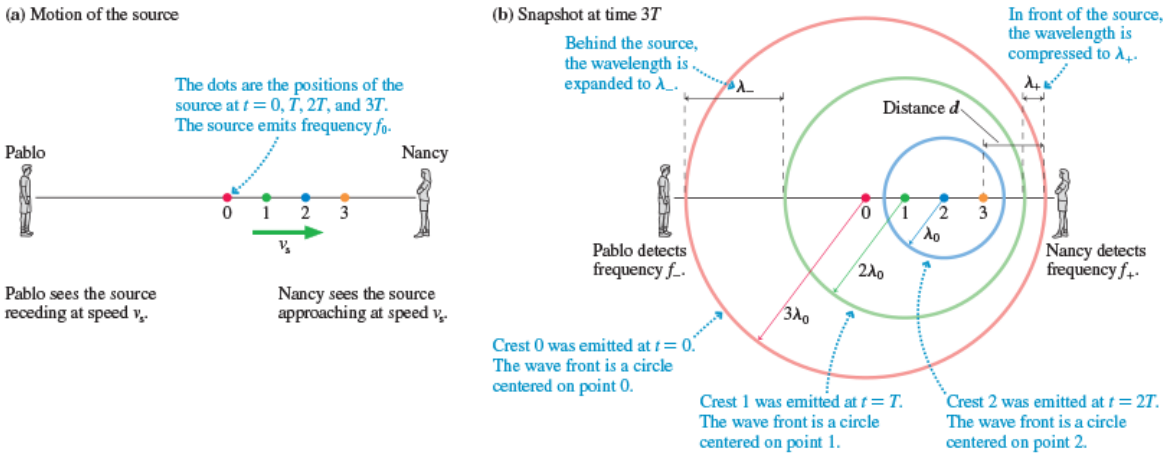
**d.** 4 dB

# 16.9 The Doppler Effect 446

Our final topic for this chapter is an interesting effect that occurs when you are in motion relative to a wave source. It is called the *Doppler effect*. You've likely noticed that the pitch of an ambulance's siren drops as it goes past you. Why?

Figure 16.30a on the next page shows a source of sound waves moving away from Pablo and toward Nancy at a steady speed $v_s$. The subscript s indicates that this is the speed of the source, not the speed of the waves. The source is emitting sound waves of frequency $f_0$ as it travels. The figure is a motion diagram showing the position of the source at times $t = 0, T, 2T,$ and $3T,$ where $T = 1/f_0$ is the period of the waves.

## Figure 16.30




A motion diagram showing the wave fronts emitted by a source as it moves to the right at speed $v_s$.

Nancy measures the frequency of the wave emitted by the *approaching source* to be $f_+$. At the same time, Pablo measures the frequency of the

wave emitted by the *receding source* to be $f_-$. Our task is to relate $f_+$ and $f_-$ to the source frequency $f_0$ and speed $v_s$.

**After a wave crest leaves the source, its motion is governed by the properties of the medium**. That is, the motion of the source cannot affect a wave that has already been emitted. Thus each circular wave front in Figure 16.30b is centered on the point from which it was emitted. The wave crest from point 3 was emitted just as this figure was made, but it hasn't yet had time to travel any distance.

The wave crests are bunched up in the direction the source is moving, stretched out behind it. The distance between one crest and the next is one wavelength, so the wavelength $\lambda_+$ Nancy measures is *less* than the wavelength $\lambda_0 = v/f_0$ that would be emitted if the source were at rest. Similarly, $\lambda_-$ behind the source is larger than $\lambda_0$.

These crests move through the medium at the wave speed $v$. Consequently, the frequency $f_+ = v/\lambda_+$ detected by the observer whom the source is approaching is *higher* than the frequency $f_0$ emitted by the source. Similarly, $f_- = v/\lambda_-$ detected behind the source is *lower* than frequency $f_0$. This change of frequency when a source moves relative to an observer is called the **Doppler effect**.

The distance labeled $d$ in Figure 16.30b is the difference between how far the wave has moved and how far the source has moved at time $t = 3T$. These distances are

**(16.62)**

$$\Delta x_{\text{wave}} = vt = 3vT$$
$$\Delta x_{\text{source}} = v_{\text{s}}t = 3v_{\text{s}}T$$

The distance $d$ spans three wavelengths; thus the wavelength of the wave emitted by an approaching source is

**(16.63)**

$$\lambda_+ = \frac{d}{3} = \frac{\Delta x_{\text{wave}} - \Delta x_{\text{source}}}{3} = \frac{3vT - 3v_{\text{s}}T}{3} = (v - v_{\text{s}})T$$

You can see that our arbitrary choice of three periods was not relevant because the 3 cancels. The frequency detected in Nancy's direction is

**(16.64)**

$$f_+ = \frac{v}{\lambda_+} = \frac{v}{(v - v_{\text{s}})T} = \frac{v}{(v - v_{\text{s}})} f_0$$

where $f_0 = 1/T$ is the frequency of the source and is the frequency you would detect if the source were at rest. We'll find it convenient to write the detected frequency as

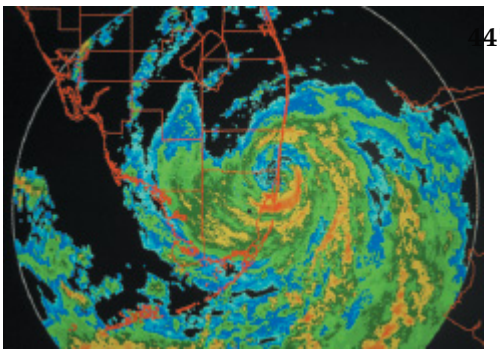
---

**(16.65)**

$$f_+ = \frac{f_0}{1 + v_{\text{s}}/v} \qquad \text{(Doppler effect for an approching source)}$$

$$f_- = \frac{f_0}{1 + v_{\text{s}}/v} \qquad \text{(Doppler effect for a receding source)}$$

Proof of the second version, for the frequency $f_-$ of a receding source, is similar. You can see that $f_+ > f_0$ in front of the source, because the denominator is less than 1, and $f_- < f_0$ behind the source.



Doppler weather radar uses the Doppler shift of reflected radar signals to measure wind speeds and thus better gauge the severity of a storm.

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**Example 16.11 How fast are the police traveling?**

A police siren has a frequency of 550 Hz as the police car approaches you, 450 Hz after it has passed you and is receding. How fast are the police traveling? The temperature is 20°C.

---

**MODEL** The siren's frequency is altered by the Doppler effect. The frequency is $f_+$ as the car approaches and $f_-$ as it moves away.

**SOLVE** To find $v_s$, we rewrite Equations 16.65 as

$$f_0 = (1 + v_s/v) f_-$$
$$f_0 = (1 - v_s/v) f_+$$

We subtract the second equation from the first, giving

$$0 = f_- - f_+ + \frac{v_s}{v}(f_- + f_+)$$

This is easily solved to give

$$v_s = \frac{f_+ - f_-}{f_+ + f_-} v = \frac{100\ \text{Hz}}{1000\ \text{Hz}} \times 343\ \text{m/s} = 34.3\ \text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** If you now solve for the siren frequency when at rest, you will find $f_0 = 495$ Hz. Surprisingly, the at-rest frequency is not halfway between $f_-$ and $f_+$.

## A Stationary Source and a Moving Observer

Suppose the police car in Example 16.11 is at rest while you drive toward it at 34.3 m/s. You might think that this is equivalent to having the police car move toward you at 34.3 m/s, but it isn't. Mechanical waves move through a medium, and the Doppler effect depends not just on how the source and the observer move with respect to each other but also on how they move with respect to the medium. We'll omit the proof, but it's not hard to show that the frequencies heard by an observer moving at speed $v_0$ relative to a stationary source emitting frequency $f_0$ are

**(16.66)**

$$\begin{aligned} f_+ &= (1 + v_0/v) f_0 \qquad \text{(observer approching a source)} \\ f_- &= (1 - v_0/v) f_0 \qquad \text{(observer receding from a source)} \end{aligned}$$

A quick calculation shows that the frequency of the police siren as you approach it at 34.3 m/s is 545 Hz, not the 550 Hz you heard as it approached you at 34.3 m/s.

## The Doppler Effect for Light Waves

The Doppler effect is observed for all types of waves, not just sound waves. If a source of light waves is receding from you, the wavelength $\lambda_-$ that you detect is longer than the wavelength $\lambda_0$ emitted by the source.

Although the reason for the Doppler shift for light is the same as for sound waves, there is one fundamental difference. We derived Equations 16.65 for the Doppler-shifted frequencies by measuring the wave speed $v$ relative to the medium. For electromagnetic waves in empty space, there is no medium. Consequently, we need to turn to Einstein's theory of relativity to determine the frequency of light waves from a moving source. The result, which we state without proof, is

**(16.67)**

$$\lambda_- = \sqrt{\frac{1 + v_s/c}{1 - v_s/c}}\,\lambda_0 \quad \text{(receding source)}$$

$$\lambda_+ = \sqrt{\frac{1 - v_s/c}{1 + v_s/c}}\,\lambda_0 \quad \text{(approaching source)}$$



Here $v_s$ is the speed of the source *relative to* the observer.

The light waves from a receding source are shifted to longer wavelengths ($\lambda_- > \lambda_0$). Because the longest visible wavelengths are perceived as the color red, the light from a receding source is **red shifted**. That is *not* to say that the light is red, simply that its wavelength is shifted toward the red end of the spectrum. If $\lambda_0 = 470$ nm (blue) light emitted by a rapidly receding source is detected at $\lambda_- = 520$ nm (green), we would say that the light has been red shifted. Similarly, light from an approaching source is **blue shifted**, meaning that the detected wavelengths are shorter than the emitted wavelengths ($\lambda_+ < \lambda_0$) and thus are shifted toward the blue end of the spectrum.

**Example 16.12 Measuring the velocity of a galaxy**

Hydrogen atoms in the laboratory emit red light with wavelength 656 nm. In the light from a distant galaxy, this "spectral line" is observed at 691 nm. What is the speed of this galaxy relative to the earth?

**MODEL** The observed wavelength is longer than the wavelength emitted by atoms at rest with respect to the observer (i.e., red shifted), so we are looking at light emitted from a galaxy that is receding from us.

**SOLVE** Squaring the expression for $\lambda_-$ in Equations 16.67 and solving for $v_s$ give

$$\begin{aligned} v_s &= \frac{(\lambda_-/\lambda_0)^2 - 1}{(\lambda_-/\lambda_0)^2 + 1}c \\ &= \frac{(691\text{ nm}/656\text{ nm})^2 - 1}{(691\text{ nm}/656\text{ nm})^2 + 1}c \\ &= 0.052c = 1.56 \times 10^7\text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

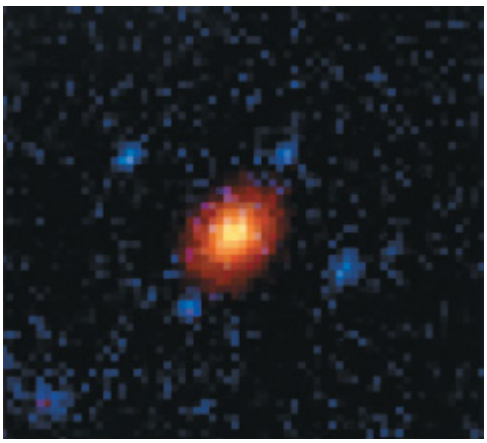
**ASSESS** The galaxy is moving away from the earth at about 5% of the speed of light!

In the 1920s, an analysis of the red shifts of many galaxies led the astronomer Edwin Hubble to the conclusion that the galaxies of the universe are *all* moving apart from each other. Extrapolating backward in time must bring us to a point when all the matter of the universe—and even space itself, according to the theory of relativity—began rushing out of a primordial fireball. Many observations and measurements since have

given support to the idea that the universe began in a *Big Bang* about 14 billion years ago.

As an example, Figure 16.31 is a Hubble Space Telescope picture of a *quasar*, short for *quasistellar object*. Quasars are extraordinarily powerful sources of light and radio waves. The light reaching us from quasars is highly red shifted, corresponding in some cases to objects that are moving away from us at greater than 90% of the speed of light. Astronomers have determined that some quasars are 10 to 12 *billion* light years away from the earth, hence the light we see was emitted when the universe was only about 25% of its present age. Today, the red shifts of distant quasars and supernovae (exploding stars) are being used to refine our understanding of the structure and evolution of the universe.

**Figure 16.31**



A Hubble Space Telescope picture of a quasar.

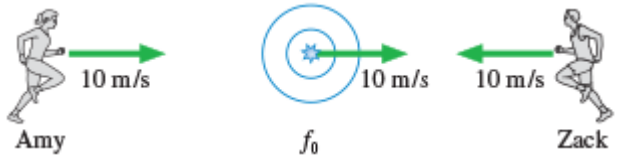
## Stop to Think 16.7

Amy and Zack are both listening to the source of sound waves that is moving to the right. Compare the frequencies each hears.

**a.** $f_{\text{Amy}} > f_{\text{Zack}}$

**b.** $f_{\text{Amy}} = f_{\text{Zack}}$

**c.** $f_{\text{Amy}} < f_{\text{Zack}}$




## Challenge Example 16.13 Decreasing the sound

The loudspeaker on a homecoming float—mounted on a pole—is stuck playing an annoying 210 Hz tone. When the speaker is 10 m away, you measure the sound to be a loud 95 dB at 208 Hz. How long will it take for the sound intensity level to drop to a tolerable 55 dB?

**MODEL** The source is on a pole, so model the sound waves as uniform spherical waves. Assume a temperature of 20°C.

**SOLVE** The 208 Hz frequency you measure is less than the 210 Hz frequency that was emitted, so the float must be moving away from you. The Doppler effect for a receding source is

$$f_- = \frac{f_0}{1 + v_s/v}$$

We can solve this to find the speed of the float:

$$v_s = \left(\frac{f_0}{f_-} - 1\right) v = \left(\frac{210\ \text{Hz}}{208\ \text{Hz}} - 1\right) \times 343\ \text{m/s} = 3.3\ \text{m/s}$$

The sound intensity of a spherical wave decreases with the inverse square of the distance from the source. A sound intensity level $\beta$ corresponds to an intensity $I = I_0 \times 10^{\beta/10\text{ dB}}$, where $I_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{-12}\,\text{W/m}^2$. At the initial 95 dB, the intensity is

$$I_1 = I_0 \times 10^{9.5} = 3.2 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{W/m}^2$$

At the desired 55 dB, the intensity will have dropped to

$$I_2 = I_0 \times 10^{5.5} = 3.2 \times 10^{-7}\,\text{W/m}^2$$

The intensity ratio is related to the distances by

$$\frac{I_1}{I_2} = \frac{{r_2}^2}{{r_1}^2}$$

Thus the sound will have dropped to 55 dB when the distance to the speaker is

$$r_2 = \sqrt{\frac{I_1}{I_2}}r_1 = \sqrt{10^4} \times 10\text{ m} = 1000\text{ m}$$

The float has to travel $\Delta x = 990$ m, which will take

$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta x}{v_\text{s}} = \frac{990\text{ m}}{3.3\text{ m/s}} = 300\text{ s} = 5.0\text{ min}$$

**ASSESS** To drop the sound intensity level by 40 dB requires decreasing the intensity by a factor of $10^4$. And with the intensity depending on the inverse square of the distance, that requires increasing the distance by a factor of 100. Floats don't move very fast—3.3 m/s is about 7 mph—so needing several minutes to travel the ≈ 1000 m seems reasonable.

# Summary

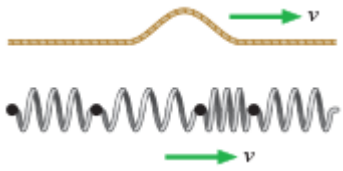


> The goal of Chapter 16 has been to learn the basic properties of traveling waves.

## General Principles

### The Wave Model

This model is based on the idea of a **traveling wave**, which is an organized disturbance traveling at a well-defined **wave speed** $v$.




- In **transverse waves** the displacement is perpendicular to the direction in which the wave travels.
- In **longitudinal waves** the particles of the medium are displaced parallel to the direction in which the wave travels.

A wave transfers **energy,** but no material or substance is transferred outward from the source.

Two basic classes of waves:

- **Mechanical waves** travel through a material medium such as water or air.

- **Electromagnetic waves** require no material medium and can travel through a vacuum.

For mechanical waves, such as sound waves and waves on strings, the speed of the wave is a property of the medium. Speed does not depend on the size or shape of the wave.

## Important Concepts

The **displacement** *D* of a wave is a function of both position (where) and time (when).

- A **snapshot graph** shows the wave's displacement as a function of position at a single instant of time.

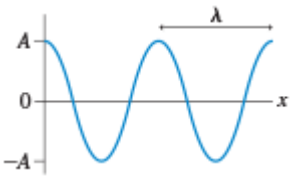
- A **history graph** shows the wave's displacement as a function of time at a single point in space.

For a transverse wave on a string, the snapshot graph is a picture of the wave. The displacement of a longitudinal wave is parallel to the motion; thus the snapshot graph of a longitudinal sound wave is *not* a picture of the wave.

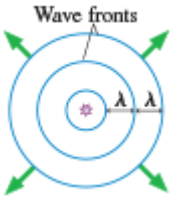
**Sinusoidal waves** are periodic in both time (period $T$) and space (wavelength $\lambda$):

$$\begin{aligned} D(x,t) &= A\sin\left[2\pi\left(x/\lambda - t/T\right) + \phi_0\right] \\ &= A\sin\left(kx - \omega t + \phi_0\right) \end{aligned}$$

where $A$ is the **amplitude**, $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ is the **wave number**, $\omega = 2\pi f = 2\pi/T$ is the **angular frequency,** and $\phi_0$ is the **phase constant** that describes initial conditions.




one-dimensional waves




Two- and three-dimensional waves

The fundamental relationship for any sinusoidal wave is $v = \lambda f$.

# Applications

- **String** (transverse): $v = \sqrt{T_\text{s}/\mu}$
- **Sound** (longitudinal): $v = \sqrt{B/\rho} = 343$ m/s 20°C air
- **Light** (transverse): $v = c/n,$ where $c = 3.00 \times 10^8$ m/s is the speed of light in a vacuum and $n$ is the material's **index of refraction**

The wave **intensity** is the power-to-area ratio: $I = P/a$

For a circular or spherical wave: $I = P_{\text{source}}/4\pi r^2$

The **sound intensity** level is

$$\beta = (10\ \text{dB})\ \log_{10}\left(I/1.0 \times 10^{-12}\,\text{W/m}^2\right)$$

The **Doppler effect** occurs when a wave source and detector are moving with respect to each other: the frequency detected differs from the frequency $f_0$ emitted.

**Approaching source**

$$f_+ = \frac{f_0}{1 - v_\text{s}/v}$$

**Receding source**

$$f_- = \frac{f_0}{1 + v_\text{s}/v}$$

**Observer approaching a source**

**450**

$$f_+ = (1 + v_0/v)\, f_0$$

**Observer receding from a source**

$$f_- = (1 - v_0/v)\, f_0$$

The Doppler effect for light uses a result derived from the theory of relativity.

# Terms and Notation

wave model

traveling wave

transverse wave

longitudinal wave

mechanical wave

electromagnetic wave

medium

disturbance

wave speed, $v$

linear density, $\mu$

snapshot graph

history graph

leading edge

trailing edge

sinusoidal wave

amplitude, $A$

wavelength, $\lambda$

wave number, $k$

partial derivative

wave equation

compression

rarefaction

electromagnetic spectrum

index of refraction, $n$

wave front

circular wave

spherical wave

plane wave

phase, $\phi$

intensity, $I$

sound intensity level, $\beta$

decibels

Doppler effect

red shifted

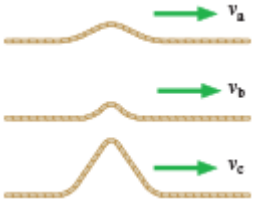
blue shifted

# Conceptual Questions



**1.** The three wave pulses in Figure Q16.1 travel along the same stretched string. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, their wave speeds $v_a$, $v_b$, and $v_c$. Explain.

**Figure Q16.1**




**2.** A wave pulse travels along a stretched string at a speed of 200 cm/s. What will be the speed if:

**a.** The string's tension is doubled?

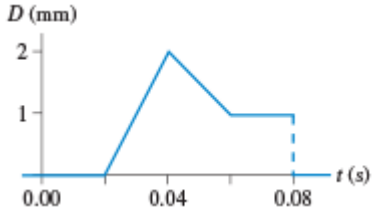
**b.** The string's mass is quadrupled (but its length is unchanged)?

**c.** The string's length is quadrupled (but its mass is unchanged)?

**Note:** Each part is independent and refers to changes made to the original string.

**3.** Figure Q16.3 is a history graph showing the displacement as a function of time at one point on a string. Did the displacement at this point reach its maximum of 2 mm *before* or *after* the interval of time when the displacement was a constant 1 mm?

**Figure Q16.3**




**4.** Figure Q16.4 shows a snapshot graph *and* a history graph for a wave pulse on a stretched string. They describe the same wave from two perspectives.

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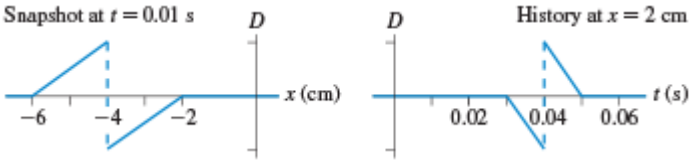
### Figure Q16.4




**a.** In which direction is the wave traveling? Explain.

**b.** What is the speed of this wave?

**5.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the wavelengths $\lambda_a$, $\lambda_b$, and $\lambda_c$ for sound waves having frequencies $f_a = 100\ \text{Hz},\ f_b = 1000\ \text{Hz},$ and $f_c = 10{,}000\ \text{Hz}$. Explain.

**6.** A sound wave with wavelength $\lambda_0$ and frequency $f_0$ moves into a new medium in which the speed of sound is $v_1 = 2v_0$. What are the new wavelength $\lambda_1$ and frequency $f_1$? Explain.

**7.** What are the amplitude, wavelength, frequency, and phase constant of the traveling wave in Figure Q16.7?

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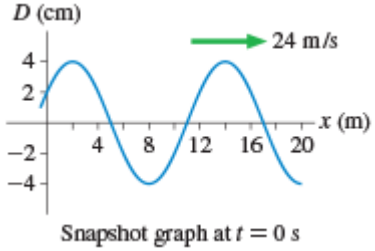
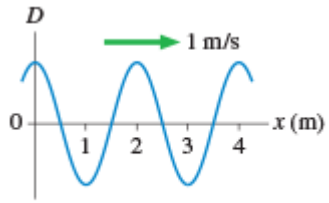
### Figure Q16.7



8. Figure Q16.8 is a snapshot graph of a sinusoidal wave at $t = 1.0$ s. What is the phase constant of this wave?

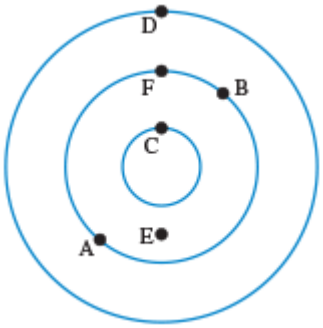
**Figure Q16.8**




Snapshot graph at $t = 1.0$ s

9. Figure Q16.9 shows the wave fronts of a circular wave. What is the phase difference between (a) points A and B, (b) points C and D, and (c) points E and F?

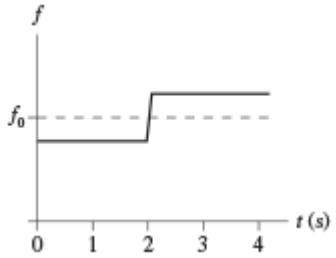
**Figure Q16.9**




10. Sound wave A delivers 2 J of energy in 2 s. Sound wave B delivers 10 J of energy in 5 s. Sound wave C delivers 2 mJ of energy in 1 ms. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the sound powers $P_A$, $P_B$, and $P_C$ of these three sound waves. Explain.
11. One physics professor talking produces a sound intensity level of 52 dB. It's a frightening idea, but what would be the sound intensity level of 100 physics professors talking simultaneously?
12. You are standing at $x = 0$ m, listening to a sound that is emitted at frequency $f_0$. The graph of Figure Q16.12 shows the

frequency you hear during a 4-second interval. Which of the following describes the sound source? Explain your choice.

**Figure Q16.12**




**A.** It moves from left to right and passes you at $t = 2$ s.

**B.** It moves from right to left and passes you at $t = 2$ s.

**C.** It moves toward you but doesn't reach you. It then reverses direction at $t = 2$ s.

**D.** It moves away from you until $t = 2$ s. It then reverses direction and moves toward you but doesn't reach you.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 16.1 An Introduction to Waves

**1.** • The wave speed on a string under tension is 200 m/s. What is the speed if the tension is halved?

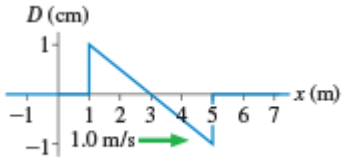
**2.** • The wave speed on a string is 150 m/s when the tension is 75 N. What tension will give a speed of 180 m/s?

**3.** •• A 25 g string is under 20 N of tension. A pulse travels the length of the string in 50 ms. How long is the string?

## Section 16.2 One-Dimensional Waves

**4.** •• Draw the history graph $D(x = 4.0\,\text{m},\ t)$ at $x = 4.0\,\text{m}$ for the wave shown in Figure EX16.4.

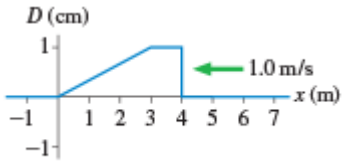
**Figure EX16.4**



Snapshot graph of a wave at $t = 2$ s

**5.** •• Draw the history graph $D(x = 0\,\text{m},\ t)$ at $x = 0\,\text{m}$ for the wave shown in Figure EX16.5.

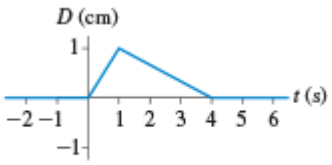
**Figure EX16.5**



Snapshot graph of a wave at $t = 0$ s

**6.** •• Draw the snapshot graph $D(x,\ t = 0\,\text{s})$ at $t = 0\,\text{s}$ for the wave shown in Figure EX16.6.

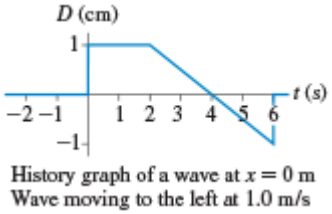
**Figure EX16.6**



History graph of a wave at $x = 2$ m
Wave moving to the right at 1.0 m/s

**7.** •• Draw the snapshot graph $D(x, t = 1.0\,\text{s})$ at $t = 1.0\,\text{s}$ for the wave shown in Figure EX16.7.

**Figure EX16.7**



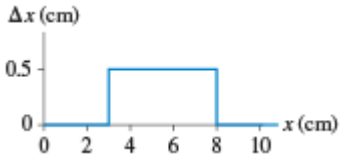
History graph of a wave at $x = 0$ m
Wave moving to the left at 1.0 m/s

**8.** •• Figure EX16.8 is a picture at $t = 0$ s of the particles in a medium as a longitudinal wave is passing through. The equilibrium spacing between the particles is 1.0 cm. Draw the snapshot graph $D(x, t = 0\,\text{s})$ of this wave at $t = 0$ s.

**Figure EX16.8**

**9.** •• Figure EX16.9 is the snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s of a *longitudinal* wave. Draw the corresponding picture of the particle positions, as was done in Figure 16.9b. Let the equilibrium spacing between the particles be 1.0 cm.

**Figure EX16.9**




## Section 16.3 Sinusoidal Waves

**10.** • A wave has angular frequency 30 rad/s and wavelength 2.0 m. What are its (a) wave number and (b) wave speed?

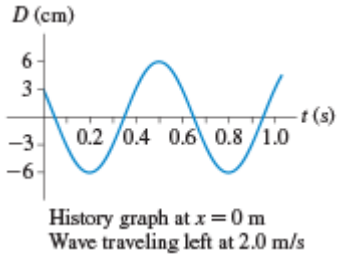
**11.** • A wave travels with speed 200 m/s. Its wave number is 1.5 rad/m. What are its (a) wavelength and (b) frequency?

**12.** • The displacement of a wave traveling in the negative $y$-direction is $D(y,t) = (5.2\text{ cm})\sin(5.5y + 72t)$, where $y$ is in m and $t$ is in s. What are the (a) frequency, (b) wavelength, and (c) speed of this wave?

**13.** • The displacement of a wave traveling in the positive $x$-direction is $D(x,t) = (3.5\text{ cm})\ \sin(2.7y - 124t)$, where $x$ is in m and $t$ is in s. What are the (a) frequency, (b) wavelength, and (c) speed of this wave?

**14.** •• What are the amplitude, frequency, and wavelength of the wave in Figure EX16.14?

**Figure EX16.14**




## Section 16.4 The Wave Equation on a String

**15.** •• **CALC** Show that the displacement $D(x,t) = cx^2 + dt^2$, where $c$ and $d$ are constants, is a solution to the wave equation. Then find an expression in terms of $c$ and $d$ for the wave speed.

**16.** •• **CALC** Show that the displacement $D(x,t) = \ln(ax + bt)$, where $a$ and $b$ are constants, is a solution to the wave equation. Then find an expression in terms of $a$ and $b$ for the wave speed.

## Section 16.5 Sound and Light

**17.** ••

**a.** What is the wavelength of a 2.0 MHz ultrasound wave traveling through aluminum?

**b.** What frequency of electromagnetic wave would have the same wavelength as the ultrasound wave of part a?

**18.** •

**a.** What is the frequency of an electromagnetic wave with a wavelength of 20 cm?

**b.** What would be the wavelength of a sound wave in water with the same frequency as the electromagnetic wave of part a?

**19.** •

**a.** What is the frequency of blue light that has a wavelength of 450 nm?

**b.** What is the frequency of red light that has a wavelength of 650 nm?



**c.** What is the index of refraction of a material in which the red-light wavelength is 450 nm?

**20.** •

**a.** An FM radio station broadcasts at a frequency of 101.3 MHz. What is the wavelength?

**b.** What is the frequency of a sound source that produces the same wavelength in 20°C air?

**21.** •

**a.** Telephone signals are often transmitted over long distances by microwaves. What is the frequency of microwave radiation with a wavelength of 3.0 cm?

**b.** Microwave signals are beamed between two mountaintops 50 km apart. How long does it take a

signal to travel from one mountaintop to the other?

**22.** •• A hammer taps on the end of a 4.00-m-long metal bar at room temperature. A microphone at the other end of the bar picks up two pulses of sound, one that travels through the metal and one that travels through the air. The pulses are separated in time by 9.00 ms. What is the speed of sound in this metal?

**23.** • Cell phone conversations are transmitted by high-frequency radio waves. Suppose the signal has wavelength 35 cm while traveling through air. What are the (a) frequency and (b) wavelength as the signal travels through 3-mm-thick window glass into your room?

**24.** ••

**a.** How long does it take light to travel through a 3.0-mm-thick piece of window glass?

**b.** Through what thickness of water could light travel in the same amount of time?

**25.** • A light wave has a 670 nm wavelength in air. Its wavelength in a transparent solid is 420 nm.

**a.** What is the speed of light in this solid?

**b.** What is the light's frequency in the solid?

**26.** • A 440 Hz sound wave in 20°C air propagates into the water of a swimming pool. What are the wave's (a) frequency and (b) wavelength in the water?

## Section 16.6 The Wave Equation in a Fluid

**27.** • What is the speed of sound in air (a) on a cold winter day in Minnesota when the temperature is –25°F, and (b) on a hot summer day in Death Valley when the temperature is 125°F?

**28.** • The density of mercury is 13,600 kg/m$^3$. What is the speed of sound in mercury at 20°C?

## Section 16.7 Waves in Two and Three Dimensions

**29.** • A circular wave travels outward from the origin. At one instant of time, the phase at $r_1 = 20\ \text{cm}$ is 0 rad and the phase at $r_2 = 80\ \text{cm}$ is $3\pi$ rad. What is the wavelength of the wave?

**30.** •• A spherical wave with a wavelength of 2.0 m is emitted from the origin. At one instant of time, the phase at $r = 4.0\ \text{m}$ is $\pi$ rad. At that instant, what is the phase at $r = 3.5\ \text{m}$ and $r = 4.5\ \text{m}$?

**31.** •• A loudspeaker at the origin emits a 120 Hz tone on a day when the speed of sound is 340 m/s. The phase difference between two points on the $x$-axis is 5.5 rad. What is the distance between these two points?

**32.** •• A sound source is located somewhere along the $x$-axis. Experiments show that the same wave front simultaneously reaches listeners at $x = -7.0\ \text{m}$ and $x = +3.0\ \text{m}$.

**a.** What is the $x$-coordinate of the source?

**b.** A third listener is positioned along the positive $y$-axis. What is her $y$-coordinate if the same wave front reaches her at the same instant it does the first two listeners?

## Section 16.8 Power, Intensity, and Decibels

**33.** •• **BIO** A sound wave with intensity $2.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{W/m}^2$ is perceived to be modestly loud. Your eardrum is 6.0 mm in diameter. How much energy will be transferred to your eardrum while listening to this sound for 1.0 min?

**34.** •• The intensity of electromagnetic waves from the sun is 1.4 kW/m$^2$ just above the earth's atmosphere. Eighty percent of

this reaches the surface at noon on a clear summer day. Suppose you think of your back as a 30 cm $\times$ 50 cm rectangle. How many joules of solar energy fall on your back as you work on your tan for 1.0 h?

**35.** •• A concert loudspeaker suspended high above the ground emits 35 W of sound power. A small microphone with a 1.0 $cm^2$ area is 50 m from the speaker.

**a.** What is the sound intensity at the position of the microphone?

**b.** How much sound energy impinges on the microphone each second?

**36.** •• During takeoff, the sound intensity level of a jet engine is 140 dB at a distance of 30 m. What is the sound intensity level at a distance of 1.0 km?

**37.** • The sun emits electromagnetic waves with a power of $4.0 \times 10^{26}$ W. Determine the intensity of electromagnetic waves from the sun just outside the atmospheres of Venus, the earth, and Mars.

**38.** • What are the sound intensity levels for sound waves of intensity (a) $3.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \mathrm{W/m^2}$ and (b) $3.0 \times 10^{-2}\ \mathrm{W/m^2}$?

**39.** • A loudspeaker on a tall pole broadcasts sound waves equally in all directions. What is the speaker's power output if the sound intensity level is 90 dB at a distance of 20 m?

**40.** •• The sound intensity level 5.0 m from a large power saw is 100 dB. At what distance will the sound be a more tolerable 80 dB?

## Section 16.9 The Doppler Effect

**41.** • A friend of yours is loudly singing a single note at 400 Hz while racing toward you at 25.0 m/s on a day when the speed

of sound is 340 m/s.

**a.** What frequency do you hear?

**b.** What frequency does your friend hear if you suddenly start singing at 400 Hz?

**42.** • An opera singer in a convertible sings a note at 600 Hz while cruising down the highway at 90 km/h. What is the frequency heard by

**a.** A person standing beside the road in front of the car?

**b.** A person on the ground behind the car?

**43.** •• **BIO** A bat locates insects by emitting ultrasonic "chirps" and then listening for echoes from the bugs. Suppose a bat chirp has a frequency of 25 kHz. How fast would the bat have to fly, and in what direction, for you to just barely be able to hear the chirp at 20 kHz?

**44.** •• A mother hawk screeches as she dives at you. You recall from biology that female hawks screech at 800 Hz, but you hear the screech at 900 Hz. How fast is the hawk approaching?

## Problems

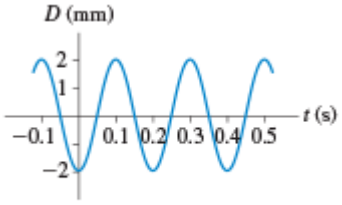
**45.** •• Figure P16.45 is a history graph at $x = 0$ m of a wave traveling in the positive $x$-direction at 4.0 m/s.

**a.** What is the wavelength?

**b.** What is the phase constant of the wave?

**c.** Write the displacement equation for this wave.

**Figure P16.45**



History graph at $x = 0$ m
Wave traveling right at 4.0 m/s

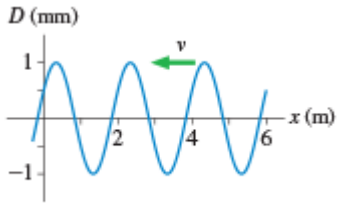
**46.** •• Figure P16.46 is a snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s of a 5.0 Hz wave traveling to the left.

**a.** What is the wave speed?

**b.** What is the phase constant of the wave?

**c.** Write the displacement equation for this wave.

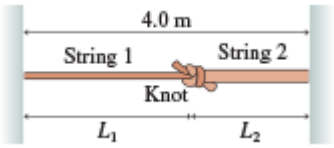
## Figure P16.46



Snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s

**47.** • String 1 in Figure P16.47 has linear density 2.0 g/m and string 2 has linear density 4.0 g/m. A student sends pulses in both directions by quickly pulling up on the knot, then releasing it. What should the string lengths $L_1$ and $L_2$ be if the pulses are to reach the ends of the strings simultaneously?

## Figure P16.47




**48.** •• Oil explorers set off explosives to make loud sounds, then listen for the echoes from underground oil deposits. Geologists

suspect that there is oil under 500-m-deep Lake Physics. It's known that Lake Physics is carved out of a granite basin. Explorers detect a weak echo 0.94 s after exploding dynamite at the lake surface. If it's really oil, how deep will they have to drill into the granite to reach it?

**49.** •• **BIO** One cue your hearing system uses to localize a sound (i.e., to tell where a sound is coming from) is the slight difference in the arrival times of the sound at your ears. Your ears are spaced approximately 20 cm apart. Consider a sound source 5.0 m from the center of your head along a line 45° to your right. What is the difference in arrival times? Give your answer in microseconds.

**Hint:** You are looking for the difference between two numbers that are nearly the same. What does this near equality imply about the necessary precision during intermediate stages of the calculation?

**50.** •• A helium-neon laser beam has a wavelength in air of 633 nm. It takes 1.38 ns for the light to travel through 30 cm of an unknown liquid. What is the wavelength of the laser beam in the liquid?

**51.** •• Earthquakes are essentially sound waves—called seismic waves—traveling through the earth. Because the earth is solid, it can support both longitudinal and transverse seismic waves. The speed of longitudinal waves, called P waves, is 8000 m/s. Transverse waves, called S waves, travel at a slower 4500 m/s. A seismograph records the two waves from a distant earthquake. If the S wave arrives 2.0 min after the P wave, how far away was the earthquake? You can assume that the waves travel in straight lines, although actual seismic waves follow more complex routes.

**52.** •• Helium (density 0.18 kg/m$^3$ at 0°C and 1 atm pressure) remains a gas until the extraordinarily low temperature of 4.2 K. What is the speed of sound in helium at 5 K?

**53.** •• **INT** A 20.0-cm-long, 10.0-cm-diameter cylinder with a piston at one end contains 1.34 kg of an unknown liquid. Using the piston to compress the length of the liquid by 1.00 mm increases the pressure by 41.0 atm. What is the speed of sound in the liquid?

**54.** •• A sound wave is described by $D(y,t) = (0.0200\ \text{mm}) \times \sin[(8.96\ \text{rad/m})y + (3140\ \text{rad/s})t + \pi/4\ \text{rad}]$, where $y$ is in m and $t$ is in s.

**a.** In what direction is this wave traveling?

**b.** Along which axis is the air oscillating?

**c.** What are the wavelength, the wave speed, and the period of oscillation?

**55.** •• A wave on a string is described by $D(x,t) = (3.0\ \text{cm}) \times \sin[2\pi(x/(2.4\ \text{m}) + t/(0.20\ \text{s}) + 1)]$, where $x$ is in m and $t$ is in s.

**a.** In what direction is this wave traveling?

**b.** What are the wave speed, the frequency, and the wave number?

**c.** At $t = 0.50$ s, what is the displacement of the string at $x = 0.20$ m?

**56.** •• A wave on a string is described by $D(x,t) = (2.00\ \text{cm}) \times \sin[(12.57\ \text{rad/m})x - (638\ \text{rad/s})t]$, where $x$ is in m and $t$ in s. The linear density of the string is 5.00 g/m. What are

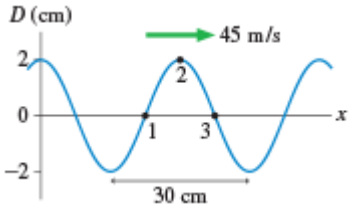
**a.** The string tension?

**b.** The maximum displacement of a point on the string?

**c.** The maximum speed of a point on the string?

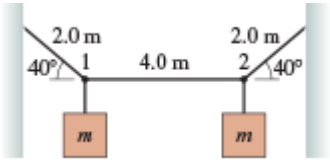
**57.** •• Figure P16.57 shows a snapshot graph of a wave traveling to the right along a string at 45 m/s. At this instant, what is the velocity of points 1, 2, and 3 on the string?

**Figure P16.57**



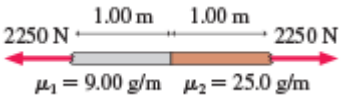

**58.** ••• **INT** Figure P16.58 shows two masses hanging from a steel wire. The mass of the wire is 60.0 g. A wave pulse travels along the wire from point 1 to point 2 in 24.0 ms. What is mass $m$?

**Figure P16.58**



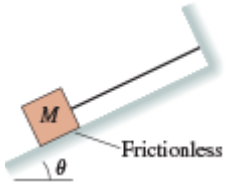

**59.** •• A wire is made by welding together two metals having different densities. Figure P16.59 shows a 2.00-m-long section of wire centered on the junction, but the wire extends much farther in both directions. The wire is placed under 2250 N tension, then a 1500 Hz wave with an amplitude of 3.00 mm is sent down the wire. How many wavelengths (complete cycles) of the wave are in this 2.00-m-long section of the wire?

**Figure P16.59**



**60.** •• The string in Figure P16.60 has linear density $\mu$. Find an expression in terms of $M$, $\mu$ and $\theta$ for the speed of waves on the string.

**Figure P16.60**




**61.** •• A string that is under 50.0 N of tension has linear density 5.0 g/m. A sinusoidal wave with amplitude 3.0 cm and wavelength 2.0 m travels along the string. What is the maximum speed of a particle on the string?

**62.** •• **INT** The G string on a guitar is a 0.46-mm-diameter steel string with a linear density of 1.3 g/m. When the string is properly tuned to 196 Hz, the wave speed on the string is 250 m/s. Tuning is done by turning the tuning screw, which slowly tightens—and stretches—the string. By how many mm does a 75-cm-long G string stretch when it's first tuned?

**63.** •• A sinusoidal wave travels along a stretched string. A particle on the string has a maximum speed of 2.0 m/s and a maximum acceleration of 200 m/s$^2$. What are the frequency and amplitude of the wave?

**64.** ••• **CALC** Is the displacement $D(x,t) = (0.10 - 0.10x^2 + xt - 2.5t^2)$ m, where $x$ is in m and $t$ is in s, a possible traveling wave? If so, what is the wave speed?

**65.** ••• **CALC** Is the displacement $D(x,t) = (3.0\text{ mm})\,e^{i(2.0x+8.0t+5.0)}$, where $x$ is in m, $t$ is in s, and $i = \sqrt{-1}$, a possible traveling wave? If so, what is the wave

speed? *Complex exponentials* are often used to represent waves in more advanced treatments.

**66.** •• An AM radio station broadcasts with a power of 25 kW at a frequency of 920 kHz. Estimate the intensity of the radio wave at a point 10 km from the broadcast antenna.

**67.** •• **BIO** LASIK eye surgery uses pulses of laser light to shave off tissue from the cornea, reshaping it. A typical LASIK laser emits a 1.0-mm-diameter laser beam with a wavelength of 193 nm. Each laser pulse lasts 15 ns and contains 1.0 mJ of light energy.

**a.** What is the power of one laser pulse?

**b.** During the very brief time of the pulse, what is the intensity of the light wave?

**68.** •• The sound intensity 50 m from a wailing tornado siren is 0.10 W/m$^2$.

**a.** What is the intensity at 1000 m?

**b.** The weakest intensity likely to be heard over background noise is $\approx 1\ \mu\text{W/m}^2$. Estimate the maximum distance at which the siren can be heard.

**69.** •• A distant star system is discovered in which a planet with twice the radius of the earth and rotating 3.0 times as fast as the earth orbits a star with a total power output of $6.8 \times 10^{29}$ W.

**a.** If the star's radius is 6.0 times that of the sun, what is the electromagnetic wave intensity at the surface? Astronomers call this the *surface flux*. Astronomical data are provided inside the back cover of the book.

**b.** Every planet-day (one rotation), the planet receives $9.4 \times 10^{22}$ J of energy. What is the planet's distance from its star? Give your answer in *astronomical units* (AU), where 1 AU is the distance of the earth from the sun.

**70.** • A compact sound source radiates 25 W of sound energy uniformly in all directions. What is the ratio of the sound intensity at a distance of 1.0 m to that at 5.0 m in (a) a two-dimensional universe, (b) our normal three-dimensional universe, and (c) a hypothetical four-dimensional universe?

**71.** •• A loudspeaker, mounted on a tall pole, is engineered to emit 75% of its sound energy into the forward hemisphere, 25% toward the back. You measure an 85 dB sound intensity level when standing 3.5 m in front of and 2.5 m below the speaker. What is the speaker's power output?

**72.** •• **BIO** Your ears are sensitive to differences in pitch, but they are not very sensitive to differences in intensity. You are not capable of detecting a difference in sound intensity level of less than 1 dB. By what factor does the sound intensity increase if the sound intensity level increases from 60 dB to 61 dB?

**73.** •• The intensity of a sound source is described by an inverse-square law only if the source is very small (a point source) and only if the waves can travel unimpeded in all directions. For an extended source or in a situation where obstacles absorb or reflect the waves, the intensity at distance $r$ can often be expressed as $I = cP_{\text{source}}/r^x$, where $c$ is a constant and the exponent $x$—which would be 2 for an ideal spherical wave—depends on the situation. In one such situation, you use a sound meter to measure the sound intensity level at different distances from a source, acquiring the data in the table. Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine the exponent $x$ that characterizes this sound source.

| Distance (m) | Intensity level (dB) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 100 |
| 3 | 93 |
| 10 | 85 |
| 30 | 78 |
| 100 | 70 |

**74.** •• **INT** A physics professor demonstrates the Doppler effect by tying a 600 Hz sound generator to a 1.0-m-long rope and whirling it around her head in a horizontal circle at 100 rpm. What are the highest and lowest frequencies heard by a student in the classroom?

**75.** •• An avant-garde composer wants to use the Doppler effect in his new opera. As the soprano sings, he wants a large bat to fly toward her from the back of the stage. The bat will be outfitted with a microphone to pick up the singer's voice and a loudspeaker to rebroadcast the sound toward the audience. The composer wants the sound the audience hears from the bat to be, in musical terms, one half-step higher in frequency than the note they are hearing from the singer. Two notes a half-step apart have a frequency ratio of $2^{1/12} = 1.059$. With what speed must the bat fly toward the singer?

**76.** ••• **CALC** A loudspeaker on a pole is radiating 100 W of sound energy in all directions. You are walking directly toward the speaker at 0.80 m/s. When you are 20 m away, what are (a) the sound intensity level and (b) the rate (dB/s) at which the sound intensity level is increasing? **Hint:** Use the chain rule and the relationship $\log_{10} x = \ln\ x/\ln\ 10$.

**77.** •• Show that the Doppler frequency $f_-$ of a receding source is $f_- = f_0/(1 + v_s/v)$.

**78.** • A starship approaches its home planet at a speed of $0.10c$. When it is $54 \times 10^6$ km away, it uses its green laser beam

($\lambda = 540$ nm) to signal its approach.

**a.** How long does the signal take to travel to the home planet?

**b.** At what wavelength is the signal detected on the home planet?

**79.** • Wavelengths of light from a distant galaxy are found to be 0.50% longer than the corresponding wavelengths measured in a terrestrial laboratory. Is the galaxy approaching or receding from the earth? At what speed?

**80.** • You have just been pulled over for running a red light, and the police officer has informed you that the fine will be $250. In desperation, you suddenly recall an idea that your physics professor recently discussed in class. In your calmest voice, you tell the officer that the laws of physics prevented you from knowing that the light was red. In fact, as you drove toward it, the light was Doppler shifted to where it appeared green to you. "OK," says the officer, "Then I'll ticket you for speeding. The fine is $1 for every 1 km/h over the posted speed limit of 50 km/h." How big is your fine? Use 650 nm as the wavelength of red light and 540 nm as the wavelength of green light.

## Challenge Problems

**81.** ••• One way to monitor global warming is to measure the average temperature of the ocean. Researchers are doing this by measuring the time it takes sound pulses to travel underwater over large distances. At a depth of 1000 m, where ocean temperatures hold steady near 4°C, the average sound speed is 1480 m/s. It's known from laboratory measurements that the sound speed increases 4.0 m/s for every 1.0°C increase

in temperature. In one experiment, where sounds generated near California are detected in the South Pacific, the sound waves travel 8000 km. If the smallest time change that can be reliably detected is 1.0 s, what is the smallest change in average temperature that can be measured?

**82.** ••• **CALC** A rope of mass $m$ and length $L$ hangs from a ceiling.

**a.** Show that the wave speed on the rope a distance $y$ above the lower end is $v = \sqrt{gy}$.

**b.** Show that the time for a pulse to travel the length of the string is $\Delta t = 2\sqrt{L/g}$.

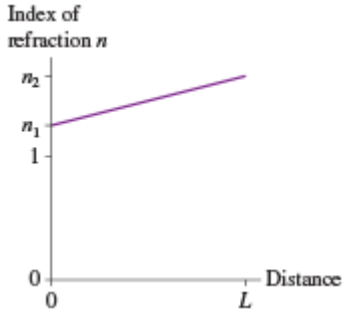
**83.** ••• **CALC** A communications truck with a 44-cm-diameter dish receiver on the roof starts out 10 km from its base station. It drives directly away from the base station at 50 km/h for 1.0 h, keeping the receiver pointed at the base station. The base station antenna broadcasts continuously with 2.5 kW of power, radiated uniformly in all directions. How much electromagnetic energy does the truck's dish receive during that 1.0 h?

**84.** ••• **CALC** Some modern optical devices are made with glass whose index of refraction changes with distance from the front surface. Figure CP16.84 shows the index of refraction as a function of the distance into a slab of glass of thickness $L$. The index of refraction increases linearly from $n_1$ at the front surface to $n_2$ at the rear surface.

**a.** Find an expression for the time light takes to travel through this piece of glass.

**b.** Evaluate your expression for a 1.0-cm-thick piece of glass for which $n_1 = 1.50$ and $n_2 = 1.60$.

**Figure CP16.84**




**85.** ••• **CALC** A water wave is a *shallow-water wave* if the water depth $d$ is less than $\approx \lambda/10$. It is shown in hydrodynamics that the speed of a shallow-water wave is $v = \sqrt{gd}$, so waves slow down as they move into shallower water. Ocean waves, with wavelengths of typically 100 m, are shallow-water waves when the water depth is less than ≈ 10 m. Consider a beach where the depth increases linearly with distance from the shore until reaching a depth of 5.0 m at a distance of 100 m. How long does it take a wave to move the last 100 m to the shore? Assume that the waves are so small that they don't break before reaching the shore.

# Chapter 17
# Superposition

This swirl of colors is due to a very thin layer of oil. Oil is clear. The colors arise from the interference of reflected light waves.

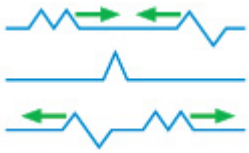
**In This Chapter**

you will understand and use the ideas of superposition.

## What is superposition?

Waves can pass through each other. When they do, their displacements add together at each point. This is called the principle of superposition. It is a property of waves but not of particles.

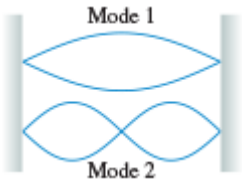
Looking Back Sections 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4 Properties of traveling waves



## What is a standing wave?

A standing wave is created when two waves travel in opposite directions between two boundaries.

- Standing waves have well-defined patterns called modes.
- Some points on the wave, called nodes, do not oscillate at all.



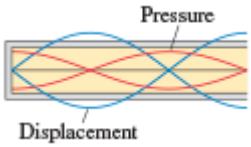

## How are standing waves related to music?

The notes played by musical instruments are standing waves.

- Guitars have string standing waves.
- Flutes have pressure standing waves.

Changing the length of a standing wave changes its frequency and the note played.

Looking Back Section 16.5 Sound waves

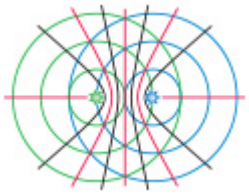



## What is interference?

When two sources emit waves with the same wavelength, the overlapped waves create an interference pattern.

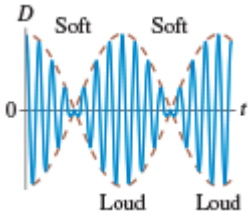
- Constructive interference (red) occurs where waves add to produce a wave with a larger amplitude.

- Destructive interference (black) occurs where waves cancel.



## What are beats?

The superposition of two waves with slightly different frequencies produces a loud-soft-loud-soft modulation of the intensity called beats. Beats have important applications in music, ultrasonics, and telecommunications.




## Why is superposition important?

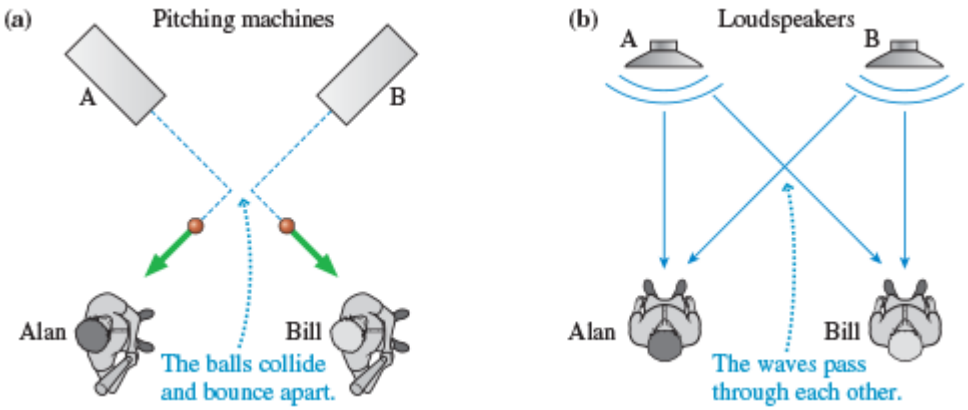
Superposition and standing waves occur often in the world around us, especially when there are reflections. Musical instruments, microwave systems, and lasers all depend on standing waves. Standing waves are also important for large structures such as buildings and bridges. Superposition of light waves causes interference, which is used in electro-optic devices and precision measuring techniques.

# 17.1 The Principle of Superposition



Figure 17.1a shows two baseball players, Alan and Bill, at batting practice. Unfortunately, someone has turned the pitching machines so that pitching machine A throws baseballs toward Bill while machine B throws toward Alan. If two baseballs are launched at the same time, and with the same speed, they collide at the crossing point. Two particles cannot occupy the same point of space at the same time.

**Figure 17.1**




Unlike particles, two waves can pass directly through each other.

But waves, unlike particles, can pass directly through each other. In Figure 17.1b Alan and Bill are listening to the stereo system in the locker room after practice. Because both hear the music quite well, the sound wave that travels from loudspeaker A toward Bill must pass through the wave traveling from loudspeaker B toward Alan.

What happens to the medium at a point where two waves are present simultaneously? If wave 1 displaces a particle in the medium by $D_1$ and wave 2 *simultaneously* displaces it by $D_2$, the net displacement of the

particle is simply $D_1 + D_2$. This is a very important idea because it tells us how to combine waves. It is known as the *principle of superposition.*

---

### Principle of superposition

When two or more waves are *simultaneously* present at a single point in space, the displacement of the medium at that point is the sum of the displacements due to each individual wave.

Mathematically, the net displacement of a particle in the medium is

**(17.1)**

$$D_{\text{net}} = D_1 + D_2 + \ldots = \sum_i D_i$$

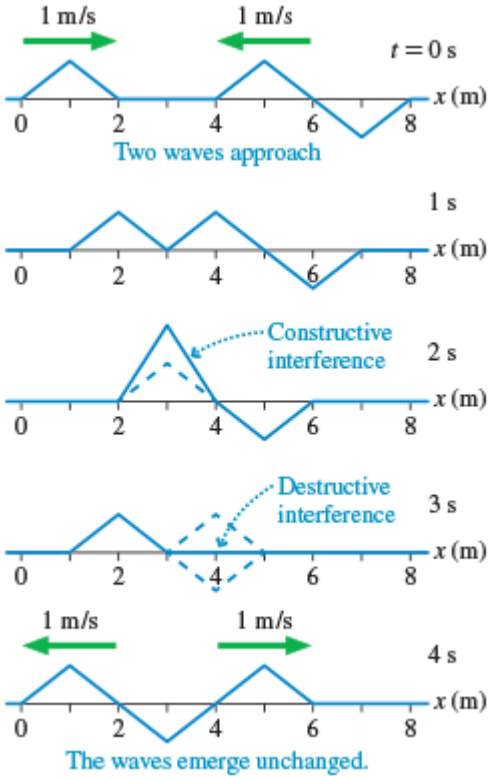
where $D_i$ is the displacement that would be caused by wave $i$ alone. We will make the simplifying assumption that the displacements of the individual waves are along the same line so that we can add displacements as scalars rather than vectors.

To use the principle of superposition you must know the displacement caused by each wave if traveling alone. Then you go through the medium *point by point* and add the displacements due to each wave *at that point* to find the net displacement at that point.

To illustrate, Figure 17.2 shows snapshot graphs taken 1 s apart of two waves traveling at the same speed (1 m/s) in opposite directions. The principle of superposition comes into play wherever the waves overlap. The solid line is the sum *at each point* of the two displacements at that

point. This is the displacement that you would actually observe as the two waves pass through each other.

## Figure 17.2



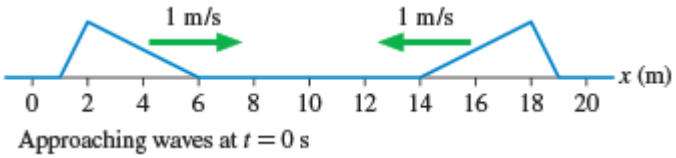

The superposition of two waves as they pass through each other.

Notice how two overlapping positive displacements add to give a displacement twice that of the individual waves. This is called *constructive interference*. Similarly, *destructive interference* is occurring at the points where positive and negative displacements add to give a superposition with zero displacement. We will defer the main discussion until later in this chapter, but you can already see that *interference is a consequence of superposition*.



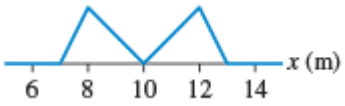
## Stop to Think 17.1

Two pulses on a string approach each other at speeds of 1 m/s. What is the shape of the string at $t = 6$ s?

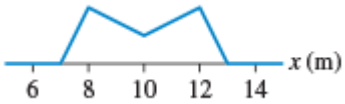


Approaching waves at $t = 0$ s

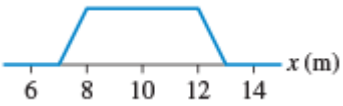
**a.**



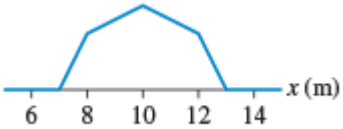

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**



# 17.2 Standing Waves



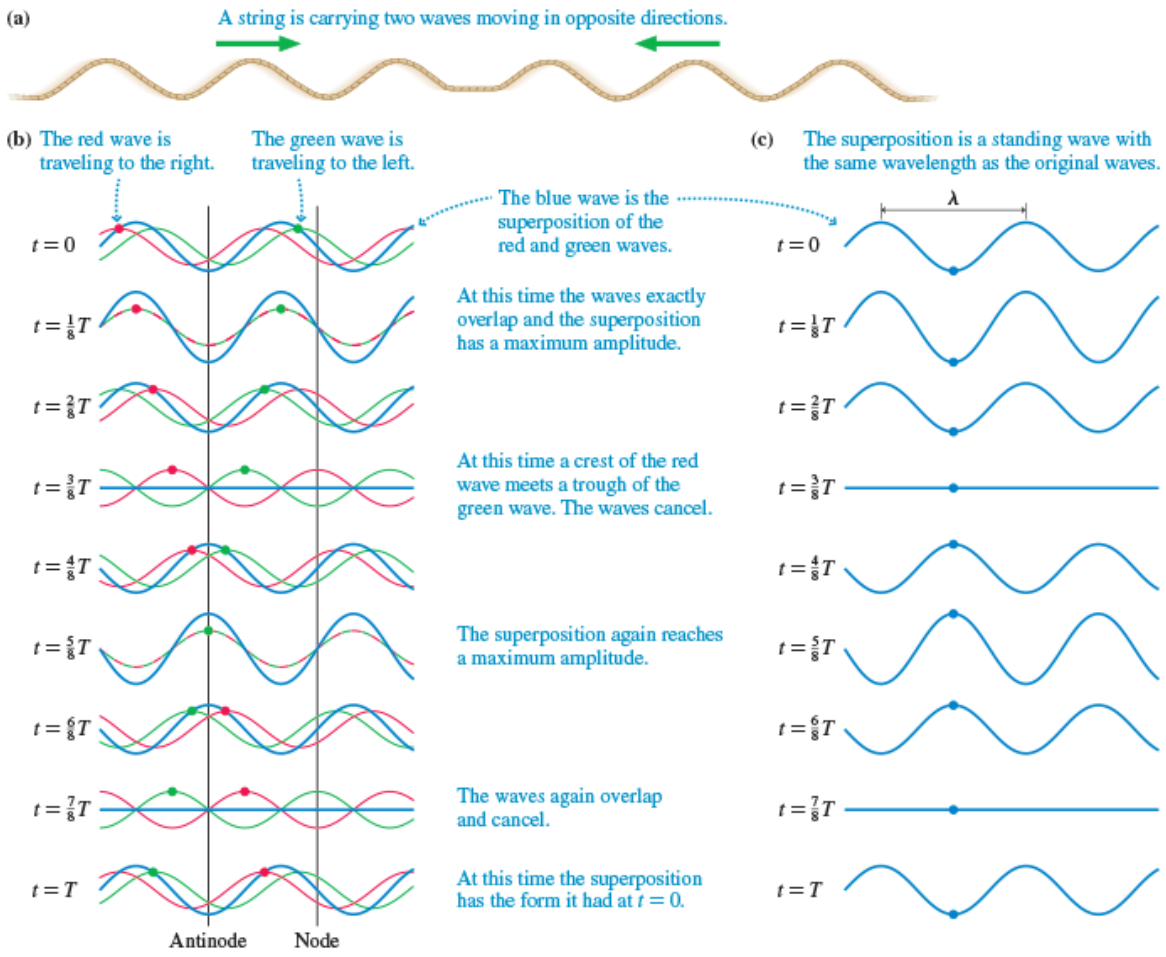
Figure 17.3 is a time-lapse photograph of a *standing wave* on a vibrating string. It's not obvious from the photograph, but this is actually a superposition of two waves. To understand this, consider two sinusoidal waves **with the same frequency, wavelength, and amplitude** traveling in opposite directions. For example, Figure 17.4a shows two waves on a string, and Figure 17.4b shows nine snapshot graphs, at intervals of $\frac{1}{8}T$. The dots identify two of the crests to help you visualize the wave movement.

**Figure 17.3**

A vibrating string is an example of a standing wave.

At *each point,* the net displacement—the superposition—is found by adding the red displacement and the green displacement. Figure 17.4c shows the result. It is the wave you would actually observe. The blue dot shows that the blue wave is moving neither right nor left. The wave of Figure 17.4c is called a **standing wave** because the crests and troughs "stand in place" as the wave oscillates.

**Figure 17.4**

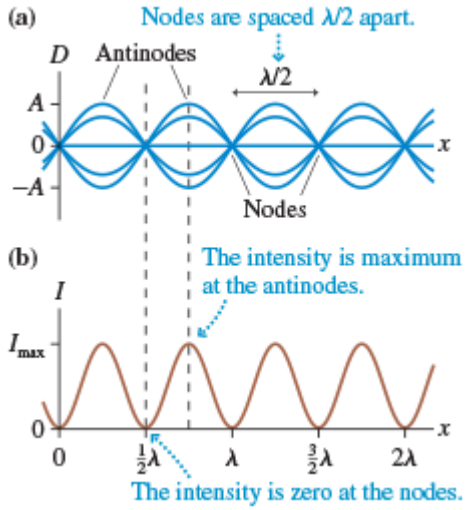



The superposition of two sinusoidal waves traveling in opposite directions.

# Nodes and Antinodes

Figure 17.5a has collapsed the nine graphs of Figure 17.4b into a single graphical representation of a standing wave. Compare this to the Figure 17.3 photograph of a vibrating string. A striking feature of a standing-wave pattern is the existence of **nodes**, points that *never move!* **The nodes are spaced $\lambda/2$ apart.** Halfway between the nodes are the points where the particles in the medium oscillate with maximum displacement. These points of maximum amplitude are called **antinodes**, and you can see that they are also spaced $\lambda/2$ apart.

**Figure 17.5**




The intensity of a standing wave is maximum at the antinodes, zero at the nodes.

---

It seems surprising and counterintuitive that some particles in the medium have no motion at all. To understand this, look closely at the two traveling waves in Figure 17.4a. You will see that the nodes occur at points where at *every instant* of time the displacements of the two traveling waves have equal magnitudes but *opposite signs*. That is, nodes are points of destructive interference where the net displacement is always zero. In contrast, antinodes are points of constructive interference where two displacements of the same sign always add to give a net displacement larger than that of the individual waves.

In Chapter 16 you learned that the *intensity* of a wave is proportional to the square of the amplitude: $I \propto A^2$. You can see in Figure 17.5b that maximum intensity occurs at the antinodes and that the intensity is zero at the nodes. If this is a sound wave, the loudness is maximum at the antinodes and zero at the nodes. A standing light wave is bright at the antinodes, dark at the nodes. The key idea is that **the intensity is maximum at points of constructive interference and zero at points of destructive interference**.

This photograph shows the Tacoma Narrows suspension bridge on the day in 1940 when it experienced a wind-induced standing-wave oscillation that led to its collapse. The red line shows the original line of the deck of the bridge. You can clearly see the large amplitude of the oscillation and the node at the center of the span.

---

# The Mathematics of Standing Waves

A sinusoidal wave traveling to the right along the $x$-axis with angular frequency $\omega = 2\pi f$, wave number $k = 2\pi/\lambda$, and amplitude $a$ is

**(17.2)**

$$D_{\mathrm{R}} = a\sin\left(kx - \omega t\right)$$

An equivalent wave traveling to the left is



**(17.3)**

$$D_{\mathrm{L}} = a\sin\left(kx + \omega t\right)$$

We previously used the symbol $A$ for the wave amplitude, but here we will use a lowercase $a$ to represent the amplitude of each individual wave and reserve $A$ for the amplitude of the net wave.

According to the principle of superposition, the net displacement of the medium when both waves are present is the sum of $D_{\mathrm{R}}$ and $D_{\mathrm{L}}$:

**(17.4)**

$$D\left(x,\ t\right) = D_{\mathrm{R}} + D_{\mathrm{L}} = a\sin\left(kx - \omega t\right) + a\sin\left(kx + \omega t\right)$$

We can simplify Equation 17.4 by using the trigonometric identity

$$\sin\left(\alpha \pm \beta\right) = \sin\alpha\cos\beta \pm \cos\alpha\sin\beta$$

Doing so gives

**(17.5)**

$$\begin{aligned} D(x,\ t) &= a(\sin kx\cos\omega t - \cos kx\sin\omega t) + a(\sin kx\cos\omega t + \cos kx\sin\omega t) \\ &= (2a\sin kx)\cos\omega t \end{aligned}$$

It is useful to write Equation 17.5 as

---

**(17.6)**

$$D\left(x,\ t\right) = A\left(x\right)\cos\omega t$$

where the **amplitude function *A(x)*** is defined as

---

**(17.7)**

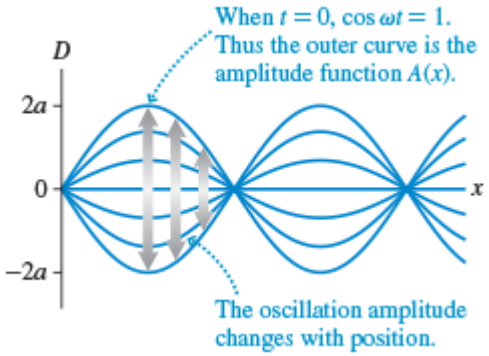
$$A\left(x\right) = 2a\sin kx$$

The amplitude reaches a maximum value $A_{\mathrm{max}} = 2a$ at points where $\sin kx = 1$.

The displacement $D(x, t)$ given by Equation 17.6 is neither a function of $x - vt$ nor a function of $x + vt$; hence it is *not* a traveling wave. Instead, the cos $\omega t$ term in Equation 17.6 describes a medium in which each point oscillates in simple harmonic motion with frequency $f = \omega/2\pi$. The function $A(x) = 2a \sin kx$ gives the amplitude of the oscillation for a particle at position $x$.

Figure 17.6 graphs Equation 17.6 at several different instants of time. Notice that the graphs are identical to those of Figure 17.5a, showing us that Equation 17.6 is the mathematical description of a standing wave.

## Figure 17.6




The net displacement resulting from two counter-propagating sinusoidal waves.

The nodes of the standing wave are the points at which the amplitude is zero. They are located at positions $x$ for which

**(17.8)**

$$A(x) = 2a \sin kx = 0$$

The sine function is zero if the angle is an integer multiple of $\pi$ rad, so Equation 17.8 is satisfied if

(17.9)

$$kx_m = \frac{2\pi x_m}{\lambda} = m\pi \qquad m = 0,\ 1,\ 2,\ 3, \cdots$$

Thus the position $x_m$ of the $m$th node is

(17.10)

$$x_m = m\frac{\lambda}{2} \qquad m = 0,\ 1,\ 2,\ 3, \cdots$$

You can see that the spacing between two adjacent nodes is $\lambda/2$, in agreement with Figure 17.5b. The nodes are *not* spaced by $\lambda$, as you might have expected.

**Example 17.1 Node spacing on a string**

A very long string has a linear density of 5.0 g/m and is stretched with a tension of 8.0 N. 100 Hz waves with amplitudes of 2.0 mm are generated at the ends of the string.

**a.** What is the node spacing along the resulting standing wave?

**b.** What is the maximum displacement of the string?

**MODEL** Two counter-propagating waves of equal frequency create a standing wave.

**VISUALIZE** The standing wave will look like Figure 17.5a.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The speed of the waves on the string is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{T_s}}{\mu}} = \sqrt{\frac{8.0\ \mathrm{N}}{0.0050\ \mathrm{kg/m}}} = 40\ \mathrm{m/s}$$

and the wavelength is

$$\lambda = \frac{\mathrm{v}}{f} = \frac{40\ \mathrm{m/s}}{100\ \mathrm{Hz}} = 0.40\ \mathrm{m} = 40\ \mathrm{cm}$$

Thus the spacing between adjacent nodes is $\lambda/2 = 20\ \mathrm{cm}$.

**b.** The maximum displacement is $A_{\mathrm{max}} = 2a = 4.0\ \mathrm{mm}$.

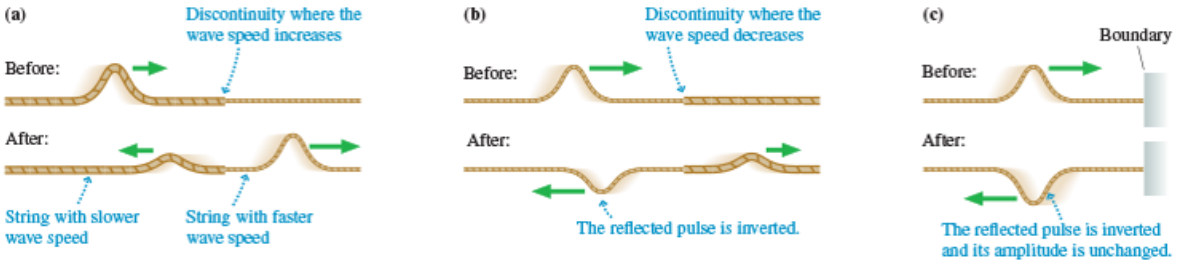
# 17.3 Standing Waves on a String



Wiggling both ends of a very long string is not a practical way to generate standing waves. Instead, as in the photograph in Figure 17.3, standing waves are usually seen on a string that is fixed at both ends. To understand why this condition causes standing waves, we need to examine what happens when a traveling wave encounters a discontinuity.

Figure 17.7a shows a *discontinuity* between a string with a larger linear density and one with a smaller linear density. The tension is the same in both strings, so the wave speed is slower on the left, faster on the right. Whenever a wave encounters a discontinuity, some of the wave's energy is *transmitted* forward and some is *reflected*.

**Figure 17.7**




A wave reflects when it encounters a discontinuity or a boundary.

Light waves exhibit an analogous behavior when they encounter a piece of glass. Most of the light wave's energy is transmitted through the glass, which is why glass is transparent, but a small amount of energy is reflected. That is how you see your reflection dimly in a storefront window.

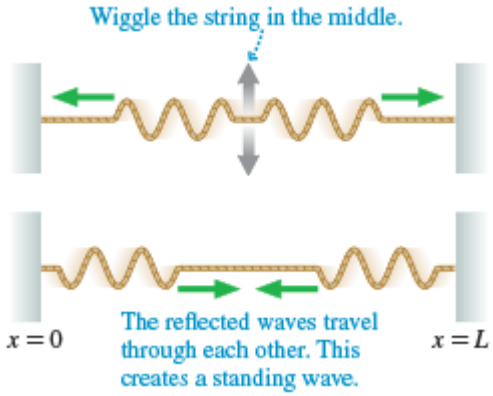
In Figure 17.7b, an incident wave encounters a discontinuity at which the wave speed decreases. In this case, the reflected pulse is *inverted*. A positive displacement of the incident wave becomes a negative displacement of the reflected wave. Because $\sin(\phi + \pi) = -\sin\phi$, we say that the reflected wave has a *phase change of π upon reflection*. This aspect of reflection will be important later in the chapter when we look at the interference of light waves.

The wave in Figure 17.7c reflects from a *boundary*. This is like Figure 17.7b in the limit that the string on the right becomes infinitely massive. Thus the reflection in Figure 17.7c looks like that of Figure 17.7b with one exception: Because there is no transmitted wave, *all* the wave's energy is reflected. Hence **the amplitude of a wave reflected from a boundary is unchanged.**

## Creating Standing Waves

Figure 17.8 shows a string of length $L$ tied at $x = 0$ and $x = L$. If you wiggle the string in the middle, sinusoidal waves travel outward in both directions and soon reach the boundaries. Because the speed of a reflected wave does not change, **the wavelength and frequency of a reflected sinusoidal wave are unchanged.** Consequently, reflections at the ends of the string cause two waves of *equal amplitude and wavelength* to travel in opposite directions along the string. As we've just seen, these are the conditions that cause a standing wave!

**Figure 17.8**




Reflections at the two boundaries cause a standing wave on the string.

---

To connect the mathematical analysis of standing waves in Section 17.2 with the physical reality of a string tied down at the ends, we need to impose *boundary conditions*. A **boundary condition** is a mathematical statement of any constraint that *must* be obeyed at the boundary or edge of a medium. Because the string is tied down at the ends, the displacements at $x = 0$ and $x = L$ must be zero at all times. Thus the standing-wave boundary conditions are $D\,(x = 0,\ t) = 0$ and $D\,(x = L,\ t) = 0$. Stated another way, we require nodes at both ends of the string.

We found that the displacement of a standing wave is $D\,(x,\ t) = (2a \sin kx) \cos \omega t$. This equation already satisfies the boundary condition $D\,(x = 0,\ t) = 0$. That is, the origin has already been located at a node. The second boundary condition, at $x = L$, requires $D\,(x = L,\ t) = 0$. This condition will be met at all times if

**(17.11)**

$$2a \sin kL = 0 \qquad \text{(boundary condition at } x = L\text{)}$$

Equation 17.11 will be true if $\sin kL = 0$, which in turn requires

$$kL = \frac{2\pi L}{\lambda} = m\pi \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4, \cdots$$

$kL$ must be a multiple of $m\pi$, but $m = 0$ is excluded because $L$ can't be zero.

For a string of fixed length $L$, the only quantity in Equation 17.12 that can vary is $\lambda$. That is, the boundary condition is satisfied only if the wavelength has one of the values

---

(17.13)

$$\lambda_m = \frac{2L}{m} \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4, \cdots$$

**A standing wave can exist on the string *only* if its wavelength is one of the values given by Equation 17.13.** The $m$th possible wavelength $\lambda_m = 2L/m$ is just the right size so that its $m$th node is located at the end of the string (at $x = L$).

> **Note**
>
> Other wavelengths, which would be perfectly acceptable wavelengths for a traveling wave, cannot exist as a *standing* wave of length $L$ because they cannot meet the boundary conditions requiring a node at each end of the string.

If standing waves are possible only for certain wavelengths, then only a few specific oscillation frequencies are allowed. Because $\lambda f = v$ for a sinusoidal wave, the oscillation frequency corresponding to wavelength $\lambda_m$ is

**(17.14)**

$$f_m = \frac{v}{\lambda_m} = \frac{v}{2L/m} = m\frac{v}{2L} \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4, \cdots$$

The lowest allowed frequency

**(17.15)**

$$f_1 = \frac{v}{2L} \qquad \text{(fundamental frequency)}$$

which corresponds to wavelength $\lambda_1 = 2L$, is called the **fundamental frequency** of the string. The allowed frequencies can be written in terms of the fundamental frequency as

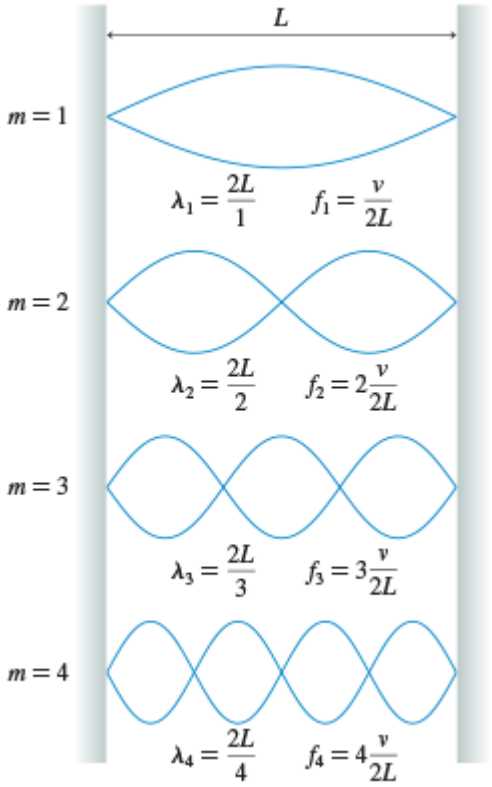
**(17.16)**

$$f_m = mf_1 \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4, \cdots$$

The allowed standing-wave frequencies are all integer multiples of the fundamental frequency. The higher-frequency standing waves are called **harmonics,** with the $m = 2$ wave at frequency $f_2$ called the *second harmonic,* the $m = 3$ wave called the *third harmonic,* and so on.

Figure 17.9 graphs the first four possible standing waves on a string of fixed length $L$. These possible standing waves are called the **modes** of the string, or sometimes the *normal modes.* Each mode, numbered by the integer $m$, has a unique wavelength and frequency. Keep in mind that these drawings simply show the *envelope,* or outer edge, of the oscillations. The string is continuously oscillating at all positions between these edges, as we showed in more detail in Figure 17.5a.

## Figure 17.9




The first four modes for standing waves on a string of length $L$.

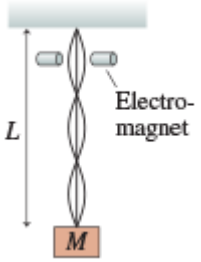
There are three things to note about the modes of a string.

1. $m$ is the number of *antinodes* on the standing wave, not the number of nodes. You can tell a string's mode of oscillation by counting the number of antinodes.
2. The *fundamental mode*, with $m = 1$, has $\lambda_1 = 2L$, not $\lambda_1 = L$. Only half of a wavelength is contained between the boundaries, a direct consequence of the fact that the spacing between nodes is $\lambda/2$.
3. The frequencies of the normal modes form a series: $f_1$, $2f_1$, $3f_1$, $4f_1$,.... The fundamental frequency $f_1$ can be found as the *difference* between the frequencies of any two adjacent modes. That is, $f_1 = \Delta f = f_{m+1} - f_m$.

## Example 17.2 Measuring $g$

Standing-wave frequencies can be measured very accurately. Consequently, standing waves are often used in experiments to make accurate measurements of other quantities. One such experiment, shown in Figure 17.10, uses standing waves to measure the free-fall acceleration $g$. A heavy mass is suspended from a 1.65-m-long, 5.85 g steel wire; then an oscillating magnetic field (because steel is magnetic) is used to excite the $m = 3$ standing wave on the wire. Measuring the frequency for different masses yields the data given in the table. Analyze these data to determine the local value of $g$.

### Figure 17.10




An experiment to measure $g$.

| Mass (kg) | $f_3$ (Hz) |
|---|---|
| 2.00 | 68 |
| 4.00 | 97 |
| 6.00 | 117 |
| 8.00 | 135 |
| 10.00 | 152 |

**MODEL** The hanging mass creates tension in the wire. This establishes the wave speed along the wire and thus the frequencies of standing waves. Masses of a few kg might stretch the wire a mm

or so, but that doesn't change the length $L$ until the third decimal place. The mass of the wire itself is insignificant in comparison to that of the hanging mass. We'll be justified in determining $g$ to three significant figures.

**SOLVE** The frequency of the third harmonic is

$$f_3 = \frac{3}{2}\frac{v}{L}$$

The wave speed on the wire is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{T_s}{\mu}} = \sqrt{\frac{Mg}{m/L}} = \sqrt{\frac{MgL}{m}}$$

where $Mg$ is the weight of the hanging mass, and thus the tension in the wire, while $m$ is the mass of the wire. Combining these two equations, we have

$$f_3 = \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{\frac{Mg}{mL}} = \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{\frac{g}{mL}}\,\sqrt{M}$$

Squaring both sides gives

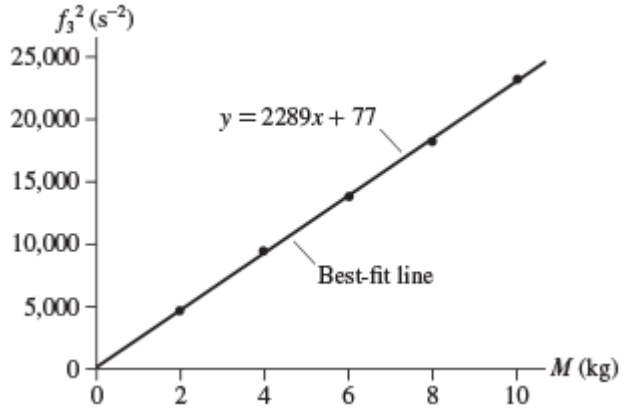
$$f_3^{\,2} = \frac{9g}{4mL}\,M$$

A graph of the square of the standing-wave frequency versus mass $M$ should be a straight line passing through the origin with slope $9g/4mL$. We can use the experimental slope to determine $g$.

Figure 17.11 is a graph of $f_3^{\,2}$ versus $M$. The slope of the best-fit line is 2289 $\text{kg}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-2}$, from which we find

$$g = \text{slope} \times \frac{4mL}{9}$$
$$= 2289\ \text{kg}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-2} \times \frac{4(0.00585\ \text{kg})(1.65\ \text{m})}{9} = 9.82\ \text{m/s}^2$$

**Figure 17.11**

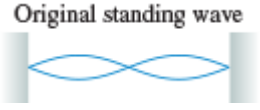



Graph of the data.

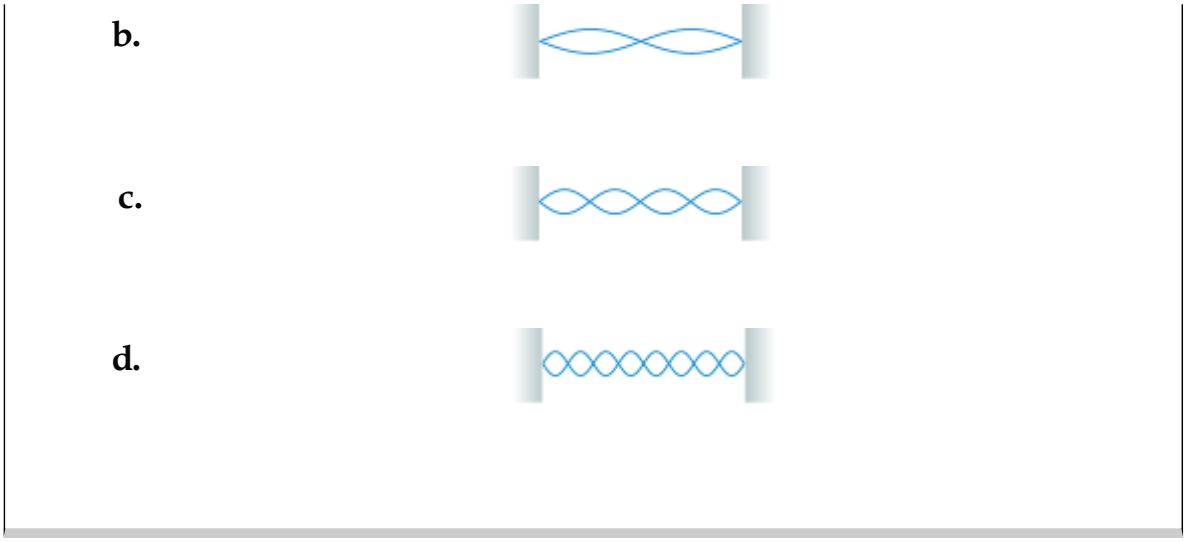
**ASSESS** The fact that the graph is linear and passes through the origin confirms our model. This is an important reason for having multiple data points rather than using only one mass.

## Stop to Think 17.2

A standing wave on a string vibrates as shown at the right. Suppose the string tension is quadrupled while the frequency and the length of the string are held constant. Which standing-wave pattern is produced?



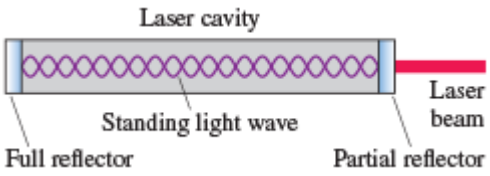

**a.**




## Standing Electromagnetic Waves

Because electromagnetic waves are transverse waves, a standing electromagnetic wave is very much like a standing wave on a string. Standing electromagnetic waves can be established between two parallel mirrors that reflect light back and forth. The mirrors are boundaries, analogous to the boundaries at the ends of a string. In fact, this is exactly how a laser operates. The two facing mirrors in Figure 17.12 form what is called a *laser cavity*.

**Figure 17.12**




A laser contains a standing light wave between two parallel mirrors.

Because the mirrors act like the points to which a string is tied, the light wave must have a node at the surface of each mirror. One of the mirrors is only partially reflective, to allow some light to escape and form the laser beam, but this doesn't affect the boundary condition.

Because the boundary conditions are the same, Equations 17.13 and 17.14 for $\lambda_m$ and $f_m$ apply to a laser just as they do to a vibrating string. The primary difference is the size of the wavelength. A typical laser cavity has a length $L \approx 30$ cm, and visible light has a wavelength $\lambda \approx 600$ nm. The standing light wave in a laser cavity has a mode number $m$ that is approximately

$$m = \frac{2L}{\lambda} \approx \frac{2 \times 0.30 \text{ m}}{6.00 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}} = 1{,}000{,}000$$

In other words, the standing light wave inside a laser cavity has approximately one million antinodes! This is a consequence of the very short wavelength of light.

**Example 17.3 The standing light wave inside a laser**

Helium-neon lasers emit the red laser light commonly used in classroom demonstrations and supermarket checkout scanners. A helium-neon laser operates at a wavelength of precisely 632.9924 nm when the spacing between the mirrors is 310.372 mm.

**a.** In which mode does this laser operate?
**b.** What is the next longest wavelength that could form a standing wave in this laser cavity?

**MODEL** The light wave forms a standing wave between the two mirrors.

**VISUALIZE** The standing wave looks like Figure 17.12.

**SOLVE**

**a.** We can use $\lambda_m = 2L/m$ to find that $m$ (the mode) is

$$m = \frac{2L}{\lambda_m} = \frac{2\,(0.310372\text{ m})}{6.329924 \times 10^{-7}\text{ m}} = 980{,}650$$

There are 980,650 antinodes in the standing light wave.

**b.** The next longest wavelength that can fit in this laser cavity will have one fewer node. It will be the $m = 980{,}649$ mode and its wavelength will be

$$\lambda = \frac{2L}{m} = \frac{2\,(0.310372\text{ m})}{980{,}649} = 632.9930\text{ nm}$$

**ASSESS** The wavelength increases by a mere 0.0006 nm when the mode number is decreased by 1.

---

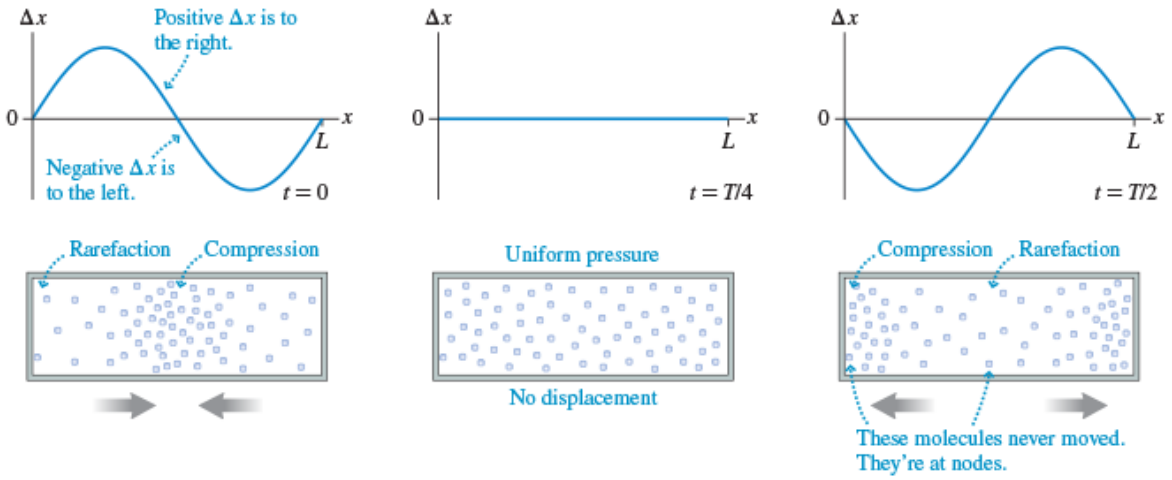
Microwaves, with a wavelength of a few centimeters, can also set up standing waves. This is not always good. If the microwaves in a microwave oven form a standing wave, there are nodes where the electromagnetic field intensity is always zero. These nodes cause cold spots where the food does not heat. Although designers of microwave ovens try to prevent standing waves, ovens usually do have cold spots spaced $\lambda/2$ apart at nodes in the microwave field. A turntable in a microwave oven keeps the food moving so that no part of your dinner remains at a node.

# 17.4 Standing Sound Waves and Musical Acoustics

A long, narrow column of air, such as the air in a tube or pipe, can support a *longitudinal* standing sound wave. Longitudinal waves are somewhat trickier than string waves because a graph—showing displacement *parallel* to the tube—is not a picture of the wave.

To illustrate the ideas, Figure 17.13 is a series of three graphs and pictures that show the $m = 2$ standing wave inside a column of air closed at both ends. We call this a *closed-closed tube*. The air at the closed ends cannot oscillate because the air molecules are pressed up against the wall, unable to move; hence **a closed end of a column of air must be a displacement node.** Thus the boundary conditions—nodes at the ends—are the same as for a standing wave on a string.

## Figure 17.13

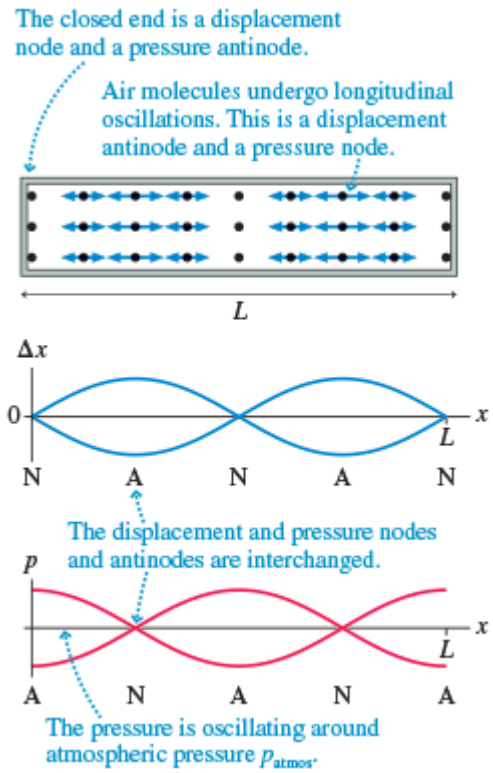



The $m$ = 2 standing sound wave in a closed-closed tube of air.

Although the graph looks familiar, it is now a graph of *longitudinal* displacement. At $t = 0$, positive displacements in the left half and negative displacements in the right half cause all the air molecules to converge at the center of the tube. The density and pressure rise at the center and fall at the ends—a *compression* and *rarefaction* in the terminology of Chapter 16. A half cycle later, the molecules have rushed to the ends of the tube. Now the pressure is maximum at the ends, minimum in the center. Try to visualize the air molecules sloshing back and forth this way.

Figure 17.14 combines these illustrations into a single picture showing where the molecules are oscillating (antinodes) and where they're not (nodes). A graph of the displacement $\Delta x$ looks just like the $m = 2$ graph of a standing wave on a string. Because the boundary conditions are the same, the possible wavelengths and frequencies of standing waves in a closed-closed tube are the same as for a string of the same length.

## Figure 17.14



The $m$ = 2 longitudinal standing wave can be represented as a displacement wave or as a pressure wave.

It is often useful to think of sound as a *pressure wave* rather than a displacement wave, and the bottom graph in Figure 17.14 shows the $m = 2$ pressure standing wave in a closed-closed tube. Notice that the pressure is oscillating around $p_{\text{atmos}}$, its equilibrium value.

We showed in Section 16.6 that the pressure in a sound wave is minimum or maximum at points where the displacement is zero, and vice versa. Consequently, **the nodes and antinodes of the pressure wave are interchanged with those of the displacement wave.** You can see in Figure 17.13 that the gas molecules are alternately pushed up against the ends of the tube, then pulled away, causing the pressure at the closed ends to oscillate with maximum amplitude—an antinode—at a point where the displacement is a node.

### Example 17.4 Singing in the shower

A shower stall is 2.45 m (8 ft) tall. For what frequencies less than 500 Hz are there standing sound waves in the shower stall?

**MODEL** The shower stall, to a first approximation, is a column of air 2.45 m long. It is closed at the ends by the ceiling and floor. Assume a 20°C speed of sound.

**VISUALIZE** A standing sound wave will have nodes at the ceiling and the floor. The $m = 2$ mode will look like Figure 17.14 rotated 90°.

**SOLVE** The fundamental frequency for a standing sound wave in this air column is

$$f_1 = \frac{v}{2L} = \frac{343 \text{ m/s}}{2\,(2.45 \text{ m})} = 70 \text{ Hz}$$

The possible standing-wave frequencies are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency. These are 70 Hz, 140 Hz, 210 Hz, 280 Hz, 350 Hz, 420 Hz, and 490 Hz.

**ASSESS** The many possible standing waves in a shower cause the sound to *resonate,* which helps explain why some people like to sing in the shower. Our approximation of the shower stall as a one-dimensional tube is actually a bit too simplistic. A three-dimensional analysis would find additional modes, making the "sound spectrum" even richer.

## Tubes with Openings

Air columns closed at both ends are of limited interest unless, as in Example 17.4, you are inside the column. Columns of air that *emit* sound are open at one or both ends. Many musical instruments fit this description. For example, a flute is a tube of air open at both ends. The flutist blows across one end to create a standing wave inside the tube, and a note of that frequency is emitted from both ends of the flute. (The blown end of a flute is open on the side, rather than across the tube. That is necessary for practical reasons of how flutes are played, but from a physics perspective this is the "end" of the tube because it opens the tube to the atmosphere.) A trumpet, however, is open at the bell end but is *closed* by the player's lips at the other end.

You saw earlier that a wave is partially transmitted and partially reflected at a discontinuity. When a sound wave traveling through a tube of air reaches an open end, some of the wave's energy is transmitted out of the tube to become the sound that you hear and some portion of the wave is reflected back into the tube. These reflections, analogous to the reflection of a string wave from a boundary, allow standing sound waves to exist in a tube of air that is open at one or both ends.

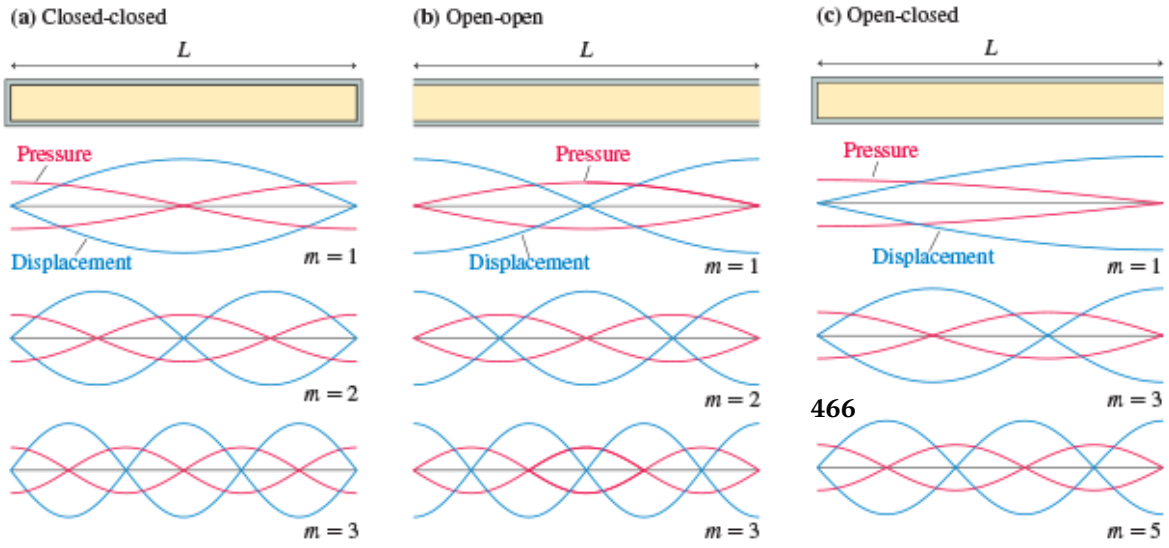
Not surprisingly, the *boundary condition* at the open end of a column of air is not the same as the boundary condition at a closed end. The air pressure at the open end of a tube is constrained to match the atmospheric pressure of the surrounding air. Consequently, the open end of a tube must be a pressure node. Because pressure nodes and antinodes are interchanged with those of the displacement wave, **an open end of an air column is required to be a displacement antinode.** (A careful analysis shows that the antinode is actually just outside the open end, but for our purposes we'll assume the antinode is exactly at the open end.)

Figure 17.15 shows displacement and pressure graphs of the first three standing-wave modes of a tube closed at both ends (a *closed-closed tube*), a tube open at both ends (an *open-open tube*), and a tube open at one end but closed at the other (an *open-closed tube*), all with the same length $L$. Notice the pressure and displacement boundary conditions. The standing wave in the open-open tube looks like the closed-closed tube except that the positions of the nodes and antinodes are interchanged. In both cases there are $m$ half-wavelength segments between the ends; thus the wavelengths and frequencies of an open-open tube and a closed-closed tube are the same as those of a string tied at both ends:

**(17.17)**

$$\lambda_m = \frac{2L}{m} \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4, \ldots$$
$$f_m = m\,\frac{v}{2L} = mf_1 \qquad \text{(open-open or closed-closed tube)}$$

## Figure 17.15




The first three standing sound wave modes in columns of air with different boundary conditions.



The open-closed tube is different. The fundamental mode has only one-quarter of a wavelength in a tube of length $L$; hence the $m = 1$ wavelength is $\lambda_1 = 4L$. This is twice the $\lambda_1$ wavelength of an open-open or a closed-closed tube. Consequently, **the fundamental frequency of an open-closed tube is half that of an open-open or a closed-closed tube of the same length.** It will be left as a homework problem for you to show that the possible wavelengths and frequencies of an open-closed tube of length $L$ are

(17.18)

$$\lambda_m = \frac{4L}{m} \qquad m = 1,\ 3,\ 5,\ 7, \ldots$$
$$f_m = m\,\frac{v}{4L} = mf_1 \qquad \text{(open-closed tube)}$$

**Notice that $m$ in Equation 17.18 takes on only *odd* values.**

---

**Example 17.5 Resonances of the ear canal**

---

The eardrum, which transmits sound vibrations to the sensory organs of the inner ear, lies at the end of the ear canal. For adults, the ear canal is about 2.5 cm in length. What frequency standing waves can occur in the ear canal that are within the range of human hearing? The speed of sound in the warm air of the ear canal is 350 m/s.

---

**MODEL** The ear canal is open to the air at one end, closed by the eardrum at the other. We can model it as an open-closed tube. The standing waves will be those of Figure 17.15c.

**SOLVE** The lowest standing-wave frequency is the fundamental frequency for a 2.5-cm-long open-closed tube:

$$f_1 = \frac{v}{4L} = \frac{350\ \text{m/s}}{4\,(0.025\ \text{m})} = 3500\ \text{Hz}$$

Standing waves also occur at the harmonics, but an open-closed tube has only odd harmonics. These are

$$f_3 = 3f_1 = 10{,}500\ \text{Hz}$$
$$f_5 = 5f_1 = 17{,}500\ \ \text{Hz}$$

Higher harmonics are beyond the range of human hearing, as discussed in Section 16.5.

**ASSESS** The ear canal is short, so we expected the standing-wave frequencies to be relatively high. The air in your ear canal responds readily to sounds at these frequencies—what we call a *resonance* of the ear canal—and transmits theses sounds to the eardrum. Consequently, your ear actually is slightly more sensitive to sounds with frequencies around 3500 Hz and 10,500 Hz than to sounds at nearby frequencies.

### Stop to Think 17.3

An open-open tube of air supports standing waves at frequencies of 300 Hz and 400 Hz and at no frequencies between these two. The second harmonic of this tube has frequency

**a.** 100 Hz
**b.** 200 Hz
**c.** 400 Hz
**d.** 600 Hz
**e.** 800 Hz

## Musical Instruments

An important application of standing waves is to musical instruments. Instruments such as the guitar, the piano, and the violin have strings fixed at the ends and tightened to create tension. A disturbance

generated on the string by plucking, striking, or bowing it creates a standing wave on the string.

The fundamental frequency of a vibrating string is

$$f_1 = \frac{v}{2L} = \frac{1}{2L}\sqrt{\frac{T_s}{\mu}}$$

where $T_s$ is the tension in the string and $\mu$ is its linear density. The fundamental frequency is the musical note you hear when the string is sounded. Increasing the tension in the string raises the fundamental frequency, which is how stringed instruments are tuned.

> **Note**
>
> *v* is the wave speed *on the string*, not the speed of sound in air.

For the guitar or the violin, the strings are all the same length and under approximately the same tension. Were that not the case, the neck of the instrument would tend to twist toward the side of higher tension. The strings have different frequencies because they differ in linear density: The lower-pitched strings are "fat" while the higher-pitched strings are "skinny." This difference changes the frequency by changing the wave speed. *Small* adjustments are then made in the tension to bring each string to the exact desired frequency. Once the instrument is tuned, you play it by using your fingertips to alter the effective length of the string. As you shorten the string's length, the frequency and pitch go up.

A piano covers a much wider range of frequencies than a guitar or violin. This range cannot be produced by changing only the linear densities of the strings. The high end would have strings too thin to use without breaking, and the low end would have solid rods rather than flexible wires! So a piano is tuned through a combination of changing the linear

density *and* the length of the strings. The bass note strings are not only fatter, they are also longer.

The strings on a harp vibrate as standing waves. Their frequencies determine the notes that you hear.

---

With a wind instrument, blowing into the mouthpiece creates a standing sound wave inside a tube of air. The player changes the notes by using her fingers to cover holes or open valves, changing the length of the tube and thus its frequency. The fact that the holes are on the side makes very little difference; the first open hole becomes an antinode because the air is free to oscillate in and out of the opening.

A wind instrument's frequency depends on the speed of sound *inside* the instrument. But the speed of sound depends on the temperature of the air. When a wind player first blows into the instrument, the air inside starts to rise in temperature. This increases the sound speed, which in turn raises the instrument's frequency for each note until the air temperature reaches a steady state. Consequently, wind players must "warm up" before tuning their instrument.

Many wind instruments have a "buzzer" at one end of the tube, such as a vibrating reed on a saxophone or vibrating lips on a trombone. Buzzers generate a continuous range of frequencies rather than single notes, which is why they sound like a "squawk" if you play on just the mouthpiece without the rest of the instrument. When a buzzer is

connected to the body of the instrument, most of those frequencies cause no response of the air molecules. But the frequency from the buzzer that matches the fundamental frequency of the instrument causes the buildup of a large-amplitude response at just that frequency—a standing-wave resonance. This is the energy input that generates and sustains the musical note.

**Example 17.6 Flutes and clarinets**

A clarinet is 66.0 cm long. A flute is nearly the same length, with 63.6 cm between the hole the player blows across and the end of the flute. What are the frequencies of the lowest note and the next higher harmonic on a flute and on a clarinet? The speed of sound in warm air is 350 m/s.

**MODEL** The flute is an open-open tube, open at the end as well as at the hole the player blows across. A clarinet is an open-closed tube because the player's lips and the reed seal the tube at the upper end.

**SOLVE** The lowest frequency is the fundamental frequency. For the flute, an open-open tube, this is

$$f_1 = \frac{v}{2L} = \frac{350\ \text{m/s}}{2\,(0.636\ \text{m})} = 275\ \text{Hz}$$

The clarinet, an open-closed tube, has

$$f_1 = \frac{v}{4L} = \frac{350\ \text{m/s}}{4\,(0.660\ \text{m})} = 133\ \text{Hz}$$

The next higher harmonic on the flute's open-open tube is $m = 2$ with frequency $f_2 = 2f_1 = 550\ \text{Hz}$. An open-closed tube has only odd harmonics, so the next higher harmonic of the clarinet is $f_3 = 3f_1 = 399\ \text{Hz}$.

**ASSESS** The clarinet plays a much lower note than the flute—musically, about an octave lower—because it is an open-closed tube. It's worth noting that neither of our fundamental frequencies is exactly correct because our open-open and open-closed tube models are a bit too simplified to adequately describe a real instrument. However, both calculated frequencies are close because our models do capture the essence of the physics.

---

A vibrating string plays the musical note corresponding to the fundamental frequency $f_1$, so stringed instruments must use several strings to obtain a reasonable range of notes. In contrast, wind instruments can sound at the second or third harmonic of the tube of air ($f_2$ or $f_3$). These higher frequencies are sounded by *overblowing* (flutes, brass instruments) or with keys that open small holes to encourage the formation of an antinode at that point (clarinets, saxophones). The controlled use of these higher harmonics gives wind instruments a wide range of notes.

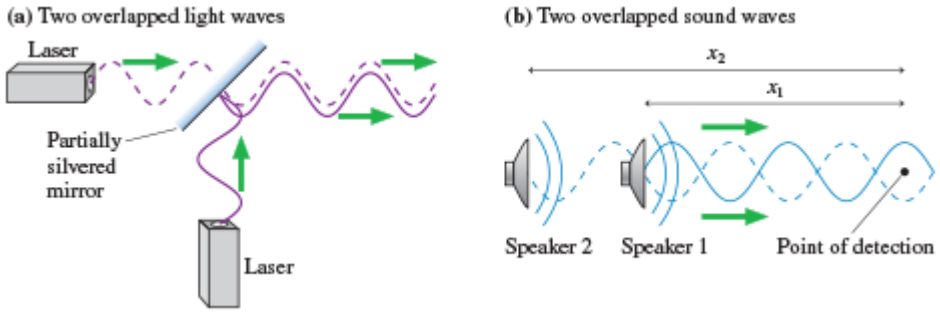
# 17.5 Interference in One Dimension



One of the most basic characteristics of waves is the ability of two waves to combine into a single wave whose displacement is given by the principle of superposition. The pattern resulting from the superposition of two waves is often called **interference.** A standing wave is the interference pattern produced when two waves of equal frequency travel in opposite directions. In this section we will look at the interference of two waves traveling in the *same* direction.

Figure 17.16a shows two light waves impinging on a partially silvered mirror. Such a mirror partially transmits and partially reflects each wave, causing two *overlapped* light waves to travel along the $x$-axis to the right of the mirror. Or consider the two loudspeakers in Figure 17.16b. The sound wave from loudspeaker 2 passes just to the side of loudspeaker 1; hence two overlapped sound waves travel to the right along the $x$-axis. We want to find out what happens when two overlapped waves travel in the same direction along the same axis.

## Figure 17.16




Two overlapped waves travel along the $x$-axis.

Figure 17.16b shows a point on the $x$-axis where the overlapped waves are detected, either by your ear or by a microphone. This point is distance $x_1$ from loudspeaker 1 and distance $x_2$ from loudspeaker 2. (We will use loudspeakers and sound waves for most of our examples, but our analysis is valid for any wave.) What is the amplitude of the combined waves at this point?

Throughout this section, **we will assume that the waves are sinusoidal, have the same frequency and amplitude, and travel to the right along the *x*-axis.** Thus we can write the displacements of the two waves as

**(17.19)**

$$\begin{aligned} D_1(x_1,\, t) &= a\sin(kx_1 - \omega t + \phi_{10}) = a\sin\phi_1 \\ D_2(x_2,\, t) &= a\sin(kx_2 - \omega t + \phi_{20}) = a\sin\phi_2 \end{aligned}$$

where $\phi_1$ and $\phi_2$ are the *phases* of the waves. Both waves have the same wave number $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ and the same angular frequency $\omega = 2\pi f$.

The phase constants $\phi_{10}$ and $\phi_{20}$ are characteristics of *the sources,* not the medium. Figure 17.17 shows snapshot graphs at $t = 0$ of waves emitted by three sources with phase constants $\phi_0 = 0$ rad, $\phi_0 = \pi\ /2$ rad, and $\phi_0 = \pi$ rad. You can see that **the phase constant tells us what the source is doing at $t = 0$.** For example, a loudspeaker at its center position and moving backward at $t = 0$ has $\phi_0 = 0$ rad. Looking back at Figure 17.16b, you can see that loudspeaker 1 has phase constant $\phi_{10} = 0$ rad and loudspeaker 2 has $\phi_{20} = \pi$ rad.

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**Figure 17.17**

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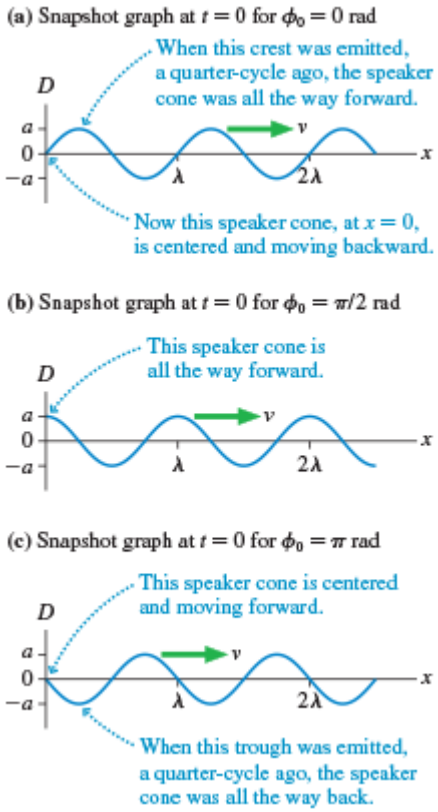




Waves from three sources having phase constants $\phi_0 = 0$ rad, $\phi_0 = \pi/2$ rad, and $\phi_0 = \pi$ rad.

---

> **Note**
>
> We will often consider *identical sources*, by which we mean that $\phi_{20} = \phi_{10}$. That is, the sources oscillate in phase.

Let's examine overlapped waves graphically before diving into the mathematics. Figure 17.18 shows two important situations. In part a, the crests of the two waves are aligned as they travel along the $x$-axis. In part b, the crests of one wave align with the troughs of the other wave. The graphs and the wave fronts are slightly displaced from each other so that you can see what each wave is doing, but the *physical situation* is one in which the waves are traveling *on top of* each other.

The two waves of Figure 17.18a have the same displacement at every point: $D_1(x) = D_2(x)$. Two waves that are aligned crest to crest and

trough to trough are said to be **in phase.** Waves that are in phase march along "in step" with each other.

When we combine two in-phase waves, using the principle of superposition, the net displacement at each point is twice the displacement of each individual wave. The superposition of two waves to create a traveling wave with an amplitude *larger* than either individual wave is called **constructive interference.** When the waves are exactly in phase, giving $A = 2a$, we have *maximum constructive interference.*

In Figure 17.18b, where the crests of one wave align with the troughs of the other, the waves march along "out of step" with $D_1(x) = -D_2(x)$ at every point. Two waves that are aligned crest to trough are said to be *180° out of phase* or, more generally, just **out of phase.** A superposition of two waves to create a wave with an amplitude smaller than either individual wave is called **destructive interference.** In this case, because $D_1 = -D_2$, the net displacement is *zero* at *every point* along the axis. The combination of two waves that cancel each other to give no wave is called *perfect destructive interference.*

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**Figure 17.18**

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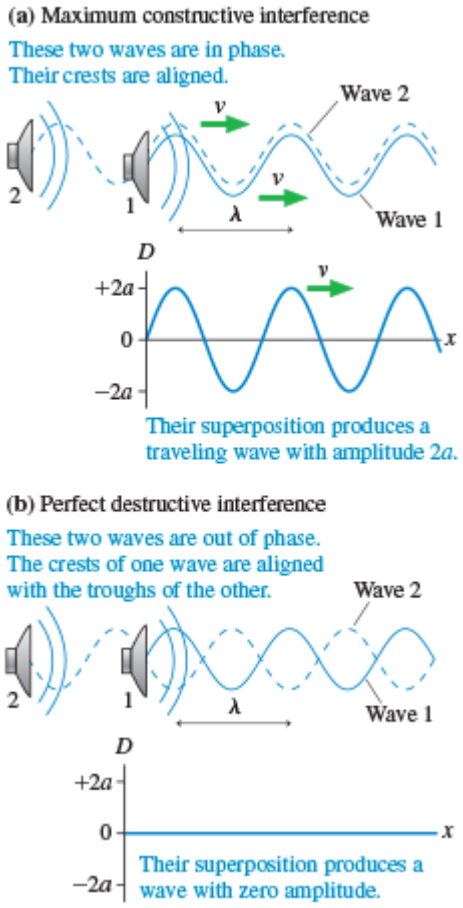



Interference of two waves traveling along the $x$-axis.

---

> **Note**
>
> Perfect destructive interference occurs only if the two waves have exactly equal amplitudes, as we're assuming. A 180° phase difference always produces *maximum destructive interference,* but the cancellation won't be perfect if there is any difference in the amplitudes.



# The Phase Difference

To understand interference, we need to focus on the *phases* of the two waves, which are

**(17.20)**

$$\phi_1 = kx_1 - \omega t + \phi_{10}$$
$$\phi_2 = kx_2 - \omega t + \phi_{20}$$

The difference between the two phases $\phi_1$ and $\phi_2$, called the **phase difference** $\Delta\phi$, is

**(17.21)**

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\phi = \phi_2 - \phi_1 &= (kx_2 - \omega t + \phi_{20}) - (kx_1 - \omega t + \phi_{10}) \\ &= k(x_2 - x_1) + (\phi_{20} - \phi_{10}) \\ &= 2\pi\tfrac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0\end{aligned}$$

You can see that there are two contributions to the phase difference. $\Delta x = x_2 - x_1$, the distance between the two sources, is called **path-length difference.** It is the extra distance traveled by wave 2 on the way to the point where the two waves are combined. $\Delta\phi_0 = \phi_{20} - \phi_{10}$ is the *inherent phase difference* between the sources.

The condition of being in phase, where crests are aligned with crests and troughs with troughs, is $\Delta\phi = 0,\ 2\pi,\ 4\pi$, or any integer multiple of $2\pi$ rad. Thus the condition for maximum constructive interference is

---

**(17.22)**

Maximum constructive interference:

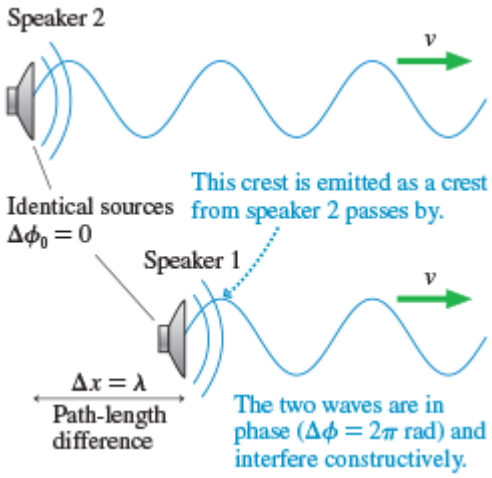
$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\,\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = m \cdot 2\pi \text{ rad} \qquad m = 0,\ 1,\ 2,\ 3, \cdots$$

For identical sources, which have $\Delta\phi_0 = 0$ rad, maximum constructive interference occurs when $\Delta x = m\lambda$. That is, **two identical sources**

**produce maximum constructive interference when the path-length difference is an integer number of wavelengths.**

Figure 17.19 shows two identical sources (i.e., the two loudspeakers are doing the same thing at the same time), so $\Delta\phi_0 = 0$ rad. The path-length difference $\Delta x$ is the extra distance traveled by the wave from loudspeaker 2 before it combines with loudspeaker 1. In this case, $\Delta x = \lambda$. Because a wave moves forward exactly one wavelength during one period, loudspeaker 1 emits a crest exactly as a crest of wave 2 passes by. The two waves are "in step," with $\Delta\phi = 2\pi$ rad, so the two waves interfere constructively to produce a wave of amplitude $2a$.

## Figure 17.19




Two identical sources one wavelength apart.

Maximum destructive interference, where the crests of one wave are aligned with the troughs of the other, occurs when two waves are *out of phase,* meaning that $\Delta\phi = \pi$, $3\pi$, $5\pi$, or any odd multiple of $\pi$ rad. Thus the condition for maximum destructive interference is

(17.23)

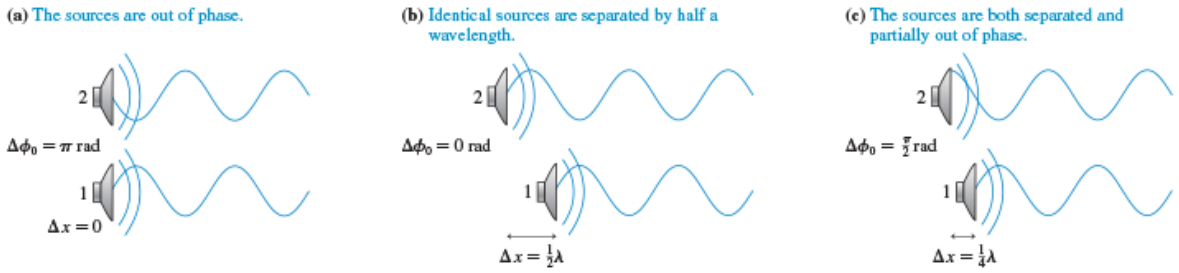
Maximum destructive interference:

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi \frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = \left(m + \tfrac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 2\pi \text{ rad} \qquad m = 0,\ 1,\ 2,\ 3, \cdots$$

For identical sources, which have $\Delta\phi_0 = 0$ rad, maximum destructive interference occurs when $\Delta x = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda$. **That is, two identical sources produce maximum destructive interference when the path-length difference is a half-integer number of wavelengths.**

Two waves can be out of phase because the sources are located at different positions, because the sources themselves are out of phase, or because of a combination of these two. Figure 17.20 illustrates these ideas by showing three different ways in which two waves interfere destructively. Each of these three arrangements creates waves with $\Delta\phi = \pi$ rad.

## Figure 17.20




Destructive interference three ways.

> **Note**
>
> Don't confuse the phase difference of the waves ($\Delta\phi$) with the

phase difference of the sources ($\Delta\phi_0$). It is $\Delta\phi$, the phase difference of the waves, that governs interference.

**Example 17.7 Interference between two sound waves**

You are standing in front of two side-by-side loudspeakers playing sounds of the same frequency. Initially there is almost no sound at all. Then one of the speakers is moved slowly away from you. The sound intensity increases as the separation between the speakers increases, reaching a maximum when the speakers are 0.75 m apart. Then, as the speaker continues to move, the intensity starts to decrease. What is the distance between the speakers when the sound intensity is again a minimum?

**MODEL** The changing sound intensity is due to the interference of two overlapped sound waves.

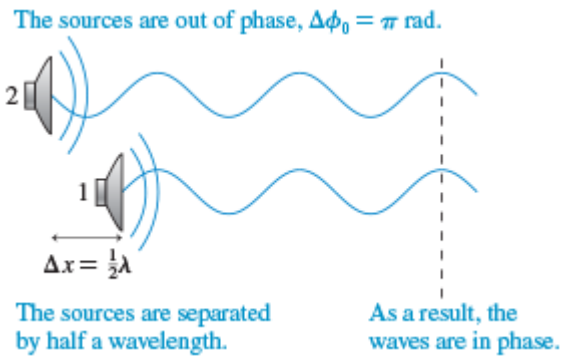
**VISUALIZE** Moving one speaker relative to the other changes the phase difference between the waves.

**SOLVE** A minimum sound intensity implies that the two sound waves are interfering destructively. Initially the loudspeakers are side by side, so the situation is as shown in Figure 17.20a with $\Delta x = 0$ and $\Delta\phi_0 = \pi$ rad. That is, the speakers themselves are out of phase. Moving one of the speakers does not change $\Delta\phi_0$, but it does change the path-length difference $\Delta x$ and thus increases the overall phase difference $\Delta\phi$. Constructive interference, causing maximum intensity, is reached when

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \pi = 2\pi \text{ rad}$$

where we used $m = 1$ because this is the first separation giving constructive interference. The speaker separation at which this occurs is $\Delta x = \lambda/2$. This is the situation shown in Figure 17.21.

## Figure 17.21




Two out-of-phase sources generate waves that are in phase if the sources are one half-wavelength apart.

Because $\Delta x = 0.75$ m is $\lambda/2$, the sound's wavelength is $\lambda = 1.50$ m. The next point of destructive interference, with $m = 1$, occurs when

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \pi = 3\pi \text{ rad}$$

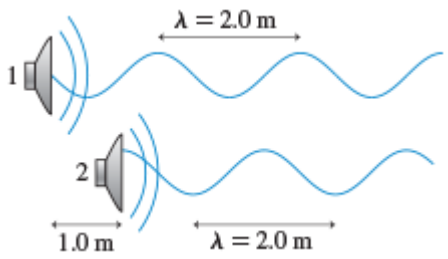
Thus the distance between the speakers when the sound intensity is again a minimum is

$$\Delta x = \lambda = 1.50 \text{ m}$$

**ASSESS** A separation of $\lambda$ gives constructive interference for two *identical* speakers ($\Delta\phi_0 = 0$). Here the phase difference of $\pi$ rad between the speakers (one is pushing forward as the other pulls back) gives destructive interference at this separation.

## Stop to Think 17.4

Two loudspeakers emit waves with $\lambda = 2.0$ m. Speaker 2 is 1.0 m in front of speaker 1. What, if anything, can be done to cause constructive interference between the two waves?




**a.** Move speaker 1 forward (to the right) 1.0 m.

**b.** Move speaker 1 forward (to the right) 0.5 m.

**c.** Move speaker 1 backward (to the left) 0.5 m.

**d.** Move speaker 1 backward (to the left) 1.0 m.

**e.** Nothing. The situation shown already causes constructive interference.

**f.** Constructive interference is not possible for any placement of the speakers.

# 17.6 The Mathematics of Interference [472]

Let's look more closely at the superposition of two waves. As two waves of equal amplitude and frequency travel together along the $x$-axis, the net displacement of the medium is

**(17.24)**

$$\begin{aligned} D = D_1 + D_2 &= a\,\sin(kx_1 - \omega t + \phi_{10}) + a\,\sin(kx_2 - \omega t + \phi_{20}) \\ &= \mathrm{a}\,\sin\,\phi_1 + a\,\sin\,\phi_2 \end{aligned}$$

where the phases $\phi_1$ and $\phi_2$ were defined in Equations 17.20.

A useful trigonometric identity is

**(17.25)**

$$\sin\alpha + \sin\beta = 2\cos\left[\tfrac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta)\right]\sin\left[\tfrac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)\right]$$

This identity is certainly not obvious, although it is easily proven by working backward from the right side. We can use this identity to write the net displacement of Equation 17.24 as

**(17.26)**

$$D = \left[2a\cos\left(\frac{\Delta\phi}{2}\right)\right]\,\sin\left(kx_{\text{avg}} - \omega t + (\phi_0)_{\text{avg}}\right)$$

where $\Delta\phi = \phi_2 - \phi_1$ is the phase difference between the two waves, exactly as in Equation 17.21. $x_{\text{avg}} = (x_1 + x_2)/2$ is the average distance

to the two sources and $(\phi_0)_{\text{avg}} = (\phi_{10} + \phi_{20})/2$ is the average phase constant of the sources.

The sine term shows that the superposition of the two waves is still a traveling wave. An observer would see a sinusoidal wave moving along the *x*-axis with the *same* wavelength and frequency as the original waves.

But how *big* is this wave compared to the two original waves? They each had amplitude *a*, but the amplitude of their superposition is

**(17.27)**

$$A = \left| 2a \cos\left(\frac{\Delta\phi}{2}\right) \right|$$

where we have used an absolute value sign because amplitudes must be positive. Depending upon the phase difference of the two waves, the amplitude of their superposition can be anywhere from zero (perfect destructive interference) to $2a$ (maximum constructive interference).

The amplitude has its maximum value $A = 2a$ if $\cos(\Delta\phi/2) = \pm 1$. This occurs when

**(17.28)**

$$\Delta\phi = m \cdot 2\pi \qquad (\text{maximum amplitude } A = 2a)$$

where $m$ is an integer. Similarly, the amplitude is zero if $\cos(\Delta\phi/2) = 0$, which occurs when

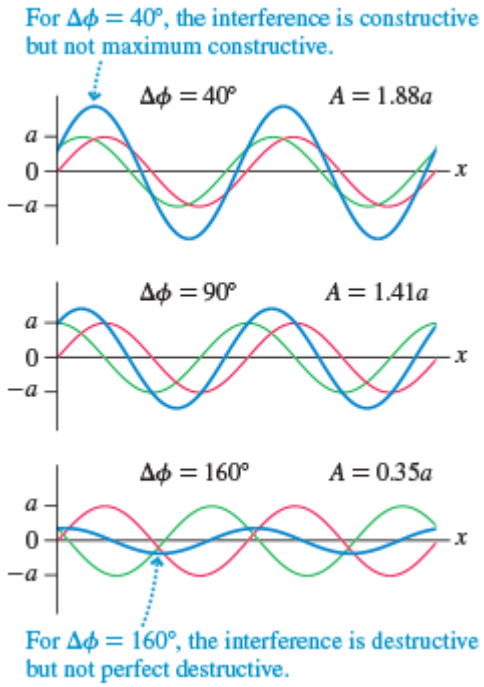
**(17.29)**

$$\Delta\phi = \left(m + \tfrac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 2\pi \quad (\text{minimum amplitude } A = 0)$$

Equations 17.28 and 17.29 are identical to the conditions of Equations 17.22 and 17.23 for constructive and destructive interference. We initially found these conditions by considering the alignment of the crests and troughs. Now we have confirmed them with an algebraic addition of the waves.

It is entirely possible, of course, that the two waves are neither exactly in phase nor exactly out of phase. Equation 17.27 allows us to calculate the amplitude of the superposition for any value of the phase difference. As an example, Figure 17.22 on the previous page shows the calculated interference of two waves that differ in phase by 40°, by 90°, and by 160°.

## Figure 17.22




The interference of two waves for three different values of the phase difference.

### Example 17.8 More interference of sound waves

Two loudspeakers emit 500 Hz sound waves with an amplitude of 0.10 mm. Speaker 2 is 1.00 m behind speaker 1, and the phase difference between the speakers is 90°. What is the amplitude of the sound wave at a point 2.00 m in front of speaker 1?

**MODEL** The amplitude is determined by the interference of the two waves. Assume that the speed of sound has a room-temperature (20°C) value of 343 m/s.

**SOLVE** The amplitude of the sound wave is

$$A = |2a\cos(\Delta\phi/2)|$$

where $a = 0.10$ mm and the phase difference between the waves is

$$\Delta\phi = \phi_2 - \phi_1 = 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0$$

The sound's wavelength is

$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f} = \frac{343\text{ m/s}}{500\text{ Hz}} = 0.686\text{ m}$$

Distances $x_1 = 2.00$ m and $x_2 = 3.00$ m are measured from the speakers, so the path-length difference is $\Delta x = 1.00$ m. We're given that the inherent phase difference between the speakers is $\Delta\phi_0 = \pi/2$ rad. Thus the phase difference at the observation point is

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = 2\pi\frac{1.00\text{ m}}{0.686\text{ m}} + \frac{\pi}{2}\text{ rad} = 10.73\text{ rad}$$

and the amplitude of the wave at this point is

$$A = \left|2a\cos\left(\frac{\Delta\phi}{2}\right)\right| = \left|(0.200\,\text{mm})\cos\left(\frac{10.73}{2}\right)\right| = 0.121\,\text{mm}$$

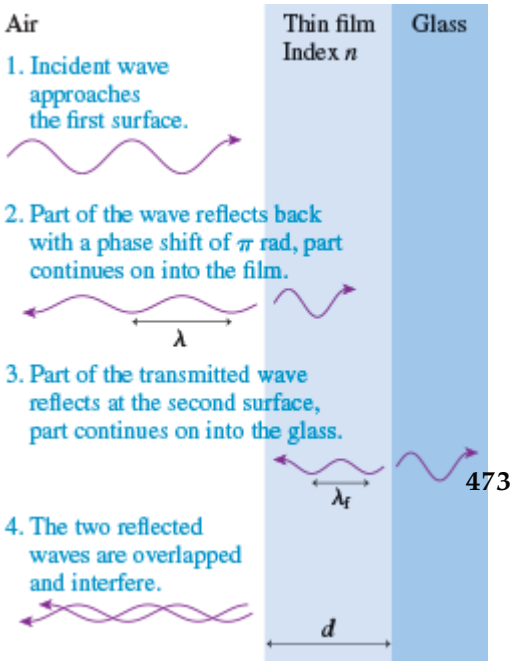
**ASSESS** The interference is constructive because $A > a$, but less than maximum constructive interference.

## Application: Thin-Film Optical Coatings

The shimmering colors of soap bubbles and oil slicks, as seen in the photo at the beginning of the chapter, are due to the interference of light waves. In fact, the idea of light-wave interference in one dimension has an important application in the optics industry, namely the use of **thin-film optical coatings.** These films, less than 1 $\mu$m ($10^{-6}$ m) thick, are placed on glass surfaces, such as lenses, to control reflections from the glass. Antireflection coatings on the lenses in cameras, microscopes, and other optical equipment are examples of thin-film coatings.

Figure 17.23 shows a light wave of wavelength $\lambda$ approaching a piece of glass that has been coated with a transparent film of thickness $d$ whose index of refraction is $n$. The air-film boundary is a discontinuity at which the wave speed suddenly decreases, and you saw earlier, in Figure 17.7, that a discontinuity causes a reflection. Most of the light is transmitted into the film, but a little bit is reflected.

**Figure 17.23**




The two reflections, one from the coating and one from the glass, interfere.



Furthermore, you saw in Figure 17.7 that the wave reflected from a discontinuity at which the speed decreases is *inverted* with respect to the incident wave. For a sinusoidal wave, which we're now assuming, the inversion is represented mathematically as a phase shift of $\pi$ rad. The speed of a light wave decreases when it enters a material with a *larger* index of refraction. Thus **a light wave that reflects from a boundary at which the index of refraction increases has a phase shift of $\pi$ rad.** There is no phase shift for the reflection from a boundary at which the index of refraction decreases. The reflection in Figure 17.23 is from a boundary between air ($n_{\text{air}} = 1.00$) and a transparent film with $n_{\text{film}} > n_{\text{air}}$, so the reflected wave is inverted due to the phase shift of $\pi$ rad.

When the transmitted wave reaches the glass, most of it continues on into the glass but a portion is reflected back to the left. We'll assume that the index of refraction of the glass is larger than that of the film, $n_{\text{glass}} > n_{\text{film}}$, so this reflection also has a phase shift of $\pi$ rad. This second reflection, after traveling back through the film, passes back into the air. There are now *two* equal-frequency reflected waves traveling to the left,

and these waves will interfere. If the two reflected waves are *in phase*, they will interfere constructively to cause a *strong reflection*. If the two reflected waves are *out of phase*, they will interfere destructively to cause a *weak reflection* or, if their amplitudes are equal, *no reflection* at all.

This suggests practical uses for thin-film optical coatings. The reflections from glass surfaces, even if weak, are often undesirable. For example, reflections degrade the performance of optical equipment. These reflections can be eliminated by coating the glass with a film whose thickness is chosen to cause *destructive* interference of the two reflected waves. This is an *antireflection coating*.

The amplitude of the reflected light depends on the phase difference between the two reflected waves. This phase difference is

**(17.30)**

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\phi &= \phi_2 - \phi_1 = (kx_2 + \phi_{20} + \pi\,\text{rad}) - (kx_1 + \phi_{10} + \pi\,\text{rad}) \\ &= 2\pi\frac{\Delta x}{\lambda_\text{f}} + \Delta\phi_0\end{aligned}$$

where we explicitly included the reflection phase shift of each wave. In this case, because *both* waves had a phase shift of $\pi$ rad, the reflection phase shifts cancel.

The wavelength $\lambda_\text{f}$ is the wavelength *in the film* because that's where the path-length difference $\Delta x$ occurs. You learned in Chapter 16 that the wavelength in a transparent material with index of refraction $n$ is $\lambda_\text{f} = \lambda/n$, where the unsubscripted $\lambda$ is the wavelength in vacuum or air. That is, $\lambda$ is the wavelength that we measure on "our" side of the air-film boundary.

Antireflection coatings use the interference of light waves to nearly eliminate reflections from glass surfaces.

---

The path-length difference between the two waves is $\Delta x = 2d$ because wave 2 travels through the film *twice* before rejoining wave 1. The two waves have a common origin—the initial division of the incident wave at the front surface of the film—so the inherent phase difference is $\Delta\phi_0 = 0$. Thus the phase difference of the two reflected waves is

**(17.31)**

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{2d}{\lambda/n} = 2\pi\frac{2nd}{\lambda}$$

The interference is constructive, causing a strong reflection, when $\Delta\phi = m \cdot 2\pi$ rad. So when both reflected waves have a phase shift of $\pi$ rad, constructive interference occurs for wavelengths

**(17.32)**

$$\lambda_{\mathrm{C}} = \frac{2nd}{m} \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3, \cdots \qquad (\text{constructive interference})$$

You will notice that $m$ starts with 1, rather than 0, in order to give meaningful results. Destructive interference, with minimum reflection, requires $\Delta\phi = (m - \frac{1}{2}) \cdot 2\pi$ rad. This—again, when both waves have a phase shift of $\pi$ rad—occurs for wavelengths



**(17.33)**

$$\lambda_D = \frac{2nd}{m - \frac{1}{2}} \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3, \cdots \qquad \text{(destructive interference)}$$

We've used $m - \frac{1}{2}$, rather than $m + \frac{1}{2}$, so that $m$ can start with 1 to match the condition for constructive interference.

> **Note**
>
> The exact condition for constructive or destructive interference is satisfied for only a few discrete wavelengths $\lambda$. Nonetheless, reflections are strongly enhanced (nearly constructive interference) for a range of wavelengths near $\lambda_C$. Likewise, there is a range of wavelengths near $\lambda_D$ for which the reflection is nearly canceled.

**Example 17.9 Designing an antireflection coating**

Magnesium fluoride ($MgF_2$) is used as an antireflection coating on lenses. The index of refraction of $MgF_2$ is 1.39. What is the thinnest film of $MgF_2$ that works as an antireflection coating at $\lambda = 510$ nm, near the center of the visible spectrum?

**MODEL** Reflection is minimized if the two reflected waves interfere destructively.

**SOLVE** The film thicknesses that cause destructive interference at wavelength $\lambda$ are

$$d = \left(m - \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\lambda}{2n}$$

The thinnest film has $m = 1$. Its thickness is

$$d = \frac{\lambda}{4n} = \frac{510\ \text{nm}}{4\,(1.39)} = 92\ \text{nm}$$

The film thickness is significantly less than the wavelength of visible light!

**ASSESS** The reflected light is completely eliminated (perfect destructive interference) only if the two reflected waves have equal amplitudes. In practice, they don't. Nonetheless, the reflection is reduced from ≈ 4% of the incident intensity for "bare glass" to well under 1%. Furthermore, the intensity of reflected light is much reduced across most of the visible spectrum (400–700 nm), even though the phase difference deviates more and more from $\pi$ rad as the wavelength moves away from 510 nm. It is the increasing reflection at the ends of the visible spectrum ($\lambda \approx 400$ nm and $\lambda \approx 700$ nm), where $\Delta\phi$ deviates significantly from $\pi$ rad, that gives a reddish-purple tinge to the lenses on cameras and binoculars. Homework problems will let you explore situations where only one of the two reflections has a reflection phase shift of $\pi$ rad.

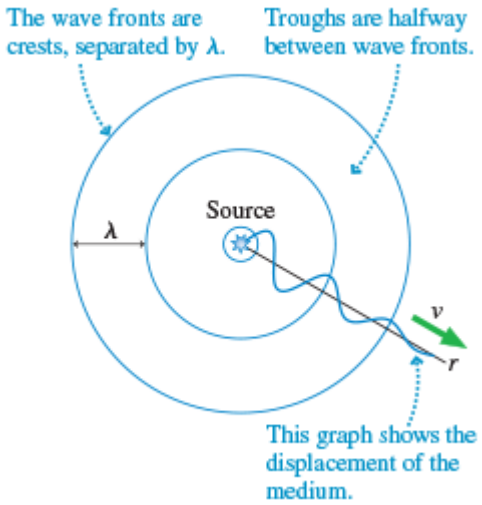
# 17.7 Interference in Two and Three Dimensions

Ripples on a lake move in two dimensions. The glow from a lightbulb spreads outward as a spherical wave. A circular or spherical wave, illustrated in Figure 17.24, can be written

**(17.34)**

$$D(r, t) = a \sin(kr - \omega t + \phi_0)$$

**Figure 17.24**

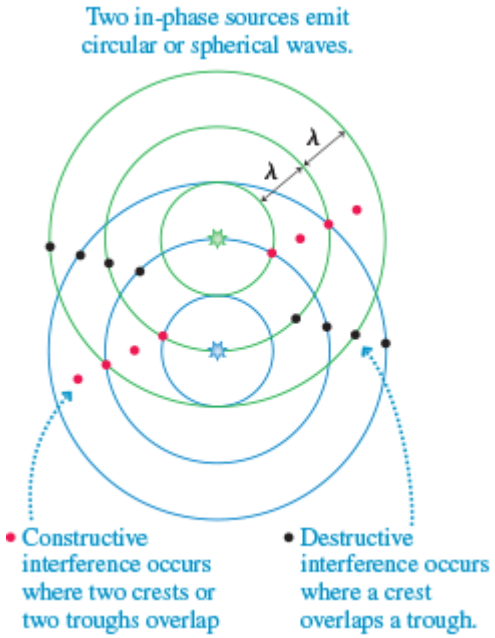



A circular or spherical wave.

where $r$ is the distance measured outward from the source. Equation 17.34 is our familiar wave equation with the one-dimensional coordinate $x$ replaced by a more general radial coordinate $r$. Recall that the wave fronts represent the *crests* of the wave and are spaced by the wavelength $\lambda$.

What happens when two circular or spherical waves overlap? For example, imagine two paddles oscillating up and down on the surface of a pond. We will assume that the two paddles oscillate with the same frequency and amplitude and that they are in phase. Figure 17.25 shows the wave fronts of the two waves. The ripples overlap as they travel, and, as was the case in one dimension, this causes interference. An important difference, though, is that amplitude decreases with distance as waves spread out in two or three dimensions—a consequence of energy conservation—so the two overlapped waves generally do *not* have equal amplitudes. Consequently, destructive interference rarely produces perfect cancellation.

## Figure 17.25




The overlapping ripple patterns of two sources. Several points of constructive and destructive interference are noted.

Maximum constructive interference occurs where two crests align or two troughs align. Several locations of constructive interference are marked in Figure 17.25. Intersecting wave fronts are points where two crests are aligned. It's a bit harder to visualize, but two troughs are aligned when a

midpoint between two wave fronts is overlapped with another midpoint between two wave fronts. Maximum, but usually not perfect, destructive interference occurs where the crest of one wave aligns with a trough of the other wave. Several points of destructive interference are also indicated in Figure 17.25.

A picture on a page is static, but **the wave fronts are in motion**. Try to imagine the wave fronts of Figure 17.25 expanding outward as new circular rings are born at the sources. The waves will move forward half a wavelength during half a period, causing the crests in Figure 17.25 to be replaced by troughs while the troughs become crests.

The important point to recognize is that **the motion of the waves does not affect the points of constructive and destructive interference.** Points in the figure where two crests overlap will become points where two troughs overlap, but this overlap is still constructive interference. Similarly, points in the figure where a crest and a trough overlap will become a point where a trough and a crest overlap—still destructive interference.

The mathematical description of interference in two or three dimensions is very similar to that of one-dimensional interference. The net displacement of a particle in the medium is

**(17.35)**

$$D = D_1 + D_2 = a_1 \sin\left(kr_1 - \omega t + \phi_{10}\right) + a_2 \sin\left(kr_2 - \omega t + \phi_{20}\right)$$

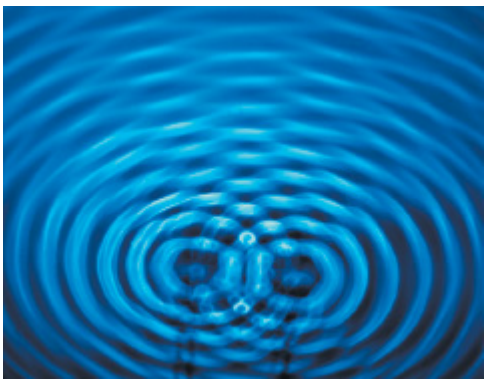
The only differences between Equation 17.35 and the earlier one-dimensional Equation 17.24 are that the linear coordinates have been changed to radial coordinates and we've allowed the amplitudes to differ.

These changes do not affect the phase difference, which, with $x$ replaced by $r$, is now

**(17.36)**

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0$$

The term $2\pi(\Delta r/\lambda)$ is the phase difference that arises when the waves travel different distances from the sources to the point at which they combine. $\Delta r$ itself is the *path-length difference.* As before, $\Delta\phi_0$ is any inherent phase difference of the sources themselves.



Two overlapping water waves create an interference pattern.

Maximum constructive interference occurs, just as in one dimension, at those points where $\cos(\Delta\phi/2) = \pm 1$. Similarly, maximum destructive interference occurs at points where $\cos(\Delta\phi/2) = 0$. The conditions for constructive and destructive interference are

**(17.37)**

Maximum constructive interference:

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\,\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = m \cdot 2\pi \qquad m = 0,\ 1,\ 2, \cdots$$

Maximum destructive interference:

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\,\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = (m + \tfrac{1}{2}) \cdot 2\pi$$

# Identical Sources

For two identical sources (i.e., sources that oscillate in phase with $\Delta\phi_0 = 0$), the conditions for constructive and destructive interference are simple:

**(17.38)**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Constructive:} \quad \Delta r &= m\lambda \\ \text{Destructive:} \quad \Delta r &= \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda \end{aligned} \qquad \text{(identical sources)}$$

**The waves from two identical sources interfere constructively at points where the path-length difference is an integer number of wavelengths** because, for these values of $\Delta r$, crests are aligned with crests and troughs with troughs. **The waves interfere destructively at points where the path-length difference is a half-integer number of wavelengths** because, for these values of $\Delta r$, crests are aligned with troughs. These two statements are the essence of interference.

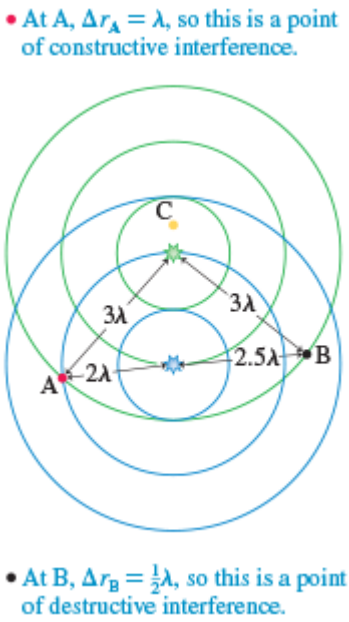


> **Note**
>
> Equation 17.38 applies only if the sources are in phase. If the sources are not in phase, you must use the more general Equation 17.37 to locate the points of constructive and destructive interference.

Wave fronts are spaced exactly one wavelength apart; hence we can measure the distances $r_1$ and $r_2$ simply by counting the rings in the wave-front pattern. In Figure 17.26, which is based on Figure 17.25, point A is distance $r_1 = 3\lambda$ from the first source and $r_2 = 2\lambda$ from the second.

The path-length difference is $\Delta r_A = 1\lambda$, the condition for the maximum constructive interference of identical sources. Point B has $\Delta r_B = \frac{1}{2}\lambda$, so it is a point of maximum destructive interference.

## Figure 17.26




For identical sources, the path-length difference $\Delta r$ determines whether the interference at a particular point is constructive or destructive.

> **Note**
>
> Interference is determined by $\Delta r$, the path-length *difference*, rather than by $r_1$ or $r_2$.

### Stop to Think 17.5

The interference at point C in Figure 17.26 is

**a.** Maximum constructive.

**b.** Constructive, but less than maximum.

**c.** Maximum destructive.

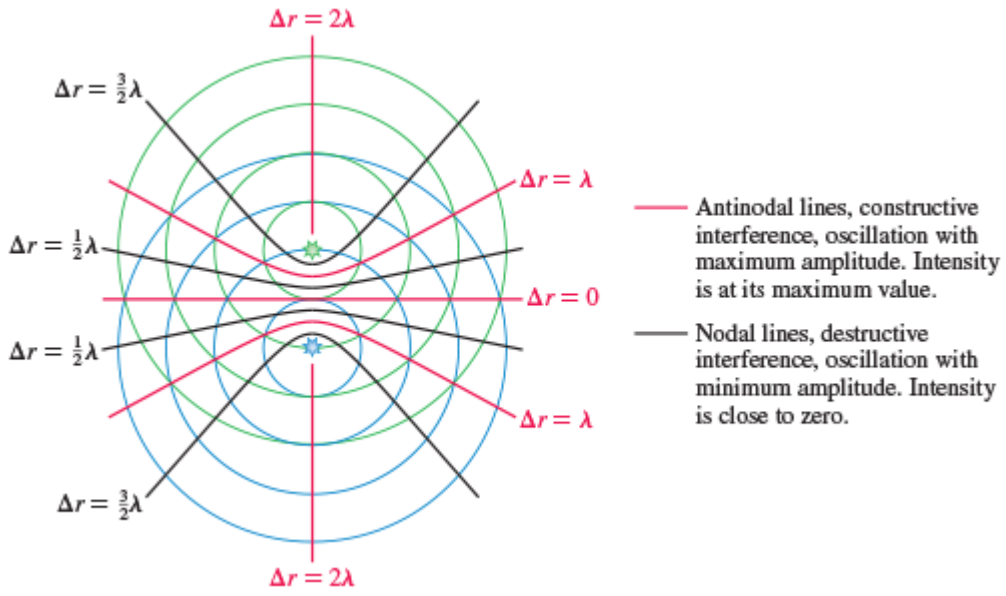
**d.** Destructive, but less than maximum.

**e.** There is no interference at point C.

We can now locate the points of maximum constructive interference by drawing a line through *all* the points at which $\Delta r = 0$, another line through all the points at which $\Delta r = \lambda$, and so on. These lines, shown in red in Figure 17.27, are called **antinodal lines.** They are analogous to the antinodes of a standing wave, hence the name. An antinode is a *point* of maximum constructive interference; for circular waves, oscillation at maximum amplitude occurs along a continuous *line.* Similarly, destructive interference occurs along lines called **nodal lines.** The amplitude is a minimum along a nodal line, usually close to zero, just as it is at a node in a standing-wave pattern.



## Figure 17.27




The points of constructive and destructive interference fall along antinodal and nodal lines.

# A Problem-Solving Strategy for Interference Problems

The information in this section is the basis of a strategy for solving interference problems. This strategy applies equally well to interference in one dimension if you use $\Delta x$ instead of $\Delta r$.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 17.1 Interference of two waves**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the waves as linear, circular, or spherical.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a picture showing the sources of the waves and the point where the waves interfere. Give relevant dimensions. Identify the distances $r_1$ and $r_2$ from the sources to the point. Note any phase difference $\Delta\phi_0$ between the two sources.

**SOLVE** The interference depends on the path-length difference $\Delta r = r_2 - r_1$ and the source phase difference $\Delta\phi_0$.

$$\text{Constructive:} \quad \Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = m \cdot 2\pi$$

$$\text{Destructive:} \quad \Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = \left(m + \tfrac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 2\pi \qquad m = 0,\ 1,\ 2, \cdots$$

For identical sources ($\Delta\phi_0 = 0$), the interference is maximum constructive if $\Delta r = m\lambda$, maximum destructive if $\Delta r = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda$.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 18

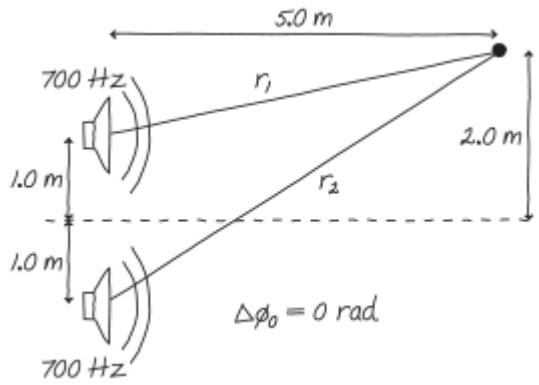
### Example 17.10 Two-dimensional interference between two loudspeakers

Two loudspeakers in a plane are 2.0 m apart and in phase with each other. Both emit 700 Hz sound waves into a room where the speed of sound is 341 m/s. A listener stands 5.0 m in front of the loudspeakers and 2.0 m to one side of the center. Is the interference at this point maximum constructive, maximum destructive, or in between? How will the situation differ if the loudspeakers are out of phase?

**MODEL** The two speakers are sources of in-phase, spherical waves. The overlap of these waves causes interference.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 17.28 shows the loudspeakers and defines the distances $r_1$ and $r_2$ to the point of observation. The figure includes dimensions and notes that $\Delta\phi_0 = 0$ rad.

**Figure 17.28**




Pictorial representation of the interference between two loudspeakers.

**SOLVE** It's not $r_1$ and $r_2$ that matter, but the *difference* $\Delta r$ between them. From the geometry of the figure we can calculate that

$$r_1 = \sqrt{(5.0\ \text{m})^2 + (1.0\ \text{m})^2} = 5.10\ \text{m}$$
$$r_2 = \sqrt{(5.0\ \text{m})^2 + (3.0\ \text{m})^2} = 5.83\ \text{m}$$

Thus the path-length difference is $\Delta r = r_2 - r_1 = 0.73\ \text{m}$. The wave-length of the sound waves is

$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f} = \frac{341\ \text{m/s}}{700\ \text{Hz}} = 0.487\ \text{m}$$

In terms of wavelengths, the path-length difference is $\Delta r/\lambda = 1.50$, or

$$\Delta r = \tfrac{3}{2}\lambda$$

Because the sources are in phase ($\Delta\phi_0 = 0$), this is the condition for *destructive* interference. If the sources were out of phase ($\Delta\phi_0 = \pi$ rad), then the phase difference of the waves at the listener would be

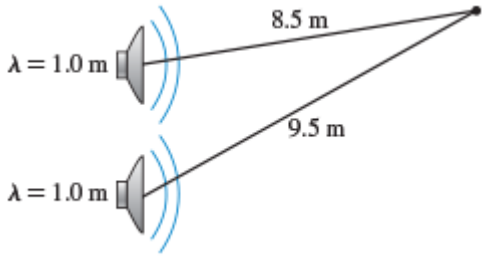
$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = 2\pi\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + \pi\ \text{rad} = 4\pi\ \text{rad}$$

This is an integer multiple of $2\pi$ rad, so in this case the interference would be *constructive*.

**ASSESS** Both the path-length difference and any inherent phase difference of the sources must be considered when evaluating interference.

## Stop to Think 17.6

These two loudspeakers are in phase. They emit equal-amplitude sound waves with a wavelength of 1.0 m. At the point indicated, is the interference maximum constructive, maximum destructive, or something in between?



# 17.8 Beats



Thus far we have looked at the superposition of sources having the same wavelength and frequency. We can also use the principle of superposition to investigate a phenomenon that is easily demonstrated with two sources of slightly different frequency.

If you listen to two sounds with very different frequencies, such as a high note and a low note, you hear two distinct tones. But if the frequency difference is very small, just one or two hertz, then you hear a single tone whose intensity is *modulated* once or twice every second. That is, the sound goes up and down in volume, loud, soft, loud, soft, …, making a distinctive sound pattern called **beats.**

Consider two sinusoidal waves traveling along the $x$-axis with angular frequencies $\omega_1 = 2\pi f_1$ and $\omega_2 = 2\pi f_2$. The two waves are

**(17.39)**

$$D_1 = a\sin(k_1 x - \omega_1 t + \phi_{10})$$
$$D_2 = a\sin(k_2 x - \omega_2 t + \phi_{20})$$

where the subscripts 1 and 2 indicate that the frequencies, wave numbers, and phase constants of the two waves may be different.

To simplify the analysis, let's make several assumptions:

**1.** The two waves have the same amplitude $a$,

**2.** A detector, such as your ear, is located at the origin $(x = 0)$,

**3.** The two sources are in phase $(\phi_{10} = \phi_{20})$, and

**4.** The source phases happen to be $\phi_{10} = \phi_{20} = \pi$ rad.

None of these assumptions is essential to the outcome. All could be otherwise and we would still come to basically the same conclusion, but the mathematics would be far messier. Making these assumptions allows us to emphasize the physics with the least amount of mathematics.

With these assumptions, the two waves as they reach the detector at $x = 0$ are

**(17.40)**

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 &= a \sin(-\omega_1 t + \pi) = a \sin \omega_1 t \\ D_2 &= a \sin(-\omega_2 t + \pi) = a \sin \omega_2 t \end{aligned}$$

where we've used the trigonometric identity $\sin(\pi - \theta) = \sin\theta$. The principle of superposition tells us that the *net* displacement of the medium at the detector is the sum of the displacements of the individual waves. Thus

**(17.41)**

$$D = D_1 + D_2 = a(\sin \omega_1 t + \sin \omega_2 t)$$

Earlier, for interference, we used the trigonometric identity

$$\sin\alpha + \sin\beta = 2\cos\left[\tfrac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta)\right]\ \sin\left[\tfrac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)\right]$$

We can use this identity again to write Equation 17.41 as

**(17.42)**

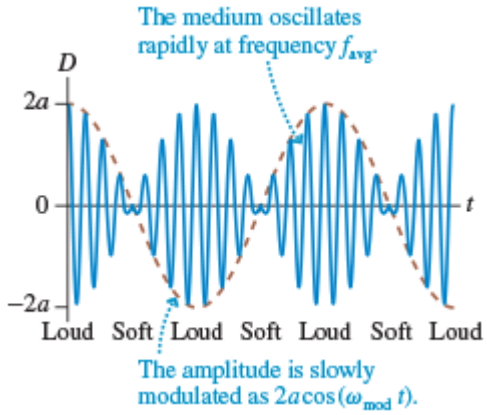
$$\begin{aligned} D &= 2a\cos\left[\tfrac{1}{2}(\omega_1 - \omega_2)t\right]\ \sin\left[\tfrac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2)t\right] \\ &= [2a\cos(\omega_{\text{mod}} t)]\ \sin(\omega_{\text{avg}} t) \end{aligned}$$

where $\omega_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2)$ is the *average* angular frequency and $\omega_{\text{mod}} = \frac{1}{2}|\omega_1 - \omega_2|$ is called the *modulation frequency*. We've used the absolute value because the modulation depends only on the frequency *difference* between the sources, not on which has the larger frequency.

We are interested in the situation when the two frequencies are very nearly equal: $\omega_1 \approx \omega_2$. In that case, $\omega_{\text{avg}}$ hardly differs from either $\omega_1$ or $\omega_2$ while $\omega_{\text{mod}}$ is very near to—but not exactly—zero. When $\omega_{\text{mod}}$ is very small, the term $\cos(\omega_{\text{mod}}t)$ oscillates *very* slowly. We have grouped it with the $2a$ term because, together, they provide a slowly changing "amplitude" for the rapid oscillation at frequency $\omega_{\text{avg}}$.

Figure 17.29 is a history graph of the wave at the detector $(x = 0)$. It shows the oscillation of the air against your eardrum at frequency $f_{\text{avg}} = \omega_{\text{avg}}/2\pi = \frac{1}{2}(f_1 + f_2)$. This oscillation determines the note you hear; it differs little from the two notes at frequencies $f_1$ and $f_2$. We are especially interested in the time-dependent amplitude, shown as a dashed line, that is given by the term $2a\cos(\omega_{\text{mod}}t)$. This periodically varying amplitude is called a **modulation** of the wave, which is where $\omega_{\text{mod}}$ gets its name.

## Figure 17.29




Beats are caused by the superposition of two waves of nearly identical frequency.

As the amplitude rises and falls, the sound alternates as loud, soft, loud, soft, and so on. But that is exactly what you hear when you listen to beats! The alternating loud and soft sounds arise from the two waves being alternately in phase and out of phase, causing constructive and then destructive interference.



Imagine two people walking side by side at just slightly different paces. Initially both of their right feet hit the ground together, but after a while they get out of step. A little bit later they are back in step and the process alternates. The sound waves are doing the same. Initially the crests of each wave, of amplitude $a$, arrive together at your ear and the net displacement is doubled to $2a$. But after a while the two waves, being of slightly different frequency, get out of step and a crest of one arrives with a trough of the other. When this happens, the two waves cancel each other to give a net displacement of zero. This process alternates over and over, loud and soft.

Notice, in Figure 17.29, that the sound intensity rises and falls *twice* during one cycle of the modulation envelope. Each "loud-soft-loud" is one beat, so the **beat frequency** $f_{\text{beat}}$, which is the number of beats per second, is *twice* the modulation frequency $f_{\text{mod}} = \omega_{\text{mod}}/2\pi$. From the above definition of $\omega_{\text{mod}}$, the beat frequency is

**(17.43)**

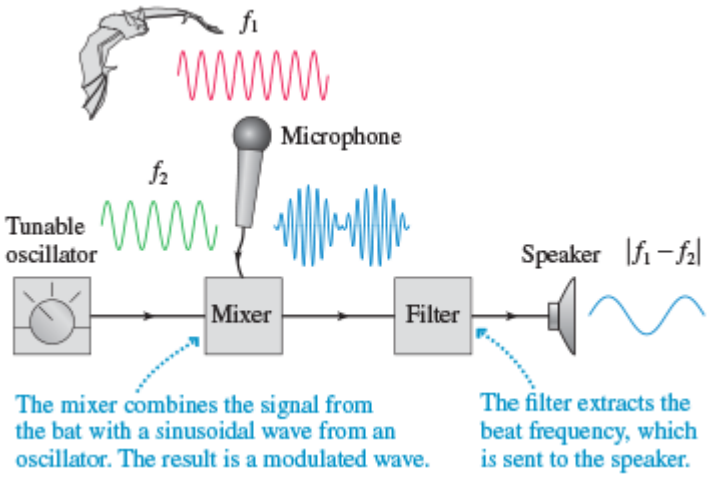
$$f_{\text{beat}} = 2f_{\text{mod}} = 2\frac{\omega_{\text{mod}}}{2\pi} = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\omega_1}{2\pi} - \frac{\omega_2}{2\pi}\right) = |f_1 - f_2|$$

The beat frequency is simply the *difference* between the two individual frequencies.

### Example 17.11 Detecting bats with beats

The little brown bat is a common species in North America. It emits echolocation pulses at a frequency of 40 kHz, well above the range of human hearing. To allow researchers to "hear" these bats, the bat detector shown in Figure 17.30 combines the bat's sound wave at frequency $f_1$ with a wave of frequency $f_2$ from a tunable oscillator. The resulting beat frequency is then amplified and sent to a loudspeaker. To what frequency should the tunable oscillator be set to produce an audible beat frequency of 3 kHz?

**Figure 17.30**




The operation of a bat detector.

**SOLVE** Combining two waves with different frequencies gives a beat frequency

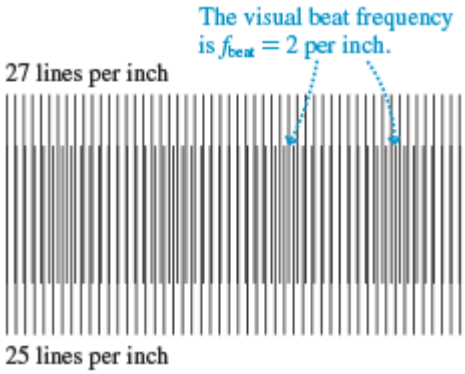
$$f_{\text{beat}} = |f_1 - f_2|$$

A beat frequency will be generated at 3 kHz if the oscillator frequency and the bat frequency *differ* by 3 kHz. An oscillator frequency of either 37 kHz or 43 kHz will work nicely.

**ASSESS** The electronic circuitry of radios, televisions, and cell phones makes extensive use of *mixers* to generate difference frequencies.

Beats aren't limited to sound waves. Figure 17.31 shows a graphical example of beats. Two "fences" of slightly different frequencies are superimposed on each other. The difference in the two frequencies is two lines per inch. You can confirm, with a ruler, that the figure has two "beats" per inch, in agreement with Equation 17.43.

## Figure 17.31




A graphical example of beats.

Beats are important in many other situations. For example, you have probably seen movies where rotating wheels seem to turn slowly backward. Why is this? Suppose the movie camera is shooting at 30 frames per second but the wheel is rotating 32 times per second. The combination of the two produces a "beat" of 2 Hz, meaning that the wheel appears to rotate only twice per second. The same is true if the wheel is rotating 28 times per second, but in this case, where the wheel frequency slightly lags the camera frequency, it appears to rotate *backward* twice per second!

## Stop to Think 17.7

You hear three beats per second when two sound tones are generated. The frequency of one tone is 610 Hz. The frequency of the other is

**a.** 604 Hz
**b.** 607 Hz
**c.** 613 Hz
**d.** 616 Hz
**e.** Either a or d.
**f.** Either b or c.

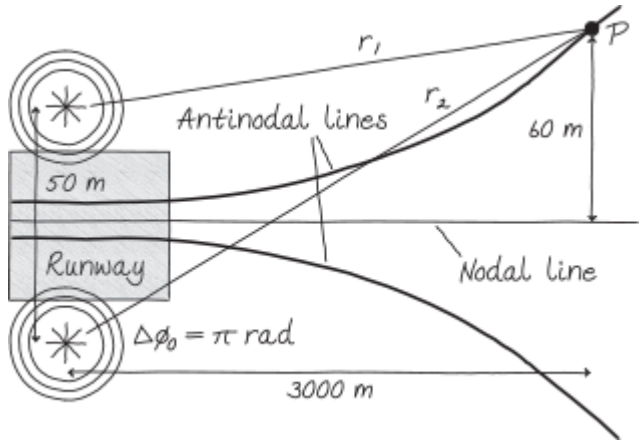
### Challenge Example 17.12 An airplane landing system

Your firm has been hired to design a system that allows airplane pilots to make instrument landings in rain or fog. You've decided to place two radio transmitters 50 m apart on either side of the runway. These two transmitters will broadcast the same frequency, but out of phase with each other. This will cause a nodal line to extend straight off the end of the runway. As long as the airplane's receiver is silent, the pilot knows she's directly in line with the runway. If she drifts to one side or the other, the radio will pick up a signal and sound a warning beep. To have sufficient accuracy, the first intensity maxima need to be 60 m on either side of the nodal line at a distance of 3.0 km. What frequency should you specify for the transmitters?

**MODEL** The two transmitters are sources of out-of-phase, circular waves. The overlap of these waves produces an interference pattern.

**VISUALIZE** For out-of-phase sources, the center line—with zero path-length difference—is a nodal line of maximum destructive interference because the two signals always arrive out of phase. Figure 17.32 shows the nodal line, extending straight off the runway, and the first antinodal line—the points of maximum constructive interference—on either side. Comparing this to Figure 17.27, where the two sources were in phase, you can see that the nodal and antinodal lines have been reversed.

## Figure 17.32




Pictorial representation of the landing system.

**SOLVE** Point P, 60 m to the side at a distance of 3000 m, needs to be a point of maximum constructive interference. The distances are

$$r_1 = \sqrt{(3000\text{ m})^2 + (60\text{ m} - 25\text{ m})^2} = 3000.204\text{ m}$$

$$r_2 = \sqrt{(3000\text{ m})^2 + (60\text{ m} + 25\text{ m})^2} = 3001.204\text{ m}$$

We needed to keep several extra significant figures because we're looking for the difference between two numbers that are almost the same. The path-length difference at P is

$$\Delta r = r_2 - r_1 = 1.000 \text{ m}$$

We know, for out-of-phase transmitters, that the phase difference of the sources is $\Delta\phi_0 = \pi$ rad. The first maximum will occur where the phase difference between the waves is $\Delta\phi = 1 \cdot 2\pi$ rad. Thus the condition that we must satisfy at P is

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi \text{ rad} = 2\pi\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \pi \text{ rad}$$

Solving for $\lambda$, we find

$$\lambda = 2\,\Delta r = 2.00 \text{ m}$$

Consequently, the required frequency is

$$f = \frac{c}{\lambda} = \frac{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{2.00 \text{ m}} = 1.50 \times 10^8 \text{ Hz} = 150 \text{ MHz}$$

**ASSESS** 150 MHz is slightly higher than the frequencies of FM radio (≈ 100 MHz) but is well within the radio frequency range. Notice that the condition to be satisfied at P is that the path-length difference must be $\frac{1}{2}\lambda$. This makes sense. A path-length difference of $\frac{1}{2}\lambda$ contributes $\pi$ rad to the phase difference. When combined with the $\pi$ rad from the out-of-phase sources, the total phase difference of $2\pi$ rad creates constructive interference.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 17 has been to understand and use the idea of superposition.

## General Principles

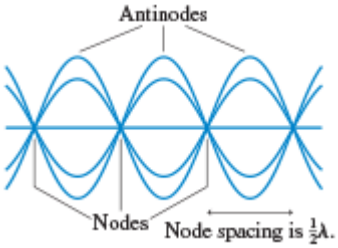
### Principle of Superposition

The displacement of a medium when more than one wave is present is the sum at each point of the displacements due to each individual wave.

## Important Concepts

### Standing Waves

**Standing waves** are due to the superposition of two traveling waves moving in opposite directions.

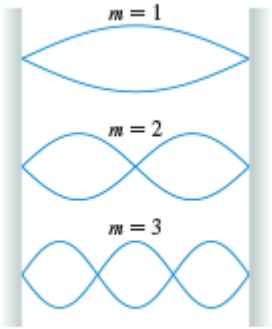



The amplitude at position $x$ is

$$A(x) = 2a \sin kx$$

where $a$ is the amplitude of each wave.

The boundary conditions determine which standing-wave frequencies and wavelengths are allowed. The allowed standing waves are **modes** of the system.



Standing waves on a string

## Solving Interference Problems

**Maximum constructive interference** occurs where crests are aligned with crests and troughs with troughs. The waves are in phase.

**Maximum destructive interference** occurs where crests are aligned with troughs. The waves are out of phase.

**MODEL** Model the wave as linear, circular, or spherical.

**VISUALIZE** Find distances to the sources.

**SOLVE** Interference depends on the **phase difference** $\Delta\phi$ between the waves:

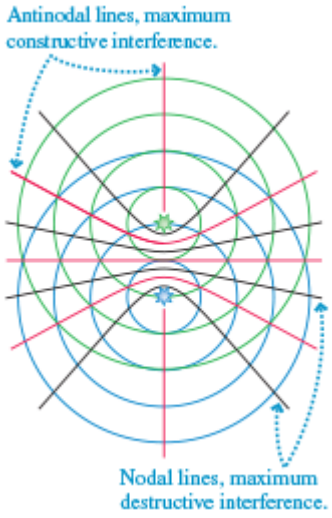
$$\text{Constructive: } \Delta\phi = 2\pi \frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = m \cdot 2\pi$$

$$\text{Destructive: } \Delta\phi = 2\pi \frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0 = \left(m + \tfrac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 2\pi$$

$\Delta r$ is the path-length difference of the two waves, and $\Delta\phi_0$ is any phase difference between the sources. For identical (in-phase) sources:

$$\text{Constructive: } \Delta r = m\lambda \qquad \text{Destructive: } \Delta r = \left(m + \tfrac{1}{2}\right)\lambda$$

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?




# Applications

## Boundary conditions

Strings, electromagnetic waves, and sound waves in closed-closed tubes must have nodes at both ends:

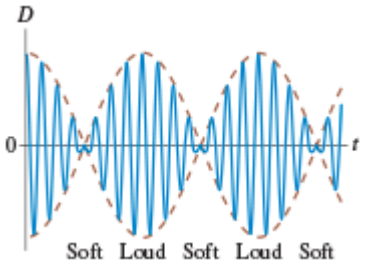
$$\lambda_m = \frac{2L}{m} \qquad f_m = m\frac{v}{2L} = mf_1 \qquad m = 1,\ 2,\ 3, \ldots .$$

The frequencies and wavelengths are the same for a sound wave in an open-open tube, which has antinodes at both ends.[482]

A sound wave in an open-closed tube must have a node at the closed end but an antinode at the open end. This leads to

$$\lambda_m = \frac{4L}{m} \qquad f_m = m\frac{v}{4L} = mf_1 \qquad m = 1,\ 3,\ 5,\ 7, \ldots .$$

**Beats** (loud-soft-loud-soft modulations of intensity) occur when two waves of slightly different frequency are superimposed.




The beat frequency between waves of frequencies $f_1$ and $f_2$ is

$$f_{\text{beat}} = |f_1 - f_2|$$

# Terms and Notation

principle of superposition

standing wave

node

antinode

amplitude function, $A(x)$

boundary condition

fundamental frequency, $f_1$

harmonic

mode

interference

in phase

constructive interference

out of phase

destructive interference

phase difference, $\Delta\phi$

path-length difference, $\Delta x$ or $\Delta r$

thin-film optical coating

antinodal line

nodal line

beats

modulation

beat frequency, $f_{\text{beat}}$

# Conceptual Questions



**1.** Figure Q17.1 shows a standing wave oscillating on a string at frequency $f_0$.

**Figure Q17.1**

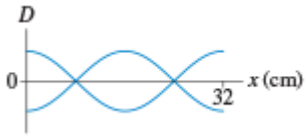
**a.** What mode ($m$-value) is this?

**b.** How many antinodes will there be if the frequency is doubled to $2f_0$?

**2.** If you take snapshots of a standing wave on a string, there are certain instants when the string is totally flat. What has happened to the energy of the wave at those instants?

**3.** Figure Q17.3 shows the displacement of a standing sound wave in a 32-cm-long horizontal tube of air open at both ends.

**Figure Q17.3**




**a.** What mode ($m$-value) is this?

**b.** Are the air molecules moving horizontally or vertically? Explain.

**c.** At what distances from the left end of the tube do the molecules oscillate with maximum amplitude?

**d.** At what distances from the left end of the tube does the air pressure oscillate with maximum amplitude?

**4.** An organ pipe is tuned to exactly 384 Hz when the room temperature is 20°C. If the room temperature later increases to 22°C, does the pipe's frequency increase, decrease, or stay the same? Explain.

**5.** If you pour liquid into a tall, narrow glass, you may hear sound with a steadily rising pitch. What is the source of the sound? And why does the pitch rise as the glass fills?

**6.** A flute filled with helium will, until the helium escapes, play notes at a much higher pitch than normal. Why?

**7.** In music, two notes are said to be an *octave* apart when one note is exactly twice the frequency of the other. Suppose you have a guitar string playing frequency $f_0$. To increase the frequency by an octave, to $2f_0$, by what factor would you have to (a) increase the tension or (b) decrease the length?

**8.** Figure Q17.8 is a snapshot graph of two plane waves passing through a region of space. Each wave has a 2.0 mm amplitude and the same wavelength. What is the net displacement of the medium at points a, b, and c?

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**Figure Q17.8**

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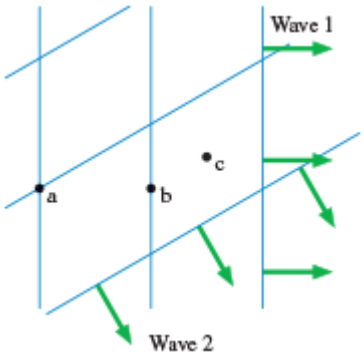
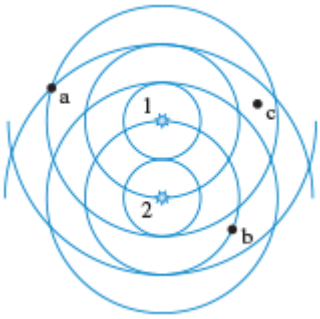


**9.** Figure Q17.9 shows the circular waves emitted by two in-phase sources. Are a, b, and c points of maximum constructive interference, maximum destructive interference, or in between?

**Figure Q17.9**




**10.** A trumpet player hears 5 beats per second when she plays a note and simultaneously sounds a 440 Hz tuning fork. After pulling her tuning valve out to slightly increase the length of her trumpet, she hears 3 beats per second against the tuning fork. Was her initial frequency 435 Hz or 445 Hz? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

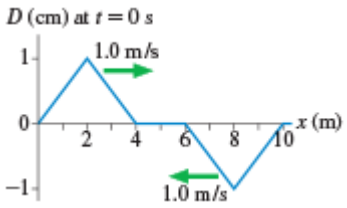
Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 17.1 The Principle of Superposition

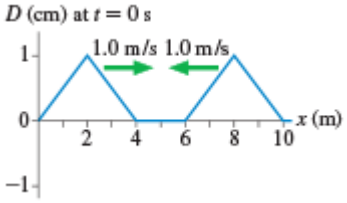
**1.** • Figure EX17.1 is a snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s of two waves approaching each other at 1.0 m/s. Draw six snapshot graphs, stacked vertically, showing the string at 1 s intervals from $t = 1$ s to $t = 6$ s.

**Figure EX17.1**



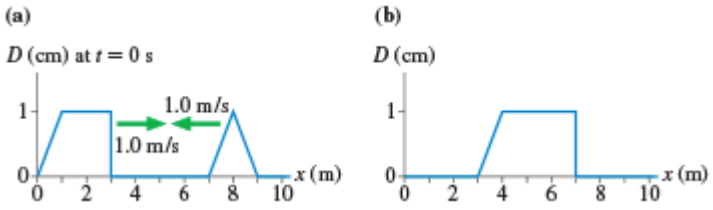

**2.** • Figure EX17.2 is a snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s of two waves approaching each other at 1.0 m/s. Draw six snapshot graphs, stacked vertically, showing the string at 1 s intervals from $t = 1$ s to $t = 6$ s.

**Figure EX17.2**




**3.** •• Figure EX17.3a is a snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s of two waves approaching each other at 1.0 m/s. At what time was the snapshot graph in Figure EX17.3b taken?

**Figure EX17.3**

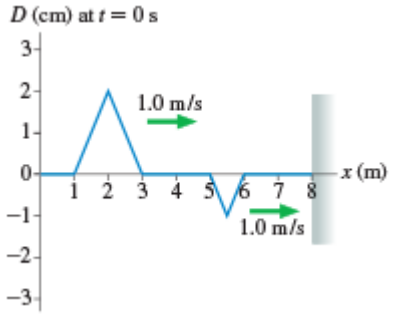



## Section 17.2 Standing Waves

## Section 17.3 Standing Waves on a String

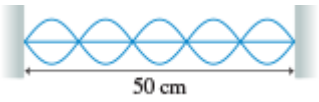
**4.** •• Figure EX17.4 is a snapshot graph at $t = 0$ s of two waves moving to the right at 1.0 m/s. The string is fixed at $x = 8.0$ m. Draw four snapshot graphs, stacked vertically, showing the string at $t = 2$, 4, 6, and 8 s.

**Figure EX17.4**




**5.** •• Figure EX17.5 shows a standing wave oscillating at 100 Hz on a string. What is the wave speed?

**Figure EX17.5**




**6.** •• Figure EX17.6 shows a standing wave on a 2.0-m-long string that has been fixed at both ends and tightened until the wave speed is 40 m/s. What is the frequency?

**Figure EX17.6**

**7.** • Figure EX17.7 shows a standing wave on a string that is oscillating at 100 Hz.

Figure EX17.7

**a.** How many antinodes will there be if the frequency is increased to 200 Hz?

**b.** If the tension is increased by a factor of 4, at what frequency will the string continue to oscillate as a standing wave that looks like the one in the figure?

**8.** •

**a.** What are the three longest wavelengths for standing waves on a 240-cm-long string that is fixed at both ends?

**b.** If the frequency of the second-longest wavelength is 50 Hz, what is the frequency of the third-longest wavelength?

**9.** • Standing waves on a 1.0-m-long string that is fixed at both ends are seen at successive frequencies of 36 Hz and 48 Hz.

**a.** What are the fundamental frequency and the wave speed?

**b.** Draw the standing-wave pattern when the string oscillates at 48 Hz.

**10.** • The two highest-pitch strings on a violin are tuned to 440 Hz (the A string) and 659 Hz (the E string). What is the ratio of the mass of the A string to that of the E string? Violin strings are all the same length and under essentially the same tension.

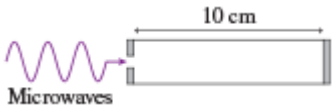
**11.** •• **INT** A heavy piece of hanging sculpture is suspended by a 90-cm-long, 5.0 g steel wire. When the wind blows hard, the wire hums at its fundamental frequency of 80 Hz. What is the mass of the sculpture?

**12.** • A carbon dioxide laser is an infrared laser. A $CO_2$ laser with a cavity length of 53.00 cm oscillates in the $m = 100{,}000$ mode. What are the wavelength and frequency of the laser beam?

**13.** • Microwaves pass through a small hole into the "microwave cavity" of Figure EX17.13. What frequencies between 10 GHz and 20 GHz will create standing waves in the cavity?



**Figure EX17.13**

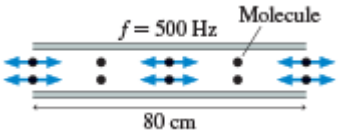



## Section 17.4 Standing Sound Waves and Musical Acoustics

**14.** • What are the three longest wavelengths for standing sound waves in a 121-cm-long tube that is (a) open at both ends and (b) open at one end, closed at the other?

**15.** • Figure EX17.15 shows a standing sound wave in an 80-cm-long tube. The tube is filled with an unknown gas. What is the speed of sound in this gas?

**Figure EX17.15**




**16.** • The fundamental frequency of an open-open tube is 1500 Hz when the tube is filled with 0°C helium. What is its frequency when filled with 0°C air?

**17.** • **BIO** We can make a simple model of the human vocal tract as an open-closed tube extending from the opening of the mouth

to the diaphragm. What is the length of this tube if its fundamental frequency equals a typical speech frequency of 250 Hz? The speed of sound in the warm air is 350 m/s.

**18.** •• The lowest note on a grand piano has a frequency of 27.5 Hz. The entire string is 2.00 m long and has a mass of 400 g. The vibrating section of the string is 1.90 m long. What tension is needed to tune this string properly?

**19.** • A bass clarinet can be modeled as a 120-cm-long open-closed tube. A bass clarinet player starts playing in a 20°C room, but soon the air inside the clarinet warms to where the speed of sound is 352 m/s. Does the fundamental frequency increase or decrease? By how much?

**20.** •• A violin string is 30 cm long. It sounds the musical note A (440 Hz) when played without fingering. How far from the end of the string should you place your finger to play the note C (523 Hz)?

**21.** • A longitudinal standing wave can be created in a long, thin aluminum rod by stroking the rod with very dry fingers. This is often done as a physics demonstration, creating a high-pitched, very annoying whine. From a wave perspective, the standing wave is equivalent to a sound standing wave in an open-open tube. As Figure EX17.21 shows, both ends of the rod are antinodes. What is the fundamental frequency of a 2.0-m-long aluminum rod?

**Figure EX17.21**

## Section 17.5 Interference in One Dimension

## Section 17.6 The Mathematics of Interference

**22.** • Two loudspeakers emit sound waves along the $x$-axis. The sound has maximum intensity when the speakers are 20 cm apart. The sound intensity decreases as the distance between the speakers is increased, reaching zero at a separation of 60 cm.

**a.** What is the wavelength of the sound?

**b.** If the distance between the speakers continues to increase, at what separation will the sound intensity again be a maximum?

**23.** •• Two loudspeakers in a 20°C room emit 686 Hz sound waves along the $x$-axis.

**a.** If the speakers are in phase, what is the smallest distance between the speakers for which the interference of the sound waves is maximum destructive?

**b.** If the speakers are out of phase, what is the smallest distance between the speakers for which the interference of the sound waves is maximum constructive?

**24.** • Noise-canceling headphones are an application of destructive interference. Each side of the headphones uses a microphone to pick up noise, delays it slightly, then rebroadcasts the noise next to your ear where it can interfere with the incoming sound wave of the noise. Suppose you are sitting 1.8 m from an annoying, 110 Hz buzzing sound. What is the minimum headphone delay, in ms, that will cancel this noise?

**25.** • What is the thinnest film of $MgF_2$ $(n = 1.39)$ on glass that produces a strong reflection for orange light with a wavelength of 600 nm?

**26.** •• A very thin oil film ($n = 1.25$) floats on water ($n = 1.33$). What is the thinnest film that produces a strong reflection for green light with a wavelength of 500 nm?

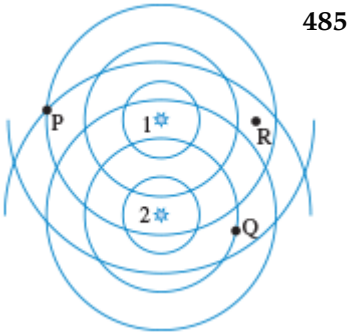
## Section 17.7 Interference in Two and Three Dimensions

**27.** •• Figure EX17.27 shows the circular wave fronts emitted by two wave sources.

**a.** Are these sources in phase or out of phase? Explain.

**b.** Make a table with rows labeled P, Q, and R and columns labeled $r_1$, $r_2$, $\Delta r$, and C/D. Fill in the table for points P, Q, and R, giving the distances as multiples of $\lambda$ and indicating, with a C or a D, whether the interference at that point is constructive or destructive.

**Figure EX17.27**





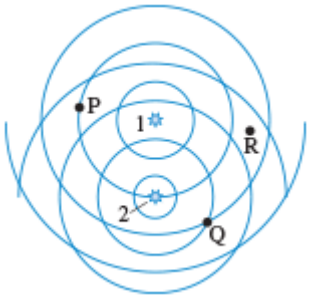

**28.** •• Figure EX17.28 shows the circular wave fronts emitted by two wave sources.

**a.** Are these sources in phase or out of phase? Explain.

**b.** Make a table with rows labeled P, Q, and R and columns labeled $r_1$, $r_2$, $\Delta r$, and C/D. Fill in the table for points P, Q, and R, giving the distances as multiples of $\lambda$

and indicating, with a C or a D, whether the interference at that point is constructive or destructive.

**Figure EX17.28**




**29.** •• Two in-phase loudspeakers, which emit sound in all directions, are sitting side by side. One of them is moved sideways by 3.0 m, then forward by 4.0 m. Afterward, constructive interference is observed $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance between the speakers along the line that joins them. What is the maximum possible wavelength of the sound waves?

**30.** •• Two in-phase speakers 2.0 m apart in a plane are emitting 1800 Hz sound waves into a room where the speed of sound is 340 m/s. Is the point 4.0 m in front of one of the speakers, perpendicular to the plane of the speakers, a point of maximum constructive interference, maximum destructive interference, or something in between?

**31.** •• Two out-of-phase radio antennas at $x = \pm 300$ m on the $x$-axis are emitting 3.0 MHz radio waves. Is the point $(x,\ y)\ = (300\text{ m},\ 800\text{ m})$ a point of maximum constructive interference, maximum destructive interference, or something in between?

## Section 17.8 Beats

**32.** • Two strings are adjusted to vibrate at exactly 200 Hz. Then the tension in one string is increased slightly. Afterward, three beats per second are heard when the strings vibrate at the same time. What is the new frequency of the string that was tightened?

**33.** • A flute player hears four beats per second when she compares her note to a 523 Hz tuning fork (the note C). She can match the frequency of the tuning fork by pulling out the "tuning joint" to lengthen her flute slightly. What was her initial frequency?

**34.** • Traditional Indonesian music uses an ensemble called a *gamelan* that is based on tuned percussion instruments somewhat like gongs. In Bali, the gongs are often grouped in pairs that are slightly out of tune with each other. When both are played at once, the beat frequency lends a distinctive vibrating quality to the music. Suppose a pair of gongs are tuned to produce notes at 151 Hz and 155 Hz. How many beats are heard if the gongs are struck together and both ring for 2.5 s?

**35.** •• Two microwave signals of nearly equal wavelengths can generate a beat frequency if both are directed onto the same microwave detector. In an experiment, the beat frequency is 100 MHz. One microwave generator is set to emit microwaves with a wavelength of 1.250 cm. If the second generator emits the longer wavelength, what is that wavelength?

## Problems

**36.** • A 2.0-m-long string vibrates at its second-harmonic frequency with a maximum amplitude of 2.0 cm. One end of

the string is at $x = 0$ cm. Find the oscillation amplitude at $x = 10$, 20, 30, 40, and 50 cm.

**37.** •• A string vibrates at its third-harmonic frequency. The amplitude at a point 30 cm from one end is half the maximum amplitude. How long is the string?

**38.** •• **BIO** Tendons are, essentially, elastic cords stretched between two fixed ends. As such, they can support standing waves. A woman has a 20-cm-long Achilles tendon—connecting the heel to a muscle in the calf—with a cross-section area of 90 $mm^2$. The density of tendon tissue is 1100 $kg/m^3$. For a reasonable tension of 500 N, what will be the fundamental frequency of her Achilles tendon?

**39.** •• **BIO** Biologists think that some spiders "tune" strands of their web to give enhanced response at frequencies corresponding to those at which desirable prey might struggle. Orb spider web silk has a typical diameter of 20 $\mu$m, and spider silk has a density of 1300 $kg/m^3$. To have a fundamental frequency at 100 Hz, to what tension must a spider adjust a 12-cm-long strand of silk?



**40.** •• A particularly beautiful note reaching your ear from a rare Stradivarius violin has a wavelength of 39.1 cm. The room is slightly warm, so the speed of sound is 344 m/s. If the string's linear density is 0.600 g/m and the tension is 150 N, how long is the vibrating section of the violin string?

**41.** •• A violinist places her finger so that the vibrating section of a 1.0 g/m string has a length of 30 cm, then she draws her bow across it. A listener nearby in a 20°C room hears a note with a wavelength of 40 cm. What is the tension in the string?

**42.** •• **INT** A steel wire is used to stretch the spring of Figure P17.42. An oscillating magnetic field drives the steel wire

back and forth. A standing wave with three antinodes is created when the spring is stretched 8.0 cm. What stretch of the spring produces a standing wave with two antinodes?

**Figure P17.42**

**43.** •• Astronauts visiting Planet X have a 250-cm-long string whose mass is 5.00 g. They tie the string to a support, stretch it horizontally over a pulley 2.00 m away, and hang a 4.00 kg mass on the free end. Then the astronauts begin to excite standing waves on the horizontal portion of the string. Their data are as follows:

| $m$ | Frequency (Hz) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 31 |
| 2 | 66 |
| 3 | 95 |
| 4 | 130 |
| 5 | 162 |

Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine the value of $g$, the free-fall acceleration on Planet X.

**44.** •• **INT** A 75 g bungee cord has an equilibrium length of 1.20 m. The cord is stretched to a length of 1.80 m, then vibrated at 20 Hz. This produces a standing wave with two antinodes. What is the spring constant of the bungee cord?

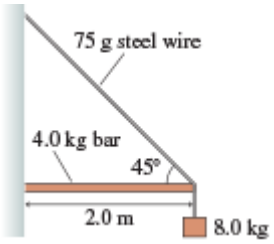
**45.** •• A metal wire under tension $T_0$ vibrates at its fundamental frequency. For what tension will the second-harmonic frequency be the same as the fundamental frequency at tension $T_0$?

**46.** ••• **INT** In a laboratory experiment, one end of a horizontal string is tied to a support while the other end passes over a frictionless pulley and is tied to a 1.5 kg sphere. Students determine the frequencies of standing waves on the horizontal segment of the string, then they raise a beaker of water until the hanging 1.5 kg sphere is completely submerged. The frequency of the fifth harmonic with the sphere submerged exactly matches the frequency of the third harmonic before the sphere was submerged. What is the diameter of the sphere?

**47.** ••• **INT** A vibrating standing wave on a string radiates a sound wave with intensity proportional to the square of the standing-wave amplitude. When a piano key is struck and held down, so that the string continues to vibrate, the sound level decreases by 8.0 dB in 1.0 s. What is the string's damping time constant $\tau$?

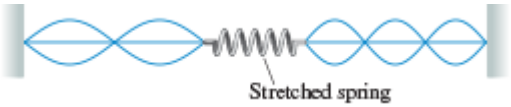
**48.** •• **INT** What is the fundamental frequency of the steel wire in Figure P17.48?

**Figure P17.48**




**49.** •• The two strings in Figure P17.49 are of equal length and are being driven at equal frequencies. The linear density of the left string is 5.0 g/m. What is the linear density of the right string?

**Figure P17.49**




**50.** •• Western music uses a musical scale with *equal temperament* tuning, which means that any two adjacent notes have the same frequency ratio $r$. That is, notes $n$ and $n + 1$ are related by $f_{n+1} = r f_n$ for all $n$. In this system, the frequency doubles every 12 notes—an interval called an *octave*.

**a.** What is the value of $r$?

**b.** Orchestras tune to the note A, which has a frequency of 440 Hz. What is the frequency of the next note of the scale (called A-sharp)?

**51.** •• An open-open organ pipe is 78.0 cm long. An open-closed pipe has a fundamental frequency equal to the third harmonic of the open-open pipe. How long is the open-closed pipe?

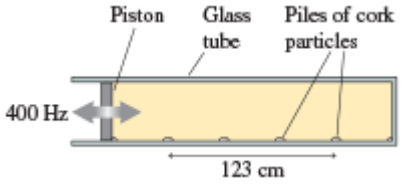
**52.** •• **BIO** Deep-sea divers often breathe a mixture of helium and oxygen to avoid getting the "bends" from breathing high-pressure nitrogen. The helium has the side effect of making the divers' voices sound odd. Although your vocal tract can be roughly described as an open-closed tube, the way you hold your mouth and position your lips greatly affects the standing-wave frequencies of the vocal tract. This is what allows different vowels to sound different. The "ee" sound is made by shaping your vocal tract to have standing-wave frequencies at, normally, 270 Hz and 2300 Hz. What will these frequencies be for a helium-oxygen mixture in which the speed of sound at body temperature is 750 m/s? The speed of sound in air at body temperature is 350 m/s.



**53.** •• In 1866, the German scientist Adolph Kundt developed a technique for accurately measuring the speed of sound in

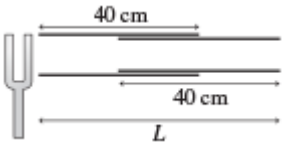
various gases. A long glass tube, known today as a Kundt's tube, has a vibrating piston at one end and is closed at the other. Very finely ground particles of cork are sprinkled in the bottom of the tube before the piston is inserted. As the vibrating piston is slowly moved forward, there are a few positions that cause the cork particles to collect in small, regularly spaced piles along the bottom. Figure P17.53 shows an experiment in which the tube is filled with pure oxygen and the piston is driven at 400 Hz. What is the speed of sound in oxygen?

**Figure P17.53**




**54.** •• The 40-cm-long tube of Figure P17.54 has a 40-cm-long insert that can be pulled in and out. A vibrating tuning fork is held next to the tube. As the insert is slowly pulled out, the sound from the tuning fork creates standing waves in the tube when the total length $L$ is 42.5 cm, 56.7 cm, and 70.9 cm. What is the frequency of the tuning fork? Assume $v_{\text{sound}} = 343\ \text{m/s}$.

**Figure P17.54**




**55.** •• A 1.0-m-tall vertical tube is filled with 20°C water. A tuning fork vibrating at 580 Hz is held just over the top of the tube as

the water is slowly drained from the bottom. At what water heights, measured from the bottom of the tube, will there be a standing wave in the tube above the water?

**56.** ••• **CALC INT** A 44-cm-diameter water tank is filled with 35 cm of water. A 3.0-mm-diameter spigot at the very bottom of the tank is opened and water begins to flow out. The water falls into a 2.0-cm-diameter, 40-cm-tall glass cylinder. As the water falls and creates noise, resonance causes the column of air in the cylinder to produce a tone at the column's fundamental frequency. What are (a) the frequency and (b) the rate at which the frequency is changing (Hz/s) when the cylinder has been filling for 4.0 s? You can assume that the height of the water in the tank does not appreciably change in 4.0 s.

**57.** •• A 25-cm-long wire with a linear density of 20 g/m passes across the open end of an 85-cm-long open-closed tube of air. If the wire, which is fixed at both ends, vibrates at its fundamental frequency, the sound wave it generates excites the second vibrational mode of the tube of air. What is the tension in the wire? Assume $v_{\text{sound}} = 340\ \text{m/s}$.

**58.** •• An old mining tunnel disappears into a hillside. You would like to know how long the tunnel is, but it's too dangerous to go inside. Recalling your recent physics class, you decide to try setting up standing-wave resonances inside the tunnel. Using your subsonic amplifier and loudspeaker, you find resonances at 4.5 Hz and 6.3 Hz, and at no frequencies between these. It's rather chilly inside the tunnel, so you estimate the sound speed to be 335 m/s. Based on your measurements, how far is it to the end of the tunnel?

**59.** •• Two in-phase loudspeakers emit identical 1000 Hz sound waves along the $x$-axis. What distance should one speaker be

placed behind the other for the sound to have an amplitude 1.5 times that of each speaker alone?

**60.** •• Analyze the standing sound waves in an open-closed tube to show that the possible wavelengths and frequencies are given by Equation 17.18.

**61.** •• Two loudspeakers emit sound waves of the same frequency along the $x$-axis. The amplitude of each wave is $a$. The sound intensity is minimum when speaker 2 is 10 cm behind speaker 1. The intensity increases as speaker 2 is moved forward and first reaches maximum, with amplitude $2a$, when it is 30 cm in front of speaker 1. What is

**a.** The wavelength of the sound?

**b.** The phase difference between the two loudspeakers?

**c.** The amplitude of the sound (as a multiple of $a$) if the speakers are placed side by side?

**62.** •• Two loudspeakers emit sound waves along the $x$-axis. A listener in front of both speakers hears a maximum sound intensity when speaker 2 is at the origin and speaker 1 is at $x = 0.50\ \text{m}$. If speaker 1 is slowly moved forward, the sound intensity decreases and then increases, reaching another maximum when speaker 1 is at $x = 0.90\ \text{m}$.

**a.** What is the frequency of the sound? Assume $v_{\text{sound}} = 340\ \text{m/s}$.

**b.** What is the phase difference between the speakers?

**63.** •• A sheet of glass is coated with a 500-nm-thick layer of oil $(n = 1.42)$.

**a.** For what *visible* wavelengths of light do the reflected waves interfere constructively?

**b.** For what *visible* wavelengths of light do the reflected waves interfere destructively?

**c.** What is the color of reflected light? What is the color of transmitted light?

**64.** •• A manufacturing firm has hired your company, Acoustical Consulting, to help with a problem. Their employees are complaining about the annoying hum from a piece of machinery. Using a frequency meter, you quickly determine that the machine emits a rather loud sound at 1200 Hz. After investigating, you tell the owner that you cannot solve the problem entirely, but you can at least improve the situation by eliminating reflections of this sound from the walls. You propose to do this by installing mesh screens in front of the walls. A portion of the sound will reflect from the mesh; the rest will pass through the mesh and reflect from the wall. How far should the mesh be placed in front of the wall for this scheme to work?

**65.** •• A soap bubble is essentially a very thin film of water ($n = 1.33$) surrounded by air. The colors that you see in soap bubbles are produced by interference.

**a.** Derive an expression for the wavelengths $\lambda_C$ for which constructive interference causes a strong reflection from a soap bubble of thickness $d$.
**Hint:** Think about the reflection phase shifts at both boundaries.

**b.** What visible wavelengths of light are strongly reflected from a 390-nm-thick soap bubble? What color would such a soap bubble appear to be?

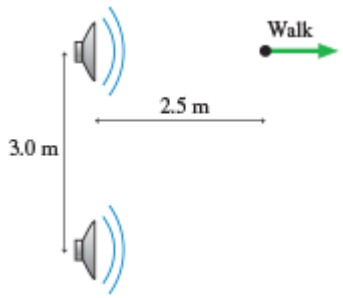
**66.** •• Engineers are testing a new thin-film coating whose index of refraction is less than that of glass. They deposit a 560-nm-thick layer on glass, then shine lasers on it. A red laser with a wavelength of 640 nm has no reflection at all, but a violet laser

with a wavelength of 400 nm has a maximum reflection. How the coating behaves at other wavelengths is unknown. What is the coating's index of refraction?

**67.** •• Scientists are testing a transparent material whose index of refraction for visible light varies with wavelength as $n = 30.0\ \text{nm}^{1/2}/\lambda^{1/2}$, where $\lambda$ is in nm. If a 295-nm-thick coating is placed on glass $(n = 1.50)$ for what visible wavelengths will the reflected light have maximum constructive interference?

**68.** •• You are standing 2.5 m directly in front of one of the two loudspeakers shown in Figure P17.68. They are 3.0 m apart and both are playing a 686 Hz tone in phase. As you begin to walk directly away from the speaker, at what distances from the speaker do you hear a *minimum* sound intensity? The room temperature is 20°C.

**Figure P17.68**



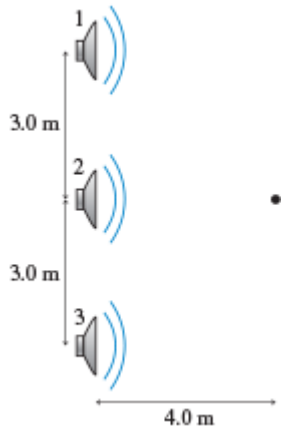

**69.** •• Two loudspeakers in a plane, 5.0 m apart, are playing the same frequency. If you stand 12.0 m in front of the plane of the speakers, centered between them, you hear a sound of maximum intensity. As you walk parallel to the plane of the speakers, staying 12.0 m in front of them, you first hear a minimum of sound intensity when you are directly in front of

one of the speakers. What is the frequency of the sound? Assume a sound speed of 340 m/s.

**70.** •• Two identical loudspeakers separated by distance $\Delta x$ each emit sound waves of wavelength $\lambda$ and amplitude $a$ along the $x$-axis. What is the minimum value of the ratio $\Delta x/\lambda$ for which the amplitude of their superposition is also $a$?

**71.** •• The three identical loudspeakers in Figure P17.71 play a 170 Hz tone in a room where the speed of sound is 340 m/s. You are standing 4.0 m in front of the middle speaker. At this point, the amplitude of the wave from each speaker is $a$.

**Figure P17.71**




**a.** What is the amplitude at this point?

**b.** How far must speaker 2 be moved to the left to produce a maximum amplitude at the point where you are standing?

**c.** When the amplitude is maximum, by what factor is the sound intensity greater than the sound intensity from a single speaker?

**72.** • Piano tuners tune pianos by listening to the beats between the *harmonics* of two different strings. When properly tuned,

the note A should have a frequency of 440 Hz and the note E should be at 659 Hz.

**a.** What is the frequency difference between the third harmonic of the A and the second harmonic of the E?

**b.** A tuner first tunes the A string very precisely by matching it to a 440 Hz tuning fork. She then strikes the A and E strings simultaneously and listens for beats between the harmonics. What beat frequency indicates that the E string is properly tuned?

**c.** The tuner starts with the tension in the E string a little low, then tightens it. What is the frequency of the E string when she hears four beats per second?

**73.** •• A flutist assembles her flute in a room where the speed of sound is 342 m/s. When she plays the note A, it is in perfect tune with a 440 Hz tuning fork. After a few minutes, the air inside her flute has warmed to where the speed of sound is 346 m/s.

**a.** How many beats per second will she hear if she now plays the note A as the tuning fork is sounded?

**b.** How far does she need to extend the "tuning joint" of her flute to be in tune with the tuning fork?

**74.** •• **CALC INT** You have two small, identical boxes that generate 440 Hz notes. While holding one, you drop the other from a 20-m-high balcony. How many beats will you hear before the falling box hits the ground? You can ignore air resistance.

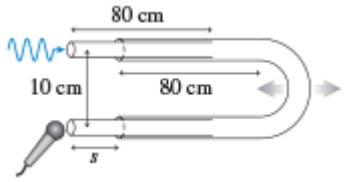
**75.** •• **INT** Two loudspeakers emit 400 Hz notes. One speaker sits on the ground. The other speaker is in the back of a pickup truck. You hear eight beats per second as the truck drives away from you. What is the truck's speed?

# Challenge Problems

**76.** ••• Two radio antennas are separated by 2.0 m. Both broadcast identical 750 MHz waves. If you walk around the antennas in a circle of radius 10 m, how many maxima will you detect?

**77.** ••• A 280 Hz sound wave is directed into one end of the trombone slide seen in Figure CP17.77. A microphone is placed at the other end to record the intensity of sound waves that are transmitted through the tube. The straight sides of the slide are 80 cm in length and 10 cm apart with a semicircular bend at the end. For what slide extensions $s$ will the microphone detect a maximum of sound intensity?

**Figure CP17.77**




**78.** ••• As the captain of the scientific team sent to Planet Physics, one of your tasks is to measure $g$. You have a long, thin wire labeled 1.00 g/m and a 1.25 kg weight. You have your accurate space cadet chronometer but, unfortunately, you seem to have forgotten a meter stick. Undeterred, you first find the midpoint of the wire by folding it in half. You then attach one end of the wire to the wall of your laboratory, stretch it horizontally to pass over a pulley at the midpoint of the wire, then tie the 1.25 kg weight to the end hanging over the pulley. By vibrating the wire, and measuring time with your chronometer, you find that the wire's second-harmonic frequency is 100 Hz. Next, with the

1.25 kg weight still tied to one end of the wire, you attach the other end to the ceiling to make a pendulum. You find that the pendulum requires 314 s to complete 100 oscillations. Pulling out your trusty calculator, you get to work. What value of $g$ will you report back to headquarters?

**79.** ••• When mass $M$ is tied to the bottom of a long, thin wire suspended from the ceiling, the wire's second-harmonic frequency is 200 Hz. Adding an additional 1.0 kg to the hanging mass increases the second-harmonic frequency to 245 Hz. What is $M$?

**80.** ••• **BIO** Ultrasound has many medical applications, one of which is to monitor fetal heartbeats by reflecting ultrasound off a fetus in the womb.

**a.** Consider an object moving at speed $v_o$ toward an at-rest source that is emitting sound waves of frequency $f_0$. Show that the reflected wave (i.e., the echo) that returns to the source has a Doppler-shifted frequency

$$f_{\text{echo}} = \left( \frac{v + v_o}{v - v_o} \right) f_0$$

where $v$ is the speed of sound in the medium.

**b.** Suppose the object's speed is much less than the wave speed: $v_o \ll v$. Then $f_{\text{echo}} \approx f_0$, and a microphone that is sensitive to these frequencies will detect a beat frequency if it listens to $f_0$ and $f_{\text{echo}}$ simultaneously. Use the binomial approximation and other appropriate approximations to show that the beat frequency is $f_{\text{beat}} \approx (2v_o/v)\ f_0$.

**c.** The reflection of 2.40 MHz ultrasound waves from the surface of a fetus's beating heart is combined with the 2.40 MHz wave to produce a beat frequency that reaches a maximum of 65 Hz. What is the maximum speed of the surface of the heart? The speed of ultrasound waves within the body is 1540 m/s.

**d.** Suppose the surface of the heart moves in simple harmonic motion at 90 beats/min. What is the amplitude in mm of the heartbeat?

**81.** ••• A water wave is called a *deep-water wave* if the water's depth is more than one-quarter of the wavelength. Unlike the waves we've considered in this chapter, the speed of a deep-water wave depends on its wavelength:

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{g\lambda}{2\pi}}$$

Longer wavelengths travel faster. Let's apply this to standing waves. Consider a diving pool that is 5.0 m deep and 10.0 m wide. Standing water waves can set up across the width of the pool. Because water sloshes up and down at the sides of the pool, the boundary conditions require antinodes at $x = 0$ and $x = L$. Thus a standing water wave resembles a standing sound wave in an open-open tube.

**a.** What are the wavelengths of the first three standing-wave modes for water in the pool? Do they satisfy the condition for being deep-water waves?

**b.** What are the wave speeds for each of these waves?

**c.** Derive a general expression for the frequencies $f_m$ of the possible standing waves. Your expression should be in terms of $m$, $g$, and $L$.

**d.** What are the oscillation *periods* of the first three standing wave modes?

# Knowledge Structure Part IV: Oscillations and Waves

## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part IV?

- Particles are
  - Localized
  - Discrete
  - Two particles cannot occupy the same point in space.
- Waves are
  - Diffuse
  - Spread out
  - Two waves can pass through each other.

## Laws: What laws of physics govern oscillations and waves?

**Newton's second law**

SHM: $d^2x/dt^2 = -\omega^2 x$

Wave equation: $\partial^2 D/\partial t^2 = v^2\,\partial^2 D/\partial x^2$

**Conservation of energy**

For SHM: $E = \frac{1}{2}\,mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}\,kx^2 = \frac{1}{2}\,m(v_{\max})^2 = \frac{1}{2}\,kA^2$

**Fundamental relationship for sinusoidal waves** $v = \lambda f = \omega/k$

**Principle of superposition**

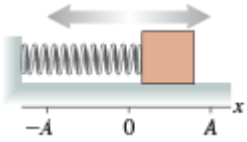
The net displacement is the sum of the displacements due to each wave.

# Models: What are the most important models of Part IV?

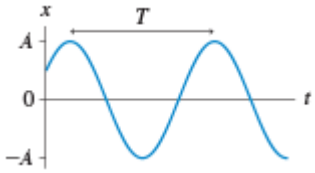
## Simple harmonic motion

- Any object with a **linear restoring force** can undergo SHM. This is sinusoidal motion with

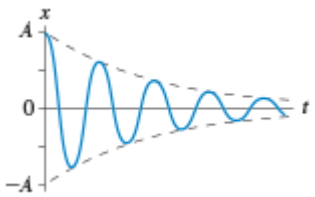
$$x = A\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$
$$v = -v_{\max}\sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$$




- Mechanical energy is conserved if there's no friction.



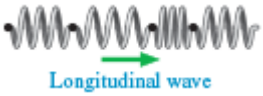

- With friction, the oscillations are damped. A simple model of **damping** predicts oscillations that decay exponentially with time.
- **Resonance** is a large-amplitude response when an oscillator is driven at its natural frequency.



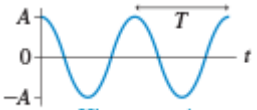
### Waves

- A wave is a disturbance that travels.
  - **Mechanical waves** travel through a medium.
  - **Electromagnetic waves** travel through a vacuum.
  - Waves can be **transverse** or **longitudinal.**
- Wave speed is a property of the medium.
- Sinusoidal waves are periodic in both time (period) and space (wavelength). They obey $v = \lambda f$.
- Waves obey the principle of superposition.

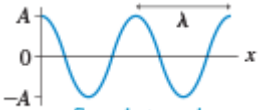
Transverse wave



Longitudinal wave




History graph




Snapshot graph

## Tools: What are the most important tools introduced in Part IV?

### Oscillation period

- Frequency $f = 1/T$
- Angular frequency $\omega = 2\pi f = 2\pi/T$
- Spring $T = 2\pi\sqrt{m/k}$

- Pendulum $T = 2\pi\sqrt{L/g}$
- Wave $f = v/\lambda$

### Sinusoidal wave

- Displacement is a function of $x$ and $t$:

$$D(x,\,t) = A\sin(kx \mp \omega t + \phi_0)$$

- $-\omega t$ for motion to the right
- $+\omega t$ for motion to the left
- The *wave number* is $k = 2\pi/\lambda$

### Sound intensity level

$$\beta = (10\text{ dB})\log_{10}\left(I/10^{-12}\text{ W/m}^2\right)$$

### Wave speed

- String $v = \sqrt{T_\text{s}/\mu}$
- Sound $v = \sqrt{B/\rho}$

### Phase

- The quantity $\omega t + \phi_0$ is called the phase $\phi$ of SHM.
- The quantity $k - \omega t + \phi_0$ is the phase $\phi$ of a sinusoidal wave.
- The *phase constant* $\phi_0$ is given by the initial conditions.

### Doppler effect

A frequency shift when the source moves relative to an observer:

$$f = f_0/(1 \mp v_s/v)$$

for an approaching/receding source.

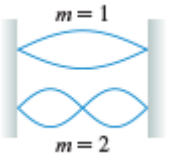
## Standing waves

Two waves traveling in opposite directions.

- Strings, open-open tubes, and closed-closed tubes:

$$f = m f_1$$
$$f_1 = v/2L = \text{fundamental frequency}$$

- Standing waves have points that never move called *nodes*.




## Interference

- *Constructive interference* if *in phase*

$$\Delta\phi = m \cdot 2\pi \text{ rad}$$

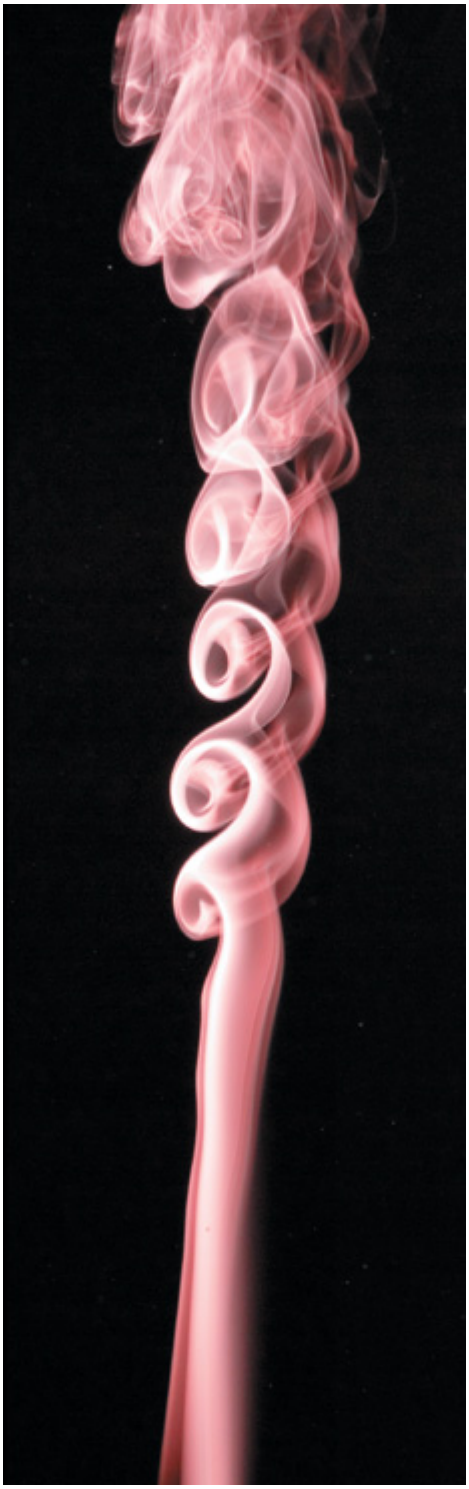
- *Destructive interference* if *out of phase*

$$\Delta\phi = \left(m + \tfrac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 2\pi \text{ rad}$$

- *Beats* $f_{\text{beat}} = |f_1 - f_2|$ if frequencies differ.

# Part V: Thermodynamics





Smoke particles allow us to visualize *convection*, one of the ways in which heat is transferred from one place to another.

# Overview

## It's All About Energy

Thermodynamics—the science of energy in its broadest context—arose hand in hand with the industrial revolution as the systematic study of converting heat energy into mechanical motion and work. Hence the name $thermo + dynamics$. Indeed, the analysis of engines and generators of various kinds remains the focus of engineering thermodynamics. But thermodynamics, as a science, now extends to all forms of energy conversions, including those involving living organisms. For example:

- **Engines** convert the energy of a fuel into the mechanical energy of moving pistons, gears, and wheels.
- **Fuel cells** convert chemical energy into electrical energy.
- **Photovoltaic cells** convert the electromagnetic energy of light into electrical energy.
- **Lasers** convert electrical energy into the electromagnetic energy of light.
- **Organisms** convert the chemical energy of food into a variety of other forms of energy, including kinetic energy, sound energy, and thermal energy.

The major goals of Part V are to understand both *how* energy transformations such as these take place and *how efficient* they are. We'll discover that the laws of thermodynamics place limits on the efficiency of energy transformations, and understanding these limits is essential for analyzing the very real energy needs of society in the 21st century.

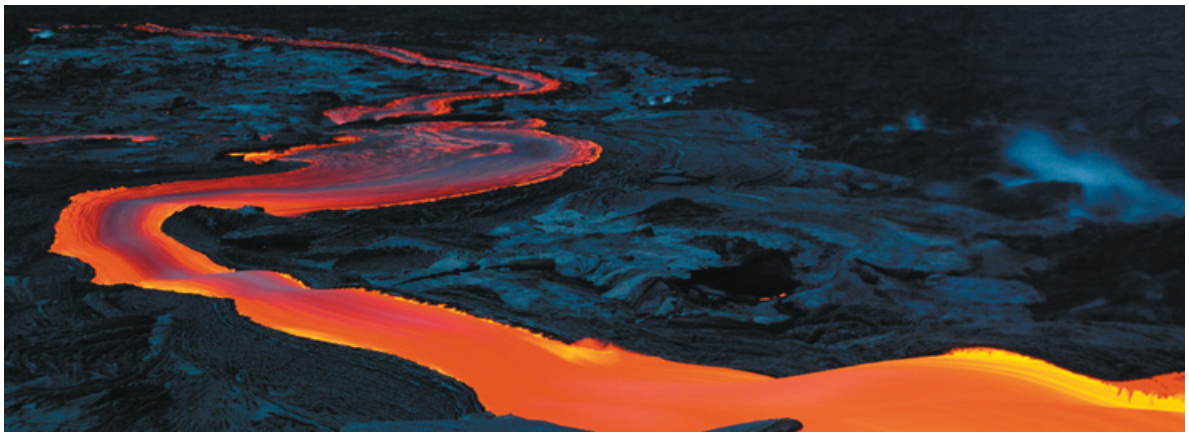
Our ultimate destination in Part V is an understanding of the thermodynamics of *heat engines*. A heat engine is a device, such as a power plant or an internal combustion engine, that transforms heat energy into useful work. These are the devices that power our modern society.

Understanding how to transform heat into work will be a significant achievement, but we first have many steps to take along the way. We need to understand the concepts of temperature and pressure. We need to learn about the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. Most important, we need to expand our view of energy to include *heat,* the energy that is transferred between two systems at different temperatures.

At a deeper level, we need to see how these concepts are connected to the underlying microphysics of randomly moving molecules. We will find that the familiar concepts of thermodynamics, such as temperature and pressure, have their roots in atomic-level motion and collisions. This *micro/macro connection* will lead to the second law of thermodynamics, one of the most subtle but also one of the most profound and far-reaching statements in physics.

Only after all these steps have been taken will we be able to analyze a real heat engine. It is an ambitious goal, but one we can achieve.

# Chapter 18
# A Macroscopic Description of Matter



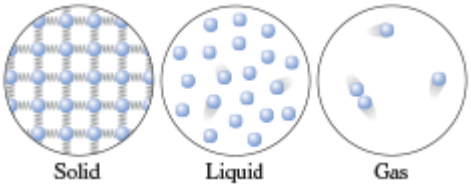
The phrase "solid as a rock" is cast in doubt when rocks melt, as they do in this flowing lava.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn some of the characteristics of macroscopic systems.

## What are the phases of matter?

Most materials can exist as a solid, a liquid, or a gas. These are the most common phases of matter.



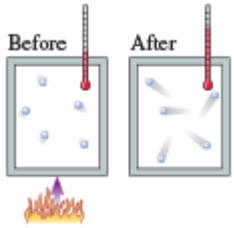

Starting with this chapter and continuing through Part V you will come to understand that the macroscopic properties of matter, such as volume, density, pressure, and temperature, can

often be understood in terms of the microscopic motions of their atoms and molecules. This micro/macro connection is an important part of our modern understanding of matter.

Looking Back Sections 14.1, 14.2, 14.3 Fluids and pressure

## What is temperature?

You're familiar with temperature, but what does it actually measure? We'll start with the simple idea that temperature measures "hotness" and "coldness," but we'll come to recognize that temperature measures a system's thermal energy. We'll study the well-known fact that objects expand or contract when the temperature changes.

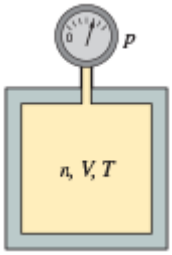



## What is an ideal gas?

We'll model a gas as consisting of tiny, hard spheres that occasionally collide but otherwise do not interact with each other. This ideal gas obeys a law relating four state variables—the ideal-gas law:

$$pV = nRT$$

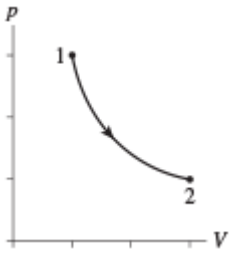
You will use the ideal-gas law to analyze what happens when a gas changes state.




## What is an ideal-gas process?

Heating or compressing a gas is a *process* that changes the state of the gas. An ideal-gas process can be shown as a trajectory through a *pV* diagram. We'll study three basic processes:

- Constant-volume process
- Constant-pressure process
- Constant-temperature process




## Why are macroscopic properties important?

Physicists, chemists, biologists, and engineers all work with matter at the macroscopic level. Everything from basic science to engineering design depends on knowing how materials respond when they are heated, compressed, melted, or otherwise changed by factors in their environment. Changing states of matter underlie devices ranging from car engines to power plants to spacecraft.

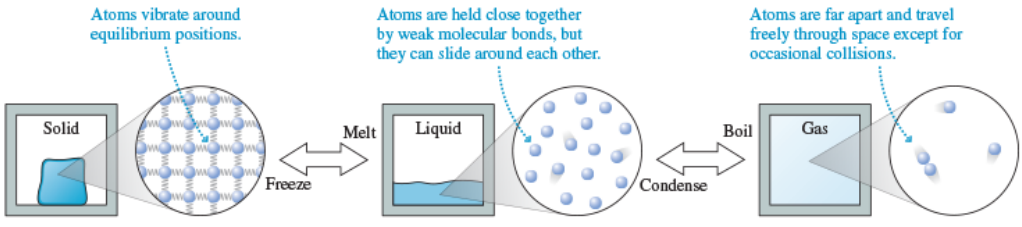
# 18.1 Solids, Liquids, and Gases

In Part V we will study the properties of matter itself, as opposed to the motion of matter. We will focus on a *macroscopic description* of large quantities of matter. Even so, part of our modern understanding of matter is that macroscopic properties, such as pressure and temperature, have their basis in the microscopic motions of atoms and molecules, and we'll spend some time exploring this **micro/macro connection**.

As you know, each of the elements and most compounds can exist as a solid, liquid, or gas—the three most common **phases** of matter. The change between liquid and solid (freezing or melting) or between liquid and gas (boiling or condensing) is called a **phase change.** Water is the only substance for which all three phases—ice, liquid, and steam—are everyday occurrences.

> **Note**
>
> This use of the word "phase" has no relationship at all to the *phase* or *phase constant* of simple harmonic motion and waves.

MODEL 18.1 **Solids, liquids, and gases**



A **solid** is a rigid macroscopic system consisting of particle-like atoms connected by spring-like molecular bonds. Solids are nearly *incompressible,* which tells us that the atoms in a solid are just about as close together as they can get.

The solid shown here is a **crystal,** meaning that the atoms are arranged in a periodic array. Elements and many compounds have a crystal structure in their solid phase.

A **liquid** is a system in which the molecules are loosely held together by weak molecular bonds. The bonds are strong enough that the molecules never get far apart but not strong enough to prevent the molecules from sliding around each other.

A liquid is more complicated than either a solid or a gas. Like a solid, a liquid is nearly *incompressible.* Like a gas, a liquid flows and deforms to fit the shape of its container.

A **gas** is a system in which each molecule moves through space as a free, noninteracting particle until, on occasion, it collides with another molecule or with the wall of the container. A gas is a *fluid.* A gas is also highly *compressible,* which tells us that there is lots of space between the molecules.

Gases are fairly simple macroscopic systems; hence many of our examples in Part V will be based on gases.

## State Variables

The parameters used to characterize or describe a macroscopic system are known as **state variables** because, taken all together, they describe the *state* of the macroscopic system. You met some state variables in earlier chapters: volume, pressure, mass, mass density, and thermal energy. We'll soon introduce several new state variables.

One important state variable, the mass density, is defined as the ratio of two other state variables:

**(18.1)**

$$\rho = \frac{M}{V} \qquad \text{(mass density)}$$

In this chapter we'll use an uppercase $M$ for the system mass and a lowercase $m$ for the mass of an atom. Table 18.1 is a short list of mass densities.



## Table 18.1

| Substance | $\rho$ (kg/m$^3$) |
|---|---|
| Air at STP* | 1.29 |
| Ethyl alcohol | 790 |
| Water (solid) | 920 |
| Water (liquid) | 1000 |
| Aluminum | 2700 |
| Copper | 8920 |
| Gold | 19,300 |
| Iron | 7870 |
| Lead | 11,300 |
| Mercury | 13,600 |
| Silicon | 2330 |

*$T = 0°C$, $p = 1$ atm

Densities of materials

A system is said to be in **thermal equilibrium** if its state variables are constant and not changing. As an example, a gas is in thermal

equilibrium if it has been left undisturbed long enough for $p$, $V$, and $T$ to reach steady values.

**Example 18.1 The mass of a lead pipe**

A project on which you are working uses a cylindrical lead pipe with outer and inner diameters of 4.0 cm and 3.5 cm, respectively, and a length of 50 cm. What is its mass?

**SOLVE** The mass density of lead is $\rho_{\text{lead}} = 11{,}300\ \text{kg/m}^3$. The volume of a circular cylinder of length $l$ is $V = \pi r^2 l$. In this case we need to find the volume of the outer cylinder, of radius $r_2$, *minus* the volume of air in the inner cylinder, of radius $r_1$. The volume of the pipe is

$$V = \pi {r_2}^2 l - \pi {r_1}^2 l = \pi({r_2}^2 - {r_1}^2) l = 1.47 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}^3$$

Hence the pipe's mass is

$$M = \rho_{\text{lead}} V = 1.7\ \text{kg}$$

## Stop to Think 18.1

The pressure in a system is measured to be 60 kPa. At a later time the pressure is 40 kPa. The value of $\Delta p$ is

**a.** 60 kPa

**b.** 40 kPa

**c.** 20 kPa

**d.** –20 kPa

# 18.2 Atoms and Moles



The mass of a macroscopic system is directly related to the total number of atoms or molecules in the system, denoted $N$. Because $N$ is determined simply by counting, it is a number with no units. A typical macroscopic system has $N \sim 10^{25}$ atoms, an incredibly large number.

The symbol ~, if you are not familiar with it, stands for "has the order of magnitude." It means that the number is known only to within a factor of 10 or so. The statement $N \sim 10^{25}$, which is read "$N$ is of order $10^{25}$," implies that $N$ is somewhere in the range $10^{24}$ to $10^{25}$. It is far less precise than the "approximately equal" symbol ≈. Saying $N \sim 10^{25}$ gives us a rough idea of how large $N$ is and allows us to know that it differs significantly from $10^5$ or even $10^{15}$.

It is often useful to know the number of atoms or molecules per cubic meter in a system. We call this quantity the **number density.** It characterizes how densely the atoms are packed together within the system. In an $N$-atom system that fills volume $V$, the number density is

---

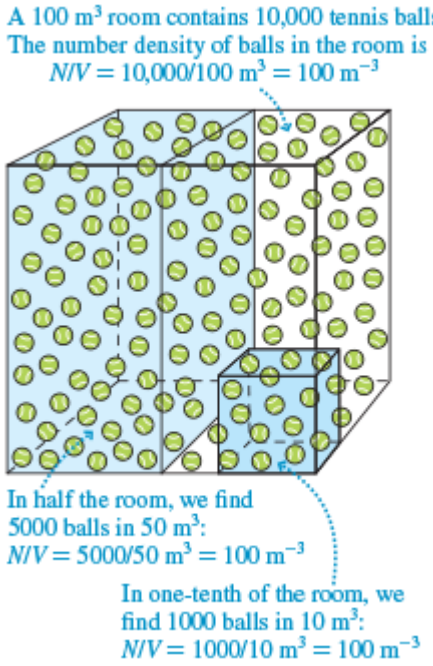
**(18.2)**

$$\frac{N}{V} \qquad \text{(number density)}$$

The SI units of number density are $\text{m}^{-3}$. The number density of atoms in a solid is $(N/V)_{\text{solid}} \sim 10^{29}\ \text{m}^{-3}$. The number density of a gas depends on

the pressure, but is usually less than $10^{27}$ $m^{-3}$. As Figure 18.1 shows, **the value of $N/V$ in a *uniform* system is independent of the volume $V$.** That is, the number density is the same whether you look at the whole system or just a portion of it.

**Figure 18.1**




The number density of a uniform system is independent of the volume.

> **Note**
>
> While we might say "There are 100 tennis balls per cubic meter," or "There are $10^{29}$ atoms per cubic meter," tennis balls and atoms are not units. The units of $N/V$ are simply $m^{-3}$.

## Atomic Mass and Atomic Mass Number

You will recall from chemistry that atoms of different elements have different masses. The mass of an atom is determined primarily by its most massive constituents, the protons and neutrons in its nucleus. The *sum* of

the number of protons and neutrons is called the **atomic mass number** $A$:

$$A = \text{number of protons} + \text{number of neutrons}$$

$A$, which by definition is an integer, is written as a leading superscript on the atomic symbol. For example, the common isotope of hydrogen, with one proton and no neutrons, is $^{1}\text{H}$. The "heavy hydrogen" isotope called *deuterium*, which includes one neutron, is $^{2}\text{H}$. The primary isotope of carbon, with six protons (which makes it carbon) and six neutrons, is $^{12}\text{C}$. The radioactive isotope $^{14}\text{C}$, used for carbon dating of archeological finds, contains six protons and eight neutrons.

One mole of helium, sulfur, copper, and mercury.

---

The **atomic mass** scale is established by defining the mass of $^{12}\text{C}$ to be exactly 12 u, where u is the symbol for the **atomic mass unit.** That is, $m\left(^{12}\text{C}\right) = 12$ u. The atomic mass of any other atom is its mass relative to $^{12}\text{C}$. For example, careful experiments with hydrogen find that the mass

*ratio* $m\left({}^{1}\mathrm{H}\right)/m\left({}^{12}\mathrm{C}\right)$ is 1.0078/12. Thus the atomic mass of hydrogen is $m({}^{1}\mathrm{H}) = 1.0078\ \mathrm{u}$.

The numerical value of the atomic mass of ${}^{1}\mathrm{H}$ is close to, but not exactly, its atomic mass number $A = 1$. For our purposes, it will be sufficient to overlook the slight difference and **use the integer atomic mass numbers as the values of the atomic mass.** That is, we'll use $m\left({}^{1}\mathrm{H}\right) = 1\ \mathrm{u}$, $m\left({}^{4}\mathrm{He}\right) = 4\ \mathrm{u}$, and $m({}^{16}\mathrm{O}) = 16\ \mathrm{u}$. For molecules, the **molecular mass** is the sum of the atomic masses of the atoms forming the molecule. Thus the molecular mass of $\mathrm{O}_2$, the constituent of oxygen gas, is $m\left(\mathrm{O}_2\right) = 32\ \mathrm{u}$.

> **Note**
>
> An element's atomic mass number is *not* the same as its atomic number. The *atomic number*, the element's position in the periodic table, is the number of protons in the nucleus.

Table 18.2 shows the atomic mass numbers of some of the elements that we'll use for examples and homework problems. A complete periodic table of the elements, including atomic masses, is found in Appendix B.

**Table 18.2**

| Element | | $A$ |
|---|---|---|
| ${}^{1}\mathrm{H}$ | Hydrogen | 1 |
| ${}^{4}\mathrm{He}$ | Helium | 4 |
| ${}^{12}\mathrm{C}$ | Carbon | 12 |
| ${}^{14}\mathrm{N}$ | Nitrogen | 14 |
| ${}^{16}\mathrm{O}$ | Oxygen | 16 |
| ${}^{20}\mathrm{Ne}$ | Neon | 20 |
| ${}^{27}\mathrm{Al}$ | Aluminum | 27 |
| ${}^{40}\mathrm{Ar}$ | Argon | 40 |
| ${}^{207}\mathrm{Pb}$ | Lead | 207 |

Some atomic mass numbers

# Moles and Molar Mass

One way to specify the amount of substance in a macroscopic system is to give its mass. Another is to measure the amount of substance in *moles*. By definition, one **mole** of matter, be it solid, liquid, or gas, is the amount of substance containing as many basic particles as there are atoms in 0.012 kg (12 g) of $^{12}$C. Many ingenious experiments have determined that there are $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ atoms in 0.012 kg of $^{12}$C, so we can say that 1 mole of substance, abbreviated 1 mol, is $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ basic particles.

The basic particle depends on the substance. Helium is a **monatomic gas,** meaning that the basic particle is the helium atom. Thus $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ helium atoms are 1 mol of helium. But oxygen gas is a **diatomic gas** because the basic particle is the two-atom diatomic molecule $O_2$. 1 mol of oxygen gas contains $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ *molecules* of $O_2$ and thus $2 \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}$ oxygen atoms. Table 18.3 lists the monatomic and diatomic gases that we will use for examples and homework problems.



**Table 18.3**

| Monatomic | | Diatomic | |
|---|---|---|---|
| He | Helium | $H_2$ | Hydrogen |
| Ne | Neon | $N_2$ | Nitrogen |
| Ar | Argon | $O_2$ | Oxygen |

Monatomic and diatomic gases

The number of basic particles per mole of substance is called **Avogadro's number,** $N_A$. The value of Avogadro's number is

$$N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23}\ \text{mol}^{-1}$$

Despite its name, Avogadro's number is not simply "a number"; it has units. Because there are $N_A$ particles per mole, the number of moles in a substance containing $N$ basic particles is

---

**(18.3)**

$$n = \frac{N}{N_A} \qquad \text{(moles of substance)}$$

Avogadro's number allows us to determine atomic masses in kilograms. Knowing that $N_A$ $^{12}C$ atoms have a mass of 0.012 kg, the mass of one $^{12}C$ atom must be

$$m\left(^{12}\mathrm{C}\right) = \frac{0.012\ \mathrm{kg}}{6.02 \times 10^{23}} = 1.993 \times 10^{-26}\ \mathrm{kg}$$

We defined the atomic mass scale such that $m\left(^{12}\mathrm{C}\right) = 12\,\mathrm{u}$. Thus the conversion factor between atomic mass units and kilograms is

$$1\ \mathrm{u} = \frac{m\left(^{12}\mathrm{C}\right)}{12} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27}\ \mathrm{kg}$$

This conversion factor allows us to calculate the mass in kg of any atom. For example, a $^{20}Ne$ atom has atomic mass $m\left(^{20}\mathrm{Ne}\right) = 20$ u. Multiplying by $1.66 \times 10^{-27}$ kg/u gives $m(^{20}\mathrm{Ne}) = 3.32 \times 10^{-26}$ kg. If the atomic mass is specified in kilograms, the number of atoms in a system of mass $M$ can be found from

(18.4)

$$N = \frac{M}{m}$$

The **molar mass** of a substance is the mass of 1 mol of substance. The molar mass, which we'll designate $M_{\text{mol}}$, has units kg/mol. By definition, the molar mass of $^{12}\text{C}$ is 0.012 kg/mol. For other substances, whose atomic or molecular masses are given relative to $^{12}\text{C}$, the numerical value of the molar mass is the numerical value of the atomic or molecular mass divided by 1000. For example, the molar mass of He, with $m = 4$ u, is $M_{\text{mol}}\,(\text{He}) = 0.004$ kg/mol and the molar mass of diatomic $\text{O}_2$ is $M_{\text{mol}}\,(\text{O}_2) = 0.032$ kg/mol.

Equation 18.4 uses the atomic mass to find the number of atoms in a system. Similarly, you can use the molar mass to determine the number of moles. For a system of mass $M$ consisting of atoms or molecules with molar mass $M_{\text{mol}}$,

(18.5)

$$n = \frac{M}{M_{\text{mol}}}$$

**Example 18.2 Moles of oxygen**

100 g of oxygen gas is how many moles of oxygen?

**SOLVE** We can do the calculation two ways. First, let's determine the number of molecules in 100 g of oxygen. The diatomic oxygen molecule $O_2$ has molecular mass $m = 32$ u. Converting this to kg, we get the mass of one molecule:

$$m = 32 \text{ u} \times \frac{1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}}{1 \text{ u}} = 5.31 \times 10^{-26} \text{ kg}$$

Thus the number of molecules in 100 g $= 0.100$ kg is

$$N = \frac{M}{m} = \frac{0.100 \text{ kg}}{5.31 \times 10^{-26} \text{ kg}} = 1.88 \times 10^{24}$$

Knowing the number of molecules gives us the number of moles:

$$n = \frac{N}{N_A} = 3.13 \text{ mol}$$

Alternatively, we can use Equation 18.5 to find

$$n = \frac{M}{M_{\text{mol}}} = \frac{0.100 \text{ kg}}{0.032 \text{ kg/mol}} = 3.13 \text{ mol}$$

## Stop to Think 18.2

Which system contains more atoms: 5 mol of helium $(A = 4)$ or 1 mol of neon $(A = 20)$?

**a.** Helium.

**b.** Neon.

**c.** They have the same number of atoms.

# 18.3 Temperature



We are all familiar with the idea of temperature. Mass is a measure of the amount of substance in a system. Velocity is a measure of how fast a system moves. What physical property of the system have you determined if you measure its temperature?

We will begin with the commonsense idea that temperature is a measure of how "hot" or "cold" a system is. As we develop these ideas, we'll find that **temperature** ***T*** is related to a system's *thermal energy*. We defined thermal energy in Chapter 9 as the kinetic and potential energy of the atoms and molecules in a system as they vibrate (a solid) or move around (a gas). A system has more thermal energy when it is "hot" than when it is "cold." In Chapter 20, we'll replace these vague notions of hot and cold with a precise relationship between temperature and thermal energy.

Thermal expansion of the liquid in the thermometer tube pushes it higher in the hot water than in the ice water.

To start, we need a means to measure the temperature of a system. This is what a *thermometer* does. A thermometer can be any small macroscopic system that undergoes a measurable change as it exchanges thermal energy with its surroundings. It is placed in contact with a larger system whose temperature it will measure. In a common glass-tube thermometer, for example, a small volume of mercury or alcohol expands or contracts when placed in contact with a "hot" or "cold" object. The object's temperature is determined by the length of the column of liquid.

A thermometer needs a *temperature scale* to be a useful measuring device. In 1742, the Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius sealed mercury into a small capillary tube and observed how it moved up and down the tube as the temperature changed. He selected two temperatures that anyone could reproduce, the freezing and boiling points of pure water, and labeled them 0 and 100. He then marked off the glass tube into one hundred equal intervals between these two reference points. By doing so, he invented the temperature scale that we today call the *Celsius scale.* The units of the Celsius temperature scale are "degrees Celsius," which we abbreviate °C. Note that the degree symbol ° is part of the unit, not part of the number.

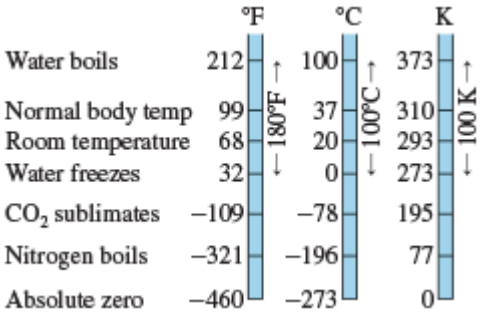
The *Fahrenheit scale*, still widely used in the United States, is related to the Celsius scale by

**(18.6)**

$$T_{\mathrm{F}} = \tfrac{9}{5} T_{\mathrm{C}} + 32^{\circ}$$

Figure 18.2 shows several temperatures measured on the Celsius and Fahrenheit scales and also on the Kelvin scale.

**Figure 18.2**

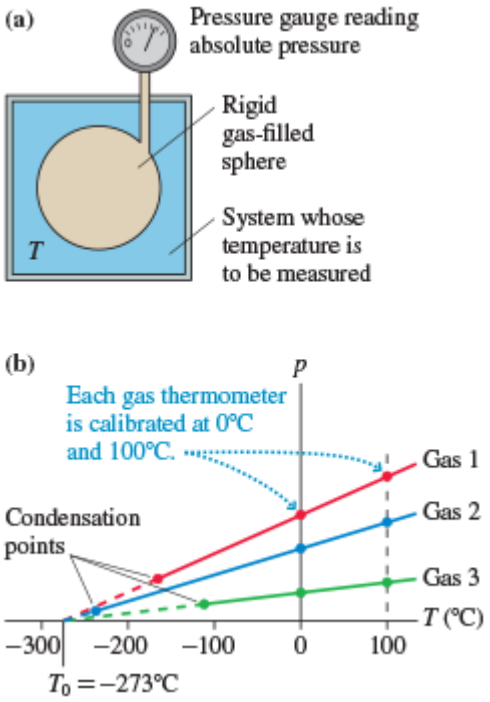



Temperatures measured with different scales.

# Absolute Zero and Absolute Temperature

Any physical property that changes with temperature can be used as a thermometer. In practice, the most useful thermometers have a physical property that changes *linearly* with temperature. One of the most important scientific thermometers is the **constant-volume gas thermometer** shown in Figure 18.3a. This thermometer depends on the fact that the *absolute* pressure (not the gauge pressure) of a gas in a sealed container increases linearly as the temperature increases.

## Figure 18.3



The pressure in a constant-volume gas thermometer extrapolates to zero at $T_0 = -273^\circ\text{C}$.

A gas thermometer is first calibrated by recording the pressure at two reference temperatures, such as the boiling and freezing points of water. These two points are plotted on a pressure-versus-temperature graph and a straight line is drawn through them. The gas bulb is then brought into contact with the system whose temperature is to be measured. The pressure is measured, then the corresponding temperature is read off the graph.

Figure 18.3b shows the pressure-temperature relationship for three different gases. Notice two important things about this graph.

1. There is a *linear* relationship between temperature and pressure.
2. All gases extrapolate to *zero pressure* at the same temperature: $T_0 = -273^\circ\text{C}$. No gas actually gets that cold without condensing, although helium comes very close, but it is surprising that you get the same zero-pressure temperature for any gas and any starting pressure.



The pressure in a gas is due to collisions of the molecules with each other and the walls of the container. A pressure of zero would mean that all motion, and thus all collisions, had ceased. If there were no atomic motion, the system's thermal energy would be zero. The temperature at which all motion would cease, and at which $E_{\text{th}} = 0$, is called **absolute zero.** Because temperature is related to thermal energy, absolute zero is the lowest temperature that has physical meaning. We see from the gas-thermometer data that $T_0 = -273^\circ\text{C}$.

It is useful to have a temperature scale with the zero point at absolute zero. Such a temperature scale is called an **absolute temperature scale.** Any system whose temperature is measured on an absolute scale will have $T > 0$. The absolute temperature scale having the same unit size as the Celsius scale is called the *Kelvin scale*. It is the SI scale of temperature. The units of the Kelvin scale are *kelvins*, abbreviated as K. The conversion between the Celsius scale and the Kelvin scale is

**(18.7)**

$$T_{\text{K}} = T_{\text{C}} + 273$$

On the Kelvin scale, absolute zero is 0 K, the freezing point of water is 273 K, and the boiling point of water is 373 K.

> **Note**
>
> The units are simply "kelvins," *not* "degrees Kelvin."

## Stop to Think 18.3

The temperature of a glass of water increases from 20°C to 30°C. What is $\Delta T$?

**a.** 10 K

**b.** 283 K

**c.** 293 K

**d.** 303 K

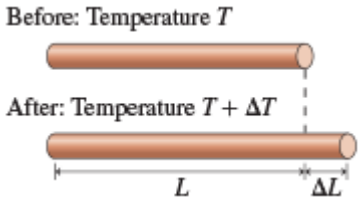
# 18.4 Thermal Expansion 

Objects expand when heated. This **thermal expansion** is why the liquid rises in a thermometer and why pipes, highways, and bridges have expansion joints. Figure 18.4 shows an object of length $L$ that changes by $\Delta L$ when the temperature is changed from $T$ to $T + \Delta T$. For most solids, the *fractional* change in length, $\Delta L/L$, is proportional to the temperature change $\Delta T$ with a proportionality coefficient that depends on the material. That is,

**(18.8)**

$$\frac{\Delta L}{L} = \alpha \, \Delta T$$

**Figure 18.4**




An object's length changes when the temperature changes.

where $\alpha$ (Greek alpha) is the material's **coefficient of linear expansion**. Equation 18.8 characterizes both expansion ($\Delta L > 0$ if the temperature increases) and contraction ($\Delta L < 0$ if the temperature falls).

Table 18.4 gives the coefficients of linear expansion for a few common materials and also for a metal alloy called *invar* that is specifically designed to have extremely low thermal expansion. Because the fractional change in length is dimensionless, $\alpha$ has units of $^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$, read as

"per degree Celsius." The units may also be written $K^{-1}$, because a temperature *change* $\Delta T$ is the same in °C and K, but practical measurements are made in °C, not K.

### Table 18.4

| Material | $\alpha$ ($^\circ C^{-1}$) |
|---|---|
| Aluminum | $2.3 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Brass | $1.9 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Concrete | $1.2 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Steel | $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Invar | $0.09 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| **Material** | **$\beta$ ($^\circ C^{-1}$)** |
| Gasoline | $9.6 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| Mercury | $1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| Ethyl alcohol | $1.1 \times 10^{-4}$ |

Coefficients of linear and volume expansion

### Example 18.3 An expanding pipe

A 55-m-long steel pipe runs from one side of a refinery to the other. By how much does the pipe expand on a 5°C winter day when 155°C oil is pumped through it?

**SOLVE** The expansion is given by Equation 18.8, with the coefficient of linear expansion for steel taken from Table 18.4:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta L &= \alpha L\,\Delta T = (1.1 \times 10^{-5}\ ^\circ\mathrm{C}^{-1})(55\ \mathrm{m})(150^\circ\mathrm{C}) \\ &= 0.091\ \mathrm{m} = 9.1\ \mathrm{cm}\end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** 9.1 cm is a very small fraction of 55 m, so the pipe as a whole has expanded very little. Nevertheless, $9.1\ \mathrm{cm} \approx 3.5\ \mathrm{in}$ is a huge expansion in terms of the engineering of the pipe. Pipes like

this have to be designed with flexible expansion joints that allow for thermal expansion and contraction.

Volume expansion is treated the same way. If an object's volume changes by $\Delta V$ during a temperature change $\Delta T$, the *fractional* change in volume is

**(18.9)**

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \beta \Delta T$$

where $\beta$ (Greek beta) is the material's **coefficient of volume expansion**.

Liquids are constrained by the shape of their container, so liquids are characterized by a volume-expansion coefficient but not by a linear-expansion coefficient. A few values are given in Table 18.4, where you can see that $\beta$, like $\alpha$, has units of $°C^{-1}$.

Solids expand linearly in all three directions, as given by Equation 18.8, and in the process a solid changes its volume. Imagine a cube of edge length $L$ and volume $V = L^3$. If the edge length changes by a very small amount $dL$, the volume changes by

**(18.10)**

$$dV = 3L^2\, dL$$

If we divide both sides by $V = L^3$, we see that

**(18.11)**

$$\frac{dV}{V} = 3\,\frac{dL}{L}$$

That is, the fractional change in volume is three times the fractional change in the length of the sides. Consequently, a solid's coefficient of volume expansion is

**(18.12)**

$$\beta_{\text{solid}} = 3\alpha$$

You may have noticed that Table 18.4 does not include water. Water is a very common substance, but—due to its molecular structure—water has some unusual properties that set it apart from other liquids. If you lower the temperature of water, its volume contracts as expected. But only until the temperature reaches 4°C. If you continue cooling water, from 4°C down to the freezing point at 0°C, the volume expands! Water has maximum density at 4°C, with slightly less density—due to the expanded volume—at both higher and lower temperatures. Consequently, the thermal expansion of water cannot be characterized by a single coefficient of thermal expansion.

## Stop to Think 18.4

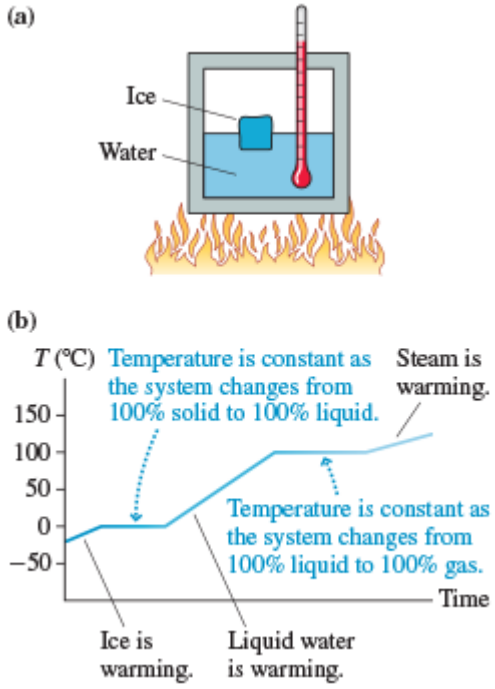
A steel plate has a 2.000-cm-diameter hole through it. If the plate is heated, does the diameter of the hole increase or decrease?

# 18.5 Phase Changes



The temperature inside the freezer compartment of a refrigerator is typically about –20°C. Suppose you were to remove a few ice cubes from the freezer, place them in a sealed container with a thermometer, then heat them, as Figure 18.5a shows. We'll assume that the heating is done so slowly that the inside of the container always has a single, well-defined temperature.

## Figure 18.5




Water is transformed from solid to liquid to gas.

Figure 18.5b shows the temperature as a function of time. After steadily rising from the initial –20°C, the temperature remains fixed at 0°C for an extended period of time. This is the interval of time during which the ice melts. As it's melting, the ice temperature is 0°C and the liquid water temperature is 0°C. Even though the system is being heated, the liquid

water temperature doesn't begin to rise until all the ice has melted. If you were to turn off the flame at any point, the system would remain a mixture of ice and liquid water at 0°C.

> **Note**
>
> In everyday language, the three phases of water are called *ice, water,* and *steam.* That is, the term *water* implies the liquid phase. Scientifically, these are the solid, liquid, and gas phases of the compound called *water.* To be clear, we'll use the term *water* in the scientific sense of a collection of $H_2O$ molecules. We'll say either *liquid* or *liquid water* to denote the liquid phase.

The thermal energy of a solid is the kinetic energy of the vibrating atoms plus the potential energy of the stretched and compressed molecular bonds. Melting occurs when the thermal energy gets so large that molecular bonds begin to break, allowing the atoms to move around. The temperature at which a solid becomes a liquid or, if the thermal energy is reduced, a liquid becomes a solid is called the **melting point** or the **freezing point.** Melting and freezing are *phase changes.*

A system at the melting point is in **phase equilibrium,** meaning that any amount of solid can coexist with any amount of liquid. Raise the temperature ever so slightly and the entire system becomes liquid. Lower it slightly and it all becomes solid. But exactly at the melting point the system has no tendency to move one way or the other. That is why the temperature remains constant at the melting point until the phase change is complete.

You can see the same thing happening in Figure 18.5b at 100°C, the boiling point. This is a phase equilibrium between the liquid phase and the gas phase, and any amount of liquid can coexist with any amount of

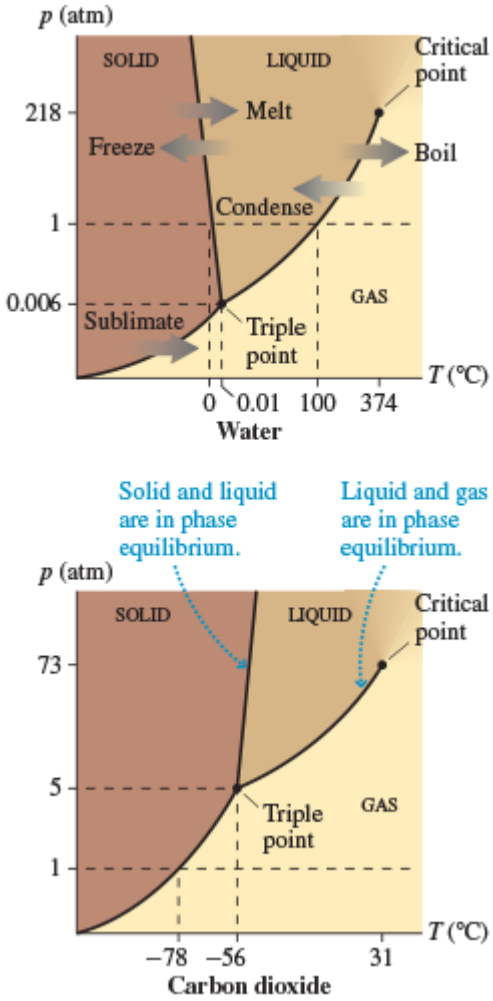
gas at this temperature. Above this temperature, the thermal energy is too large for bonds to be established between molecules, so the system is a gas. If the thermal energy is reduced, the molecules begin to bond with each other and stick together. In other words, the gas condenses into a liquid. The temperature at which a gas becomes a liquid or, if the thermal energy is increased, a liquid becomes a gas is called the **condensation point** or the **boiling point.**

> **Note**
>
> Liquid water becomes solid ice at 0°C, but that doesn't mean the temperature of ice is always 0°C. Ice reaches the temperature of its surroundings. If the air temperature in a freezer is –20°C, then the ice temperature is –20°C. Likewise, steam can be heated to temperatures above 100°C. That doesn't happen when you boil water on the stove because the steam escapes, but steam can be heated far above 100°C in a sealed container.

## Phase Diagrams

A **phase diagram** is used to show how the phases and phase changes of a substance vary with both temperature and pressure. Figure 18.6 shows the phase diagrams for water and carbon dioxide. You can see that each diagram is divided into three regions corresponding to the solid, liquid, and gas phases. The boundary lines separating the regions indicate the phase transitions. The system is in phase equilibrium at a pressure-temperature point that falls on one of these lines.

**Figure 18.6**




Phase diagrams (not to scale) for water and carbon dioxide.

---

Phase diagrams contain a great deal of information. Notice on the water phase diagram that the dashed line at $p = 1$ atm crosses the solid-liquid boundary at 0°C and the liquid-gas boundary at 100°C. These well-known melting and boiling point temperatures of water apply only at standard atmospheric pressure. You can see that in Denver, where $p_{\text{atmos}} < 1$ atm, water melts at slightly above 0°C and boils at a temperature below 100°C. A *pressure cooker* works by allowing the pressure inside to exceed 1 atm. This raises the boiling point, so foods that are in boiling water are at a temperature above 100°C and cook faster.

Crossing the solid-liquid boundary corresponds to melting or freezing while crossing the liquid-gas boundary corresponds to boiling or condensing. But there's another possibility—crossing the solid-gas boundary. The phase change in which a solid becomes a gas is called **sublimation.** It is not an everyday experience with water, but you probably are familiar with the sublimation of dry ice. Dry ice is solid carbon dioxide. You can see on the carbon dioxide phase diagram that the dashed line at $p = 1$ atm crosses the solid-*gas* boundary, rather than the solid-liquid boundary, at $T = -78^\circ\text{C}$. This is the *sublimation temperature* of dry ice.



Liquid carbon dioxide does exist, but only at pressures greater than 5 atm and temperatures greater than –56°C. A $CO_2$ fire extinguisher contains *liquid* carbon dioxide under high pressure. (You can hear the liquid slosh if you shake a $CO_2$ fire extinguisher.)

One important difference between the water and carbon dioxide phase diagrams is the slope of the solid-liquid boundary. For most substances, the solid phase is denser than the liquid phase and the liquid is denser than the gas. Pressurizing the substance compresses it and increases the density. If you start compressing $CO_2$ gas at room temperature, thus moving upward through the phase diagram along a vertical line, you'll first condense it to a liquid and eventually, if you keep compressing, change it into a solid.

Water is a very unusual substance in that the density of ice is *less* than the density of liquid water. That is why ice floats. If you compress ice, making it denser, you eventually cause a phase transition in which the ice turns to liquid water! Consequently, the solid-liquid boundary for water slopes to the left.

The liquid-gas boundary ends at a point called the **critical point.** Below the critical point, liquid and gas are clearly distinct and there is a phase change if you go from one to the other. But there is no clear distinction between liquid and gas at pressures or temperatures above the critical point. The system is a *fluid*, but it can be varied continuously between high density and low density without a phase change.

The final point of interest on the phase diagram is the **triple point** where the phase boundaries meet. Two phases are in phase equilibrium along the boundaries. The triple point is the *one* value of temperature and pressure for which all three phases can coexist in phase equilibrium. That is, any amounts of solid, liquid, and gas can happily coexist at the triple point. For water, the triple point occurs at $T_3 = 0.01^\circ\text{C}$ and $p_3 = 0.006 \text{ atm}$.

The significance of the triple point of water is its connection to the Kelvin temperature scale. The Celsius scale required two *reference points*, the boiling and melting points of water. We can now see that these are not very satisfactory reference points because their values vary as the pressure changes. In contrast, there's only one temperature at which ice, liquid water, and water vapor will coexist in equilibrium. If you produce this equilibrium in the laboratory, then you *know* the system is at the triple-point temperature.

Food takes longer to cook at high altitudes because the boiling point of water is less than 100°C.

The triple-point temperature of water is an ideal reference point, hence the Kelvin temperature scale is *defined* to be a linear temperature scale starting from 0 K at absolute zero and passing through 273.16 K at the triple point of water. Because $T_3 = 0.01^\circ\text{C}$, absolute zero on the Celsius scale is $T_0 = -273.15^\circ\text{C}$.

> **Note**
>
> To be consistent with our use of significant figures, $T_0 = -273\ \text{K}$ is the appropriate value to use in calculations *unless* you know other temperatures with an accuracy of better than 1°C.

## Stop to Think 18.5

For which is there a sublimation temperature that is higher than a melting temperature?

**a.** Water

**b.** Carbon dioxide

**c.** Both

**d.** Neither

# 18.6 Ideal Gases



We noted earlier in the chapter that solids and liquids are nearly incompressible, an observation suggesting that atoms are fairly hard and cannot be pressed together once they come into contact with each other. Based on this observation, suppose we were to model atoms as "hard spheres" that do not interact except for occasional elastic collisions when two atoms come into contact and bounce apart.

This is a *model* of an atom—what we might call the *ideal atom*—because it ignores the weak attractive interactions that hold liquids and solids together. A gas of these noninteracting atoms is called an **ideal gas.** It is a gas of small, hard, randomly moving atoms that bounce off each other and the walls of their container but otherwise do not interact. The ideal gas is a somewhat simplified description of a real gas, but experiments show that the ideal-gas model is quite good for real gases if two conditions are met:

1. The density is low (i.e., the atoms occupy a volume much smaller than that of the container), and
2. The temperature is well above the condensation point.

If the density gets too high, or the temperature too low, then the attractive forces between the atoms begin to play an important role and our model, which ignores those attractive forces, fails. These are the forces that are responsible, under the right conditions, for the gas condensing into a liquid.

We've been using the term "atoms," but many gases, as you know, consist of molecules rather than atoms. Only helium, neon, argon, and the other inert elements in the far-right column of the periodic table of the elements form monatomic gases. Hydrogen ($H_2$), nitrogen ($N_2$), and oxygen ($O_2$) are diatomic gases. As far as translational motion is concerned, the ideal-gas model does not distinguish between a monatomic gas and a diatomic gas; both are considered as simply small, hard spheres. Hence the terms "atoms" and "molecules" can be used interchangeably to mean the basic constituents of the gas.

## The Ideal-Gas Law

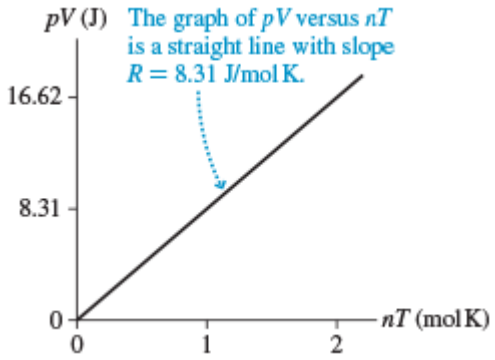
Section 18.1 introduced the idea of *state variables*, those parameters that describe the state of a macroscopic system. The state variables for an ideal gas are the volume $V$ of its container, the number of moles $n$ of the gas present in the container, the temperature $T$ of the gas and its container, and the pressure $p$ that the gas exerts on the walls of the container. These four state parameters are not independent of each other. If you change the value of one—by, say, raising the temperature—then one or more of the others will change as well. Each change of the parameters is a *change of state* of the system.

Experiments during the 17th and 18th centuries found a very specific relationship between the four state variables. Suppose you change the state of a gas, by heating it or compressing it or doing something else to it, and measure $p$, $V$, $n$, and $T$. Repeat this many times, changing the state of the gas each time, until you have a large table of $p$, $V$, $n$, and $T$ values.

Then make a graph on which you plot $pV$, the product of the pressure and volume, on the vertical axis and $nT$, the product of the number of

moles and temperature (in kelvins), on the horizontal axis. The very surprising result is that for *any* gas, whether it is hydrogen or helium or oxygen or methane, **you get exactly the same graph,** the linear graph shown in Figure 18.7. In other words, nothing about the graph indicates what gas was used because all gases give the same result.

## Figure 18.7




A graph of $pV$ versus $nT$ for an ideal gas.

> **Note**
>
> No real gas could extend to $nT = 0$ because it would condense. But an ideal gas never condenses because the only interactions among the molecules are hard-sphere collisions.

As you can see, there is a very clear proportionality between the quantity $pV$ and the quantity $nT$. If we designate the slope of the line in this graph as $R$, then we can write the relationship as

$$pV = R \times (nT)$$

It is customary to write this relationship in a slightly different form, namely

(18.13)

$$pV = nRT \quad \text{(ideal-gas law)}$$

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Equation 18.13 is the **ideal-gas law.** The ideal-gas law is a relationship among the four state variables—$p$, $V$, $n$, and $T$—that characterize a gas in thermal equilibrium.

The constant $R$, which is determined experimentally as the slope of the graph in Figure 18.7, is called the **universal gas constant.** Its value, in SI units, is

$$R = 8.31 \text{ J/mol K}$$

The units of $R$ seem puzzling. The denominator mol K is clear because $R$ multiplies $nT$. But what about the joules? The left side of the ideal-gas law, $pV$, has units

$$\text{Pa m}^3 = \frac{\text{N}}{\text{m}^2}\text{m}^3 = \text{N m} = \text{joules}$$

The product $pV$ has units of joules, as shown on the vertical axis in Figure 18.7.

> **Note**
>
> You perhaps learned in chemistry to work gas problems using units of atmospheres and liters. To do so, you had a different numerical value of $R$ expressed in those units. In physics, however, we always work gas problems in SI units. Pressures *must* be in Pa, volumes in $\text{m}^3$, and temperatures in K.

The surprising fact, and one worth commenting upon, is that *all* gases have the *same* graph and the *same* value of $R$. There is no obvious reason a very simple atomic gas such as helium should have the same slope as a more complex gas such as methane ($CH_4$). Nonetheless, both turn out to have the same value for $R$. The ideal-gas law, within its limits of validity, describes *all* gases with a single value of the constant $R$.

**Example 18.4 Calculating a gas pressure**

100 g of oxygen gas is distilled into an evacuated 600 $cm^3$ container. What is the gas pressure at a temperature of 150°C?

**MODEL** The gas can be treated as an ideal gas. Oxygen is a diatomic gas of $O_2$ molecules.

**SOLVE** From the ideal-gas law, the pressure is $p = nRT/V$. In Example 18.2 we calculated the number of moles in 100 g of $O_2$ and found $n = 3.13$ mol. Gas problems typically involve several conversions to get quantities into the proper units, and this example is no exception. The SI units of $V$ and $T$ are $m^3$ and K, respectively, thus

$$V = (600\ \text{cm}^3)\left(\frac{1\ \text{m}}{100\ \text{cm}}\right)^3 = 6.00 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}^3$$
$$T = (150 + 273)\ \text{K} = 423\ \text{K}$$

With this information, the pressure is

$$p = \frac{nRT}{V} = \frac{(3.13\ \text{mol})(8.31\ \text{J/mol K})(423\ \text{K})}{6.00 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}^3}$$
$$= 1.83 \times 10^7\ \text{Pa} = 181\ \text{atm}$$

In this text we will consider only gases in sealed containers. The number of moles (and number of molecules) will not change during a problem. In that case,

**(18.14)**

$$\frac{pV}{T} = nR = \text{constant}$$

If the gas is initially in state i, characterized by the state variables $p_i$, $V_i$, and $T_i$, and at some later time in a final state f, the state variables for these two states are related by

**(18.15)**

$$\frac{p_f V_f}{T_f} = \frac{p_i V_i}{T_i} \qquad \text{(ideal gas in a sealed container)}$$

This before-and-after relationship between the two states, reminiscent of a conservation law, will be valuable for many problems.



**Example 18.5 Calculating a gas temperature**

A cylinder of gas is at 0°C. A piston compresses the gas to half its original volume and three times its original pressure. What is the final gas temperature?

**MODEL** Treat the gas as an ideal gas in a sealed container.

**SOLVE** The before-and-after relationship of Equation 18.15 can be written

$$T_2 = T_1 \frac{p_2}{p_1} \frac{V_2}{V_1}$$

In this problem, the compression of the gas results in $V_2/V_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ and $p_2/p_1 = 3$. The initial temperature is $T_1 = 0^\circ\text{C} = 273\ \text{K}$. With this information,

$$T_2 = 273\ \text{K} \times 3 \times \tfrac{1}{2} = 409\ \text{K} = 136^\circ\text{C}$$

**ASSESS** We did not need to know actual values of the pressure and volume, just the *ratios* by which they change.

---

We will often want to refer to the number of molecules $N$ in a gas rather than the number of moles $n$. This is an easy change to make. Because $n = N/N_\text{A}$, the ideal-gas law in terms of $N$ is

**(18.16)**

$$pV = nRT = \frac{N}{N_\text{A}} RT = N \frac{R}{N_\text{A}} T$$

$R/N_\text{A}$, the ratio of two known constants, is known as **Boltzmann's constant $k_\text{B}$**:

$$k_\text{B} = \frac{R}{N_\text{A}} = 1.38 \times 10^{-23}\ \text{J/K}$$

The subscript B distinguishes Boltzmann's constant from a spring constant or other uses of the symbol $k$.

Ludwig Boltzmann was an Austrian physicist who did some of the pioneering work in statistical physics during the mid-19th century. Boltzmann's constant $k_B$ can be thought of as the "gas constant per molecule," whereas $R$ is the "gas constant per mole." With this definition, the ideal-gas law in terms of $N$ is

**(18.17)**

$$pV = Nk_BT \qquad \text{(ideal-gas law)}$$

Equations 18.13 and 18.17 are both the ideal-gas law, just expressed in terms of different state variables.

Recall that the number density (molecules per $m^3$) was defined as $N/V$. A rearrangement of Equation 18.17 gives the number density as

**(18.18)**

$$\frac{N}{V} = \frac{p}{k_BT}$$

This is a useful consequence of the ideal-gas law, but keep in mind that the pressure *must* be in SI units of pascals and the temperature *must* be in SI units of kelvins.

**Example 18.6 The distance between molecules**

"Standard temperature and pressure," abbreviated **STP,** are $T = 0^\circ\text{C}$ and $p = 1$ atm. Estimate the average distance between gas molecules at STP.

**MODEL** Consider the gas to be an ideal gas.

**SOLVE** Suppose a container of volume $V$ holds $N$ molecules at STP. How do we estimate the distance between them? Imagine placing an imaginary sphere around each molecule, separating it from its neighbors. This divides the total volume $V$ into $N$ little spheres of volume $v_i$, where $i = 1$ to $N$. The spheres of two neighboring molecules touch each other, like a crate full of Ping-Pong balls of somewhat different sizes all touching their neighbors, so the distance between two molecules is the sum of the radii of their two spheres. Each of these spheres is somewhat different, but a reasonable *estimate* of the distance between molecules would be twice the *average* radius of a sphere.

The average volume of one of these little spheres is

$$v_{\text{avg}} = \frac{V}{N} = \frac{1}{N/V}$$

That is, the average volume per molecule ($\text{m}^3$ per molecule) is the inverse of the number density, the number of molecules per $\text{m}^3$. This is not the volume of the molecule itself, which is much smaller, but the average volume of space that each molecule can claim as its own. We can use Equation 18.18 to calculate the number density:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{N}{V} &= \frac{p}{k_{\text{B}}T} = \frac{1.01 \times 10^5\ \text{Pa}}{(1.38 \times 10^{-23}\ \text{J/K})(273\ \text{K})} \\ &= 2.69\ \times 10^{25}\,\text{molecules/m}^3\end{aligned}$$

where we used the definition of STP in SI units. Thus the average volume per molecule is

$$v_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{N/V} = 3.72 \times 10^{-26}\ \text{m}^3$$

The volume of a sphere is $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$, so the average radius of a sphere is

$$r_{\text{avg}} = \left(\frac{3}{4\pi} v_{\text{avg}}\right)^{1/3} = 2.1 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{m} = 2.1\ \text{nm}$$

The average distance between two molecules, with their spheres touching, is twice $r_{\text{avg}}$. Thus

$$\text{average distance} = 2r_{\text{avg}} \approx 4\ \text{nm}$$

This is a simple estimate, so we've given the answer with only one significant figure.

**ASSESS** One of the assumptions of the ideal-gas model is that atoms or molecules are "far apart" in comparison to the sizes of atoms and molecules. Chemistry experiments find that small molecules, such as $N_2$ and $O_2$, are roughly 0.3 nm in diameter. For a gas at STP, we see that the average distance between molecules is more than 10 times the size of a molecule. Thus the ideal-gas model works very well for a gas at STP.

## Stop to Think 18.6

You have two containers of equal volume. One is full of helium gas. The other holds an equal mass of nitrogen gas. Both gases have the same pressure. How does the temperature of the helium compare to the temperature of the nitrogen?

**a.** $T_{\text{helium}} > T_{\text{nitrogen}}$

**b.** $T_{\text{helium}} = T_{\text{nitrogen}}$

**c.** $T_{\text{helium}} < T_{\text{nitrogen}}$

# 18.7 Ideal-Gas Processes [503]

The ideal-gas law is the connection between the state variables pressure, temperature, and volume. If the state variables change, as they would from heating or compressing the gas, the state of the gas changes. An **ideal-gas process** is the means by which the gas changes from one state to another.

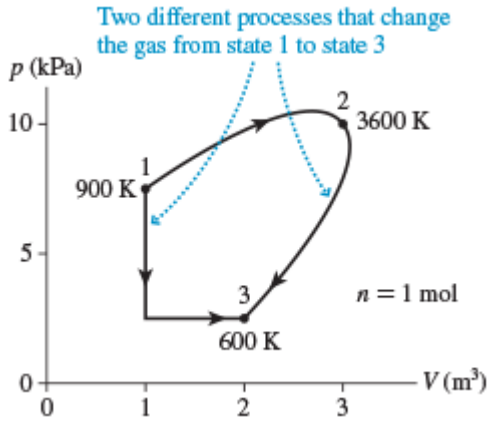
> **Note**
>
> Even in a sealed container, the ideal-gas law is a relationship among *three* variables. In general, *all three change* during an ideal-gas process. As a result, thinking about cause and effect can be rather tricky. Don't make the mistake of thinking that one variable is constant unless you're sure, beyond a doubt, that it is.

## The $pV$ Diagram

It will be very useful to represent ideal-gas processes on a graph called a ***pV* diagram.** This is nothing more than a graph of pressure versus volume. The important idea behind the $pV$ diagram is that *each point* on the graph represents a single, unique state of the gas. That seems surprising at first, because a point on the graph only directly specifies the values of $p$ and $V$. But knowing $p$ and $V$, and assuming that $n$ is known for a sealed container, we can find the temperature by using the ideal-gas law. Thus each point actually represents a triplet of values ($p$, $V$, $T$) specifying the state of the gas.

For example, Figure 18.8 is a $pV$ diagram showing three states of a system consisting of 1 mol of gas. The values of $p$ and $V$ can be read from the axes for each point, then the temperature at that point determined from the ideal-gas law.

**Figure 18.8**




The state of the gas and ideal-gas processes can be shown on a $pV$ diagram.

An ideal-gas *process* is a "trajectory" in the $pV$ diagram showing all the intermediate states through which the gas passes. Figure 18.8 shows two different processes by which the gas can be changed from state 1 to state 3.

There are infinitely many ways to change the gas from state 1 to state 3. Although the initial and final states are the same for each of them, the particular process by which the gas changes—that is, the particular trajectory—will turn out to have very real consequences. The $pV$ diagram is an important graphical representation of the process.

## Quasi-Static Processes

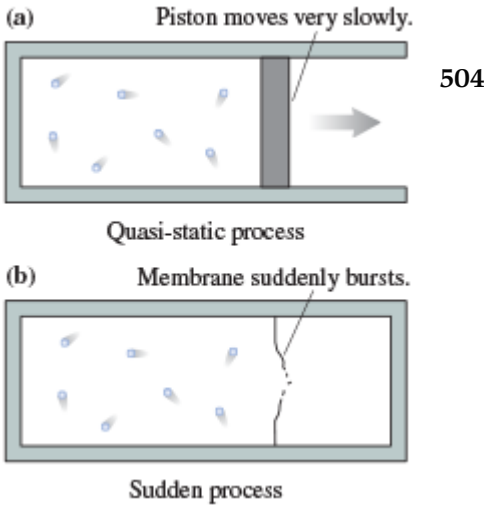
Strictly speaking, the ideal-gas law applies only to gases in *thermal equilibrium*, meaning that the state variables are constant and not

changing. But, by definition, an ideal-gas process causes some of the state variables to change. The gas is *not* in thermal equilibrium while the process of changing from state 1 to state 2 is under way.

To use the ideal-gas law throughout, we will assume that the process occurs *so slowly* that the system is never far from equilibrium. In other words, the values of $p$, $V$, and $T$ at any point in the process are essentially the same as the equilibrium values they would assume if we stopped the process at that point. A process that is essentially in thermal equilibrium at all times is called a **quasi-static process.** It is an idealization, like a frictionless surface, but one that is a very good approximation in many real situations.

An important characteristic of a quasi-static process is that the trajectory through the $pV$ diagram can be *reversed.* If you quasi-statically expand a gas by slowly pulling a piston out, as shown in Figure 18.9a, you can reverse the process by slowly pushing the piston in. The gas retraces its $pV$ trajectory until it has returned to its initial state. Contrast this with what happens when the membrane bursts in Figure 18.9b. That is a sudden process, not at all quasi-static. The expanding gas is *not* in thermal equilibrium until some later time when it has completely filled the larger container, so the *irreversible* process of Figure 18.9b cannot be represented on a $pV$ diagram.

**Figure 18.9**




The slow motion of the piston is a quasi-static process. The bursting of the membrane is not.

The critical question is: How slow must a process be to qualify as quasi-static? That is a difficult question to answer. This textbook will always assume that processes are quasi-static. It turns out to be a reasonable assumption for the types of examples and homework problems we will look at. Irreversible processes will be left to more advanced courses.

## Constant-Volume Process

Many important gas processes take place in a container of constant, unchanging volume. A constant-volume process is called an **isochoric process,** where *iso* is a prefix meaning "constant" or "equal" while *choric* is from a Greek root meaning "volume." An isochoric process is one for which

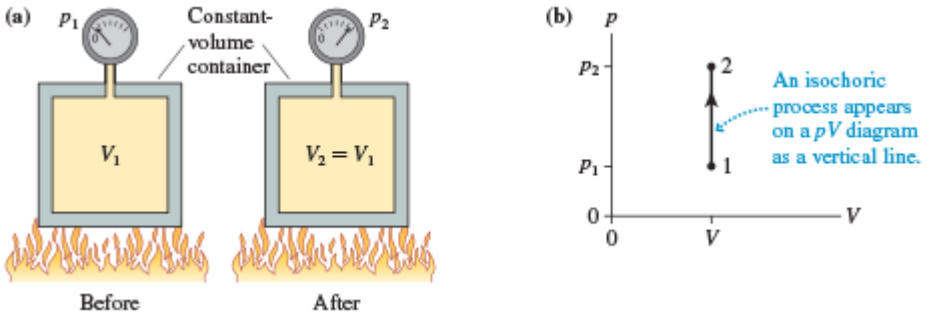
**(18.19)**

$$V_f = V_i$$

For example, suppose that you have a gas in the closed, rigid container shown in Figure 18.10a. Warming the gas with a Bunsen burner will raise its pressure without changing its volume. This process is shown as

the vertical line $1 \rightarrow 2$ on the $pV$ diagram of Figure 18.10b. A constant-volume cooling, by placing the container on a block of ice, would lower the pressure and be represented as the vertical line from 2 to 1. **Any isochoric process appears on a $pV$ diagram as a vertical line.**

## Figure 18.10




A constant-volume (isochoric) process.

### Example 18.7 A constant-volume gas thermometer

A constant-volume gas thermometer is placed in contact with a reference cell containing water at the triple point. After reaching equilibrium, the gas pressure is recorded as 55.78 kPa. The thermometer is then placed in contact with a sample of unknown temperature. After the thermometer reaches a new equilibrium, the gas pressure is 65.12 kPa. What is the temperature of this sample?

**MODEL** The thermometer's volume doesn't change, so this is an isochoric process.

**SOLVE** The temperature at the triple point of water is $T_1 = 0.01^\circ\text{C} = 273.16\ \text{K}$. The ideal-gas law for a closed system is $p_2V_2\ /T_2 = p_1V_1/T_1$. The volume doesn't change, so $V_2/V_1 = 1$. Thus

$$T_2 = T_1 \frac{V_2}{V_1}\frac{p_2}{p_1} = T_1 \frac{p_2}{p_1} = (273.16\ \text{K})\frac{65.12\ \text{kPa}}{55.78\ \text{kPa}}$$
$$= 318.90\ \text{K} = 45.75^\circ\text{C}$$

The temperature *must* be in kelvins to do this calculation, although it is common to convert the final answer to °C. The fact that the pressures were given to four significant figures justified using $T_\text{K} = T_\text{C} + 273.15$ rather than the usual $T_\text{C} + 273$.

**ASSESS** $T_2 > T_1$, which we expected from the increase in pressure.

## Constant-Pressure Process

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Other gas processes take place at a constant, unchanging pressure. A constant-pressure process is called an **isobaric process,** where *baric* is from the same root as "barometer" and means "pressure." An isobaric process is one for which

**(18.20)**

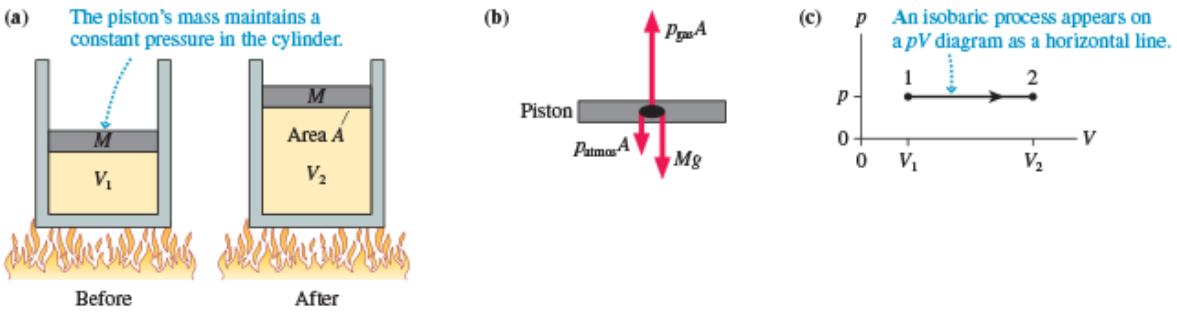
$$p_\text{f} = p_\text{i}$$

Figure 18.11a shows one method of changing the state of a gas while keeping the pressure constant. A cylinder of gas has a tight-fitting piston of mass *M* that can slide up and down but seals the container so that no atoms enter or escape. As the free-body diagram of Figure 18.11b shows, the piston and the air press down with force $p_\text{atmos}A + Mg$ while the gas inside pushes up with force $p_\text{gas}A$. In equilibrium, the gas pressure inside the cylinder is

(18.21)

$$p_{\text{gas}} = p_{\text{atmos}} + \frac{Mg}{A}$$

## Figure 18.11




A constant-pressure (isobaric) process.

In other words, the gas pressure is determined by the requirement that the gas must support both the mass of the piston and the air pressing inward. **This pressure is independent of the temperature of the gas or the height of the piston, so it stays constant as long as *M* is unchanged.**

If the cylinder is warmed, the gas will expand and push the piston up. But the pressure, determined by mass *M*, will not change. This process is shown on the *pV* diagram of Figure 18.11c as the horizontal line $1 \rightarrow 2$. We call this an *isobaric expansion*. An *isobaric compression* occurs if the gas is cooled, lowering the piston. **Any isobaric process appears on a *pV* diagram as a horizontal line.**

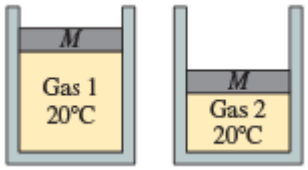
### Example 18.8 Comparing pressure

The two cylinders in Figure 18.12 contain ideal gases at 20°C. Each cylinder is sealed by a frictionless piston of mass *M*.

**a.** How does the pressure of gas 2 compare to that of gas 1? Is it larger, smaller, or the same?

**b.** Suppose gas 2 is warmed to 80°C. Describe what happens to the pressure and volume.

## Figure 18.12




Compare the pressures of the two gases.

**MODEL** Treat the gases as ideal gases.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The pressure in the gas is determined by the requirement that the piston be in mechanical equilibrium. The pressure of the gas inside pushes up on the piston; the air pressure and the weight of the piston press down. The gas pressure $p = p_{\text{atmos}} + Mg/A$ depends on the mass of the piston, but not at all on how high the piston is or what type of gas is inside the cylinder. Thus both pressures are the same.

**b.** Neither does the pressure depend on temperature. Warming the gas increases the temperature, but the pressure—determined by the mass and area of the piston—is unchanged. Because $pV/T = \text{constant}$, and $p$ is constant, it must be true that $V/T = \text{constant}$. As $T$ increases, the volume $V$ also must increase to keep $V/T$ unchanged. In other words, increasing the gas temperature causes the

volume to expand—the piston goes up—but with no change in pressure. This is an isobaric process.

### Example 18.9 Identifying a gas

Your lab assistant distilled 50 g of a gas into a cylinder, but he left without writing down what kind of gas it is. The cylinder has a pressure regulator that adjusts a piston to keep the pressure at a constant 2.00 atm. To identify the gas, you measure the cylinder volume at several different temperatures, acquiring the data shown at the right. What is the gas?

| $T$ (°C) | $V$ (L) |
|---|---|
| −50 | 11.6 |
| 0 | 14.0 |
| 50 | 16.2 |
| 100 | 19.4 |
| 150 | 21.8 |

**MODEL** The pressure doesn't change, so heating the gas is an isobaric process.

**SOLVE** The ideal-gas law is $pV = nRT$. Writing this as

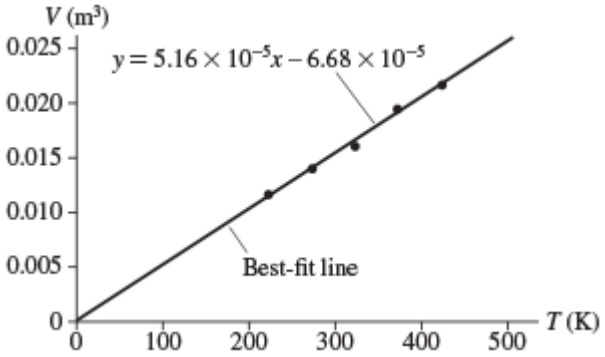
$$V = \frac{nR}{p}T$$

we see that a graph of $V$ versus $T$ should be a straight line passing through the origin. Further, we can use the slope of the graph, $nR/p$, to measure the number of moles of gas, and from that we can identify the gas by determining its molar mass.

Figure 18.13 on the next page is a graph of the data, with the volumes and temperatures converted to SI units of $\text{m}^3$ ($1\ \text{m}^3 = 1000\ \text{L}$) and kelvins. The $y$-intercept of the graph is essentially zero, confirming the behavior of the gas as ideal, and the slope of the best-fit line is $5.16 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{m}^3/\text{K}$. The number of moles of gas is

$$n = \frac{p}{R} \times \text{slope} = \frac{2 \times 101{,}300\ \text{Pa}}{8.31\ \text{J/mol K}} \times 5.16 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{m}^3/\text{K} = 1.26\ \text{mol}$$

**Figure 18.13**




A graph of the gas volume versus its temperature.

From this, the molar mass is

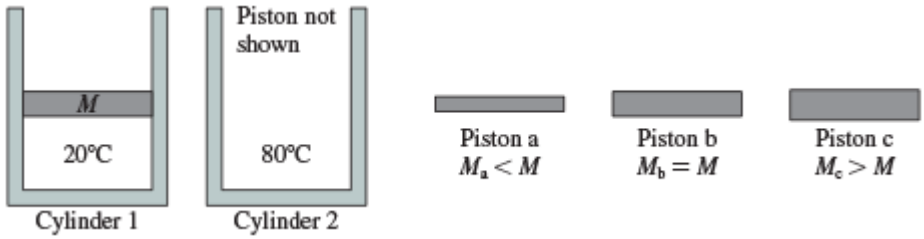
$$M = \frac{0.050\ \text{kg}}{1.26\ \text{mol}} = 0.040\ \text{kg/mol}$$

Thus the atomic mass is 40 u, identifying the gas as argon.

**ASSESS** The atomic mass is that of a well-known gas, which gives us confidence in the result.

## Stop to Think 18.7

Two cylinders of equal diameter contain the same number of moles of the same ideal gas. Each cylinder is sealed by a frictionless piston. To have the same pressure in both cylinders, which piston would you use in cylinder 2?




# Constant-Temperature Process

The last process we wish to look at for now is one that takes place at a constant temperature. A constant-temperature process is called an **isothermal process.** An isothermal process is one for which $T_f = T_i$. Because $pV = nRT$, a constant-temperature process in a closed system (constant $n$) is one for which the product $pV$ doesn't change. Thus

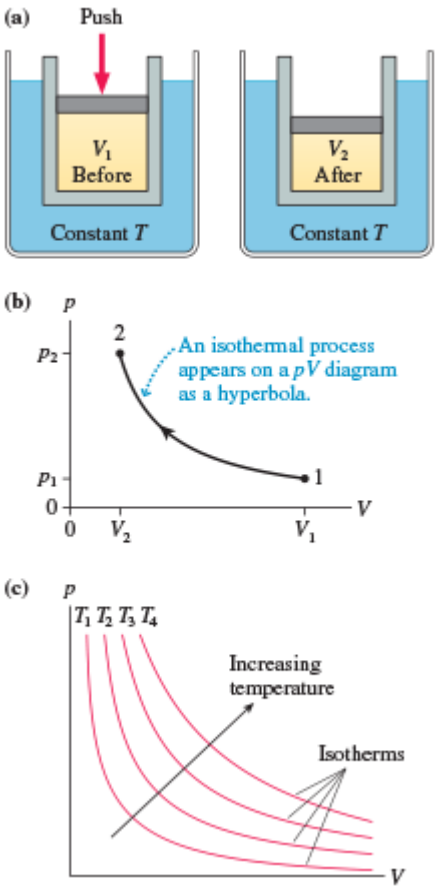
**(18.22)**

$$p_f V_f = p_i V_i$$

in an isothermal process.

One possible isothermal process is illustrated in Figure 18.14a, where a piston is being pushed down to compress a gas. If the piston is pushed *slowly*, then heat energy transfer through the walls of the cylinder keeps the gas at the same temperature as the surrounding liquid. This is an *isothermal compression.* The reverse process, with the piston slowly pulled out, would be an *isothermal expansion.*

## Figure 18.14




A constant-temperature (isothermal) process.

Representing an isothermal process on the $pV$ diagram is a little more complicated than the two previous processes because both $p$ and $V$ change. As long as $T$ remains fixed, we have the relationship

**(18.23)**

$$p = \frac{nRT}{V} = \frac{\text{constant}}{V}$$

**The inverse relationship between $p$ and $V$ causes the graph of an isothermal process to be a *hyperbola*.** As one state variable goes up, the other goes down.

The process shown as $1 \rightarrow 2$ in Figure 18.14b represents the *isothermal compression* shown in Figure 18.14a. An *isothermal expansion* would move in the opposite direction along the hyperbola.

The location of the hyperbola depends on the value of $T$. A lower-temperature process is represented by a hyperbola closer to the origin than a higher-temperature process. Figure 18.14c shows four hyperbolas representing the temperatures $T_1$ to $T_4$, where $T_4 > T_3 > T_2 > T_1$. These are called **isotherms.** A gas undergoing an isothermal process moves along the isotherm of the appropriate temperature.

### Example 18.10 Compressing air in the lungs

An ocean snorkeler takes a deep breath at the surface, filling his lungs with 4.0 L of air. He then descends to a depth of 5.0 m. At this depth, what is the volume of air in the snorkeler's lungs?

**MODEL** At the surface, the pressure in the lungs is 1.00 atm. Because the body cannot sustain large pressure differences between inside and outside, the air pressure in the lungs rises—and the volume decreases—to match the surrounding water pressure as he descends.

**SOLVE** The ideal-gas law for a sealed container is

$$V_2 = \frac{p_1}{p_2}\frac{T_2}{T_1}V_1$$

Air is quickly warmed to body temperature as it enters through the nose and mouth, and it remains at body temperature as the

snorkeler dives, so $T_2/T_1 = 1$. We know $p_1 = 1.00\text{ atm} = 101{,}300\text{ Pa}$ at the surface. We can find $p_2$ from the hydrostatic pressure equation, using the density of seawater:

$$\begin{aligned} p_2 &= p_1 + \rho g d = 101,300\,\text{Pa} + (1030\,\text{kg/m}^3)(9.80\,\text{m/s}^2)(5.0\,\text{m}) \\ &= 151{,}800\,\text{Pa} \end{aligned}$$

With this, the volume of the lungs at a depth of 5.0 m is

$$V_2 = \frac{101{,}300\text{ Pa}}{151{,}800\text{ Pa}} \times 1 \times 4.0\text{ L} = 2.7\text{ L}$$

**ASSESS** The air inside your lungs does compress—significantly— as you dive below the surface.

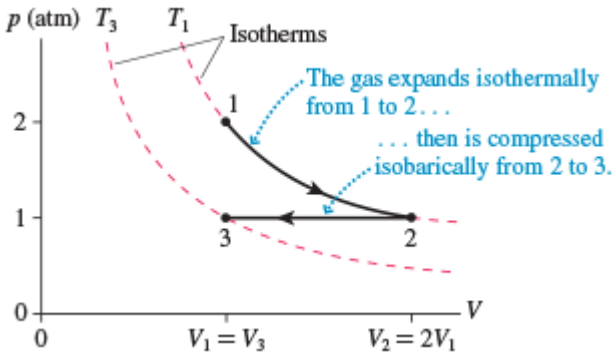
### Example 18.11 A multistep process

A gas at 2.0 atm pressure and a temperature of 200°C is first expanded isothermally until its volume has doubled. It then undergoes an isobaric compression until it returns to its original volume. First show this process on a $pV$ diagram. Then find the final temperature (in °C) and pressure.

**MODEL** The final state of the isothermal expansion is the initial state for an isobaric compression.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 18.15 shows the process. As the gas expands isothermally, it moves downward along an isotherm until it reaches volume $V_2 = 2V_1$. The gas is then compressed at constant pressure $p_2$ until its final volume $V_3$ equals its original volume $V_1$. State 3 is on an isotherm closer to the origin, so we expect to find $T_3 < T_1$.

## Figure 18.15




A *pV* diagram for the process of Example 18.11.

**SOLVE** $T_2/T_1 = 1$ during the isothermal expansion and $V_2 = 2V_1$, so the pressure at point 2 is

$$p_2 = p_1 \frac{T_2}{T_1}\frac{V_1}{V_2} = p_1 \frac{V_1}{2V_1} = \tfrac{1}{2}p_1 = 1.0 \text{ atm}$$

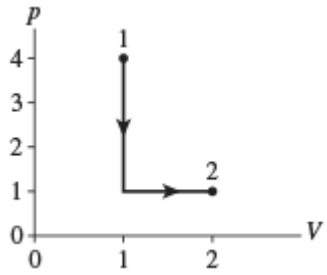
We have $p_3/p_2 = 1$ during the isobaric compression and $V_3 = V_1 = \frac{1}{2}V_2$, so

$$T_3 = T_2 \frac{p_3}{p_2}\frac{V_3}{V_2} = T_2 \frac{\frac{1}{2}V_2}{V_2} = \tfrac{1}{2}T_2 = 236.5 \text{ K} = -36.5^\circ\text{C}$$

where we converted $T_2$ to 473 K before doing calculations and then converted $T_3$ back to °C. The final state, with $T_3 = -36.5^\circ\text{C}$ and $p_3 = 1.0$ atm, is one in which both the pressure and the absolute temperature are half their original values.

## Stop to Think 18.8

What is the ratio $T_2/T_1$ for this process?




**a.** $\frac{1}{4}$

**b.** $\frac{1}{2}$

**c.** 1 (no change)

**d.** 2

**e.** 4

**f.** There's not enough information to tell.

## Challenge Example 18.12 Depressing a piston

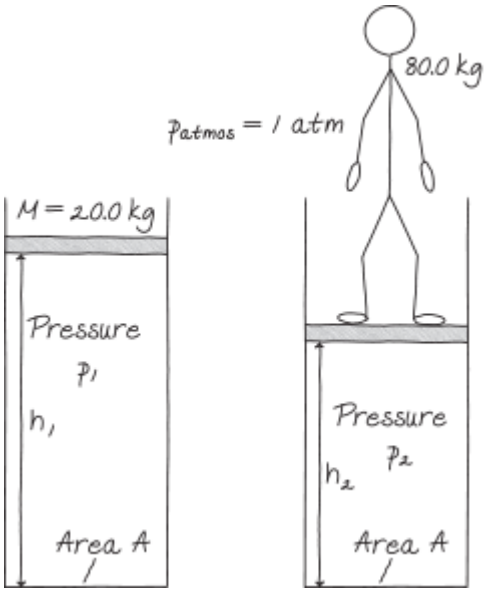
A large, 50.0-cm-diameter metal cylinder filled with air supports a 20.0 kg piston that can slide up and down without friction. The piston is 100.0 cm above the bottom when the temperature is 20°C. An 80.0 kg student then stands on the piston. After several minutes have elapsed, by how much has the piston been depressed?

**MODEL** The metal walls of the cylinder are a good thermal conductor, so after several minutes the gas temperature—even if it initially changed—will return to room temperature. The final temperature matches the initial temperature. Assume that the atmospheric pressure is 1 atm.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 18.16 shows the cylinder before and after the student stands on it. The volume of the cylinder is $V = Ah$, and

only $h$ changes.

**Figure 18.16**




The student compresses the gas.

**SOLVE** The ideal-gas law for a sealed container is

$$\frac{p_2 A h_2}{T_2} = \frac{p_1 A h_1}{T_1}$$

Because $T_2 = T_1$, the final height of the piston is

$$h_2 = \frac{p_1}{p_2} h_1$$

The pressure of the gas is determined by the mass of the piston (and anything on the piston) and the pressure of the air above. In equilibrium,

$$p = p_{\text{atmos}} + \frac{Mg}{A} = \begin{cases} 1.023 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa} & \text{piston only} \\ 1.063 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa} & \text{piston and student} \end{cases}$$

where we used $p_{\text{atmos}} = 1 \text{ atm} = 1.013 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ and $A = \pi r^2 = 0.196 \text{ m}^2$. The final height of the piston is

$$h_2 = \frac{1.023 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}}{1.063 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}} \times 100.0 \text{ cm} = 96.2 \text{ cm}$$

The question, however, was by how much the piston is depressed. This is $h_1 - h_2 = 3.8$ cm.

**ASSESS** Neither the piston nor the student increases the gas pressure to much above 1 atm, so it's not surprising that the added weight of the student doesn't push the piston down very far.

# Summary

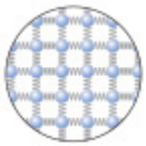


> The goal of Chapter 18 has been to learn some of the characteristics of macroscopic systems.

## General Principles

### Three Common Phases of Matter

**Solid** Rigid, definite shape. Nearly incompressible.

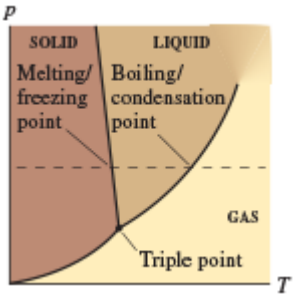


**Liquid** Molecules loosely held together by molecular bonds, but able to move around. Nearly incompressible.

**Gas** Molecules moving freely through space. Compressible.

The different phases exist for different conditions of temperature $T$ and pressure $p$. The boundaries separating the regions of a **phase diagram** are

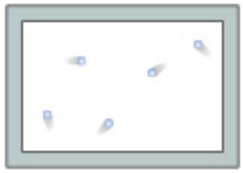
lines of phase equilibrium. Any amounts of the two phases can coexist in equilibrium. The **triple point** is the one value of temperature and pressure at which all three phases can coexist in equilibrium.




# Important Concepts

## Ideal-Gas Model

- Atoms and molecules are small, hard spheres that travel freely through space except for occasional collisions with each other or the walls.
- The model is valid when the density is low and the temperature well above the condensation point.



## Ideal-Gas Law

The **state variables** of an ideal gas are related by the ideal-gas law

$$pV = nRT \quad \text{or} \quad pV = Nk_{\text{B}}T$$

where $R = 8.31\ \text{J/mol K}$ is the universal gas constant and $k_{\text{B}} = 1.38 \times 10^{-23}\ \text{J/K}$ is Boltzmann's constant. $p$, $V$, and $T$ *must* be in SI

units of Pa, $m^3$, and K.

For a gas in a sealed container, with constant $n$:

$$\frac{p_2 V_2}{T_2} = \frac{p_1 V_1}{T_1}$$

## Counting atoms and moles

A macroscopic sample of matter consists of $N$ atoms (or molecules), each of mass $m$ (the **atomic** or **molecular mass**):

$$N = \frac{M}{m}$$

Alternatively, we can state that the sample consists of $n$ **moles:**

$$n = \frac{N}{N_\mathrm{A}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{M}{M_\mathrm{mol}}$$

where $N_\mathrm{A} = 6.02 \times 10^{23}\ \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ is **Avogadro's number.**

The molar mass $M_\mathrm{mol}$, in kg/mol, is the numerical value of the atomic or molecular mass in u divided by 1000. The atomic or molecular mass, in atomic mass units u, is well approximated by the **atomic mass number** $A$. The atomic mass unit is

$$1\ \mathrm{u} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27}\ \mathrm{kg}$$

The **number density** of the sample is $\frac{N}{V}$.

# Applications

## Temperature scales

The Kelvin scale has absolute zero at $T_0 = 0\ \mathrm{K}$ and the triple point of water at $T_3 = 273.16\ \mathrm{K}$.

$$T_\mathrm{K} = T_\mathrm{C} + 273$$

## Thermal expansion

For a temperature change $\Delta T$,

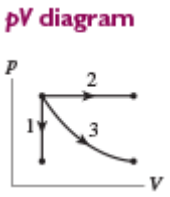
$$\Delta L/L = \alpha \Delta T \qquad \Delta V/V = \beta \Delta T$$

For a solid, $\beta = 3\alpha$.

## Three basic gas processes

Ideal-gas processes are shown as trajectories through the $pV$ diagram.

1. **Isochoric,** or constant volume
2. **Isobaric,** or constant pressure
3. **Isothermal,** or constant temperature




# Terms and Notation

micro/macro connection

phase

phase change

solid

crystal

liquid

gas

state variable

thermal equilibrium

number density, $N/V$

atomic mass number, $A$

atomic mass

atomic mass unit, u

molecular mass

mole, $n$

monatomic gas

diatomic gas

Avogadro's number, $N_{\mathrm{A}}$

molar mass, $M_{\mathrm{mol}}$

temperature, $T$

constant-volume gas thermometer

absolute zero, $T_0$

absolute temperature scale

thermal expansion

coefficient of linear expansion, $\alpha$

coefficient of volume expansion, $\beta$

melting point

freezing point

phase equilibrium

condensation point

boiling point

phase diagram

sublimation

critical point

triple point

ideal gas

ideal-gas law

universal gas constant, $R$

Boltzmann's constant, $k_B$

STP

ideal-gas process

$pV$ diagram

quasi-static process

isochoric process

isobaric process

isothermal process

isotherm

# Conceptual Questions



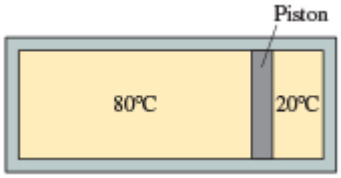
**1.** Rank in order, from highest to lowest, the temperatures $T_1 = 0\,\text{K}$, $T_2 = 0^\circ\text{C}$, and $T_3 = 0^\circ\text{F}$.

**2.** The sample in an experiment is initially at 10°C. If the sample's temperature is doubled, what is the new temperature in °C?

**3.**
- **a.** Is there a highest temperature at which ice can exist? If so, what is it? If not, why not?
- **b.** Is there a lowest temperature at which water vapor can exist? If so, what is it? If not, why not?

**4.** The cylinder in Figure Q18.4 is divided into two compartments by a frictionless piston that can slide back and forth. If the piston is in equilibrium, is the pressure on the left side greater than, less than, or equal to the pressure on the right? Explain.

**Figure Q18.4**




**5.** A gas is in a sealed container. By what factor does the gas temperature change if:
- **a.** The volume is doubled and the pressure is tripled?
- **b.** The volume is halved and the pressure is tripled?

**6.** A gas is in a sealed container. The gas pressure is tripled and the temperature is doubled.
- **a.** Does the number of moles of gas in the container increase, decrease, or stay the same?

**b.** By what factor does the number density of the gas increase?

**7.** An aquanaut lives in an underwater apartment 100 m beneath the surface of the ocean. Compare the freezing and boiling points of water in the aquanaut's apartment to their values at the surface. Are they higher, lower, or the same? Explain.

**8.** **a.** A sample of water vapor in an enclosed cylinder has an initial pressure of 500 Pa at an initial temperature of –0.01°C. A piston squeezes the sample smaller and smaller, without limit. Describe what happens to the water as the squeezing progresses.

**b.** Repeat part a if the initial temperature is 0.03°C warmer.

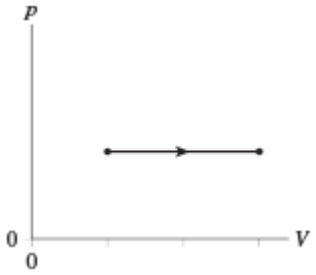
**9.** A gas is in a sealed container. By what factor does the gas pressure change if:

**a.** The volume is doubled and the temperature is tripled?

**b.** The volume is halved and the temperature is tripled?

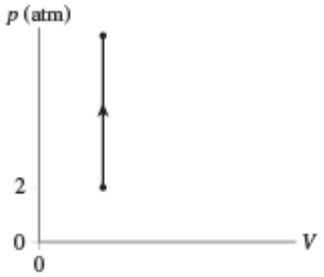
**10.** A gas undergoes the process shown in Figure Q18.10. By what factor does the temperature change?

**Figure Q18.10**



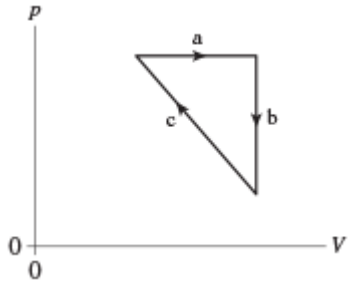

**11.** The temperature increases from 300 K to 1200 K as a gas undergoes the process shown in Figure Q18.11. What is the final pressure?

**Figure Q18.11**




**12.** A student is asked to sketch a $pV$ diagram for a gas that goes through a cycle consisting of (a) an isobaric expansion, (b) a constant-volume reduction in temperature, and (c) an isothermal process that returns the gas to its initial state. The student draws the diagram shown in Figure Q18.12. What, if anything, is wrong with the student's diagram?

**Figure Q18.12**




# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 18.1 Solids, Liquids, and Gases

**1.** •• What volume of water has the same mass as 100 $cm^3$ of gold?

**2.** • The nucleus of a uranium atom has a diameter of $1.5 \times 10^{-14}$ m and a mass of $4.0 \times 10^{-25}$ kg. What is the density of the nucleus?

**3.** •• What is the diameter of a copper sphere that has the same mass as a 10 cm × 10 cm × 10 cm cube of aluminum?

**4.** •• A hollow aluminum sphere with outer diameter 10.0 cm has a mass of 690 g. What is the sphere's inner diameter?

## Section 18.2 Atoms and Moles

**5.** •• How many moles are in a $2.0\ \text{cm} \times 2.0\ \text{cm} \times 2.0\ \text{cm}$ cube of copper?

**6.** •• How many atoms are in a $2.0\ \text{cm} \times 2.0\ \text{cm} \times 2.0\ \text{cm}$ cube of aluminum?

**7.** •• What is the number density of (a) aluminum and (b) lead?

**8.** •• An element in its solid phase has mass density 1750 $kg/m^3$ and number density $4.39 \times 10^{28}\ \text{atoms/m}^3$. What is the element's atomic mass number?

**9.** •• 1.0 mol of gold is shaped into a sphere. What is the sphere's diameter?

**10.** •• What volume of aluminum has the same number of atoms as 10 $cm^3$ of mercury?

## Section 18.3 Temperature

**11.** • The lowest and highest natural temperatures ever recorded on earth are –129°F in Antarctica and 134°F in Death Valley. What are these temperatures in °C and in K?

**12.** •• At what temperature does the numerical value in °F match the numerical value in °C?

**13.** •• A demented scientist creates a new temperature scale, the "Z scale." He decides to call the boiling point of nitrogen 0°Z and the melting point of iron 1000°Z.

**a.** What is the boiling point of water on the Z scale?

**b.** Convert 500°Z to degrees Celsius and to kelvins.

## Section 18.4 Thermal Expansion

## Section 18.5 Phase Changes

**14.** • A concrete bridge is built of 325-cm-long concrete slabs with an expansion joint between them. The slabs just touch on a 115°F day, the hottest day for which the bridge is designed. What is the gap between the slabs when the temperature is 0°F?

**15.** • A surveyor has a steel measuring tape that is calibrated to be 100.000 m long (i.e., accurate to ±1 mm) at 20°C. If she measures the distance between two stakes to be 65.175 m on a 3°C day, does she need to add or subtract a correction factor to get the true distance? How large, in mm, is the correction factor?

**16.** • Two students each build a piece of scientific equipment that uses a 655-mm-long metal rod. One student uses a brass rod, the other an invar rod. If the temperature increases by 5.0°C, how much more does the brass rod expand than the invar rod?

**17.** • A 60.00 L fuel tank is filled with gasoline on a −10°C day, then rolled into a storage shed where the temperature is 20°C. If the tank is not vented, what minimum volume needs to be

left empty at filling time so that the tank doesn't rupture as it warms?

**18.** •• What is the temperature in °F and the pressure in Pa at the triple point of (a) water and (b) carbon dioxide?

## Section 18.6 Ideal Gases

**19.** • A cylinder contains nitrogen gas. A piston compresses the gas to half its initial volume. Afterward,

**a.** Has the mass density of the gas changed? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**b.** Has the number of moles of gas changed? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**20.** • 3.0 mol of gas at a temperature of –120°C fills a 2.0 L container. What is the gas pressure?

**21.** •• A rigid container holds 2.0 mol of gas at a pressure of 1.0 atm and a temperature of 30°C.

**a.** What is the container's volume?

**b.** What is the pressure if the temperature is raised to 130°C?

**22.** •• A gas at 100°C fills volume $V_0$. If the pressure is held constant, what is the volume if (a) the Celsius temperature is doubled and (b) the Kelvin temperature is doubled?

**23.** •• **BIO** The total lung capacity of a typical adult is 5.0 L. Approximately 20% of the air is oxygen. At sea level and at a body temperature of 37°C, how many oxygen molecules do the lungs contain at the end of a strong inhalation?

**24.** ••• A 20-cm-diameter cylinder that is 40 cm long contains 50 g of oxygen gas at 20°C.

**a.** How many moles of oxygen are in the cylinder?

**b.** How many oxygen molecules are in the cylinder?

**c.** What is the number density of the oxygen?

**d.** What is the reading of a pressure gauge attached to the tank?

**25.** • The solar corona is a very hot atmosphere surrounding the visible surface of the sun. X-ray emissions[512] from the corona show that its temperature is about $2 \times 10^6$ K. The gas pressure in the corona is about 0.03 Pa. Estimate the number density of particles in the solar corona.

**26.** •• A gas at temperature $T_0$ and atmospheric pressure fills a cylinder. The gas is transferred to a new cylinder with three times the volume, after which the pressure is half the original pressure. What is the new temperature of the gas?

## Section 18.7 Ideal-Gas Processes

**27.** • A gas with initial state variables $p_1$, $V_1$, and $T_1$ expands isothermally until $V_2 = 2V_1$. What are (a) $T_2$ and (b) $p_2$?

**28.** • A gas with initial state variables $p_1$, $V_1$, and $T_1$ is cooled in an isochoric process until $p_2 = \frac{1}{3}p_1$. What are (a) $V_2$ and (b) $T_2$?

**29.** •• A rigid, hollow sphere is submerged in boiling water in a room where the air pressure is 1.0 atm. The sphere has an open valve with its inlet just above the water level. After a long period of time has elapsed, the valve is closed. What will be the pressure inside the sphere if it is then placed in (a) a mixture of ice and water and (b) an insulated box filled with dry ice?

**30.** • A rigid container holds hydrogen gas at a pressure of 3.0 atm and a temperature of 20°C. What will the pressure be if the temperature is lowered to –20°C?

**31.** •• A 24-cm-diameter vertical cylinder is sealed at the top by a frictionless 20 kg piston. The piston is 84 cm above the bottom

when the gas temperature is 303°C. The air above the piston is at 1.00 atm pressure.

**a.** What is the gas pressure inside the cylinder?

**b.** What will the height of the piston be if the temperature is lowered to 15°C?

**32.** •• 0.10 mol of argon gas is admitted to an evacuated 50 $cm^3$ container at 20°C. The gas then undergoes an isochoric heating to a temperature of 300°C.

**a.** What is the final pressure of the gas?

**b.** Show the process on a $pV$ diagram. Include a proper scale on both axes.

**33.** • 0.10 mol of argon gas is admitted to an evacuated 50 $cm^3$ container at 20°C. The gas then undergoes an isobaric heating to a temperature of 300°C.

**a.** What is the final volume of the gas?

**b.** Show the process on a $pV$ diagram. Include a proper scale on both axes.

**34.** •• 0.10 mol of argon gas is admitted to an evacuated 50 $cm^3$ container at 20°C. The gas then undergoes an isothermal expansion to a volume of 200 $cm^3$.

**a.** What is the final pressure of the gas?

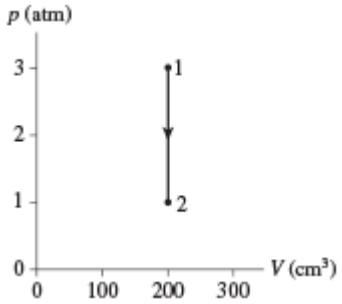
**b.** Show the process on a $pV$ diagram. Include a proper scale on both axes.

**35.** • 0.0040 mol of gas undergoes the process shown in Figure EX18.35.

**a.** What type of process is this?

**b.** What are the initial and final temperatures in °C?

**Figure EX18.35**



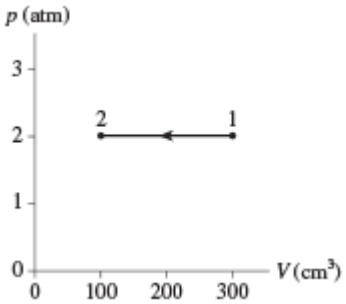

**36.** •• A gas with an initial temperature of 900°C undergoes the process shown in Figure EX18.36.

**a.** What type of process is this?

**b.** What is the final temperature in °C?

**c.** How many moles of gas are there?

**Figure EX18.36**



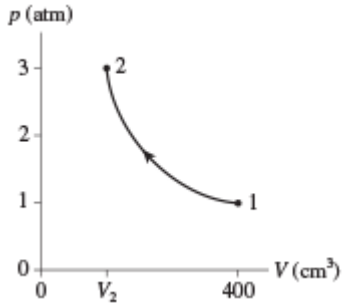

**37.** • 0.020 mol of gas undergoes the process shown in Figure EX18.37.

**a.** What type of process is this?

**b.** What is the final temperature in °C?

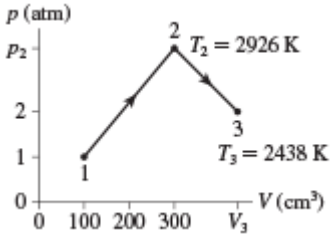
**c.** What is the final volume $V_2$?

**Figure EX18.37**




**38.** • 0.0050 mol of gas undergoes the process $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$ shown in Figure P16.38. What are (a) temperature $T_1$, (b) pressure $p_2$, and (c) volume $V_3$?

**Figure P16.38**




**39.** •• An ideal gas starts with pressure $p_1$ and volume $V_1$. Draw a $pV$ diagram showing the process in which the gas undergoes an isochoric process that doubles the pressure, then an isobaric process that doubles the volume, followed by an isothermal process that doubles the volume again. Label each of the three processes.



**40.** •• An ideal gas starts with pressure $p_1$ and volume $V_1$. Draw a $pV$ diagram showing the process in which the gas undergoes an isothermal process during which the volume is halved, then an isochoric process during which the pressure is halved, followed by an isobaric process during which the volume is doubled. Label each of the three processes.

# Problems

**41.** •• The atomic mass number of copper is $A = 64$. Assume that atoms in solid copper form a cubic crystal lattice. To envision this, imagine that you place atoms at the centers of tiny sugar cubes, then stack the little sugar cubes to form a big cube. If you dissolve the sugar, the atoms left behind are in a cubic crystal lattice. What is the smallest distance between two copper atoms?

**42.** •• The molecular mass of water ($H_2O$) is $A = 18$. How many protons are there in 1.0 L of liquid water?

**43.** • A brass ring with inner diameter 2.00 cm and outer diameter 3.00 cm needs to fit over a 2.00-cm-diameter steel rod, but at 20°C the hole through the brass ring is 50 $\mu$m too small in diameter. To what temperature, in °C, must the rod *and* ring be heated so that the ring just barely slips over the rod?

**44.** •• **INT** A 15°C, 2.0-cm-diameter aluminum bar just barely slips between two rigid steel walls 10.0 cm apart. If the bar is warmed to 25°C, how much force does it exert on each wall?

**45.** •• The semiconductor industry manufactures integrated circuits in large vacuum chambers where the pressure is $1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ mm of Hg.

**a.** What fraction is this of atmospheric pressure?

**b.** At $T = 20^\circ\text{C}$, how many molecules are in a cylindrical chamber 40 cm in diameter and 30 cm tall?

**46.** ••• **INT** A 6.0-cm-diameter, 10-cm-long cylinder contains 100 mg of oxygen ($O_2$) at a pressure less than 1 atm. The cap on one end of the cylinder is held in place only by the pressure of the air. One day when the atmospheric pressure is 100 kPa, it

takes a 184 N force to pull the cap off. What is the temperature of the gas?

**47.** •• A nebula—a region of the galaxy where new stars are forming—contains a very tenuous gas with 100 atoms/cm$^3$. This gas is heated to 7500 K by ultraviolet radiation from nearby stars. What is the gas pressure in atm?

**48.** •• On average, each person in the industrialized world is responsible for the emission of 10,000 kg of carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) every year. This includes $CO_2$ that you generate directly, by burning fossil fuels to operate your car or your furnace, as well as $CO_2$ generated on your behalf by electric generating stations and manufacturing plants. $CO_2$ is a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming. If you were to store your yearly $CO_2$ emissions in a cube at STP, how long would each edge of the cube be?

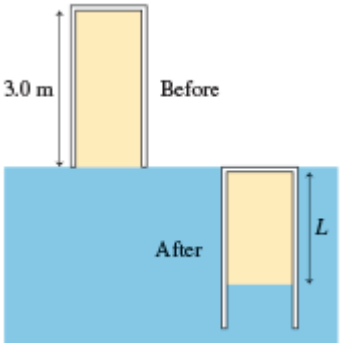
**49.** •• **INT** To determine the mass of neon contained in a rigid, 2.0 L cylinder, you vary the cylinder's temperature while recording the reading of a pressure gauge. Your data are as follows:

| Temperature (°C) | Pressure gauge (atm) |
|---|---|
| 100 | 6.52 |
| 150 | 7.80 |
| 200 | 8.83 |
| 250 | 9.59 |

Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine the mass of the neon.

**50.** •• **INT** The 3.0-m-long pipe in Figure P18.50 is closed at the top end. It is slowly pushed straight down into the water until the top end of the pipe is level with the water's surface. What is the length $L$ of the trapped volume of air?

## Figure P18.50




**51.** •• A diving bell is a 3.0-m-tall cylinder closed at the upper end but open at the lower end. The temperature of the air in the bell is 20°C. The bell is lowered into the ocean until its lower end is 100 m deep. The temperature at that depth is 10°C.

**a.** How high does the water rise in the bell after enough time has passed for the air inside to reach thermal equilibrium?

**b.** A compressed-air hose from the surface is used to expel all the water from the bell. What minimum air pressure is needed to do this?

**52.** •• An electric generating plant boils water to produce high-pressure steam. The steam spins a turbine that is connected to the generator.

**a.** How many liters of water must be boiled to fill a 5.0 $m^3$ boiler with 50 atm of steam at 400°C?

**b.** The steam has dropped to 2.0 atm pressure at 150°C as it exits the turbine. How much volume does it now occupy?

**53.** •• On a cool morning, when the temperature is 15°C, you measure the pressure in your car tires to be 30 psi. After driving 20 mi on the freeway, the temperature of your tires is 45°C. What pressure will your tire gauge now show?

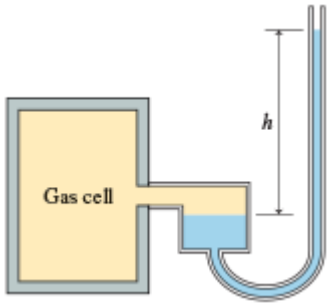
**54.** •• The air temperature and pressure in a laboratory are 20°C and 1.0 atm. A 1.0 L container is open to the air. The container is then sealed and placed in a bath of boiling water. After reaching thermal equilibrium, the container is opened. How many moles of air escape?

**55.** •• 10,000 $cm^3$ of 200°C steam at a pressure of 20 atm is cooled until it condenses. What is the volume of the liquid water? Give your answer in $cm^3$.

**56.** •• **INT** The mercury manometer shown in Figure P18.56 is attached to a gas cell. The mercury height $h$ is 120 mm when the cell is placed in an ice-water mixture. The mercury height drops to 30 mm when the device is carried into an industrial freezer. What is the freezer temperature?

**Hint:** The right tube of the manometer is much narrower than the left tube. What reasonable assumption can you make about the gas volume?

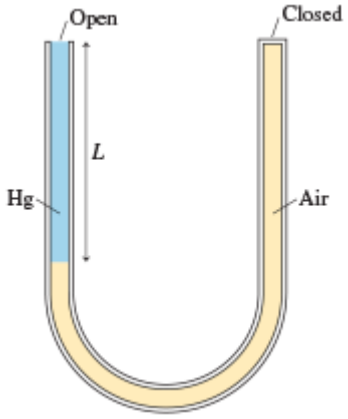
**Figure P18.56**




**57.** •• **INT** The U-shaped tube in Figure P18.57 has a total length of 1.0 m. It is open at one end, closed at the other, and is initially filled with air at 20°C and 1.0 atm pressure. Mercury is poured slowly into the open end without letting any air escape, thus compressing the air. This is continued until the open side

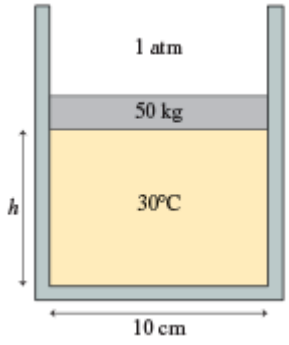
of the tube is completely filled with mercury. What is the length $L$ of the column of mercury?

**Figure P18.57**




**58.** •• The 50 kg circular piston shown in Figure P18.58 floats on 0.12 mol of compressed air.

**Figure P18.58**




**a.** What is the piston height $h$ if the temperature is 30°C?

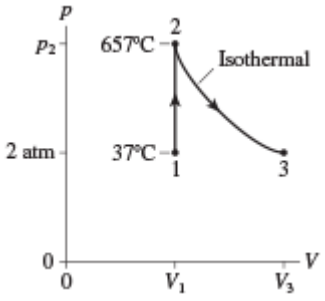
**b.** How far does the piston move if the temperature is increased by 100°C?

**59.** •• **INT** A diver 50 m deep in 10°C fresh water exhales a 1.0-cm-diameter bubble. What is the bubble's diameter just as it reaches the surface of the lake, where the water temperature is 20°C?

**Hint:** Assume that the air bubble is always in thermal equilibrium with the surrounding water.

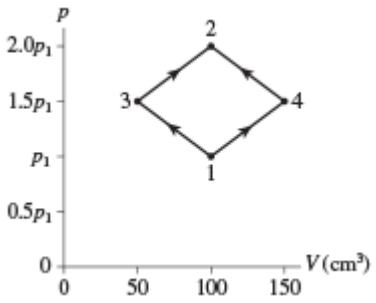
**60.** • 8.0 g of helium gas follows the process $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$ shown in Figure P18.60. Find the values of $V_1$, $V_3$, $p_2$, and $T_3$.

**Figure P18.60**




**61.** •• Figure P18.61 shows two different processes by which 1.0 g of nitrogen gas moves from state 1 to state 2. The temperature of state 1 is 25°C. What are (a) pressure $p_1$ and (b) temperatures (in °C) $T_2$, $T_3$, and $T_4$?

**Figure P18.61**

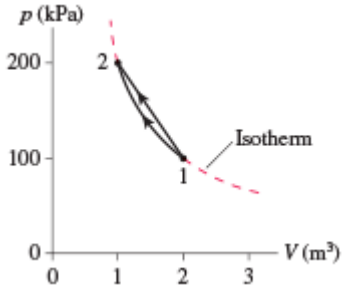



**62.** •• Figure P18.62 shows two different processes by which 80 mol of gas move from state 1 to state 2. The dashed line is an isotherm.

**a.** What is the temperature of the isothermal process?

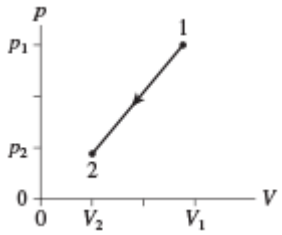
**b.** What maximum temperature is reached along the straight-line process?

**Figure P18.62**




**63.** •• 4.0 g of oxygen gas, starting at 820°C, follow the process $1 \rightarrow 2$ shown in Figure P18.63. What is temperature $T_2$ (in °C)?

**Figure P18.63**




**64.** •• 10 g of dry ice (solid $CO_2$) is placed in a 10,000 $cm^3$ container, then all the air is quickly pumped out and the container sealed. The container is warmed to 0°C, a temperature at which $CO_2$ is a gas.

**a.** What is the gas pressure? Give your answer in atm. The gas then undergoes an isothermal compression until the pressure is 3.0 atm, immediately followed by an isobaric compression until the volume is 1000 $cm^3$.

**b.** What is the final temperature of the gas (in °C)?

**c.** Show the process on a $pV$ diagram.

**65.** •• A container of gas at 2.0 atm pressure and 127°C is compressed at constant temperature until the volume is halved. It is then further compressed at constant pressure until the volume is halved again.

**a.** What are the final pressure and temperature of the gas?

**b.** Show this process on a $pV$ diagram.

**66.** •• Five grams of nitrogen gas at an initial pressure of 3.0 atm and at 20°C undergo an isobaric expansion until the volume has tripled.

**a.** What is the gas volume after the expansion?

**b.** What is the gas temperature after the expansion (in °C)?

The gas pressure is then decreased at constant volume until the original temperature is reached.

**c.** What is the gas pressure after the decrease?

Finally, the gas is isothermally compressed until it returns to its initial volume.

**d.** What is the final gas pressure?

**e.** Show the full three-step process on a $pV$ diagram. Use appropriate scales on both axes.

In Problems 67, 68, 69 and 70 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Draw a $pV$ diagram.

**c.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**67.** $$p_2 = \frac{300\ \text{cm}^3}{100\ \text{cm}^3} \times 1 \times 2\ \text{atm}$$

**68.** $$(T_2 + 273)\ \text{K} = \frac{200\ \text{kPa}}{500\ \text{kPa}} \times 1 \times (400 + 273)\ \text{K}$$

**69.** $$V_2 = \frac{(400 + 273)\ \text{K}}{(50 + 273)\ \text{K}} \times 1 \times 200\ \text{cm}^3$$

**70.** $$(2.0 \times 101{,}300\ \text{Pa})\,(100 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{m}^3) = n\,(8.31\ \text{J/mol K})\,T_1$$

$$n = \frac{0.12\ \text{g}}{20\ \text{g/mol}}$$

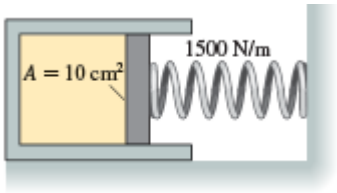
$$T_2 = \frac{200\ \text{cm}^3}{100\ \text{cm}^3} \times 1 \times T_1$$

## Challenge Problems

**71.** ••• An inflated bicycle inner tube is 2.2 cm in diameter and 200 cm in circumference. A small leak causes the gauge pressure to decrease from 110 psi to 80 psi on a day when the temperature is 20°C. What mass of air is lost? Assume the air is pure nitrogen.

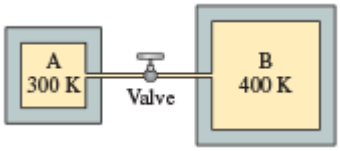
**72.** ••• The cylinder in Figure CP18.72 has a moveable piston attached to a spring. The cylinder's cross-section area is 10 cm$^2$, it contains 0.0040 mol of gas, and the spring constant is 1500 N/m. At 20°C the spring is neither compressed nor stretched. How far is the spring compressed if the gas temperature is raised to 100°C?

**Figure CP18.72**



**73.** ••• Containers A and B in Figure CP18.73 hold the same gas. The volume of B is four times the volume of A. The two containers are connected by a thin tube (negligible volume) and a valve that is closed. The gas in A is at 300 K and pressure of $1.0 \times 10^5$ Pa. The gas in B is at 400 K and pressure of $5.0 \times 10^5$ Pa. Heaters will maintain the temperatures of A and B even after the valve is opened. After the valve is opened, gas will flow one way or the other until A and B have equal pressure. What is this final pressure?

**Figure CP18.73**




**74.** ••• The closed cylinder of Figure CP18.74 has a tight-fitting but frictionless piston of mass $M$. The piston is in equilibrium when the left chamber has pressure $p_0$ and length $L_0$ while the spring on the right is compressed by $\Delta L$.

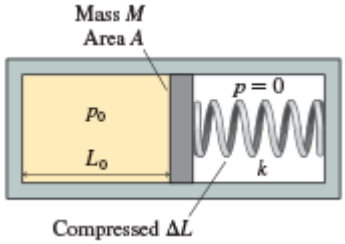
**a.** What is $\Delta L$ in terms of $p_0$, $L_0$, $A$, $M$, and $k$?

**b.** Suppose the piston is moved a small distance $x$ to the right. Find an expression for the net force $(F_x)_{\text{net}}$ on the piston. Assume all motions are slow enough for the gas to remain at the same temperature as its surroundings.

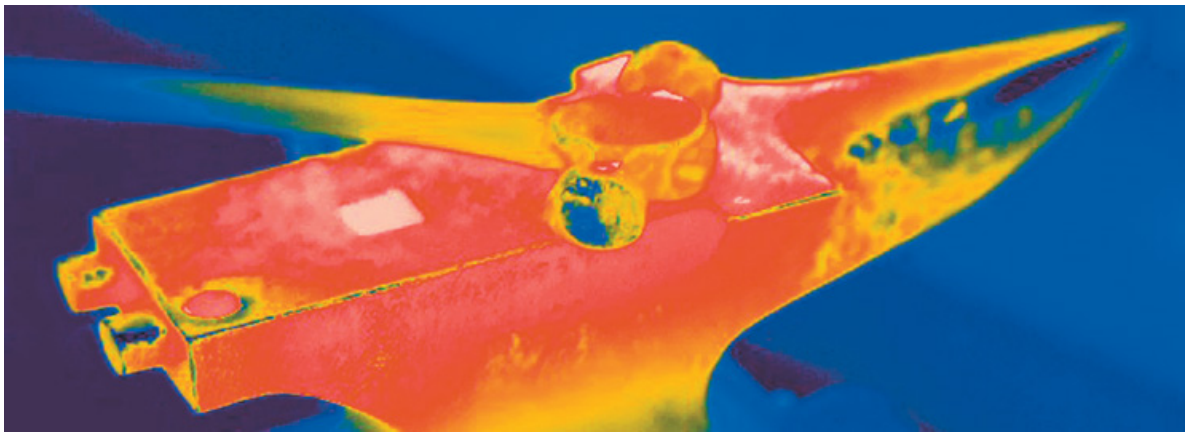
**c.** If released, the piston will oscillate around the equilibrium position. Assuming $x \ll L_0$ find an expression for the oscillation period $T$.

**Hint:** Use the binomial approximation.

**Figure P18.74**


Mass $M$
Area $A$
$p = 0$
$p_0$
$L_0$
$k$
Compressed $\Delta L$

# Chapter 19
# Work, Heat, and the First Law of Thermodynamics



This false-color thermal image—an infrared photo—shows the hotter and cooler parts of the anvil.

**In This Chapter**

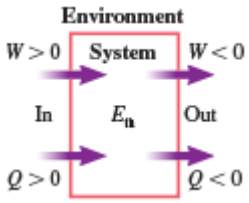
you will learn and apply the first law of thermodynamics.

## What is the first law of thermodynamics?

The first law of thermodynamics is a very general statement about energy and its conservation. A system's thermal energy changes if energy is transferred into or out of the system as *work* or as *heat*. That is,

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$$

Looking Back Sections 10.4 and 10.8 Conservation of energy

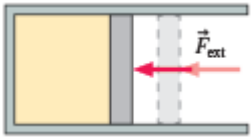



## How is work done on a gas?

Work *W* is the transfer of energy in a mechanical interaction when forces push or pull. Work is done on a gas by changing its volume.

- $W > 0$ (energy added) in a compression.
- $W < 0$ (energy extracted) in an expansion.

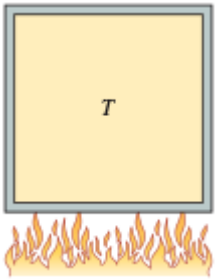
Looking Back Sections 9.2, 9.3 Work




## What is heat?

Heat *Q* is the transfer of energy in a thermal interaction when the system and its environment are at different temperatures.

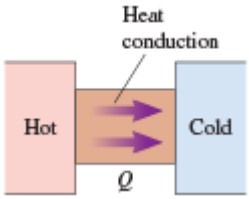
- $Q > 0$ (energy added) when the environment is hotter than the system.
- $Q < 0$ (energy extracted) when the system is hotter than the environment.



## How is heat transferred?

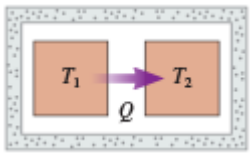
Heat energy can be transferred between a system and its environment by

- Conduction
- Convection
- Radiation
- Evaporation




## What are some thermal properties of matter?

Heat can cause either a temperature change or a phase change. A material's response to heat is governed by its specific heat, its heat of fusion, its heat of vaporization, and its thermal conductivity. These are thermal properties of matter. An important application is calorimetry—determining the final temperature when two or more systems interact thermally.




## Why is the first law important?

The first law of thermodynamics is a very general statement that energy cannot be created or destroyed—merely moved from one place to another. Much of the machinery of modern society, from automobile engines to electric power plants to spacecraft,

depends on and is an application of the first law. We'll look at some of these applications in more detail in Chapter 21.

# 19.1 It's All About Energy[516]

In Section 10.8 we wrote the *energy principle* as

**(19.1)**

$$\Delta K = W_{\rm c} + W_{\rm diss} + W_{\rm ext}$$

Recall that energy is about *systems* and their interactions. Equation 19.1 tells us that the kinetic energy of a system of particles is changed when forces do work on the particles by pushing or pulling them through a distance. Here

1. $W_{\rm c}$ is the work done by conservative forces. This work can be represented as a change in the system's potential energy: $\Delta U = -W_{\rm c}$.
2. $W_{\rm diss}$ is the work done by friction-like dissipative forces within the system. This work increases the system's thermal energy: $\Delta E_{\rm th} = -W_{\rm diss}$.
3. $W_{\rm ext}$ is the work done by external forces that originate in the environment. The push of a piston rod would be an external force.

With these definitions, Equation 19.1 becomes

**(19.2)**

$$\Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\rm th} = W_{\rm ext}$$

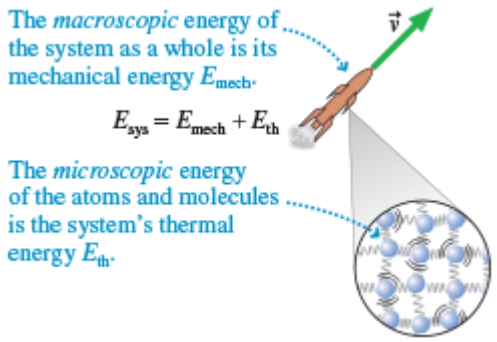
The system's *mechanical energy* was defined as $E_{\rm mech} = K + U$. Figure 19.1 reminds you that the mechanical energy is the *macroscopic* energy of the system as a whole, while $E_{\rm th}$ is the *microscopic* energy of the atoms

and molecules within the system. This led to our final energy statement of Chapter 10:

**(19.3)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

## Figure 19.1




The total energy of a system.

Thus the total energy of an *isolated system,* for which $W_{\text{ext}} = 0$, is constant.

The emphasis in Chapters 9 and 10 was on isolated systems. There we were interested in learning how kinetic and potential energy were *transformed* into each other and, where there is friction, into thermal energy. Now we want to focus on how energy is *transferred* between the system and its environment when $W_{\text{ext}}$ is *not* zero.

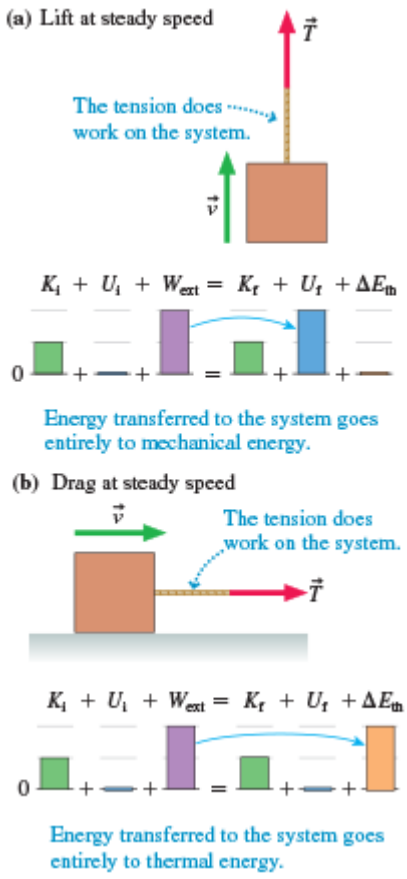
> **Note**
>
> Strictly speaking, Equation 19.3 should use the *internal energy* $E_{\text{int}}$ rather than the thermal energy $E_{\text{th}}$, where $E_{\text{int}} = E_{\text{th}} + E_{\text{chem}} + E_{\text{nuc}} + \cdots$ includes all the various kinds of energies that can be stored inside a system. This textbook will focus on simple thermodynamics systems in which the

> internal energy is entirely thermal: $E_{\text{int}} = E_{\text{th}}$. We'll leave other forms of internal energy to more advanced courses.

## Energy Transfer

Doing work on a system can have very different consequences. Figure 19.2a shows an object being lifted at steady speed by a rope. The rope's tension is an external force doing work $W_{\text{ext}}$ on the system. In this case, the energy transferred into the system goes entirely to increasing the system's macroscopic potential energy $U_{\text{grav}}$, part of the mechanical energy. The energy-transfer process $W_{\text{ext}} \rightarrow E_{\text{mech}}$ is shown graphically in the energy bar chart of Figure 19.2a.

**Figure 19.2**




The work done by tension can have very different consequences.

Contrast this with Figure 19.2b, where the same rope with the same tension now drags the object at steady speed across a rough surface. The tension does the same amount of work, but the mechanical energy does not change. Instead, friction increases the thermal energy of the object + surface system. The energy-transfer process $W_{\text{ext}} \rightarrow E_{\text{th}}$ is shown in the energy bar chart of Figure 19.2b.



The point of this example is that the energy transferred to a system can go entirely to the system's mechanical energy, entirely to its thermal energy, or (imagine dragging the object up an incline) some combination of the two. The energy isn't lost, but where it ends up depends on the circumstances.

## The Missing Piece: Heat

You can transfer energy into a system by the mechanical process of doing work on the system. But that can't be all there is to energy transfer. What happens when you place a pan of water on the stove and light the burner? The water temperature increases, so $\Delta E_{\text{th}} > 0$. But no work is done ($W_{\text{ext}} = 0$) and there is no change in the water's mechanical energy ($\Delta E_{\text{mech}} = 0$). This process clearly violates the energy equation $\Delta E_{\text{mech}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}}$. What's wrong?

Nothing is wrong. The energy equation is correct as far as it goes, but it is incomplete. Work is energy transferred in a mechanical interaction, but that is not the only way a system can interact with its environment. Energy can also be transferred between the system and the environment if they have a *thermal interaction*. The energy transferred in a thermal interaction is called *heat*.

The symbol for heat is $Q$. When heat is included, the energy equation becomes

**(19.4)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$$

Heat and work are both energy transferred between the system and the environment.

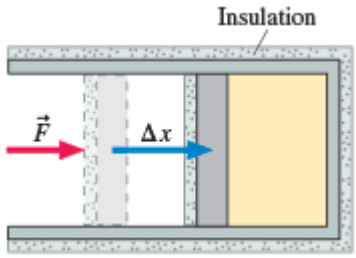
> **Note**
>
> We've dropped the subscript "ext" from $W$. The work that we consider in thermodynamics is *always* the work done by the environment on the system. We won't need to distinguish this work from $W_c$ or $W_{diss}$, so the subscript is superfluous.

We'll return to Equation 19.4 in Section 19.4 after we look at how work is calculated for ideal-gas processes and at what heat is.

## Stop to Think 19.1

A gas cylinder and piston are covered with heavy insulation. The piston is pushed into the cylinder, compressing the gas. In this process the gas temperature

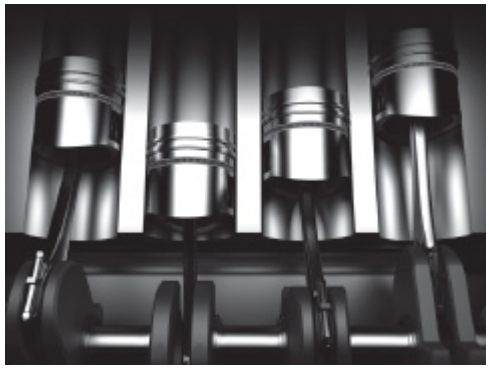
**a.** Increases.
**b.** Decreases.
**c.** Doesn't change.
**d.** There's not sufficient information to tell.


Insulation
$\vec{F}$
$\Delta x$

# 19.2 Work in Ideal-Gas Processes



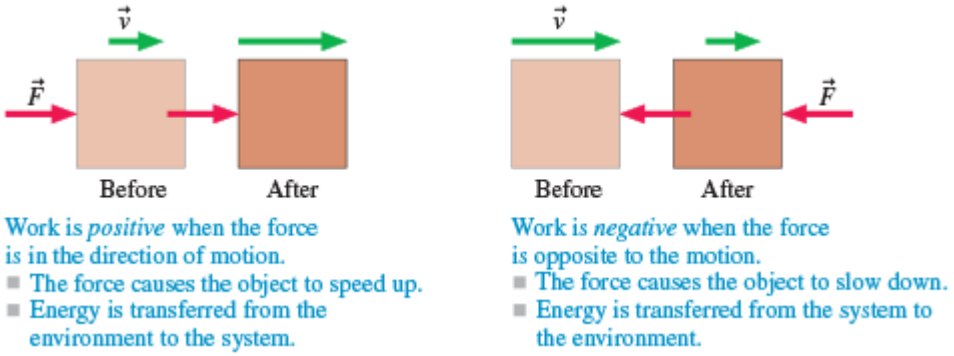
We introduced the idea of *work* in Chapter 9. **Work** is the energy transferred between a system and the environment when a net force acts on the system over a distance. The process itself is a **mechanical interaction,** meaning that the system and the environment interact via macroscopic pushes and pulls. Loosely speaking, we say that the environment (or a particular force from the environment) "does work" on the system. A system is in **mechanical equilibrium** if there is no net force on the system.



The pistons in a car engine do work on the air-fuel mixture by compressing it.

Figure 19.3 on the next page reminds you that work can be either positive or negative. **The sign of the work is *not* just an arbitrary convention, nor does it have anything to do with the choice of coordinate system.** The sign of the work tells us which way energy is being transferred.

**Figure 19.3**




The sign of work.

In contrast to the mechanical energy or the thermal energy, **work is not a state variable.** That is, work is not a number characterizing the system. Instead, work is the amount of energy that moves between the system and the environment during a mechanical interaction. We can measure the *change* in a state variable, such as a temperature change $\Delta T = T_\mathrm{f} - T_\mathrm{i}$, but it would make no sense to talk about a "change of work." Consequently, work always appears as $W$, never as $\Delta W$.

You learned in Section 9.3 how to calculate work. The small amount of work $dW$ done by force $\vec{F}$ as a system moves through the small displacement $d\vec{s}$ is $dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$. If we restrict ourselves to situations where $\vec{F}$ is either parallel or opposite to $d\vec{s}$, then the total work done on the system as it moves from $s_\mathrm{i}$ to $s_\mathrm{f}$ is

**(19.5)**

$$W = \int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} F_s \, ds$$

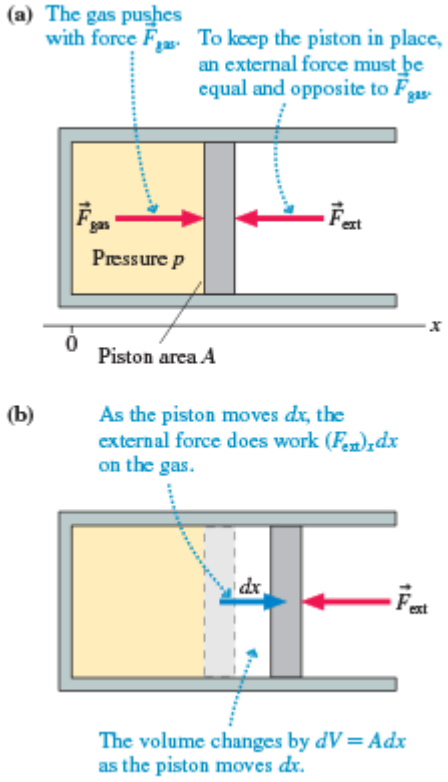
Let's apply this definition to calculate the work done when a gas is expanded or compressed. Figure 19.4a shows a gas of pressure $p$ whose volume can be changed by a moving piston. The *system* is the gas in the cylinder, which exerts a force $\vec{F}_\mathrm{gas}$ of magnitude $pA$ on the left side of

the piston. To prevent the pressure from blowing the piston out of the cylinder, there must be an equal but opposite external force $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{ext}}$ pushing on the right side of the piston. In practice, this would likely be the force exerted by a piston rod. Using the coordinate system of Figure 19.4a, we have

**(19.6)**

$$(F_{\text{ext}})_x = -(F_{\text{gas}})_x = -pA$$

## Figure 19.4




The external force does work on the gas as the piston moves.

Suppose the piston moves a small distance $dx$, as shown in Figure 19.4b. As it does so, the external force (i.e., the environment) does work

(19.7)

$$dW_{\text{ext}} = (F_{\text{ext}})_x \, dx = -pA dx$$



If $dx$ is positive (expanding gas), then $dW_{\text{ext}}$ is negative. This is to be expected because the force is opposite the displacement. $dW_{\text{ext}}$ is positive if the gas is slightly compressed $(dx < 0)$.

If the piston moves $dx$, the gas volume changes by $dV = Adx$. Thus the work is

(19.8)

$$dW_{\text{ext}} = -p \, dV$$

If we allow the gas to change in a slow, quasi-static process from an initial volume $V_{\text{i}}$ to a final volume $V_{\text{f}}$, the total work done by the environment is found by integrating Equation 19.8:

---

(19.9)

$$W_{\text{ext}} = -\int_{V_{\text{i}}}^{V_{\text{f}}} p \, dV \quad \text{(work done on a gas)}$$

Equation 19.9 is a key result of thermodynamics. Although we used a cylinder to derive it, it turns out to be true for a container of any shape.

> **Note**
>
> The pressure of a gas usually changes as the gas expands or contracts. Consequently, $p$ is *not* a constant that can be brought outside the integral. You need to know how the

> pressure changes with volume before you can carry out the integration.

What is this work done *on*? Not, as you might think, the piston. Work is an energy transfer, but the piston's energy is not changing. It is in equilibrium, with equal forces exerted on both faces. Further, the motion of the piston is very slow—it's a quasi-static process—so the piston has negligible kinetic energy. The piston is merely a movable boundary of the gas, so **the work is done by the environment on the gas.** When a gas expands or contracts, energy is transferred between the gas and the environment.

We could also look at the moving piston from the perspective of the gas. The gas is exerting a force on the piston as it's displaced, so the gas does work $W_{\text{gas}}$. In fact, because $\vec{F}_{\text{gas}} = -\vec{F}_{\text{ext}}$, the work done by the gas is $W_{\text{gas}} = -W_{\text{ext}}$. This is really just another way of saying that there's no net work done on the piston. However, the work that appears in the energy principle, and now in the laws of thermodynamics, is $W_{\text{ext}}$, the work done by the environment—either positive or negative—*on* the system, and that is the work that will appear (without a subscript) in our equations.

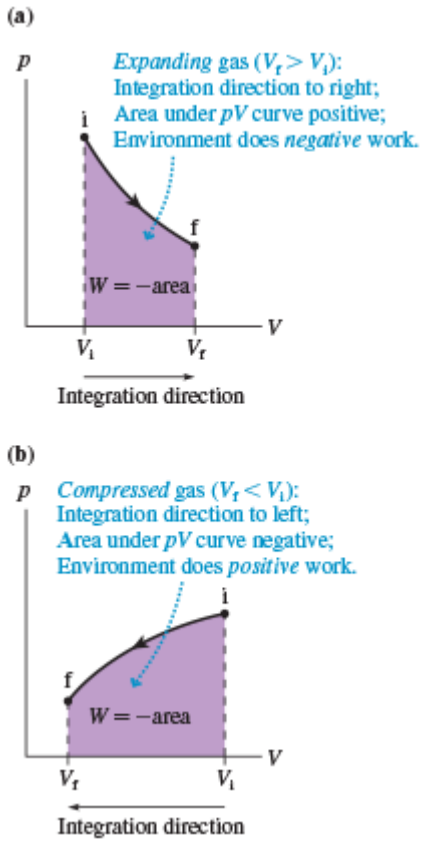
But some care is needed. Both the environment *and* the gas do work, with opposite signs. It is *not* an either-or situation. When a gas is compressed, it is often said that "Work is done *on* the gas." This is a situation with $W_{\text{ext}} > 0$ and $W_{\text{gas}} < 0$. When a gas expands, it is often said that "Work is done *by* the gas." But this doesn't mean that $W_{\text{ext}} = 0$! It simply means that $W_{\text{gas}} > 0$ and so, in this case, you would use $W_{\text{ext}} < 0$.

We can give the work done on a gas a nice geometric interpretation. You learned in Chapter 18 how to represent an ideal-gas process as a curve

in the $pV$ diagram. Figure 19.5 shows that the work done on a gas is the negative of the area under the $pV$ curve as the volume changes from $V_i$ to $V_f$. That is,

$$W = \text{the negative of the area under the } pV \text{ curve between } V_i \text{ and } V_f$$

## Figure 19.5




The work done on a gas is the negative of the area under the curve.

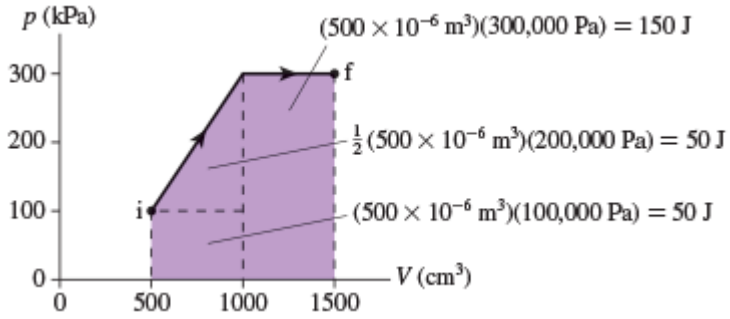
Figure 19.5a shows a process in which a gas *expands* from $V_i$ to a larger volume $V_f$. The area under the curve is positive, so the environment does a negative amount of work on an expanding gas. Figure 19.5b shows a process in which a gas is compressed to a smaller volume. This one is a

little trickier because we have to integrate "backward" along the $V$-axis You learned in calculus that integrating from a larger limit to a smaller limit gives a negative result, so the area in Figure 19.5b is a negative area. Consequently, as the minus sign in Equation 19.9 indicates, the environment does positive work on a gas to compress it.

### Example 19.1 The work done on an expanding gas

How much work is done in the ideal-gas process of Figure 19.6?

#### Figure 19.6




The ideal-gas process of Example 19.1.

**MODEL** The work done on a gas is the negative of the area under the $pV$ curve. The gas is *expanding*, so we expect the work to be negative.

**SOLVE** As Figure 19.6 shows, the area under the curve can be divided into two rectangles and a triangle. Volumes *must* be converted to SI units of $m^3$. The total area under the curve is 250 J, so the work done on the gas as it expands is

$$W = -(\text{area under the } pV \text{ curve}) = -250 \text{ J}$$

**ASSESS** We noted previously that the product Pa $m^3$ is equivalent to joules. The work is negative, as expected, because the external force pushing on the piston is opposite the direction of the piston's displacement.

Equation 19.9 is the basis for a problem-solving strategy.

### PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 19.1 Work in ideal-gas processes

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the gas as ideal and the process as quasi-static.

**VISUALIZE** Show the process on a $pV$ diagram. Note whether it happens to be one of the basic gas processes: isochoric, isobaric, or isothermal.

**SOLVE** Calculate the work as the area under the $pV$ curve either geometrically or by carrying out the integration:



$$\text{Work done on the gas } W = -\int_{V_i}^{V_f} p\,dV = -(\text{area under } pV \text{ curve})$$

**ASSESS** Check your signs.

- $W > 0$ when the gas is compressed. Energy is transferred from the environment to the gas.
- $W < 0$ when the gas expands. Energy is transferred from the gas to the environment.
- No work is done if the volume doesn't change. $W = 0$.

Workbook Exercise 4

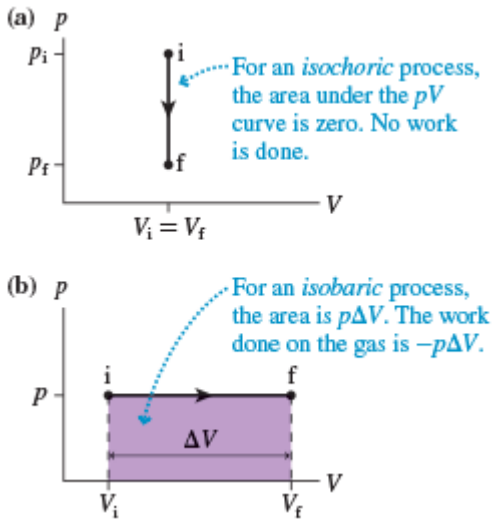
# Isochoric Process

The isochoric process in Figure 19.7a is one in which the volume does not change. Consequently,

**(19.10)**

$$W = 0 \qquad \text{(isochoric process)}$$

**Figure 19.7**




Calculating the work done during ideal-gas processes.

An isochoric process is the *only* ideal-gas process in which no work is done.

# Isobaric Process

Figure 19.7b shows an isobaric process in which the volume changes from $V_i$ to $V_f$. The rectangular area under the curve is $p\,\Delta V$, so the work done during this process is

**(19.11)**

$$W = -p\,\Delta V \qquad \text{(isochoric process)}$$

where $\Delta V = V_f - V_i$. $\Delta V$ is positive if the gas expands ($V_f > V_i$), so $W$ is negative. $\Delta V$ is *negative* if the gas is compressed ($V_f < V_i$), making $W$ positive.

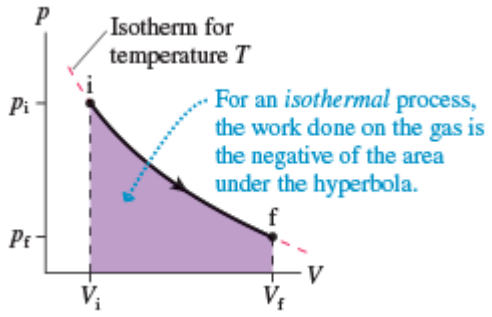
## Isothermal Process

Figure 19.8 shows an isothermal process. Here we need to know the pressure as a function of volume before we can integrate Equation 19.9. From the ideal-gas law, $p = nRT/V$. Thus the work on the gas as the volume changes from $V_i$ to $V_f$ is

**(19.12)**

$$W = -\int_{V_i}^{V_f} p\,dV = -\int_{V_i}^{V_f} \frac{nRT}{V}\,dV = -nRT\int_{V_i}^{V_f} \frac{dV}{V}$$

**Figure 19.8**




An isothermal process.

where we could take the $T$ outside the integral because temperature is constant during an isothermal process. This is a straightforward integration, giving

**(19.13)**

$$\begin{aligned} W &= -nRT \int_{V_\text{i}}^{V_\text{f}} \frac{dV}{V} = -nRT \ln V \Big|_{V_\text{f}}^{V_\text{i}} \\ &= -nRT(\ln V_\text{f} - \ln V_\text{i}) = -nRT \ln \left(\frac{V_\text{f}}{V_\text{i}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Because $nRT = p_\text{i}V_\text{i} = p_\text{f}V_\text{f}$ during an isothermal process, the work is:

**(19.14)**

$$W = -nRT \ln \left(\frac{V_\text{f}}{V_\text{i}}\right) = -p_\text{i}V_\text{i} \ln \left(\frac{V_\text{f}}{V_\text{i}}\right) = -p_\text{f}V_\text{f} \ln \left(\frac{V_\text{f}}{V_\text{i}}\right)$$
$$\text{(isothermal process)}$$

Which version of Equation 19.14 is easiest to use will depend on the information you're given. The pressure, volume, and temperature *must* be in SI units.

**Example 19.2 The work of an isothermal compression**

A cylinder contains 7.0 g of nitrogen gas. How much work must be done to compress the gas at a constant temperature of 80°C until the volume is halved?

**MODEL** This is an isothermal ideal-gas process.

**SOLVE** Nitrogen gas is $N_2$, with molar mass $M_{\text{mol}} = 28\ \text{g/mol}$, so 7.0 g is 0.25 mol of gas. The temperature is $T = 353\ \text{K}$. Although we don't know the actual volume, we do know that $V_\text{f} = \frac{1}{2}V_\text{i}$. The volume ratio is all we need to calculate the work:

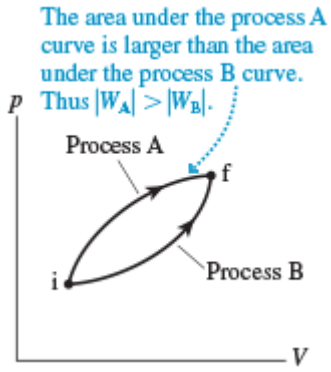
$$\begin{aligned} W &= -nRT \ln\left(\frac{V_\text{f}}{V_\text{i}}\right) \\ &= -(0.25\ \text{mol})(8.31\ \text{J/mol K})(353\ \text{K}) \ln(1/2) = 508\ \text{J} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The work is positive because a force from the environment pushes the piston inward to compress the gas.

## Work Depends on the Path

Figure 19.9a shows two different processes that take a gas from an initial state i to a final state f. Although the initial and final states are the same, the work done during these two processes is *not* the same. **The work done during an ideal-gas process depends on the path followed through the *pV* diagram.**

**Figure 19.9**



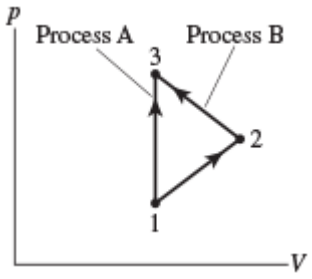

The work done during an ideal-gas process depends on the path.

You may recall that "work is independent of the path," but that referred to a different situation. In Chapter 10, we found that the work done by a conservative force is independent of the physical path of the object through space. For an ideal-gas process, the "path" is a sequence of thermodynamic states on a $pV$ diagram. It is a figurative path because we can draw a picture of it on a $pV$ diagram, but it is not a literal path.

The path dependence of work has an important implication for multistep processes. For a process $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$, the work has to be calculated separately for each step in the process, giving $W_{\text{tot}} = W_{1\text{ to }2} + W_{2\text{ to }3}$. In most cases, calculating the work for a process that goes directly from 1 to 3 will given an incorrect answer. The initial and final states are the same, but the work is *not* the same because work depends on the path followed through the $pV$ diagram.

## Stop to Think 19.2

Two processes take an ideal gas from state 1 to state 3. Compare the work done by process A to the work done by process B.




**a.** $W_{\mathrm{A}} = W_{\mathrm{B}} = 0$

**b.** $W_{\mathrm{A}} = W_{\mathrm{B}}$ but neither is zero

**c.** $W_{\mathrm{A}} > W_{\mathrm{B}}$

**d.** $W_{\mathrm{A}} < W_{\mathrm{B}}$

# 19.3 Heat

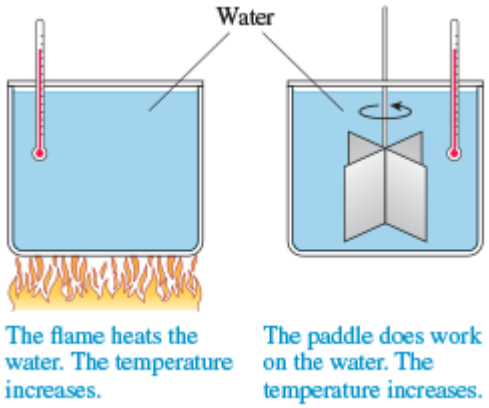


Heat is a more elusive concept than work. We use the word “heat” very loosely in the English language, often as synonymous with *hot*. We might say on a very hot day, “This heat is oppressive.” If your apartment is cold, you may say, “Turn up the heat.” These expressions date to a time long ago when it was thought that heat was a *substance* with fluid-like properties.

Our concept of heat changed with the work of British physicist James Joule in the 1840s. Joule was the first to carry out careful experiments to learn how it is that systems change their temperature. Using experiments like those shown in Figure 19.10, Joule found that you can raise the temperature of a beaker of water by two entirely different means:

1. Heating it with a flame, or
2. Doing work on it with a rapidly spinning paddle wheel.

**Figure 19.10**




Joule’s experiments to show the equivalence of heat and work.

**The final state of the water is *exactly* the same in both cases.** This implies that heat and work are essentially equivalent. In other words, heat is not a substance. Instead, **heat is energy.** Heat and work, which previously had been regarded as two completely different phenomena, were now seen to be simply two different ways of transferring energy to or from a system.

## Thermal Interactions

To be specific, **heat** is the energy transferred between a system and the environment as a consequence of a *temperature difference* between them. Unlike a mechanical interaction in which work is done, heat requires no macroscopic motion of the system. Instead (we'll look at the details in Chapter 20), energy is transferred when the *faster* molecules in the hotter object collide with the *slower* molecules in the cooler object. On average, these collisions cause the faster molecules to lose energy and the slower molecules to gain energy. The net result is that energy is transferred from the hotter object to the colder object. The process itself, whereby energy is transferred between the system and the environment via atomic-level collisions, is called a **thermal interaction.**

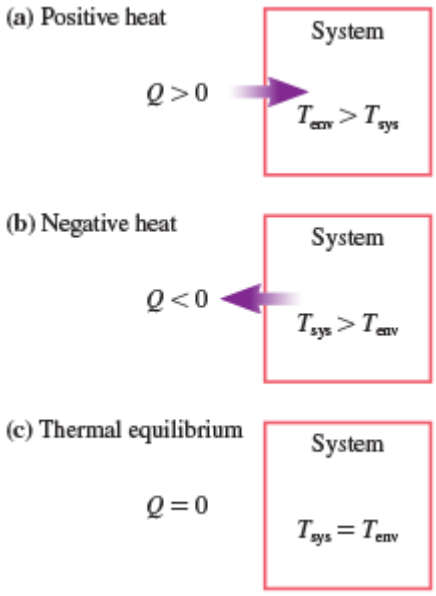
When you place a pan of water on the stove, heat is the energy transferred *from* the hotter flame *to* the cooler water. If you place the water in a freezer, heat is the energy transferred from the warmer water to the colder air in the freezer. A system is in **thermal equilibrium** with the environment, or two systems are in thermal equilibrium with each other, if there is no temperature difference.

Like work, **heat is not a state variable. That is, heat is not a property of the system.** Instead, heat is the amount of energy that moves between

the system and the environment during a thermal interaction. It would not be meaningful to talk about a "change of heat." Thus heat appears in the energy equation simply as a value $Q$, never as $\Delta Q$. Figure 19.11 shows how to interpret the sign of $Q$.

## Figure 19.11






The sign of heat.

> **Note**
>
> For both heat and work, a positive value indicates energy being transferred from the environment to the system. Table 19.1 summarizes the similarities and differences between work and heat.

## Table 19.1

| | Work | Heat |
|---|---|---|
| **Interaction:** | Mechanical | Thermal |
| **Requires:** | Force and displacement | Temperature difference |
| **Process:** | Macroscopic pushes and pulls | Microscopic collisions |
| **Positive value:** | $W > 0$ when a gas is compressed. Energy is transferred in. | $Q > 0$ when the environment is at a higher temperature than the system. Energy is transferred in. |
| **Negative value:** | $W < 0$ when a gas expands. Energy is transferred out. | $Q < 0$ when the system is at a higher temperature than the environment. Energy is transferred out. |
| **Equilibrium:** | A system is in mechanical equilibrium when there is no net force or torque on it. | A system is in thermal equilibrium when it is at the same temperature as the environment. |

Understanding work and heat

## Units of Heat

Heat is energy transferred between the system and the environment. Consequently, the SI unit of heat is the joule. Historically, before the connection between heat and work had been recognized, a unit for measuring heat, the calorie, had been defined as

$$1\,\text{calorie} = 1\,\text{cal} = \text{the quantity of heat needed to change the temperature of } 1\,\text{g of water by } 1\,^\circ\text{C}$$

Once Joule established that heat is energy, it was apparent that the calorie is really a unit of energy. In today's SI units, the conversion is

$$1\,\text{cal} = 4.186\,\text{J}$$

The calorie you know in relation to food is not the same as the heat calorie. The *food calorie,* abbreviated Cal with a capital C, is

$$1\,\text{food calorie} = 1\,\text{Cal} = 1000\,\text{cal} = 1\,\text{kcal} = 4186\,\text{J}$$

We will not use calories in this textbook, but there are some fields of science and engineering where calories are still widely used. All the calculations you learn to do with joules can equally well be done with calories.

## Heat, Temperature, and Thermal Energy

It is important to distinguish among *heat*, *temperature*, and *thermal energy*. These three ideas are related, but the distinctions among them are crucial. In brief,

- Thermal energy is an energy *of the system* due to the motion of its atoms and molecules and the stretching/compressing of spring-like molecular bonds. It is a *form* of energy. Thermal energy is a state variable, and it makes sense to talk about how $E_{\text{th}}$ changes during a process. The system's thermal energy continues to exist even if the system is isolated and not interacting thermally with its environment.
- Heat is energy transferred *between the system* and the environment as they interact. Heat is *not* a particular form of energy, nor is it a state variable. It makes no sense to talk about how heat changes. $Q = 0$ if a system does not interact thermally with its environment. Heat may cause the system's thermal energy to change, but that doesn't make heat and thermal energy the same.
- Temperature is a state variable that quantifies the "hotness" or "coldness" of a system. We haven't yet given a precise definition of temperature, but it is related to the thermal energy *per molecule*. A temperature difference is a requirement for a thermal interaction in which heat energy is transferred between the system and the environment.

Heat is the energy transferred in a thermal interaction.

It is especially important not to associate an observed temperature increase with heat. Heating a system is one way to change its temperature, but, as Joule showed, not the only way. You can also change the system's temperature by doing work on the system or, as is the case with friction, transforming mechanical energy into thermal energy. **Observing the system tells us nothing about the process by which energy enters or leaves the system.**

## Stop to Think 19.3

Which one or more of the following processes involves heat?

**a.** The brakes in your car get hot when you stop.
**b.** A steel block is held over a candle.
**c.** You push a rigid cylinder of gas across a frictionless surface.
**d.** You push a piston into a cylinder of gas, increasing the temperature of the gas.
**e.** You place a cylinder of gas in hot water. The gas expands, causing a piston to rise and lift a weight. The temperature of

the gas does not change.

# 19.4 The First Law of Thermodynamics



Heat was the missing piece that we needed to arrive at a completely general statement of the law of conservation of energy. Restating Equation 19.4, we have

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$$

Work and heat, two ways of transferring energy between a system and the environment, cause the system's energy to change.

At this point in the text we are not interested in systems that have a macroscopic motion of the system as a whole. Moving macroscopic systems were important to us for many chapters, but now, as we investigate the thermal properties of a system, we would like the system as a whole to rest peacefully on the laboratory bench while we study it. So we will assume, throughout the remainder of Part V, that $\Delta E_{\text{mech}} = 0$.

With this assumption clearly stated, the law of conservation of energy becomes

---

**(19.15)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q \qquad \text{(first law of thermodynamics)}$$

The energy equation, in this form, is called the **first law of thermodynamics** or simply "the first law." The first law is a very general statement about energy.

Chapters 9 and 10 introduced the basic energy model—*basic* because it included work but not heat. The first law of thermodynamics is the basis for a more general energy model, the **thermodynamic energy model,** in which work and heat are on an equal footing.

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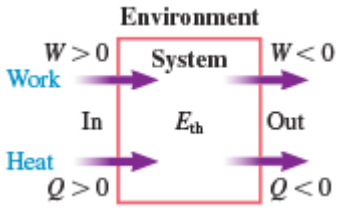
MODEL 19.1 **Thermodynamic energy model**

Thermal energy is a property of the system.




- **Work** and **heat** are energies transferred between the system and the environment.
  - Work is energy transferred in a mechanical interaction.
  - Heat is energy transferred in a thermal interaction.
- The **first law of thermodynamics** says that transferring energy to the system changes the system's thermal energy.
  - $\Delta \mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{th}} = W + Q$
  - $W$ and $Q > 0$ for energy added.
  - $W$ and $Q < 0$ for energy removed.
- Limitations: Model fails if the system's mechanical energy also changes.

Keep in mind that thermal energy isn't the only thing that changes. Work or heat that changes the system's thermal energy also changes other state variables, such as pressure, volume, or temperature. The first law tells us only about $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$. Other laws and relationships, such as the ideal-gas law, are needed to learn how the other state variables change.

## Three Special Ideal-Gas Processes

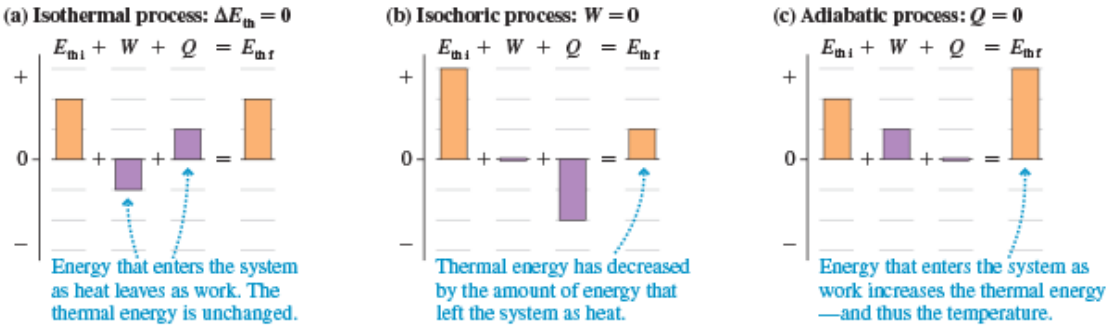


The ideal-gas law relates the state variables $p$, $V$, and $T$, but it tells us nothing about how these variables change if we *do* something to the gas. The first law of thermodynamics is an additional law that gases must obey, one focused specifically on the process by which a gas is changed. In general, you need to consider both laws to solve thermodynamics problems about gases.

There are three ideal-gas processes in which one of the three terms in the first law—$\Delta E_{\text{th}}$, $W$, or $Q$—is zero:

- **Isothermal process ($\boldsymbol{\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0}$):** If the temperature of a gas doesn't change, neither does its thermal energy. In this case, the first law is $W + Q = 0$. For example, a gas can be compressed ($W > 0$) without a temperature increase if all the energy is returned to the environment as heat ($Q < 0$ for heat energy leaving the system). An isothermal process exchanges work and heat (one entering the system, the other leaving) without changing the gas temperature. But pressure and volume *do* change. Equation 19.14 for the work done in an isothermal process, together with the ideal-gas law, will allow you to calculate what happens to $p$ and $V$. Figure 19.12a shows an energy bar chart for an isothermal process.

## Figure 19.12



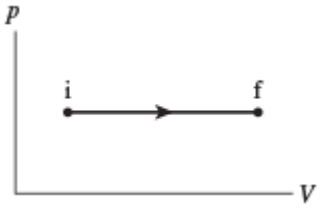

First-law bar charts for three special ideal-gas processes.

- **Isochoric process ($W = 0$):** We saw in Section 19.2 that work is done on (or by) a gas when its volume changes. An isochoric process has $\Delta V = 0$; thus no work is done and the first law can be written $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = Q$. This is a process in which the system is *mechanically isolated* from its environment. Heating (or cooling) the gas increases (or decreases) its thermal energy, so the temperature goes up (or down). You'll learn later in this chapter how to calculate the temperature change $\Delta T$. After using the first law to find $\Delta T$, *then* you can use the ideal-gas law to calculate the pressure change. Figure 19.12b is an energy bar chart for a cooling process that lowers the temperature.
- **Adiabatic process ($Q = 0$):** A process in which no heat is transferred—perhaps the system is extremely well insulated—is called an **adiabatic process.** The system is *thermally isolated* from its environment. With $Q = 0$, the first law is $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W$. But just because there's no heat does not mean that the temperature remains constant. Compressing an insulated gas—a mechanical interaction with $W > 0$—raises its temperature! Similarly, an adiabatic expansion (one with no heat exchanged) lowers the gas temperature. **$Q = 0$ does *not* mean $\Delta T = 0$.** We'll examine adiabatic processes and their $pV$ curves later in the chapter, but notice that *all three* state variables

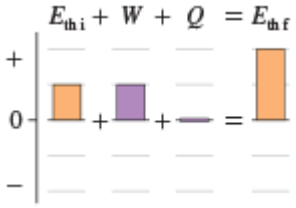
$p$, $V$, and $T$ change during an adiabatic process. Figure 19.12c is an energy bar chart for an adiabatic process with an increasing temperature.

## Stop to Think 19.4

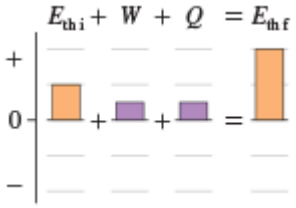
Which first-law bar chart describes the process shown in the $pV$ diagram?



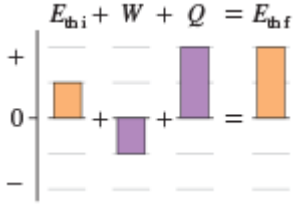

**a.**




**b.**




**c.**




**d.**

$E_{th\,i} + W + Q = E_{th\,f}$
+
0
−

# 19.5 Thermal Properties of Matter



Heat and work are equivalent in the sense that the change of the system is *exactly the same* whether you transfer heat energy to it or do an equal amount of work on it. Adding energy to the system, or removing it, changes the system's thermal energy.

What happens to a system when you change its thermal energy? In this section we'll consider two distinct possibilities:

- The temperature of the system changes.
- The system undergoes a phase change, such as melting or freezing.

## Temperature Change and Specific Heat

Suppose you do an experiment in which you add energy to water, either by doing work on it or by transferring heat to it. Either way, you will find that adding 4190 J of energy raises the temperature of 1 kg of water by 1 K. If you were fortunate enough to have 1 kg of gold, you would need to add only 129 J of energy to raise its temperature by 1 K.

The amount of energy that raises the temperature of 1 kg of a substance by 1 K is called the **specific heat** of that substance. The symbol for specific heat is $c$. Water has specific heat $c_{\text{water}} = 4190\ \text{J/kg K}$. The specific heat of gold is $c_{\text{gold}} = 129\ \text{J/kg K}$. Specific heat depends only on the material from which an object is made. Table 19.2 provides some specific heats for common liquids and solids.

**Table 19.2**

| Substance | $c$ (J/kg K) | $C$ (J/mol K) |
|---|---|---|
| **Solids** | | |
| Aluminum | 900 | 24.3 |
| Copper | 385 | 24.4 |
| Iron | 449 | 25.1 |
| Gold | 129 | 25.4 |
| Lead | 128 | 26.5 |
| Ice | 2090 | 37.6 |
| **Liquids** | | |
| Ethyl alcohol | 2400 | 110.4 |
| Mercury | 140 | 28.1 |
| Water | 4190 | 75.4 |

Specific heats and molar specific heats of solids and liquids

> **Note**
>
> The term *specific heat* does not use the word "heat" in the way that we have defined it. Specific heat is an old idea, dating back to the days of the caloric theory when heat was thought to be a substance contained in the object. The term has continued in use even though our understanding of heat has changed.

If energy $c$ is required to raise the temperature of 1 kg of a substance by 1 K, then energy $Mc$ is needed to raise the temperature of mass $M$ by 1 K and $(Mc)\Delta T$ is needed to raise the temperature of mass $M$ by $\Delta T$. In other words, the thermal energy of the system changes by

**(19.16)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = Mc\,\Delta T \qquad \text{(temperature change)}$$

when its temperature changes by $\Delta T$. $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ can be either positive (thermal energy increases as the temperature goes up) or negative (thermal energy decreases as the temperature goes down). Recall that uppercase $M$ is

used for the mass of an entire system while lowercase $m$ is reserved for the mass of an atom or molecule.

> **Note**
>
> In practice, $\Delta T$ is usually measured in °C. But the Kelvin and the Celsius temperature scales have the same step size, so $\Delta T$ in K has exactly the same numerical value as $\Delta T$ in °C. Thus

- You do not need to convert temperatures from °C to K if you need only a temperature *change* $\Delta T$.
- You do need to convert anytime you need the actual temperature $T$.

The first law of thermodynamics, $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$, allows us to write Equation 19.16 as $Mc\,\Delta T = W + Q$. In other words, **we can change the system's temperature either by heating it or by doing an equivalent amount of work on it**. In working with solids and liquids, we almost always change the temperature by heating. If $W = 0$, which we will assume for the rest of this section, then the heat energy needed to bring about a temperature change $\Delta T$ is



$$Q = Mc\,\Delta T \qquad \text{(temperature change)} \tag{19.17}$$

Because $\Delta T = \Delta E_{\text{th}}/Mc$, it takes more energy to change the temperature of a substance with a large specific heat than to change the temperature of a substance with a small specific heat. You can think of specific heat as measuring the *thermal inertia* of a substance. Metals, with small specific heats, warm up and cool down quickly. A piece of aluminum foil can be safely held within seconds of removing it from a hot

oven. Water, with a very large specific heat, is slow to warm up and slow to cool down. This is fortunate for us. The large thermal inertia of water is essential for the biological processes of life. We wouldn't be here studying physics if water had a small specific heat!

**Example 19.3 Running a fever**

A 70 kg student catches the flu, and his body temperature increases from 37.0°C (98.6°F) to 39.0°C (102.2°F). How much energy is required to raise his body's temperature? The specific heat of a mammalian body is 3400 J/kg K, nearly that of water because mammals are mostly water.

**MODEL** Energy is supplied by the chemical reactions of the body's metabolism. These exothermic reactions transfer heat to the body. Normal metabolism provides enough heat energy to offset energy losses (radiation, evaporation, etc.) while maintaining a normal body temperature of 37°C. We need to calculate the additional energy needed to raise the body's temperature by 2.0°C, or 2.0 K.

**SOLVE** The necessary heat energy is

$$Q = Mc\ \Delta\mathrm{T} = (70\ \mathrm{kg})\,(3400\ \mathrm{J/kg\,K})\,(2.0\ \mathrm{K}) = 4.8 \times 10^5\ \mathrm{J}$$

**ASSESS** This appears to be a lot of energy, but a joule is actually a very small amount of energy. It is only 110 Cal, approximately the energy gained by eating an apple.

The **molar specific heat** is the amount of energy that raises the temperature of 1 mol of a substance by 1 K. We'll use an uppercase $C$ for

the molar specific heat. The heat energy needed to bring about a temperature change $\Delta T$ of $n$ moles of substance is

**(19.18)**

$$Q = nC\,\Delta T$$

Molar specific heats are listed in Table 19.2. Look at the five elemental solids (excluding ice). All have $C$ very near 25 J/mol K. If we were to expand the table, we would find that most elemental solids have $C \approx 25\ \text{J/mol K}$. This can't be a coincidence, but what is it telling us? This is a puzzle we will address in Chapter 20, where we will explore thermal energy at the atomic level.

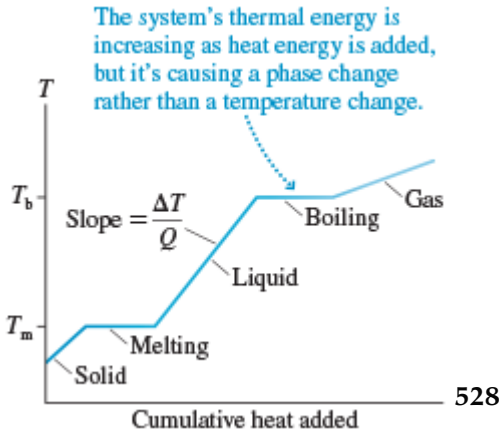
## Phase Change and Heat of Transformation

Suppose you start with a system in its solid phase and heat it at a steady rate. Figure 19.13, which you saw in Chapter 18, shows how the system's temperature changes. At first, the temperature increases linearly. This is not hard to understand because Equation 19.17 can be written

**(19.19)**

$$\text{slope of the } T\text{-versus-}Q \text{ graph} = \frac{\Delta T}{Q} = \frac{1}{Mc}$$

**Figure 19.13**






The temperature of a system that is heated at a steady rate.

---

The slope of the graph depends inversely on the system's specific heat. A constant specific heat implies a constant slope and thus a linear graph. In fact, you can measure *c* from such a graph.

> **Note**
>
> The different slopes indicate that the solid, liquid, and gas phases of a substance have different specific heats.

But there are times, shown as horizontal line segments, during which heat is being transferred to the system but the temperature isn't changing. These are *phase changes*. The thermal energy continues to increase during a phase change, but the additional energy goes into breaking molecular bonds rather than speeding up the molecules. **A phase change is characterized by a change in thermal energy without a change in temperature.**

The amount of heat energy that causes 1 kg of a substance to undergo a phase change is called the **heat of transformation** of that substance. For example, laboratory experiments show that 333,000 J of heat are needed to melt 1 kg of ice at 0°C. The symbol for heat of transformation is *L*. The heat required for the entire system of mass *M* to undergo a phase change is

(19.20)

$$Q = ML \qquad (\text{phase change})$$

*Heat of transformation* is a generic term that refers to any phase change. Two specific heats of transformation are the **heat of fusion** $L_f$, the heat of transformation between a solid and a liquid, and the **heat of vaporization** $L_v$, the heat of transformation between a liquid and a gas. The heat needed for these phase changes is

(19.21)

$$Q = \begin{cases} \pm ML_f & \text{melt/freeze} \\ \pm ML_v & \text{boil/condense} \end{cases}$$

where the ± indicates that heat must be *added* to the system during melting or boiling but *removed* from the system during freezing or condensing. **You must explicitly include the minus sign when it is needed.**

Lava—molten rock—undergoes a phase change when it contacts the much colder water. This is one way in which new islands are formed.

Table 19.3 gives the heats of transformation of a few substances. Notice that the heat of vaporization is always much larger than the heat of

fusion. We can understand this. Melting breaks just enough molecular bonds to allow the system to lose rigidity and flow. Even so, the molecules in a liquid remain close together and loosely bonded. Vaporization breaks all bonds completely and sends the molecules flying apart. This process requires a larger increase in the thermal energy and thus a larger quantity of heat.

### Table 19.3

| Substance | $T_m$ (°C) | $L_f$ (J/kg) | $T_b$ (°C) | $L_v$ (J/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nitrogen ($N_2$) | −210 | $0.26 \times 10^5$ | −196 | $1.99 \times 10^5$ |
| Ethyl alcohol | −114 | $1.09 \times 10^5$ | 78 | $8.79 \times 10^5$ |
| Mercury | −39 | $0.11 \times 10^5$ | 357 | $2.96 \times 10^5$ |
| Water | 0 | $3.33 \times 10^5$ | 100 | $22.6 \times 10^5$ |
| Lead | 328 | $0.25 \times 10^5$ | 1750 | $8.58 \times 10^5$ |

Melting/boiling temperatures and heats of transformation

### Example 19.4 Melting wax

An insulated jar containing 200 g of solid candle wax is placed on a hot plate that supplies heat energy to the wax at the rate of 220 J/s. The wax temperature is measured every 30 s, yielding the following data:

| Time (s) | Temperature (°C) | Time (s) | Temperature (°C) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 20.0 | 180 | 70.5 |
| 30 | 31.7 | 210 | 70.5 |
| 60 | 42.2 | 240 | 70.6 |
| 90 | 55.0 | 270 | 70.5 |
| 120 | 64.7 | 300 | 70.4 |
| 150 | 70.4 | 330 | 74.5 |

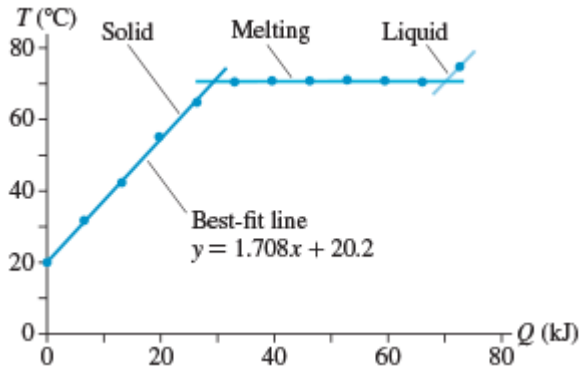


What are the specific heat of the solid wax, the melting point, and the wax's heat of fusion?

**MODEL** The wax is in an insulated jar, so assume that heat loss to the environment is negligible.

**VISUALIZE** Heat energy is being supplied at the rate of 220 J/s, so the total heat energy that has been transferred into the wax at time $t$ is $Q = 220t$ J. Figure 19.14 shows the temperature graphed against the cumulative heat $Q$, although notice that the horizontal axis is in kJ, not J. The initial linear slope corresponds to raising the wax's temperature to the melting point. Temperature remains constant during a phase change, even though the sample is still being heated, so the horizontal section of the graph is when the wax is melting. The temperature increase at the end shows that the temperature of the liquid wax is beginning to rise after melting is complete.

## Figure 19.14




The heating curve of the wax.

**SOLVE** From $Q = Mc\ \Delta T$, the slope of the $T$-versus-$Q$ graph is $\Delta T/Q = 1/Mc$. The experimental slope of the best-fit line is $1.708^\circ\text{C/kJ} = 0.001708\ \text{K/J}$. Thus the specific heat of the solid wax is

$$c = \frac{1}{M \times \text{slope}} = \frac{1}{(0.200\ \text{kg})\,(0.001708\ \text{K/J})} = 2930\ \text{J/kg K}$$

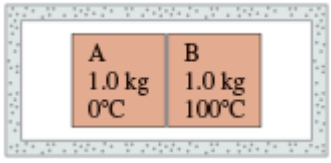
From the table, we see that the melting temperature—which remains constant during the phase change—is 70.5°C. The heat required for the phase change is $Q = ML_\text{f}$, so the heat of fusion is $L_\text{f} = Q/M$. With data recorded only every 30 s, it's not exactly clear when the melting began and when it ended. The extension of the initial slope shows that the temperature reached the melting point about halfway between 120 s and 150 s, so the melting started at about 135 s. We'll assume it was complete about halfway between 300 s and 330 s, or at about 315 s. Thus the melting took 180 s, during which, at 220 J/s, 39,600 J of heat energy was transferred from the hot plate to the wax. With this value of $Q$, the heat of fusion is

$$L_\text{f} = \frac{Q}{M} = \frac{39{,}600\ \text{J}}{0.200\ \text{kg}} = 2.0 \times 10^5\ \text{J/kg}$$

**ASSESS** Both the specific heat and the heat of fusion are similar to values in Tables 19.2 and 19.3, which gives us confidence in our results.

## Stop to Think 19.5

Objects A and B are brought into close thermal contact with each other, but they are well isolated from their surroundings. Initially $T_\text{A} = 0^\circ\text{C}$ and $T_\text{B} = 100^\circ\text{C}$. The specific heat of A is less than the specific heat of B. The two objects will soon reach a common final temperature $T_\text{f}$. The final temperature is




**a.** $T_\mathrm{f} > 50^\circ\mathrm{C}$

**b.** $T_\mathrm{f} = 50^\circ\mathrm{C}$

**c.** $T_\mathrm{f} < 50^\circ\mathrm{C}$

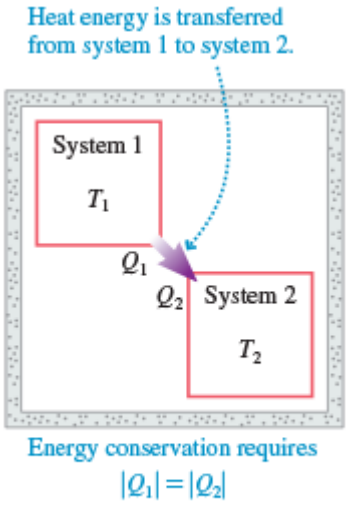
# 19.6 Calorimetry



At one time or another you've probably put an ice cube into a hot drink to cool it quickly. You were engaged, in a somewhat trial-and-error way, in a practical aspect of heat transfer known as **calorimetry.**

Figure 19.15 shows two systems thermally interacting with each other but isolated from everything else. Suppose they start at different temperatures $T_1$ and $T_2$. As you know from experience, heat energy will be transferred from the hotter to the colder system until they reach a common final temperature $T_f$. The systems will then be in thermal equilibrium and the temperature will not change further.

**Figure 19.15**




Two systems interact thermally.

The insulation prevents any heat energy from being transferred to or from the environment, so energy conservation tells us that any energy

leaving the hotter system must enter the colder system. That is, the systems *exchange* energy with no net loss or gain. The concept is straightforward, but to state the idea mathematically we need to be careful with signs.

Let $Q_1$ be the energy transferred to system 1 as heat. Similarly, $Q_2$ is the energy transferred to system 2. The fact that the systems are merely exchanging energy can be written $|Q_1| = |Q_2|$. The energy *lost* by the hotter system is the energy *gained* by the colder system, so $Q_1$ and $Q_2$ have opposite signs: $Q_1 = -Q_2$. No energy is exchanged with the environment, hence it makes more sense to write this relationship as

**(19.22)**

$$Q_{\text{net}} = Q_1 + Q_2 = 0$$

This idea is not limited to the interaction of only two systems. If three or more systems are combined in isolation from the rest of their environment, each at a different initial temperature, they will all come to a common final temperature that can be found from the relationship

**(19.23)**

$$Q_{\text{net}} = Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3 + \cdots = 0$$

> **Note**
>
> The signs are very important in calorimetry problems. $\Delta T$ is always $T_{\text{f}} - T_{\text{i}}$, so $\Delta T$ and $Q$ are negative for any system whose temperature decreases. The proper sign of $Q$ for any phase change must be supplied *by you*, depending on the direction of the phase change.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 19.2 Calorimetry problems**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the systems as interacting with each other but isolated from the larger environment.

**VISUALIZE** List known information and identify what you need to find. Convert all quantities to SI units.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation, a statement of energy conservation, is

$$Q_{\text{net}} = Q_1 + Q_2 + \cdots = 0$$

- For systems that undergo a temperature change, $Q = Mc(T_{\text{f}} - T_{\text{i}})$. Be sure to have the temperatures $T_{\text{i}}$ and $T_{\text{f}}$ in the correct order.
- For systems that undergo a phase change, $Q = \pm ML$. Supply the correct sign by observing whether energy enters or leaves the system.
- Some systems may undergo a temperature change *and* a phase change. Treat the changes separately. The heat energy is $Q = Q_{\Delta T} + Q_{\text{phase}}$.

**ASSESS** Is the final temperature in the middle? $T_{\text{f}}$ that is higher or lower than all initial temperatures is an indication that something is wrong, usually a sign error.

Workbook Exercise 15

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**Note**

You may have learned to solve calorimetry problems in other courses by writing $Q_{\text{gained}} = Q_{\text{lost}}$. That is, by balancing heat

gained with heat lost. That approach works in simple problems, but it has two drawbacks. First, you often have to "fudge" the signs to make them work. Second, and more serious, you can't extend this approach to a problem with three or more interacting systems. Using $Q_{\text{net}} = 0$ is much preferred.

**Example 19.5 Calorimetry with a phase change**

Your 500 mL soda is at 20°C, room temperature, so you add 100 g of ice from the –20°C freezer. Does all the ice melt? If so, what is the final temperature? If not, what fraction of the ice melts? Assume that you have a well-insulated cup.

**MODEL** We have a thermal interaction between the soda, which is essentially water, and the ice. We need to distinguish between three possible outcomes. If all the ice melts, then $T_{\text{f}} > 0^\circ\text{C}$. It's also possible that the soda will cool to 0°C before all the ice has melted, leaving the ice and liquid in equilibrium at 0°C. A third possibility is that the soda will freeze solid before the ice warms up to 0°C. That seems unlikely here, but there are situations, such as the pouring of molten metal out of furnaces, when all the liquid does solidify. We need to distinguish between these before knowing how to proceed.

**VISUALIZE** All the initial temperatures, masses, and specific heats are known. The final temperature of the combined soda + ice system is unknown.

**SOLVE** Let's first calculate the heat needed to melt all the ice and leave it as liquid water at 0°C. To do so, we must warm the ice to 0°C, then change it to water. The heat input for this two-stage process is

$$Q_{\text{melt}} = M_{\text{i}} c_{\text{i}} \, (20 \text{ K}) + M_{\text{i}} L_{\text{f}} = 37{,}500 \text{ J}$$

where $L_{\text{f}}$ is the heat of fusion of water. It is used as a *positive* quantity because we must *add* heat to melt the ice. Next, let's calculate how much heat energy will leave the soda if it cools all the way to 0°C. The volume is $V = 500 \text{ mL} = 5.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3$ and thus the mass is $M_{\text{s}} = \rho V = 0.500 \text{ kg}$. The heat loss is

$$Q_{\text{cool}} = M_{\text{s}} c_{\text{w}} (-20 \text{ K}) = -41{,}900 \text{ J}$$

where $\Delta T = -20 \text{ K}$ because the temperature decreases. Because $|Q_{\text{cool}}| > Q_{\text{melt}}$, the soda has sufficient energy to melt all the ice. Hence the final state will be all liquid at $T_{\text{f}} > 0$. (Had we found $|Q_{\text{cool}}| < Q_{\text{melt}}$, then the final state would have been an ice-liquid mixture at 0°C.)

Energy conservation requires $Q_{\text{ice}} + Q_{\text{soda}} = 0$. The heat $Q_{\text{ice}}$ consists of three terms: warming the ice to 0°C, melting the ice to water at 0°C, then warming the 0°C water to $T_{\text{f}}$. The mass will still be $M_{\text{i}}$ in the last of these steps because it is the "ice system," but we need to use the specific heat of *liquid water*. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\text{ice}} + Q_{\text{soda}} = [M_{\text{i}} c_{\text{i}} (20 \text{ K}) + M_{\text{i}} L_{\text{f}} + M_{\text{i}} c_{\text{w}} (T_{\text{f}} - 0^\circ\text{C})] \\ + M_{\text{s}} c_{\text{w}} (T_{\text{f}} - 20^\circ\text{C}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We've already done part of the calculation, allowing us to write

$$37{,}500 \text{ J} + M_{\text{i}} c_{\text{w}} \, (T_{\text{f}} - 0^\circ\text{C}) + M_{\text{s}} c_{\text{w}} \, (T_{\text{f}} - 20^\circ\text{C}) = 0$$

Solving for $T_f$ gives

$$T_f = \frac{20M_s c_w - 37{,}500}{M_i c_w + M_s c_w} = 1.7^\circ\text{C}$$

**ASSESS** As expected, the soda has been cooled to nearly the freezing point.

### Example 19.6 Three interacting systems

A 200 g piece of iron at 120°C and a 150 g piece of copper at –50°C are dropped into an insulated beaker containing 300 g of ethyl alcohol at 20°C. What is the final temperature?

**MODEL** Here you can't use a simple $Q_{\text{gained}} = Q_{\text{lost}}$ approach because you don't know whether the alcohol is going to warm up or cool down. In principle, the alcohol could freeze or boil, but the masses and temperatures of the metals suggest that the temperature will not change greatly. We will assume that the alcohol remains a liquid.

**VISUALIZE** All the initial temperatures, masses, and specific heats are known. We need to find the final temperature.

**SOLVE** Energy conservation requires

$$\begin{aligned} Q_i + Q_c + Q_e = M_i c_i (T_f - 120^\circ\text{C}) + M_c c_c (T_f - (-50^\circ\text{C})) \\ + M_e c_e (T_f - 20^\circ\text{C}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solving for $T_f$ gives

$$T_\mathrm{f} = \frac{120 M_\mathrm{i} c_\mathrm{i} - 50 M_\mathrm{c} c_\mathrm{c} + 20 M_\mathrm{e} c_\mathrm{e}}{M_\mathrm{i} c_\mathrm{i} + M_\mathrm{c} c_\mathrm{c} + M_\mathrm{e} c_\mathrm{e}} = 26^\circ\mathrm{C}$$

**ASSESS** The temperature is between the initial iron and copper temperatures, as expected, and well below the boiling temperature of the alcohol, validating our assumption of no phase change. It turns out that the alcohol warms up ($Q_\mathrm{e} > 0$), but we had no way to know this without doing the calculation.

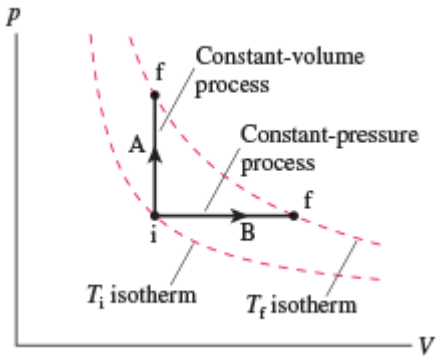
# 19.7 The Specific Heats of Gases



Specific heats are given in Table 19.2 for solids and liquids. Gases are harder to characterize because the heat required to cause a specified temperature change depends on the *process* by which the gas changes state.

Figure 19.16 shows two isotherms on the $pV$ diagram for a gas. Processes A and B, which start on the $T_i$ isotherm and end on the $T_f$ isotherm, have the *same* temperature change $\Delta T = T_f - T_i$. But process A, which takes place at constant volume, requires a *different* amount of heat than does process B, which occurs at constant pressure. The reason is that work is done in process B but not in process A. This is a situation that we are now equipped to analyze.

**Figure 19.16**




Processes A and B have the same $\Delta T$ and the same $\Delta E_{th}$, but they require different amounts of heat.

It is useful to define two different versions of the specific heat of gases, one for constant-volume (isochoric) processes and one for constant-pressure (isobaric) processes. We will define these as molar specific heats

because we usually do gas calculations using moles instead of mass. The quantity of heat needed to change the temperature of $n$ moles of gas by $\Delta T$ is

**(19.24)**

$$Q = nC_{\mathrm{V}}\,\Delta T \quad \text{(temperature change at constant volume)}$$
$$Q = nC_{\mathrm{P}}\,\Delta T \quad \text{(temperature change at constant pressure)}$$

where $C_{\mathrm{V}}$ is the **molar specific heat at constant volume** and $C_{\mathrm{P}}$ is the **molar specific heat at constant pressure.** Table 19.4 gives the values of $C_{\mathrm{V}}$ and $C_{\mathrm{P}}$ for a few common monatomic and diatomic gases. The units are J/mol K. Molar specific heats do vary somewhat with temperature—we'll look at an example in the next chapter—but the values in the table are adequate for temperatures from 200 K to 800 K.

**Table 19.4**

| Gas | $C_{\mathrm{P}}$ | $C_{\mathrm{V}}$ | $C_{\mathrm{P}} - C_{\mathrm{V}}$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Monatomic Gases** | | | |
| He | 20.8 | 12.5 | 8.3 |
| Ne | 20.8 | 12.5 | 8.3 |
| Ar | 20.8 | 12.5 | 8.3 |
| **Diatomic Gases** | | | |
| $H_2$ | 28.7 | 20.4 | 8.3 |
| $N_2$ | 29.1 | 20.8 | 8.3 |
| $O_2$ | 29.2 | 20.9 | 8.3 |

Molar specific heats of gases (J/mol K) at $T = 0^\circ\mathrm{C}$

**Note**

Equations 19.24 apply to two specific ideal-gas processes. In a general gas process, for which neither $p$ nor $V$ is constant,

we have no direct way to relate $Q$ to $\Delta T$. In that case, the heat must be found indirectly from the first law as $Q = \Delta E_{\text{th}} - W$.

**Example 19.7 Heating and cooling a gas**

Three moles of $O_2$ gas are at 20.0°C. 600 J of heat energy are transferred to the gas at constant pressure, then 600 J are removed at constant volume. What is the final temperature? Show the process on a $pV$ diagram.

**MODEL** $O_2$ is a diatomic ideal gas. The gas is heated as an isobaric process, then cooled as an isochoric process.

**SOLVE** The heat transferred during the constant-pressure process causes a temperature rise

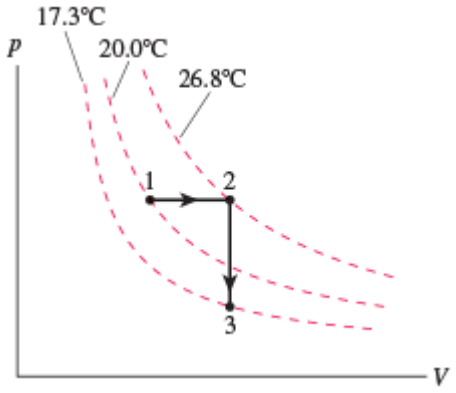
$$\Delta T = T_2 - T_1 = \frac{Q}{nC_{\text{P}}} = \frac{600\ \text{J}}{(3.0\ \text{mol})\,(29.2\ \text{J/mol K})} = 6.8^\circ\text{C}$$

where $C_{\text{P}}$ for oxygen was taken from Table 19.4. Heating leaves the gas at temperature $T_2 = T_1 + \Delta T = 26.8^\circ\text{C}$. The temperature then falls as heat is removed during the constant-volume process:

$$\Delta T = T_3 - T_2 = \frac{Q}{nC_{\text{V}}} = \frac{-600\ \text{J}}{(3.0\ \text{mol})\,(20.9\ \text{J/mol K})} = -9.5^\circ\text{C}$$

We used a *negative* value for $Q$ because heat energy is transferred from the gas to the environment. The final temperature of the gas is $T_3 = T_2 + \Delta T = 17.3^\circ\text{C}$. Figure 19.17 shows the process on a $pV$ diagram. The gas expands (moves horizontally on the diagram) as heat is added, then cools at constant volume (moves vertically on the diagram) as heat is removed.

## Figure 19.17




The *pV* diagram for Example 19.7.

**ASSESS** The final temperature is lower than the initial temperature because $C_{\mathrm{P}} > C_{\mathrm{V}}$.

### Example 19.8 Calorimetry with a gas and a solid

The interior volume of a 200 g hollow aluminum box is 800 $\mathrm{cm}^3$. The box contains nitrogen gas at STP. A 20 $\mathrm{cm}^3$ block of copper at a temperature of 300°C is placed inside the box, then the box is sealed. What is the final temperature?

**MODEL** This example has three interacting systems: the aluminum box, the nitrogen gas, and the copper block. They must all come to a common final temperature $T_{\mathrm{f}}$.

**VISUALIZE** The box and gas have the same initial temperature: $T_{\mathrm{Al}} = T_{\mathrm{N2}} = 0^\circ\mathrm{C}$. The box doesn't change size, so this is a constant-volume process. The final temperature is unknown.

**SOLVE** Although one of the systems is now a gas, the calorimetry equation $Q_{\text{net}} = Q_{\text{Al}} + Q_{\text{N2}} + Q_{\text{Cu}} = 0$ is still appropriate. In this case,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\text{net}} = m_{\text{Al}} c_{\text{Al}} (T_{\text{f}} - T_{\text{Al}}) + n_{\text{N2}} C_{\text{V}} (T_{\text{f}} - T_{\text{N2}}) \\ + m_{\text{Cu}} c_{\text{Cu}} (T_{\text{f}} - T_{\text{Cu}}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that we used masses and specific heats for the solids but moles and the molar specific heat for the gas. We used $C_{\text{V}}$ because this is a constant-volume process. Solving for $T_{\text{f}}$ gives

$$T_{\text{f}} = \frac{m_{\text{Al}} c_{\text{Al}} T_{\text{Al}} + n_{\text{N2}} C_{\text{V}} T_{\text{N2}} + m_{\text{Cu}} c_{\text{Cu}} T_{\text{Cu}}}{m_{\text{Al}} c_{\text{Al}} + n_{\text{N2}} C_{\text{V}} + m_{\text{Cu}} c_{\text{Cu}}}$$

The specific heat values are found in Tables 19.2 and 19.4. The mass of the copper is

$$m_{\text{Cu}} = \rho_{\text{Cu}} V_{\text{Cu}} = \left(8920 \text{ kg/cm}^3\right) \left(20 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3\right) = 0.178 \text{ kg}$$

The number of moles of the gas is found from the ideal-gas law, using the initial conditions. Notice that inserting the copper block *displaces* 20 $\text{cm}^3$ of gas; hence the gas volume is only $V = 780 \text{ cm}^3 = 7.80 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3$. Thus

$$n_{\text{N2}} = \frac{pV}{RT} = 0.0348 \text{ mol}$$

Computing the final temperature gives $T_{\text{f}} = 83^\circ\text{C}$.

## $C_P$ and $C_V$



You may have noticed two curious features in Table 19.4. First, the molar specific heats of monatomic gases are *all alike*. And the molar

specific heats of diatomic gases, while different from monatomic gases, are again *very nearly alike*. We saw a similar feature in Table 19.2 for the molar specific heats of solids. Second, the *difference* $C_P - C_V = 8.3\ \text{J/mol K}$ is the same in every case. And, most puzzling of all, the value of $C_P - C_V$ appears to be equal to the universal gas constant $R$! Why should this be?

The relationship between $C_V$ and $C_P$ hinges on one crucial idea: **$\Delta E_{th}$, the change in the thermal energy of a gas, is the same for *any* two processes that have the same $\Delta T$.** The thermal energy of a gas is associated with temperature, so any process that changes the gas temperature from $T_i$ to $T_f$ has the same $\Delta E_{th}$ as any other process that goes from $T_i$ to $T_f$. Furthermore, the first law $\Delta E_{th} = Q + W$ tells us that a gas cannot distinguish between heat and work. The system's thermal energy changes in response to energy added to or removed from the system, but the response of the gas is the same whether you heat the system, do work on the system, or do some combination of both. **Thus any two processes that change the thermal energy of the gas by $\Delta E_{th}$ will cause the same temperature change $\Delta T$.**

With that in mind, look back at Figure 19.16. Both gas processes have the same $\Delta T$, so both have the same value of $\Delta E_{th}$. Process A is an isochoric process in which no work is done (the piston doesn't move), so the first law for this process is

**(19.25)**

$$(\Delta E_{th})_A = W + Q = 0 + Q_{\text{const vol}} = nC_V\,\Delta T$$

Process B is an isobaric process. You learned earlier that the work done on the gas during an isobaric process is $W = -p\Delta V$. Thus

**(19.26)**

$$(\Delta E_{\text{th}})_{\text{B}} = W + Q = -p\,\Delta V + Q_{\text{const press}} = -p\,\Delta V + nC_{\text{P}}\,\Delta T$$

$(\Delta E_{\text{th}})_{\text{B}} = (\Delta E_{\text{th}})_{\text{A}}$ because both have the same $\Delta T$, so we can equate the right sides of Equations 19.25 and 19.26:

**(19.27)**

$$-p\,\Delta V + nC_{\text{P}}\,\Delta T = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$$

For the final step, we can use the ideal-gas law $pV = nRT$ to relate $\Delta V$ and $\Delta T$ during process B. For any gas process,

**(19.28)**

$$\Delta\,(pV) = \Delta\,(nRT)$$

For a constant-pressure process, where $p$ is constant, Equation 19.28 becomes

**(19.29)**

$$p\,\Delta V = nR\,\Delta T$$

Substituting this expression for $p\,\Delta V$ into Equation 19.27 gives

**(19.30)**

$$-nR\,\Delta T + nC_{\text{P}}\,\Delta T = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$$

The $n\,\Delta T$ cancels, and we are left with

---

**(19.31)**

$$C_{\text{P}} = C_{\text{V}} + R$$

This result, which applies to all ideal gases, is exactly what we see in the data of Table 19.4.

But that's not the only conclusion we can draw. Equation 19.25 found that $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$ for a constant-volume process. But we had just noted that $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ is the same for *all* gas processes that have the same $\Delta T$. Consequently, this expression for $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ is equally true for any other process. That is

---

**(19.32)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T \quad \text{(any ideal-gas process)}$$

Compare this result to Equations 19.24. We first made a distinction between constant-volume and constant-pressure processes, but now we're saying that Equation 19.32 is true for any process. Are we contradicting ourselves? No, the difference lies in what you need to calculate.

- The change in thermal energy when the temperature changes by $\Delta T$ is the same for any process. That's Equation 19.32.
- The *heat* required to bring about the temperature change depends on what the process is. That's Equations 19.24. An isobaric process requires more heat than an isochoric process that produces the same $\Delta T$.



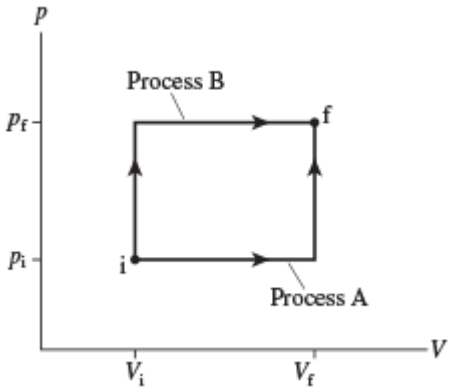
The reason for the difference is seen by writing the first law as $Q = \Delta E_{\text{th}} - W$. In an isochoric process, where $W = 0$, *all* the heat input

is used to increase the gas temperature. But in an isobaric process, some of the energy that enters the system as heat then leaves the system as work ($W < 0$) done by the expanding gas. Thus more heat is needed to produce the same $\Delta T$.

## Heat Depends on the Path

Consider the two ideal-gas processes shown in Figure 19.18. Even though the initial and final states are the same, the heat added during these two processes is *not* the same. We can use the first law $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$ to see why.

**Figure 19.18**




Is the heat input along these two paths the same or different?

The thermal energy is a state variable. That is, its value depends on the state of the gas, not the process by which the gas arrived at that state. Thus $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = E_{\text{th f}} - E_{\text{th i}}$ is the same for both processes. If $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ is the same for processes A and B, then $W_{\text{A}} + Q_{\text{A}} = W_{\text{B}} + Q_{\text{B}}$.

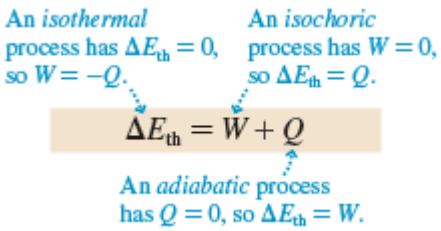
You learned in Section 19.2 that the work done during an ideal-gas process depends on the path in the $pV$ diagram. There's more area under the process B curve, so $|W_{\text{B}}| > |W_{\text{A}}|$. Both values of $W$ are negative

because the gas expands, so $W_B$ is more negative than $W_A$. Consequently, $W_A + Q_A$ can equal $W_B + Q_B$ only if $Q_B > Q_A$. **The heat added or removed during an ideal-gas process depends on the path followed through the *pV* diagram.**

## Adiabatic Processes

Section 19.4 introduced the idea of an *adiabatic process*, a process in which no heat energy is transferred ($Q = 0$). Figure 19.19 compares an adiabatic process with isothermal and isochoric processes. We're now prepared to look at adiabatic processes in more detail.

**Figure 19.19**




The relationship of three important processes to the first law of thermodynamics.

In practice, there are two ways that an adiabatic process can come about. First, a gas cylinder can be completely surrounded by thermal insulation, such as thick pieces of Styrofoam. The environment can interact mechanically with the gas by pushing or pulling on the insulated piston, but there is no thermal interaction.

Second, the gas can be expanded or compressed very rapidly in what we call an *adiabatic expansion* or an *adiabatic compression*. In a rapid process there is essentially no time for heat to be transferred between the gas and the environment. We've already alluded to the idea that heat is transferred via atomic-level collisions. These collisions take time. If you

stick one end of a copper rod into a flame, the other end will eventually get too hot to hold—but not instantly. Some amount of time is required for heat to be transferred from one end to the other. A process that takes place faster than the heat can be transferred is adiabatic.

> **Note**
>
> You may recall reading in Chapter 18 that we are going to study only quasi-static processes, processes that proceed slowly enough to remain essentially in equilibrium at all times. Now we're proposing to study processes that take place very rapidly. Isn't this a contradiction? Yes, to some extent it is. What we need to establish are the appropriate time scales. How slow must a process go to be quasi-static? How fast must it go to be adiabatic? These types of calculations must be deferred to a more advanced course. It turns out—fortunately! —that many practical applications, such as the compression strokes in gasoline and diesel engines, are fast enough to be adiabatic yet slow enough to still be considered quasi-static.

For an adiabatic process, with $Q = 0$, the first law of thermodynamics is $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W$. Compressing a gas adiabatically ($W > 0$) increases the thermal energy. Thus an adiabatic compression raises the temperature of a gas. A gas that expands adiabatically ($W < 0$) gets colder as its thermal energy decreases. Thus an adiabatic expansion lowers the temperature of a gas. You can use an adiabatic process to change the gas temperature without using heat!

The work done in an adiabatic process goes entirely to changing the thermal energy of the gas. But we just found that $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$ for *any* process. Thus

**(19.33)**

$$W = nC_{\mathrm{V}}\,\Delta T \quad \text{(adiabatic process)}$$

Equation 19.33 joins with the equations we derived earlier for the work done in isochoric, isobaric, and isothermal processes.

Gas processes can be represented as trajectories in the $pV$ diagram. For example, a gas moves along a hyperbola during an isothermal process. How does an adiabatic process appear in a $pV$ diagram? The result is more important than the derivation, which is a bit tedious, so we'll begin with the answer and then, at the end of this section, show where it comes from.

First, we define the **specific heat ratio** $\gamma$ (lowercase Greek gamma) to be

---

**(19.34)**

$$\gamma = \frac{C_{\mathrm{P}}}{C_{\mathrm{V}}} = \begin{cases} 1.67 & \text{monatomic gas} \\ 1.40 & \text{diatomic gas} \end{cases}$$

The specific heat ratio has many uses in thermodynamics. Notice that $\gamma$ is dimensionless.

An adiabatic process is one in which

---

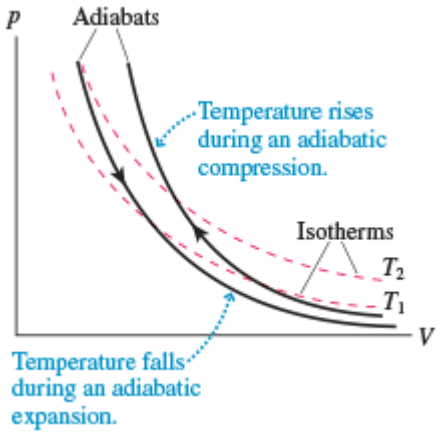
**(19.35)**

$$pV^{\gamma} = \text{constant} \quad \text{or} \quad p_{\mathrm{f}}V_{\mathrm{f}}^{\gamma} = p_{\mathrm{i}}V_{\mathrm{i}}^{\gamma}$$

This is similar to the isothermal $pV = \text{constant}$, but somewhat more complex due to the exponent $\gamma$.

The curves found by graphing $p = \text{constant}/V^{\gamma}$ are called **adiabats.** In Figure 19.20 you see that the two adiabats are steeper than the hyperbolic isotherms. An adiabatic process moves along an adiabat in the same way that an isothermal process moves along an isotherm. You can see that the temperature falls during an adiabatic expansion and rises during an adiabatic compression.

## Figure 19.20




An adiabatic process moves along $pV$ curves called *adiabats*.

If we use the ideal-gas-law expression $p = nRT/V$ in the adiabatic equation $pV^{\gamma} = \text{constant}$, we see that $TV^{\gamma-1}$ is also constant during an adiabatic process. Thus another useful equation for adiabatic processes is

**(19.36)**

$$T_{\mathrm{f}}V_{\mathrm{f}}^{\gamma-1} = T_{\mathrm{i}}V_{\mathrm{i}}^{\gamma-1}$$

### Example 19.9 An adiabatic compression

Air containing gasoline vapor is admitted into the cylinder of an internal combustion engine at 1.00 atm pressure and 30°C. The piston rapidly compresses the gas from 500 $cm^3$ to 50 $cm^3$, a *compression ratio* of 10.

**a.** What are the final temperature and pressure of the gas?

**b.** Show the compression process on a $pV$ diagram.

**c.** How much work is done to compress the gas?



**MODEL** The compression is rapid, with insufficient time for heat to be transferred from the gas to the environment, so we will model it as an adiabatic compression. We'll treat the gas as if it were 100% air.

**SOLVE**

**a.** We know the initial pressure and volume, and we know the volume after the compression. For an adiabatic process, where $pV^\gamma$ remains constant, the final pressure is

$$p_f = p_i \left( \frac{V_i}{V_f} \right)^\gamma = (1.00 \text{ atm}) (10)^{1.40} = 25.1 \text{ atm}$$

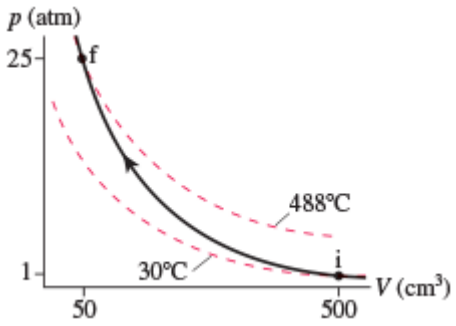
Air is a mixture of $N_2$ and $O_2$, diatomic gases, so we used $\gamma = 1.40$. We can now find the temperature by using the ideal-gas law:

$$T_f = T_i \frac{p_f}{p_i} \frac{V_f}{V_i} = (303 \text{ K}) (25.1) \left( \frac{1}{10} \right) = 761 \text{ K} = 488^\circ \text{C}$$

Temperature *must* be in kelvins for doing gas calculations such as these.

**b.** Figure 19.21 shows the $pV$ diagram. The 30°C and 488°C isotherms are included to show how the temperature changes during the process.

**Figure 19.21**




The adiabatic compression of the gas in an internal combustion engine.

**c.** The work done is $W = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$, with $\Delta T = 458\text{ K}$. The number of moles is found from the ideal-gas law and the initial conditions:

$$n = \frac{p_{\text{i}}V_{\text{i}}}{RT_{\text{i}}} = 0.0201\text{ mol}$$

Thus the work done to compress the gas is

$$W = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T = (0.0201\text{ mol})\,(20.8\text{ J/mol K})\,(458\text{ K}) = 192\text{ J}$$

**ASSESS** The temperature rises dramatically during the compression stroke of an engine. But the higher temperature has nothing to do with heat! **The temperature and thermal energy of the gas are increased not by heating the gas but by doing work on it.** This is an important idea to understand.

# Proof of Equation 19.35

Now let's see where Equation 19.35 comes from. Consider an adiabatic process in which an infinitesimal amount of work $dW$ done on a gas causes an infinitesimal change in the thermal energy. For an adiabatic process, with $dQ = 0$, the first law of thermodynamics is

**(19.37)**

$$dE_{\text{th}} = dW$$

We can use Equation 19.32, which is valid for *any* gas process, to write $dE_{\text{th}} = nC_{\text{V}}\,dT$. Earlier in the chapter we found that the work done during a small volume change is $dW = -pdV$. With these substitutions, Equation 19.37 becomes

**(19.38)**

$$nC_{\text{V}}\,dT = -pdV$$

The ideal-gas law can now be used to write $p = nRT/V$. The $n$ cancels, and the $C_{\text{V}}$ can be moved to the other side of the equation to give

**(19.39)**

$$\frac{dT}{T} = -\frac{R}{C_{\text{V}}}\frac{dV}{V}$$

We're going to integrate Equation 19.39, but anticipating the need for $\gamma = C_{\text{P}}/C_{\text{V}}$ we can first use the fact that $C_{\text{P}} = C_{\text{V}} + R$ to write

**(19.40)**

$$\frac{R}{C_{\mathrm{V}}} = \frac{C_{\mathrm{P}} - C_{\mathrm{V}}}{C_{\mathrm{V}}} = \frac{C_{\mathrm{P}}}{C_{\mathrm{V}}} - 1 = \gamma - 1$$

Now we integrate Equation 19.39 from the initial state i to the final state f:

**(19.41)**

$$\int_{T_{\mathrm{i}}}^{T_{\mathrm{f}}} \frac{dT}{T} = -(\gamma - 1) \int_{V_{\mathrm{i}}}^{V_{\mathrm{f}}} \frac{dV}{V}$$

Carrying out the integration gives

**(19.42)**

$$\ln\left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{f}}}{T_{\mathrm{i}}}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{V_{\mathrm{i}}}{V_{\mathrm{f}}}\right)^{\gamma - 1}$$

where we used the logarithm properties $\log a - \log b = \log\left(a/b\right)$ and $c \log a \ = \ \log(a^c)$.

Taking the exponential of both sides now gives

**(19.43)**

$$\left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{f}}}{T_{\mathrm{i}}}\right) = \left(\frac{V_{\mathrm{i}}}{V_{\mathrm{f}}}\right)^{\gamma - 1}$$
$$T_{\mathrm{f}} {V_{\mathrm{f}}}^{\gamma - 1} = T_{\mathrm{i}} {V_{\mathrm{i}}}^{\gamma - 1}$$

This was Equation 19.36. Writing $T = pV/nR$ and canceling $1/nR$ from both sides of the equation give Equation 19.35:

**(19.44)**

$$p_{\mathrm{f}} {V_{\mathrm{f}}}^{\gamma} = p_{\mathrm{i}} {V_{\mathrm{i}}}^{\gamma}$$

This was a lengthy derivation, but it is good practice at seeing how the ideal-gas law and the first law of thermodynamics can work together to yield results of great importance.

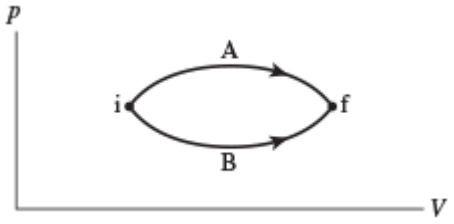
## Stop to Think 19.6

For the two processes shown, which of the following is true:

**a.** $Q_{\text{A}} > Q_{\text{B}}$

**b.** $Q_{\text{A}} = Q_{\text{B}}$

**c.** $Q_{\text{A}} < Q_{\text{B}}$



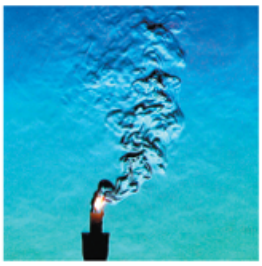
# 19.8 Heat-Transfer Mechanisms



You feel warmer when the sun is shining on you, colder when sitting on a metal bench or when the wind is blowing, especially if your skin is wet. This is due to the transfer of heat. Although we've talked about heat a lot in this chapter, we haven't said much about *how* heat is transferred from a hotter object to a colder object. There are four basic mechanisms by which objects exchange heat with their surroundings. Evaporation was treated in Section 19.5; in this section, we will consider the other mechanisms.

**Heat-transfer mechanisms**

When two objects are in direct contact, such as the soldering iron and the circuit board, heat is transferred by *conduction*.



Air currents near a lighted candle rise, taking thermal energy with them in a process known as *convection*.

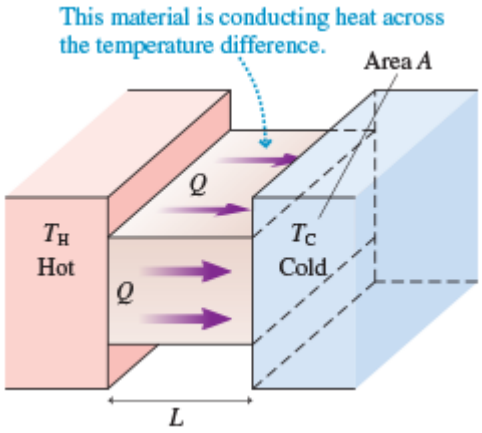
The lamp at the top shines on the lambs huddled below, warming them. The energy is transferred by *radiation*.

Blowing on a hot cup of tea or coffee cools it by *evaporation*.

## Conduction

Figure 19.22 shows an object sandwiched between a higher temperature $T_H$ and a lower temperature $T_C$. The temperature *difference* causes heat energy to be transferred from the hot side to the cold side in a process known as **conduction.**

**Figure 19.22**




Conduction of heat through a solid.

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It is not surprising that more heat is transferred if the temperature difference $\Delta T$ is larger. A material with a larger cross section $A$ (a fatter pipe) transfers more heat, while a thicker material, increasing the distance $L$ between the hot and cold sources, decreases the rate of heat transfer.

These observations about heat conduction can be summarized in a single formula. If a small amount of heat $dQ$ is transferred in a small time interval $dt$, the *rate* of heat transfer is $dQ/dt$. For a material of cross-section area $A$ and length $L$, spanning a temperature difference $\Delta T = T_{\mathrm{H}} - T_{\mathrm{C}}$, the rate of heat transfer is

---

**(19.45)**

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = k\frac{A}{L}\Delta T$$

The quantity $k$, which characterizes whether the material is a good conductor of heat or a poor conductor, is called the **thermal conductivity** of the material. Because the heat-transfer rate J/s is a *power*, measured in

watts, the units of $k$ are W/m K. Values of $k$ for common materials are given in Table 19.5; a material with a larger value of $k$ is a better conductor of heat.

**Table 19.5**

| Material | $k$ (W/m K) |
|---|---|
| Diamond | 2000 |
| Silver | 430 |
| Copper | 400 |
| Aluminum | 240 |
| Iron | 80 |
| Stainless steel | 14 |
| Ice | 1.7 |
| Concrete | 0.8 |
| Glass | 0.8 |
| Styrofoam | 0.035 |
| Air (20°C, 1 atm) | 0.023 |

Thermal conductivities

> **Note**
>
> Heat conductivity is yet *another* use of the symbol $k$. Whenever you see a $k$, be very alert to the context in which it is used.

Most good heat conductors are metals, which are also good conductors of electricity. One exception is diamond, in which the strong bonds among atoms that make diamond such a hard material lead to a rapid transfer of thermal energy. Air and other gases are poor conductors of heat because there are no bonds between adjacent molecules.

Some of our perceptions of hot and cold have more to do with thermal conductivity than with temperature. For example, a metal chair feels colder to your bare skin than a wooden chair not because it has a lower temperature—both are at room temperature—but because it has a much

larger thermal conductivity that conducts heat away from your body at a much higher rate.

### Example 19.10 Keeping a freezer cold

A 1.8-m-wide by 1.0-m-tall by 0.65-m-deep home freezer is insulated with 5.0-cm-thick Styrofoam insulation. At what rate must the compressor remove heat from the freezer to keep the inside at –20°C in a room where the air temperature is 25°C?

**MODEL** Heat is transferred through each of the six sides by conduction. The compressor must remove heat at the same rate it enters to maintain a steady temperature inside. The heat conduction is determined primarily by the thick insulation, so we'll neglect the thin inner and outer panels.

**SOLVE** Each of the six sides is a slab of Styrofoam with cross-section area $A_i$ and thickness $\mathrm{L} = 5.0\ \mathrm{cm}$. The total rate of heat transfer is

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} k\,\frac{A_i}{L}\Delta T = \frac{k\,\Delta T}{L}\sum_{i=1}^{6} A_i = \frac{k\,\Delta T}{L}A_{\text{total}}$$

The total surface area is

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\text{total}} = 2 \times (&1.8\ \mathrm{m} \times 1.0\ \mathrm{m} + 1.8\ \mathrm{m} \times 0.65\ \mathrm{m} \\ &+ 1.0\ \mathrm{m} \times 0.65\ \mathrm{m}) = 7.24\ \mathrm{m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Using $k = 0.035\ \mathrm{W/m\,K}$ from Table 19.5, we find

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{k\,\Delta T}{L}\,A_{\text{total}} = \frac{(0.035\ \mathrm{W/m\,K})\,(45\ \mathrm{K})\,\left(7.24\ \mathrm{m}^2\right)}{0.050\ \mathrm{m}} = 230\ \mathrm{W}$$

Heat enters the freezer through the walls at the rate 230 J/s; thus the compressor must remove 230 J of heat energy every second to keep the temperature at –20°C.

**ASSESS** We'll learn in Chapter 19 how the compressor does this and how much work it must do. A typical freezer uses electric energy at a rate of about 150 W, so our result seems reasonable.



## Convection

Air is a poor conductor of heat, but thermal energy is easily transferred through air, water, and other fluids because the air and water can flow. A pan of water on the stove is heated at the bottom. This heated water expands, becomes less dense than the water above it, and thus rises to the surface, while cooler, denser water sinks to take its place. The same thing happens to air. This transfer of thermal energy by the motion of a fluid—the well-known idea that "heat rises"—is called **convection.**

Warm water (colored) moves by convection.

Convection is usually the main mechanism for heat transfer in fluid systems. On a small scale, convection mixes the pan of water that you

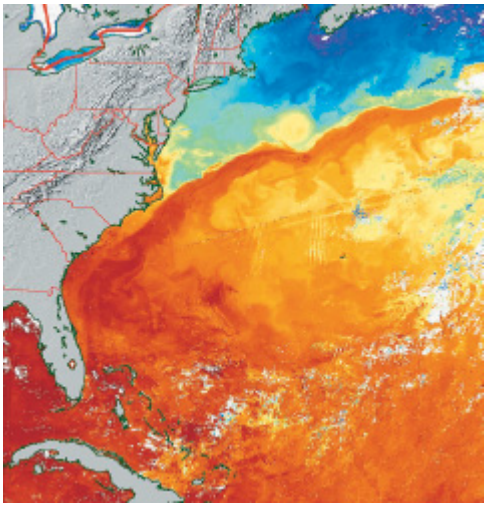
heat on the stove; on a large scale, convection is responsible for making the wind blow and ocean currents circulate. Air is a very poor thermal conductor, but it is very effective at transferring energy by convection. To use air for thermal insulation, it is necessary to trap the air in small pockets to limit convection. And that's exactly what feathers, fur, double-paned windows, and fiberglass insulation do. Convection is much more rapid in water than in air, which is why people can die of hypothermia in 68°F (20°C) water but can live quite happily in 68°F air.

Because convection involves the often-turbulent motion of fluids, there is no simple equation for energy transfer by convection. Our description must remain qualitative.

## Radiation

The sun *radiates* energy to earth through the vacuum of space. Similarly, you feel the warmth from the glowing red coals in a fireplace.

All objects emit energy in the form of **radiation,** electromagnetic waves generated by oscillating electric charges in the atoms that form the object. These waves transfer energy from the object that emits the radiation to the object that absorbs it. Electromagnetic waves carry energy from the sun; this energy is absorbed when sunlight falls on your skin, warming you by increasing your thermal energy. Your skin also emits electromagnetic radiation, helping to keep your body cool by decreasing your thermal energy. Radiation is a significant part of the *energy balance* that keeps your body at the proper temperature.



This satellite image shows radiation emitted by the ocean waters off the east coast of the United States. You can clearly see the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, a large-scale convection that transfers heat to northern latitudes.



> **Note**
>
> The word "radiation" comes from "radiate," meaning "to beam." Radiation can refer to x rays or to the radioactive decay of nuclei, but it also can refer simply to light and other forms of electromagnetic waves that "beam" from an object. Here we are using this second meaning of the term.

You are familiar with radiation from objects hot enough to glow "red hot" or, at a high enough temperature, "white hot." The sun is simply a very hot ball of glowing gas, and the white light from an incandescent lightbulb is radiation emitted by a thin wire filament heated to a very high temperature by an electric current. Objects at lower temperatures also radiate, but at infrared wavelengths. You can't see this radiation (although you can sometimes feel it), but infrared-sensitive detectors can measure it and are used to make thermal images.

The energy radiated by an object depends strongly on temperature. If a small amount of heat energy $dQ$ is radiated during a small time interval $dt$ by an object with surface area $A$ and absolute temperature $T$, the *rate* of heat transfer is found to be

**(19.46)**

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = e\sigma AT^4$$

Because the rate of energy transfer is power $(1\ \text{J/s} = 1\ \text{W})$, $dQ/dt$ is often called the *radiated power*. Notice the very strong fourth-power dependence on temperature. Doubling the absolute temperature of an object increases the radiated power by a factor of 16!

The parameter $e$ in Equation 19.46 is the **emissivity** of the surface, a measure of how effectively it radiates. The value of $e$ ranges from 0 to 1. $\sigma$ is a constant, known as the Stefan-Boltzmann constant, with the value

$$\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{W/m}^2\ \text{K}^4$$

> **Note**
>
> Just as in the ideal-gas law, the temperature in Equation 19.46 *must* be in kelvins.

Objects not only emit radiation, they also *absorb* radiation emitted by their surroundings. Suppose an object at temperature $T$ is surrounded by an environment at temperature $T_0$. The *net* rate at which the object radiates heat energy—that is, radiation emitted minus radiation absorbed —is

**(19.47)**

$$\frac{dQ_{\text{net}}}{dt} = e\sigma A(T^4 - T_0^4)$$

This makes sense. An object should have no *net* radiation if it's in thermal equilibrium ($T = T_0$) with its surroundings.

Notice that the emissivity $e$ appears for absorption as well as emission; good emitters are also good absorbers. A perfect absorber ($e = 1$), one absorbing all light and radiation impinging on it but reflecting none, would appear completely black. Thus a perfect absorber is sometimes called a **black body.** But a perfect absorber would also be a perfect emitter, so thermal radiation from an ideal emitter is called **black-body radiation.** It seems strange that black objects are perfect emitters, but think of black charcoal glowing bright red in a fire. At room temperature, it "glows" equally bright with infrared.

**Example 19.11 Taking the sun's temperature**

The radius of the sun is $6.96 \times 10^8$ m. At the distance of the earth, $1.50 \times 10^{11}$ m, the intensity of solar radiation (measured by satellites above the atmosphere) is 1370 W/m$^2$. What is the temperature of the sun's surface?

**MODEL** Assume the sun to be an ideal radiator with $e = 1$.

**SOLVE** The total power radiated by the sun is the power per m$^2$ multiplied by the surface area of a sphere extending to the earth:

$$P = \frac{1370\ \text{W}}{1\ \text{m}^2} \times 4\pi\left(1.50 \times 10^{11}\ \text{m}\right)^2 = 3.87 \times 10^{26}\ \text{W}$$

That is, the sun radiates energy at the rate $dQ/dt = 3.87 \times 10^{26}$ J/s. That's a lot of power! This energy is radiated from the surface of a

sphere of radius $R_S$. Using this information in Equation 19.46, we find that the sun's surface temperature is

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \left[\frac{dQ/dt}{e\sigma\left(4\pi {R_S}^2\right)}\right]^{1/4} \\ &= \left[\frac{3.87\times10^{26}\ \mathrm{W}}{(1)(5.67\times10^{-8}\ \mathrm{W/m^2\ K^4})\,4\pi\,(6.96\times10^{8}\ \mathrm{m})^2}\right]^{1/4} \\ &= 5790\ \mathrm{K} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This temperature is confirmed by measurements of the solar spectrum, a topic we'll explore in Part VIII.

Thermal radiation plays a prominent role in climate and global warming. The earth as a whole is in thermal equilibrium. Consequently, it must radiate back into space exactly as much energy as it receives from the sun. The incoming radiation from the hot sun is mostly visible light. The earth's atmosphere is transparent to visible light, so this radiation reaches the surface and is absorbed. The cooler earth radiates infrared radiation, but the atmosphere is *not* completely transparent to infrared. Some components of the atmosphere, notably water vapor and carbon dioxide, are strong absorbers of infrared radiation. They hinder the emission of radiation and, rather like a blanket, keep the earth's surface warmer than it would be without these gases in the atmosphere.

The **greenhouse effect,** as it's called, is a natural part of the earth's climate. The earth would be much colder and mostly frozen were it not for naturally occurring carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But carbon dioxide also results from the burning of fossil fuels, and human activities since the beginning of the industrial revolution have increased the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide by nearly 50%. This human

contribution has amplified the greenhouse effect and is the primary cause of global warming.

### Stop to Think 19.7

Suppose you are an astronaut in space, hard at work in your sealed spacesuit. The only way that you can transfer excess heat to the environment is by

**a.** Conduction.
**b.** Convection.
**c.** Radiation.
**d.** Evaporation.

### Challenge Example 19.12 Boiling water

400 mL of water is poured into a covered 8.0-cm-diameter, 150 g glass beaker with a 2.0-mm-thick bottom; then the beaker is placed on a 400°C hot plate. Once the water reaches the boiling point, how long will it take to boil away all the water?

**MODEL** The bottom of the beaker is a heat-conducting material transferring heat energy from the 400°C hot plate to the 100°C boiling water. The temperature of both the water and the beaker remains constant until the water has boiled away. We'll assume that heat losses due to convection and radiation are negligible, in which case the heat energy entering the system is used entirely for

the phase change of the water. The beaker's mass isn't relevant because its temperature isn't changing.

**SOLVE** The heat energy required to boil mass $M$ of water is

$$Q = ML_{\text{v}}$$

where $L_{\text{v}} = 2.26 \times 10^6\ \text{J/kg}$ is the heat of vaporization. The heat energy transferred through the bottom of the beaker during a time interval $\Delta t$ is

$$Q = k\frac{A}{L}\Delta T\,\Delta t$$

where $k = 0.80\ \text{W/m K}$ is the thermal conductivity of glass. Because the heat transferred by conduction is used entirely for boiling the water, we can combine these two expressions:

$$k\frac{A}{L}\Delta T\,\Delta t = ML_{\text{v}}$$

and then solve for $\Delta t$:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta t &= \frac{MLL_{\text{v}}}{kA\,\Delta T} = \frac{(0.40\,\text{kg})(0.0020\,\text{m})(2.26 \times 10^6\,\text{J/kg})}{(0.80\,\text{W/m K})(0.0050\,\text{m}^2)(300\,\text{K})} \\ &= 1500\,\text{s} = 25\,\text{min}\end{aligned}$$

We used the density of water to find that $M = 400\ \text{g} = 0.40\ \text{kg}$ and calculated $A = \pi r^2 = 0.0050\ \text{m}^2$ as the area through which heat conduction occurs.

**ASSESS** 400 mL is roughly 2 cups, a small hot plate can bring 2 cups of water to a boil in 5 min or so, and boiling the water away takes quite a bit longer than bringing it to a boil. 25 min is a slight underestimate since we neglected energy losses due to convection and radiation, but it seems reasonable. A stove could boil the water

away much faster because the burner temperature (gas flame or red-hot heating coil) is much higher.

# Summary



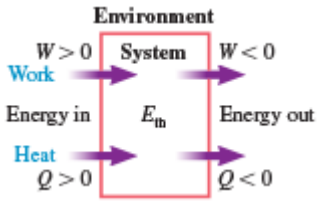
> The goal of Chapter 19 has been to learn and apply the first law of thermodynamics.

## General Principles

### First Law of Thermodynamics

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$$

The first law is a general statement of energy conservation.




Work $W$ and heat $Q$ depend on the process by which the system is changed.

### Energy

**Thermal energy $E_{\text{th}}$** Microscopic energy of moving molecules and stretched molecular bonds. $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ depends on the initial/final states but is independent of the process.

**Work $W$** Energy transferred to the system by forces in a mechanical interaction.

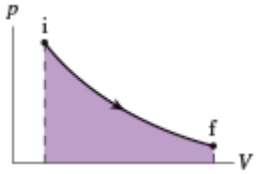
**Heat $Q$** Energy transferred to the system via atomic-level collisions in a thermal interaction.

# Important Concepts

## Solving Problems of Work on an Ideal Gas

The work done on a gas is

$$\begin{aligned} W &= -\int_{V_\mathrm{i}}^{V_\mathrm{f}} p\,dV \\ &= -\left(\text{area under the } pV \text{ curve}\right) \end{aligned}$$

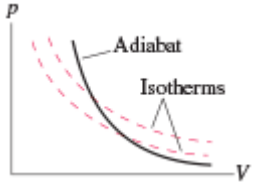



## Solving Calorimetry Problems

When two or more systems interact thermally, they come to a common final temperature determined by

$$Q_\mathrm{net} = Q_1 + Q_2 + \cdots = 0$$

An **adiabatic process** has $Q = 0$. Gases move along an **adiabat** for which $pV^\gamma =$ constant, where $\gamma = \mathrm{C_P}/C_\mathrm{V}$ is the **specific heat ratio.** An adiabatic process changes the temperature of the gas without heating it.



**The heat of transformation *L*** is the energy needed to cause 1 kg of substance to undergo a phase change

$$Q = \pm ML$$

**The specific heat *c*** of a substance is the energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kg by 1 K:

$$Q = Mc\,\Delta T$$

**The molar specific heat *C*** is the energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 mol by 1 K:

$$Q = nC\,\Delta T$$

The molar specific heat of gases depends on the *process* by which the temperature is changed:

$C_{\mathrm{V}} =$ molar specific heat at **constant volume**
$C_{\mathrm{P}} = C_{\mathrm{V}} + R =$ molar specific heat at **constant pressure**

Heat is transferred by **conduction, convection, radiation**, and **evaporation**.



Conduction: $dQ/dt = (kA/L)\,\Delta T$

Radiation: $dQ/dt = e\sigma AT^4$

# Summary of Basic Gas Processes

| Process | Definition | Stays constant | Work | Heat |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Isochoric | $\Delta V = 0$ | $V$ and $p/T$ | $W = 0$ | $Q = nC_{\mathrm{V}}\Delta T$ |
| Isobaric | $\Delta p = 0$ | $p$ and $V/T$ | $W = -p\Delta V$ | $Q = nC_{\mathrm{P}}\Delta T$ |
| Isothermal | $\Delta T = 0$ | $T$ and $pV$ | $W = -nRT\ln(V_{\mathrm{f}}/V_{\mathrm{i}})$ | $\Delta E_{\mathrm{th}} = 0$ |
| Adiabatic | $Q = 0$ | $pV^{\gamma}$ | $W = \Delta E_{\mathrm{th}}$ | $Q = 0$ |
| All gas processes | First law $\Delta E_{\mathrm{th}} = W + Q = nC_{\mathrm{V}}\Delta T$ | | Ideal-gas law $pV = nRT$ | |

# Terms and Notation

work, $W$

mechanical interaction

mechanical equilibrium

heat, $Q$

thermal interaction

thermal equilibrium

first law of thermodynamics

thermodynamic energy model

adiabatic process

specific heat, $c$

molar specific heat, $C$

heat of transformation, $L$

heat of fusion, $L_{\mathrm{f}}$

heat of vaporization, $L_{\mathrm{v}}$

calorimetry

molar specific heat at constant volume, $C_{\mathrm{V}}$

molar specific heat at constant pressure, $C_{\mathrm{P}}$

specific heat ratio, $\gamma$

adiabat

conduction

thermal conductivity, $k$

convection

radiation

emissivity, $e$

black body

black-body radiation

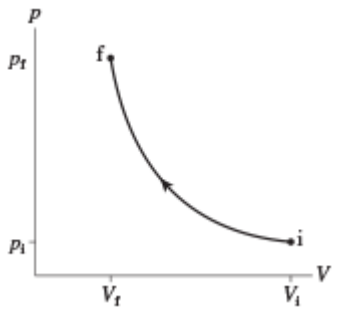
greenhouse effect

# Conceptual Questions



1. When a space capsule returns to earth, its surfaces get very hot as it passes through the atmosphere at high speed. Has the space capsule been heated? If so, what was the source of the heat? If not, why is it hot?
2. Do (a) temperature, (b) heat, and (c) thermal energy describe a property of a system, an interaction of the system with its environment, or both? Explain.
3. Two containers hold equal masses of nitrogen gas at equal temperatures. You supply 10 J of heat to container A while not allowing its volume to change, and you supply 10 J of heat to container B while not allowing its pressure to change. Afterward, is temperature $T_A$ greater than, less than, or equal to $T_B$? Explain.
4. You need to raise the temperature of a gas by 10°C. To use the least amount of heat energy, should you heat the gas at constant pressure or at constant volume? Explain.
5. *Why* is the molar specific heat of a gas at constant pressure larger than the molar specific heat at constant volume?
6. Figure Q19.6 shows an adiabatic process.

**Figure Q19.6**

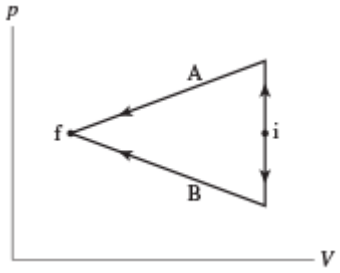


**a.** Is the final temperature higher than, lower than, or equal to the initial temperature?

**b.** Is any heat energy added to or removed from the system in this process? Explain.

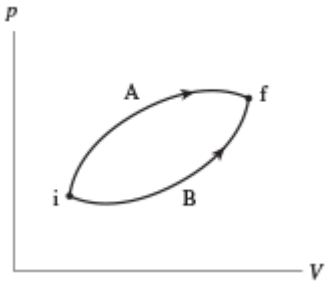
**7.** Figure Q19.7 shows two different processes taking an ideal gas from state i to state f. Is the work done on the gas in process A greater than, less than, or equal to the work done in process B? Explain.

### Figure Q19.7




**8.** Figure Q19.8 shows two different processes taking an ideal gas from state i to state f.

### Figure Q19.8




**a.** Is the temperature *change* $\Delta T$ during process A larger than, smaller than, or equal to the change during process B? Explain.

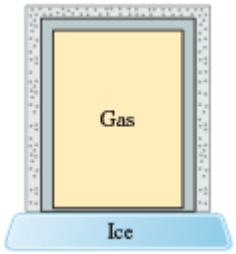
**b.** Is the heat energy added during process A greater than, less than, or equal to the heat added during process B? Explain.

**9.** The gas cylinder in Figure Q19.9 is a rigid container that is well insulated except for the bottom surface, which is in contact with a block of ice. The initial gas temperature is > 0°C.

**a.** During the process that occurs until the gas reaches a new equilibrium, are (i) $\Delta T$, (ii) $W$, and (iii) $Q$ greater than, less than, or equal to zero? Explain.

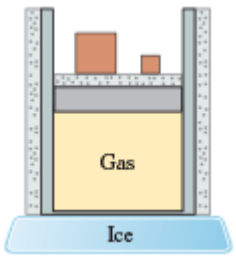
**b.** Draw a $pV$ diagram showing the process.

**Figure Q19.9**




**10.** The gas cylinder in Figure Q19.10 is well insulated except for the bottom surface, which is in contact with a block of ice. The piston can slide without friction. The initial gas temperature is > 0°C.

**Figure Q19.10**



**a.** During the process that occurs until the gas reaches a new equilibrium, are (i) $\Delta T$, (ii) $W$, and (iii) $Q$ greater than, less than, or equal to zero? Explain.

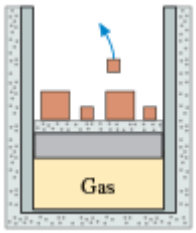
**b.** Draw a $pV$ diagram showing the process.

**11.** The gas cylinder in Figure Q19.11 is well insulated on all sides. The piston can slide without friction. Many small masses on top of the piston are removed one by one until the total mass is reduced by 50%.

**a.** During this process, are (i) $\Delta T$, (ii) $W$, and (iii) $Q$ greater than, less than, or equal to zero? Explain.

**b.** Draw a $pV$ diagram showing the process.

**Figure Q19.11**




# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

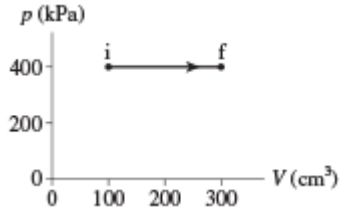
## Exercises

### Section 19.1 It's All About Energy

### Section 19.2 Work in Ideal-Gas Processes

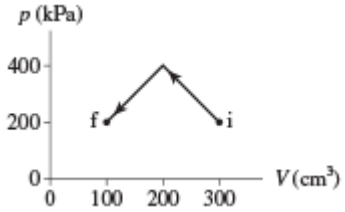
**1.** •• How much work is done on the gas in the process shown in Figure EX19.1?

**Figure EX19.1**



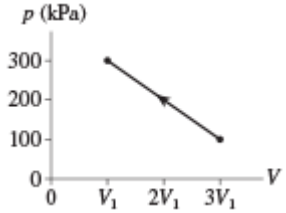

**2.** •• How much work is done on the gas in the process shown in Figure EX19.2?

**Figure EX19.2**




**3.** •• 80 J of work are done on the gas in the process shown in Figure EX19.3. What is $V_1$ in $cm^3$?

**Figure EX19.3**




**4.** •• A 2000 $cm^3$ container holds 0.10 mol of helium gas at 300°C. How much work must be done to compress the gas to 1000 $cm^3$ at (a) constant pressure and (b) constant temperature?

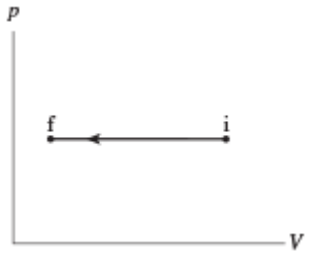
**5.** •• 500 J of work must be done to compress a gas to half its initial volume at constant temperature. How much work must be done to compress the gas by a factor of 10, starting from its initial volume?

## Section 19.3 Heat

## Section 19.4 The First Law of Thermodynamics

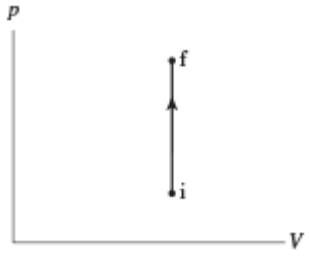
**6.** • Draw a first-law bar chart (see Figure 19.12) for the gas process in Figure EX19.6.

**Figure EX19.6**



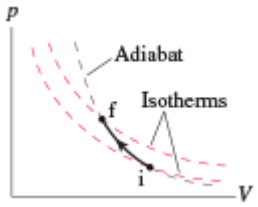

**7.** • Draw a first-law bar chart (see Figure 19.12) for the gas process in Figure EX19.7.

**Figure EX19.7**



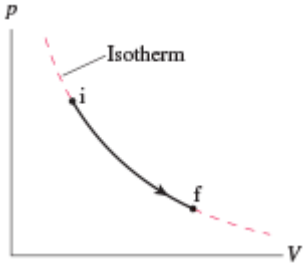

**8.** • Draw a first-law bar chart (see Figure 19.12) for the gas process in Figure EX19.8.

**Figure EX19.8**




**9.** • Draw a first-law bar chart (see Figure 19.12) for the gas process in Figure EX19.9.

**Figure EX19.9**




**10.** • A gas is compressed from 600 $cm^3$ to 200 $cm^3$ at a constant pressure of 400 kPa. At the same time, 100 J of heat energy is transferred out of the gas. What is the change in thermal energy of the gas during this process?

**11.** • 500 J of work are done on a system in a process that decreases the system's thermal energy by 200 J. How much heat energy is transferred to or from the system?

## Section 19.5 Thermal Properties of Matter

**12.** •• How much heat energy must be added to a 6.0-cm-diameter copper sphere to raise its temperature from –50°C to 150°C?

**13.** •• A rapidly spinning paddle wheel raises the temperature of 200 mL of water from 21°C to 25°C. How much (a) heat is

transferred and (b) work is done in this process?

**14.** •

**a.** 100 J of heat energy are transferred to 20 g of mercury. By how much does the temperature increase?

**b.** How much heat is needed to raise the temperature of 20 g of water by the same amount?

**15.** •• How much heat is needed to change 20 g of mercury at 20°C into mercury vapor at the boiling point?

**16.** •• What is the maximum mass of ethyl alcohol you could boil with 1000 J of heat, starting from 20°C?

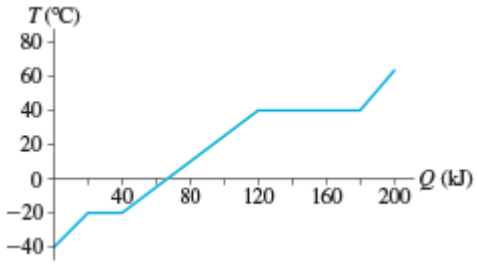
**17.** • **BIO** One way you keep from overheating is by perspiring. Evaporation—a phase change—requires heat, and the heat energy is removed from your body. Evaporation is much like boiling, only water's heat of vaporization at 35°C is a somewhat larger $24 \times 10^5$ J/kg because at lower temperatures more energy is required to break the molecular bonds. Very strenuous activity can cause an adult human to produce 30 g of perspiration per minute. If all the perspiration evaporates, rather than dripping off, at what rate (in J/s) is it possible to exhaust heat by perspiring?

**18.** • A scientist whose scale is broken but who has a working 2.5 kW heating coil and a thermometer decides to improvise to determine the mass of a block of aluminum she has recently acquired. She heats the aluminum for 30 s and finds that its temperature increases from 20°C to 35°C. What is the mass of the aluminum?

**19.** •• **INT** Two cars collide head-on while each is traveling at 80 km/h. Suppose all their kinetic energy is transformed into the thermal energy of the wrecks. What is the temperature increase of each car? You can assume that each car's specific heat is that of iron.

**20.** •• An experiment measures the temperature of a 500 g substance while steadily supplying heat to it. Figure EX19.20 shows the results of the experiment. What are the (a) specific heat of the solid phase, (b) specific heat of the liquid phase, (c) melting and boiling temperatures, and (d) heats of fusion and vaporization?

**Figure EX19.20**




## Section 19.6 Calorimetry

**21.** •• 30 g of copper pellets are removed from a 300°C oven and immediately dropped into 100 mL of water at 20°C in an insulated cup. What will the new water temperature be?

**22.** • A 750 g aluminum pan is removed from the stove and plunged into a sink filled with 10.0 L of water at 20.0°C. The water temperature quickly rises to 24.0°C. What was the initial temperature of the pan in °C and in °F?

**23.** •• A 50.0 g thermometer is used to measure the temperature of 200 mL of water. The specific heat of the thermometer, which is mostly glass, is 750 J/kg K, and it reads 20.0°C while lying on the table. After being completely immersed in the water, the thermometer's reading stabilizes at 71.2°C. What was the actual water temperature before it was measured?

**24.** •• A 500 g metal sphere is heated to 300°C, then dropped into a beaker containing 300 $cm^3$ of mercury at 20.0°C. A short time later the mercury temperature stabilizes at 99.0°C. Identify the metal.

**25.** ••• A 65 $cm^3$ block of iron is removed from an 800°C furnace and immediately dropped into 200 mL of 20°C water. What fraction of the water boils away?

## Section 19.7 The Specific Heats of Gases

**26.** • A container holds 1.0 g of argon at a pressure of 8.0 atm.

**a.** How much heat is required to increase the temperature by 100°C at constant volume?



**b.** How much will the temperature increase if this amount of heat energy is transferred to the gas at constant pressure?

**27.** •• A container holds 1.0 g of oxygen at a pressure of 8.0 atm.

**a.** How much heat is required to increase the temperature by 100°C at constant pressure?

**b.** How much will the temperature increase if this amount of heat energy is transferred to the gas at constant volume?

**28.** • The volume of a gas is halved during an adiabatic compression that increases the pressure by a factor of 2.5.

**a.** What is the specific heat ratio $\gamma$?

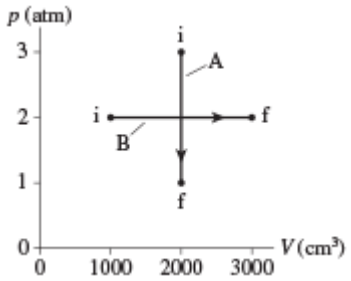
**b.** By what factor does the temperature increase?

**29.** •• A gas cylinder holds 0.10 mol of $O_2$ at 150°C and a pressure of 3.0 atm. The gas expands adiabatically until the pressure is halved. What are the final (a) volume and (b) temperature?

**30.** •• A gas cylinder holds 0.10 mol of $O_2$ at 150°C and a pressure of 3.0 atm. The gas expands adiabatically until the volume is doubled. What are the final (a) pressure and (b) temperature?

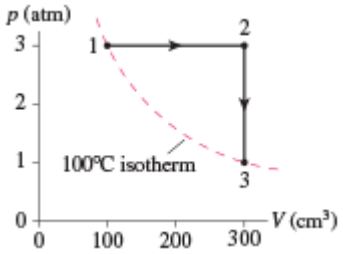
**31.** •• 0.10 mol of nitrogen gas follow the two processes shown in Figure EX19.31. How much heat is required for each?

**Figure EX19.31**




**32.** •• A monatomic gas follows the process $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$ shown in Figure EX19.32. How much heat is needed for (a) process $1 \rightarrow 2$ and (b) process $2 \rightarrow 3$?

**Figure EX19.32**




## Section 19.8 Heat-Transfer Mechanisms

**33.** • The ends of a 20-cm-long, 2.0-cm-diameter rod are maintained at 0°C and 100°C by immersion in an ice-water bath and boiling water. Heat is conducted through the rod at $4.5 \times 10^4$ J per hour. Of what material is the rod made?

**34.** •• A $10\ \text{m} \times 14\ \text{m}$ house is built on a 12-cm-thick concrete slab. What is the heat-loss rate through the slab if the ground temperature is 5°C while the interior of the house is 22°C?

**35.** • You are boiling pasta and absentmindedly grab a copper stirring spoon rather than your wooden spoon. The copper spoon has a $20\ \text{mm} \times 1.5\ \text{mm}$ rectangular cross section, and the distance from the boiling water to your 35°C hand is 18 cm. How long does it take the spoon to transfer 25 J of energy to your hand?

**36.** •• What maximum power can be radiated by a 10-cm-diameter solid lead sphere? Assume an emissivity of 1.

**37.** ••• **BIO** Radiation from the head is a major source of heat loss from the human body. Model a head as a 20-cm-diameter, 20-cm-tall cylinder with a flat top. If the body's surface temperature is 35°C, what is the net rate of heat loss on a chilly 5°C day? All skin, regardless of color, is effectively black in the

infrared where the radiation occurs, so use an emissivity of 0.95.

## Problems

**38.** •• A 5.0 g ice cube at –20°C is in a rigid, sealed container from which all the air has been evacuated. How much heat is required to change this ice cube into steam at 200°C? Steam has $c_{\mathrm{V}} = 1500\ \mathrm{J/kg\,K}$ and $c_{\mathrm{P}} = 1960\ \mathrm{J/kg\,K}$.

**39.** •• A 5.0-m-diameter garden pond is 30 cm deep. Solar energy is incident on the pond at an average rate of 400 W/m$^2$. If the water absorbs all the solar energy and does not exchange energy with its surroundings, how many hours will it take to warm from 15°C to 25°C?

**40.** •• The burner on an electric stove has a power output of 2.0 kW. A 750 g stainless steel teakettle is filled with 20°C water and placed on the already hot burner. If it takes 3.0 min for the water to reach a boil, what volume of water, in cm$^3$, was in the kettle? Stainless steel is mostly iron, so you can assume its specific heat is that of iron.

**41.** •• **BIO** When air is inhaled, it quickly becomes saturated with water vapor as it passes through the moist airways. Consequently, an adult human exhales about 25 mg of evaporated water with each breath. Evaporation—a phase change—requires heat, and the heat energy is removed from your body. Evaporation is much like boiling, only water's heat of vaporization at 35°C is a somewhat larger $24 \times 10^5\ \mathrm{J/kg}$ because at lower temperatures more energy is required to

break the molecular bonds. At 12 breaths/min, on a dry day when the inhaled air has almost no water content, what is the body's rate of energy loss (in J/s) due to exhaled water? (For comparison, the energy loss from radiation, usually the largest loss on a cool day, is about 100 J/s.)

**42.** •• 512 g of an unknown metal at a temperature of 15°C is dropped into a 100 g aluminum container holding 325 g of water at 98°C. A short time later, the container of water and metal stabilizes at a new temperature of 78°C. Identify the metal.

**43.** •• A 150 L (≈ 40 gal) electric hot-water tank has a 5.0 kW heater. How many minutes will it take to raise the water temperature from 65°F to 140°F?



**44.** •• **CALC** The specific heat of most solids is nearly constant over a wide temperature range. Not so for diamond. Between 200 K and 600 K, the specific heat of diamond is reasonably well described by $c = 2.8T - 350\ \mathrm{J/kg\,K}$, where $T$ is in K. For gemstone diamonds, $1\ \mathrm{carat} = 200\ \mathrm{mg}$. How much heat energy is needed to raise the temperature of a 3.5 carat diamond from –50°C to 250°C?

**45.** •• A lava flow is threatening to engulf a small town. A 400-m-wide, 35-cm-thick tongue of 1200°C lava is advancing at the rate of 1.0 m per minute. The mayor devises a plan to stop the lava in its tracks by flying in large quantities of 20°C water and dousing it. The lava has density 2500 kg/m$^3$, specific heat 1100 J/kg K, melting temperature 800°C, and heat of fusion $4.0 \times 10^5$ J/kg. How many liters of water per minute, at a minimum, will be needed to save the town?

**46.** •• **BIO** Suppose you take and hold a deep breath on a chilly day, inhaling 3.0 L of air at 0°C and 1 atm.

**a.** How much heat must your body supply to warm the air to your internal body temperature of 37°C?

**b.** By how much does the air's volume increase as it warms?

**47.** •• Your 300 mL cup of coffee is too hot to drink when served at 90°C. What is the mass of an ice cube, taken from a –20°C freezer, that will cool your coffee to a pleasant 60°C?

**48.** •• A typical nuclear reactor generates 1000 MW (1000 MJ/s) of electrical energy. In doing so, it produces 2000 MW of "waste heat" that must be removed from the reactor to keep it from melting down. Many reactors are sited next to large bodies of water so that they can use the water for cooling. Consider a reactor where the intake water is at 18°C. State regulations limit the temperature of the output water to 30°C so as not to harm aquatic organisms. How many liters of cooling water have to be pumped through the reactor each minute?

**49.** ••• 2.0 mol of gas are at 30°C and a pressure of 1.5 atm. How much work must be done on the gas to compress it to one third of its initial volume at (a) constant temperature and (b) constant pressure? (c) Show both processes on a single $pV$ diagram.

**50.** ••• A 6.0-cm-diameter cylinder of nitrogen gas has a 4.0-cm-thick movable copper piston. The cylinder is oriented vertically, as shown in Figure P19.50, and the air above the piston is

evacuated. When the gas temperature is 20°C, the piston floats 20 cm above the bottom of the cylinder.

**a.** What is the gas pressure?

**b.** How many gas molecules are in the cylinder?

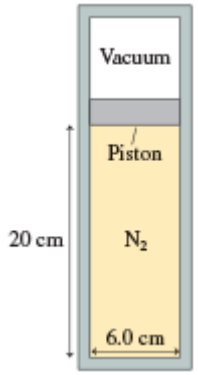
Then 2.0 J of heat energy are transferred to the gas.

**c.** What is the new equilibrium temperature of the gas?

**d.** What is the final height of the piston?

**e.** How much work is done on the gas as the piston rises?

**Figure P19.50**




**51.** •• A 560 kg concrete table needs to be supported at the four corners by compressed-air cylinders. Each cylinder is 25 cm in diameter and has a 1.20 m initial length when the pressure inside is 1.0 atm. A hoist lowers the table very slowly, compressing the cylinders while allowing them to stay in thermal equilibrium with their surroundings. How much work has been done on the gas of the four cylinders when the table reaches its equilibrium position?

**52.** •• **CALC** An ideal-gas process is described by $p = cV^{1/2}$, where $c$ is a constant.

**a.** Find an expression for the work done on the gas in this process as the volume changes from $V_1$ to $V_2$.

**b.** 0.033 mol of gas at an initial temperature of 150°C is compressed, using this process, from 300 $cm^3$ to 200 $cm^3$. How much work is done on the gas?

**c.** What is the final temperature of the gas in °C?

**53.** •• A 10-cm-diameter cylinder contains argon gas at 10 atm pressure and a temperature of 50°C. A piston can slide in and out of the cylinder. The cylinder's initial length is 20 cm. 2500 J of heat are transferred to the gas, causing the gas to expand at constant pressure. What are (a) the final temperature and (b) the final length of the cylinder?

**54.** ••• A cube 20 cm on each side contains 3.0 g of helium at 20°C. 1000 J of heat energy are transferred to this gas. What are (a) the final pressure if the process is at constant volume and (b) the final volume if the process is at constant pressure? (c) Show and label both processes on a single $pV$ diagram.

**55.** •• An 8.0-cm-diameter, well-insulated vertical cylinder containing nitrogen gas is sealed at the top by a 5.1 kg frictionless piston. The air pressure above the piston is 100 kPa.



**a.** What is the gas pressure inside the cylinder?

**b.** Initially, the piston height above the bottom of the cylinder is 26 cm. What will be the piston height if an additional 3.5 kg are placed on top of the piston?

**56.** •• $n$ moles of an ideal gas at temperature $T_1$ and volume $V_1$ expand isothermally until the volume has doubled. In terms of

$n$, $T_1$, and $V_1$, what are (a) the final temperature, (b) the work done on the gas, and (c) the heat energy transferred to the gas?

**57.** ••• 5.0 g of nitrogen gas at 20°C and an initial pressure of 3.0 atm undergo an isobaric expansion until the volume has tripled.

**a.** What are the gas volume and temperature after the expansion?

**b.** How much heat energy is transferred to the gas to cause this expansion?

The gas pressure is then decreased at constant volume until the original temperature is reached.

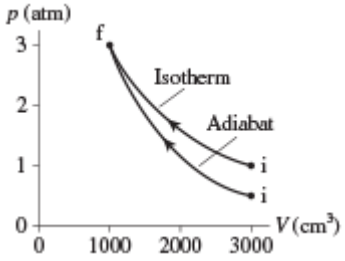
**c.** What is the gas pressure after the decrease?

**d.** What amount of heat energy is transferred from the gas as its pressure decreases?

**e.** Show the total process on a $pV$ diagram. Provide an appropriate scale on both axes.

**58.** •• 0.10 mol of nitrogen gas follow the two processes shown in Figure P19.58. How much heat is required for each?

**Figure P19.58**




**59.** ••• You come into lab one day and find a well-insulated 2000 mL thermos bottle containing 500 mL of boiling liquid

nitrogen. The remainder of the thermos has nitrogen gas at a pressure of 1.0 atm. The gas and liquid are in thermal equilibrium. While waiting for lab to start, you notice a piece of iron on the table with "197 g" written on it. Just for fun, you drop the iron into the thermos and seal the cap tightly so that no gas can escape. After a few seconds have passed, what is the pressure inside the thermos? The density of liquid nitrogen is 810 kg/m$^3$.

**60.** ••• Your laboratory assignment for the week is to measure the specific heat ratio $\gamma$ of carbon dioxide. The gas is contained in a cylinder with a movable piston and a thermometer. When the piston is withdrawn as far as possible, the cylinder's length is 20 cm. You decide to push the piston in very rapidly by various amounts and, for each push, to measure the temperature of the carbon dioxide. Before each push, you withdraw the piston all the way and wait several minutes for the gas to come to the room temperature of 21°C. Your data are as follows:

| Push (cm) | Temperature (°C) |
|---|---|
| 5 | 35 |
| 10 | 68 |
| 13 | 110 |
| 15 | 150 |

Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine $\gamma$ for carbon dioxide.

**61.** •• Two cylinders each contain 0.10 mol of a diatomic gas at 300 K and a pressure of 3.0 atm. Cylinder A expands isothermally and cylinder B expands adiabatically until the pressure of each is 1.0 atm.

**a.** What are the final temperature and volume of each?

**b.** Show both processes on a single $pV$ diagram. Use an appropriate scale on both axes.

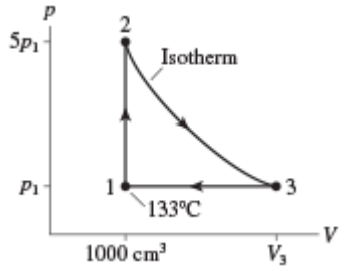
**62.** ••• Figure P19.62 shows a thermodynamic process followed by 120 mg of helium.

**a.** Determine the pressure (in atm), temperature (in °C), and volume (in $cm^3$) of the gas at points 1, 2, and 3. Put your results in a table for easy reading.

**b.** How much work is done on the gas during each of the three segments?

**c.** How much heat energy is transferred to or from the gas during each of the three segments?

**Figure P19.62**




**63.** •• Two containers of a diatomic gas have the same initial conditions. One container, heated at constant pressure, has a temperature increase of 20°C. The other container receives the same quantity of heat energy, but at constant volume. What is its temperature increase?

**64.** •• 14 g of nitrogen gas at STP are adiabatically compressed to a pressure of 20 atm. What are (a) the final temperature, (b) the work done on the gas, (c) the heat transfer to the gas, and (d)

the compression ratio $V_{\max}/V_{\min}$? (e) Show the process on a $pV$ diagram, using proper scales on both axes.

**65.** •• 14 g of nitrogen gas at STP are pressurized in an isochoric process to a pressure of 20 atm. What are (a) the final temperature, (b) the work done on the gas, (c) the heat transfer to the gas, and (d) the pressure ratio $p_{\max}/p_{\min}$? (e) Show the process on a $pV$ diagram, using proper scales on both axes.

**66.** •• **CALC** A cylinder with a movable piston contains $n$ moles of gas at a temperature higher than that of the surrounding environment. An external force on the piston keeps the pressure constant while the gas cools as $\Delta T = (\Delta T)_0 e^{-t/\tau}$, where $\Delta T$ is the temperature *difference* between the gas and the environment, $(\Delta T)_0$ is the initial temperature difference, and $\tau$ is the time constant.

**a.** Find an expression for the *rate* at which the environment does work on the gas. Recall that the rate of doing work is *power*.

**b.** What power is initially supplied by the environment if 0.15 mol of gas are initially 12°C warmer than the surroundings and cool with a time constant of 60 s?

**67.** •• When strong winds rapidly carry air down from mountains to a lower elevation, the air has no time to exchange heat with its surroundings. The air is compressed as the pressure rises, and its temperature can increase dramatically. These warm winds are called Chinook winds in the Rocky Mountains and Santa Ana winds in California. Suppose the air temperature high in the mountains behind Los Angeles is 0°C at an elevation where the air pressure is 60 kPa. What will the air

temperature be, in °C and °F, when the Santa Ana winds have carried this air down to an elevation near sea level where the air pressure is 100 kPa?

**68.** •• You would like to put a solar hot water system on your roof, but you're not sure it's feasible. A reference book on solar energy shows that the ground-level solar intensity in your city is 800 W/m$^2$ for at least 5 hours a day throughout most of the year. Assuming that a completely black collector plate loses energy only by radiation, and that the air temperature is 20°C, what is the equilibrium temperature of a collector plate directly facing the sun? Note that while a plate has two sides, only the side facing the sun will radiate because the opposite side will be well insulated.

**69.** •• A cubical box 20 cm on a side is constructed from 1.2-cm-thick concrete panels. A 100 W lightbulb is sealed inside the box. What is the air temperature inside the box when the light is on if the surrounding air temperature is 20°C?

**70.** •• A cylindrical copper rod and an iron rod with exactly the same dimensions are welded together end to end. The outside end of the copper rod is held at 100°C, and the outside end of the iron rod is held at 0°C. What is the temperature at the midpoint where the rods are joined together?

**71.** ••• Most stars are *main-sequence* stars, a group of stars for which size, mass, surface temperature, and radiated power are closely related. The sun, for instance, is a yellow main-sequence star with a surface temperature of 5800 K. For a main-sequence star whose mass $M$ is more than twice that of the sun, the total radiated power, relative to the sun, is approximately

$P/P_{\text{sun}} = 1.5(M/M_{\text{sun}})^{3.5}$. The star Regulus A is a bluish main-sequence star with mass $3.8M_{\text{sun}}$ and radius $3.1R_{\text{sun}}$. What is the surface temperature of Regulus A?

**72.** ••• **CALC** A satellite to reflect radar is a 2.0-m-diameter, 2.0-mm-thick spherical copper shell. While orbiting the earth, the satellite absorbs sunlight and is warmed to 50°C. When it passes into the earth's shadow, the satellite radiates energy to deep space. The temperature of deep space is actually 3 K, as a result of the Big Bang 14 billion years ago, but it is so much colder than the satellite that you can assume a deep-space temperature of 0 K. If the satellite's emissivity is 0.75, to what temperature, in °C, will it drop during the 45 minutes it takes to move through the earth's shadow?

**73.** •• The sun's intensity at the distance of the earth is 1370 W/m$^2$. 30% of this energy is reflected by water and clouds; 70% is absorbed. What would be the earth's average temperature (in °C) if the earth had no atmosphere? The emissivity of the surface is very close to 1. (The actual average temperature of the earth, about 15°C, is higher than your calculation because of the greenhouse effect.)

In Problems 74, 75, 76 you are given the equation used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation.

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**74.** $50\ \text{J} = -n\,(8.31\ \text{J/mol K})\,(350\ \text{K})\ln\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$

**75.**
$$(200 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{m}^3)(13{,}600\ \text{kg/m}^3) \times (140\ \text{J/kg K})(90^\circ\text{C} - 15^\circ\text{C}) + (0.50\ \text{kg})(449\ \text{J/kg K})(90^\circ\text{C} - T_\text{i}) = 0$$

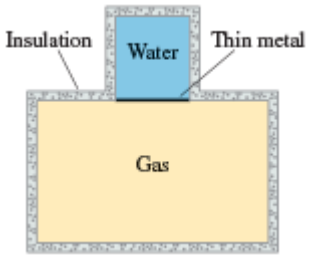
**76.**
$$(10\,\text{atm})V_2{}^{1.40} = (1.0\,\text{atm})V_1{}^{1.40}$$

## Challenge Problems

**77.** ••• 10 g of aluminum at 200°C and 20 g of copper are dropped into 50 $\text{cm}^3$ of ethyl alcohol at 15°C. The temperature quickly comes to 25°C. What was the initial temperature of the copper?

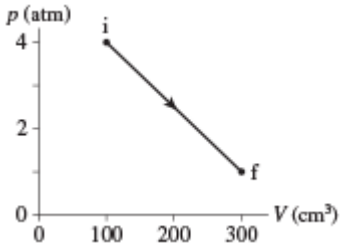
**78.** ••• A beaker with a metal bottom is filled with 20 g of water at 20°C. It is brought into good thermal contact with a 4000 $\text{cm}^3$ container holding 0.40 mol of a monatomic gas at 10 atm pressure. Both containers are well insulated from their surroundings. What is the gas pressure after a long time has elapsed? You can assume that the containers themselves are nearly massless and do not affect the outcome.

**Figure CP19.78**




**79.** ••• Figure CP19.79 shows a thermodynamic process followed by 0.015 mol of hydrogen. How much heat energy is transferred to the gas?

**Figure CP19.79**

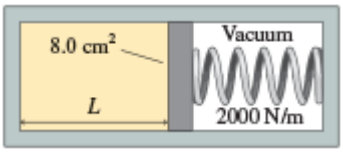



**80.** ••• One cylinder in the diesel engine of a truck has an initial volume of 600 $cm^3$. Air is admitted to the cylinder at 30°C and a pressure of 1.0 atm. The piston rod then does 400 J of work to rapidly compress the air. What are its final temperature and volume?

**81.** ••• **CALC** 0.020 mol of a diatomic gas, with initial temperature 20°C, are compressed from 1500 $cm^3$ to 500 $cm^3$ in a process in which $pV^2 = \text{constant}$. How much heat energy is added during this process?

**82.** ••• **CALC** A monatomic gas fills the left end of the cylinder in Figure CP19.82. At 300 K, the gas cylinder length is 10.0 cm and the spring is compressed by 2.0 cm. How much heat energy must be added to the gas to expand the cylinder length to 16.0 cm?

**Figure CP19.82**



# Chapter 20
# The Micro/Macro Connection

Heating the air in a hot-air balloon increases the thermal energy of the molecules. This causes the gas to expand, lowering its density and allowing it to float in the cooler surrounding air.

**In This Chapter**

you will see how macroscopic properties depend on the motion of atoms.

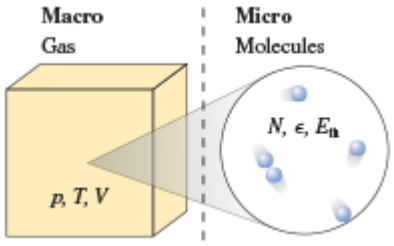
## What is the micro/macro connection?

We've discovered several puzzles in the last two chapters:

- Why does the ideal-gas law work for every gas?
- Why is the molar specific heat the same for every monatomic gas? And for every diatomic gas? And for every elemental solid?
- Just what does temperature actually measure?

We can resolve these puzzles and understand many properties of macroscopic systems by studying the microscopic behavior

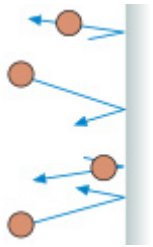
of the system's atoms and molecules. This is the micro/macro connection.




Looking Back Sections 19.3, 19.4, 19.5 Heat, the first law, and specific heats

## Why do gases have pressure?

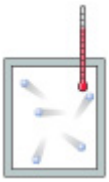
Gases have pressure due to the collisions of the molecules with the walls of the container. We'll find that we can calculate an average molecular speed, the root-mean-square speed, by relating the ideal-gas law to a microscopic calculation of the gas pressure.



## What is temperature?

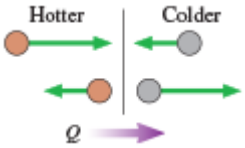
At a microscopic level, temperature measures the average translational kinetic energy of moving atoms and molecules. We will use this discovery to explain why all monatomic (and diatomic) gases have exactly the same molar specific heat.

Looking Back Section 19.7 The specific heats of gases



## How do interacting systems reach equilibrium?

Two thermally interacting systems reach a common final temperature because they exchange energy via collisions. On average, more-energetic atoms transfer energy to less-energetic atoms until both systems have the same *average* translational kinetic energy.




## What is the second law of thermodynamics?

The second law of thermodynamics governs how systems evolve in time. One statement of the second law is that heat energy is transferred spontaneously from a hotter system to a colder system, but never from colder to hotter. Heat transfer is an irreversible process. The concept of entropy will help us see that irreversible processes occur because some macroscopic states are vastly more likely to occur than others.

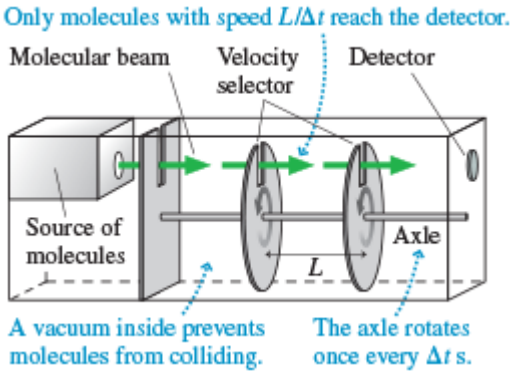
# 20.1 Molecular Speeds and Collisions



If matter really consists of atoms and molecules, then the macroscopic properties of matter, such as temperature, pressure, and specific heat, ought to be related to the microscopic motion of those atoms and molecules. Our goal in this chapter is to explore this *micro/macro connection*. Let's begin by looking at a gas. Do all molecules in the gas move with the same speed, or is there a range of speeds?

Figure 20.1 shows an experiment to measure the speeds of molecules in a gas. The two rotating disks form a *velocity selector.* Once every revolution, the slot in the first disk allows a small pulse of molecules to pass through. By the time these molecules reach the second disk, the slots have rotated. The molecules can pass through the second slot and be detected *only* if they have exactly the right speed $v = L/\Delta t$ to travel between the two disks during time interval $\Delta t$ it takes the axle to complete one revolution. Molecules having any other speed are blocked by the second disk. By changing the rotation speed of the axle, this apparatus can measure how many molecules have each of many possible speeds.

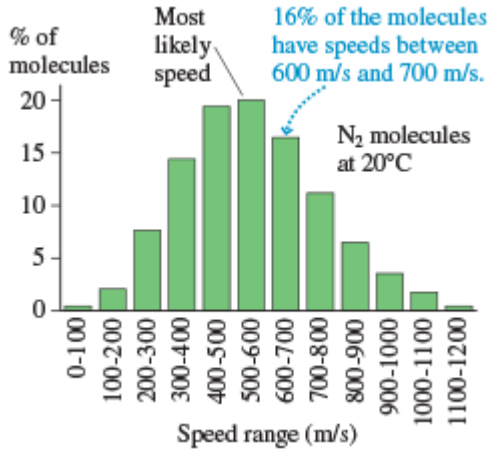
**Figure 20.1**




An experiment to measure the speeds of molecules in a gas.

Figure 20.2 shows the results for nitrogen gas ($N_2$) at $T = 20^\circ C$. The data are presented in the form of a **histogram,** a bar chart in which the height of each bar tells how many (or, in this case, what percentage) of the molecules have a speed in the *range* of speeds shown below the bar. For example, 16% of the molecules have speeds in the range from 600 m/s to 700 m/s. All the bars sum to 100%, showing that this histogram describes *all* of the molecules leaving the source.

## Figure 20.2




The distribution of molecular speeds in a sample of nitrogen gas.

It turns out that the molecules have what is called a *distribution* of speeds, ranging from as low as ≈ 100 m/s to as high as ≈ 1200 m/s. But not all speeds are equally likely; there is a *most likely speed* of ≈ 550 m/s. This is

really fast, ≈ 1200 mph! Changing the temperature or changing to a different gas changes the most likely speed, as we'll learn later in the chapter, but it does not change the *shape* of the distribution.

If you were to repeat the experiment, you would again find the most likely speed to be ≈ 550 m/s and that 16% of the molecules have speeds between 600 m/s and 700 m/s. This is an important lesson. Although a gas consists of a vast number of molecules, each moving randomly, *averages*, such as the average number of molecules in the speed range 600 to 700 m/s, have precise, predictable values. **The micro/macro connection is built on the idea that the macroscopic properties of a system, such as temperature or pressure, are related to the *average* behavior of the atoms and molecules.**

## Mean Free Path

Imagine someone opening a bottle of strong perfume a few feet away from you. If molecular speeds are hundreds of meters per second, you might expect to smell the perfume almost instantly. But that isn't what happens. As you know, it takes many seconds for the molecules to *diffuse* across the room. Let's see why this is.

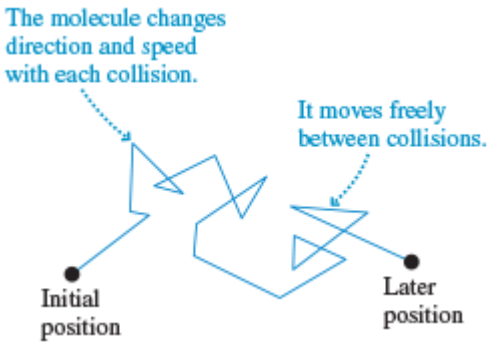


Figure 20.3 shows a "movie" of one molecule. Instead of zipping along in a straight line, as it would in a vacuum, the molecule follows a convoluted zig-zag path in which it frequently collides with other molecules. A question we could ask is: What is the *average* distance between collisions? If a molecule has $N_{\text{coll}}$ collisions as it travels distance $L$, the average distance between collisions, which is called the **mean free path** $\lambda$ (lowercase Greek lambda), is

**(20.1)**

$$\lambda = \frac{L}{N_{\text{coll}}}$$

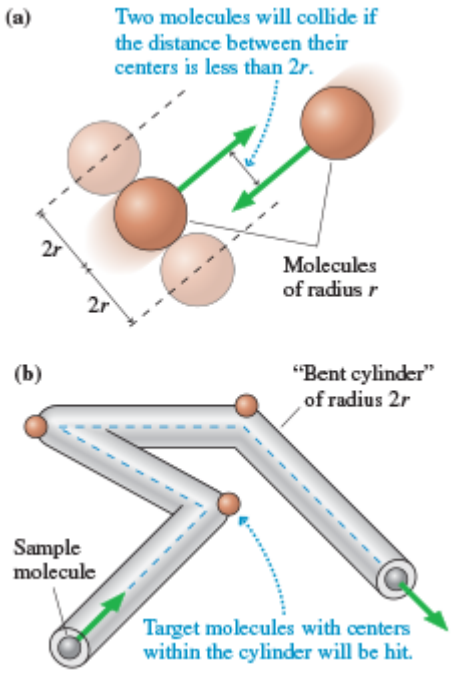
## Figure 20.3




A single molecule follows a zig-zag path through a gas.

Figure 20.4a on the next page shows two molecules approaching each other. We will assume that the molecules are spherical and of radius *r*. We will also continue the ideal-gas assumption that the molecules undergo hard-sphere collisions, like billiard balls. In that case, the molecules will collide if the distance between their *centers* is less than 2*r*. They will miss if the distance is greater than 2*r*.

## Figure 20.4




A "sample" molecule collides with "target" molecules.

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In Figure 20.4b we've drawn a cylinder of radius $2r$ centered on the trajectory of a "sample" molecule. The sample molecule collides with any "target" molecule whose center is located within the cylinder, causing the cylinder to bend at that point. Hence the number of collisions $N_{\text{coll}}$ is equal to the number of molecules in a cylindrical volume of length $L$.

The volume of a cylinder is $V_{\text{cyl}} = AL = \pi(2r)^2 L$. If the number density of the gas is $N/V$ particles per m$^3$, then the number of collisions along a trajectory of length $L$ is

**(20.2)**

$$N_{\text{coll}} = \frac{N}{V} V_{\text{cyl}} = \frac{N}{V} \pi (2r)^2 L = 4\pi \frac{N}{V} r^2 L$$

Thus the mean free path between collisions is

$$\lambda = \frac{L}{N_{\text{coll}}} = \frac{1}{4\pi (N/V) r^2}$$

We made a tacit assumption in this derivation that the target molecules are at rest. While the general idea behind our analysis is correct, a more detailed calculation with all the molecules moving introduces an extra factor of $\sqrt{2}$, giving

(20.3)

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}\,\pi(N/V)r^2} \qquad \text{(mean free path)}$$

Laboratory measurements are necessary to determine atomic and molecular radii, but a reasonable rule of thumb is to assume that atoms in a monatomic gas have $r \approx 0.5 \times 10^{-10}$ m and diatomic molecules have $r \approx 1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ m.

**Example 20.1 The mean free path at room temperature**

What is the mean free path of a nitrogen molecule at 1.0 atm pressure and room temperature (20°C)?

**SOLVE** Nitrogen is a diatomic molecule, so $r \approx 1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ m. We can use the ideal-gas law in the form $pV = Nk_{\text{B}}T$ to determine the number density:

$$\frac{N}{V} = \frac{p}{k_{\text{B}}T} = \frac{101{,}300\ \text{Pa}}{(1.38 \times 10^{-23}\ \text{J/K})(293\ \text{K})} = 2.5 \times 10^{25}\ \text{m}^{-3}$$

Thus the mean free path is

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}\,\pi(N/V)r^2}$$
$$= \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}\,\pi(2.5 \times 10^{25}\,\mathrm{m}^{-3})(1.0 \times 10^{-10}\,\mathrm{m})^2}$$
$$= 2.3 \times 10^{-7}\,\mathrm{m} = 230\,\mathrm{nm}$$

**ASSESS** You learned in Example 18.6 that the average separation between gas molecules at STP is ≈ 4 nm. It seems that any given molecule can slip between its neighbors, which are spread out in three dimensions, and travel—on average—about 60 times the average spacing before it collides with another molecule.

## Stop to Think 20.1

The table shows the properties of four gases, each having the same number of molecules. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the mean free paths $\lambda_A$ to $\lambda_D$ of molecules in these gases.

| Gas | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Volume | $V$ | $2V$ | $V$ | $V$ |
| Atomic mass | $m$ | $m$ | $2m$ | $m$ |
| Atomic radius | $r$ | $r$ | $r$ | $2r$ |

# 20.2 Pressure in a Gas



Why does a gas have pressure? In Chapter 14, where pressure was introduced, we suggested that the pressure in a gas is due to collisions of the molecules with the walls of its container. The force due to one such collision may be unmeasurably tiny, but the steady rain of a vast number of molecules striking a wall each second exerts a measurable macroscopic force. The gas pressure is the force per unit area ($p = F/A$) resulting from these molecular collisions.

Our task in this section is to calculate the pressure by doing the appropriate averaging over molecular motions and collisions. This task can be divided into three main pieces:

1. Calculate the momentum change of a single molecule during a collision.
2. Find the force due to all collisions.
3. Introduce an appropriate average speed.

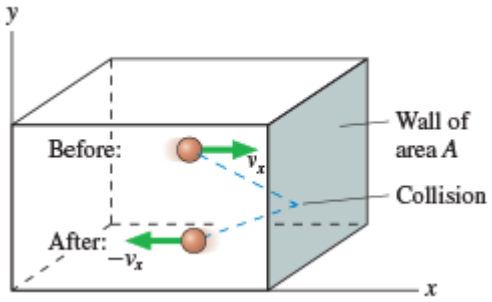
## Force Due to Collisions

Figure 20.5 shows a molecule with an $x$-component of velocity $v_x$ having a perfectly elastic collision with a wall and rebounding with its velocity changed to $-v_x$. This one molecule has a momentum *change*

**(20.4)**

$$\Delta p_x = m(-v_x) - mv_x = -2mv_x$$

## Figure 20.5




A molecule colliding with the wall exerts an impulse on it.

Suppose there are $N_{\text{coll}}$ collisions with the wall during a small interval of time $\Delta t$. Further, suppose that all the molecules have the same speed. (This latter assumption isn't really necessary, and we'll soon remove this constraint, but it helps us focus on the physics without getting lost in the math.) Then the total momentum change of the gas during $\Delta t$ is

**(20.5)**

$$\Delta P_x = N_{\text{coll}}\,\Delta p_x = -2N_{\text{coll}}\,mv_x$$

You learned in Section 11.1 that the momentum principle can be written as

**(20.6)**

$$\Delta P_x = (F_{\text{avg}})_x\,\Delta t$$

Thus the average force of the wall *on the gas* is

**(20.7)**

$$(F_{\text{on gas}})_x = \frac{\Delta P_x}{\Delta t} = -\frac{2N_{\text{coll}}\,mv_x}{\Delta t}$$

Equation 20.7 has a negative sign because, as we've set it up, the collision force of the wall on the gas molecules is to the left. But Newton's

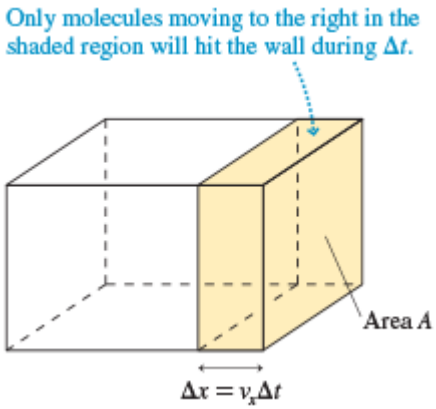
third law is $(F_{\text{on gas}})_x = -(F_{\text{on wall}})_x$, so the force *on the wall* due to these collisions is

**(20.8)**

$$(F_{\text{on wall}})_x = \frac{2N_{\text{coll}}\, mv_x}{\Delta t}$$

We need to determine how many collisions occur during $\Delta t$. Assume that $\Delta t$ is smaller than the mean time between collisions, so no collisions alter the molecular speeds during this interval. Figure 20.6 has shaded a volume of the gas of length $\Delta x = v_x\ \Delta t$. *Every one* of the molecules in this shaded region *that is moving to the right* will reach and collide with the wall during $\Delta t$. Molecules outside this region will not reach the wall and will not collide.

## Figure 20.6




Determining the rate of collisions.

The shaded region has volume $A\ \Delta x$, where $A$ is the area of the wall. If the gas has number density $N/V$, the number of molecules in the shaded region is $(N/V)A\ \Delta x = (N/V)Av_x\ \Delta t$. But only half these molecules are moving to the right, so the number of collisions during $\Delta t$ is

(20.9)

$$N_{\text{coll}} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{N}{V}Av_x\,\Delta t$$

Substituting Equation 20.9 into Equation 20.8, we see that $\Delta t$ cancels and that the force of the molecules on the wall is

(20.10)

$$F_{\text{on wall}} = \frac{N}{V}mv_x^2 A$$

Notice that this expression for $F_{\text{on wall}}$ does not depend on any details of the collisions.

We can relax the assumption that all molecules have the same speed by replacing the squared velocity ${v_x}^2$ in Equation 20.10 with its average value. That is,

(20.11)

$$F_{\text{on wall}} = \frac{N}{V}m(v_x^2)_{\text{avg}}A$$

where $({v_x}^2)_{\text{avg}}$ is the quantity ${v_x}^2$ averaged over all the molecules in the container.

## The Root-Mean-Square Speed

We need to be somewhat careful when averaging velocities. The velocity component $v_x$ has a sign. At any instant of time, half the molecules in a container move to the right and have positive $v_x$ while the other half move to the left and have negative $v_x$. Thus the *average velocity* is

$(v_x)_{\text{avg}} = 0$. If this weren't true, the entire container of gas would move away!

The speed of a molecule is $v = (v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2)^{1/2}$. Thus the average of the speed squared is

**(20.12)**

$$(v^2)_{\text{avg}} = (v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2)_{\text{avg}} = (v_x^2)_{\text{avg}} + (v_y^2)_{\text{avg}} + (v_z^2)_{\text{avg}}$$

The square root of $(v^2)_{\text{avg}}$ is called the **root-mean-square speed** $v_{\text{rms}}$:

**(20.13)**

$$v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{(v^2)_{\text{avg}}} \qquad \text{(root-mean-square-speed)}$$

This is usually called the *rms speed.* You can remember its definition by noting that its name is the *opposite* of the sequence of operations: First you square all the speeds, then you average the squares (find the mean), then you take the square root. Because the square root "undoes" the square, $v_{\text{rms}}$ must, in some sense, give an average speed.

> **Note**
>
> We could compute a true average speed $v_{\text{avg}}$, but that calculation is difficult. More important, the root-mean-square speed tends to arise naturally in many scientific and engineering calculations. It turns out that $v_{\text{rms}}$ differs from $v_{\text{avg}}$ by less than 10%, so for practical purposes we can interpret $v_{\text{rms}}$ as being essentially the average speed of a molecule in a gas.

There's nothing special about the $x$-axis. The coordinate system is something that *we* impose on the problem, so *on average* it must be the

case that

**(20.14)**

$$\left(v_x^2\right)_{\text{avg}} = \left(v_y^2\right)_{\text{avg}} = \left(v_z^2\right)_{\text{avg}}$$

Hence we can use Equation 20.12 and the definition of $v_{\text{rms}}$ to write

**(20.15)**

$${v_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \left(v_x^2\right)_{\text{avg}} + \left(v_y^2\right)_{\text{avg}} + \left(v_z^2\right)_{\text{avg}} = 3\left(v_x^2\right)_{\text{avg}}$$

Consequently, $\left({v_x}^2\right)_{\text{avg}}$ is

**(20.16)**

$$\left(v_x^2\right)_{\text{avg}} = \tfrac{1}{3}{v_{\text{rms}}}^2$$

Using this result in Equation 20.11 gives us the net force on the wall of the container:

**(20.17)**

$$F_{\text{on wall}} = \frac{1}{3}\frac{N}{V}m{v_{\text{rms}}}^2 A$$

Thus the pressure on the wall of the container due to all the molecular collisions is

---

**(20.18)**

$$p = \frac{F_{\text{on wall}}}{A} = \frac{1}{3}\frac{N}{V}m{v_{\text{rms}}}^2$$

We have met our goal. Equation 20.18 expresses the macroscopic pressure in terms of the microscopic physics. The pressure depends on the number density of molecules in the container and on how fast, on average, the molecules are moving.

### Example 20.2 The rms speed of helium atoms

A container holds helium at a pressure of 200 kPa and a temperature of 60.0°C. What is the rms speed of the helium atoms?

**SOLVE** The rms speed can be found from the pressure and the number density. Using the ideal-gas law gives us the number density:

$$\frac{N}{V} = \frac{p}{k_\text{B}T} = \frac{200{,}000\ \text{Pa}}{(1.38 \times 10^{-23}\ \text{J/K})(333\ \text{K})} = 4.35 \times 10^{25}\ \text{m}^{-3}$$

The mass of a helium atom is $m = 4\ \text{u} = 6.64 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg}$. Thus

$$v_\text{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{3p}{(N/V)m}} = 1440\ \text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** We found in Chapter 17 that the speed of sound in helium is roughly 1000 m/s. Individual atoms probably move somewhat faster than a wave front, so 1440 m/s seems quite reasonable.

## Stop to Think 20.2

The speed of every molecule in a gas is suddenly increased by a factor of 4. As a result, $v_{rms}$ increases by a factor of

**a.** 2.

**b.** <4 but not necessarily 2.

**c.** 4.

**d.** >4 but not necessarily 16.

**e.** 16.

**f.** $v_{rms}$ doesn't change.

# 20.3 Temperature



A molecule of mass $m$ and velocity $v$ has translational kinetic energy

**(20.19)**

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

We'll use $\epsilon$ (lowercase Greek epsilon) to distinguish the energy of a molecule from the system energy $E$. Thus the average translational kinetic energy is

**(20.20)**

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{\text{avg}} &= \text{average translational kinetic energy of a molecule} \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}m(v^2)_{\text{avg}} = \tfrac{1}{2}m{v_{\text{rms}}}^2 \end{aligned}$$

We've included the word "translational" to distinguish $\epsilon$ from rotational kinetic energy, which we will consider later in this chapter.

We can write the gas pressure, Equation 20.18, in terms of the average translational kinetic energy as

**(20.21)**

$$p = \frac{2}{3}\frac{N}{V}\left(\tfrac{1}{2}\,m{v_{\text{rms}}}^2\right) = \frac{2}{3}\frac{N}{V}\epsilon_{\text{avg}}$$

The pressure is directly proportional to the average molecular translational kinetic energy. This makes sense. More-energetic molecules will hit the walls harder as they bounce and thus exert more force on the walls.

It's instructive to write Equation 20.21 as

**(20.22)**

$$pV = \frac{2}{3} N\epsilon_{\text{avg}}$$

We know, from the ideal-gas law, that

**(20.23)**

$$pV = Nk_{\text{B}}T$$

Comparing these two equations, we reach the significant conclusion that the average translational kinetic energy per molecule is

---

**(20.24)**

$$\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2} k_{\text{B}}T \qquad \text{(average translational kinetic energy)}$$

where the temperature $T$ is in kelvins. For example, the average translational kinetic energy of a molecule at room temperature (20°C) is

$$\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2} (1.38 \times 10^{-23}\ \text{J/K})(293\ \text{K}) = 6.1 \times 10^{-21}\ \text{J}$$

> **Note**
>
> A molecule's average translational kinetic energy depends *only* on the temperature, not on the molecule's mass. If two gases have the same temperature, their molecules have the same average translational kinetic energy.

Equation 20.24 is especially satisfying because it finally gives real meaning to the concept of temperature. Writing it as

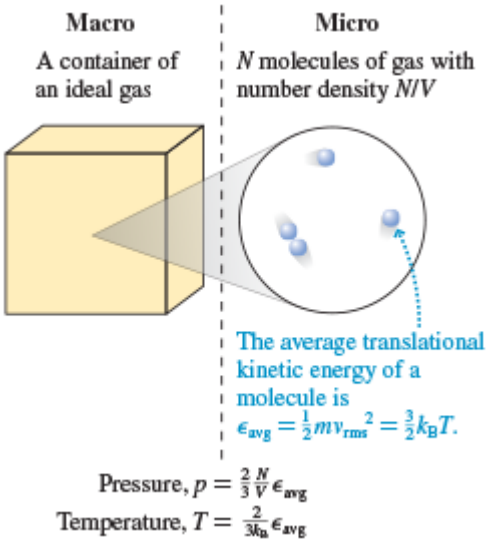
(20.25)

$$T = \frac{2}{3k_{\mathrm{B}}}\epsilon_{\mathrm{avg}}$$

we can see that, for a gas, this **thing we call *temperature* measures the average translational kinetic energy**. A higher temperature corresponds to a larger value of $\epsilon_{\mathrm{avg}}$ and thus to higher molecular speeds. This concept of temperature also gives meaning to *absolute zero* as the temperature at which $\epsilon_{\mathrm{avg}} = 0$ and all molecular motion ceases. (Quantum effects at very low temperatures prevent the motions from actually stopping, but our classical theory predicts that they would.) Figure 20.7 summarizes what we've learned thus far about the micro/macro connection.



## Figure 20.7




The micro/macro connection for pressure and temperature.

We can now justify our assumption that molecular collisions are perfectly elastic. Suppose they were not. If kinetic energy was lost in collisions, the average translational kinetic energy $\epsilon_{\mathrm{avg}}$ of the gas would decrease and we would see a steadily decreasing temperature. But that doesn't happen. The temperature of an isolated system remains constant, indicating that

$\epsilon_{\text{avg}}$ is not changing with time. Consequently, the collisions must be perfectly elastic.

**Example 20.3 Total microscopic kinetic energy**

What is the total translational kinetic energy of the molecules in 1.0 mol of gas at STP?

**SOLVE** The average translational kinetic energy of each molecule is

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon_{\text{avg}} &= \tfrac{3}{2}k_{\text{B}}T = \tfrac{3}{2}(1.38 \times 10^{-23}\,\text{J/K})(273\,\text{K}) \\ &= 5.65 \times 10^{-21}\,\text{J}\end{aligned}$$

1.0 mol of gas contains $N_{\text{A}}$ molecules; hence the total kinetic energy is

$$K_{\text{micro}} = N_{\text{A}}\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = 3400\ \text{J}$$

**ASSESS** The energy of any one molecule is incredibly small. Nonetheless, a macroscopic system has substantial thermal energy because it consists of an incredibly large number of molecules.

By definition, $\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{2}m{v_{\text{rms}}}^2$. Using the ideal-gas law, we found $\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2}k_{\text{B}}T$. By equating these expressions we find that the rms speed of molecules in a gas is

**(20.26)**

$$v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{3k_{\text{B}}T}{m}}$$

The rms speed depends on the square root of the temperature and inversely on the square root of the molecular mass. For example, room-temperature nitrogen (molecular mass 28 u) has rms speed

$$v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{3\left(1.38 \times 10^{-23}\text{J/K}\right)\left(293\,\text{K}\right)}{28\left(1.66 \times 10^{-27}\text{kg}\right)}} = 509\,\text{m/s}$$

This is in excellent agreement with the experimental results of Figure 20.2.

**Example 20.4 Mean time between collisions**

Estimate the mean time between collisions for a nitrogen molecule at 1.0 atm pressure and room temperature (20°C).

**MODEL** Because $v_{\text{rms}}$ is essentially the average molecular speed, the *mean time between collisions* is simply the time needed to travel distance $\lambda$, the mean free path, at speed $v_{\text{rms}}$.

**SOLVE** We found $\lambda = 2.3 \times 10^{-7}$ m in Example 20.1 and $v_{\text{rms}} = 509$ m/s above. Thus the mean time between collisions is

$$(\Delta t)_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\lambda}{v_{\text{rms}}} = \frac{2.3 \times 10^{-7}\text{ m}}{509\text{ m/s}} = 4.5 \times 10^{-10}\text{ s}$$

**ASSESS** The air molecules around us move very fast, they collide with their neighbors about two billion times every second, and they manage to move, on average, only about 230 nm between collisions.

## Stop to Think 20.3

The speed of every molecule in a gas is suddenly increased by a factor of 4. As a result, the temperature $T$ increases by a factor of

**a.** 2.

**b.** <4 but not necessarily 2.

**c.** 4.

**d.** >4 but not necessarily 16.

**e.** 16.

**f.** $T$ doesn't change.

# 20.4 Thermal Energy and Specific Heat

We defined the thermal energy of a system to be $E_{\text{th}} = K_{\text{micro}} + U_{\text{micro}}$, where $K_{\text{micro}}$ is the microscopic kinetic energy of the moving molecules and $U_{\text{micro}}$ is the potential energy of the stretched and compressed molecular bonds. We're now ready to take a microscopic look at thermal energy.

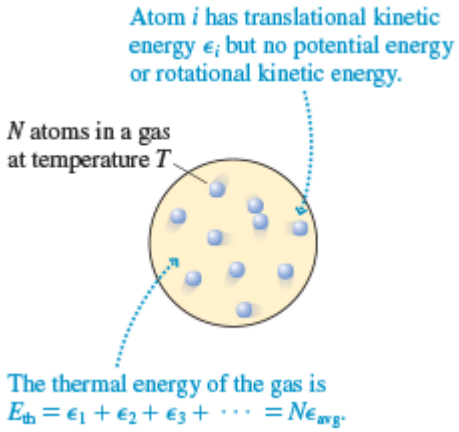
## Monatomic Gases

Figure 20.8 shows a monatomic gas such as helium or neon. The atoms in an ideal gas have no molecular bonds with their neighbors; hence $U_{\text{micro}} = 0$. Furthermore, the kinetic energy of a monatomic gas particle is entirely translational kinetic energy $\epsilon$. Thus the thermal energy of a monatomic gas of $N$ atoms is

**(20.27)**

$$E_{\text{th}} = K_{\text{micro}} = \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3 + \cdots + \epsilon_N = N\epsilon_{\text{avg}}$$

**Figure 20.8**




The atoms in a monatomic gas have only translational kinetic energy.

where $\epsilon_i$ is the translational kinetic energy of atom $i$. We found that $\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2}k_{\text{B}}T$; hence the thermal energy is

**(20.28)**

$$E_{\text{th}} = \frac{3}{2}Nk_{\text{B}}T = \frac{3}{2}nRT \qquad \text{(thermal energy of a monatomic gas)}$$

where we used $N = nN_{\text{A}}$ and the definition of Boltzmann's constant, $k_{\text{B}} = R/N_{\text{A}}$.

We've noted for the last two chapters that thermal energy is associated with temperature. Now we have an explicit result for a monatomic gas: $E_{\text{th}}$ is directly proportional to the temperature. Notice that $E_{\text{th}}$ is independent of the atomic mass. Any two monatomic gases will have the same thermal energy if they have the same temperature and the same number of atoms (or moles).

If the temperature of a monatomic gas changes by $\Delta T$, its thermal energy changes by

(20.29)

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = \tfrac{3}{2} nR\,\Delta T$$

In Chapter 19 we found that the change in thermal energy for *any* ideal-gas process is related to the molar specific heat at constant volume by

(20.30)

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$$

Equation 20.29 is a microscopic result that we obtained by relating the temperature to the average translational kinetic energy of the atoms. Equation 20.30 is a macroscopic result that we arrived at from the first law of thermodynamics. We can make a micro/macro connection by combining these two equations. Doing so gives us a *prediction* for the molar specific heat:

---

(20.31)

$$C_{\text{V}} = \tfrac{3}{2} R = 12.5\ \text{J/mol K} \qquad \text{(monatomic gas)}$$

This was exactly the value of $C_{\text{V}}$ for all three monatomic gases in Table 19.4. The perfect agreement of theory and experiment is strong evidence that gases really do consist of moving, colliding molecules.

## The Equipartition Theorem



The particles of a monatomic gas are atoms. Their energy consists exclusively of their translational kinetic energy. A particle's translational kinetic energy can be written

**(20.32)**

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}mv_x^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv_y^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv_z^2 = \epsilon_x + \epsilon_y + \epsilon_z$$

where we have written separately the energy associated with translational motion along the three axes. Because each axis in space is independent, we can think of $\epsilon_x$, $\epsilon_y$, and $\epsilon_z$ as independent *modes* of storing energy within the system.

Other systems have additional modes of energy storage. For example,

- Two atoms joined by a spring-like molecular bond can vibrate back and forth. Both kinetic and potential energy are associated with this vibration.
- A diatomic molecule, in addition to translational kinetic energy, has rotational kinetic energy if it rotates end-over-end like a dumbbell.

We define the number of **degrees of freedom** as the number of distinct and independent modes of energy storage. A monatomic gas has three degrees of freedom, the three modes of translational kinetic energy. Systems that can vibrate or rotate have more degrees of freedom.

An important result of statistical physics says that the energy in a system is distributed so that all modes of energy storage have equal amounts of energy. This conclusion is known as the *equipartition theorem,* meaning that the energy is equally divided. The proof is beyond what we can do in this textbook, so we will state the theorem without proof:

---

Equipartition theorem

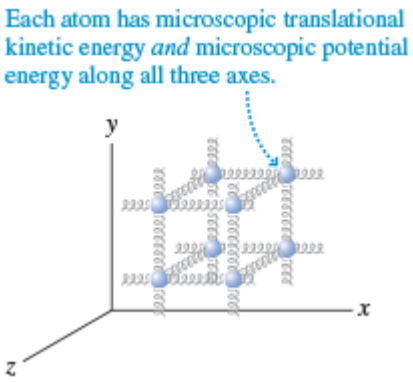
> The thermal energy of a system of particles is equally divided among all the possible degrees of freedom. For a system of $N$ particles at temperature $T$, the energy stored in each mode (each degree of freedom) is $\frac{1}{2}Nk_{\text{B}}T$ or, in terms of moles, $\frac{1}{2}nRT$.

A monatomic gas has three degrees of freedom and thus, as we found above, $E_{\text{th}} = \frac{3}{2}Nk_{\text{B}}T$.

## Solids

Figure 20.9 reminds you of our "bedspring model" of a solid with particle-like atoms connected by a lattice of spring-like molecular bonds. How many degrees of freedom does a solid have? Three degrees of freedom are associated with the kinetic energy, just as in a monatomic gas. In addition, the molecular bonds can be compressed or stretched independently along the *x*-, *y*-, and *z*-axes. Three additional degrees of freedom are associated with these three modes of potential energy. Altogether, a solid has six degrees of freedom.

**Figure 20.9**




A simple model of a solid.

The energy stored in each of these six degrees of freedom is $\frac{1}{2}Nk_{\text{B}}T$. The thermal energy of a solid is the total energy stored in all six modes, or

---

**(20.33)**

$$E_{\text{th}} = 3Nk_{\text{B}}T = 3nRT \qquad (\text{thermal energy of a solid})$$

We can use this result to predict the molar specific heat of a solid. If the temperature changes by $\Delta T$, then the thermal energy[557] changes by

**(20.34)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 3nR\,\Delta T$$

In Chapter 19 we defined the molar specific heat of a solid such that

**(20.35)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = nC\,\Delta T$$

By comparing Equations 20.34 and 20.35 we can predict that the molar specific heat of a solid is

**(20.36)**

$$C = 3R = 25.0\ \text{J/mol K} \quad (\text{solid})$$

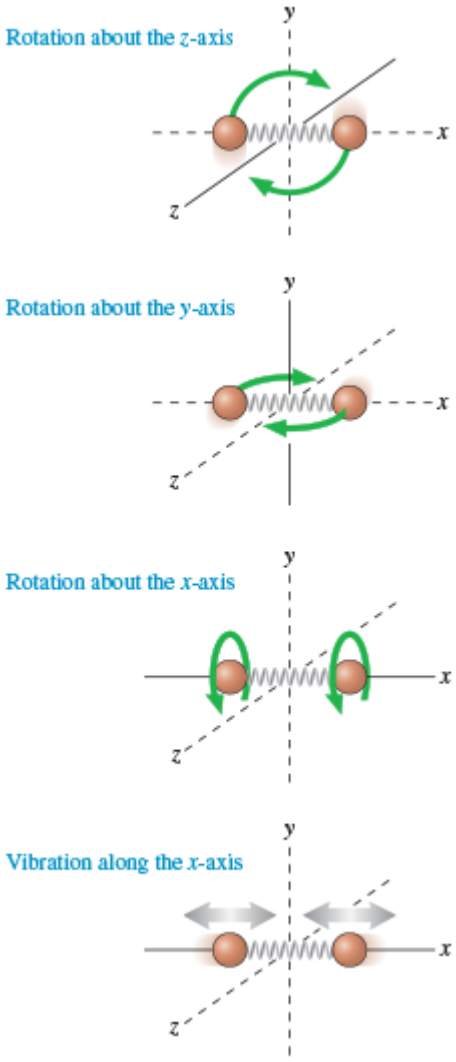
Not bad. The five elemental solids in Table 19.2 had molar specific heats clustered right around 25 J/mol K. They ranged from 24.3 J/mol K for aluminum to 26.5 J/mol K for lead. There are two reasons the agreement between theory and experiment isn't quite as perfect as it was for monatomic gases. First, our simple bedspring model of a solid isn't quite as accurate as our model of a monatomic gas. Second, quantum

effects are beginning to make their appearance. More on this shortly. Nonetheless, our ability to predict $C$ to within a few percent from a simple model of a solid is further evidence for the atomic structure of matter.

## Diatomic Molecules

Diatomic molecules are a bigger challenge. How many degrees of freedom does a diatomic molecule have? Figure 20.10 shows a diatomic molecule, such as molecular nitrogen $N_2$, oriented along the $x$-axis. Three degrees of freedom are associated with the molecule's translational kinetic energy. The molecule can have a dumbbell-like end-over-end rotation about either the $y$-axis or the $z$-axis. It can also rotate about its own axis. These are three rotational degrees of freedom. The two atoms can also vibrate back and forth, stretching and compressing the molecular bond. This vibrational motion has both kinetic and potential energy—thus two more degrees of freedom.

**Figure 20.10**




A diatomic molecule can rotate or vibrate.

Altogether, then, a diatomic molecule has eight degrees of freedom, and we would expect the thermal energy of a gas of diatomic molecules to be $E_{\text{th}} = 4k_{\text{B}}T$. The analysis we followed for a monatomic gas would then lead to the prediction $C_{\text{V}} = 4R = 33.2\ \text{J/mol K}$. As compelling as this reasoning seems to be, this is *not* the experimental value of $C_{\text{V}}$ that was reported for diatomic gases in Table 19.4. Instead, we found $C_{\text{V}} = 20.8\ \text{J/mol K}$.

Why should a theory that works so well for monatomic gases and solids fail so miserably for diatomic molecules? To see what's going on, notice that $20.8\ \text{J/mol K} = \frac{5}{2}R$. A monatomic gas, with three degrees of

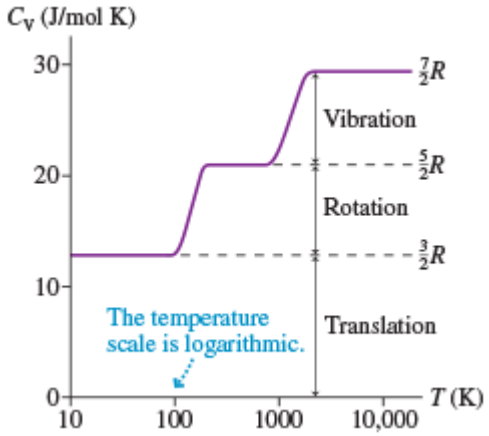
freedom, has $C_V = \frac{3}{2}R$. A solid, with six degrees of freedom, has $C = 3R$. A diatomic gas would have $C_V = \frac{5}{2}R$ if it had five degrees of freedom, not eight.

This discrepancy was a major conundrum as statistical physics developed in the late 19th century. Although it was not recognized as such at the time, we are here seeing our first evidence for the breakdown of classical Newtonian physics. Classically, a diatomic molecule has eight degrees of freedom. The equipartition theorem doesn't distinguish between them; all eight should have the same energy. But atoms and molecules are not classical particles. It took the development of quantum theory in the 1920s to accurately characterize the behavior of atoms and molecules. We don't yet have the tools needed to see why, but quantum effects prevent three of the modes—the two vibrational modes and the rotation of the molecule about its own axis—from being active at room temperature.



Figure 20.11 shows $C_V$ as a function of temperature for hydrogen gas. $C_V$ is right at $\frac{5}{2}R$ for temperatures from ≈ 200 K up to ≈ 800 K. But at very low temperatures $C_V$ drops to the monatomic-gas value $\frac{3}{2}R$. The two rotational modes become "frozen out" and the nonrotating molecule has only translational kinetic energy. Quantum physics can explain this, but not Newtonian physics. You can also see that the two vibrational modes *do* become active at very high temperatures, where $C_V$ rises to $\frac{7}{2}R$. Thus the real answer to What's wrong? is that Newtonian physics is not the right physics for describing atoms and molecules. We are somewhat fortunate that Newtonian physics is adequate to understand monatomic gases and solids, at least at room temperature.

**Figure 20.11**




Hydrogen molar specific heat at constant volume as a function of temperature.

Accepting the quantum result that a diatomic gas has only five degrees of freedom at commonly used temperatures (the translational degrees of freedom and the two end-over-end rotations), we find

**(20.37)**

$$E_{\text{th}} = \frac{5}{2}Nk_{\text{B}}T = \frac{5}{2}nRT$$
$$C_{\text{V}} = \frac{5}{2}R = 20.8\ \text{J/mol K} \qquad \text{(diatomic gases)}$$

A diatomic gas has more thermal energy than a monatomic gas at the same temperature because the molecules have rotational as well as translational kinetic energy.

While the micro/macro connection firmly establishes the atomic structure of matter, it also heralds the need for a new theory of matter at the atomic level. That is a task we will take up in Part VIII. For now, Table 20.1 summarizes what we have learned from kinetic theory about thermal energy and molar specific heats.

**Table 20.1**

| System | Degrees of freedom | $E_{th}$ | $C_V$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Monatomic gas | 3 | $\frac{3}{2}Nk_BT = \frac{3}{2}nRT$ | $\frac{3}{2}R = 12.5$ J/mol K |
| Diatomic gas | 5 | $\frac{5}{2}Nk_BT = \frac{5}{2}nRT$ | $\frac{5}{2}R = 20.8$ J/mol K |
| Elemental solid | 6 | $3Nk_BT = 3nRT$ | $3R = 25.0$ J/mol K |

Kinetic theory predictions for the thermal energy and the molar specific heat

**Example 20.5 The rotational frequency of a molecule**

The nitrogen molecule $N_2$ has a bond length of 0.12 nm. Estimate the rotational frequency of $N_2$ at 20°C.

**MODEL** The molecule can be modeled as a rigid dumbbell of length $L = 0.12$ nm rotating about its center.

**SOLVE** The rotational kinetic energy of the molecule is $\epsilon_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$, where $I$ is the moment of inertia about the center. Because we have two point masses each moving in a circle of radius $r = L/2$, the moment of inertia is

$$I = mr^2 + mr^2 = 2m\left(\frac{L}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{mL^2}{2}$$

Thus the rotational kinetic energy is

$$\epsilon_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{mL^2}{2}\omega^2 = \frac{mL^2\omega^2}{4} = \pi^2 mL^2 f^2$$

where we used $\omega = 2\pi f$ to relate the rotational frequency $f$ to the angular frequency $\omega$. From the equipartition theorem, the energy associated with this mode is $\frac{1}{2}Nk_BT$, so the *average* rotational kinetic energy per molecule is

$$(\epsilon_{\text{rot}})_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{2}k_BT$$

Equating these two expressions for $\epsilon_{\text{rot}}$ gives us

$$\pi^2 m L^2 f^2 = \tfrac{1}{2} k_{\text{B}} T$$

Thus the rotational frequency is

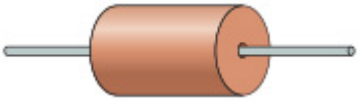
$$f = \sqrt{\frac{k_{\text{B}} T}{2\pi^2 m L^2}} = 7.8 \times 10^{11} \text{ rev/s}$$

We evaluated $f$ at $T = 293$ K, using $m = 14$ u $= 2.34 \times 10^{-26}$ kg for each *atom*.

**ASSESS** This is a *very* high frequency, but these values are typical of molecular rotations.

## Stop to Think 20.4

How many degrees of freedom does a bead on a rigid rod have?



**a.** 1

**b.** 2

**c.** 3

**d.** 4

**e.** 5

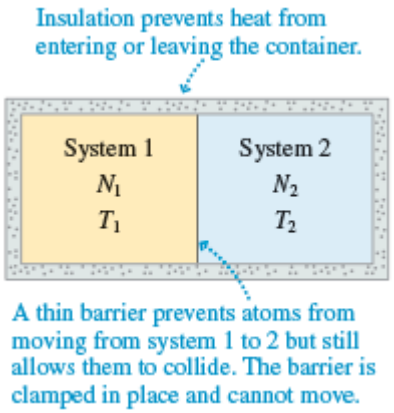
**f.** 6

# 20.5 Thermal Interactions and Heat



We can now look in more detail at what happens when two systems at different temperatures interact with each other. Figure 20.12 shows a rigid, insulated container divided into two sections by a very thin membrane. The left side, which we'll call system 1, has $N_1$ atoms at an initial temperature $T_{1i}$. System 2 on the right has $N_2$ atoms at an initial temperature $T_{2i}$. The membrane is so thin that atoms can collide at the boundary as if the membrane were not there, yet it is a barrier that prevents atoms from moving from one side to the other. The situation is analogous, on an atomic scale, to basketballs colliding through a shower curtain.

**Figure 20.12**




Two gases can interact thermally through a very thin barrier.

Suppose that system 1 is initially at a higher temperature: $T_{1i} > T_{2i}$. This is not an equilibrium situation. The temperatures will change with time until the systems eventually reach a common final temperature $T_f$. If you *watch* the gases as one warms and the other cools, you see nothing happening. This interaction is quite different from a mechanical

interaction in which, for example, you might see a piston move from one side toward the other. The only way in which the gases can interact is via molecular collisions at the boundary. This is a *thermal interaction*, and our goal is to understand how thermal interactions bring the systems to thermal equilibrium.

System 1 and system 2 begin with thermal energies

**(20.38)**

$$E_{1\mathrm{i}} = \tfrac{3}{2} N_1 k_{\mathrm{B}} T_{1\mathrm{i}} = \tfrac{3}{2} n_1 R T_{1\mathrm{i}}$$
$$E_{2\mathrm{i}} = \tfrac{3}{2} N_2 k_{\mathrm{B}} T_{2\mathrm{i}} = \tfrac{3}{2} n_2 R T_{2\mathrm{i}}$$

We've written the energies for monatomic gases; you could do the same calculation if one or both of the gases is diatomic by replacing the $\frac{3}{2}$ with $\frac{5}{2}$. Notice that we've omitted the subscript "th" to keep the notation manageable.

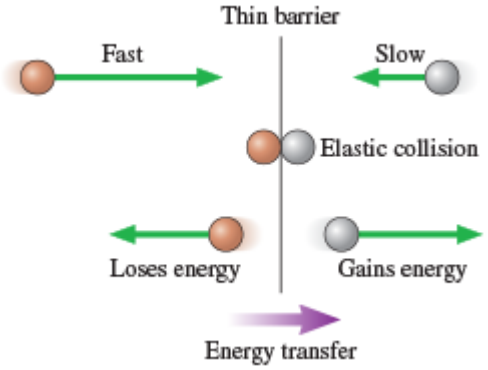
The total energy of the combined systems is $E_{\mathrm{tot}} = E_{1\mathrm{i}} + E_{2\mathrm{i}}$. As systems 1 and 2 interact, their individual thermal energies $E_1$ and $E_2$ can change but their sum $E_{\mathrm{tot}}$ remains constant. The system will have reached thermal equilibrium when the individual thermal energies reach final values $E_{1\mathrm{f}}$ and $E_{2\mathrm{f}}$ that no longer change.

## The Systems Exchange Energy

Figure 20.13 shows a fast atom and a slow atom approaching the barrier from opposite sides. They undergo a perfectly elastic collision at the barrier. Although no net energy is lost in a perfectly elastic collision, in most such collisions the more-energetic atom loses energy while the less-

energetic atom gains energy. In other words, there's an energy *transfer* from the more-energetic atom's side to the less-energetic atom's side.

## Figure 20.13




On average, collisions transfer energy from more-energetic atoms to less-energetic atoms.

The average translational kinetic energy per atom is directly proportional to the temperature: $\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2} k_{\text{B}} T$. Because $T_{1\text{i}} > T_{2\text{i}}$, the atoms in system 1 are, on average, more energetic than the atoms in system 2. Thus *on average* the collisions transfer energy from system 1 to system 2. Not in every collision: sometimes a fast atom in system 2 collides with a slow atom in system 1, transferring energy from 2 to 1. But the net energy transfer, from all collisions, is from the warmer system 1 to the cooler system 2. In other words, **heat is the energy transferred *via collisions* between the more-energetic (warmer) atoms on one side and the less-energetic (cooler) atoms on the other**.

How do the systems "know" when they've reached thermal equilibrium? Energy transfer continues until the atoms on both sides of the barrier have the *same average translational kinetic energy*. Once the average translational kinetic energies are the same, there is no tendency for energy to flow in either direction. This is the state of thermal equilibrium, so the condition for thermal equilibrium is

**(20.39)**

$$(\epsilon_1)_{\text{avg}} = (\epsilon_2)_{\text{avg}} \qquad \text{(thermal equilibrium)}$$

where, as before, $\epsilon$ is the translational kinetic energy of an atom.[560]

Because the average energies are directly proportional to the final temperatures, $\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2} k_{\text{B}} T_{\text{f}}$, thermal equilibrium is characterized by the macroscopic condition

**(20.40)**

$$T_{1\text{f}} = T_{2\text{f}} = T_{\text{f}} \qquad \text{(thermal equilibrium)}$$

In other words, **two thermally interacting systems reach a common final temperature *because* they exchange energy via collisions until the atoms on each side have, on average, equal translational kinetic energies.** This is a very important idea.

Equation 20.40 can be used to determine the equilibrium thermal energies. Because these are monatomic gases, $E_{\text{th}} = N\epsilon_{\text{avg}}$. Thus the equilibrium condition $(\epsilon_1)_{\text{avg}} = (\epsilon_2)_{\text{avg}} = (\epsilon_{\text{tot}})_{\text{avg}}$ implies

**(20.41)**

$$\frac{E_{1\text{f}}}{N_1} = \frac{E_{2\text{f}}}{N_2} = \frac{E_{\text{tot}}}{N_1 + N_2}$$

from which we can conclude

**(20.42)**

$$E_{1\mathrm{f}} = \frac{N_1}{N_1+N_2}\,E_{\mathrm{tot}} = \frac{n_1}{n_1+n_2}\,E_{\mathrm{tot}}$$
$$E_{2\mathrm{f}} = \frac{N_2}{N_1+N_2}\,E_{\mathrm{tot}} = \frac{n_2}{n_1+n_2}\,E_{\mathrm{tot}}$$

where in the last step we used moles rather than molecules.

Notice that $E_{1\mathrm{f}} + E_{2\mathrm{f}} = E_{\mathrm{tot}}$, verifying that energy has been conserved even while being redistributed between the systems.

No work is done on either system because the barrier has no macroscopic displacement, so the first law of thermodynamics is

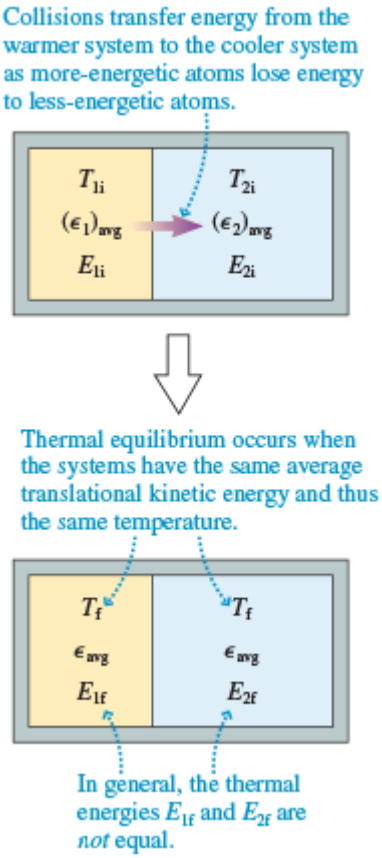
**(20.43)**

$$Q_1 = \Delta E_1 = E_{1\mathrm{f}} - E_{1\mathrm{i}}$$
$$Q_2 = \Delta E_2 = E_{2\mathrm{f}} - E_{2\mathrm{i}}$$

As a homework problem you can show that $Q_1 = -Q_2$, as required by energy conservation. That is, the heat lost by one system is gained by the other. $|Q_1|$ is the quantity of heat that is transferred from the warmer gas to the cooler gas during the thermal interaction.

> **Note**
>
> In general, the equilibrium thermal energies of the system are *not* equal. That is, $E_{1\mathrm{f}} \neq E_{2\mathrm{f}}$. They will be equal only if $N_1 = N_2$. Equilibrium is reached when the average translational kinetic energies in the two systems are equal—that is, when $(\epsilon_1)_{\mathrm{avg}} = (\epsilon_2)_{\mathrm{avg}}$, not when $E_{1\mathrm{f}} = E_{2\mathrm{f}}$. The distinction is important. Figure 20.14 summarizes these ideas.

**Figure 20.14**




Equilibrium is reached when the atoms on each side have, on average, equal energies.

## Example 20.6 A thermal interaction

A sealed, insulated container has 2.0 g of helium at an initial temperature of 300 K on one side of a barrier and 10.0 g of argon at an initial temperature of 600 K on the other side.

**a.** How much heat energy is transferred, and in which direction?

**b.** What is the final temperature?

**MODEL** The systems start with different temperatures, so they are not in thermal equilibrium. Energy will be transferred via collisions

from the argon to the helium until both systems have the same average molecular energy.

**SOLVE**

**a.** Let the helium be system 1. Helium has molar mass $M_{\text{mol}} = 0.004\ \text{kg/mol}$, so $n_1 = M/M_{\text{mol}} = 0.50\ \text{mol}$. Similarly, argon has $M_{\text{mol}} = 0.040\ \text{kg/mol}$, so $n_2 = 0.25\ \text{mol}$. The initial thermal energies of the two monatomic gases are

$$E_{1\text{i}} = \tfrac{3}{2} n_1 R T_{1\text{i}} = 225R = 1870\ \text{J}$$
$$E_{2\text{i}} = \tfrac{3}{2} n_2 R T_{2\text{i}} = 225R = 1870\ \text{J}$$

The systems start with *equal* thermal energies, but they are not in thermal equilibrium. The total energy is $E_{\text{tot}} = 3740\ \text{J}$. In equilibrium, this energy is distributed between the two systems as

$$E_{1\text{f}} = \frac{n_1}{n_1 + n_2} E_{\text{tot}} = \frac{0.50}{0.75} \times 3740\ \text{J} = 2493\ \text{J}$$
$$E_{2\text{f}} = \frac{n_2}{n_1 + n_2} E_{\text{tot}} = \frac{0.25}{0.75} \times 3740\ \text{J} = 1247\ \text{J}$$

The heat entering or leaving each system is

$$Q_1 = Q_{\text{He}} = E_{1\text{f}} - E_{1\text{i}} = 623\ \text{J}$$
$$Q_2 = Q_{\text{Ar}} = E_{2\text{f}} - E_{2\text{i}} = -623\ \text{J}$$

The helium and the argon interact thermally via collisions at the boundary, causing 623 J of heat to be transferred from the warmer argon to the cooler helium.

**b.** These are constant-volume processes, thus $Q = nC_{\rm V}\,\Delta T$. $C_{\rm V} = \frac{3}{2}R$ for monatomic gases, so the temperature changes are

$$\Delta T_{\rm He} = \frac{Q_{\rm He}}{\frac{3}{2}nR} = \frac{623\ \text{J}}{1.5(0.50\ \text{mol})(8.31\ \text{J/mol K})} = 100\ \text{K}$$

$$\Delta T_{\rm Ar} = \frac{Q_{\rm Ar}}{\frac{3}{2}nR} = \frac{-623\ \text{J}}{1.5(0.25\ \text{mol})(8.31\ \text{J/mol K})} = -200\ \text{K}$$

Both gases reach the common final temperature $T_{\rm f} = 400\ \text{K}$.

**ASSESS** $E_{1\rm f} = 2E_{2\rm f}$ because there are twice as many atoms in system 1.

The main idea of this section is that two systems reach a common final temperature not by magic or by a prearranged agreement but simply from the energy exchange of vast numbers of molecular collisions. Real interacting systems, of course, are separated by walls rather than our unrealistic thin membrane. As the systems interact, the energy is first transferred via collisions from system 1 into the wall and subsequently, as the cooler molecules collide with a warm wall, into system 2. That is, the energy transfer is $E_1 \rightarrow E_{\rm wall} \rightarrow E_2$. This is still heat because the energy transfer is occurring via molecular collisions rather than mechanical motion.

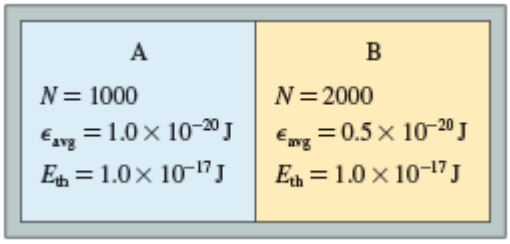
## Stop to Think 20.5

Systems A and B are interacting thermally. At this instant of time,

**a.** $T_A > T_B$

**b.** $T_A = T_B$

**c.** $T_A < T_B$



# 20.6 Irreversible Processes and the Second Law of Thermodynamics

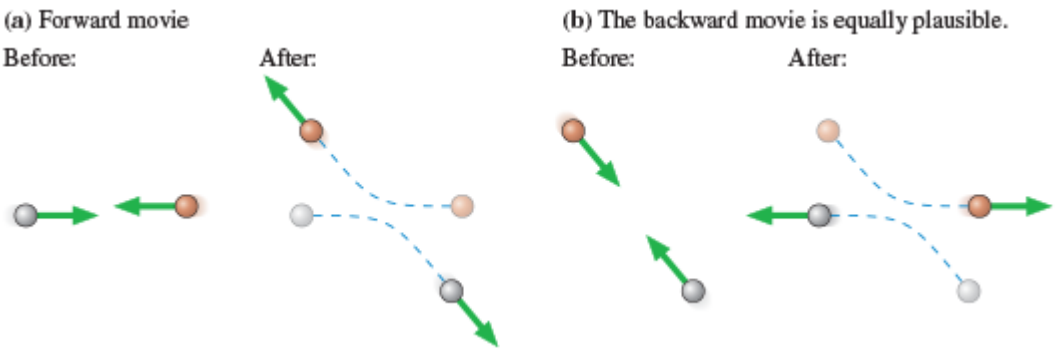


The preceding section looked at the thermal interaction between a warm gas and a cold gas. Heat energy is transferred from the warm gas to the cold gas until they reach a common final temperature. But why isn't heat transferred from the cold gas to the warm gas, making the cold side colder and the warm side warmer? Such a process could still conserve energy, but it never happens. The transfer of heat energy from hot to cold is an example of an **irreversible process,** a process that can happen only in one direction.

Examples of irreversible processes abound. Stirring the cream in your coffee mixes the cream and coffee together. No amount of stirring ever unmixes them. If you shake a jar that has red marbles on the top and blue marbles on the bottom, the two colors are quickly mixed together. No amount of shaking ever separates them again. If you watched a movie of someone shaking a jar and saw the red and blue marbles separating, you would be certain that the movie was running backward. In fact, a reasonable definition of an irreversible process is one for which a backward-running movie shows a physically impossible process.

Figure 20.15a is a two-frame movie of a collision between two particles, perhaps two gas molecules. Suppose that sometime after the collision is over we could reach in and reverse the velocities of both particles. That is, replace vector $\vec{v}$ with vector $-\vec{v}$. Then, as in a movie playing backward, the collision would happen in reverse. This is the movie of Figure 20.15b.

## Figure 20.15



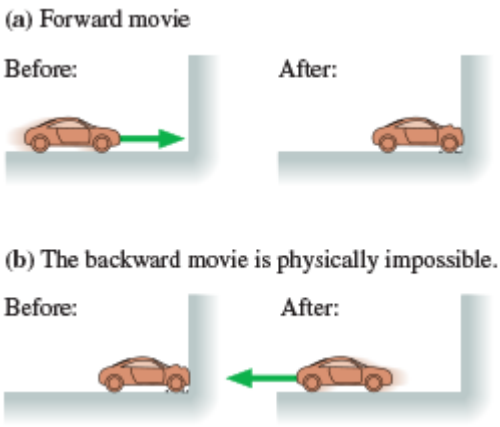

Molecular collisions are reversible.

You cannot tell, just by looking at the two movies, which is really going forward and which is being played backward. Maybe Figure 20.15b was the original collision and Figure 20.15a is the backward version. Nothing in either collision looks wrong, and no measurements you might make on either would reveal any violations of Newton's laws.

**Interactions between molecules are reversible processes.**

Contrast this with the two-frame car crash movies in Figure 20.16. Past and future are clearly distinct in an irreversible process, and the backward movie of Figure 20.16b is obviously wrong. But what has been violated in the backward movie? To have the crumpled car spring away from the wall would not violate any laws of physics we have so far discovered. It would simply require transforming the thermal energy of the car and wall back into the macroscopic center-of-mass energy of the car as a whole.

## Figure 20.16




A car crash is irreversible.

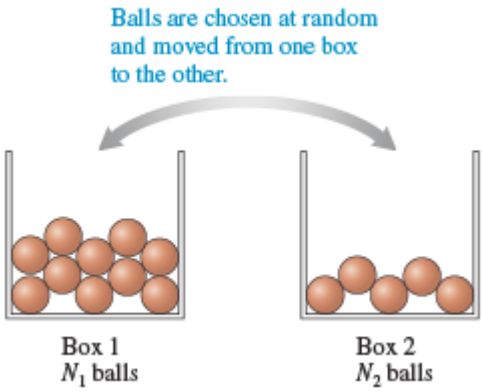
The paradox stems from our assertion that macroscopic phenomena can be understood on the basis of microscopic molecular motions. If the microscopic motions are all reversible, how can the macroscopic phenomena end up being irreversible? If reversible collisions can cause heat to be transferred from hot to cold, why do they never cause heat to be transferred from cold to hot? There must be another law of physics preventing it. The law we seek must, in some sense, be able to distinguish the past from the future.

## Which Way to Equilibrium?

Stated another way, how do two systems initially at different temperatures "know" which way to go to reach equilibrium? Perhaps an analogy will help.

Figure 20.17 shows two boxes, numbered 1 and 2, containing identical balls. Box 1 starts with more balls than box 2, so $N_{1i} > N_{2i}$. Once every second, one ball is chosen at random and moved to the other box. This is a reversible process because a ball can move from box 2 to box 1 just as easily as from box 1 to box 2. What do you expect to see if you return several hours later?

## Figure 20.17




Two interacting systems. Balls are chosen at random and moved to the other box.

Because balls are chosen at random, and because $N_{1i} > N_{2i}$, it's initially more likely that a ball will move from box 1 to box 2 than from box 2 to box 1. Sometimes a ball will move "backward" from box 2 to box 1, but overall there's a net movement of balls from box 1 to box 2. The system will evolve until $N_1 \approx N_2$. This is a stable situation—equilibrium!—with an equal number of balls moving in both directions.

But couldn't it go the other way, with $N_1$ getting even larger while $N_2$ decreases? In principle, any possible arrangement of the balls is possible in the same way that any number of heads are possible if you throw $N$ coins in the air and let them fall. If you throw four coins, the odds are 1 in $2^4$, or 1 in 16, of getting four heads. With four balls, the odds are 1 in 16 that, at a randomly chosen instant of time, you would find $N_1 = 4$. You wouldn't find that to be terribly surprising.

With 10 balls, the probability that $N_1 = 10$ is $0.5^{10} \approx 1/1000$. With 100 balls, the probability that $N_1 = 100$ has dropped to $\approx 10^{-30}$. With $10^{20}$ balls, the odds of finding all of them, or even most of them, in one box are so staggeringly small that it's safe to say it will "never" happen. Although each transfer is reversible, **the statistics of large numbers**

**make it overwhelmingly more likely that the system will evolve toward a state in which $N_1 \approx N_2$ than toward a state in which $N_1 > N_2$.**

The balls in our analogy represent energy. The total energy, like the total number of balls, is conserved, but molecular collisions can move energy between system 1 and system 2. Each collision is reversible, just as likely to transfer energy from 1 to 2 as from 2 to 1. But if $(\epsilon_{1\mathrm{i}})_{\mathrm{avg}} > (\epsilon_{2\mathrm{i}})_{\mathrm{avg}}$, and if we're dealing with two macroscopic systems where $N > 10^{20}$, then it's overwhelmingly likely that the net result of many, many collisions will be to transfer energy from system 1 to system 2 until $(\epsilon_{1\mathrm{f}})_{\mathrm{avg}} = (\epsilon_{2\mathrm{f}})_{\mathrm{avg}}$—in other words, for heat energy to be transferred from hot to cold.

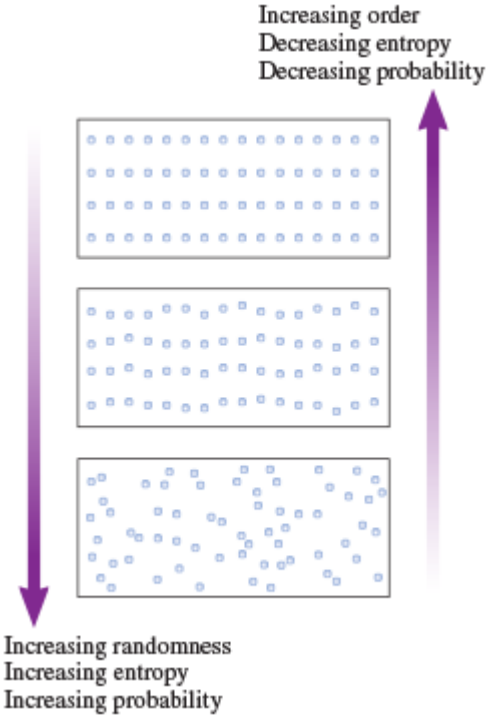
The system reaches thermal equilibrium not by any plan or by outside intervention, but simply because **equilibrium is the *most probable* state in which to be**. It is *possible* that the system will move away from equilibrium, with heat moving from cold to hot, but remotely improbable in any realistic system. The consequence of a vast number of random events is that the system evolves in one direction, toward equilibrium, and not the other. **Reversible microscopic events lead to irreversible macroscopic behavior because some macroscopic states are vastly more probable than others.**

Tossing all heads, while not impossible, is extremely unlikely, and the probability of doing so rapidly decreases as the number of coins increases.

# Order, Disorder, and Entropy

Figure 20.18 shows three different systems. At the top is a group of atoms arranged in a crystal-like lattice. This is a highly ordered and nonrandom system, with each atom's position precisely specified. Contrast this with the system on the bottom, where there is no order at all. The position of every atom was assigned entirely at random.

**Figure 20.18**




Ordered and disordered systems.

It is extremely improbable that the atoms in a container would *spontaneously* arrange themselves into the ordered pattern of the top picture. In a system of, say, $10^{20}$ atoms, the probability of this happening is similar to the probability that $10^{20}$ tossed coins will all be heads. We can safely say that it will never happen. By contrast, there are a vast number of arrangements like the one on the bottom that randomly fill the container.

The middle picture of Figure 20.18 is an in-between situation. This situation might arise as a solid melts. The positions of the atoms are clearly not completely random, so the system preserves some degree of order. This in-between situation is more likely to occur spontaneously than the highly ordered lattice on the top, but is less likely to occur than the completely random system on the bottom.

Scientists and engineers use a state variable called **entropy** to measure the probability that a macroscopic state will occur spontaneously. The ordered lattice, which has a very small probability of spontaneous occurrence, has a very low entropy. The entropy of the randomly filled container is high. The entropy of the middle picture is somewhere in between. It is often said that entropy measures the amount of *disorder* in a system. The entropy in Figure 20.18 increases as you move from the ordered system on the top to the disordered system on the bottom.

Similarly, two thermally interacting systems with different temperatures have a low entropy. These systems are ordered in the sense that the faster atoms are on one side of the barrier, the slower atoms on the other. The most random possible distribution of energy, and hence the least ordered system, corresponds to the situation where the two systems are in thermal equilibrium with equal temperatures. Entropy increases as two systems with initially different temperatures move toward equilibrium. Entropy would decrease if heat energy moved from cold to hot, making the hot system hotter and the cold system colder. [564]

Entropy can be calculated, but we'll leave that to more advanced courses. For our purposes, the *concept* of entropy as a measure of the disorder in a system, or of the probability that a macroscopic state will occur, is more important than a numerical value.

# The Second Law of Thermodynamics

The fact that macroscopic systems evolve irreversibly toward equilibrium is a statement about nature that is not contained in any of the laws of physics we have encountered. It is, in fact, a new law of physics, one known as the **second law of thermodynamics.**

The formal statement of the second law of thermodynamics is given in terms of entropy:

---

Second law, formal statement

The entropy of an isolated system (or group of systems) never decreases. The entropy either increases, until the system reaches equilibrium, or, if the system began in equilibrium, stays the same.

The qualifier "isolated" is most important. We can order the system by reaching in from the outside, perhaps using tiny tweezers to place the atoms in a lattice. Similarly, we can transfer heat from cold to hot by using a refrigerator. The second law is about what a system can or cannot do *spontaneously*, on its own, without outside intervention.

The second law of thermodynamics tells us that an isolated system evolves such that

- Order turns into disorder and randomness.
- Information is lost rather than gained.
- The system "runs down."

An isolated system never spontaneously generates order out of randomness. It is not that the system "knows" about order or randomness, but rather that there are vastly more states corresponding to randomness than there are corresponding to order. As collisions occur at the microscopic level, the laws of probability dictate that the system will, on average, move inexorably toward the most probable and thus most random macroscopic state.

The second law of thermodynamics is often stated in several equivalent but more informal versions. One of these, and the one most relevant to our discussion, is

---

Second law, informal statement #1

When two systems at different temperatures interact, heat energy is transferred spontaneously from the hotter to the colder system, never from the colder to the hotter.

This version of the second law will be used in Chapter 21 to understand the thermodynamics of engines.

The second law of thermodynamics is an independent statement about nature, separate from the first law. The first law is a precise statement about energy conservation. The second law, by contrast, is a *probabilistic* statement, based on the statistics of very large numbers. While it is conceivable that heat could spontaneously move from cold to hot, it will never occur in any realistic macroscopic system.

The irreversible evolution from less-likely macroscopic states to more-likely macroscopic states is what gives us a macroscopic direction of time. Stirring blends your coffee and cream; it never unmixes them. Friction causes an object to stop while increasing its thermal energy; the random atomic motions of thermal energy never spontaneously organize themselves into a macroscopic motion of the entire object. A plant in a sealed jar dies and decomposes to carbon and various gases; the gases and carbon never spontaneously assemble themselves into a flower. These are all examples of irreversible processes. They each show a clear direction of time, a distinct difference between past and future.

Thus another statement of the second law is

---

Second law, informal statement #2

The time direction in which the entropy of an isolated macroscopic system increases is "the future."

Establishing the "arrow of time" is one of the most profound implications of the second law of thermodynamics.

## Stop to Think 20.6

Two identical boxes each contain 1,000,000 molecules. In box A, 750,000 molecules happen to be in the left half of the box while 250,000 are in the right half. In box B, 499,900 molecules happen to be in the left half of the box while 500,100 are in the right half. At this instant of time,

**a.** The entropy of box A is larger than the entropy of box B.

**b.** The entropy of box A is equal to the entropy of box B.

**c.** The entropy of box A is smaller than the entropy of box B.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 20 has been to see how macroscopic properties depend on the motion of atoms.

## General Principles

The **micro/macro connection** relates the macroscopic properties of a system to the motion and collisions of its atoms and molecules.

### The Equipartition Theorem

Tells us how collisions distribute the energy in the system.

The energy stored in each mode of the system (each **degree of freedom**) is $\frac{1}{2}Nk_{\mathrm{B}}T$ or, in terms of moles, $\frac{1}{2}nRT$.

### The Second Law of Thermodynamics

Tells us how collisions move a system toward equilibrium.

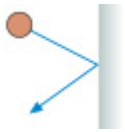
The entropy of an isolated system can only increase or, in equilibrium, stay the same.

- Order turns into disorder and randomness.
- Systems run down.
- Heat energy is transferred spontaneously from a hotter to a colder system, never from colder to hotter.

## Important Concepts

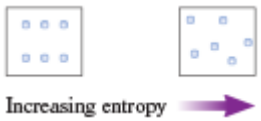
**Pressure** is due to the force of the molecules colliding with the walls:

$$p = \frac{1}{3}\frac{N}{V}m{v_{\text{rms}}}^2 = \frac{2}{3}\frac{N}{V}\epsilon_{\text{avg}}$$



The **average translational kinetic energy** of a molecule is $\epsilon_{\text{avg}} = \frac{3}{2}k_{\text{B}}T$. The temperature of the gas $T = 2\epsilon_{\text{avg}}/3k_{\text{B}}$ measures the average translational kinetic energy.

**Entropy** measures the probability that a macroscopic state will occur or, equivalently, the amount of disorder in a system.

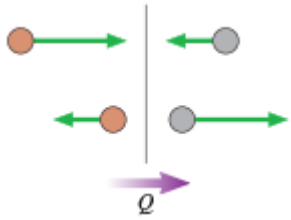



The **thermal energy** of a system is

$$E_{\text{th}} = \text{translational kinetic energy} + \text{rotational kinetic energy} + \text{vibrational energy}$$

- **Monatomic gas** $E_{\text{th}} = \frac{3}{2}Nk_{\text{B}}T = \frac{3}{2}nRT$
- **Diatomic gas** $E_{\text{th}} = \frac{5}{2}Nk_{\text{B}}T = \frac{5}{2}nRT$
- **Elemental solid** $E_{\text{th}} = 3Nk_{\text{B}}T = 3nRT$

**Heat** is energy transferred via collisions from more-energetic molecules on one side to less-energetic molecules on the other. Equilibrium is reached when $(\epsilon_1)_{\text{avg}} = (\epsilon_2)_{\text{avg}}$, which implies $T_{1\text{f}} = T_{2\text{f}}$.




# Applications

The **root-mean-square speed** $v_{\text{rms}}$ is the square root of the average of the squares of the molecular speeds:

$$v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{(v^2)_{\text{avg}}}$$

For molecules of mass $m$ at temperature $T$, $v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{3k_{\text{B}}T}{m}}$

**Molar specific heats** can be predicted from the thermal energy because $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = nC\,\Delta T$.

- **Monatomic gas** $C_{\text{V}} = \frac{3}{2}R$
- **Diatomic gas** $C_{\text{V}} = \frac{5}{2}R$
- **Elemental solid** $C = 3R$

# Terms and Notation

histogram

mean free path, $\lambda$

root-mean-square speed, $v_{\text{rms}}$

degrees of freedom

equipartition theorem

irreversible process

entropy

second law of thermodynamics

# Conceptual Questions 566

**1.** Solids and liquids resist being compressed. They are not totally incompressible, but it takes large forces to compress them even slightly. If it is true that matter consists of atoms, what can you infer about the microscopic nature of solids and liquids from their incompressibility?

**2.** Gases, in contrast with solids and liquids, are very compressible. What can you infer from this observation about the microscopic nature of gases?

**3.** The density of air at STP is about $\frac{1}{1000}$ the density of water. How does the average distance between air molecules compare to the average distance between water molecules? Explain.

**4.** The mean free path of molecules in a gas is 200 nm.

**a.** What will be the mean free path if the pressure is doubled while the temperature is held constant?

**b.** What will be the mean free path if the absolute temperature is doubled while the pressure is held constant?

**5.** If the pressure of a gas is really due to the *random* collisions of molecules with the walls of the container, why do pressure gauges—even very sensitive ones—give perfectly steady readings? Shouldn't the gauge be continually jiggling and fluctuating? Explain.

**6.** Suppose you could suddenly increase the speed of every molecule in a gas by a factor of 2.

**a.** Would the rms speed of the molecules increase by a factor of $2^{1/2}$, 2, or $2^2$? Explain.

**b.** Would the gas pressure increase by a factor of $2^{1/2}$, 2, or $2^2$? Explain.

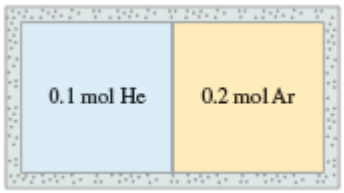
**7.** Suppose you could suddenly increase the speed of every molecule in a gas by a factor of 2.

**a.** Would the temperature of the gas increase by a factor of $2^{1/2}$, 2, or $2^2$? Explain.

**b.** Would the molar specific heat at constant volume change? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**8.** The two containers of gas in Figure Q20.8 are in good thermal contact with each other but well insulated from the environment. They have been in contact for a long time and are in thermal equilibrium.

**Figure Q20.8**




**a.** Is $v_{rms}$ of helium greater than, less than, or equal to $v_{rms}$ of argon? Explain.

**b.** Does the helium have more thermal energy, less thermal energy, or the same amount of thermal energy as the argon? Explain.

**9.** Suppose you place an ice cube in a beaker of room-temperature water, then seal them in a rigid, well-insulated container. No energy can enter or leave the container.

**a.** If you open the container an hour later, will you find a beaker of water slightly cooler than room temperature, or a large ice cube and some 100°C steam?

**b.** Finding a large ice cube and some 100°C steam would not violate the first law of thermodynamics. $W = 0$ J and $Q = 0$ J because the container is sealed, and $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0$ J because the increase in thermal energy of the water molecules that became steam is offset by the decrease in thermal energy of the water molecules that turned to ice. Energy would be conserved, yet we never see an outcome like this. Why not?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 20.1 Molecular Speeds and Collisions

**1.** •• The number density of an ideal gas at STP is called the *Loschmidt number.* Calculate the Loschmidt number.

**2.** •• A 1.0 m × 1.0 m × 1.0 m cube of nitrogen gas is at 20°C and 1.0 atm. Estimate the number of molecules in the cube with a speed between 700 m/s and 1000 m/s.

**3.** •• At what pressure will the mean free path in room-temperature (20°C) nitrogen be 1.0 m?

**4.** ••• Integrated circuits are manufactured in vacuum chambers in which the air pressure is $1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ mm of Hg. What are (a) the number density and (b) the mean free path of a molecule? Assume $T = 20^\circ\text{C}$.

**5.** • The mean free path of a molecule in a gas is 300 nm. What will the mean free path be if the gas temperature is doubled at (a) constant volume and (b) constant pressure?

**6.** •• A lottery machine uses blowing air to keep 2000 Ping-Pong balls bouncing around inside a $1.0\ \text{m} \times 1.0\ \text{m} \times 1.0\ \text{m}$ box. The diameter of a Ping-Pong ball is 3.0 cm. What is the mean free path between collisions? Give your answer in cm.

**7.** • For a monatomic gas, what is the ratio of the volume per atom ($V/N$) to the volume *of* an atom when the mean free path is ten times the atomic diameter?

## Section 20.2 Pressure in a Gas

**8.** •• The molecules in a six-particle gas have velocities

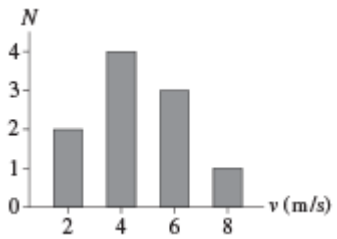
$$\vec{v}_1 = (20\hat{i} - 30\hat{j})\ \text{m/s} \qquad \vec{v}_4 = 30\hat{i}\ \text{m/s}$$
$$\vec{v}_2 = (40\hat{i} + 70\hat{j})\ \text{m/s} \qquad \vec{v}_5 = (40\hat{i} - 40\hat{j})\ \text{m/s}$$
$$\vec{v}_3 = (-80\hat{i} + 20\hat{j})\ \text{m/s} \qquad \vec{v}_6 = (-50\hat{i} - 20\hat{j})\ \text{m/s}$$

Calculate (a) $\vec{v}_{\text{avg}}$, (b) $v_{\text{avg}}$, and (c) $v_{\text{rms}}$.

**9.** • Eleven molecules have speeds 15, 16, 17, …, 25 m/s. Calculate (a) $v_{\text{avg}}$ and (b) $v_{\text{rms}}$.

**10.** • Figure EX20.10 is a histogram showing the speeds of the molecules in a very small gas. What are (a) the most probable speed, (b) the average speed, and (c) the rms speed?

**Figure EX20.10**



**11.** •• The number density in a container of neon gas is $5.00 \times 10^{25}\ \text{m}^{-3}$. The atoms are moving with an rms speed of 660 m/s. What are (a) the temperature and (b) the pressure inside the container?

**12.** ••• At 100°C the rms speed of nitrogen molecules is 576 m/s. Nitrogen at 100°C and a pressure of 2.0 atm is held in a container with a 10 cm $\times$ 10 cm square wall. Estimate the rate of molecular collisions (collisions/s) on this wall.

**13.** •• A cylinder contains gas at a pressure of 2.0 atm and a number density of $4.2 \times 10^{25}\ \text{m}^{-3}$. The rms speed of the atoms is 660 m/s. Identify the gas.

## Section 20.3 Temperature

**14.** • A gas consists of a mixture of neon and argon. The rms speed of the neon atoms is 400 m/s. What is the rms speed of the argon atoms?

**15.** •• What are the rms speeds of (a) argon atoms and (b) hydrogen molecules at 800°C?

**16.** •• 1.5 m/s is a typical walking speed. At what temperature (in K) would nitrogen molecules have an rms speed of 1.5 m/s?

**17.** •• At what temperature (in °C) do hydrogen molecules have the same rms speed as nitrogen molecules at 100°C?

**18.** • The rms speed of molecules in a gas is 600 m/s. What will be the rms speed if the gas pressure and volume are both halved?

**19.** •• By what factor does the rms speed of a molecule change if the temperature is increased from 10°C to 1000°C?

**20.** •• Atoms can be "cooled" to incredibly low temperatures by letting them interact with a laser beam. Various novel quantum phenomena appear at these temperatures. What is the rms

speed of cesium atoms that have been cooled to a temperature of 100 nK?

**21.** • At STP, what is the total translational kinetic energy of the molecules in 1.0 mol of (a) hydrogen, (b) helium, and (c) oxygen?

**22.** • Suppose you double the temperature of a gas at constant volume. Do the following change? If so, by what factor?

**a.** The average translational kinetic energy of a molecule.

**b.** The rms speed of a molecule.

**c.** The mean free path.

**23.** •• During a physics experiment, helium gas is cooled to a temperature of 10 K at a pressure of 0.10 atm. What are (a) the mean free path in the gas, (b) the rms speed of the atoms, and (c) the average energy per atom?

**24.** • What are (a) the average kinetic energy and (b) the rms speed of a proton in the center of the sun, where the temperature is $2.0 \times 10^7$ K?

**25.** •• The atmosphere of the sun consists mostly of hydrogen *atoms* (not molecules) at a temperature of 6000 K. What are (a) the average translational kinetic energy per atom and (b) the rms speed of the atoms?

## Section 20.4 Thermal Energy and Specific Heat

**26.** •• A 10 g sample of neon gas has 1700 J of thermal energy. Estimate the average speed of a neon atom.

**27.** •• The rms speed of the atoms in a 2.0 g sample of helium gas is 700 m/s. What is the thermal energy of the gas?

**28.** •• A $6.0\ \text{m} \times 8.0\ \text{m} \times 3.0\ \text{m}$ room contains air at 20°C. What is the room's thermal energy?

**29.** • The thermal energy of 1.0 mol of a substance is increased by 1.0 J. What is the temperature change if the system is (a) a monatomic gas, (b) a diatomic gas, and (c) a solid?

**30.** •• What is the thermal energy of 100 $cm^3$ of aluminum at 100°C?

**31.** • 1.0 mol of a monatomic gas interacts thermally with 1.0 mol of an elemental solid. The gas temperature decreases by 50°C at constant volume. What is the temperature change of the solid?



**32.** •• A cylinder of nitrogen gas has a volume of 15,000 $cm^3$ and a pressure of 100 atm.

**a.** What is the thermal energy of this gas at room temperature (20°C)?

**b.** What is the mean free path in the gas?

**c.** The valve is opened and the gas is allowed to expand slowly and isothermally until it reaches a pressure of 1.0 atm. What is the change in the thermal energy of the gas?

**33.** •• A rigid container holds 0.20 g of hydrogen gas. How much heat is needed to change the temperature of the gas

**a.** From 50 K to 100 K?

**b.** From 250 K to 300 K?

**c.** From 2250 K to 2300 K?

## Section 20.5 Thermal Interactions and Heat

**34.** • 2.0 mol of monatomic gas A initially has 5000 J of thermal energy. It interacts with 3.0 mol of monatomic gas B, which initially has 8000 J of thermal energy.

**a.** Which gas has the higher initial temperature?

**b.** What is the final thermal energy of each gas?

**35.** ••• 4.0 mol of monatomic gas A interacts with 3.0 mol of monatomic gas B. Gas A initially has 9000 J of thermal energy, but in the process of coming to thermal equilibrium it transfers 1000 J of heat energy to gas B. How much thermal energy did gas B have initially?

## Section 20.6 Irreversible Processes and the Second Law of Thermodynamics

**36.** •• Two containers hold several balls. Once a second, one of the balls is chosen at random and switched to the other container. After a long time has passed, you record the number of balls in each container every second. In 10,000 s, you find 80 times when all the balls were in one container (either one) and the other container was empty.

**a.** How many balls are there?

**b.** What is the most likely number of balls to be found in one of the containers?

# Problems

**37.** •• The pressure inside a tank of neon is 150 atm. The temperature is 25°C. On average, how many atomic diameters does a neon atom move between collisions?

**38.** ••• **INT** From what height must an oxygen molecule fall in a vacuum so that its kinetic energy at the bottom equals the average energy of an oxygen molecule at 300 K?

**39.** •• Dust particles are ≈ 10 $\mu$m in diameter. They are pulverized rock, with $\rho \approx 2500\ \text{kg/m}^3$. If you treat dust as an ideal gas, what is the rms speed of a dust particle at 20°C?

**40.** •• A mad engineer builds a cube, 2.5 m on a side, in which 6.2-cm-diameter rubber balls are constantly sent flying in random directions by vibrating walls. He will award a prize to anyone who can figure out how many balls are in the cube without entering it or taking out any of the balls. You decide to shoot 6.2-cm-diameter plastic balls into the cube, through a small hole, to see how far they get before colliding with a rubber ball. After many shots, you find they travel an average distance of 1.8 m. How many rubber balls do you think are in the cube?

**41.** •• Photons of light scatter off molecules, and the distance you can see through a gas is proportional to the mean free path of photons through the gas. Photons are not gas molecules, so the mean free path of a photon is not given by Equation 20.3, but its dependence on the number density of the gas and on the molecular radius is the same. Suppose you are in a smoggy city and can barely see buildings 500 m away.

**a.** How far would you be able to see if all the molecules around you suddenly doubled in volume?

**b.** How far would you be able to see if the temperature suddenly rose from 20°C to a blazing hot 1500°C with the pressure unchanged?

**42.** •• Interstellar space, far from any stars, is filled with a very low density of hydrogen atoms (H, not $H_2$). The number density is about 1 atom/cm$^3$ and the temperature is about 3 K.

**a.** Estimate the pressure in interstellar space. Give your answer in Pa and in atm.

**b.** What is the rms speed of the atoms?

**c.** What is the edge length $L$ of an $L \times L \times L$ cube of gas with 1.0 J of thermal energy?

**43.** •• You are watching a science fiction movie in which the hero shrinks down to the size of an atom and fights villains while jumping from air molecule to air molecule. In one scene, the hero's molecule is about to crash head-on into the molecule on which a villain is riding. The villain's molecule is initially 50 molecular radii away and, in the movie, it takes 3.5 s for the molecules to collide. Estimate the air temperature required for this to be possible. Assume the molecules are nitrogen molecules, each traveling at the rms speed. Is this a plausible temperature for air?

**44.** ••• **CALC**

**a.** Find an expression for the $v_{\text{rms}}$ of gas molecules in terms of $p$, $V$, and the total mass of the gas $M$.

**b.** A gas cylinder has a piston at one end that is moving outward at speed $v_{\text{piston}}$ during an isobaric expansion of the gas. Find an expression for the *rate* at which $v_{\text{rms}}$ is changing in terms of $v_{\text{piston}}$, the instantaneous value of $v_{\text{rms}}$, and the instantaneous value $L$ of the length of the cylinder.

**c.** A cylindrical sample chamber has a piston moving outward at 0.50 m/s during an isobaric expansion. The rms speed of the gas molecules is 450 m/s at the instant the chamber length is 1.5 m. At what rate is $v_{\text{rms}}$ changing?



**45.** •• Equation 20.3 is the mean free path of a particle through a gas of identical particles of equal radius. An electron can be thought of as a point particle with zero radius.

**a.** Find an expression for the mean free path of an electron through a gas.

**b.** Electrons travel 3 km through the Stanford Linear Accelerator. In order for scattering losses to be negligible, the pressure inside the accelerator tube must be reduced to the point where the mean free path is at least 50 km. What is the maximum possible pressure inside the accelerator tube, assuming $T = 20^\circ\text{C}$? Give your answer in both Pa and atm.

**46.** •• Uranium has two naturally occurring isotopes. $^{238}$U has a natural abundance of 99.3% and $^{235}$U has an abundance of 0.7%. It is the rarer $^{235}$U that is needed for nuclear reactors. The isotopes are separated by forming uranium hexafluoride, $UF_6$, which is a gas, then allowing it to diffuse through a series of porous membranes. $^{235}UF_6$ has a slightly larger rms speed than $^{238}UF_6$ and diffuses slightly faster. Many repetitions of this procedure gradually separate the two isotopes. What is the ratio of the rms speed of $^{235}UF_6$ to that of $^{238}UF_6$?

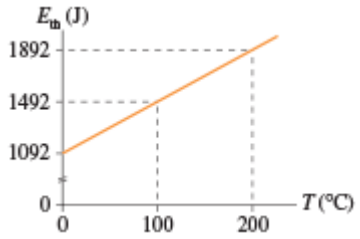
**47.** •• On earth, STP is based on the average atmospheric pressure at the surface and on a phase change of water that occurs at an easily produced temperature, being only slightly cooler than the average air temperature. The atmosphere of Venus is almost entirely carbon dioxide ($CO_2$), the pressure at the surface is a staggering 93 atm, and the average temperature is 470°C. Venusian scientists, if they existed, would certainly use the surface pressure as part of their definition of STP. To complete the definition, they would seek a phase change that occurs near the average temperature. Conveniently, the melting point of the element tellurium is 450°C. What are (a) the rms speed and (b) the mean free path of carbon dioxide molecules at Venusian STP based on this phase change in tellurium? The radius of a $CO_2$ molecule is $1.5 \times 10^{-10}$ m.

**48.** ••• $5.0 \times 10^{23}$ nitrogen molecules collide with a 10 $cm^2$ wall each second. Assume that the molecules all travel with a speed of 400 m/s and strike the wall head-on. What is the pressure on the wall?

**49.** ••• A 10 cm × 10 cm × 10 cm box contains 0.010 mol of nitrogen at 20°C. What is the rate of collisions (collisions/s) on one wall of the box?

**50.** •• Figure P20.50 shows the thermal energy of 0.14 mol of gas as a function of temperature. What is $C_V$ for this gas?

**Figure P20.50**




**51.** •• A 100 $cm^3$ box contains helium at a pressure of 2.0 atm and a temperature of 100°C. It is placed in thermal contact with a 200 $cm^3$ box containing argon at a pressure of 4.0 atm and a temperature of 400°C.

**a.** What is the initial thermal energy of each gas?

**b.** What is the final thermal energy of each gas?

**c.** How much heat energy is transferred, and in which direction?

**d.** What is the final temperature?

**e.** What is the final pressure in each box?

**52.** •• 2.0 g of helium at an initial temperature of 300 K interacts thermally with 8.0 g of oxygen at an initial temperature of 600 K.

**a.** What is the initial thermal energy of each gas?

**b.** What is the final thermal energy of each gas?

**c.** How much heat energy is transferred, and in which direction?

**d.** What is the final temperature?

**53.** •• A gas of $1.0 \times 10^{20}$ atoms or molecules has 1.0 J of thermal energy. Its molar specific heat at constant pressure is 20.8 J/mol K. What is the temperature of the gas?

**54.** •• Scientists studying the behavior of hydrogen at low temperatures need to lower the temperature of 0.50 mol of hydrogen gas from 300 K to 30 K. How much thermal energy must they remove from the gas?

**55.** •• A water molecule has its three atoms arranged in a "V" shape, so it has rotational kinetic energy around any of three mutually perpendicular axes. However, like diatomic molecules, its vibrational modes are not active at temperatures below 1000 K. What is the thermal energy of 2.0 mol of steam at a temperature of 160°C?

**56.** •• A monatomic gas and a diatomic gas have equal numbers of moles and equal temperatures. Both are heated at constant pressure until their volume doubles. What is the ratio $Q_{\text{diatomic}}/Q_{\text{monatomic}}$?

**57.** •• In the discussion following Equation 20.43 it was said that $Q_1 = -Q_2$. Prove that this is so.

**58.** •• **INT** A monatomic gas is adiabatically compressed to $\frac{1}{8}$ of its initial volume. Does each of the following quantities change? If so, does it increase or decrease, and by what factor? If not, why not?

**a.** The rms speed.

**b.** The mean free path.

**c.** The thermal energy of the gas.

**d.** The molar specific heat at constant volume.

**59.** •• $n$ moles of a diatomic gas with $C_V = \frac{5}{2}R$ has initial pressure $p_i$ and volume $V_i$. The gas undergoes a process in which the pressure is directly proportional to the volume until the rms speed of the molecules has doubled.

**a.** Show this process on a $pV$ diagram.

**b.** How much heat does this process require? Give your answer in terms of $n$, $p_i$, and $V_i$.

**60.** •• The 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded for the discovery of graphene, a two-dimensional form of carbon in which the atoms form a two-dimensional crystal-lattice sheet only one atom thick. Predict the molar specific heat of graphene. Give your answer as a multiple of $R$.

**61.** ••• **INT** The rms speed of the molecules in 1.0 g of hydrogen gas is 1800 m/s.

**a.** What is the total translational kinetic energy of the gas molecules?

**b.** What is the thermal energy of the gas?

**c.** 500 J of work are done to compress the gas while, in the same process, 1200 J of heat energy are transferred from the gas to the environment. Afterward, what is the rms speed of the molecules?

**62.** •• **INT** At what temperature does the rms speed of (a) a nitrogen molecule and (b) a hydrogen molecule equal the escape speed from the earth's surface? (c) You'll find that these temperatures are very high, so you might think that the earth's gravity could easily contain both gases. But not all molecules move with $v_{rms}$. There is a distribution of speeds, and a small percentage of molecules have speeds several times $v_{rms}$. Bit by bit, a gas can slowly leak out of the atmosphere as its fastest

molecules escape. A reasonable rule of thumb is that the earth's gravity can contain a gas only if the average translational kinetic energy per molecule is less than 1% of the kinetic energy needed to escape. Use this rule to show why the earth's atmosphere contains nitrogen but not hydrogen, even though hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe.

**63.** •• $n_1$ moles of a monatomic gas and $n_2$ moles of a diatomic gas are mixed together in a container.

**a.** Derive an expression for the molar specific heat at constant volume of the mixture.

**b.** Show that your expression has the expected behavior if $n_1 \to 0$ or $n_2 \to 0$.

**64.** •• A 1.0 kg ball is at rest on the floor in a $2.0\ \text{m} \times 2.0\ \text{m} \times 2.0\ \text{m}$ room of air at STP. Air is 80% nitrogen ($N_2$) and 20% oxygen ($O_2$) by volume.

**a.** What is the thermal energy of the air in the room?

**b.** What fraction of the thermal energy would have to be conveyed to the ball for it to be spontaneously launched to a height of 1.0 m?

**c.** By how much would the air temperature have to decrease to launch the ball?

**d.** Your answer to part c is so small as to be unnoticeable, yet this event never happens. Why not?

## Challenge Problems

**65.** ••• An experiment you're designing needs a gas with $\gamma = 1.50$. You recall from your physics class that no individual gas has this value, but it occurs to you that you could produce a gas with $\gamma = 1.50$ by mixing together a monatomic gas and a

diatomic gas. What fraction of the molecules need to be monatomic?

**66.** ••• Consider a container like that shown in Figure 20.12, with $n_1$ moles of a monatomic gas on one side and $n_2$ moles of a diatomic gas on the other. The monatomic gas has initial temperature $T_{1i}$. The diatomic gas has initial temperature $T_{2i}$.

**a.** Show that the equilibrium thermal energies are

$$E_{1f} = \frac{3n_1}{3n_1 + 5n_2}(E_{1i} + E_{2i})$$
$$E_{2f} = \frac{5n_2}{3n_1 + 5n_2}(E_{1i} + E_{2i})$$

**b.** Show that the equilibrium temperature is

$$T_f = \frac{3n_1T_{1i} + 5n_2T_{2i}}{3n_1 + 5n_2}$$

**c.** 2.0 g of helium at an initial temperature of 300 K interacts thermally with 8.0 g of oxygen at an initial temperature of 600 K. What is the final temperature? How much heat energy is transferred, and in which direction?

# Chapter 21
# Heat Engines and Refrigerators

This power plant is generating electricity by turning heat into work—but not very efficiently. The cooling towers dissipate roughly two-thirds of the fuel's energy into the air as "waste heat."

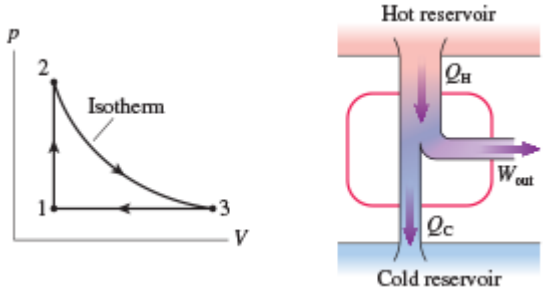
**In This Chapter**

you will study the principles that govern heat engines and refrigerators.

## What is a heat engine?

A heat engine is a device for transforming heat energy into useful work. Heat engines

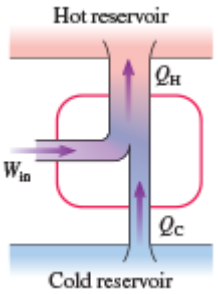
- Follow a cyclical process that can be shown on a *pV* diagram or an energy-transfer diagram.
- Require not only a source of heat but also a source of cooling. These are called the hot reservoir and the cold reservoir.
- Are governed by the first and second laws of thermodynamics.




Looking Back Sections 19.2, 19.3, 19.4 and 19.7 Work, heat, the first law of thermodynamics, and the specific heats of gases

## What is a refrigerator?

A refrigerator is any device—including air conditioners—in which external work is used to "pump energy uphill" from cold to hot. A refrigerator is essentially a heat engine running in reverse. A refrigerator's efficiency is given by its coefficient of performance.




## How is the efficiency of an engine determined?

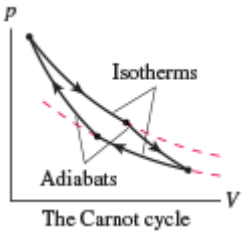
How good is an engine at transforming heat energy into work? We'll define an engine's thermal efficiency as

$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{\text{work done}}{\text{heat required}}$$

Conservation of energy—the first law of thermodynamics—says that no engine can have an efficiency greater than one.

## Is there a maximum possible efficiency?

Yes. And, surprisingly, it's set by the second law's prohibition of spontaneous heat flow from cold to hot. We'll find that a *perfectly reversible heat engine*—a Carnot engine—has the maximum efficiency allowed by the laws of thermodynamics. The Carnot efficiency depends only on the temperatures of the hot and cold reservoirs.



The Carnot cycle

Looking Back Section 20.6 The second law of thermodynamics

## Why are heat engines important?

Modern society is powered by devices that transform fuel energy into useful work. Examples include engines for propelling cars and airplanes, power plants for generating electricity, and a wide variety of machines used in industry and manufacturing. These are all heat engines, and all are governed by the laws of thermodynamics. Maximizing efficiency—an important engineering and societal goal—requires a good understanding of the underlying physical principles.

# 21.1 Turning Heat into Work



**Thermodynamics** is the branch of physics that studies the transformation of energy. Many practical devices are designed to transform energy from one form, such as the heat from burning fuel, into another, such as work. Chapters 19 and 20 established two laws of thermodynamics that any such device must obey:

---

First law

Energy is conserved; that is, $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$.

Second law

Most macroscopic processes are irreversible. In particular, heat energy is transferred spontaneously from a hotter system to a colder system but never from a colder system to a hotter system.

Our goal in this chapter is to discover what these two laws, especially the second law, imply about devices that turn heat into work. In particular:

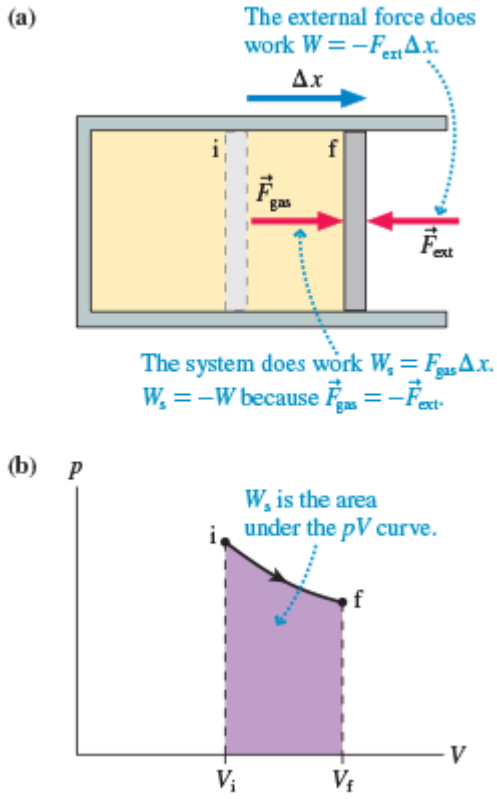
- How does a practical device transform heat into work?
- What are the limitations and restrictions on these energy transformations?

## Work Done by the System

The work $W$ in the first law is the work done *on* the system by external forces from the environment. However, it makes more sense in "practical thermodynamics" to use the work done *by* the system. For example, you want to know how much useful work you can obtain from an expanding gas. The work done by the system is called $W_s$.

**Work done by the environment and work done by the system are not mutually exclusive.** In fact, they are very simply related by $W_s = -W$. In Figure 21.1, force $\vec{F}_{gas}$ due to the gas pressure does work when the piston moves. This is $W_s$, the work done *by* the system. At the same time, some object in the environment, such as a piston rod, must be pushing inward with force $\vec{F}_{ext} = -\vec{F}_{gas}$ to keep the gas pressure from blowing the piston out. This force does the work $W$ *on* the system, work that you've learned is the negative of the area under the $pV$ curve of the process.

## Figure 21.1



Forces $\vec{F}_{\text{gas}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{ext}}$ both do work as the piston moves.

Because the forces are equal but opposite, we see that

**(21.1)**

$$W_{\text{s}} = -W = \text{the area under the } pV \text{ curve}$$

When a gas expands and pushes the piston out, transferring energy out of the system, we say "the system does work on the environment." While this may seem to imply that the environment is doing no work on the system, all the phrase means is that $W_{\text{s}}$ is positive and $W$ is negative.

Similarly, "the environment does work on the system" means that $W > 0$ (energy is transferred into the system) and thus $W_{\text{s}} < 0$. Whether we use $W$ or $W_{\text{s}}$ is a matter of convenience. They are always opposite to each other rather than one being zero.

The first law of thermodynamics $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$ can be written in terms of $W_{\text{s}}$ as



**(21.2)**

$$Q = W_{\text{s}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}} \qquad (\text{first law of thermodynamics})$$

**Any energy transferred into a system as heat is either used to do work or stored within the system as an increased thermal energy.**

# Energy-Transfer Diagrams

Suppose you drop a hot rock into the ocean. Heat is transferred from the rock to the ocean until the rock and ocean are at the same temperature. Although the ocean warms up ever so slightly, $\Delta T_{\text{ocean}}$ is so small as to be

completely insignificant. For all practical purposes, the ocean is infinite and unchangeable.

An **energy reservoir** is an object or a part of the environment so large that **its temperature does not change** when heat is transferred between the system and the reservoir. A reservoir at a higher temperature than the system is called a *hot reservoir.* A vigorously burning flame is a hot reservoir for small objects placed in the flame. A reservoir at a lower temperature than the system is called a *cold reservoir.* The ocean is a cold reservoir for the hot rock. We will use $T_{\mathrm{H}}$ and $T_{\mathrm{C}}$ to designate the temperatures of the hot and cold reservoirs.

Hot and cold reservoirs are idealizations, in the same category as frictionless surfaces and massless strings. No real object can maintain a perfectly constant temperature as heat is transferred in or out. Even so, an object can be modeled as a reservoir if it is much larger than the system that thermally interacts with it.

Heat energy is transferred between a system and a reservoir if they have different temperatures. We will define

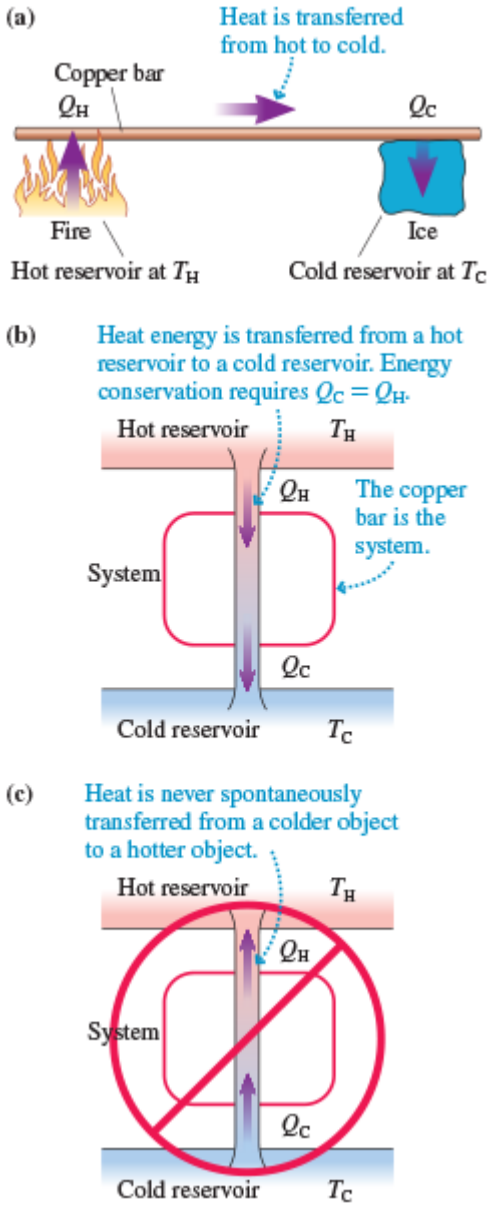
$$Q_{\mathrm{H}} = \text{amount of heat transferred to or from a hot reservoir}$$
$$Q_{\mathrm{C}} = \text{amount of heat transferred to or from a cold reservoir}$$

By definition, $Q_{\mathrm{H}}$ and $Q_{\mathrm{C}}$ are *positive* quantities. The direction of heat transfer, which determines the sign of $Q$ in the first law, will always be clear as we deal with thermodynamic devices.

Figure 21.2a shows a heavy copper bar between a hot reservoir (at temperature $T_{\mathrm{H}}$) and a cold reservoir (at temperature $T_{\mathrm{C}}$). Heat $Q_{\mathrm{H}}$ is transferred from the hot reservoir into the copper and heat $Q_{\mathrm{C}}$ is

transferred from the copper to the cold reservoir. Figure 21.2b is an **energy-transfer diagram** for this process. The hot reservoir is always drawn at the top, the cold reservoir at the bottom, and the system—the copper bar in this case—between them. Figure 21.2b shows heat $Q_H$ being transferred into the system and $Q_C$ being transferred out.

## Figure 21.2




Energy-transfer diagrams.

The first law of thermodynamics $Q = W_s + \Delta E_{th}$ refers to the *system*. $Q$ is the *net* heat to the system, which, in this case, is $Q = Q_H - Q_C$. The copper bar does no work, so $W_s = 0$. The bar warms up when first placed between the two reservoirs, but it soon comes to a steady state where its temperature no longer changes. Then $\Delta E_{th} = 0$. Thus the first law tells us that $Q = Q_H - Q_C = 0$, from which we conclude that $Q_C = Q_H$.

In other words, all of the heat transferred into the hot end of the rod is subsequently transferred out of the cold end. This isn't surprising. After all, we know that heat is transferred spontaneously from a hotter object to a colder object. Even so, there has to be some *means* by which the heat energy gets from the hotter object to the colder. The copper bar provides a route for the energy transfer, and $Q_C = Q_H$ is the statement that energy is conserved as it moves through the bar.

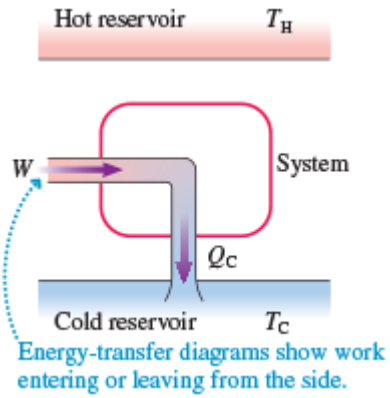
Contrast Figure 21.2b with Figure 21.2c. Figure 21.2c shows a system in which heat is being transferred from the cold reservoir to the hot reservoir. The first law of thermodynamics is not violated, because $Q_H = Q_C$, but the second law is. If there were such a system, it would allow the spontaneous (i.e., with no outside input or assistance) transfer of heat from a colder object to a hotter object. The process of Figure 21.2c is forbidden by the second law of thermodynamics.

## Work into Heat and Heat into Work

Turning work into heat is easy—just rub two objects together. Work from the friction force increases the objects' thermal energy and their temperature. Heat energy is then transferred from the warmer objects to the cooler environment. Figure 21.3 is the energy-transfer diagram for this process. The conversion of work into heat is 100% efficient in that *all*

the energy supplied to the system as work is ultimately transferred to the environment as heat. Notice that the objects have returned to their initial state at the end of this process, ready to repeat the process for as long as there's a source of motion.

## Figure 21.3

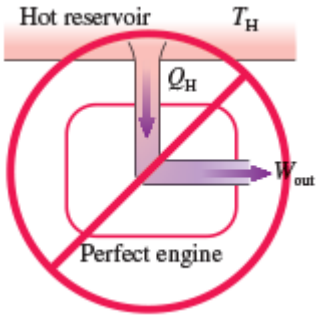



Work can be transformed into heat with 100% efficiency.

The reverse—transforming heat into work—isn't so easy. Heat can be transformed into work in a one-time process, such as an isothermal expansion of a gas, but at the end the system is not restored to its initial state. To be practical, **a device that transforms heat into work must return to its initial state at the end of the process and be ready for continued use.** You want your car engine to turn over and over for as long as there's fuel.

Interestingly, no one has ever invented a "perfect engine" that transforms heat into work with 100% efficiency *and returns to its initial state* so that it can continue to do work as long as there is fuel. Of course, that such a device has not been invented is not a proof that it can't be done. We'll provide a proof shortly, but for now we'll make the hypothesis that the process of Figure 21.4 is somehow forbidden.

## Figure 21.4




There are no perfect engines that turn heat into work with 100% efficiency.

Notice the asymmetry between Figures 21.3 and 21.4. The perfect transformation of work into heat is permitted, but the perfect transformation of heat into work is forbidden. This asymmetry parallels the asymmetry of the two processes in Figure 21.2. In fact, we'll soon see that the "perfect engine" of Figure 21.4 is forbidden for exactly the same reason: the second law of thermodynamics.

# 21.2 Heat Engines and Refrigerators

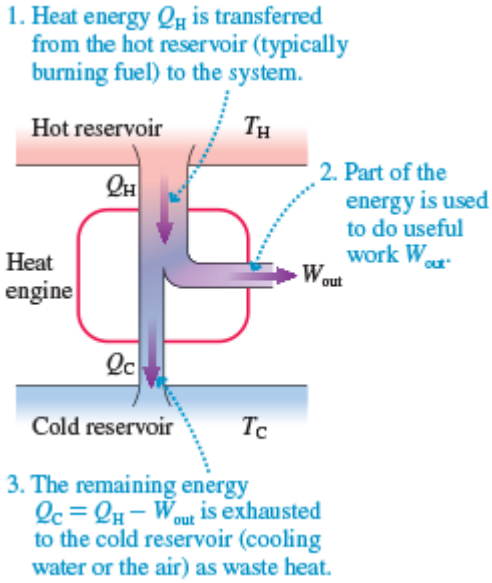
The steam generator at your local electric power plant works by boiling water to produce high-pressure steam that spins a turbine (which then spins a generator to produce electricity). That is, the steam pressure is doing work. The steam is then condensed to liquid water and pumped back to the boiler to start the process again. There are two crucial ideas here. First, the device works in a cycle, with the water returning to its initial conditions once a cycle. Second, heat is transferred to the water in the boiler, but heat is transferred *out* of the water in the condenser.

Car engines and steam generators are examples of what we call *heat engines.* A **heat engine** is any closed-cycle device that extracts heat $Q_H$ from a hot reservoir, does useful work, and exhausts heat $Q_C$ to a cold reservoir. A **closed-cycle device** is one that periodically *returns to its initial conditions,* repeating the same process over and over. That is, all state variables (pressure, temperature, thermal energy, and so on) return to their initial values once every cycle. Consequently, a heat engine can continue to do useful work for as long as it is attached to the reservoirs.

The steam turbine in a modern power plant is an enormous device. Expanding steam does work by spinning the turbine.

Figure 21.5 is the energy-transfer diagram of a heat engine. Unlike the forbidden "perfect engine" of Figure 21.4, a heat engine is connected to both a hot reservoir *and* a cold reservoir. You can think of a heat engine as "siphoning off" some of the heat that moves from the hot reservoir to the cold reservoir and transforming that heat into work—*some* of the heat, but not all.

## Figure 21.5




The energy-transfer diagram of a heat engine.

Because the temperature and thermal energy of a heat engine return to their initial values at the end of each cycle, there is no *net* change in $E_{th}$:

**(21.3)**

$$(\Delta E_{th})_{net} = 0 \qquad \text{(any heat engine, over one full cycle)}$$

Consequently, the first law of thermodynamics *for a full cycle* of a heat engine is $(\Delta E_{th})_{net} = Q - W_s = 0$.

Let's define $W_{out}$ to be the useful work done *by* the heat engine *per cycle*. The first law applied to a heat engine is

(21.4)

$$W_{\text{out}} = Q_{\text{net}} = Q_{\text{H}} - Q_{\text{C}} \quad \text{(work per cycle done by a heat engine)}$$

This is just energy conservation. The energy-transfer diagram of Figure 21.5 is a pictorial representation of Equation 21.4.

> **Note**
>
> Equations 21.3 and 21.4 apply only to a *full cycle* of the heat engine. They are *not* valid for any of the individual processes that make up a cycle.

For practical reasons, we would like an engine to do the maximum amount of work with the minimum amount of fuel. We can measure the performance of a heat engine in terms of its **thermal efficiency** $\eta$ (lowercase Greek eta), defined as

(21.5)

$$\eta = \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{Q_{\text{H}}} = \frac{\text{what you get}}{\text{what you had to pay}}$$

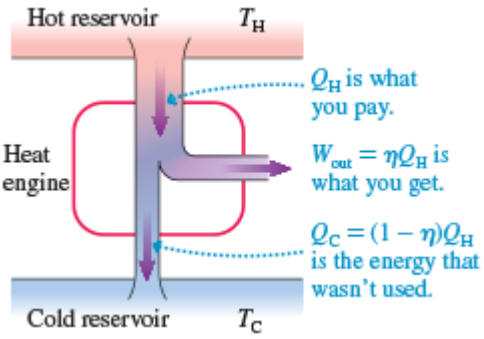
Using Equation 21.4 for $W_{\text{out}}$, we can also write the thermal efficiency as

(21.6)

$$\eta = 1 - \frac{Q_{\text{C}}}{Q_{\text{H}}}$$

Figure 21.6 illustrates the idea of thermal efficiency.

## Figure 21.6




$\eta$ is the fraction of heat energy that is transformed into useful work.

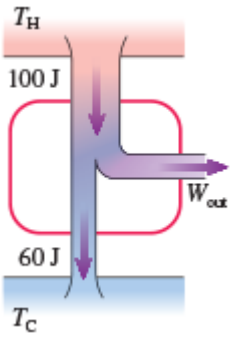
A *perfect* heat engine would have $\eta_{\text{perfect}} = 1$. That is, it would be 100% efficient at converting heat from the hot reservoir (the burning fuel) into work. You can see from Equation 21.6 that a perfect engine would have no exhaust ($Q_C = 0$) and would not need a cold reservoir. Figure 21.4 has already suggested that there are no perfect heat engines, that an engine with $\eta = 1$ is impossible. A heat engine *must* exhaust **waste heat** to a cold reservoir. It is energy that was extracted from the hot reservoir but *not* transformed to useful work.

Practical heat engines, such as car engines and steam generators, have thermal efficiencies in the range $\eta \approx 0.1 - 0.5$. This is not large. Can a clever designer do better, or is this some kind of physical limitation?

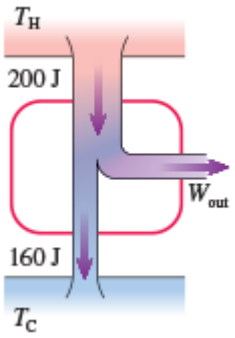
### Stop To Think 21.1

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the work $W_{out}$ performed by these four heat engines.

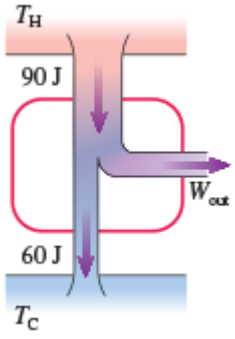
**a.**



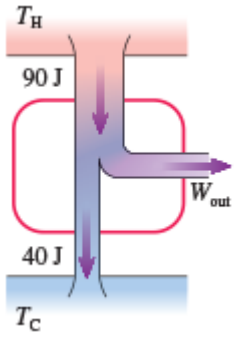

**b.**




**c.**



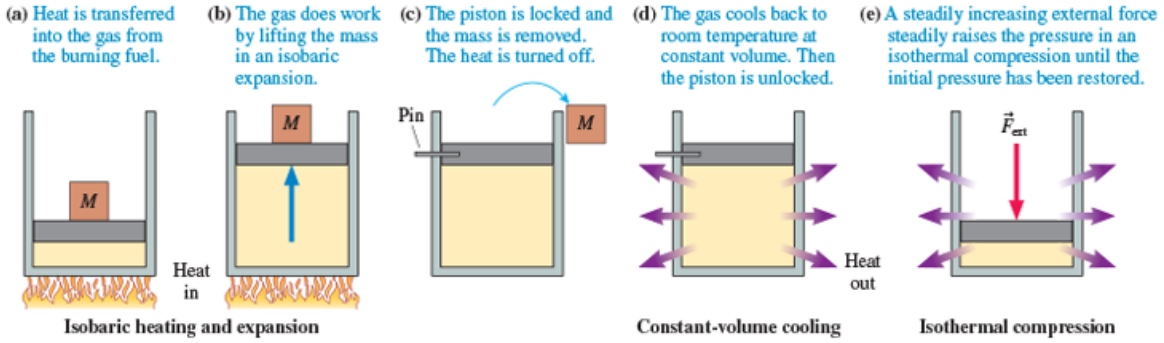

**d.**




## A Heat-Engine Example

To illustrate how these ideas actually work, Figure 21.7 shows a simple engine that converts heat into the work of lifting mass $M$.

## Figure 21.7




A simple heat engine transforms heat into work.

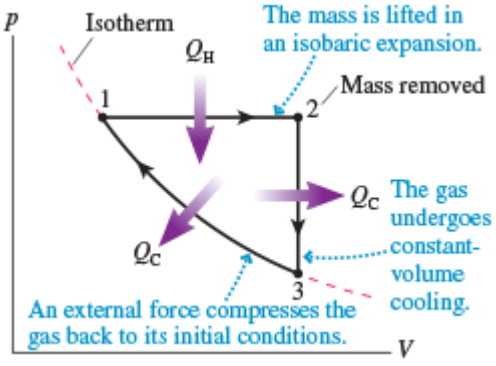


The net effect of this multistep process is to convert some of the fuel's energy into the useful work of lifting the mass. There has been no net change in the gas, which has returned to its initial pressure, volume, and temperature at the end of step (e). We can start the whole process over again and continue lifting masses (doing work) as long as we have fuel.

Figure 21.8 shows the heat-engine process on a $pV$ diagram. It is a *closed cycle* because the gas returns to its initial conditions. No work is done during the isochoric process, and, as you can see from the areas under the curve, the work done *by* the gas to lift the mass is greater than the work the environment must do *on* the gas to recompress it. Thus this heat engine, by burning fuel, does *net* work per cycle:

$$W_{\text{net}} = W_{\text{lift}} - W_{\text{ext}} = (W_{\text{s}})_{1\to 2} + (W_{\text{s}})_{3\to 1}.$$

## Figure 21.8



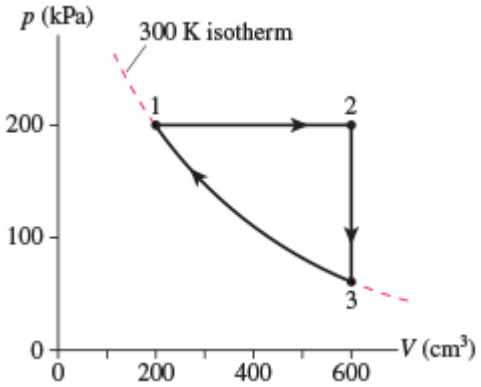

The closed-cycle $pV$ diagram for the heat engine of Figure 21.7.

Notice that the cyclical process of Figure 21.8 involves two cooling processes in which heat is transferred *from* the gas to the environment. Heat energy is transferred from hotter objects to colder objects, so the system *must* be connected to a cold reservoir with $T_C < T_{gas}$ during these two processes. A key to understanding heat engines is that they require both a heat source (burning fuel) *and* a heat sink (cooling water, the air, or something at a lower temperature than the system).

### Example 21.1 Analyzing a heat engine I

Analyze the heat engine of Figure 21.9 to determine (a) the net work done per cycle, (b) the engine's thermal efficiency, and (c) the engine's power output if it runs at 600 rpm. Assume the gas is monatomic.

#### Figure 21.9



The heat engine of Example 21.1.

**MODEL** The gas follows a closed cycle consisting of three distinct processes, each of which was studied in Chapters 18 and 19. For each of the three we need to determine the work done and the heat transferred.

**SOLVE** To begin, we can use the initial conditions at state 1 and the ideal-gas law to determine the number of moles of gas:

$$n = \frac{p_1 V_1}{R T_1} = \frac{\left(200 \times 10^3 \text{ Pa}\right)\left(2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3\right)}{(8.31 \text{ J/mol K})\,(300 \text{ K})} = 0.0160 \text{ mol}$$

Process $1 \rightarrow 2$: The work done *by* the gas in the isobaric expansion is

$$(W_s)_{12} = p\,\Delta V = \left(200 \times 10^3 \text{ Pa}\right)\left((6.0 - 2.0) \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3\right) = 80 \text{ J}$$

We can use the ideal-gas law at constant pressure to find $T_2 = (V_2/V_1)\,T_1 = 3T_1 = 900 \text{ K}$. The heat transfer during a constant-pressure process is

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{12} &= nC_P\,\Delta T \\ &= (0.0160 \text{ mol})(20.8 \text{ J/mol K})(900 \text{ K} - 300 \text{ K}) = 200 \text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

where we used $C_P = \frac{5}{2}R$ for a monatomic ideal gas.

Process $2 \rightarrow 3$: No work is done in an isochoric process, so $(W_s)_{23} = 0$. The temperature drops back to 300 K, so the heat transfer, with $C_V = \frac{3}{2}R$, is

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{23} &= nC_V\,\Delta T \\ &= (0.0160 \text{ mol})(12.5 \text{ J/mol K})(300 \text{ K} - 900 \text{ K}) = -120 \text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

Process $3 \rightarrow 1$: The gas returns to its initial state with volume $V_1$. The work done *by* the gas during an isothermal process is

$$\begin{aligned}(W_s)_{31} &= nRT \ln\left(\frac{V_1}{V_3}\right) \\ &= (0.0160 \text{ mol})(8.31 \text{ J/mol K})(300 \text{ K}) \ln\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) = -44 \text{ J}\end{aligned}$$

$W_s$ is negative because the environment does work on the gas to compress it. An isothermal process has $\Delta E_{th} = 0$ and hence, from the first law,

$$Q_{31} = (W_s)_{31} = -44 \text{ J}$$

$Q$ is negative because the gas must be cooled as it is compressed to keep the temperature constant.



**a.** The *net* work done by the engine during one cycle is

$$W_{out} = (W_s)_{12} + (W_s)_{23} + (W_s)_{31} = 36 \text{ J}$$

As a consistency check, notice that the net heat transfer is

$$Q_{net} = Q_{12} + Q_{23} + Q_{31} = 36 \text{ J}$$

Equation 21.4 told us that a heat engine *must* have $W_{out} = Q_{net}$, and we see that it does.

**b.** The efficiency depends not on the net heat transfer but on the heat $Q_H$ transferred into the engine from the flame. Heat enters during process $1 \rightarrow 2$, where $Q$ is positive, and exits during processes $2 \rightarrow 3$ and $3 \rightarrow 1$, where $Q$ is negative. Thus

$$Q_{\rm H} = Q_{12} = 200 \text{ J}$$
$$Q_{\rm C} = |Q_{23}| + |Q_{31}| = 164 \text{ J}$$

Notice that $Q_{\rm H} - Q_{\rm C} = 36 \text{ J} = \text{W}_{\rm out}$. In this heat engine, 200 J of heat from the hot reservoir does 36 J of useful work. Thus the thermal efficiency is

$$\eta = \frac{W_{\rm out}}{Q_{\rm H}} = \frac{36 \text{ J}}{200 \text{ J}} = 0.18 \text{ or } 18\%$$

This heat engine is far from being a perfect engine!

**c.** An engine running at 600 rpm goes through 10 cycles per second. The power output is the work done *per second:*

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\rm out} &= (\text{work per cycle}) \times (\text{cycles per second}) \\ &= 360 \text{ J/s} = 360 \text{ W} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** Although we didn't need $Q_{\rm net}$, verifying that $Q_{\rm net} = \text{W}_{\rm out}$ was a check of self-consistency. Heat-engine analysis requires many calculations and offers many opportunities to get signs wrong. However, there are a sufficient number of self-consistency checks so that you can almost always spot calculational errors *if you check for them.*

Let's think about this example a bit more before going on. We've said that a heat engine operates between a hot reservoir and a cold reservoir. Figure 21.9 doesn't explicitly show the reservoirs. Nonetheless, we know that heat is transferred from a hotter object to a colder object. Heat $Q_{\rm H}$ is transferred into the system during process $1 \rightarrow 2$ as the gas warms from 300 K to 900 K. For this to be true, the hot-reservoir temperature $T_{\rm H}$

must be ≥900 K. Likewise, heat $Q_C$ is transferred from the system to the cold reservoir as the temperature drops from 900 K to 300 K in process $2 \rightarrow 3$. For this to be true, the cold-reservoir temperature $T_C$ must be ≤300 K.

So, while we really don't know what the reservoirs are or their exact temperatures, we can say with certainty that the hot-reservoir temperature $T_H$ must exceed the highest temperature reached by the system and the cold-reservoir temperature $T_C$ must be less than the coldest system temperature.

## Refrigerators

Your house or apartment has a refrigerator. Very likely it has an air conditioner. The purpose of these devices is to make air that is cooler than its environment even colder. The first does so by blowing hot air out into a warm room, the second by blowing it out to the hot outdoors. You've probably felt the hot air exhausted by an air conditioner compressor or coming out from beneath the refrigerator.

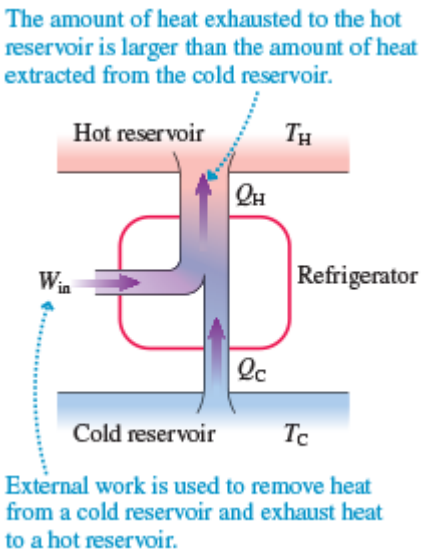
At first glance, a refrigerator or air conditioner may seem to violate the second law of thermodynamics. After all, doesn't the second law forbid heat from being transferred from a colder object to a hotter object? Not quite: The second law says that heat is not *spontaneously* transferred from a colder to a hotter object. A refrigerator or air conditioner requires electric power to operate. They do cause heat to be transferred from cold to hot, but the transfer is "assisted" rather than spontaneous.

This air conditioner transfers heat energy *from* the cool indoors *to* the hot exterior.

A **refrigerator** is any closed-cycle device that uses external work $W_{in}$ to remove heat $Q_C$ from a cold reservoir and exhaust heat $Q_H$ to a hot reservoir. Figure 21.10 is the energy-transfer diagram of a refrigerator. The cold reservoir is the air inside the refrigerator or the air inside your house on a summer day. To keep the air cold, in the face of inevitable "heat leaks," the refrigerator or air conditioner compressor continuously removes heat from the cold reservoir and exhausts heat into the room or outdoors. You can think of a refrigerator as "pumping heat uphill," much as a water pump lifts water uphill.



## Figure 21.10




The energy-transfer diagram of a refrigerator.

Because a refrigerator, like a heat engine, is a cyclical device, $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0$. Conservation of energy requires

**(21.7)**

$$Q_{\text{H}} = Q_{\text{C}} + W_{\text{in}}$$

To move energy from a colder to a hotter reservoir, a refrigerator must exhaust *more* heat to the outside than it removes from the inside. This has significant implications for whether or not you can cool a room by leaving the refrigerator door open.

The thermal efficiency of a heat engine was defined as "what you get (useful work $W_{\text{out}}$)" versus "what you had to pay (fuel to supply $Q_{\text{H}}$)." By analogy, we define the **coefficient of performance *K*** of a refrigerator to be

---

**(21.8)**

$$K = \frac{Q_{\text{C}}}{W_{\text{in}}} = \frac{\text{what you get}}{\text{what you had to pay}}$$

What you get, in this case, is the removal of heat from the cold reservoir. But you have to pay the electric company for the work needed to run the refrigerator. A better refrigerator will require less work to remove a given amount of heat, thus having a larger coefficient of performance.

A perfect refrigerator would require no work ($W_{\text{in}} = 0$) and would have $K_{\text{perfect}} = \infty$. But if Figure 21.10 had no work input, it would look like Figure 21.2c. That device was forbidden by the second law of

thermodynamics because, with no work input, heat would move *spontaneously* from cold to hot.

We noted in Chapter 20 that the second law of thermodynamics can be stated several different but equivalent ways. We can now give a third informal statement:

---

Second law, informal statement #3

There are no perfect refrigerators with coefficient of performance $K = \infty$.

---

Any real refrigerator or air conditioner *must* use work to move energy from the cold reservoir to the hot reservoir, hence $K < \infty$.

## No Perfect Heat Engines

We hypothesized above that there are no perfect heat engines—that is, no heat engines like the one shown in Figure 21.4 with $Q_C = 0$ and $\eta = 1$. Now we're ready to prove this hypothesis. Figure 21.11 shows a hot reservoir at temperature $T_H$ and a cold reservoir at temperature $T_C$. An ordinary refrigerator, one that obeys all the laws of physics, is operating between these two reservoirs.

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**Figure 21.11**

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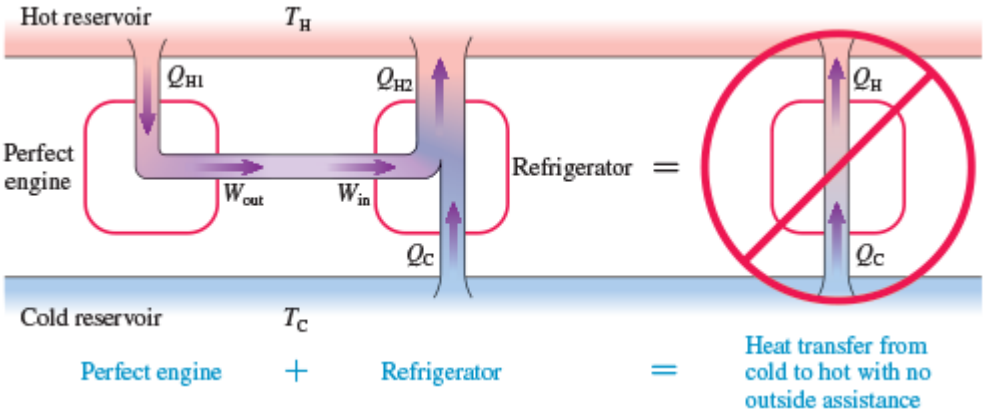



A perfect engine driving an ordinary refrigerator would be able to violate the second law of thermodynamics.

---

Suppose we had a perfect heat engine, one that takes in heat $Q_H$ from the high-temperature reservoir and transforms that energy entirely into work $W_{out}$. If we had such a heat engine, we could use its output to provide the work input to the refrigerator. The two devices combined have no connection to the external world. That is, there's no net input or net output of work.

If we built a box around the heat engine and refrigerator, so that you couldn't see what was inside, the only thing you would observe is heat being transferred *with no outside assistance* from the cold reservoir to the hot reservoir. But a spontaneous or unassisted transfer of heat from a colder to a hotter object is exactly what the second law of thermodynamics forbids. Consequently, our assumption of a perfect heat engine must be wrong. Hence another statement of the second law of thermodynamics is:

---

Second law, informal statement #4

There are no perfect heat engines with efficiency $\eta = 1$.

Any real heat engine *must* exhaust waste heat $Q_C$ to a cold reservoir.

## Stop to Think 21.2

It's a hot day and your air conditioner is broken. Your roommate says, "Let's open the refrigerator door and cool this place off." Will this work?

**a.** Yes

**b.** No

**c.** It might, but it will depend on how hot the room is.

# 21.3 Ideal-Gas Heat Engines



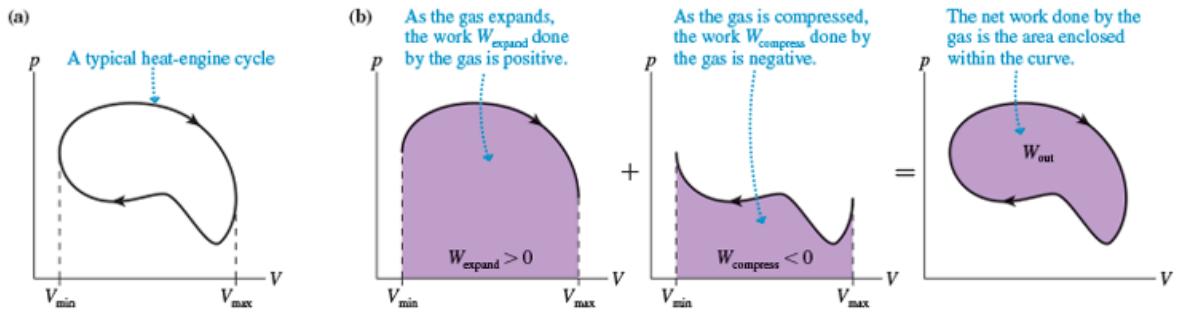
We will focus on heat engines that use a gas as the *working substance*. The gasoline or diesel engine in your car is an engine that alternately compresses and expands a gaseous fuel-air mixture. A discussion of engines such as steam generators that rely on phase changes will be deferred to more advanced courses.

A gas heat engine can be represented by a closed-cycle trajectory in the $pV$ diagram, such as the one shown in Figure 21.12a. This observation leads to an important geometric interpretation of the work done by the system during one full cycle. You learned in Section 21.1 that the work done *by* the system is the area under the curve of a $pV$ trajectory. As Figure 21.12b shows, the net work done during a full cycle is

**(21.9)**

$$W_{\text{out}} = W_{\text{expand}} - |W_{\text{compress}}| = \text{area } \textit{inside} \text{ the closed curve}$$

## Figure 21.12




The work $W_{\text{out}}$ done by the system during one full cycle is the area enclosed within the curve.

You can see that **the net work done by a gas heat engine during one full cycle is the area enclosed by the *pV* curve for the cycle.** A thermodynamic cycle with a larger enclosed area does more work than one with a smaller enclosed area. Notice that the gas must go around the *pV* trajectory in a *clockwise* direction for $W_{\text{out}}$ to be positive. We'll see later that a refrigerator uses a counterclockwise (ccw) cycle.

## Ideal-Gas Summary

We've learned a lot about ideal gases in the last three chapters. All gas processes obey the ideal-gas law $pV = nRT$ and the first law of thermodynamics $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = Q - W_{\text{s}}$, Table 21.1 summarizes the results for specific gas processes. This table shows $W_{\text{s}}$, the work done *by* the system, so the signs are opposite those in Chapter 19 .

**Table 21.1** 579

| Process | Gas law | Work $W_{\text{s}}$ | Heat $Q$ | Thermal energy |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Isochoric | $p_{\text{i}}/T_{\text{i}} = p_{\text{f}}/T_{\text{f}}$ | 0 | $nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$ | $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = Q$ |
| Isobaric | $V_{\text{i}}/T_{\text{i}} = V_{\text{f}}/T_{\text{f}}$ | $p\Delta V$ | $nC_{\text{P}}\,\Delta T$ | $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = Q - W_{\text{s}}$ |
| Isothermal | $p_{\text{i}}V_{\text{i}} = p_{\text{f}}V_{\text{f}}$ | $nRT\ln(V_{\text{f}}/V_{\text{i}})$ | $Q = W_{\text{s}}$ | $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0$ |
| | | $pV\ln(V_{\text{f}}/V_{\text{i}})$ | | |
| Adiabatic | $p_{\text{i}}V_{\text{i}}^{\gamma} = p_{\text{f}}V_{\text{f}}^{\gamma}$ | $(p_{\text{f}}V_{\text{f}} - p_{\text{i}}V_{\text{i}})/(1-\gamma)$ | 0 | $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = -W_{\text{s}}$ |
| | $T_{\text{i}}V_{\text{i}}^{\gamma-1} = T_{\text{f}}V_{\text{f}}^{\gamma-1}$ | $-nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$ | | |
| Any | $p_{\text{i}}V_{\text{i}}/T_{\text{i}} = p_{\text{f}}V_{\text{f}}/T_{\text{f}}$ | area under curve | | $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = nC_{\text{V}}\,\Delta T$ |

Summary of ideal-gas processes

There is one entry in this table that you haven't seen before. The expression

**(21.10)**

$$W_{\text{s}} = \frac{p_{\text{f}}V_{\text{f}} - p_{\text{i}}V_{\text{i}}}{1-\gamma} \quad \text{(work in an adiabatic process)}$$

for the work done in an adiabatic process follows from writing $W_s = -\Delta E_{th} = -nC_V\ \Delta T$, which you learned in Chapter 19, then using $\Delta T = \Delta(pV)/nR$ and the definition of $\gamma$. The proof will be left for a homework problem.

You learned in Chapter 20 that the thermal energy of an ideal gas depends only on its temperature. Table 21.2 lists the thermal energy, molar specific heats, and specific heat ratio $\gamma = C_P/C_V$ for monatomic and diatomic gases.

**Table 21.2**

| | Monatomic | Diatomic |
|---|---|---|
| $E_{th}$ | $\frac{3}{2}nRT$ | $\frac{5}{2}nRT$ |
| $C_V$ | $\frac{3}{2}R$ | $\frac{5}{2}R$ |
| $C_P$ | $\frac{5}{2}R$ | $\frac{7}{2}R$ |
| $\gamma$ | $\frac{5}{3} = 1.67$ | $\frac{7}{5} = 1.40$ |

Properties of monatomic and diatomic gases

## A Strategy for Heat-Engine Problems

The engine of Example 21.1 was not a realistic heat engine, but it did illustrate the kinds of reasoning and computations involved in the analysis of a heat engine.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 21.1 Heat-engine problems**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Identify each process in the cycle.

**VISUALIZE** Draw the $pV$ diagram of the cycle.

**SOLVE** There are several steps in the mathematical analysis.

- Use the ideal-gas law to complete your knowledge of $n$, $p$, $V$, and $T$ at one point in the cycle.
- Use the ideal-gas law and equations for specific gas processes to determine $p$, $V$, and $T$ at the beginning and end of each process.
- Calculate $Q$, $W_s$, and $\Delta E_{th}$ for each process.
- Find $W_{out}$ by adding $W_s$ for each process in the cycle. If the geometry is simple, you can confirm this value by finding the area enclosed within the $pV$ curve.
- Add just the positive values of $Q$ to find $Q_H$.
- Verify that $(\Delta E_{th})_{net} = 0$. This is a self-consistency check to verify that you haven't made any mistakes.
- Calculate the thermal efficiency $\eta$ and any other quantities you need to complete the solution.

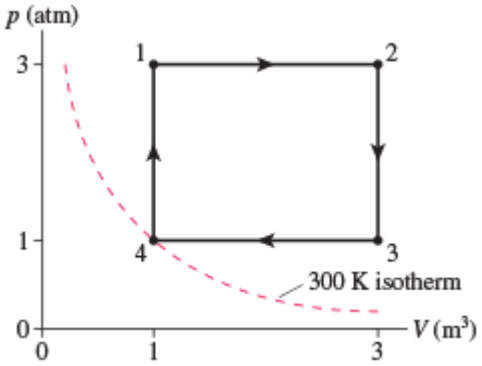
**ASSESS** Is $(\Delta E_{th})_{net} = 0$? Do all the signs of $W_s$ and $Q$ make sense? Does $\eta$ have a reasonable value? Have you answered the question?

### Example 21.2 Analyzing a heat engine II

A heat engine with a diatomic gas as the working substance uses the closed cycle shown in Figure 21.13. How much work does this engine do per cycle, and what is its thermal efficiency?



**Figure 21.13**




The $pV$ diagram for the heat engine of Example 21.2.

**MODEL** Processes $1 \rightarrow 2$ and $3 \rightarrow 4$ are isobaric. Processes $2 \rightarrow 3$ and $4 \rightarrow 1$ are isochoric.

**VISUALIZE** The $pV$ diagram has already been drawn.

**SOLVE** We know the pressure, volume, and temperature at state 4. The number of moles of gas in the heat engine is

$$n = \frac{p_4 V_4}{RT_4} = \frac{(101{,}300\ \text{Pa})\left(1.0\ \text{m}^3\right)}{(8.31\ \text{J/mol K})\,(300\ \text{K})} = 40.6\ \text{mol}$$

$p/T =$ constant during an isochoric process and $V/T =$ constant during an isobaric process. These allow us to find that $T_1 = T_3 = 900\ \text{K}$ and $T_2 = 2700\ \text{K}$. This completes our knowledge of the state variables at all four corners of the diagram.

Process $1 \rightarrow 2$ is an isobaric expansion, so

$$(W_\text{s})_{12} = p\,\Delta V = (3.0 \times 101{,}300\ \text{Pa})\left(2.0\ \text{m}^3\right) = 6.08 \times 10^5\ \text{J}$$

where we converted the pressure to pascals. The heat transfer during an isobaric expansion is

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{12} &= nC_\text{p}\,\Delta T = (40.6\ \text{mol})(29.1\ \text{J/mol K})(1800\ \text{K}) \\ &= 21.27 \times 10^5\ \text{J} \end{aligned}$$

where $C_\mathrm{p} = \frac{7}{2}R$ for a diatomic gas. Then, using the first law,

$$\Delta E_{12} = Q_{12} - (W_\mathrm{s})_{12} = 15.19 \times 10^5 \text{ J}$$

Process $2 \rightarrow 3$ is an isochoric process, so $(W_\mathrm{s})_{23} = 0$ and

$$\Delta E_{23} = Q_{23} = nC_\mathrm{V}\ \Delta T = -15.19 \times 10^5 \text{ J}$$

Notice that $\Delta T$ is *negative*.

Process $3 \rightarrow 4$ is an isobaric compression. Now $\Delta V$ is negative, so

$$(W_\mathrm{s})_{34} = p\ \Delta V = -2.03 \times 10^5 \text{ J}$$

and

$$Q_{34} = nC_\mathrm{p}\ \Delta T = -7.09 \times 10^5 \text{ J}$$

Then $\Delta E_\mathrm{th} = Q_{34} - (W_\mathrm{s})_{34} = -5.06 \times 10^5$ J.

Process $4 \rightarrow 1$ is another constant-volume process, so again $(W_\mathrm{s})_{41} = 0$ and

$$\Delta E_{41} = Q_{41} = nC_\mathrm{V}\ \Delta T = 5.06 \times 10^5 \text{ J}$$

The results of all four processes are shown in Table 21.3. The net results for $W_\mathrm{out}$, $Q_\mathrm{net}$, and $(\Delta E_\mathrm{th})_\mathrm{net}$ are found by summing the columns. As expected, $W_\mathrm{out} = Q_\mathrm{net}$ and $(\Delta E_\mathrm{th})_\mathrm{net} = 0$.

**Table 21.3**

| Process | $W_s$ | $Q$ | $\Delta E_{th}$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| $1 \rightarrow 2$ | 6.08 | 21.27 | 15.19 |
| $2 \rightarrow 3$ | 0 | −15.19 | −15.19 |
| $3 \rightarrow 4$ | −2.03 | −7.09 | −5.06 |
| $4 \rightarrow 1$ | 0 | 5.06 | 5.06 |
| Net | 4.05 | 4.05 | 0 |

Energy transfers in Example 21.2. All energies $\times 10^5$ J

The work done during one cycle is $W_{\text{out}} = 4.05 \times 10^5$ J. Heat enters the system from the hot reservoir during processes $1 \rightarrow 2$ and $4 \rightarrow 1$, where $Q$ is positive. Summing these gives $Q_{\text{H}} = 26.33 \times 10^5$ J. Thus the thermal efficiency of this engine is

$$\eta = \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{Q_{\text{H}}} = \frac{4.05 \times 10^5 \text{ J}}{26.33 \times 10^5 \text{ J}} = 0.15 = 15\%$$



**ASSESS** The verification that $W_{\text{out}} = Q_{\text{net}}$ and $(\Delta E_{\text{th}})_{\text{net}} = 0$ gives us great confidence that we didn't make any calculational errors. This engine may not seem very efficient, but $\eta$ is quite typical of many real engines.

We noted in Example 21.1 that a heat engine's hot-reservoir temperature $T_{\text{H}}$ must exceed the highest temperature reached by the system and the cold-reservoir temperature $T_{\text{C}}$ must be less than the coldest system temperature. Although we don't know what the reservoirs are in Example 21.2, we can be sure that $T_{\text{H}} > 2700$ K and $T_{\text{C}} < 300$ K.

## Stop to Think 21.3

What is the thermal efficiency of this heat engine?

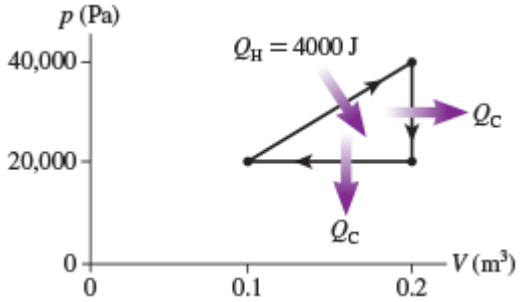
**a.** 0.10

**b.** 0.50

**c.** 0.25

**d.** 4

**e.** Can't tell without knowing $Q_{\text{C}}$




## The Brayton Cycle

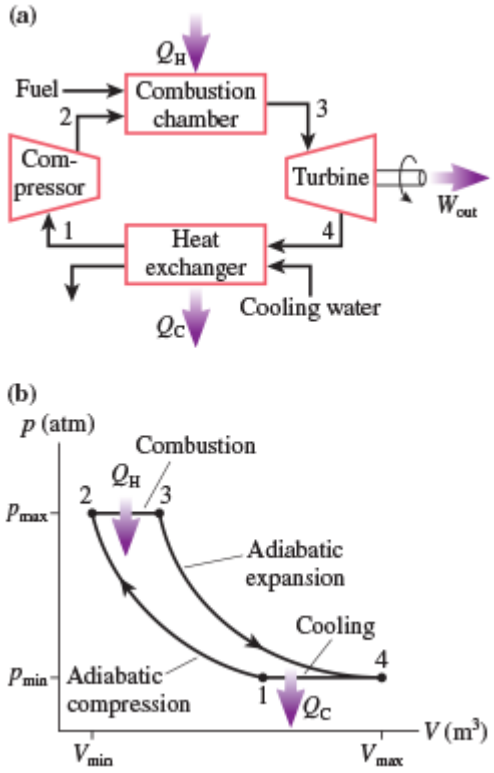
The heat engines of Examples 21.1 and 21.2 have been educational but not realistic. As an example of a more realistic heat engine we'll look at the thermodynamic cycle known as the *Brayton cycle*. It is a reasonable model of a *gas turbine engine*. Gas turbines are used for electric power generation and as the basis for jet engines in aircraft and rockets. The *Otto cycle*, which describes the gasoline internal combustion engine, and the *Diesel cycle*, which, not surprisingly, describes the diesel engine, will be the subject of homework problems.

A jet engine uses a modified Brayton cycle.

Figure 21.14a is a schematic look at a gas turbine engine, and Figure 21.14b is the corresponding $pV$ diagram. To begin the Brayton cycle, air at an initial pressure $p_1$ is rapidly compressed in a *compressor*. This is an

*adiabatic process*, with $Q = 0$, because there is no time for heat to be exchanged with the surroundings. Recall that an adiabatic compression raises the temperature of a gas by doing work on it, not by heating it, so the air leaving the compressor is very hot.

## Figure 21.14




A gas turbine engine follows a Brayton cycle.

The hot gas flows into a combustion chamber. Fuel is continuously admitted to the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot gas and is ignited, transferring heat to the gas at constant pressure and raising the gas temperature yet further. The high-pressure gas then expands, spinning a turbine that does some form of useful work. This adiabatic expansion, with $Q = 0$, drops the temperature and pressure of the gas. The pressure at the end of the expansion through the turbine is back to $p_1$, but the gas is still quite hot. The gas completes the cycle by flowing through a device called a **heat exchanger** that transfers heat energy to a

cooling fluid. Large power plants are often sited on rivers or oceans in order to use the water for the cooling fluid in the heat exchanger.

This thermodynamic cycle, called a Brayton cycle, has two adiabatic processes—the compression and the expansion through the turbine—plus a constant-pressure heating and a constant-pressure cooling. There's no heat transfer during the adiabatic processes. The hot-reservoir temperature must be $T_{\text{H}} \geq T_3$ for heat to be transferred into the gas during process $2 \rightarrow 3$. Similarly, the heat exchanger will remove heat from the gas only if $T_{\text{C}} \leq T_1$.

The thermal efficiency of any heat engine is

$$\eta = \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{Q_{\text{H}}} = 1 - \frac{Q_{\text{C}}}{Q_{\text{H}}}$$

Heat is transferred into the gas only during process $2 \rightarrow 3$. This is an isobaric process, so $Q_{\text{H}} = nC_{\text{P}}\ \Delta T = nC_{\text{P}}\ (T_3 - T_2)$. Similarly, heat is transferred out only during the isobaric process $4 \rightarrow 1$.

We have to be careful with signs. $Q_{41}$ is negative because the temperature decreases, but $Q_{\text{C}}$ was defined as the *amount* of heat exchanged with the cold reservoir, a positive quantity. Thus

**(21.11)**

$$Q_{\text{C}} = |Q_{41}| = |nC_{\text{P}}\ (T_1 - T_4)| = nC_{\text{P}}\ (T_4 - T_1)$$

With these expressions for $Q_{\text{H}}$ and $Q_{\text{C}}$, the thermal efficiency is

**(21.12)**

$$\eta_{\text{Brayton}} = 1 - \frac{T_4 - T_1}{T_3 - T_2}$$

This expression isn't useful unless we compute all four temperatures. Fortunately, we can cast Equation 21.12 into a more useful form.

You learned in Chapter 19 that $pV^\gamma = \text{constant}$ during an adiabatic process, where $\gamma = C_\text{P}/C_\text{V}$ is the specific heat ratio. If we use $V = nRT/p$ from the ideal-gas law, $V^\gamma = (nR)^\gamma T^\gamma p^{-\gamma}$. $(nR)^\gamma$ is a constant, so we can write $pV^\gamma = \text{ constant}$ as

**(21.13)**

$$p^{(1-\gamma)}T^\gamma = \text{ constant}$$

Equation 21.13 is a pressure-temperature relationship for an adiabatic process. Because $(T^\gamma)^{1/\gamma} = T$, we can simplify Equation 21.13 by raising both sides to the power $1/\gamma$. Doing so gives

**(21.14)**

$$p^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma}T = \text{ constant}$$

during an adiabatic process.

Process $1 \rightarrow 2$ is an adiabatic process; hence

**(21.15)**

$${p_1}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma}T_1 = {p_2}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma}T_2$$

Isolating $T_1$ gives

**(21.16)**

$$T_1 = \frac{{p_2}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma}}{{p_1}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma}}T_2 = \left(\frac{p_2}{p_1}\right)^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma}T_2 = \left(\frac{P_\text{max}}{P_\text{min}}\right)^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma}T_2$$

If we define the **pressure ratio** $r_{\mathrm{p}}$ as $r_{\mathrm{P}} = p_{\mathrm{max}}/p_{\mathrm{min}}$, then $T_1$ and $T_2$ are related by

**(21.17)**

$$T_1 = {r_{\mathrm{p}}}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma} T_2$$

The algebra of getting to Equation 21.17 was a bit tricky, but the final result is fairly simple.

Process $3 \rightarrow 4$ is also an adiabatic process. The same reasoning leads to

**(21.18)**

$$T_4 = {r_{\mathrm{p}}}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma} T_3$$

If we substitute these expressions for $T_1$ and $T_4$ into Equation 21.12, the efficiency is

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{\mathrm{B}} &= 1 - \frac{T_4 - T_1}{T_3 - T_2} = 1 - \frac{{r_{\mathrm{p}}}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma} T_3 - {r_{\mathrm{p}}}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma} T_2}{T_3 - T_2} = 1 - \frac{{r_{\mathrm{p}}}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma} \left(T_3 - T_2\right)}{T_3 - T_2} \\ &= 1 - {r_{\mathrm{P}}}^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma} \end{aligned}$$

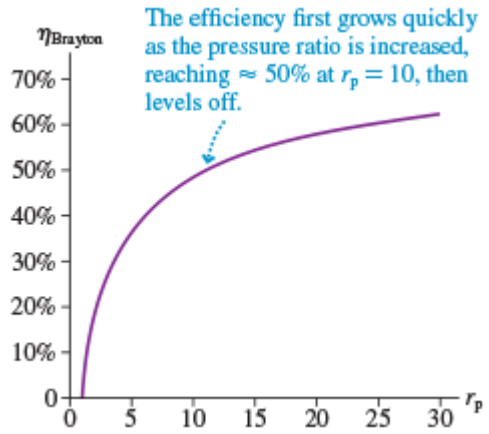
Remarkably, all the temperatures cancel and we're left with an expression that depends only on the pressure ratio. Noting that $(1 - \gamma)$ is negative, we can make one final change and write

**(21.19)**

$$\eta_{\mathrm{B}} = 1 - \frac{1}{{r_{\mathrm{P}}}^{(\gamma-1)/\gamma}}$$

Figure 21.15 is a graph of the efficiency of the Brayton cycle as a function of the pressure ratio, assuming $\gamma = 1.40$ for a diatomic gas such as air.

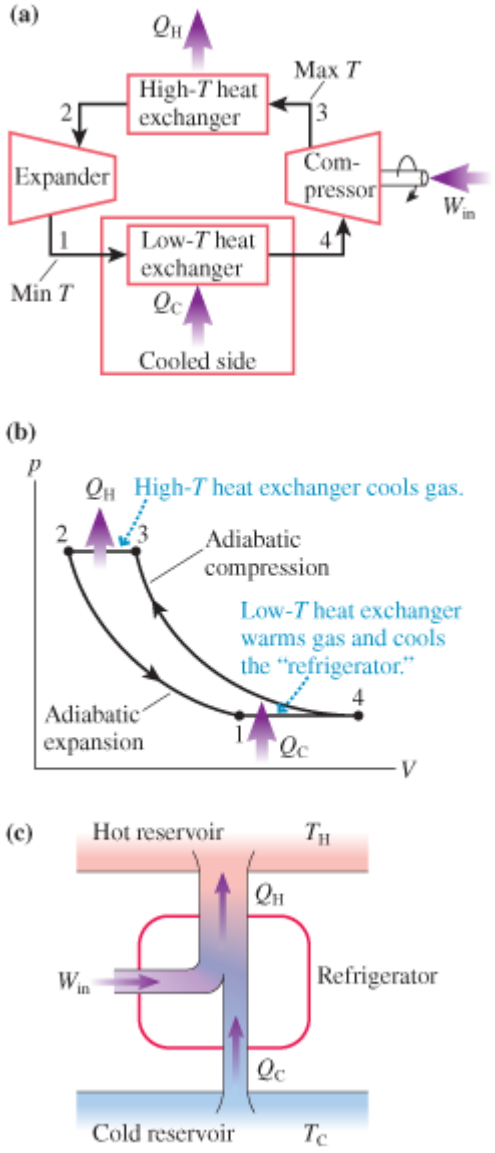
## Figure 21.15




The efficiency of a Brayton cycle as a function of the pressure ratio $r_p$.

we were to operate a Brayton heat engine backward, going ccw rather than cw in Suppose the $pV$ diagram. Figure 21.16a (which you should compare to Figure 21.14a) shows a device for doing this. Figure 21.16b is its $pV$ diagram, and Figure 21.16c is the energy-transfer diagram. Starting from point 4, the gas is adiabatically compressed to increase its temperature and pressure. It then flows through a high-temperature heat exchanger where the gas *cools* at constant pressure from temperature $T_3$ to $T_2$. The gas then expands adiabatically, leaving it significantly colder at $T_1$ than it started at $T_4$. It completes the cycle by flowing through a low-temperature heat exchanger, where it *warms* back to its starting temperature.

**Figure 21.16**




A refrigerator that extracts heat from the cold reservoir and exhausts heat to the hot reservoir.

---

Suppose that the low-temperature heat exchanger is a closed container of air surrounding a pipe through which the engine's cold gas is flowing. The heat-exchange process $1 \rightarrow 4$ *cools* the air in the container as it warms the gas flowing through the pipe. If you were to place eggs and milk inside this closed container, you would call it a refrigerator!

Going around a closed $pV$ cycle in a ccw direction reverses the sign of $W$ for each process in the cycle. Consequently, the area inside the curve of Figure 21.16b is $W_{in}$, the work done *on* the system. Here work is used to

extract heat $Q_C$ from the cold reservoir and exhaust a larger amount of heat $Q_H = Q_C + W_{in}$ to the hot reservoir. But where, in this situation, are the energy reservoirs?

Understanding a refrigerator is a little harder than understanding a heat engine. The key is to remember that **heat is always transferred from a hotter object to a colder object.** In particular,

- The gas in a refrigerator can extract heat $Q_C$ *from* the cold reservoir only if the gas temperature is *lower* than the cold-reservoir temperature $T_C$. Heat energy is then transferred *from* the cold reservoir *into* the colder gas.
- The gas in a refrigerator can exhaust heat $Q_H$ *to* the hot reservoir only if the gas temperature is *higher* than the hot-reservoir temperature $T_H$. Heat energy is then transferred *from* the warmer gas *into* the hot reservoir.

These two requirements place severe constraints on the thermodynamics of a refrigerator. Because there is no reservoir colder than $T_C$, the gas cannot reach a temperature lower than $T_C$ by heat exchange. The gas in a refrigerator *must* use an adiabatic expansion $(Q = 0)$ to lower the temperature below $T_C$. Likewise, a gas refrigerator requires an adiabatic compression to raise the gas temperature above $T_H$.

**Example 21.3 Analyzing a refrigerator**

A refrigerator using helium gas operates on a reversed Brayton cycle with a pressure ratio of 5.0. Prior to compression, the gas occupies 100 $cm^3$ at a pressure of 150 kPa and a temperature of −23°C. Its volume at the end of the expansion is 80 $cm^3$. What are

the refrigerator's coefficient of performance and its power input if it operates at 60 cycles per second?

---

**MODEL** The Brayton cycle has two adiabatic processes and two isobaric processes. The work per cycle needed to run the refrigerator is $W_{\text{in}} = Q_{\text{H}} - Q_{\text{C}}$; hence we can determine both the coefficient of performance and the power requirements from $Q_{\text{H}}$ and $Q_{\text{C}}$. Heat energy is transferred only during the two isobaric processes.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 21.17 shows the $pV$ cycle. We know from the pressure ratio of 5.0 that the maximum pressure is 750 kPa. Neither $V_2$ nor $V_3$ is known.

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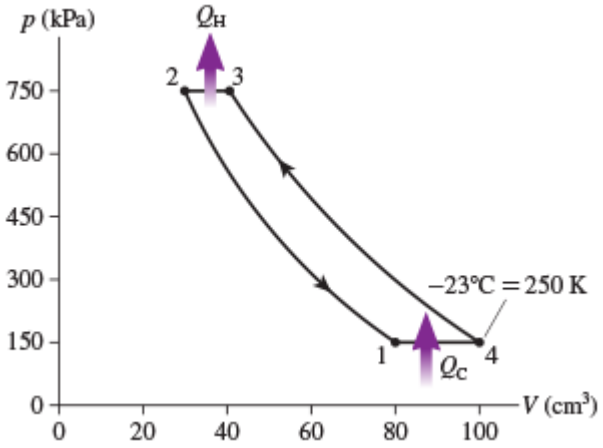
**Figure 21.17**




A Brayton-cycle refrigerator.

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**SOLVE** To calculate heat we're going to need the temperatures at the four corners of the cycle. First, we can use the conditions of state 4 to find the number of moles of helium:

$$n = \frac{p_4 V_4}{R T_4} = 0.00722 \text{ mol}$$

Process $1 \rightarrow 4$ is isobaric; hence temperature $T_1$ is

$$T_1 = \frac{V_1}{V_4} T_4 = (0.80)\,(250\ \mathrm{K}) = 200\ \mathrm{K} = -73^\circ\mathrm{C}$$

With Equation 21.14 we found that the quantity $p^{(1-\gamma)/\gamma} T$ remains constant during an adiabatic process. Helium is a monatomic gas with $\gamma = \frac{5}{3}$, so $(1-\gamma)/\gamma = -\frac{2}{5} = -0.40$. For the adiabatic compression $4 \rightarrow 3$,

$$p_3{}^{-0.40} T_3 = p_4{}^{-0.40} T_4$$

Solving for $T_3$ gives

$$T_3 = \left(\frac{p_4}{p_3}\right)^{-0.40} T_4 = \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^{-0.40} (250\ \mathrm{K}) = 476\ \mathrm{K} = 203^\circ\mathrm{C}$$

The same analysis applied to the $2 \rightarrow 1$ adiabatic expansion gives

$$T_2 = \left(\frac{p_1}{p_2}\right)^{-0.40} T_1 = \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^{-0.40} (200\ \mathrm{K}) = 381\ \mathrm{K} = 108^\circ\mathrm{C}$$

Now we can use $C_\mathrm{P} = \frac{5}{2} R = 20.8\ \mathrm{J/mol\,K}$ for a monatomic gas to compute the heat transfers:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_\mathrm{H} &= |Q_{32}| = nC_\mathrm{P}\,(T_3 - T_2) \\ &= (0.00722\,\mathrm{mol})(20.8\,\mathrm{J/mol\,K})(95\,\mathrm{K}) = 14.3\,\mathrm{J} \\ Q_\mathrm{C} &= |Q_{14}| = nC_\mathrm{P}\,(T_4 - T_1) \\ &= (0.00722\,\mathrm{mol})(20.8\,\mathrm{J/mol\,K})(50\,\mathrm{K}) = 7.5\,\mathrm{J} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the work *input* to the refrigerator is $W_\mathrm{in} = Q_\mathrm{H} - Q_\mathrm{C} = 6.8\ \mathrm{J}$. During each cycle, 6.8 J of work are done *on* the gas to extract 7.5 J of heat from the cold reservoir. Then 14.3 J of heat are exhausted into the hot reservoir.

The refrigerator's coefficient of performance is

$$K = \frac{Q_C}{W_{in}} = \frac{7.5\ \text{J}}{6.8\ \text{J}} = 1.1$$

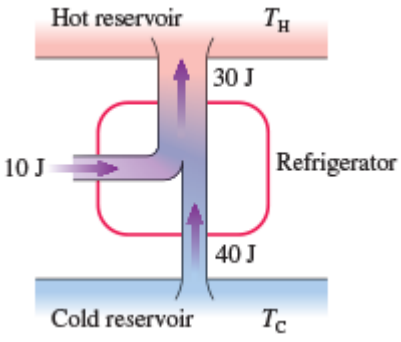
The power input needed to run the refrigerator is

$$P_{in} = 6.8\frac{\text{J}}{\text{cycle}} \times 60\frac{\text{cycles}}{\text{s}} = 410\frac{\text{J}}{\text{s}} = 410\ \text{W}$$

**ASSESS** These are fairly realistic values for a kitchen refrigerator. You pay your electric company for providing the work $W_{in}$ that operates the refrigerator. The cold reservoir is the freezer compartment. The cold temperature $T_C$ must be higher than $T_4$ ($T_C > -23^\circ\text{C}$) in order for heat to be transferred *from* the cold reservoir *to* the gas. A typical freezer temperature is –15°C, so this condition is satisfied. The hot reservoir is the air in the room. The back and underside of a refrigerator have heat-exchanger coils where the hot gas, after compression, transfers heat to the air. The hot temperature $T_H$ must be less than $T_2$ ($T_H < 108^\circ\text{C}$) in order for heat to be transferred *from* the gas *to* the air. An air temperature $\approx 25^\circ\text{C}$ under a refrigerator satisfies this condition.

## Stop To Think 21.4

What, if anything, is wrong with this refrigerator?



# 21.5 The Limits of Efficiency



Thermodynamics has its historical roots in the development of the steam engine and other machines of the early industrial revolution. Early steam engines, built on the basis of experience rather than scientific understanding, were not very efficient at converting fuel energy into work. The first major theoretical analysis of heat engines was published by the French engineer Sadi Carnot in 1824. The question that Carnot raised was: Can we make a heat engine whose thermal efficiency $\eta$ approaches 1, or is there an upper limit $\eta_{max}$ that cannot be exceeded? To frame the question more clearly, imagine we have a hot reservoir at temperature $T_H$ and a cold reservoir at $T_C$. What is the most efficient heat engine (maximum $\eta$) that can operate between these two energy reservoirs? Similarly, what is the most efficient refrigerator (maximum $K$) that can operate between the two reservoirs?

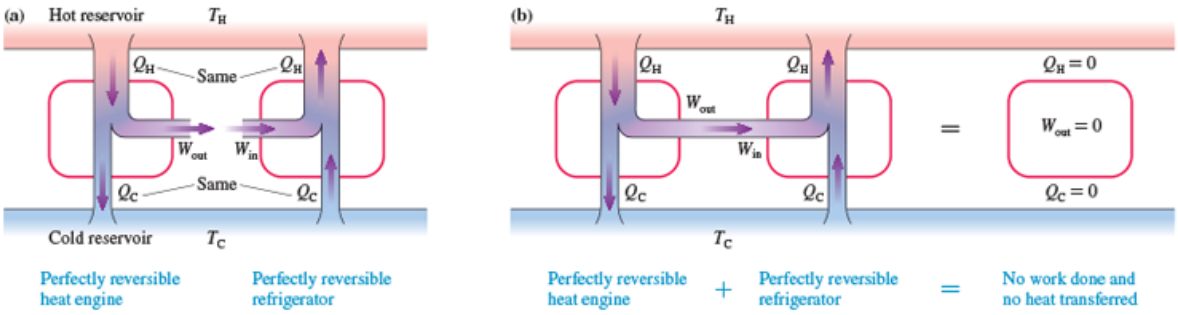
> *Everyone knows that heat can produce motion. That it possesses vast motive power no one can doubt, in these days when the steam engine is everywhere so well known.… Notwithstanding the satisfactory condition to which they have been brought today, their theory is very little understood. The question has often been raised whether the motive power of heat is unbounded, or whether the possible improvements in steam engines have an assignable limit.*
>
> Sadi Carnot

We just saw that a refrigerator is, in some sense, a heat engine running backward. We might thus suspect that the most efficient heat engine is related to the most efficient refrigerator. Suppose we have a heat engine

that we can turn into a refrigerator by reversing the direction of operation, thus changing the direction of the energy transfers, and with *no other changes*. In particular, the heat engine and the refrigerator operate between the same two energy reservoirs at temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$.

Figure 21.18a shows such a heat engine and its corresponding refrigerator. Notice that the refrigerator has *exactly the same* work and heat transfer as the heat engine, only in the opposite directions. A device that can be operated as either a heat engine or a refrigerator between the same two energy reservoirs and with the same energy transfers, with only their direction changed, is called a **perfectly reversible engine.** A perfectly reversible engine is an idealization, as was the concept of a perfectly elastic collision. Nonetheless, it will allow us to establish limits that no real engine can exceed.

## Figure 21.18




If a perfectly reversible heat engine is used to operate a perfectly reversible refrigerator, the two devices exactly cancel each other.



Suppose we have a perfectly reversible heat engine and a perfectly reversible refrigerator (the same device running backward) operating between a hot reservoir at temperature $T_H$ and a cold reservoir at temperature $T_C$. Because the work $W_{in}$ needed to operate the refrigerator is exactly the same as the useful work $W_{out}$ done by the heat engine, we

can use the heat engine, as shown in Figure 21.18b, to drive the refrigerator. The heat $Q_C$ the engine exhausts to the cold reservoir is exactly the same as the heat $Q_C$ the refrigerator extracts from the cold reservoir. Similarly, the heat $Q_H$ the engine extracts from the hot reservoir matches the heat $Q_H$ the refrigerator exhausts to the hot reservoir. Consequently, there is no net heat transfer in either direction. The refrigerator exactly replaces all the heat energy that had been transferred out of the hot reservoir by the heat engine.

You may want to compare the reasoning used here with the reasoning we used with Figure 21.11. There we tried to use the output of a "perfect" heat engine to run a refrigerator but did *not* succeed.

## A Perfectly Reversible Engine Has Maximum Efficiency

Now we've arrived at the critical step in the reasoning. Suppose I claim to have a heat engine that can operate between temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$ with *more* efficiency than a perfectly reversible engine. Figure 21.19 shows the output of this heat engine operating the same perfectly reversible refrigerator that we used in Figure 21.18b.

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**Figure 21.19**

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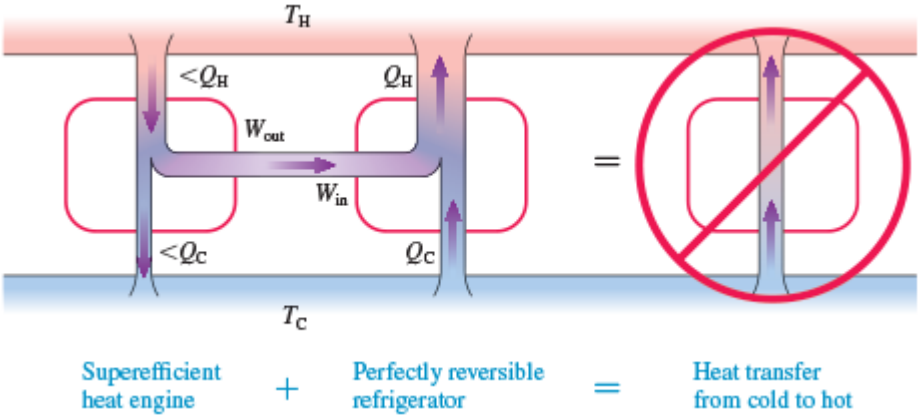


A heat engine more efficient than a perfectly reversible engine could be used to violate the second law of thermodynamics.

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Recall that the thermal efficiency and the work of a heat engine are



$$\eta = \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{Q_{\text{H}}} \quad \text{and} \quad W_{\text{out}} = Q_{\text{H}} - Q_{\text{C}}$$

If the new heat engine is more efficient than the perfectly reversible engine it replaces, it needs *less* heat $Q_H$ from the hot reservoir to perform the *same* work $W_{out}$. If $Q_H$ is less while $W_{out}$ is the same, then $Q_C$ must also be less. That is, the new heat engine exhausts less heat to the cold reservoir than does the perfectly reversible heat engine.

When this new heat engine drives the perfectly reversible refrigerator, the heat it exhausts to the cold reservoir is *less* than the heat extracted from the cold reservoir by the refrigerator. Similarly, this engine extracts *less* heat from the hot reservoir than the refrigerator exhausts. Thus the net result of using this superefficient heat engine to operate a perfectly reversible refrigerator is that heat is transferred from the cold reservoir to the hot reservoir *without outside assistance.*

But this can't happen. It would violate the second law of thermodynamics. Hence we have to conclude that no heat engine operating between reservoirs at temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$ can be more

efficient than a perfectly reversible engine. This very important conclusion is another version of the second law:

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Second law, informal statement #5

No heat engine operating between reservoirs at temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$ can be more efficient than a perfectly reversible engine operating between these temperatures.

The answer to our question "Is there a maximum $\eta$ that cannot be exceeded?" is a clear Yes! The maximum possible efficiency $\eta_{max}$ is that of a perfectly reversible engine. Because the perfectly reversible engine is an idealization, any real engine will have an efficiency less than $\eta_{max}$.

A similar argument shows that no refrigerator can be more efficient than a perfectly reversible refrigerator. If we had such a refrigerator, and if we ran it with the output of a perfectly reversible heat engine, we could transfer heat from cold to hot with no outside assistance. Thus:

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Second law, informal statement #6

No refrigerator operating between reservoirs at temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$ can have a coefficient of performance larger than that of a perfectly reversible refrigerator operating between these temperatures.

# Conditions for a Perfectly Reversible Engine

This argument tells us that $\eta_{max}$ and $K_{max}$ exist, but it doesn't tell us what they are. Our final task will be to "design" and analyze a perfectly reversible engine. Under what conditions is an engine reversible?

An engine transfers energy by both mechanical and thermal interactions. Mechanical interactions are pushes and pulls. The environment does work on the system, transferring energy into the system by pushing in on a piston. The system transfers energy back to the environment by pushing out on the piston.

The energy transferred by a moving piston is perfectly reversible, returning the system to its initial state, with no change of temperature or pressure, only if the motion is *frictionless*. The slightest bit of friction will prevent the mechanical transfer of energy from being perfectly reversible.



The circumstances under which heat transfer can be *completely* reversed aren't quite so obvious. After all, Chapter 20 emphasized the *irreversible* nature of heat transfer. If objects A and B are in thermal contact, with $T_A > T_B$, then heat energy is transferred from A to B. But the second law of thermodynamics prohibits a heat transfer from B back to A. Heat transfer through a temperature *difference* is an irreversible process.

But suppose $T_A = T_B$. With no temperature difference, any heat that is transferred from A to B can, at a later time, be transferred from B back to A. This transfer wouldn't violate the second law, which prohibits only heat transfer from a colder object to a hotter object. Now you might object, and rightly so, that heat *can't* move from A to B if they are at the

same temperature because heat, by definition, is the energy transferred between two objects at different temperatures.

This is true, but consider a heat engine in which, during one part of the cycle, $T_{\mathrm{H}} = T_{\mathrm{engine}} + dT$. That is, the hot reservoir is only infinitesimally hotter than the engine. Heat $Q_{\mathrm{H}}$ can be transferred to the heat engine, but *very slowly*. If you later, with a reversed cycle, try to make the heat move from the engine back to the hot reservoir, the second law will prevent you from doing so with perfect precision. But, because the temperature difference is infinitesimal, you'll be missing only an infinitesimal amount of heat. You can transfer heat reversibly in the limit $dT \to 0$ (making this an isothermal process), but you must be prepared to spend an infinite amount of time doing so. Similarly, the engine can reversibly exchange heat with a cold reservoir at temperature $T_{\mathrm{C}} = T_{\mathrm{engine}} - dT$.

Thus the thermal transfer of energy is reversible *if the heat is transferred infinitely slowly in an isothermal process*. This is an idealization, but so are completely frictionless processes. Nonetheless, we can now say that a perfectly reversible engine must use only two types of processes:

1. Frictionless mechanical interactions with no heat transfer $(Q = 0)$, and
2. Thermal interactions in which heat is transferred in an isothermal process $(\Delta E_{\mathrm{th}} = 0)$.

Any engine that uses only these two types of processes is called a **Carnot engine.** A Carnot engine is a perfectly reversible engine; thus it has the maximum possible thermal efficiency $\eta_{\mathrm{max}}$ and, if operated as a refrigerator, the maximum possible coefficient of performance $K_{\mathrm{max}}$.

# 21.6 The Carnot Cycle 588

The definition of a Carnot engine does not specify whether the engine's working substance is a gas or a liquid. It makes no difference. Our argument that a perfectly reversible engine is the most efficient possible heat engine depended only on the engine's reversibility. Consequently, **any Carnot engine operating between $T_H$ and $T_C$ must have exactly the same efficiency as any other Carnot engine operating between the same two energy reservoirs.** If we can determine the thermal efficiency of one Carnot engine, we'll know the efficiency of all Carnot engines. Because liquids and phase changes are complicated, we'll analyze a Carnot engine that uses an ideal gas.

## Designing a Carnot Engine

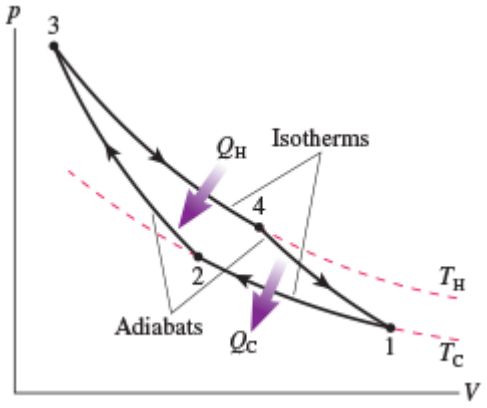
The **Carnot cycle** is an ideal-gas cycle that consists of the two adiabatic processes ($Q = 0$) and two isothermal processes ($\Delta E_{\text{th}} = 0$) shown in Figure 21.20. These are the two types of processes allowed in a perfectly reversible gas engine. As a Carnot cycle operates,

1. The gas is isothermally compressed while in thermal contact with the cold reservoir at temperature $T_C$. Heat energy $Q_C = |Q_{12}|$ is removed from the gas as it is compressed in order to keep the temperature constant. The compression must take place extremely slowly because there can be only an infinitesimal temperature difference between the gas and the reservoir.
2. The gas is adiabatically compressed while thermally isolated from the environment. This compression increases the gas

temperature until it matches temperature $T_H$ of the hot reservoir. No heat is transferred during this process.

3. After reaching maximum compression, the gas expands isothermally at temperature $T_H$. Heat $Q_H = Q_{34}$ is transferred from the hot reservoir into the gas as it expands in order to keep the temperature constant.
4. Finally, the gas expands adiabatically, with $Q = 0$, until the temperature decreases back to $T_C$.

## Figure 21.20




The Carnot cycle is perfectly reversible.

Work is done in all four processes of the Carnot cycle, but heat is transferred only during the two isothermal processes.

The thermal efficiency of any heat engine is

$$\eta = \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{Q_H} = 1 - \frac{Q_C}{Q_H}$$

We can determine $\eta_{\text{Carnot}}$ by finding the heat transfer in the two isothermal processes.

Process $1 \rightarrow 2$: Table 21.1 gives us the heat transfer in an isothermal process at temperature $T_{\mathrm{C}}$:

**(21.20)**

$$Q_{12} = (W_{\mathrm{s}})_{12} = nRT_{\mathrm{C}} \ln\left(\frac{V_2}{V_1}\right) = -nRT_{\mathrm{C}} \ln\left(\frac{V_1}{V_2}\right)$$

$V_1 > V_2$, so the logarithm on the right is positive. $Q_{12}$ is negative because heat is transferred out of the system, but $Q_{\mathrm{C}}$ is simply the *amount* of heat transferred to the cold reservoir:

**(21.21)**

$$Q_{\mathrm{C}} = |Q_{12}| = nRT_{\mathrm{C}} \ln\left(\frac{V_1}{V_2}\right)$$

Process $3 \rightarrow 4$: Similarly, the heat transferred in the isothermal expansion at temperature $T_{\mathrm{H}}$ is

**(21.22)**

$$Q_{\mathrm{H}} = Q_{34} = (W_{\mathrm{s}})_{34} = nRT_{\mathrm{H}} \ln\left(\frac{V_4}{V_3}\right)$$

Thus the thermal efficiency of the Carnot cycle is

**(21.23)**

$$\eta_{\text{Carnot}} = 1 - \frac{Q_{\mathrm{C}}}{Q_{\mathrm{H}}} = 1 - \frac{T_{\mathrm{C}} \ln\left(V_1/V_2\right)}{T_{\mathrm{H}} \ln\left(V_4/V_3\right)}$$

We can simplify this expression. During the two adiabatic processes,

**(21.24)**

$$T_{\mathrm{C}} {V_2}^{\gamma-1} = T_{\mathrm{H}} {V_3}^{\gamma-1} \quad \text{and} \quad T_{\mathrm{C}} {V_1}^{\gamma-1} = T_{\mathrm{H}} {V_4}^{\gamma-1}$$

An algebraic rearrangement gives

**(21.25)**

$$V_2 = V_3\left(\frac{T_\mathrm{H}}{T_\mathrm{C}}\right)^{1/(\gamma-1)} \quad \text{and} \quad V_1 = V_4\left(\frac{T_\mathrm{H}}{T_\mathrm{C}}\right)^{1/(\gamma-1)}$$

from which it follows that

**(21.26)**

$$\frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{V_4}{V_3}$$

Consequently, the two logarithms in Equation 21.23 cancel and we're left with the result that the thermal efficiency of a Carnot engine operating between a hot reservoir at temperature $T_\mathrm{H}$ and a cold reservoir at temperature $T_\mathrm{C}$ is

**21.27**

$$\eta_\mathrm{Carnot} = 1 - \frac{T_\mathrm{C}}{T_\mathrm{H}} \qquad \text{(Carnot thermal efficiency)}$$

This remarkably simple result, an efficiency that depends only on the ratio of the temperatures of the hot and cold reservoirs, is Carnot's legacy to thermodynamics.

> **Note**
>
> Temperatures $T_\mathrm{H}$ and $T_\mathrm{C}$ are *absolute* temperatures.

**Example 21.4 A Carnot engine**

A Carnot engine is cooled by water at $T_C = 10^\circ C$. What temperature must be maintained in the hot reservoir of the engine to have a thermal efficiency of 70%?

**MODEL** The efficiency of a Carnot engine depends only on the temperatures of the hot and cold reservoirs.

**SOLVE** The thermal efficiency $\eta_{Carnot} = 1 - T_C/T_H$ can be rearranged to give

$$T_H = \frac{T_C}{1 - \eta_{Carnot}} = 943\ K = 670^0 C$$



where we used $T_C = 283\ K$.

**ASSESS** A "real" engine would need a higher temperature than this to provide 70% efficiency because no real engine will match the Carnot efficiency.

### Example 21.5 A real engine

The heat engine of Example 21.2 had a highest temperature of 2700 K, a lowest temperature of 300 K, and a thermal efficiency of 15%. What is the efficiency of a Carnot engine operating between these two temperatures?

**SOLVE** The Carnot efficiency is

$$\eta_{Carnot} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H} = 1 - \frac{300\ K}{2700\ K} = 0.89 = 89\%$$

**ASSESS** The thermodynamic cycle used in Example 21.2 doesn't come anywhere close to the Carnot efficiency.

## The Maximum Efficiency

In Section 21.2 we tried to invent a perfect engine with $\eta = 1$ and $Q_C = 0$. We found that we could not do so without violating the second law, so no engine can have $\eta = 1$. However, that example didn't rule out an engine with $\eta = 0.9999$. Further analysis has now shown that no heat engine operating between energy reservoirs at temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$ can be more efficient than a perfectly reversible engine operating between these temperatures.

We've now reached the endpoint of this line of reasoning by establishing an exact result for the thermal efficiency of a perfectly reversible engine, the Carnot engine. We can summarize our conclusions:

Second law, informal statement #7

No heat engine operating between energy reservoirs at temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$ and can exceed the Carnot efficiency

$$\eta_{\text{Carnot}} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$

As Example 21.5 showed, real engines usually fall well short of the Carnot limit.

We also found that no refrigerator can exceed the coefficient of performance of a perfectly reversible refrigerator. We'll leave the proof as a homework problem, but an analysis very similar to that above shows that the coefficient of performance of a Carnot refrigerator is

**(21.28)**

$$K_{\text{Carnot}} = \frac{T_{\text{C}}}{T_{\text{H}} - T_{\text{C}}} \qquad (\text{Carnot coefficient of performance})$$

Thus we can state:

Second law, informal statement #8

No refrigerator operating between energy reservoirs at temperatures $T_{\text{H}}$ and $T_{\text{C}}$ can exceed the Carnot coefficient of performance



$$K_{\text{Carnot}} = \frac{T_{\text{C}}}{T_{\text{H}} - T_{\text{C}}}$$

**Example 21.6 Brayton versus Carnot**

The Brayton-cycle refrigerator of Example 21.3 had coefficient of performance $K = 1.1$. Compare this to the limit set by the second law of thermodynamics.

**SOLVE** Example 21.3 found that the reservoir temperatures had to be $T_C \geq 250\ \text{K}$ and $T_H \leq 381\ \text{K}$. A Carnot refrigerator operating between 250 K and 381 K has

$$K_{\text{Carnot}} = \frac{T_C}{T_H - T_C} = \frac{250\ \text{K}}{381\ \text{K} - 250\ \text{K}} = 1.9$$

**ASSESS** This is the minimum value of $K_{\text{Carnot}}$. It will be even higher if $T_C > 250\ \text{K}$ or $T_H < 381\ \text{K}$. The coefficient of performance of the reasonably realistic refrigerator of Example 21.3 is less than 60% of the limiting value.

Statements #7 and #8 of the second law are a major result of this chapter, one with profound implications. The efficiency limit of a heat engine is set by the temperatures of the hot and cold reservoirs. High efficiency requires $T_C/T_H \ll 1$ and thus $T_H \gg T_C$. However, practical realities often prevent $T_H$ from being significantly larger than $T_C$, in which case the engine cannot possibly have a large efficiency. This limit on the efficiency of heat engines is a consequence of the second law of thermodynamics.

### Example 21.7 Generating electricity

An electric power plant boils water to produce high-pressure steam at 400°C. The high-pressure steam spins a turbine as it expands, then the turbine spins the generator. The steam is then condensed back to water in an ocean-cooled heat exchanger at 25°C. What is the *maximum* possible efficiency with which heat energy can be converted to electric energy?

**MODEL** The maximum possible efficiency is that of a Carnot engine operating between these temperatures.

**SOLVE** The Carnot efficiency depends on absolute temperatures, so we must use $T_{\text{H}} = 400^\circ\text{C} = 673\ \text{K}$ and $T_{\text{C}} = 25^\circ\text{C} = 298\ \text{K}$. Then

$$\eta_{\text{max}} = 1 - \frac{298}{673} = 0.56 = 56\,\%$$

**ASSESS** This is an upper limit. Real coal-, oil-, gas-, and nuclear-heated steam generators actually operate at ≈ 35% thermal efficiency, converting only about one-third of the fuel energy to electric energy while exhausting about two-thirds of the energy to the environment as waste heat. (The heat *source* has nothing to do with the efficiency. All it does is boil water.) Not much can be done to alter the low-temperature limit. The high-temperature limit is determined by the maximum temperature and pressure the boiler and turbine can withstand. The efficiency of electricity generation is far less than most people imagine, but it is an unavoidable consequence of the second law of thermodynamics.

A limit on the efficiency of heat engines was not expected. We are used to thinking in terms of energy conservation, so it comes as no surprise that we cannot make an engine with $\eta > 1$. But the limits arising from the second law were not anticipated, nor are they obvious. Nonetheless, they are a very real fact of life and a very real constraint on any practical device. No one has ever invented a machine that exceeds the second-law limits, and we have seen that the maximum efficiency for realistic engines is surprisingly low.

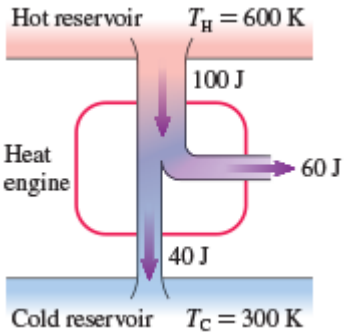
## Stop To Think 21.5

Could this heat engine be built?

**a.** Yes.

**b.** No.

**c.** It's impossible to tell without knowing what kind of cycle it uses.




### Challenge Example 21.8 Calculating efficiency

A heat engine using a monatomic ideal gas goes through the following closed cycle:

- Isochoric heating until the pressure is doubled.
- Isothermal expansion until the pressure is restored to its initial value.
- Isobaric compression until the volume is restored to its initial value.

What is the thermal efficiency of this heat engine? What would be the thermal efficiency of a Carnot engine operating between the

highest and lowest temperatures reached by this engine?

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**MODEL** The cycle consists of three familiar processes; we'll need to analyze each. The amount of work and heat will depend on the quantity of gas, which we don't know, but efficiency is a work-to-heat ratio that is independent of the amount of gas.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 21.21 shows the cycle. The initial pressure, volume, and temperature are $p$, $V$, and $T$. The isochoric process increases the pressure to $2p$ and, because the ratio $p/T$ is constant in an isochoric process, increases the temperature to $2T$. The isothermal expansion is along the $2T$ isotherm. The product $pV$ is constant in an isothermal process, so the volume doubles to $2V$ as the pressure returns to $p$.

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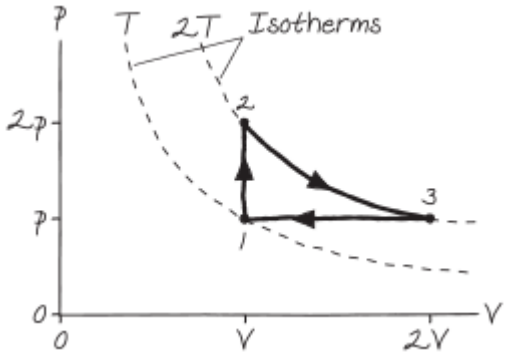
**Figure 21.21**




The $pV$ cycle of the heat engine.

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**SOLVE** We know, symbolically, the state variables at each corner of the $pV$ diagram. That is sufficient for calculating $W_s$, $Q$, and $\Delta E_{th}$.

Process $1 \rightarrow 2$: An isochoric process has $W_s = 0$ and

$$Q = \Delta E_{th} = nC_V \ \Delta T = \frac{3}{2} nRT$$

where we used $C_{\mathrm{V}} = \frac{3}{2}\mathrm{R}$ for a monatomic gas and $\Delta T = 2T - T = T$.

Process $2 \to 3$: An isothermal process has $\Delta E_{\mathrm{th}} = 0$ and

$$Q = W_{\mathrm{s}} = nR\,(2T)\,\ln\left(\frac{2V}{V}\right) = (2\ln 2)\,nRT$$

Here we used the Table 21.1 result for the work done in an isothermal process.

Process $3 \to 1$: The work done by the gas is the area under the curve, which is negative because $\Delta V = V - 2V = -V$ in the compression:

$$W_{\mathrm{s}} = \text{area} = p\,\Delta V = -pV = -nRT$$

We used the ideal-gas law in the last step to express the result in terms of $n$ and $T$. The heat transfer is also negative because $\Delta T = T - 2T = -T$:

$$Q = nC_{\mathrm{P}}\,\Delta T = -\tfrac{5}{2}nRT$$

where we used $C_{\mathrm{P}} = \frac{5}{2}R$ for a monatomic gas. Based on the first law, $\Delta E_{\mathrm{th}} = Q - W_{\mathrm{s}} = -\frac{3}{2}nRT$.

Summing over the three processes, we see that $(\Delta E_{\mathrm{th}})_{\mathrm{net}} = 0$, as expected, and

$$W_{\mathrm{out}} = (2\ln 2 - 1)\,nRT$$

Heat energy is supplied to the gas ($Q > 0$) in processes $1 \to 2$ and $2 \to 3$, so

$$Q_{\mathrm{H}} = \left(2\ln 2 + \tfrac{3}{2}\right)nRT$$

Thus the thermal efficiency of this heat engine is

$$\eta = \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{Q_{\text{H}}} = \frac{(2\ln 2 - 1)\,nRT}{\left(2\ln 2 + \frac{3}{2}\right)nRT} = 0.134 = 13.4\%$$

A Carnot engine would be able to operate between a high temperature $T_{\text{H}} = 2T$ and a low temperature $T_{\text{C}} = T$. Its efficiency would be

$$\eta_{\text{Carnot}} = 1 - \frac{T_{\text{C}}}{T_{\text{H}}} = 1 - \frac{T}{2T} = 0.500 = 50.0\%$$

**ASSESS** As we anticipated, the thermal efficiency depends on the *shape* of the *pV* cycle but not on the quantity of gas or even on the values of *p*, *V*, or *T*. The heat engine's 13.4% efficiency is considerably less than the 50% maximum possible efficiency set by the second law of thermodynamics.

# Summary

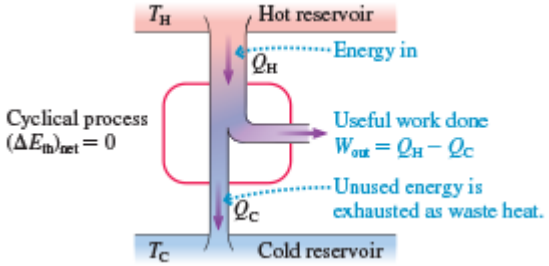


> The goal of Chapter 21 has been to study the principles that govern heat engines and refrigerators.

## General Principles

### Heat Engines

Devices that transform heat into work. They require two energy reservoirs at different temperatures.




### Thermal efficiency

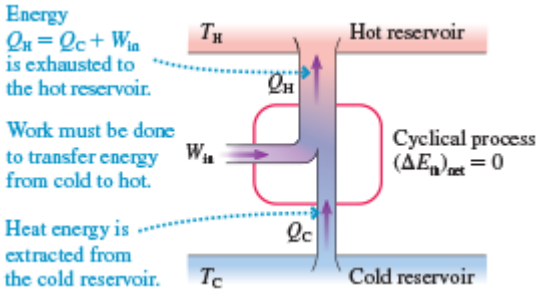
$$\eta = \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{Q_{\text{H}}} = \frac{\text{what you get}}{\text{what you pay}}$$

Second-law limit:

$$\eta \leq 1 - \frac{T_{\text{C}}}{T_{\text{H}}}$$

### Refrigerators

Devices that use work to transfer heat from a colder object to a hotter object.




## Coefficient of performance

$$K = \frac{Q_{\mathrm{C}}}{W_{\mathrm{in}}} = \frac{\text{what you get}}{\text{what you pay}}$$

Second-law limit:

$$K \leq \frac{T_{\mathrm{C}}}{T_{\mathrm{H}} - T_{\mathrm{C}}}$$

# Important Concepts

A **perfectly reversible engine** (a **Carnot engine**) can be operated as either a heat engine or a refrigerator between the same two energy reservoirs by reversing the cycle and with no other changes.

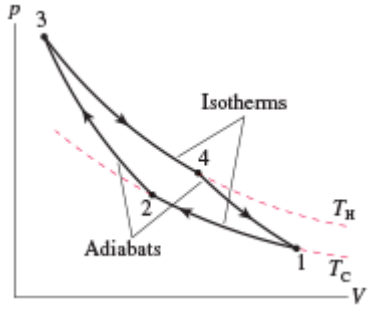
- A **Carnot heat engine** has the maximum possible thermal efficiency of any heat engine operating between $T_{\mathrm{H}}$ and $T_{\mathrm{C}}$:

$$\eta_{\text{Carnot}} = 1 - \frac{T_{\mathrm{C}}}{T_{\mathrm{H}}}$$

- A **Carnot refrigerator** has the maximum possible coefficient of performance of any refrigerator operating between $T_{\mathrm{H}}$ and $T_{\mathrm{C}}$:

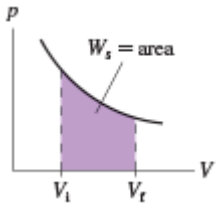
$$K_{\text{Carnot}} = \frac{T_{\mathrm{C}}}{T_{\mathrm{H}} - T_{\mathrm{C}}}$$

The **Carnot cycle** for a gas engine consists of two isothermal processes and two adiabatic processes.




An **energy reservoir** is a part of the environment so large in comparison to the system that its temperature doesn't change as the system extracts heat energy from or exhausts heat energy to the reservoir. All heat engines and refrigerators operate between two energy reservoirs at different temperatures $T_H$ and $T_C$.

The **work** $W_s$ done *by* the system has the opposite sign to the work done *on* the system.




$$W_s = \text{ area under } pV \text{ curve}$$

# Applications



**To analyze a heat engine or refrigerator:**

**MODEL** Identify each process in the cycle.

**VISUALIZE** Draw the $pV$ diagram of the cycle.

**SOLVE** There are several steps:

- Determine $p$, $V$, and $T$ at the beginning and end of each process.
- Calculate $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$, $W_{\text{s}}$ and $Q$ for each process.
- Determine $W_{\text{in}}$ or $W_{\text{out}}$, $Q_{\text{H}}$, and $Q_{\text{C}}$.
- Calculate $\eta = W_{\text{out}}/Q_{\text{H}}$ or $K = Q_{\text{C}}/W_{\text{in}}$.

**ASSESS** Verify $(\Delta E_{\text{th}})_{\text{net}} = 0$. Check signs.

## Terms and Notation

thermodynamics

energy reservoir

energy-transfer diagram

heat engine

closed-cycle device

thermal efficiency, $\eta$

waste heat

refrigerator

coefficient of performance, $K$

heat exchanger

pressure ratio, $r_{\text{p}}$

perfectly reversible engine

Carnot engine

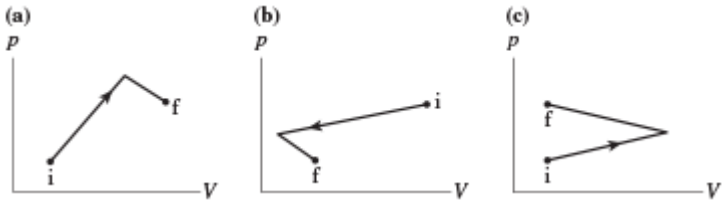
Carnot cycle

# Conceptual Questions



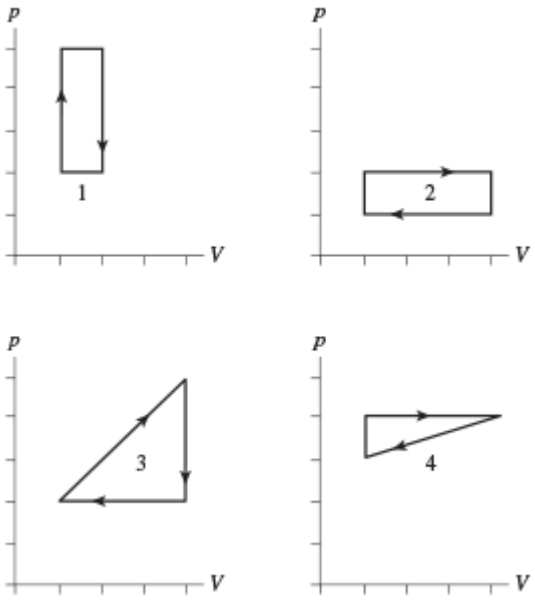
**1.** In going from i to f in each of the three processes of Figure Q21.1, is work done *by* the system ($W < 0, W_s > 0$), is work done *on* the system ($W > 0, W_s < 0$), or is *no* net work done?

**Figure Q21.1**



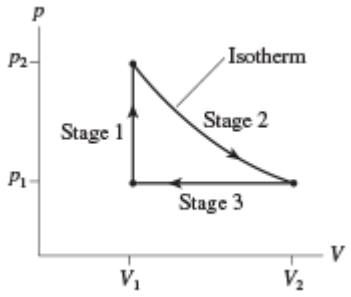

**2.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the amount of work $(W_s)_1$ to $(W_s)_4$ done by the gas in each of the cycles shown in Figure Q21.2. Explain.

**Figure Q21.2**



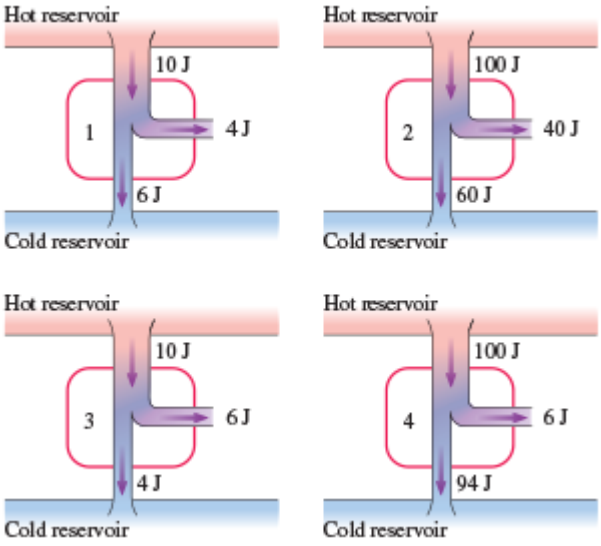
3. Could you have a heat engine with $\eta > 1$? Explain.
4. Figure Q21.4 shows the $pV$ diagram of a heat engine. During which stage or stages is (a) heat added to the gas, (b) heat removed from the gas, (c) work done on the gas, and (d) work done by the gas?

**Figure Q21.4**



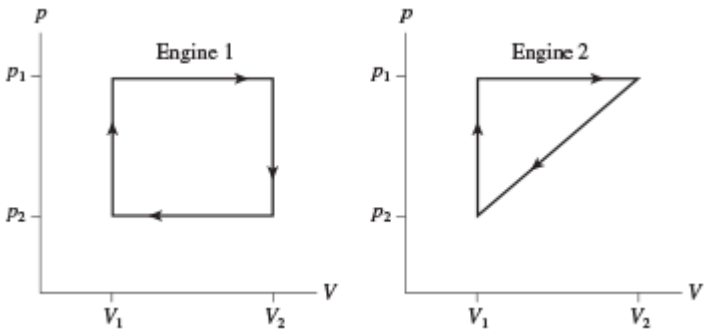

5. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the thermal efficiencies $\eta_1$ to $\eta_4$ of the four heat engines in Figure Q21.5. Explain.

**Figure Q21.5**




6. Figure Q21.6 shows the thermodynamic cycles of two heat engines. Which heat engine has the larger thermal efficiency? Or are they the same? Explain.

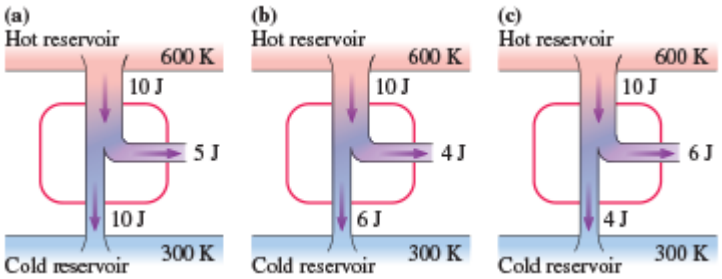
## Figure Q21.6




**7.** A heat engine satisfies $W_{\text{out}} = Q_{\text{net}}$. Why is there no $\Delta E_{\text{th}}$ term in this relationship?

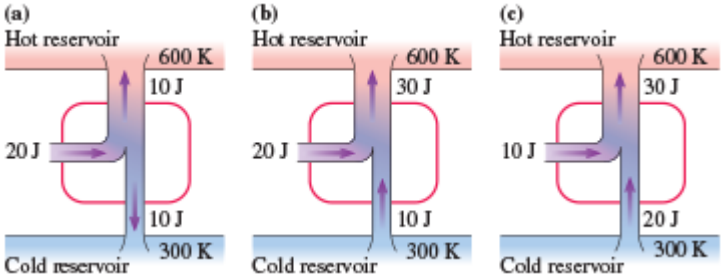
**8.** Do the energy-transfer diagrams in Figure Q21.8 represent possible heat engines? If not, what is wrong?

## Figure Q21.8




**9.** Do the energy-transfer diagrams in Figure Q21.9 represent possible refrigerators? If not, what is wrong?

## Figure Q21.9



**10.** It gets pretty hot in your apartment. In browsing the Internet, you find a company selling small "room air conditioners." You place the air conditioner on the floor, plug it in, and—the advertisement says—it will lower the room temperature up to 10°F. Should you order one? Explain.

**11.** The first and second laws of thermodynamics are sometimes stated as "You can't win" and "You can't even break even." Do these sayings accurately characterize the laws of thermodynamics as applied to heat engines? Why or why not?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 21.1 Turning Heat into Work

### Section 21.2 Heat Engines and Refrigerators

**1.** •• A heat engine does 200 J of work per cycle while exhausting 400 J of waste heat. What is the engine's thermal efficiency?

**2.** • A heat engine with a thermal efficiency of 40% does 100 J of work per cycle. How much heat is (a) extracted from the hot reservoir and (b) exhausted to the cold reservoir per cycle?

**3.** • A heat engine extracts 55 kJ of heat from the hot reservoir each cycle and exhausts 40 kJ of heat. What are (a) the thermal efficiency and (b) the work done per cycle?

**4.** • 50 J of work are done per cycle on a refrigerator with a coefficient of performance of 4.0. How much heat is (a) extracted from the cold reservoir and (b) exhausted to the hot reservoir per cycle?

**5.** •• A refrigerator requires 200 J of work and exhausts 600 J of heat per cycle. What is the refrigerator's coefficient of performance?

**6.** •• A 32%-efficient electric power plant produces 900 MW of electric power and discharges waste heat into 20°C ocean water. Suppose the waste heat could be used to heat homes during the winter instead of being discharged into the ocean. A typical American house requires an average of 20 kW for heating. How many homes could be heated with the waste heat of this one power plant?

**7.** •• The power output of a car engine running at 2400 rpm is 500 kW. How much (a) work is done and (b) heat is exhausted per cycle if the engine's thermal efficiency is 20%? Give your answers in kJ.



**8.** •• **INT** 1.0 L of 20°C water is placed in a refrigerator. The refrigerator's motor must supply an extra 8.0 W of power to chill the water to 5°C in 1.0 h. What is the refrigerator's coefficient of performance?

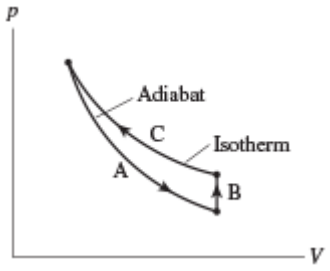
## Section 21.3 Ideal-Gas Heat Engines

## Section 21.4 Ideal-Gas Refrigerators

**9.** •• The cycle of Figure EX21.9 consists of three processes. Make a table with rows labeled A–C and columns labeled $\Delta E_{th}$,

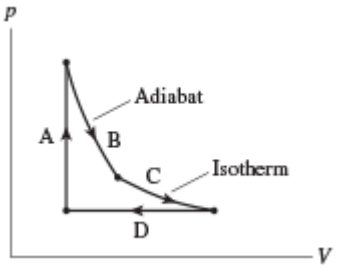
$W_s$, and $Q$. Fill each box in the table with +, –, or 0 to indicate whether the quantity increases, decreases, or stays the same during that process.

**Figure EX21.9**



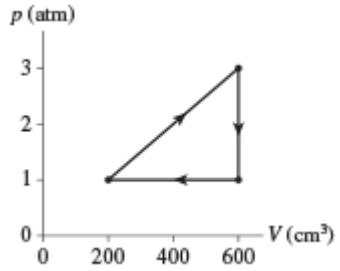

**10.** •• The cycle of Figure EX21.10 consists of four processes. Make a table with rows labeled A to D and columns labeled $\Delta E_{th}$, $W_s$, and $Q$. Fill each box in the table with +, –, or 0 to indicate whether the quantity increases, decreases, or stays the same during that process.

**Figure EX21.10**



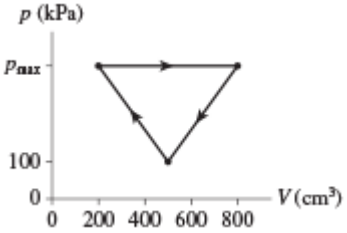

**11.** •• How much work is done per cycle by a gas following the $pV$ trajectory of Figure EX21.11?

**Figure EX21.11**



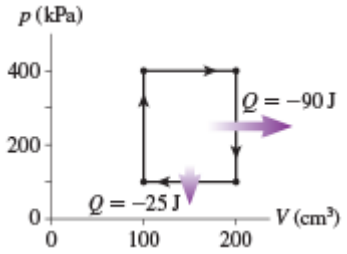

**12.** •• A gas following the $pV$ trajectory of Figure EX21.12 does 60 J of work per cycle. What is $p_{max}$?

**Figure EX21.12**



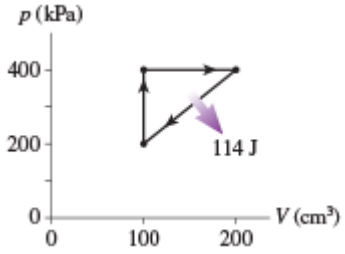

**13.** •• What are (a) $W_{out}$ and $Q_H$ and (b) the thermal efficiency for the heat engine shown in Figure EX21.13?

**Figure EX21.13**



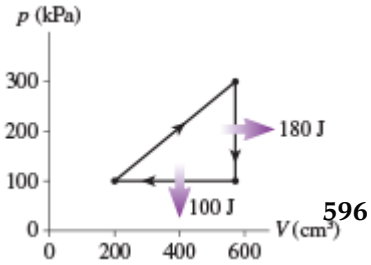

**14.** •• What are (a)$W_{out}$ and $Q_H$ and (b) the thermal efficiency for the heat engine shown in Figure EX21.14?

**Figure EX21.14**




**15.** •• What are (a) the thermal efficiency and (b) the heat extracted from the hot reservoir for the heat engine shown in Figure EX21.15?

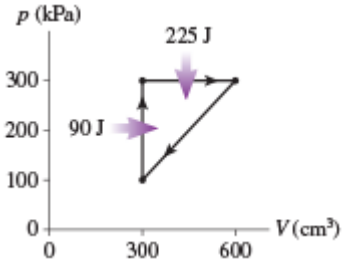
**Figure EX21.15**






**16.** •• How much heat is exhausted to the cold reservoir by the heat engine shown in Figure EX21.16?

**Figure EX21.16**



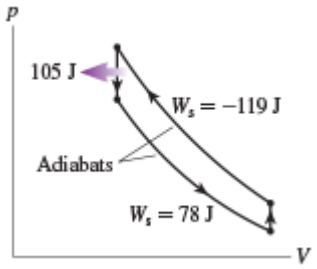

**17.** •• A heat engine uses a diatomic gas in a Brayton cycle. What is the engine's thermal efficiency if the gas volume is halved during the adiabatic compression?

**18.** • At what pressure ratio does a Brayton cycle using a monatomic gas have an efficiency of 50%?

**19.** •• The coefficient of performance of a refrigerator is 6.0. The refrigerator's compressor uses 115 W of electric power and is 95% efficient at converting electric power into work. What are (a) the rate at which heat energy is removed from inside the refrigerator and (b) the rate at which heat energy is exhausted into the room?

**20.** •• What are (a) the heat extracted from the cold reservoir and (b) the coefficient of performance for the refrigerator shown in Figure EX21.20?

**Figure EX21.20**




**21.** •• An air conditioner removes $5.0 \times 10^5$ J/min of heat from a house and exhausts $8.0 \times 10^5$ J/min to the hot outdoors.

**a.** How much power does the air conditioner's compressor require?

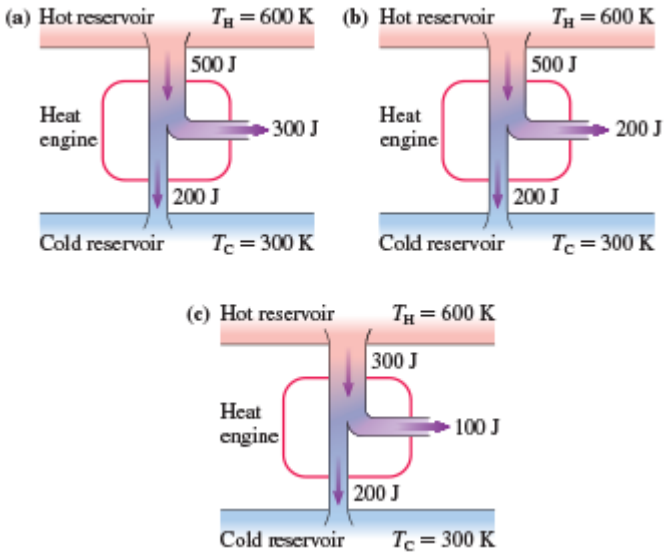
**b.** What is the air conditioner's coefficient of performance?

## Section 21.5 The Limits of Efficiency

## Section 21.6 The Carnot Cycle

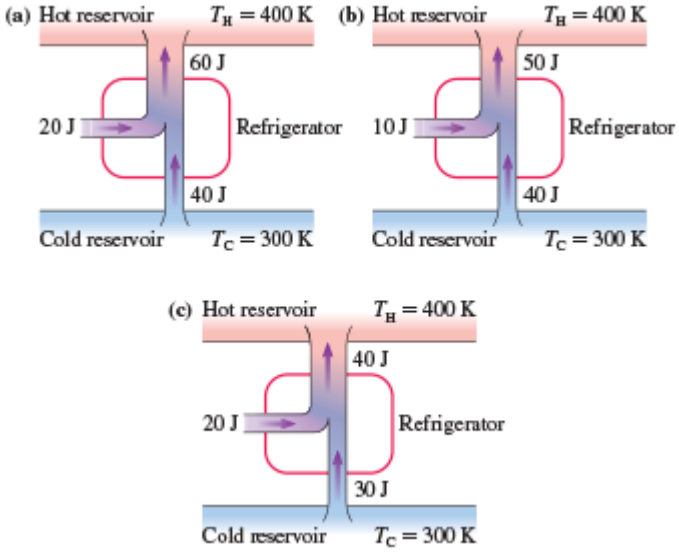
**22.** • Which, if any, of the heat engines in Figure EX21.22 violate (a) the first law of thermodynamics or (b) the second law of thermodynamics? Explain.

## Figure EX21.22




**23.** • Which, if any, of the refrigerators in Figure EX21.23 violate (a) the first law of thermodynamics or (b) the second law of thermodynamics? Explain.

## Figure EX21.23



**24.** •• At what cold-reservoir temperature (in °C) would a Carnot engine with a hot-reservoir temperature of 427°C have an efficiency of 60%?

**25.** •• A heat engine does 10 J of work and exhausts 15 J of waste heat during each cycle.

**a.** What is the engine's thermal efficiency?

**b.** If the cold-reservoir temperature is 20°C, what is the minimum possible temperature in °C of the hot reservoir?



**26.** ••

**a.** A heat engine does 200 J of work per cycle while exhausting 600 J of heat to the cold reservoir. What is the engine's thermal efficiency?

**b.** A Carnot engine with a hot-reservoir temperature of 400°C has the same thermal efficiency. What is the cold-reservoir temperature in °C?

**27.** • A Carnot engine operating between energy reservoirs at temperatures 300 K and 500 K produces a power output of 1000 W. What are (a) the thermal efficiency of this engine, (b) the rate of heat input, in W, and (c) the rate of heat output, in W?

**28.** •• A Carnot engine whose hot-reservoir temperature is 400°C has a thermal efficiency of 40%. By how many degrees should the temperature of the cold reservoir be decreased to raise the engine's efficiency to 60%?

**29.** •• The ideal gas in a Carnot engine extracts 1000 J of heat energy during the isothermal expansion at 300°C. How much

heat energy is exhausted during the isothermal compression at 50°C?

**30.** •• A heat engine operating between energy reservoirs at 20°C and 600°C has 30% of the maximum possible efficiency. How much energy must this engine extract from the hot reservoir to do 1000 J of work?

**31.** •• A heat engine operating between a hot reservoir at 500°C and a cold reservoir at 0°C is 60% as efficient as a Carnot engine. If this heat engine and the Carnot engine do the same amount of work, what is the ratio $Q_{\mathrm{H}}/(Q_{\mathrm{H}})_{\mathrm{Carnot}}$?

**32.** •• A Carnot refrigerator operating between –20°C and +20°C extracts heat from the cold reservoir at the rate 200 J/s. What are (a) the coefficient of performance of this refrigerator, (b) the rate at which work is done on the refrigerator, and (c) the rate at which heat is exhausted to the hot side?

**33.** •• The coefficient of performance of a refrigerator is 5.0. The compressor uses 10 J of energy per cycle.

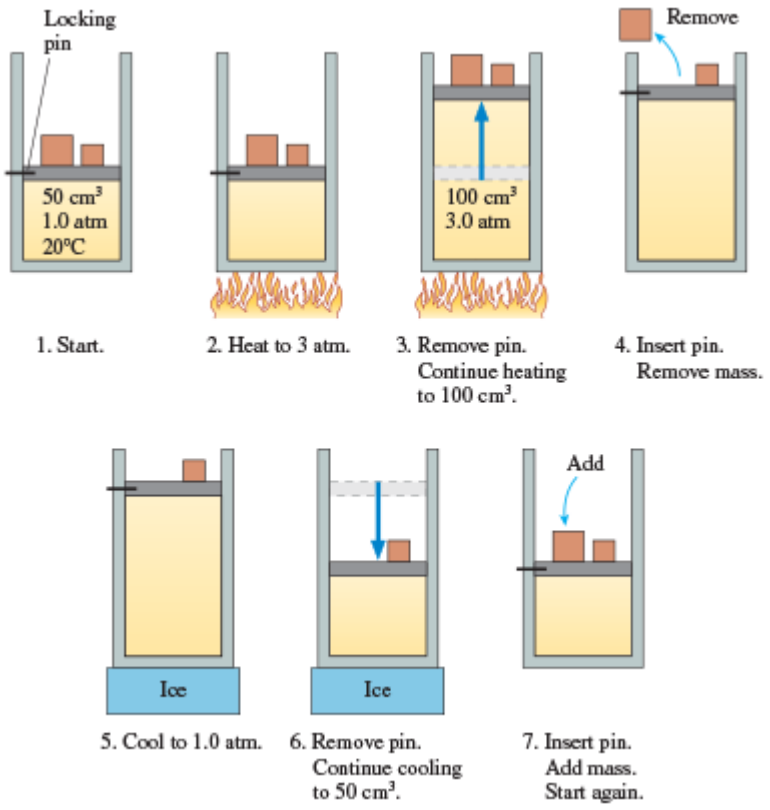
**a.** How much heat energy is exhausted per cycle?
**b.** If the hot-reservoir temperature is 27°C, what is the lowest possible temperature in °C of the cold reservoir?

**34.** •• A Carnot heat engine with thermal efficiency $\frac{1}{3}$ is run backward as a Carnot refrigerator. What is the refrigerator's coefficient of performance?

# Problems

**35.** •• Figure P21.35 shows a heat engine going through one cycle. The gas is diatomic. The masses are such that when the pin is removed, in steps 3 and 6, the piston does not move.

**Figure P21.35**




**a.** Draw the $pV$ diagram for this heat engine.

**b.** How much work is done per cycle?

**c.** What is this engine's thermal efficiency?

**36.** •• **INT** The engine that powers a crane burns fuel at a flame temperature of 2000°C. It is cooled by 20°C air. The crane lifts a 2000 kg steel girder 30 m upward. How much heat energy is transferred to the engine by burning fuel if the engine is 40% as efficient as a Carnot engine?

**37.** •• **INT** A heat engine with 50% of the Carnot efficiency operates between reservoirs at 20°C and 200°C. The engine

inputs heat energy at an average rate of 63 W while compressing a spring 22 cm in 0.50 s. What is the spring constant?

**38.** •• Prove that the work done in an adiabatic process i $\rightarrow$ f is $W_{\mathrm{s}} = (p_{\mathrm{f}}V_{\mathrm{f}} - p_{\mathrm{i}}V_{\mathrm{i}}) / (1 - \gamma)$.

**39.** •• **INT** A Carnot refrigerator operates between reservoirs at –20°C and 50°C in a 25°C room. The refrigerator is a $40\ \mathrm{cm} \times 40\ \mathrm{cm} \times 40\ \mathrm{cm}$ box. Five of the walls are perfect insulators, but the sixth is a 1.0-cm-thick piece of stainless steel. What electric power does the refrigerator require to maintain the inside temperature at –20°C?

**40.** •• Prove that the coefficient of performance of a Carnot refrigerator is $K_{\mathrm{Carnot}} = T_{\mathrm{C}} / (T_{\mathrm{H}} - T_{\mathrm{C}})$.

**41.** ••• **INT** An ideal refrigerator utilizes a Carnot cycle operating between 0°C and 25°C. To turn 10 kg of liquid water at 0°C into 10 kg of ice at 0°C, (a) how much heat is exhausted into the room and (b) how much energy must be supplied to the refrigerator?

**42.** •• **INT** A freezer with a coefficient of performance 30% that of a Carnot refrigerator keeps the inside temperature at –22°C in a 25°C room. 3.0 L of water at 20°C are placed in the freezer. How long does it take for the water to freeze if the freezer's compressor does work at the rate of 200 W while the water is freezing?

**43.** • There has long been an interest in using the vast quantities of thermal energy in the oceans to run heat engines. A heat engine needs a temperature *difference,* a hot side and a cold

side. Conveniently, the ocean surface waters are warmer than the deep ocean waters. Suppose you build a floating power plant in the tropics where the surface water temperature is ≈ 30°C. This would be the hot reservoir of the engine. For the cold reservoir, water would be pumped up from the ocean bottom where it is always ≈ 5°C. What is the maximum possible efficiency of such a power plant?

**44.** •• **INT** A Carnot heat engine operates between reservoirs at 182°C and 0°C. If the engine extracts 25 J of energy from the hot reservoir per cycle, how many cycles will it take to lift a 10 kg mass a height of 10 m?

**45.** •• A Carnot engine operates between temperatures of 5°C and 500°C. The output is used to run a Carnot refrigerator operating between –5°C and 25°C. How many joules of heat energy does the refrigerator exhaust into the room for each joule of heat energy used by the heat engine?

**46.** • Figure P21.46 shows a Carnot heat engine driving a Carnot refrigerator.

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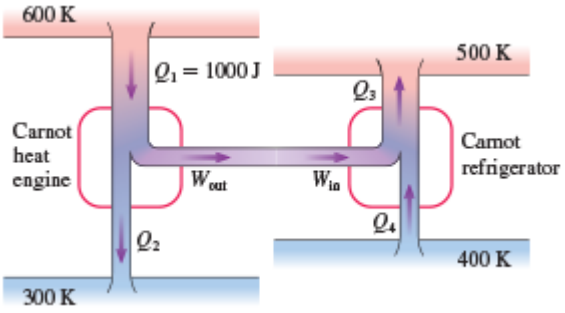
**Figure P21.46**




**a.** Determine $Q_2$, $Q_3$, and $Q_4$.

**b.** Is $Q_3$ greater than, less than, or equal to $Q_1$?

**c.** Do these two devices, when operated together in this way, violate the second law?

**47.** ••• A Carnot heat engine and an ordinary refrigerator with coefficient of performance 2.00 operate between reservoirs at 350 K and 250 K. The work done by the Carnot heat engine drives the refrigerator. If the heat engine extracts 10.0 J of energy from the hot reservoir, how much energy does the refrigerator exhaust to the hot reservoir?

**48.** •• A heat engine running backward is called a refrigerator if its purpose is to extract heat from a cold reservoir. The same engine running backward is called a *heat pump* if its purpose is to exhaust warm air into the hot reservoir. Heat pumps are widely used for home heating. You can think of a heat pump as a refrigerator that is cooling the already cold outdoors and, with its exhaust heat $Q_{\text{H}}$, warming the indoors. Perhaps this seems a little silly, but consider the following. Electricity can be directly used to heat a home by passing an electric current through a heating coil. This is a direct, 100% conversion of work to heat. That is, 15 kW of electric power (generated by doing work at the rate of 15 kJ/s at the power plant) produces heat energy inside the home at a rate of 15 kJ/s. Suppose that the neighbor's home has a heat pump with a coefficient of performance of 5.0, a realistic value. Note that "what you get" with a heat pump is heat delivered, $Q_{\text{H}}$, so a heat pump's coefficient of performance is defined as $K = Q_{\text{H}}/W_{\text{in}}$.

**a.** How much electric power (in kW) does the heat pump use to deliver 15 kJ/s of heat energy to the house?

**b.** An average price for electricity is about 40 MJ per dollar. A furnace or heat pump will run typically 250 hours per month during the winter. What does one month's heating cost in the home with a 15 kW electric heater and in the home of the neighbor who uses a heat pump?

**49.** •• A car's internal combustion engine can be modeled as a heat engine operating between a combustion temperature of 1500°C and an air temperature of 20°C with 30% of the Carnot efficiency. The heat of combustion of gasoline is 47 kJ/g. What mass of gasoline is burned to accelerate a 1500 kg car from rest to a speed of 30 m/s?

**50.** •• Consider a 1.0 MW power plant (this is the useful output in the form of electric energy) that operates between 30°C and 450°C at 65% of the Carnot efficiency. This is enough electric energy for about 750 homes. One way to use energy more efficiently would be to use the 30°C "waste" energy to heat the homes rather than releasing that heat energy into the environment. This is called *cogeneration,* and it is used in some parts of Europe but rarely in the United States. The average home uses 70 GJ of energy per year for heating. For estimating purposes, assume that all the power plant's exhaust energy can be transported to homes without loss and that home heating takes place at a steady rate for half a year each year. How many homes could be heated by the power plant?

**51.** •• A typical coal-fired power plant burns 300 metric tons of coal *every hour* to generate 750 MW of electricity. $1\ \text{metricton} = 1000\ \text{kg}$. The density of coal is 1500 kg/m$^3$ and

its heat of combustion is 28 MJ/kg. Assume that *all* heat is transferred from the fuel to the boiler and that *all* the work done in spinning the turbine is transformed into electric energy.

**a.** Suppose the coal is piled up in a 10 m $\times$ 10 m room. How tall must the pile be to operate the plant for one day?

**b.** What is the power plant's thermal efficiency?



**52.** •• **INT** A nuclear power plant generates 3000 MW of heat energy from nuclear reactions in the reactor's core. This energy is used to boil water and produce high-pressure steam at 300°C. The steam spins a turbine, which produces 1000 MW of electric power, then the steam is condensed and the water is cooled to 25°C before starting the cycle again.

**a.** What is the maximum possible thermal efficiency of the power plant?

**b.** What is the plant's actual efficiency?

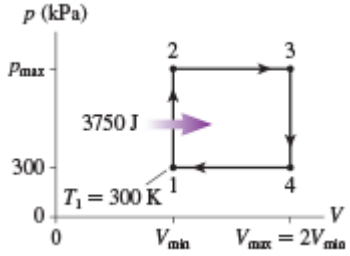
**c.** Cooling water from a river flows through the condenser (the low-temperature heat exchanger) at the rate of $1.2 \times 10^8$ L/h ($\approx$ 30 million gallons per hour). If the river water enters the condenser at 18°C, what is its exit temperature?

**53.** •• **INT** The electric output of a power plant is 750 MW. Cooling water flows through the power plant at the rate $1.0 \times 10^8$ L/h. The cooling water enters the plant at 16°C and exits at 27°C. What is the power plant's thermal efficiency?

**54.** •• **CALC** Engineers testing the efficiency of an electric generator gradually vary the temperature of the hot steam used to power it while leaving the temperature of the cooling water at a constant 20°C. They find that the generator's efficiency increases at a rate of $3.5 \times 10^{-4}\ \mathrm{K}^{-1}$ at steam temperatures near 300°C. What is the ratio of the generator's efficiency to the efficiency of a Carnot engine?

**55.** •• A heat engine using 1.0 mol of a monatomic gas follows the cycle shown in Figure P21.55. 3750 J of heat energy is transferred to the gas during process $1 \rightarrow 2$.

**Figure P21.55**

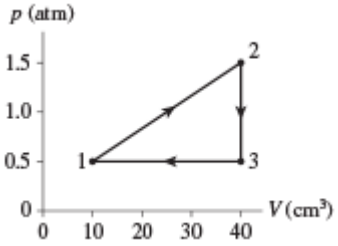



**a.** Determine $W_s$, $Q$, and $\Delta E_{th}$ for each of the four processes in this cycle. Display your results in a table.

**b.** What is the thermal efficiency of this heat engine?

**56.** •• A heat engine using a diatomic gas follows the cycle shown in Figure P21.56. Its temperature at point 1 is 20°C.

**Figure P21.56**



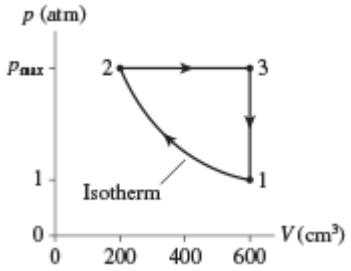
**a.** Determine $W_s$, $Q$, and $\Delta E_{th}$ for each of the three processes in this cycle. Display your results in a table.

**b.** What is the thermal efficiency of this heat engine?

**c.** What is the power output of the engine if it runs at 500 rpm?

**57.** •• Figure P21.57 shows the cycle for a heat engine that uses a gas having $\gamma = 1.25$. The initial temperature is $T_1 = 300$ K, and this engine operates at 20 cycles per second.

**Figure P21.57**

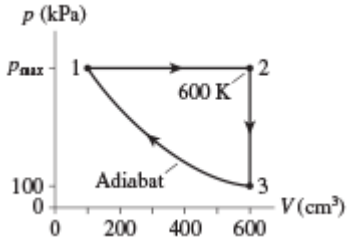



**a.** What is the power output of the engine?

**b.** What is the engine's thermal efficiency?

**58.** •• A heat engine using a monatomic gas follows the cycle shown in Figure P21.58.

**Figure P21.58**

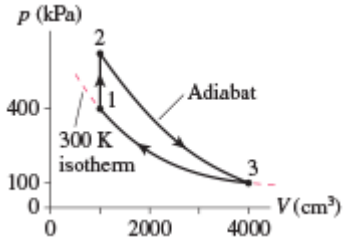


**a.** Find $W_s$, $Q$, and $\Delta E_{th}$ for each process in the cycle. Display your results in a table.

**b.** What is the thermal efficiency of this heat engine?

**59.** •• A heat engine uses a diatomic gas that follows the $pV$ cycle in Figure P21.59.

**Figure P21.59**




**a.** Determine the pressure, volume, and temperature at point 2.

**b.** Determine $\Delta E_{th}$, $W_s$, and $Q$ for each of the three processes. Put your results in a table for easy reading.

**c.** How much work does this engine do per cycle and what is its thermal efficiency?

**60.** •• Figure P21.60 is the $pV$ diagram of Example 21.2, but now the device is operated in reverse.

**a.** During which processes is heat transferred into the gas?

**b.** Is this $Q_H$, heat extracted from a hot reservoir, or $Q_C$, heat extracted from a cold reservoir? Explain.

**c.** Determine the values of $Q_H$ and $Q_C$.

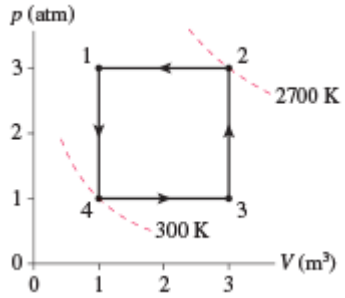
**Hint:** The calculations have been done in Example 21.2 and do not need to be repeated. Instead, you

need to determine which processes now contribute to $Q_H$ and which to $Q_C$.

**d.** Is the area inside the curve $W_{in}$ or $W_{out}$? What is its value?

**e.** The device is now being operated in a ccw cycle. Is it a refrigerator? Explain.

**Figure P21.60**



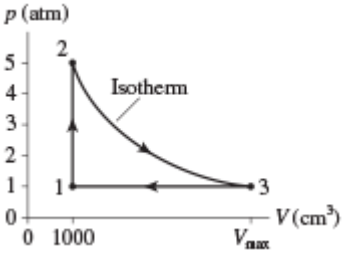

**61.** •• A heat engine using 120 mg of helium as the working substance follows the cycle shown in Figure P21.61.

**a.** Determine the pressure, temperature, and volume of the gas at points 1, 2, and 3.

**b.** What is the engine's thermal efficiency?

**c.** What is the maximum possible efficiency of a heat engine that operates between $T_{max}$ and $T_{min}$?

**Figure P21.61**



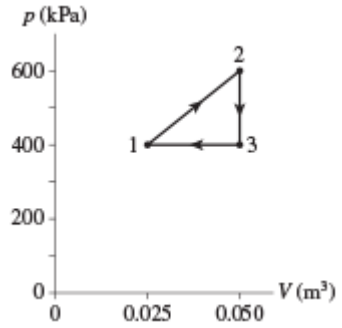
**62.** ••• The heat engine shown in Figure P21.62 uses 2.0 mol of a monatomic gas as the working substance.

**a.** Determine $T_1$, $T_2$, and $T_3$.

**b.** Make a table that shows $\Delta E_{th}$, $W_s$, and $Q$ for each of the three processes.

**c.** What is the engine's thermal efficiency?

**Figure P21.62**



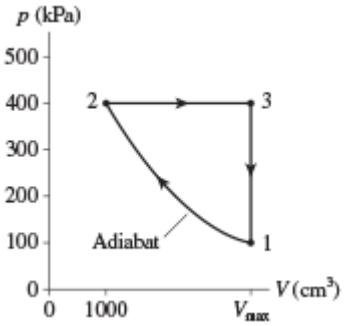

**63.** •• The heat engine shown in Figure P21.63 uses 0.020 mol of a diatomic gas as the working substance.

**a.** Determine $T_1$, $T_2$, and $T_3$.

**b.** Make a table that shows $\Delta E_{th}$, $W_s$ and $Q$ for each of the three processes.

**c.** What is the engine's thermal efficiency?

**Figure P21.63**



**64.** ••• A heat engine with 0.20 mol of a monatomic ideal gas initially fills a 2000 $cm^3$ cylinder at 600 K. The gas goes through the following closed cycle:

- Isothermal expansion to 4000 $cm^3$.
- Isochoric cooling to 300 K.
- Isothermal compression to 2000 $cm^3$.
- Isochoric heating to 600 K.

How much work does this engine do per cycle and what is its thermal efficiency?

In Problems 65, 66, 67, 68 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**65.** $0.80 = 1 - (0^\circ\text{C} + 273) / (T_\text{H} + 273)$

**66.** $$\begin{aligned} 4.0 &= Q_\text{C}/W_\text{in} \\ Q_\text{H} &= 100\text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

**67.** $$\begin{aligned} 0.20 &= 1 - Q_\text{C}/Q_\text{H} \\ W_\text{out} &= Q_\text{H} - Q_\text{C} = 20\text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

**68.** $400\text{ kJ} = \frac{1}{2}(p_\text{max} - 100\text{ kPa})\left(3.0\text{ m}^3 - 1.0\text{ m}^3\right)$

## Challenge Problems

**69.** ••• **INT** 100 mL of water at 15°C is placed in the freezer compartment of a refrigerator with a coefficient of performance

of 4.0. How much heat energy is exhausted into the room as the water is changed to ice at –15°C.

**70.** ••• Figure CP21.70 shows two insulated compartments separated by a thin wall. The left side contains 0.060 mol of helium at an initial temperature of 600 K and the right side contains 0.030 mol of helium at an initial temperature of 300 K. The compartment on the right is attached to a vertical cylinder, above which the air pressure is 1.0 atm. A 10-cm-diameter, 2.0 kg piston can slide without friction up and down the cylinder. Neither the cylinder diameter nor the volumes of the compartments are known.

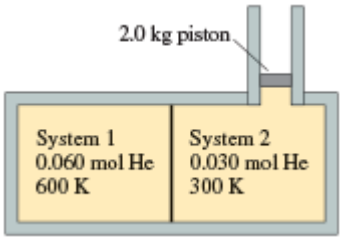
**a.** What is the final temperature?

**b.** How much heat is transferred from the left side to the right side?

**c.** How high is the piston lifted due to this heat transfer?

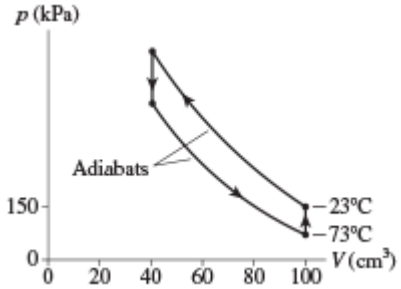
**d.** What fraction of the heat is converted into work?

**Figure CP21.70**




**71.** ••• A refrigerator using helium gas operates on the reversed cycle shown in Figure CP21.71. What are the refrigerator's (a) coefficient of performance and (b) power input if it operates at 60 cycles per second?

**Figure CP21.71**




**72.** ••• A heat engine using a diatomic ideal gas goes through the following closed cycle:

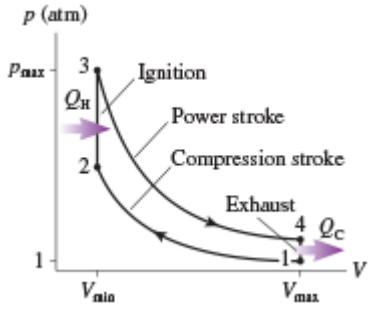
- Isothermal compression until the volume is halved.
- Isobaric expansion until the volume is restored to its initial value.
- Isochoric cooling until the pressure is restored to its initial value.

What are the thermal efficiencies of (a) this heat engine and (b) a Carnot engine operating between the highest and lowest temperatures reached by this engine?

**73.** ••• The gasoline engine in your car can be modeled as the Otto cycle shown in Figure CP21.73. A fuel-air mixture is sprayed into the cylinder at point 1, where the piston is at its farthest distance from the spark plug. This mixture is compressed as the piston moves toward the spark plug during the adiabatic *compression stroke.* The spark plug fires at point 2, releasing heat energy that had been stored in the gasoline. The fuel burns so quickly that the piston doesn't have time to move, so the heating is an isochoric process. The hot, high-pressure gas then pushes the piston outward during the *power stroke.* Finally, an exhaust value opens to allow the gas temperature

and pressure to drop back to their initial values before starting the cycle over again.

## Figure CP21.73




**a.** Analyze the Otto cycle and show that the work done per cycle is

$$W_{\text{out}} = \frac{nR}{1-\gamma}(T_2 - T_1 + T_4 - T_3)$$

**b.** Use the adiabatic connection between $T_1$ and $T_2$ and also between $T_3$ and $T_4$ to show that the thermal efficiency of the Otto cycle is

$$\eta = 1 - \frac{1}{r^{(\gamma-1)}}$$

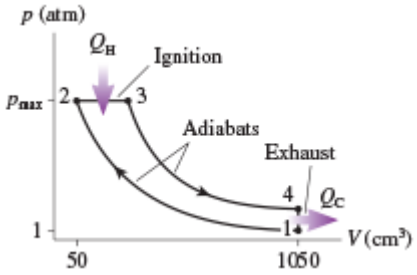
where $r = V_{\text{max}}/V_{\text{min}}$ is the engine's *compression ratio.*

**c.** Graph $\eta$ versus $r$ out to $r = 30$ for a diatomic gas.

**74.** ••• Figure CP21.74 shows the Diesel cycle. It is similar to the Otto cycle (see Problem 21.73), but there are two important differences. First, the fuel is not admitted until the air is fully compressed at point 2. Because of the high temperature at the end of an adiabatic compression, the fuel begins to burn

spontaneously. (There are no spark plugs in a diesel engine!) Second, combustion takes place more slowly, with fuel continuing to be injected. This makes the ignition stage a constant-pressure process. The cycle shown, for one cylinder of a diesel engine, has a *displacement* $V_{\text{max}} - V_{\text{min}}$ of 1000 cm$^3$ and a compression ratio $r = V_{\text{max}}/V_{\text{min}} = 21$. These are typical values for a diesel truck. The engine operates with intake air $(\gamma = 1.40)$ at 25°C and 1.0 atm pressure. The quantity of fuel injected into the cylinder has a heat of combustion of 1000 J.

**Figure CP21.74**




**a.** Find $p$, $V$, and $T$ at each of the four corners of the cycle. Display your results in a table.

**b.** What is the net work done by the cylinder during one full cycle?

**c.** What is the thermal efficiency of this engine?

**d.** What is the power output in kW and horsepower $(1 \text{ hp} = 746 \text{ W})$ of an eight-cylinder diesel engine running at 2400 rpm?

# Knowledge Structure Part V: Thermodynamics



## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part V?

Thermodynamics is an expanded view of systems and energy.

- A system exchanges energy with its environment via both **work** and **heat.** These are energy transfers.
- In a **heat engine,** heat energy is transformed into useful work when a system follows a cyclical process.
- Some processes are **irreversible.** A reversible **Carnot engine** is a heat engine with the maximum possible efficiency.
- Many macroscopic thermal properties of materials can be understood in terms of the motions of atoms and molecules.

## Laws: What laws of physics govern thermodynamics?

**First law of thermodynamics**

Energy is conserved: $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W + Q$.

**Second law of thermodynamics**

Heat is not spontaneously transferred from a colder object to a hotter object.

**Ideal-gas law**

$pV = nRT$ or $pV = Nk_{\mathrm{B}}T$

**Equipartition theorem**

The energy stored in each degree of freedom is $\frac{1}{2}Nk_{\mathrm{B}}T$ or $\frac{1}{2}nRT$.

# Models: What are the most important models of Part V?

## Thermodynamic energy model

- **Work** and **heat** are energies transferred between the system and the environment.
  - Work is a mechanical interaction.
  - Heat is a thermal interaction.
- Transferring energy changes the system's thermal energy as given by the first law: $\Delta E_{\mathrm{th}} = W + Q$.

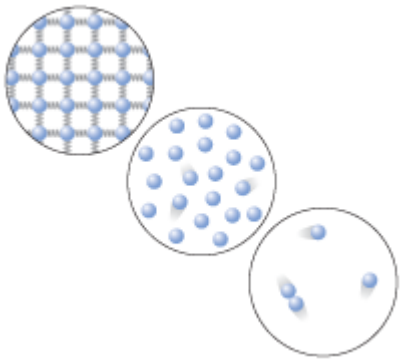
## Ideal-gas model

- For low densities and temperatures not too close to the condensation point, all gases, regardless of composition, obey the ideal-gas law with the same value of the gas constant *R*.

## Phases of matter

- Solid: Rigid, definite shape, nearly incompressible.

- Liquid: Fluid, takes shape of container, nearly incompressible.
- Gas: Non-interacting particles, highly compressible.



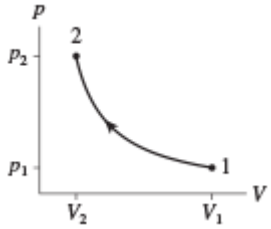
### Carnot engine

- A perfectly reversible heat engine has the maximum possible efficiency of any heat engine operating between $T_{\mathrm{H}}$ and $T_{\mathrm{C}}$.
- The efficiency depends only on the reservoir temperatures, not on any details of the engine: $\eta_{\mathrm{Carnot}} = 1 - T_{\mathrm{C}}/T_{\mathrm{H}}$.

## Tools: What are the most important tools introduced in Part V?

### $pV$ diagrams show

- States
- Processes




### Four fundamental gas processes

- Isochoric: $\Delta V = 0$ and $W = 0$
- Isobaric: $\Delta p = 0$
- Isothermal: $\Delta T = 0$ and $\Delta E_{th} = 0$
- Adiabatic: $Q = 0$

## Work in gas processes

- The work done *on* a gas is

$$\begin{aligned} W &= -\int_{V_\mathrm{i}}^{V_\mathrm{f}} p\,dV \\ &= -\text{area under the } pV \text{ curve} \end{aligned}$$

- For a closed cycle, the work done *by* a gas is $W_\mathrm{s} = \text{area enclosed}$.

## Heat and thermal energy

- Heat is energy transferred in a thermal process when there is a temperature difference.
- Thermal energy is the microscopic energy of moving atoms.
- Heat, thermal energy, and temperature are related but not the same.

## Heat is transferred by

- Conduction
- Convection
- Radiation
- Evaporation

## Heating and cooling

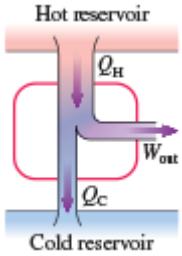
- The heat energy needed for a temperature change is $Q = mc\,\Delta T$ or $Q = nC\,\Delta T$.

- For thermally isolated systems

$$Q_{\text{net}} = Q_1 + Q_2 + \cdots + = 0$$

## Heat engines and refrigerators

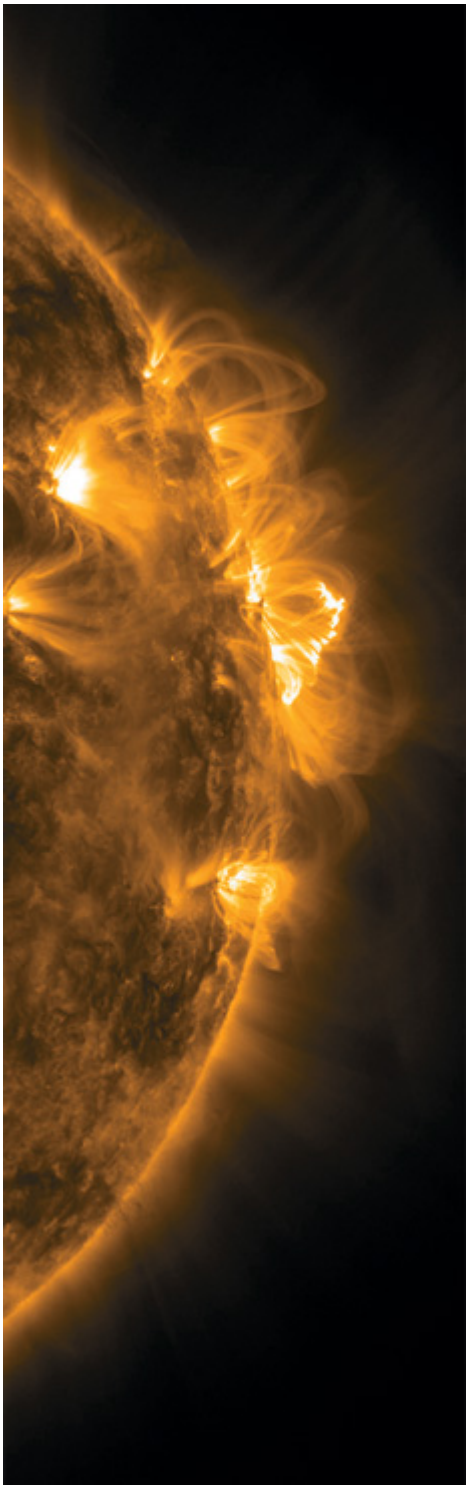
Heat engines and refrigerators require both a **hot reservoir** and a **cold reservoir.**




- A heat engine transforms heat energy from a hot reservoir into work while exhausting energy to the cold reservoir.
- A refrigerator uses external work to “pump” heat energy from a cold reservoir to the hot reservoir.
- A Carnot engine is the best possible engine or refrigerator.

# Part VI: Electricity and Magnetism





These bright loops above the surface of the sun—called *coronal loops*—are an extremely hot gas ($>10^6$ K) of charged particles moving along field lines of the sun's magnetic field.

# Overview

## Forces and Fields

Amber, or fossilized tree resin, has long been prized for its beauty. It has been known since antiquity that a piece of amber rubbed with fur can attract feathers or straw—seemingly magical powers to a pre-scientific society. It was also known to the ancient Greeks that certain stones from the region they called *Magnesia* could pick up pieces of iron. It is from these humble beginnings that we today have high-speed computers, lasers, and magnetic resonance imaging as well as such mundane modern-day miracles as the lightbulb.

The basic phenomena of electricity and magnetism are not as familiar as those of mechanics. You have spent your entire life exerting forces on objects and watching them move, but your experience with electricity and magnetism is probably much more limited. We will deal with this lack of experience by placing a large emphasis on the *phenomena* of electricity and magnetism.

We will begin by looking in detail at *electric charge* and the process of *charging* an object. It is easy to make systematic observations of how charges behave, and we will consider the forces between charges and how charges behave in different materials. Similarly, we will begin our study of magnetism by observing how magnets stick to some metals but not others and how magnets affect compass needles. But our most important observation will be that an electric current affects a compass needle in exactly the same way as a magnet. This observation, suggesting a close connection between electricity and magnetism, will eventually lead us to the discovery of electromagnetic waves.

Our goal in Part VI is to develop a theory to explain the phenomena of electricity and magnetism. The linchpin of our theory will be the entirely new concept of a *field*. Electricity and magnetism are about the long-range interactions of charges, both static charges and moving charges, and the field concept will help us understand how these interactions take place. We will want to know how fields are created by charges and how charges, in return, respond to the fields. Bit by bit, we will assemble a theory—based on the new concepts of electric and magnetic fields—that will allow us to understand, explain, and predict a wide range of electromagnetic behavior.

The story of electricity and magnetism is vast. The 19th-century formulation of the theory of electromagnetism, which led to sweeping revolutions in science and technology, has been called by no less than Einstein "the most important event in physics since Newton's time." Not surprisingly, all we can do in this text is develop some of the basic ideas and concepts, leaving many details and applications to later courses. Even so, our study of electricity and magnetism will explore some of the most exciting and important topics in physics.

# Chapter 22
# Electric Charges and Forces

Electricity is one of the fundamental forces of nature. Lightning is a vivid manifestation of electric charges and forces.

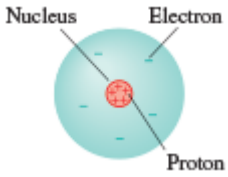
**In This Chapter**

you will learn that electric phenomena are based on charges, forces, and fields.

## What is electric charge?

Electric phenomena depend on charge.

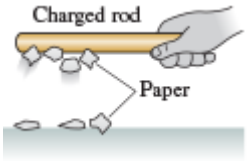
- There are two kinds of charge, called positive and negative.
- Electrons and protons—the constituents of atoms—are the basic charges of ordinary matter.
- Charging is the transfer of electrons from one object to another.




## How do charges behave?

Charges have well-established behaviors:

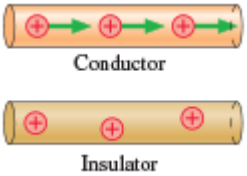
- Two charges of the same kind repel; two opposite charges attract.
- Small neutral objects are attracted to a charge of either sign.
- Charge can be transferred from one object to another.
- Charge is conserved.




## What are conductors and insulators?

There are two classes of materials with very different electrical properties:

- Conductors are materials through or along which charge moves easily.
- Insulators are materials on or in which charge is immobile.

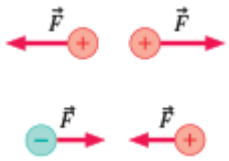



## What is Coulomb's law?

Coulomb's law is the fundamental law for the electric force between two charged particles. Coulomb's law, like Newton's law of gravity, is an inverse-square law: The electric force is inversely proportional to the *square* of the distance between charges.

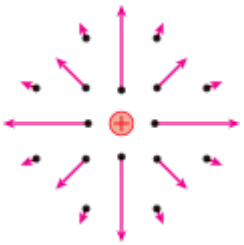
Looking Back Sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 Vector addition

Looking Back Sections 13.2, 13.3, 13.4 Gravity



## What is an electric field?

How is a long-range force transmitted from one charge to another? We'll develop the idea that charges create an electric field, and the electric field of one charge is the agent that exerts a force on another charge. That is, charges interact via electric fields. The electric field is present at all points in space.



## Why are electric charges important?

Computers, cell phones, and optical fiber communications may seem to have little in common with the fact that you can get a shock when you touch a doorknob after walking across a carpet. But the physics of electric charges—how objects get charged and how charges interact with each other—is the

foundation for all modern electronic devices and communications technology. Electricity and magnetism is a very large and very important topic, and it starts with simple observations of electric charges and forces.

# 22.1 The Charge Model 

You can receive a mildly unpleasant shock and produce a little spark if you touch a metal doorknob after walking across a carpet. Vigorously brushing your freshly washed hair makes all the hairs fly apart. A plastic comb that you've run through your hair will pick up bits of paper and other small objects, but a metal comb won't.

The common factor in these observations is that two objects are *rubbed* together. Why should rubbing an object cause forces and sparks? What kind of forces are these? Why do metallic objects behave differently from nonmetallic? These are the questions with which we begin our study of electricity.

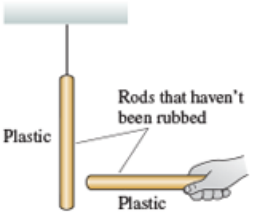
Our first goal is to develop a model for understanding electric phenomena in terms of *charges* and *forces*. We will later use our contemporary knowledge of atoms to understand electricity on a microscopic level, but the basic concepts of electricity make *no* reference to atoms or electrons. The theory of electricity was well established long before the electron was discovered.

## Experimenting with Charges

Let us enter a laboratory where we can make observations of electric phenomena. The major tools in the lab are plastic, glass, and metal rods; pieces of wool and silk; and small metal spheres on wood stands. Let's see what we can learn with these tools.

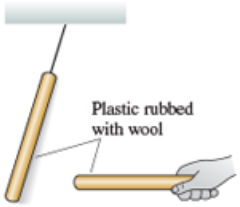
**Discovering electricity I**

**Experiment 1**



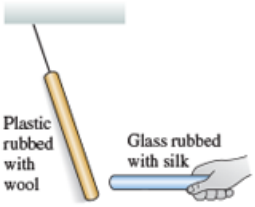

Take a plastic rod that has been undisturbed for a long period of time and hang it by a thread. Pick up another undisturbed plastic rod and bring it close to the hanging rod. Nothing happens to either rod.

**Experiment 2**



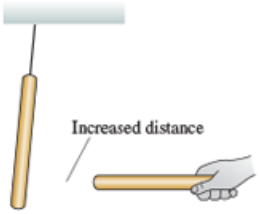

Rub both plastic rods with wool. Now the hanging rod tries to move away from the handheld rod when you bring the two close together. Two glass rods rubbed with silk also repel each other.

**Experiment 3**




Bring a glass rod that has been rubbed with silk close to a hanging plastic rod that has been rubbed with wool. These two rods *attract* each other.

**Experiment 4**




Further observations show that:

- These forces are greater for rods that have been rubbed more vigorously.
- The strength of the forces decreases as the separation between the rods increases.

No forces were observed in Experiment 1. We will say that the original objects are **neutral.** Rubbing the rods (Experiments 2 and 3) somehow causes forces to be exerted between them. We will call the rubbing process **charging** and say that a rubbed rod is *charged.* For now, these are simply descriptive terms. The terms don't tell us anything about the process itself.

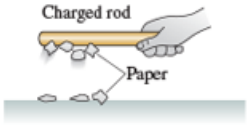
Experiments 2 and 3 show that there is a *long-range repulsive force*, requiring no contact, between two identical objects that have been charged in the *same* way. Furthermore, Experiment 4 shows that the force between two charged objects depends on the distance between them. This is the first long-range force we've encountered since gravity was introduced in Chapter 5. It is also the first time we've observed a repulsive force, so right away we see that new ideas will be needed to understand electricity.



Experiment 3 is a puzzle. Two rods *seem* to have been charged in the same way, by rubbing, but these two rods *attract* each other rather than repel. Why does the outcome of Experiment 3 differ from that of Experiments 2? Back to the lab.

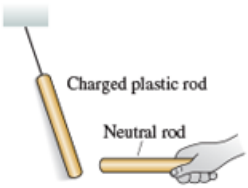
**Discovering electricity II**

**Experiment 5**



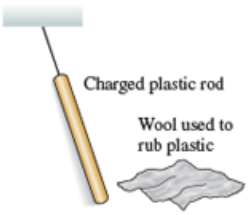

Hold a charged (i.e., rubbed) plastic rod over small pieces of paper. The pieces of paper leap up and stick to the rod. A charged glass rod does the same. However, a neutral rod has no effect on the pieces of paper.

**Experiment 6**



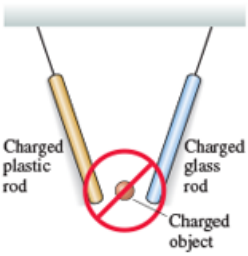

Hang charged plastic and glass rods. Both are attracted to a *neutral* (i.e., unrubbed) plastic rod. Both are also attracted to a *neutral* glass rod. In fact, the charged rods are attracted to *any* neutral object, such as a finger or a piece of paper.

**Experiment 7**




Rub a hanging plastic rod with wool and then hold the *wool* close to the rod. The rod is weakly *attracted* to the wool. The plastic rod is *repelled* by a piece of silk that has been used to rub glass.

**Experiment 8**




Further experiments show that there appear to be *no* objects that, after being rubbed, pick up pieces of paper and attract *both* the charged plastic and glass rods.

Our first set of experiments found that charged objects exert forces on each other. The forces are sometimes attractive, sometimes repulsive. Experiments 5 and 6 show that there is an attractive force between a charged object and a *neutral* (uncharged) object. This discovery presents us with a problem: How can we tell if an object is charged or neutral? Because of the attractive force between a charged and a neutral object, simply observing an electric force does *not* imply that an object is charged.

A comb rubbed through your hair picks up small pieces of paper.

However, an important characteristic of any *charged* object appears to be that **a charged object picks up small pieces of paper**. This behavior provides a straightforward test to answer the question, Is this object charged? An object that passes the test by picking up paper is charged; an object that fails the test is neutral.

These observations let us tentatively advance the first stages of a **charge model.**

MODEL 22.1 **Charge model, part I**

1. Frictional forces, such as rubbing, add something called **charge** to an object or remove it from the object. The process itself is called *charging*. More vigorous rubbing produces a larger quantity of charge.
2. There are two and only two kinds of charge. For now we will call these "plastic charge" and "glass charge." Other objects can sometimes be charged by rubbing, but the charge they receive is either "plastic charge" or "glass charge."
3. Two **like charges** (plastic/plastic or glass/glass) exert repulsive forces on each other. Two **opposite charges** (plastic/glass) attract each other.
4. The force between two charges is a long-range force. The size of the force increases as the quantity of charge increases and decreases as the distance between the charges increases.
5. *Neutral* objects have an *equal mixture* of both "plastic charge" and "glass charge." The rubbing process somehow manages to separate the two.



Postulate 2 is based on Experiment 8. If an object is charged (i.e., picks up paper), it always attracts one charged rod and repels the other. That is, it acts either "like plastic" or "like glass." If there were a third kind of

charge, different from the first two, an object with that charge should pick up paper and attract *both* the charged plastic and glass rods. No such objects have ever been found.

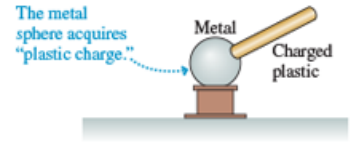
The basis for postulate 5 is the observation in Experiment 7 that a charged plastic rod is attracted to the wool used to rub it but repelled by silk that has rubbed glass. It appears that rubbing glass causes the silk to acquire "plastic charge." The easiest way to explain this is to hypothesize that the silk starts out with equal amounts of "glass charge" and "plastic charge" and that the rubbing somehow transfers "glass charge" from the silk to the rod. This leaves an excess of "glass charge" on the rod and an excess of "plastic charge" on the silk.

While the charge model is *consistent* with the observations, it is by no means proved. We still have some large unexplained puzzles, such as why charged objects exert attractive forces on neutral objects.

## Electric Properties of Materials

We still need to clarify how different types of materials respond to charges.

**Discovering electricity III**

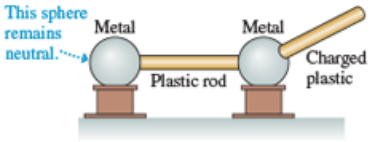



**Experiment 9**

Charge a plastic rod by rubbing it with wool. Touch a neutral metal sphere with the rubbed area of the rod. The metal sphere then picks up small pieces of paper and repels a charged, hanging plastic rod. The metal sphere appears to have acquired "plastic charge."

**Experiment 10**

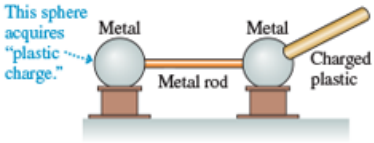
Charge a plastic rod, then run your finger along it. After you've done so, the rod no longer picks up small pieces of paper or repels a charged, hanging plastic rod. Similarly, the metal sphere of Experiment 9 no longer repels the plastic rod after you touch it with your finger.




**Experiment 11**

Place two metal spheres close together with a plastic rod connecting them. Charge a second plastic rod, by rubbing, and touch it to one of the metal spheres. Afterward, the metal sphere that was touched picks up small pieces of paper and repels a charged, hanging plastic rod. The other metal sphere does neither.






**Experiment 12**

Repeat Experiment 11 with a metal rod connecting the two metal spheres. Touch one metal sphere with a charged plastic rod. Afterward, *both* metal spheres pick up small pieces of paper and repel a charged, hanging plastic rod.

Our final set of experiments has shown that

- Charge can be *transferred* from one object to another, but only when the objects *touch*. Contact is required. Removing charge from an object, which you can do by touching it, is called **discharging.**
- There are two types or classes of materials with very different electric properties. We call these *conductors* and *insulators*.

Experiment 12, in which a metal rod is used, is in sharp contrast to Experiment 11. Charge somehow *moves through* or along a metal rod, from one sphere to the other, but remains *fixed in place* on a plastic or glass rod. Let us define **conductors** as those materials through or along which charge easily moves and **insulators** as those materials on or in which charges remain immobile. Glass and plastic are insulators; metal is a conductor.

This information lets us add two more postulates to our charge model:

MODEL 22.1 **Charge model, part II**

6. There are two types of materials. Conductors are materials through or along which charge easily moves. Insulators are materials on or in which charges remain fixed in place.
7. Charge can be transferred from one object to another by contact.

**Note**

Both insulators and conductors can be charged. They differ in the *mobility* of the charge.

We have by no means exhausted the number of experiments and observations we might try. Early scientific investigators were faced with all of these results, plus many others. How should we make sense of it all? The charge model seems promising, but certainly not proven. We have not yet explained how charged objects exert attractive forces on *neutral* objects, nor have we explained what charge is, how it is transferred, or *why* it moves through some objects but not others. Nonetheless, we will take advantage of our historical hindsight and continue to pursue this model. Homework problems will let you practice using the model to explain other observations.

**Example 22.1 Transferring charge**

In Experiment 12, touching one metal sphere with a charged plastic rod caused a second metal sphere to become charged with

the same type of charge as the rod. Use the postulates of the charge model to explain this.

**SOLVE** We need the following postulates from the charge model:

**7.** Charge is transferred upon contact.

**6.** Metal is a conductor, and charge moves through a conductor

**3.** Like charges repel.

The plastic rod was charged by rubbing with wool. The charge doesn't move around on the rod, because it is an insulator, but some of the "plastic charge" is transferred to the metal upon contact. Once in the metal, which is a conductor, the charges are free to move around. Furthermore, because like charges repel, these plastic charges quickly move as far apart as they possibly can. Some move through the connecting metal rod to the second sphere. Consequently, the second sphere acquires "plastic charge."

## Stop To Think 22.1

To determine if an object has "glass charge," you need to

**a.** See if the object attracts a charged plastic rod.

**b.** See if the object repels a charged glass rod.

**c.** Do both a and b.

**d.** Do either a or b.

# 22.2 Charge



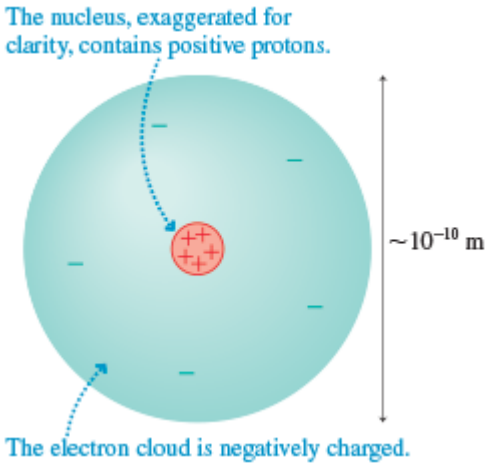
As you probably know, the modern names for the two types of charge are *positive charge* and *negative charge*. You may be surprised to learn that the names were coined by Benjamin Franklin.

So what is positive and what is negative? It's entirely up to us! Franklin established the convention that **a glass rod that has been rubbed with silk is** *positively* **charged.** That's it. Any other object that repels a charged glass rod is also positively charged. Any charged object that attracts a charged glass rod is negatively charged. Thus **a plastic rod rubbed with wool is negative.** It was only long afterward, with the discovery of electrons and protons, that electrons were found to be attracted to a charged glass rod while protons were repelled. Thus *by convention* electrons have a negative charge and protons a positive charge.

## Atoms and Electricity

Now let's fast forward to the 21st century. The theory of electricity was developed without knowledge of atoms, but there is no reason for us to continue to overlook this important part of our contemporary perspective. Figure 22.1 shows that an atom consists of a very small and dense *nucleus* (diameter $\sim 10^{-14}\,\text{m}$) surrounded by much less massive orbiting *electrons*. The electron orbital frequencies are so enormous ($\sim 10^{15}$ revolutions per second) that the electrons seem to form an **electron cloud** of diameter $\sim 10^{-10}\,\text{m}$, a factor $10^4$ larger than the nucleus.

**Figure 22.1**




An atom.

Experiments at the end of the 19th century revealed that electrons are particles with both mass and a negative charge. The nucleus is a composite structure consisting of *protons*, positively charged particles, and neutral *neutrons*. The atom is held together by the attractive electric force between the positive nucleus and the negative electrons.

One of the most important discoveries is that **charge, like mass, is an inherent property of electrons and protons**. It's no more possible to have an electron without charge than it is to have an electron without mass. As far as we know today, electrons and protons have charges of opposite sign but *exactly* equal magnitude. (Very careful experiments have never found any difference.) This atomic-level unit of charge, called the **fundamental unit of charge**, is represented by the symbol $e$. Table 22.1 shows the masses and charges of protons and electrons. We need to define a unit of charge, which we will do in Section 22.4, before we can specify how much charge $e$ is.

## Table 22.1

| Particle | Mass (kg) | Charge |
|---|---|---|
| Proton | $1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ | $+e$ |
| Electron | $9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ | $-e$ |

# The Micro/Macro Connection

**Electrons and protons are the basic charges of ordinary matter.** Consequently, the various observations we made in Section 22.1 need to be explained in terms of electrons and protons.

> **Note**
>
> Electrons and protons are particles of matter. Their motion is governed by Newton's laws. Electrons can move from one object to another when the objects are in contact, but neither electrons nor protons can leap through the air from one object to another. An object does not become charged simply from being close to a charged object.

Charge is represented by the symbol $q$ (or sometimes $Q$). A macroscopic object, such as a plastic rod, has charge

**(22.1)**

$$q = N_{\mathrm{p}} e - N_{\mathrm{e}} e = \left(N_{\mathrm{p}} - N_{\mathrm{e}}\right) e$$

where $N_{\mathrm{p}}$ and $N_{\mathrm{e}}$ are the number of protons and electrons contained in the object. An object with an equal number of protons and electrons has no *net* charge (i.e., $q = 0$ and is said to be *electrically neutral.*

> **Note**
>
> *Neutral* does *not* mean "no charges" but, instead, no *net* charge.

A charged object has an unequal number of protons and electrons. An object is positively charged if $N_{\mathrm{p}} > N_{\mathrm{e}}$. It is negatively charged if

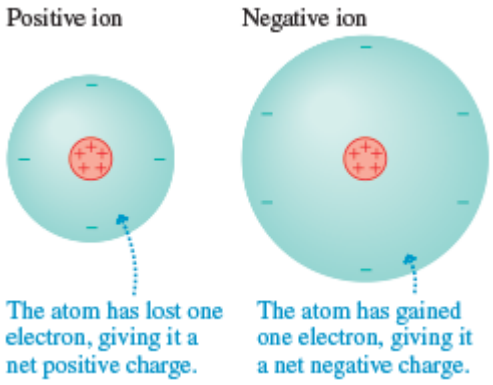
$N_p < N_e$. Notice that an object's charge is always an integer multiple of $e$. That is, the amount of charge on an object varies by small but discrete steps, not continuously. This is called **charge quantization.**

In practice, objects acquire a positive charge not by gaining protons, as you might expect, but by losing electrons. Protons are *extremely* tightly bound within the nucleus and cannot be added to or removed from atoms. Electrons, on the other hand, are bound rather loosely and can be removed without great difficulty. The process of removing an electron from the electron cloud of an atom is called **ionization.** An atom that is missing an electron is called a *positive ion.* Its *net* charge is $q = +e$.



Some atoms can accommodate an *extra* electron and thus become a *negative ion* with net charge $q = -e$. A saltwater solution is a good example. When table salt (the chemical sodium chloride, NaCl) dissolves, it separates into positive sodium ions $Na^+$ and negative chlorine ions $Cl^-$. Figure 22.2 shows positive and negative ions.

## Figure 22.2

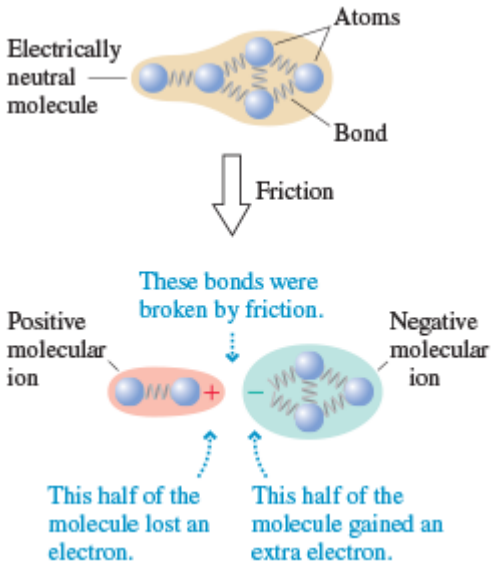



Positive and negative ions.

All the charging processes we observed in Section 22.1 involved rubbing and friction. The forces of friction cause molecular bonds at the surface to break as the two materials slide past each other. Molecules are

electrically neutral, but Figure 22.3 shows that *molecular ions* can be created when one of the bonds in a large molecule is broken. The positive molecular ions remain on one material and the negative ions on the other, so one of the objects being rubbed ends up with a net positive charge and the other with a net negative charge. This is the way in which a plastic rod is charged by rubbing with wool or a comb is charged by passing through your hair.

**Figure 22.3**




Charging by friction usually creates molecular ions as bonds are broken.

## Charge Conservation and Charge Diagrams

One of the most important discoveries about charge is the **law of conservation of charge:** Charge is neither created nor destroyed. Charge can be transferred from one object to another as electrons and ions move about, but the *total* amount of charge remains constant. For example, charging a plastic rod by rubbing it with wool transfers electrons from the wool to the plastic as the molecular bonds break. The wool is left with a

positive charge equal in magnitude but opposite in sign to the negative charge of the rod: $q_{\text{wool}} = -q_{\text{plastic}}$. The *net* charge remains zero.

Diagrams are going to be an important tool for understanding and explaining charges and the forces on charged objects. As you begin to use diagrams, it will be important to make explicit use of charge conservation. The net number of plusses and minuses drawn on your diagrams should *not* change as you show them moving around.

## Stop To Think 22.2

Rank in order, from most positive to most negative, the charges $q_a$ to $q_e$ of these five systems.

**a.** Proton

**b.** Electron

**c.** 17 protons
19 electrons

**d.** 1,000,000 protons
1,000,000 electrons

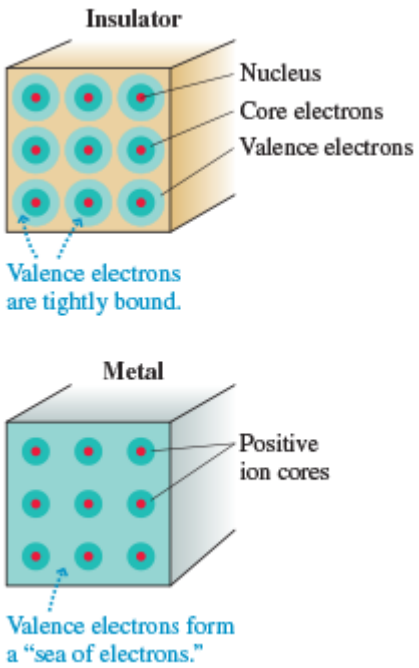
**e.** Glass ball missing
3 electrons

# 22.3 Insulators and Conductors



You have seen that there are two classes of materials as defined by their electrical properties: insulators and conductors. Figure 22.4 looks inside an insulator and a metallic conductor. The electrons in the insulator are all tightly bound to the positive nuclei and not free to move around. Charging an insulator by friction leaves patches of molecular ions on the surface, but these patches are immobile.

**Figure 22.4**




A microscopic look at insulators and conductors.

In metals, the outer atomic electrons (called the *valence electrons* in chemistry) are only weakly bound to the nuclei. As the atoms come together to form a solid, these outer electrons become detached from their parent nuclei and are free to wander about through the entire solid. The solid *as a whole* remains electrically neutral, because we have not

added or removed any electrons, but the electrons are now rather like a negatively charged gas or liquid—what physicists like to call a **sea of electrons**—permeating an array of positively charged **ion cores.**

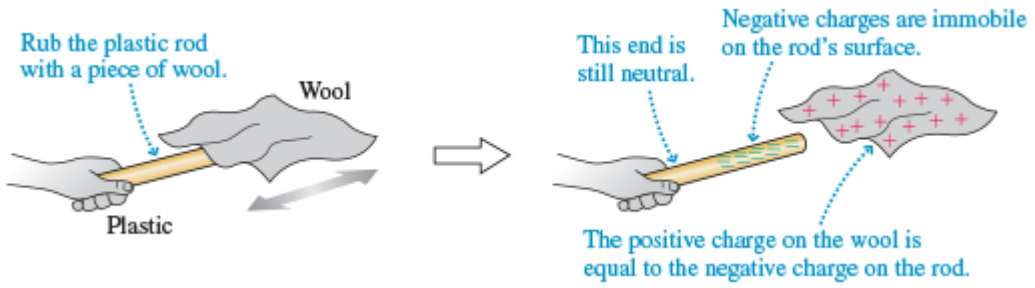
The primary consequence of this structure is that electrons in a metal are highly mobile. They can quickly and easily move through the metal in response to electric forces. The motion of charges through a material is what we will later call a **current,** and the charges that physically move are called the **charge carriers.** The charge carriers in metals are electrons.

Metals aren't the only conductors. Ionic solutions, such as salt water, are also good conductors. But the charge carriers in an ionic solution are the ions, not electrons. We'll focus on metallic conductors because of their importance in applications of electricity.

## Charging

Insulators are often charged by rubbing. The charge diagrams of Figure 22.5 show that the charges on the rod are on the surface and that charge is conserved. The charge can be transferred to another object upon contact, but it doesn't move around on the rod.

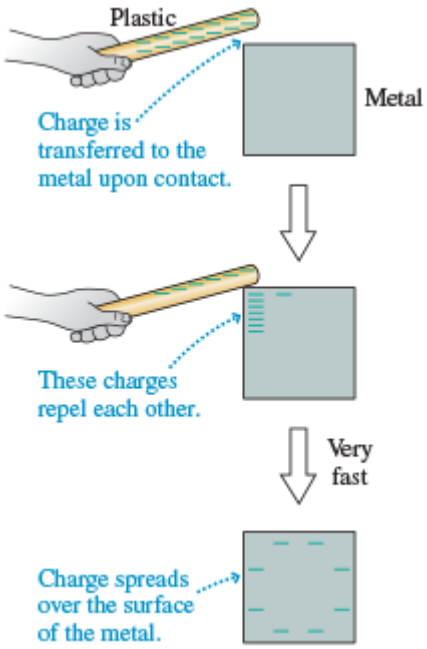
**Figure 22.5**




An insulating rod is charged by rubbing.

Metals usually cannot be charged by rubbing, but Experiment 9 showed that a metal sphere can be charged by contact with a charged plastic rod. Figure 22.6 gives a pictorial explanation. An essential idea is that **the electrons in a conductor are free to move.** Once charge is transferred to the metal, repulsive forces between the negative charges cause the electrons to move apart from each other.

## Figure 22.6




A conductor is charged by contact with a charged plastic rod.

Note that the newly added electrons do not themselves need to move to the far corners of the metal. Because of the repulsive forces, the newcomers simply "shove" the entire electron sea a little to the side. The electron sea takes an extremely short time to adjust itself to the presence of the added charge, typically less than $10^{-9}$ s. For all practical purposes, a conductor responds *instantaneously* to the addition or removal of charge.

Other than this very brief interval during which the electron sea is adjusting, the charges in an *isolated* conductor are in static equilibrium.

That is, the charges are at rest (i.e., static) and there is no net force on any charge. This condition is called **electrostatic equilibrium.** If there *were* a net force on one of the charges, it would quickly move to an equilibrium point at which the force was zero.

Electrostatic equilibrium has an important consequence:

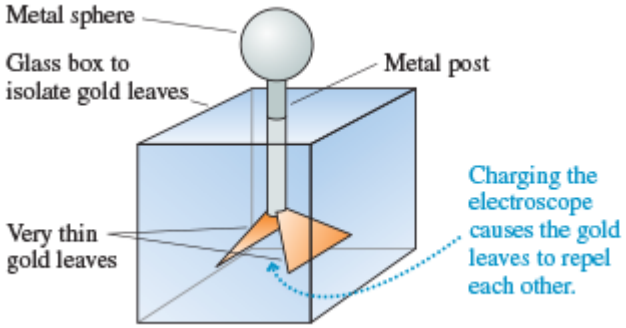
> In an isolated conductor, any excess charge is located on the surface of the conductor.

To see this, suppose there *were* an excess electron in the interior of an isolated conductor. The extra electron would upset the electrical neutrality of the interior and exert forces on nearby electrons, causing them to move. But their motion would violate the assumption of static equilibrium, so we're forced to conclude that there cannot be any excess electrons in the interior. Any excess electrons push each other apart until they're all on the surface.

**Example 22.2 Charging an electroscope**

Many electricity demonstrations are carried out with the help of an *electroscope* like the one shown in Figure 22.7. Touching the sphere at the top of an electroscope with a charged plastic rod causes the leaves to fly apart and remain hanging at an angle. Use charge diagrams to explain why.

**Figure 22.7**

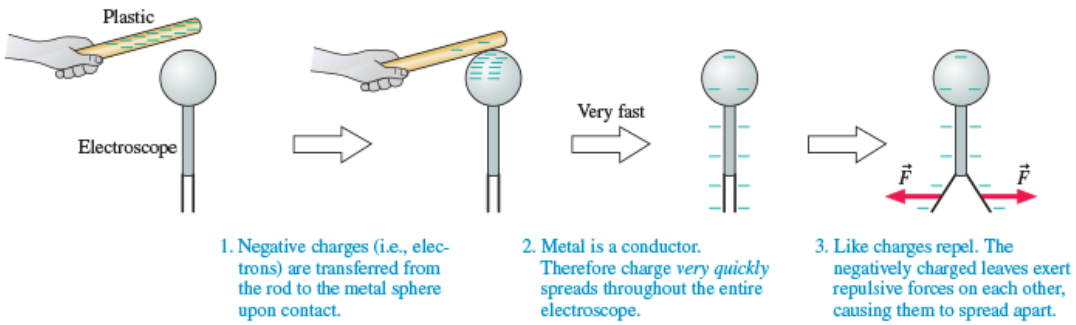



A charged electroscope.

**MODEL** We'll use the charge model and the model of a conductor as a material through which electrons move.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 22.8 on the next page uses a series of charge diagrams to show the charging of an electroscope.

**Figure 22.8** 610



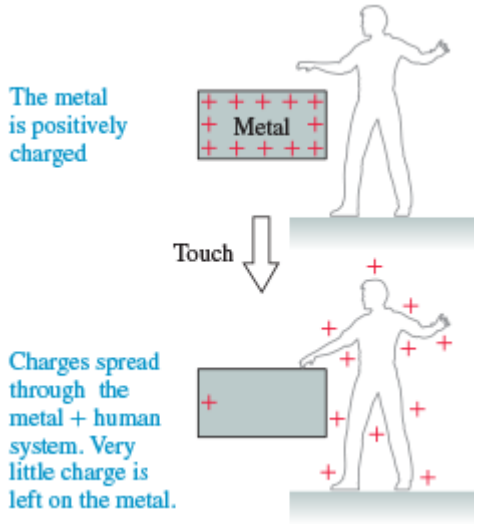

The process by which an electroscope is charged.

# Discharging

The human body consists largely of salt water. Pure water is not a terribly good conductor, but salt water, with its $Na^+$ and $Cl^-$ ions, is. Consequently, and occasionally tragically, humans are reasonably good conductors. This fact allows us to understand how it is that *touching* a

charged object discharges it, as we observed in Experiment 10. As Figure 22.9 shows, the net effect of touching a charged metal is that it and the conducting human together become a much larger conductor than the metal alone. Any excess charge that was initially confined to the metal can now spread over the larger metal + human conductor. This may not entirely discharge the metal, but in typical circumstances, where the human is much larger than the metal, the residual charge remaining on the metal is much reduced from the original charge. The metal, for most practical purposes, is discharged. In essence, two conductors in contact "share" the charge that was originally on just one of them.

## Figure 22.9




Touching a charged metal discharges it.

Moist air is a conductor, although a rather poor one. Charged objects in air slowly lose their charge as the object shares its charge with the air. The earth itself is a giant conductor because of its water, moist soil, and a variety of ions. Any object that is physically connected to the earth through a conductor is said to be **grounded.** The effect of being grounded is that the object shares any excess charge it has with the entire earth! But

the earth is so enormous that any conductor attached to the earth will be completely discharged.

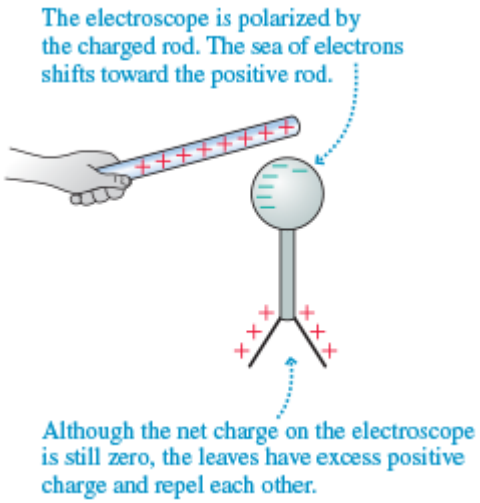
The purpose of *grounding* objects, such as circuits and appliances, is to prevent the buildup of any charge on the objects. The third prong on appliances and electronics that have a three-prong plug is the ground connection. The building wiring physically connects that third wire deep into the ground somewhere just outside the building, often by attaching it to a metal water pipe that goes underground.



## Charge Polarization

One observation from Section 22.1 still needs an explanation. How do charged objects exert an attractive force on a *neutral* object? To begin answering this question, Figure 22.10 shows a positively charged rod held close to—but not touching—a *neutral* electroscope. The leaves move apart and stay apart as long as you hold the rod near, but they quickly collapse when it is removed.

**Figure 22.10**




A charged rod held close to an electroscope causes the leaves to repel each other.

The charged rod doesn't touch the electroscope, so no charge is added or removed. Instead, the metal's sea of electrons is attracted to the positive rod and shifts slightly to create an excess of negative charge on the side near the rod. The far side of the electroscope now has a deficit of electrons—an excess positive charge. We say that the electroscope has been *polarized*. **Charge polarization** is a slight separation of the positive and negative charges in a neutral object. Because there's no net charge, the electron sea quickly readjusts when the rod is removed.

Why don't *all* the electrons rush to the side near the positive charge? Once the electron sea shifts slightly, the stationary positive ions begin to exert a force, a restoring force, pulling the electrons back to the right. The equilibrium position for the sea of electrons shifts just enough that the forces due to the external charge and the positive ions are in balance. In practice, the displacement of the electron sea is usually *less than* $10^{-15}$ *m*!

Charge polarization is the key to understanding how a charged object exerts an attractive force on a neutral object. Figure 22.11 shows a positively charged rod near a neutral piece of metal. Because the electric force decreases with distance, **the attractive force on the electrons at the top surface is slightly greater than the repulsive force on the ions at the bottom**. The net force toward the charged rod is called a **polarization force.** The polarization force arises because the charges in the metal are separated, *not* because the rod and metal are oppositely charged.

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**Figure 22.11**

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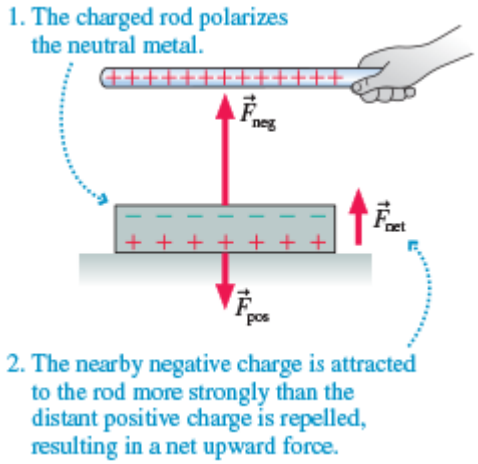



The polarization force on a neutral piece of metal is due to the slight charge separation.

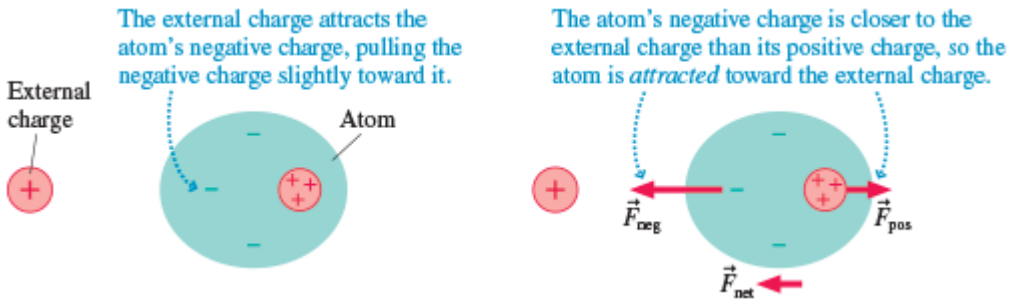
A negatively charged rod would push the electron sea slightly away, polarizing the metal to have a positive upper surface charge and a negative lower surface charge. Once again, these are the conditions for the charge to exert a *net attractive force* on the metal. Thus our charge model explains how a charged object of *either* sign attracts neutral pieces of metal.



## The Electric Dipole

Polarizing a conductor is one thing, but why does a charged rod pick up paper, which is an insulator? Consider what happens when we bring a positive charge near an atom. As Figure 22.12 shows, the charge polarizes the atom. The electron cloud doesn't move far, because the force from the positive nucleus pulls it back, but the center of positive charge and the center of negative charge are now slightly separated.

**Figure 22.12**



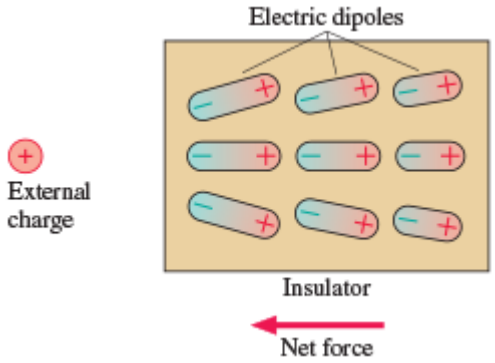

A neutral atom is polarized by and attracted toward an external charge.

Two opposite charges with a slight separation between them form what is called an **electric dipole**. (The actual distortion from a perfect sphere is minuscule, nothing like the distortion shown in the figure.) The attractive force on the dipole's near end *slightly* exceeds the repulsive force on its far end because the near end is closer to the external charge. The net force, an *attractive* force between the charge and the atom, is another example of a polarization force.

An insulator has no sea of electrons to shift if an external charge is brought close. Instead, as Figure 22.13 shows, all the individual atoms inside the insulator become polarized. The polarization force acting *on each atom* produces a net polarization force toward the external charge. This solves the puzzle. A charged rod picks up pieces of paper by

- Polarizing the atoms in the paper,
- Then exerting an attractive polarization force on each atom.

## Figure 22.13




The atoms in an insulator are polarized by an external charge.

This is important. Make sure you understand all the steps in the reasoning.

### Stop To Think 22.3

An electroscope is positively charged by *touching* it with a positive glass rod. The electroscope leaves spread apart and the glass rod is removed. Then a negatively charged plastic rod is brought close to the top of the electroscope, but it doesn't touch. What happens to the leaves?

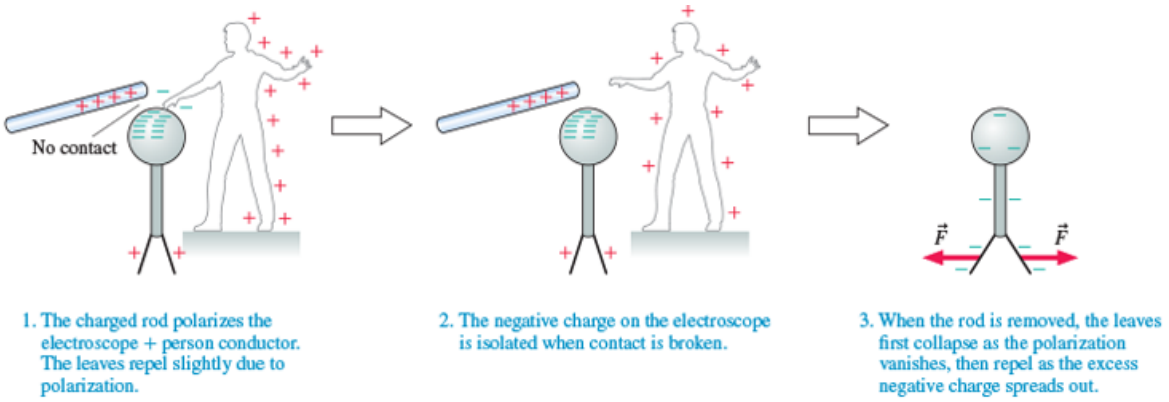
**a.** The leaves get closer together.
**b.** The leaves spread farther apart.
**c.** One leaf moves higher, the other lower.
**d.** The leaves don't move.

## Charging by Induction

Charge polarization is responsible for an interesting and counterintuitive way of charging an electroscope. Figure 22.14 shows a positively

charged glass rod held near an electroscope but not touching it, while a person touches the electroscope with a finger. Unlike what happens in Figure 22.10, the electroscope leaves hardly move.

## Figure 22.14




A positive rod can charge an electroscope negatively by induction.

Charge polarization occurs, as it did in Figure 22.10, but this time in the much larger electroscope + person conductor. If the person removes his or her finger while the system is polarized, the electroscope is left with a net *negative* charge and the person has a net positive charge. The electroscope has been charged *opposite to the rod* in a process called **charging by induction.**

# 22.4 Coulomb's Law



The first three sections have established a *model* of charges and electric forces. This model has successfully provided a qualitative explanation of electric phenomena; now it's time to become quantitative. Experiment 4 in Section 22.1 found that the electric force decreases with distance. The force law that describes this behavior is known as *Coulomb's law*.

Charles Coulomb was one of many scientists investigating electricity in the late 18th century. Coulomb had the idea of studying electric forces using the torsion balance scheme by which Cavendish had measured the value of the gravitational constant $G$ (see Section 13.4). This was a difficult experiment. Despite many obstacles, Coulomb announced in 1785 that the electric force obeys an *inverse-square law* analogous to Newton's law of gravity. Today we know it as **Coulomb's law.**

---

## Coulomb's law

1. If two charged particles having charges $q_1$ and $q_2$ are a distance $r$ apart, the particles exert forces on each other of magnitude

   **(22.2)**

   $$F_{1 \text{ on } 2} = F_{2 \text{ on } 1} = \frac{K\,|q_1|\,|q_2|}{r^2}$$

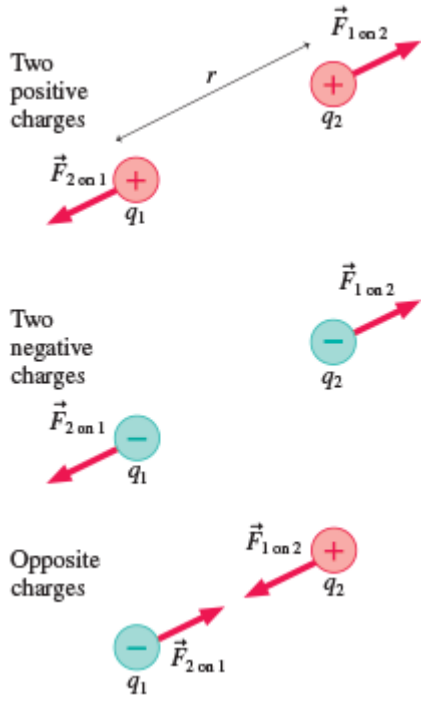
   where $K$ is called the **electrostatic constant.** These forces are an action/reaction pair, equal in magnitude and opposite in direction.

2. The forces are directed along the line joining the two particles. The forces are *repulsive* for two like charges and *attractive* for two opposite charges.

We sometimes speak of the "force between charge $q_1$ and charge $q_2$," but keep in mind that we are really dealing with charged *objects* that also have a mass, a size, and other properties. Charge is not some disembodied entity that exists apart from matter. Coulomb's law describes the force between charged *particles*, which are also called **point charges.** A charged particle, which is an extension of the particle model we used in Part I, has a mass and a charge but has no size.

Coulomb's law looks much like Newton's law of gravity, but there is one important difference: The charge $q$ can be either positive or negative. Consequently, the absolute value signs in Equation 22.2 are especially important. The first part of Coulomb's law gives only the *magnitude* of the force, which is always positive. The direction must be determined from the second part of the law. Figure 22.15 shows the forces between different combinations of positive and negative charges.

**Figure 22.15**




Attractive and repulsive forces between charged particles.

## Units of Charge

Coulomb had no *unit* of charge, so he was unable to determine a value for $K$, whose numerical value depends on the units of both charge and distance. The SI unit of charge, the **coulomb (C)**, is derived from the SI unit of *current*, so we'll have to await the study of current in Chapter 27 before giving a precise definition. For now we'll note that the fundamental unit of charge $e$ has been measured to have the value

$$e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$$



This is a very small amount of charge. Stated another way, 1 C is the net charge of roughly $6.25 \times 10^{18}$ protons.

> **Note**
>
> The amount of charge produced by friction is typically in the

> range $1\,\mathrm{nC}\,(10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C})$ to $100\,\mathrm{nC}$. This is an excess or deficit of $10^{10}$ to $10^{12}$ electrons.

Once the unit of charge is established, torsion balance experiments such as Coulomb's can be used to measure the electrostatic constant $K$. In SI units

$$K = 8.99 \times 10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2}$$

It is customary to round this to $K = 9.0 \times 10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2}$ for all but extremely precise calculations, and we will do so.

Surprisingly, we will find that Coulomb's law is not explicitly used in much of the theory of electricity. While it *is* the basic force law, most of our future discussion and calculations will be of things called *fields* and *potentials*. It turns out that we can make many future equations easier to use if we rewrite Coulomb's law in a somewhat more complicated way. Let's define a new constant, called the **permittivity constant** $\epsilon_0$ (pronounced "epsilon zero" or "epsilon naught"), as

$$\epsilon_0 = \frac{1}{4\pi K} = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2}$$

Rewriting Coulomb's law in terms of $\epsilon_0$ gives us

**(22.3)**

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{|q_1|\,|q_2|}{r^2}$$

It will be easiest when using Coulomb's law directly to use the electrostatic constant $K$. However, in later chapters we will switch to the second version with $\epsilon_0$.

# Using Coulomb's Law

Coulomb's law is a force law, and forces are vectors. It has been many chapters since we made much use of vectors and vector addition, but these mathematical techniques will be essential in our study of electricity and magnetism.

There are two important observations regarding Coulomb's law:

1. **Coulomb's law applies only to point charges.** A point charge is an idealized material object with charge and mass but with no size or extension. For practical purposes, two charged objects can be modeled as point charges if they are much smaller than the separation between them.
2. **Electric forces, like other forces, can be superimposed.** If multiple charges 1, 2, 3, … are present, the *net* electric force on charge $j$ due to all other charges is

   **(22.4)**

   $$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{F}_{1\text{ on }j} + \vec{F}_{2\text{ on }j} + \vec{F}_{3\text{ on }j} + \cdots$$

   where each of the $\vec{F}_{i\text{ on }j}$ is given by Equation 22.2 or 22.3.

These conditions are the basis of a strategy for using Coulomb's law to solve electrostatic force problems.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 22.1 Electrostatic forces and Coulomb's law**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Identify point charges or model objects as point charges.

**VISUALIZE** Use a *pictorial representation* to establish a coordinate system, show the positions of the charges, show the force vectors on the charges, define distances and angles, and identify what the problem is trying to find. This is the process of translating words to symbols.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on Coulomb's law:



$$F_{1\text{ on }2} = F_{2\text{ on }1} = \frac{K\,|q_1|\,|q_2|}{r^2}$$

- Show the directions of the forces—repulsive for like charges, attractive for opposite charges—on the pictorial representation.
- When possible, do graphical vector addition on the pictorial representation. While not exact, it tells you the type of answer you should expect.
- Write each force vector in terms of its $x$- and $y$-components, then add the components to find the net force. Use the pictorial representation to determine which components are positive and which are negative.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 26

### Example 22.3 Lifting a glass bead

A small plastic sphere charged to –10 nC is held 1.0 cm above a small glass bead at rest on a table. The bead has a mass of 15 mg

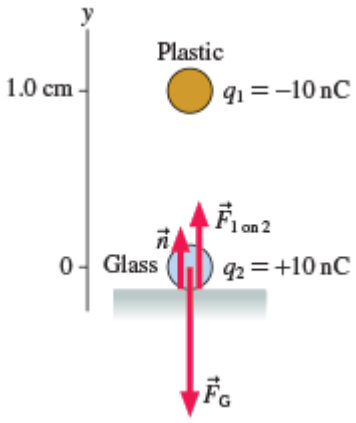
and a charge of +10 nC. Will the glass bead "leap up" to the plastic sphere?

---

**MODEL** Model the plastic sphere and glass bead as point charges.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 22.16 establishes a $y$-axis, identifies the plastic sphere as $q_1$ and the glass bead as $q_2$, and shows a free-body diagram.

**Figure 22.16**




A pictorial representation of the charges and forces.

**SOLVE** If $F_{1\text{ on }2}$ is less than the gravitational force $F_G = m_{\text{bead}}g$, then the bead will remain at rest on the table with $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }2} + \vec{F}_G + \vec{n} = \vec{0}$. But if $F_{1\text{ on }2}$ is greater than $m_{\text{bead}}g$, the glass bead will accelerate upward from the table. Using the values provided, we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_{1\text{ on }2} &= \frac{K|q_1||q_2|}{r^2} \\ &= \frac{(9.0 \times 10^9\,\text{N m}^2/\text{C}^2)(10 \times 10^{-9}\text{C})(10 \times 10^{-9}\text{C})}{(0.010\,\text{m})^2} \\ &= 9.0 \times 10^{-3}\,\text{N} \end{aligned}$$

$$F_G = m_{\text{bead}}g = 1.5 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{N}$$

$F_{1 \text{ on } 2}$ exceeds $m_{\text{bead}}g$ by a factor of 60, so the glass bead will leap upward.

**ASSESS** The values used in this example are realistic for spheres ≈ 2 mm in diameter. In general, as in this example, electric forces are *significantly* larger than gravitational forces. Consequently, we can neglect gravity when working electric-force problems unless the particles are fairly massive.

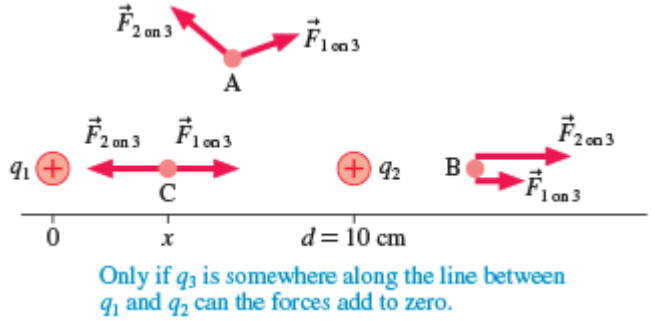
### Example 22.4 The point of zero force

Two positively charged particles $q_1$ and $q_2 = 3q_1$ are 10.0 cm apart on the $x$-axis. Where (other than at infinity) could a third charge $q_3$ be placed so as to experience no net force? [616]

**MODEL** Model the charged particles as point charges.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 22.17 establishes a coordinate system with $q_1$ at the origin and $q_2$ at $x = d$. We have no information about the sign of $q_3$, so apparently the position we're looking for will work for either sign. Suppose $q_3$ is off the $x$-axis, such as at point A. The two repulsive (or attractive) electric forces on $q_3$ cannot possibly add to zero, so $q_3$ must be somewhere on the $x$-axis. At point B, outside the two charges, the two forces on $q_3$ will always be in the same direction and, again, cannot add to zero. The only possible location is at point C, on the $x$-axis *between* the charges where the two forces are in opposite directions.

**Figure 22.17**




A pictorial representation of the charges and forces.

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**SOLVE** The mathematical problem is to find the position for which the forces $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3}$ and $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$ are equal in magnitude. If $q_3$ is distance $x$ from $q_1$, it is distance $d - x$ from $q_2$. The *magnitudes* of the forces are

$$F_{1\text{ on }3} = \frac{Kq_1\,|q_3|}{{r_{13}}^2} = \frac{Kq_1\,|q_3|}{x^2}$$
$$F_{2\text{ on }3} = \frac{Kq_2\,|q_3|}{{r_{23}}^2} = \frac{K(3q_1)\,|q_3|}{(d-x)^2}$$

Charges $q_1$ and $q_2$ are positive and do not need absolute value signs. Equating the two forces gives

$$\frac{Kq_1\,|q_3|}{x^2} = \frac{3Kq_1\,|q_3|}{(d-x)^2}$$

The term $Kq_1\,|q_3|$ cancels. Multiplying by $x^2(d-x)^2$ gives

$$(d-x)^2 = 3x^2$$

which can be rearranged into the quadratic equation

$$2x^2 + 2dx - d^2 = 2x^2 + 20x - 100 = 0$$

where we used $d = 10$ cm and $x$ is in cm. The solutions to this equation are

$$x = +3.66 \text{ cm and } -13.66 \text{ cm}$$

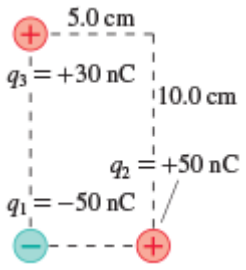
Both are points where the *magnitudes* of the two forces are equal, but $x = -13.66$ cm is a point where the magnitudes are equal while the directions are the same. The solution we want, which is between the charges, is $x = 3.66$ cm. Thus the point to place $q_3$ is 3.66 cm from $q_1$ along the line joining $q_1$ and $q_2$.

**ASSESS** $q_1$ is smaller than $q_2$, so we expect the point at which the forces balance to be closer to $q_1$ than to $q_2$. The solution seems reasonable. Note that the problem statement has no coordinates, so "$x = 3.66$ cm" is *not* an acceptable answer. You need to describe the position relative to $q_1$ and $q_2$.

### Example 22.5 Three charges

Three charged particles with $q_1 = -50$ nC, $q_2 = +50$ nC, and $q_3 = +30$ nC are placed on the corners of the 5.0 cm × 10.0 cm rectangle shown in Figure 22.18. What is the net force on charge $q_3$ due to the other two charges? Give your answer both in component form and as a magnitude and direction.

**Figure 22.18**

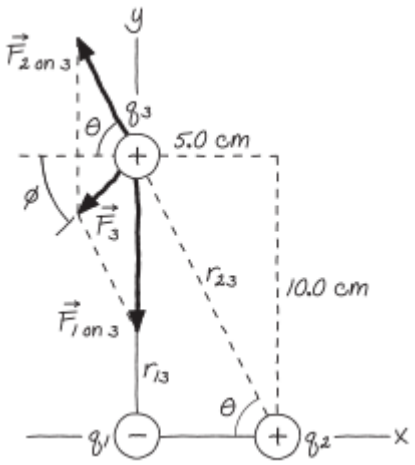



The three charges.

**MODEL** Model the charged particles as point charges.

**VISUALIZE** The pictorial representation of Figure 22.19 establishes a coordinate system. $q_1$ and $q_3$ are opposite charges, so force vector $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3}$ is an attractive force toward $q_1$. $q_2$ and $q_3$ are like charges, so force vector $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$ is a repulsive force away from $q_2$. $q_1$ and $q_2$ have equal magnitudes, but $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$ has been drawn shorter than $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3}$ because $q_2$ is farther from $q_3$. Vector addition has been used to draw the net force vector $\vec{F}_3$ and to define its angle $\phi$.

## Figure 22.19




A pictorial representation of the charges and forces.

**SOLVE** The question asks for a *force*, so our answer will be the *vector* sum $\vec{F}_3 = \vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3} + \vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$. We need to write $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3}$ and $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$ in component form. The magnitude of force $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3}$ can be found using Coulomb's law:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{1\text{ on }3} &= \frac{K\,|q_1|\,|q_3|}{{r_{13}}^2} \\ &= \frac{(9.0\times10^9\,\mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})(50\times10^{-9}\,\mathrm{C})(30\times10^{-9}\,\mathrm{C})}{(0.100\,\mathrm{m})^2} \\ &= 1.35\times10^{-3}\,\mathrm{N} \end{aligned}$$

where we used $r_{13} = 10.0\text{ cm}$.

The pictorial representation shows that $\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3}$ points downward, in the negative $y$-direction, so

$$\vec{F}_{1\text{ on }3} = -1.35\times10^{-3}\hat{j}\,\mathrm{N}$$

To calculate $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$ we first need the distance $r_{23}$ between the charges:

$$r_{23} = \sqrt{(5.0\,\mathrm{cm})^2 + (10.0\,\mathrm{cm})^2} = 11.2\,\mathrm{cm}$$

The magnitude of $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$ is thus

$$\begin{aligned} F_{2\text{ on }3} &= \frac{K\,|q_2|\,|q_3|}{{r_{23}}^2} \\ &= \frac{(9.0\times10^9\,\mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})(50\times10^{-9}\,\mathrm{C})(30\times10^{-9}\,\mathrm{C})}{(0.112\,\mathrm{m})^2} \\ &= 1.08\times10^{-3}\,\mathrm{N} \end{aligned}$$

This is only a magnitude. The *vector* $\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3}$ is

$$\vec{F}_{2\text{ on }3} = -F_{2\text{ on }3}\cos\theta\hat{\imath} + F_{2\text{ on }3}\sin\theta\hat{j}$$

where angle $\theta$ is defined in the figure and the signs (negative $x$-component, positive $y$-component) were determined from the pictorial representation. From the geometry of the rectangle,

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{10.0\,\text{cm}}{5.0\,\text{cm}}\right) = \tan^{-1}(2.0) = 63.4^\circ$$

Thus $\vec{F}_{2\,\text{on}\,3} = (-4.83\hat{i} + 9.66\hat{j}) \times 10^{-4}\,\text{N}$. Now we can add $\vec{F}_{1\,\text{on}\,3}$ and $\vec{F}_{2\,\text{on}\,3}$ to find

$$\vec{F}_3 = \vec{F}_{1\,\text{on}\,3} + \vec{F}_{2\,\text{on}\,3} = (-4.83\hat{\imath} + 3.84\hat{j}) \times 10^{-4}\,\text{N}$$

This would be an acceptable answer for many problems, but sometimes we need the net force as a magnitude and direction. With angle $\phi$ as defined in the figure, these are

$$F_3 = \sqrt{{F_{3x}}^2 + {F_{3y}}^2} = 6.2 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{N}$$
$$\phi = \tan^{-1}\left|\frac{F_{3y}}{F_{3x}}\right| = 38^\circ$$

Thus $\vec{F}_3 = (6.2 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{N},\ 38^\circ$ below the negative $x$-axis$)$

**ASSESS** The forces are not large, but they are typical of electrostatic forces. Even so, you'll soon see that these forces can produce very large accelerations because the masses of the charged objects are usually very small.

## Stop To Think 22.4

Charged spheres A and B exert repulsive forces on each other. $q_\text{A} = 4q_\text{B}$. Which statement is true?

**a.** $F_{\text{A on B}} > F_{\text{B on A}}$

**b.** $F_{\text{A on B}} = F_{\text{B on A}}$

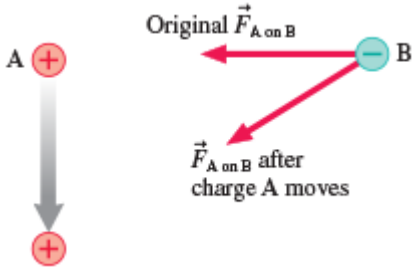
**c.** $F_{\text{A on B}} < F_{\text{B on A}}$

# 22.5 The Electric Field



Electric and magnetic forces, like gravity, are *long-range* forces; no contact is required for one charged particle to exert a force on another. But this raises some troubling issues. For example, consider the charged particles A and B in Figure 22.20. If A suddenly starts moving, as shown by the arrow, the force vector on B must pivot to follow A. Does this happen *instantly*? Or is there some *delay* between when A moves and when the force $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{A on B}}$ responds?

**Figure 22.20**




If charge A moves, how long does it take the force vector on B to respond?

Neither Coulomb's law nor Newton's law of gravity is dependent on time, so the answer from the perspective of Newtonian physics has to be "instantly." Yet most scientists found this troubling. What if A is 100,000 light years from B? Will B respond *instantly* to an event 100,000 light years away? The idea of instantaneous transmission of forces had become unbelievable to most scientists by the beginning of the 19th century. But if there is a delay, how long is it? How does the information to "change force" get sent from A to B? These were the issues when a young Michael Faraday appeared on the scene.

Michael Faraday is one of the most interesting figures in the history of science. Because of the late age at which he started his education—he was a teenager—he never became fluent in mathematics. In place of equations, Faraday's brilliant and insightful mind developed many ingenious *pictorial* methods for thinking about and describing physical phenomena. By far the most important of these was the field.

## The Concept of a Field

Faraday was particularly impressed with the pattern that iron filings make when sprinkled around a magnet, as seen in Figure 22.21. The pattern's regularity and the curved lines suggested to Faraday that the *space itself* around the magnet is filled with some kind of magnetic influence. Perhaps the magnet in some way alters the space around it. In this view, a piece of iron near the magnet responds not directly to the magnet but, instead, to the alteration of space caused by the magnet. This space alteration, whatever it is, is the *mechanism* by which the long-range force is exerted.

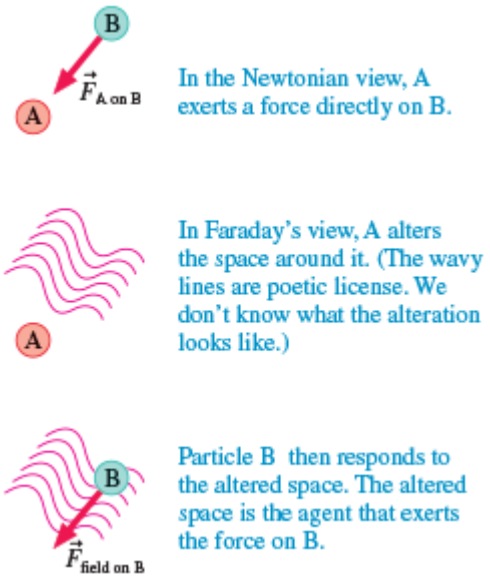
**Figure 22.21**

Iron filings sprinkled around the ends of a magnet suggest that the influence of the magnet extends into the space around it.

Figure 22.22 illustrates Faraday's idea. The Newtonian view was that A and B interact directly. In Faraday's view, A first alters or modifies the space around it, and particle B then comes along and interacts with this

altered space. The alteration of space becomes the *agent* by which A and B interact. Furthermore, this alteration could easily be imagined to take a finite time to propagate outward from A, perhaps in a wave-like fashion. If A changes, B responds only when the new alteration of space reaches it. The interaction between B and this alteration of space is a *local* interaction, rather like a contact force.

## Figure 22.22




Newton's and Faraday's ideas about long-range forces.

Faraday's idea came to be called a **field.** The term "field," which comes from mathematics, describes a function that assigns a vector to every point in space. When used in physics, a field conveys the idea that the physical entity exists at every point in space. That is, indeed, what Faraday was suggesting about how long-range forces operate. The charge makes an alteration *everywhere* in space. Other charges then respond to the alteration at their position. The alteration of the space around a mass is called the *gravitational field*. Similarly, the space around a charge is altered to create the **electric field.**

> **Note**
>
> The concept of a field is in sharp contrast to the concept of a particle. A particle exists at *one* point in space. The purpose of Newton's laws of motion is to determine how the particle moves from point to point along a trajectory. A field exists simultaneously at *all* points in space. [618]

Faraday's idea was not taken seriously at first; it seemed too vague and nonmathematical to scientists steeped in the Newtonian tradition of particles and forces. But the significance of the concept of field grew as electromagnetic theory developed during the first half of the 19th century. What seemed at first a pictorial "gimmick" came to be seen as more and more essential for understanding electric and magnetic forces.

## The Field Model

The basic idea is that **the electric field is the agent that exerts an electric force on a charged particle.** Or, if you prefer, that charged particles interact via the electric field. We postulate:

1. Some set of charges, which we call the **source charges**, alters the space around them by creating an electric field $\vec{E}$ at all points in space.
2. A separate charge $q$ *in* the electric field experiences force $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$ exerted *by the field*. The force on a positive charge is in the direction of $\vec{E}$; the force on a negative charge is directed opposite to $\vec{E}$.

Thus the source charges exert an electric force on $q$ through the electric field that they've created.

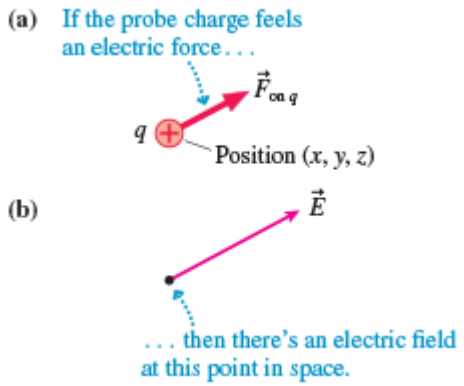
We can learn about the electric field by measuring the force on a *probe charge* $q$. If, as in Figure 22.23a, we place a probe charge at position ($x$, $y$, $z$) and measure force $\vec{F}_{\text{on } q}$, then the electric field at that point is

**(22.5)**

$$\vec{E}(x, y, z) = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{on } q} \text{ at } (x, y, z)}{q}$$

We're *defining* the electric field as a force-to-charge ratio; hence the units of electric field are newtons per coulomb, or N/C. The magnitude $E$ of the electric field is called the **electric field strength**.

## Figure 22.23




Charge $q$ is a probe of the electric field.

It is important to recognize that probe charge $q$ allows us to *observe* the field, but $q$ is not responsible for creating the field. The field was already there, created by the source charges. Figure 22.23b shows the field at this point in space after probe charge $q$ has been removed. You could imagine "mapping out" the field by moving charge $q$ all through space.

Because $q$ appears in Equation 22.5, you might think that the electric field depends on the size of the charge used to probe it. It doesn't. Coulomb's law tells us that $\vec{F}_{\text{on } q}$ is proportional to $q$, so the electric field defined in Equation 22.5 is *independent* of the charge that probes it. The electric field depends only on the source charges that create it.

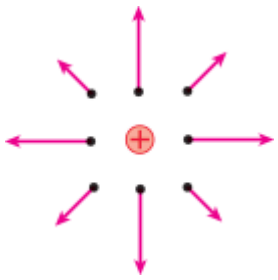
We can summarize these important ideas with the **field model** of charge interactions:

---

MODEL 22.2 **Electric field**

Charges interact via the electric field.

- The electric force on a charge is exerted by the electric field.
- The electric field is created by other charges, the **source charges.**
  - The electric force is a vector.
  - The field exists at all points in space.
  - A charge does not feel its own field.
- If the electric field at a point in space is $\vec{E}$, a particle with charge $q$ experiences an electric force $\vec{F}_{\text{on } q} = q\vec{E}$.
  - The force on a positive charge is in the direction of the field.
  - The force on a negative charge is opposite the direction of the field.



**Example 22.6 Electric forces in a cell**

Every cell in your body is electrically active in various ways. For example, nerve propagation occurs when large electric fields in the cell membranes of neurons cause ions to move through the cell walls. The field strength in a typical cell membrane is $1.0 \times 10^7$ N/C. What is the magnitude of the electric force on a singly charged calcium ion?

**MODEL** The ion is a point charge in an electric field. A singly charged ion is missing one electron and has net charge $q = +e$.



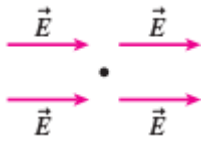
**SOLVE** A charged particle in an electric field experiences an electric force $\vec{F}_{\text{on } q} = q\vec{E}$. In this case, the magnitude of the force is

$$F = eE = (1.6 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C})\,(1.0 \times 10^7\ \text{N/C}) = 1.6 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{N}$$

**ASSESS** This may seem like an incredibly tiny force, but it is applied to a particle with mass $m \sim 10^{-26}$ kg. The ion would have an unimaginable acceleration $\left(F/m \ \sim\ 10^{14}\,\text{m/s}^2\right)$ were it not for resistive forces as it moves through the membrane. Even so, an ion can cross the cell wall in less than 1 $\mu$s.

## Stop To Think 22.5

An electron is placed at the position marked by the dot. The force on the electron is




**a.** Zero.

**b.** To the right.

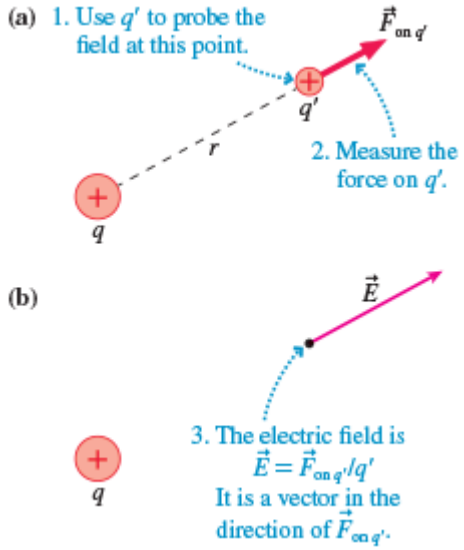
**c.** To the left.

**d.** There's not enough information to tell.

# The Electric Field of a Point Charge

We will begin to put the definition of the electric field to full use in the next chapter. For now, to develop the ideas, we will determine the electric field of a single point charge $q$. Figure 22.24a shows charge $q$ and a point in space at which we would like to know the electric field. To do so, we use a second charge $q'$ as a probe of the electric field.

**Figure 22.24**




Charge $q'$ is used to probe the electric field of point charge $q$.

For the moment, assume both charges are positive. The force on $q'$, which is repulsive and directed straight away from $q$, is given by Coulomb's law:

**(22.6)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{on } q'} = \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qq'}{r^2}, \text{ away from } q \right)$$

It's customary to use $1/4\pi\epsilon_0$ rather than $K$ for field calculations. Equation 22.5 defined the electric field in terms of the force on a probe charge; thus the electric field at this point is

**(22.7)**

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{on } q'}}{q'} = \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2}, \text{away from } q \right)$$

The electric field is shown in Figure 22.24b.

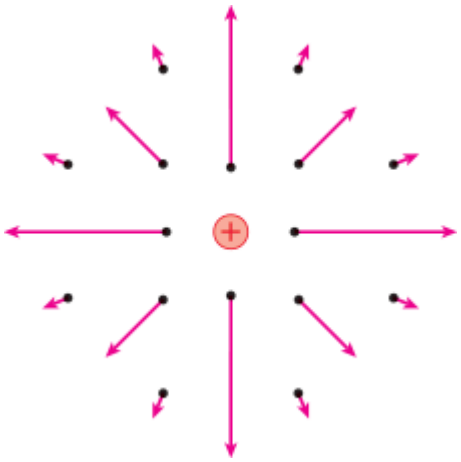
> **Note**
>
> The expression for the electric field is similar to Coulomb's law. To distinguish the two, remember that Coulomb's law has a

> product of two charges in the numerator. It describes the force between *two* charges. The electric field has a single charge in the numerator. It is the field of *a* charge.

If we calculate the field at a sufficient number of points in space, we can draw a **field diagram** such as the one shown in Figure 22.25. Notice that the field vectors all point straight away from charge $q$. Also notice how quickly the arrows decrease in length due to the inverse-square dependence on $r$.



**Figure 22.25**



The electric field of a positive point charge.

Keep these three important points in mind when using field diagrams:

1. The diagram is just a representative sample of electric field vectors. The field exists at all the other points. A well-drawn diagram can tell you fairly well what the field would be like at a neighboring point.
2. The arrow indicates the direction and the strength of the electric field *at the point to which it is attached*—that is, at the point where the *tail* of the vector is placed. In this chapter, we indicate the point at which the electric field is measured with a dot. The

length of any vector is significant only relative to the lengths of other vectors.

3. Although we have to draw a vector across the page, from one point to another, an electric field vector is *not* a spatial quantity. It does not "stretch" from one point to another. Each vector represents the electric field at *one point* in space.

## Unit Vector Notation

Equation 22.7 is precise, but it's not terribly convenient. Furthermore, what happens if the source charge $q$ is negative? We need a more concise notation to write the electric field, a notation that will allow $q$ to be either positive or negative.

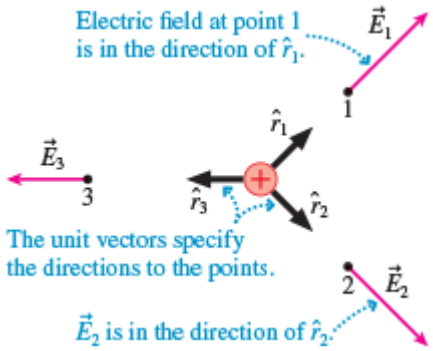
The basic need is to express "away from $q$" in mathematical notation. "Away from $q$" is a *direction* in space. To guide us, recall that we already have a notation for expressing certain directions—namely, the unit vectors $\hat{i}$, $\hat{j}$, and $\hat{k}$. For example, unit vector $\hat{i}$ means "in the direction of the positive $x$-axis." With a minus sign, $-\hat{i}$ means "in the direction of the negative $x$-axis." Unit vectors, with a magnitude of 1 and no units, provide purely directional information.

With this in mind, let's define the unit vector $\hat{r}$ to be a vector of length 1 that points from the origin to a point of interest. Unit vector $\hat{r}$ provides no information at all about the distance to the point; it merely specifies the direction.

Figure 22.26 shows unit vectors $\hat{r}_1$, $\hat{r}_2$, and $\hat{r}_3$ pointing toward points 1, 2, and 3. Unlike $\hat{i}$ and $\hat{j}$, unit vector $\hat{r}$ does not have a fixed direction. Instead, unit vector $\hat{r}$ specifies the direction "straight outward from this point." But that's just what we need to describe the electric field vector,

which is shown at points 1, 2, and 3 due to a positive charge at the origin. No matter which point you choose, the electric field at that point is "straight outward" from the charge. In other words, the electric field $\vec{E}$ points in the direction of the unit vector $\hat{r}$.

## Figure 22.26




Using the unit vector $\hat{r}$.

With this notation, the electric field at distance $r$ from a point charge $q$ is

**(22.8)**

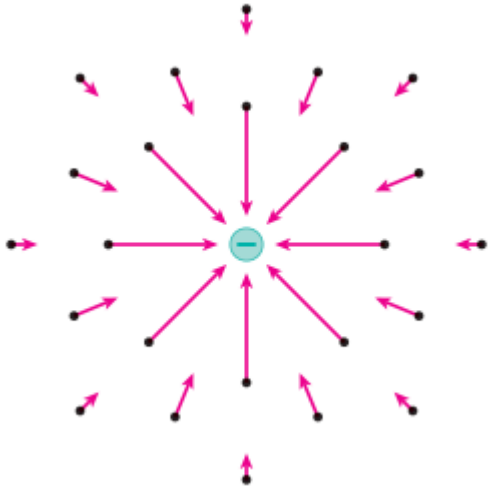
$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r} \qquad \text{(electric field of a point charge)}$$

where $\hat{r}$ is the unit vector from the charge toward the point at which we want to know the field. Equation 22.8 is identical to Equation 22.7, but written in a notation in which the unit vector $\hat{r}$ expresses the idea "away from $q$."

Equation 22.8 works equally well if $q$ is negative. A negative sign in front of a vector simply reverses its direction, so the unit vector $-\hat{r}$ points *toward* charge $q$. Figure 22.27 shows the electric field of a negative point

charge. It looks like the electric field of a positive point charge except that the vectors point inward, toward the charge, instead of outward.

**Figure 22.27**



The electric field of a negative point charge.



We'll end this chapter with three examples of the electric field of a point charge. Chapter 23 will expand these ideas to the electric fields of multiple charges and of extended objects.

**Example 22.7 Calculating the electric field**

A –1.0 nC charged particle is located at the origin. Points 1, 2, and 3 have $(x, y)$ coordinates (1 cm, 0 cm), (0 cm, 1 cm), and (1 cm, 1 cm), respectively. Determine the electric field $\vec{E}$ at these points, then show the vectors on an electric field diagram.

**MODEL** The electric field is that of a negative point charge.

**VISUALIZE** The electric field points straight *toward* the origin. It will be weaker at (1 cm, 1 cm), which is farther from the charge.

**SOLVE** The electric field is

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

where $q = -1.0\ \text{nC} = -1.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{C}$. The distance $r$ is $1.0\,\text{cm} = 0.010\,\text{m}$ for points 1 and 2 and $\left(\sqrt{2} \times 1.0\ \text{cm}\right) = 0.0141\ \text{m}$ for point 3. The *magnitude* of $\vec{E}$ at the three points is

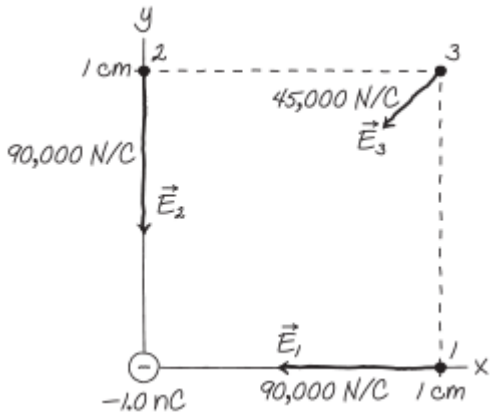
$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= E_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{|q|}{{r_1}^2} \\ &= \frac{(9.0 \times 10^9\,\text{N}\,\text{m}^2/\text{C}^2)(1.0 \times 10^{-9}\,\text{C})}{(0.010\,\text{m})^2} = 90{,}000\,\text{N/C} \\ E_3 &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{|q|}{{r_3}^2} \\ &= \frac{(9.0 \times 10^9\,\text{N}\,\text{m}^2\,/\text{C}^2)(1.0 \times 10^{-9}\,\text{C})}{(0.0141\,\text{m})^2} = 45{,}000\,\text{N/C} \end{aligned}$$

Because $q$ is negative, the field at each of these positions points directly at charge $q$. The electric field vectors, in component form, are

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}_1 &= -90{,}000\hat{i}\,\text{N/C} \\ \vec{E}_2 &= -90{,}000\hat{j}\,\text{N/C} \\ \vec{E}_3 &= -E_3\cos 45^\circ\,\hat{i} - E_3\sin 45^\circ\,\hat{j} = (-31{,}800\hat{i} - 31{,}800\hat{j})\ \text{N/C} \end{aligned}$$

These vectors are shown on the electric field diagram of Figure 22.28.

**Figure 22.28**




The electric field diagram of a –1.0 nC charged particle.

### Example 22.8 The electric field of a proton

The electron in a hydrogen atom orbits the proton at a radius of 0.053 nm.

**a.** What is the proton's electric field strength at the position of the electron?

**b.** What is the magnitude of the electric force on the electron?

**SOLVE**

**a.** The proton's charge is $q = e$. Its electric field strength at the distance of the electron is

$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e}{r^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{1.6 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C}}{\left(5.3 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{m}\right)^2} = 5.1 \times 10^{11}\ \text{N/C}$$

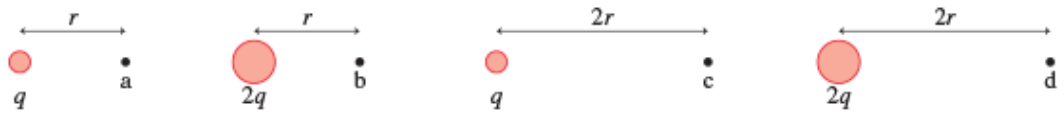
Note how large this field is compared to the field of Example 22.7.

**b.** We could use Coulomb's law to find the force on the electron, but the whole point of knowing the electric field is that we can use it directly to find the force on a charge in the field. The magnitude of the force on the electron is

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{on elec}} &= |q_e|\, E_{\text{of proton}} \\ &= (1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{C})(5.1 \times 10^{11}\,\text{N/C}) \\ &= 8.2 \times 10^{-8}\,\text{N} \end{aligned}$$

## Stop To Think 22.6

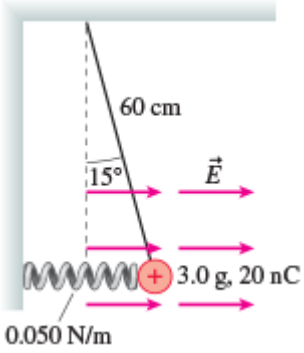
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the electric field strengths $E_a$ to $E_d$ at points a to d.




### Challenge Example 22.9 A charge in static equilibrium

A horizontal electric field causes the charged ball in Figure 22.29 to hang at a 15° angle, as shown. The spring is plastic, so it doesn't discharge the ball, and in its equilibrium position the spring extends only to the vertical dashed line. What is the electric field strength?

**Figure 22.29**

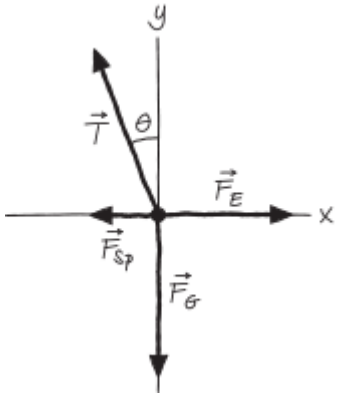



A charged ball hanging in static equilibrium.

**MODEL** Model the ball as a point charge in static equilibrium. The electric force on the ball is $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{E}} = q\vec{E}$. The charge is positive, so the force is in the same direction as the field.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 22.30 is a free-body diagram for the ball.

## Figure 22.30




The free-body diagram.

**SOLVE** The ball is in equilibrium, so the net force on the ball must be zero. With the field applied, the spring is stretched by $\Delta x = L\sin\theta = (0.60\,\mathrm{m})\,(\sin 15^\circ) = 0.16\,\mathrm{m}$, where $L$ is the string length, and exerts a pulling force $F_{\mathrm{sp}} = k\,\Delta x$ to the left.

Newton's first law, with $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ for equilibrium, is

$$\sum F_x = F_{\mathrm{E}} - F_{\mathrm{Sp}} - T\sin\theta = 0$$
$$\sum F_y = T\cos\theta - F_{\mathrm{G}} = T\cos\theta - mg = 0$$

From the $y$-equation,

$$T = \frac{mg}{\cos\theta}$$

The $x$-equation is then

$$qE - k\,\Delta x - mg\,\tan\theta = 0$$

We can solve this for the electric field strength:

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \frac{mg\tan\theta + k\,\Delta x}{q} \\ &= \frac{(0.0030\,\mathrm{kg})(9.8\,\mathrm{m/s^2})\,\tan 15^\circ + (0.050\,\mathrm{N/m})(0.16\,\mathrm{m})}{20\times 10^{-9}\,\mathrm{C}} \\ &= 7.9\times 10^5\,\mathrm{N/C} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** We don't yet have a way of judging whether this is a reasonable field strength, but we'll see in the next chapter that this is typical of the electric field strength near an object that has been charged by rubbing.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 22 has been to learn that electric phenomena are based on charges, forces, and fields.

## General Principles

### Coulomb's Law

The forces between two charged particles $q_1$ and $q_2$ separated by distance $r$ are

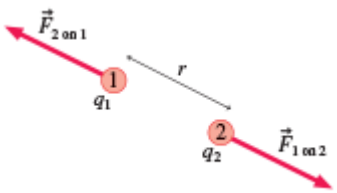
$$F_{1\text{ on }2} = F_{2\text{ on }1} = \frac{K\,|q_1|\,|q_2|}{r^2}$$

The forces are repulsive for two like charges, attractive for two opposite charges.

To solve electrostatic force problems:

**MODEL** Model objects as point charges.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a picture showing charges and force vectors.




**SOLVE** Use Coulomb's law and the vector addition of forces.

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

# Important Concepts

## The Charge Model

**There are two kinds of charge,** positive and negative.

- Fundamental charges are protons and electrons, with charge $\pm e$ where $e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$ C.
- Objects are charged by adding or removing electrons.
- The amount of charge is $q = (N_\text{p} - N_\text{e})\, e$.
- An object with an equal number of protons and electrons is **neutral**, meaning no *net* charge.

**Charged objects exert electric forces on each other.**

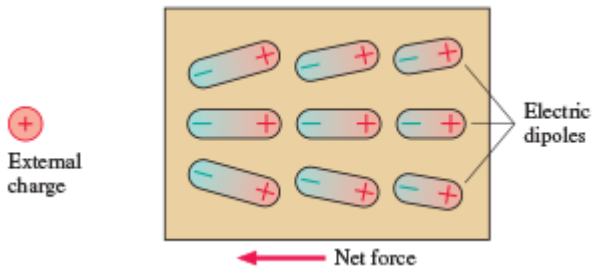
- Like charges repel, opposite charges attract.
- The force increases as the charge increases.
- The force decreases as the distance increases.

**There are two types of material,** insulators **and** conductors.

- Charge remains fixed in or on an insulator.
- Charge moves easily through or along conductors.
- Charge is transferred by contact between objects.

**Charged objects attract neutral objects.**

- Charge polarizes metal by shifting the electron sea.
- Charge polarizes atoms, creating electric dipoles.
- The **polarization** force is always an attractive force.




## The Field Model

Charges interact with each other via the **electric field** $\vec{E}$.

- Charge A alters the space around it by creating an electric field.

- The field is the agent that exerts a force. The force on charge $q_B$ is $\vec{F}_{\text{on B}} = q_B \vec{E}$.

An electric field is identified and measured in terms of the force on a **probe charge** $q$:

$$\vec{E} = \vec{F}_{\text{on } q}/q$$

- The electric field exists at all points in space.
- An electric field vector shows the field only at one point, the point at the tail of the vector.

The electric field of a **point charge** is

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

Unit vector $\hat{r}$ indicates "away from $q$."

## Terms and Notation

neutral

charging

charge model

charge, $q$ or $Q$

like charges

opposite charges

discharging

conductor

insulator

electron cloud

fundamental unit of charge, $e$

charge quantization

ionization

law of conservation of charge

sea of electrons

ion core

current

charge carrier

electrostatic equilibrium

grounded

charge polarization

polarization force

electric dipole

charging by induction

Coulomb's law

electrostatic constant, $K$

point charge

coulomb, C

permittivity constant, $\epsilon_0$

field

electric field, $\overrightarrow{E}$

source charge

electric field strength, $E$

field model

field diagram

# Conceptual Questions 624

**1.** Can an insulator be charged? If so, how would you charge an insulator? If not, why not?

**2.** Can a conductor be charged? If so, how would you charge a conductor? If not, why not?

**3.** Four lightweight balls A, B, C, and D are suspended by threads. Ball A has been touched by a plastic rod that was rubbed with wool. When the balls are brought close together, without touching, the following observations are made:

- Balls B, C, and D are attracted to ball A.
- Balls B and D have no effect on each other.
- Ball B is attracted to ball C.

What are the charge states (glass, plastic, or neutral) of balls A, B, C, and D? Explain.

**4.** Charged plastic and glass rods hang by threads.

**a.** An object repels the plastic rod. Can you predict what it will do to the glass rod? If so, what? If not, why not?

**b.** A different object attracts the plastic rod. Can you predict what it will do to the glass rod? If so, what? If not, why not?

**5.** A lightweight metal ball hangs by a thread. When a charged rod is held near, the ball moves toward the rod, touches the rod, then quickly "flies away" from the rod. Explain this behavior.

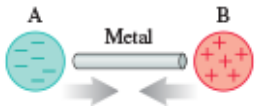
**6.** A plastic balloon that has been rubbed with wool will stick to a wall. Can you conclude that the wall is charged? If so, where does the charge come from? If not, why does the balloon stick?

**7.** Suppose there exists a third type of charge in addition to the two types we've called glass and plastic. Call this third type X charge.

What experiment or series of experiments would you use to test whether an object has X charge? State clearly how each possible outcome of the experiments is to be interpreted.

8. The two oppositely charged metal spheres in Figure Q22.8 have equal quantities of charge. They are brought into contact with a neutral metal rod. What is the final charge state of each sphere and of the rod? Use both charge diagrams and words to explain.

**Figure Q22.8**



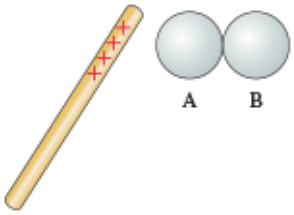

9. Metal sphere A in Figure Q22.9 has 4 units of negative charge and metal sphere B has 2 units of positive charge. The two spheres are brought into contact. What is the final charge state of each sphere? Explain.

**Figure Q22.9**

10. A negatively charged electroscope has separated leaves.
    a. Suppose you bring a negatively charged rod close to the top of the electroscope, but not touching. How will the leaves respond? Use both charge diagrams and words to explain.
    b. How will the leaves respond if you bring a positively charged rod close to the top of the electroscope, but not touching? Use both charge diagrams and words to explain.
11. Metal spheres A and B in Figure Q22.11 are initially neutral and are touching. A positively charged rod is brought near A, but not

touching. Is A now positive, negative, or neutral? Use both charge diagrams and words to explain.

**Figure Q22.11**




**12.** If you bring your finger near a lightweight, negatively charged hanging ball, the ball swings over toward your finger as shown in Figure Q22.12. Use charge diagrams and words to explain this observation.

**Figure Q22.12**

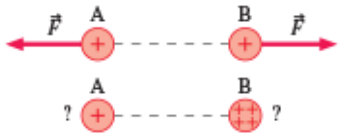
**13.** Reproduce Figure Q22.13 on your paper. Then draw a dot (or dots) on the figure to show the position (or positions) where an electron would experience no net force.

**Figure Q22.13**

**14.** Charges A and B in Figure Q22.14 are equal. Each charge exerts a force on the other of magnitude $F$. Suppose the charge of B is increased by a factor of 4, but everything else is unchanged. In

terms of $F$, (a) what is the magnitude of the force on A, and (b) what is the magnitude of the force on B?

**Figure Q22.14**




**15.** The electric force on a charged particle in an electric field is $F$. What will be the force if the particle's charge is tripled and the electric field strength is halved?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 22.1 The Charge Model

### Section 22.2 Charge

**1.** • A glass rod is charged to +8.0 nC by rubbing.

**a.** Have electrons been removed from the rod or protons added?

**b.** How many electrons have been removed or protons added?

**2.** • A plastic rod is charged to –12 nC by rubbing.

**a.** Have electrons been added to the rod or protons removed?

**b.** How many electrons have been added or protons removed?

**3.** • A plastic rod that has been charged to –15 nC touches a metal sphere. Afterward, the rod's charge is –10 nC.

**a.** What kind of charged particle was transferred between the rod and the sphere, and in which direction? That is, did it move from the rod to the sphere or from the sphere to the rod?

**b.** How many charged particles were transferred?

**4.** • A glass rod that has been charged to +12 nC touches a metal sphere. Afterward, the rod's charge is +8.0 nC

**a.** What kind of charged particle was transferred between the rod and the sphere, and in which direction? That is, did it move from the rod to the sphere or from the sphere to the rod?

**b.** How many charged particles were transferred?

**5.** •• **INT** What is the total charge of all the electrons in 1.0 L of liquid water?

**6.** •• **INT** What mass of aluminum has a total nuclear charge of 1.0 C? Aluminum has atomic number 13.

**7.** • A chemical reaction takes place among 3 molecular ions that have each lost 2 electrons, 2 molecular ions that have each gained 3 electrons, and 1 molecular ion that has gained 2 electrons. The products of the reaction are two neutral molecules and multiple molecular ions that each have a charge of magnitude $e$. How many molecular ions are produced, and are they charged positively or negatively?

**8.** • A *linear accelerator* uses alternating electric fields to accelerate electrons to close to the speed of light. A small number of the electrons collide with a target, but a large majority pass through the target and impact a *beam dump* at the end of the accelerator. In one experiment the beam dump measured charge accumulating at

a rate of –2.0 nC/s. How many electrons traveled down the accelerator during the 2.0 h run?

## Section 22.3 Insulators and Conductors

**9.** • Figure 22.8 showed how an electroscope becomes negatively charged. The leaves will also repel each other if you touch the electroscope with a positively charged glass rod. Use a series of charge diagrams to explain what happens and why the leaves repel each other.

**10.** • Two neutral metal spheres on wood stands are touching. A negatively charged rod is held directly above the top of the left sphere, not quite touching it. While the rod is there, the right sphere is moved so that the spheres no longer touch. Then the rod is withdrawn. Afterward, what is the charge state of each sphere? Use charge diagrams to explain your answer.

**11.** •• You have two neutral metal spheres on wood stands. Devise a procedure for charging the spheres so that they will have like charges of *exactly* equal magnitude. Use charge diagrams to explain your procedure.

**12.** •• You have two neutral metal spheres on wood stands. Devise a procedure for charging the spheres so that they will have opposite charges of *exactly* equal magnitude. Use charge diagrams to explain your procedure.

## Section 22.4 Coulomb's Law

**13.** • **INT** Two 1.0 kg masses are 1.0 m apart (center to center) on a frictionless table. Each has +10 $\mu$C of charge.

**a.** What is the magnitude of the electric force on one of the masses?

**b.** What is the initial acceleration of this mass if it is released and allowed to move?

**14.** •• **INT** Two small plastic spheres each have a mass of 2.0 g and a charge of –50.0 nC. They are placed 2.0 cm apart (center to center).

**a.** What is the magnitude of the electric force on each sphere?

**b.** By what factor is the electric force on a sphere larger than its weight?

**15.** •• A small glass bead has been charged to +20 nC. A small metal ball bearing 1.0 cm above the bead feels a 0.018 N downward electric force. What is the charge on the ball bearing?

**16.** • **INT** Two protons are 2.0 fm apart.

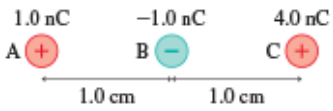
**a.** What is the magnitude of the electric force on one proton due to the other proton?

**b.** What is the magnitude of the gravitational force on one proton due to the other proton?

**c.** What is the ratio of the electric force to the gravitational force?

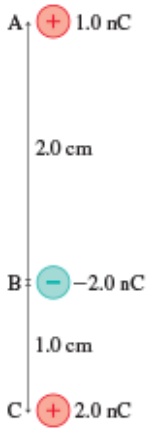
**17.** •• What is the net electric force on charge A in Figure EX22.17?

**Figure EX22.17**



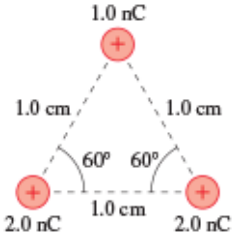

**18.** •• What is the net electric force on charge B in Figure EX22.18?

**Figure EX22.18**



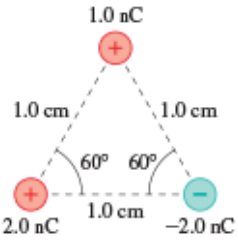

**19.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the 1.0 nC charge in Figure EX22.19? Give your answer as a magnitude and a direction.

**Figure EX22.19**




**20.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the 1.0 nC charge in Figure EX22.20? Give your answer as a magnitude and a direction.

**Figure EX22.20**




**21.** • Object A, which has been charged to +4.0 nC, is at the origin. Object B, which has been charged to −8.0 nC, is at $(x,\ y) = (0.0\text{ cm},\ 2.0\text{ cm})$. Determine the electric force on each object. Write each force vector in component form.

**22.** • **INT** A small plastic bead has been charged to –15 nC. What are the magnitude and direction of the acceleration of (a) a proton and (b) an electron that is 1.0 cm from the center of the bead?

**23.** • **INT** A 2.0 g plastic bead charged to –4.0 nC and a 4.0 g glass bead charged to +8.0 nC are 2.0 cm apart and free to move. What are the accelerations of (a) the plastic bead and (b) the glass bead?

**24.** •• Two positive point charges $q$ and $4q$ are at $x = 0$ and $x = L$, respectively, and free to move. A third charge is placed so that the entire three-charge system is in static equilibrium. What are the magnitude, sign, and $x$-coordinate of the third charge?

**25.** •• **INT** A massless spring is attached to a support at one end and has a 2.0 $\mu$C charge glued to the other end. A –4.0 $\mu$C charge is slowly brought near. The spring has stretched 1.2 cm when the charges are 2.6 cm apart. What is the spring constant of the spring?

## Section 22.5 The Electric Field

**26.** • What are the strength and direction of the electric field 1.0 mm from (a) a proton and (b) an electron?

**27.** •• **INT** The electric field at a point in space is $\vec{E} = (400\hat{i} + 100\hat{j})\,\mathrm{N/C}$.

**a.** What is the electric force on a proton at this point? Give your answer in component form.

**b.** What is the electric force on an electron at this point? Give your answer in component form.

**c.** What is the magnitude of the proton's acceleration?

**d.** What is the magnitude of the electron's acceleration?

**28.** • What are the strength and direction of the electric field 4.0 cm from a small plastic bead that has been charged to –8.0 nC?

**29.** •• What magnitude charge creates a 1.0 N/C electric field at a point 1.0 m away?

**30.** •• What are the strength and direction of an electric field that will balance the weight of a 1.0 g plastic sphere that has been charged to –3.0 nC.

**31.** •• The electric field 2.0 cm from a small object points away from the object with a strength of 270,000 N/C. What is the object's charge?

**32.** •• A +12 nC charge is located at the origin.

**a.** What are the electric fields at the positions $(x, y) = (5.0\,\text{cm},\ 0\,\text{cm}),\ (-5.0\,\text{cm},\ 5.0\,\text{cm}),$ and $(-5.0\,\text{cm},\ -5.0\,\text{cm})$? Write each electric field vector in component form.



**b.** Draw a field diagram showing the electric field vectors at these points.

**33.** •• A –12 nC charge is located at $(x,\ y) = (1.0\,\text{cm}, 0\,\text{cm})$. What are the electric fields at the positions $(x, y) = (5.0\,\text{cm},\ 0\,\text{cm}),\ (-5.0\,\text{cm},\ 0\,\text{cm}),$ and $(0\,\text{cm},\ 5.0\,\text{cm})$? Write each electric field vector in component form.

**34.** • **BIO** A 0.10 g honeybee acquires a charge of +23 pC while flying.

**a.** The earth's electric field near the surface is typically (100 N/C, downward). What is the ratio of the electric force on the bee to the bee's weight?

**b.** What electric field (strength and direction) would allow the bee to hang suspended in the air?

# Problems

**35.** •• **INT** Pennies today are copper-covered zinc, but older pennies are 3.1 g of solid copper. What are the total positive charge and total negative charge in a solid copper penny that is electrically neutral?

**36.** •• **INT** Two 1.0 g spheres are charged equally and placed 2.0 cm apart. When released, they begin to accelerate at 150 m/s$^2$. What is

the magnitude of the charge on each sphere?

**37.** •• **INT** The nucleus of a $^{125}$Xe atom (an isotope of the element xenon with mass 125 u) is 6.0 fm in diameter. It has 54 protons and charge $q = +54e$.

**a.** What is the electric force on a proton 2.0 fm from the surface of the nucleus?

**b.** What is the proton's acceleration?

**Hint:** Treat the spherical nucleus as a point charge.

**38.** •• A *Van de Graaff generator* is a device that accumulates electrons on a large metal sphere until the large amount of charge causes sparks. As you'll learn in Chapter 23, the electric field of a charged sphere is exactly the same as if the charge were a point charge at the center of the sphere. Suppose that a 25-cm-diameter sphere has accumulated $1.0 \times 10^{13}$ extra electrons and that a small ball 50 cm from the edge of the sphere feels the force $\vec{F} = (9.2 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{N, away from sphere})$. What is the charge on the ball?

**39.** •• A smart phone charger delivers charge to the phone, in the form of electrons, at a rate of –0.75 C/s. How many electrons are delivered to the phone during 30 min of charging?

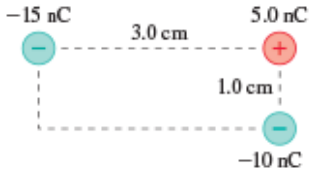
**40.** •• **INT** Objects A and B are both positively charged. Both have a mass of 100 g, but A has twice the charge of B. When A and B are placed 10 cm apart, B experiences an electric force of 0.45 N.

**a.** What is the charge on A?

**b.** If the objects are released, what is the initial acceleration of A?

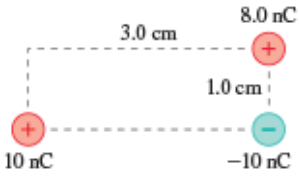
**41.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the –10 nC charge in Figure P22.41? Give your answer as a magnitude and an angle measured cw or ccw (specify which) from the +*x*-axis.

**Figure P22.41**



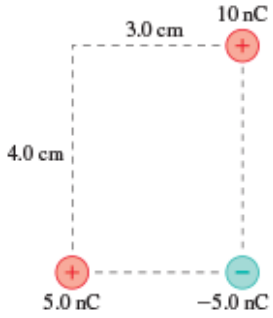

**42.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the −10 nC charge in Figure P22.42? Give your answer as a magnitude and an angle measured cw or ccw (specify which) from the +*x*-axis.

**Figure P22.42**



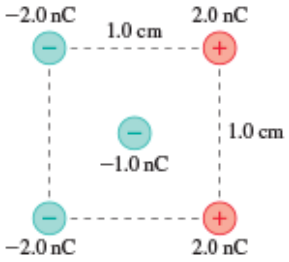

**43.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the 5.0 nC charge in Figure P22.43? Give your answer as a magnitude and an angle measured cw or ccw (specify which) from the +*x*-axis

**Figure P22.43**




**44.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the −1.0 nC charge in the middle of Figure P22.44 due to the four other charges? Give your answer in component form.

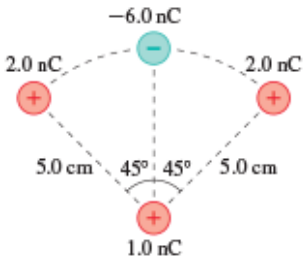
**Figure P22.44**




**45.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the 1.0 nC charge at the bottom in Figure P22.45? Give your answer in component form.

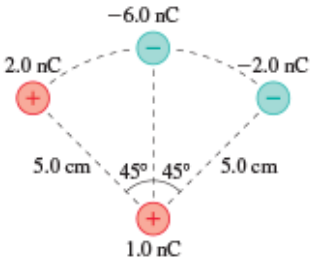


**Figure P22.45**




**46.** •• What is the force $\vec{F}$ on the 1.0 nC charge at the bottom in Figure P22.46? Give your answer in component form.

**Figure P22.46**



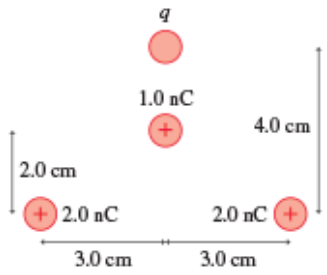

**47.** ••• A +2.0 nC charge is at the origin and a −4.0 nC charge is at $x = 1.0$ cm.

**a.** At what $x$-coordinate could you place a proton so that it would experience no net force?

**b.** Would the net force be zero for an electron placed at the same position? Explain.

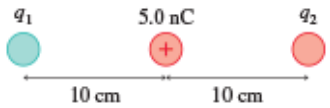
**48.** •• The net force on the 1.0 nC charge in Figure P22.48 is zero. What is $q$?

**Figure P22.48**




**49.** •• Charge $q_2$ in Figure P22.49 is in equilibrium. What is $q_1$?

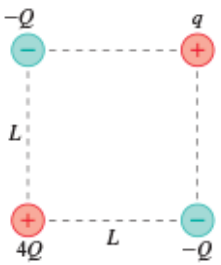
**Figure P22.49**




**50.** •• A positive point charge $Q$ is located at $x = a$ and a negative point charge $-Q$ is at $x = -a$. A positive charge $q$ can be placed anywhere on the $y$-axis. Find an expression for $(F_{\text{net}})_x$, the $x$-component of the net force on $q$.

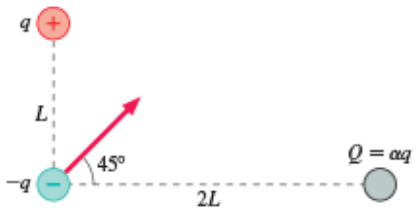
**51.** •• Figure P22.51 shows four charges at the corners of a square of side $L$. What is the magnitude of the net force on $q$?

**Figure P22.51**



**52.** •• Figure P22.52 shows three charges and the net force on charge $-q$. Charge $Q$ is some multiple $\alpha$ of $q$. What is $\alpha$?

**Figure P22.52**




**53.** ••• Suppose the magnitude of the proton charge differs from the magnitude of the electron charge by a mere 1 part in $10^9$.

**a.** What would be the force between two 2.0-mm-diameter copper spheres 1.0 cm apart? Assume that each copper atom has an equal number of electrons and protons.

**b.** Would this amount of force be detectable? What can you conclude from the fact that no such forces are observed?

**54.** •• **INT** In a simple model of the hydrogen atom, the electron moves in a circular orbit of radius 0.053 nm around a stationary proton. How many revolutions per second does the electron make?

**55.** •• You have two small, 2.0 g balls that have been given equal but opposite charges, but you don't know the magnitude of the charge. To find out, you place the balls distance $d$ apart on a slippery horizontal surface, release them, and use a motion detector to measure the initial acceleration of one of the balls toward the other. After repeating this for several different separation distances, your data are as follows:

| Distance (cm) | Acceleration ($m/s^2$) |
|---|---|
| 2.0 | 0.74 |
| 3.0 | 0.30 |
| 4.0 | 0.19 |
| 5.0 | 0.10 |

Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine the magnitude of the charge.

**56.** •• **INT** A 2.0 g metal cube and a 4.0 g metal cube are 6.0 cm apart, measured between their centers, on a horizontal surface. For both, the coefficient of static friction is 0.65. Both cubes, initially neutral, are charged at a rate of 7.0 nC/s. How long after charging begins does one cube begin to slide away? Which cube moves first?

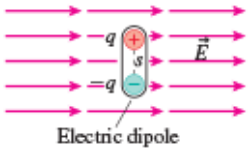
**57.** •• **INT** Space explorers discover an $8.7 \times 10^{17}$ kg asteroid that happens to have a positive charge of 4400 C. They would like to place their $3.3 \times 10^5$ kg spaceship in orbit around the asteroid. Interestingly, the solar wind has given their spaceship a charge of –1.2 C. What speed must their spaceship have to achieve a 7500-km-diameter circular orbit?

**58.** •• **CALC** Two equal point charges 2.5 cm apart, both initially neutral, are being charged at the rate of 5.0 nC/s. At what rate (N/s) is the force between them increasing 1.0 s after charging begins?

**59.** •• **INT** You have a lightweight spring whose unstretched length is 4.0 cm. First, you attach one end of the spring to the ceiling and hang a 1.0 g mass from it. This stretches the spring to a length of 5.0 cm. You then attach two small plastic beads to the opposite ends of the spring, lay the spring on a frictionless table, and give each plastic bead the same charge. This stretches the spring to a length of 4.5 cm. What is the magnitude of the charge (in nC) on each bead?

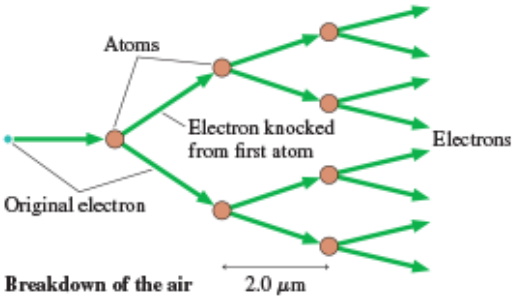
**60.** •• **INT** An electric dipole consists of two opposite charges $\pm q$ separated by a small distance $s$. The product $p = qs$ is called the *dipole moment*. Figure P22.60 shows an electric dipole perpendicular to an electric field $\vec{E}$. Find an expression in terms of $p$ and $E$ for the magnitude of the torque that the electric field exerts on the dipole.

## Figure P22.60




**61.** •• **INT** You sometimes create a spark when you touch a doorknob after shuffling your feet on a carpet. Why? The air always has a few free electrons that have been kicked out of atoms by cosmic rays. If an electric field is present, a free electron is accelerated until it collides with an air molecule. Most such collisions are elastic, so the electron collides, accelerates, collides, accelerates, and so on, gradually gaining speed. But if the electron's kinetic energy just before a collision is $2.0 \times 10^{-18}$ J or more, it has sufficient energy to kick an electron out of the molecule it hits. Where there was one free electron, now there are two! Each of these can then accelerate, hit a molecule, and kick out another electron. Then there will be four free electrons. In other words, as Figure P22.61 shows, a sufficiently strong electric field causes a "chain reaction" of electron production. This is called a *breakdown* of the air. The current of moving electrons is what gives you the shock, and a spark is generated when the electrons recombine with the positive ions and give off excess energy as a burst of light.

## Figure P22.61



**a.** The average distance between ionizing collisions is 2.0 $\mu$m. (The electron's mean free path is less than this, but most collisions are elastic collisions in which the electron bounces with no loss of energy.) What acceleration must an electron have to gain $2.0 \times 10^{-18}$ J of kinetic energy in this distance?

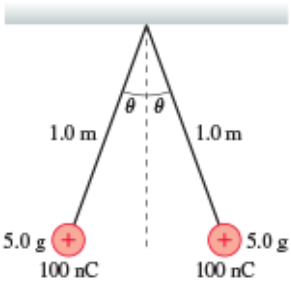
**b.** What force must act on an electron to give it the acceleration found in part a?

**c.** What strength electric field will exert this much force on an electron? This is the *breakdown field strength*. **Note:** The measured breakdown field strength is a little less than your calculated value because our model of the process is a bit too simple. Even so, your calculated value is close.

**d.** Suppose a free electron in air is 1.0 cm away from a point charge. What minimum charge is needed to cause a breakdown and create a spark as the electron moves toward the point charge?

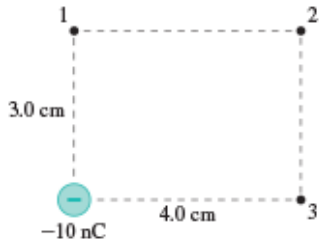
**62.** •• **INT** Two 5.0 g point charges on 1.0-m-long threads repel each other after being charged to +100 nC, as shown in Figure P22.62. What is the angle $\theta$? You can assume that $\theta$ is a small angle.

**Figure P22.62**



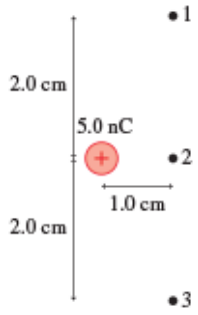

**63.** •• What are the electric fields at points 1, 2, and 3 in Figure P22.63? Give your answer in component form.

**Figure P22.63**




**64.** •• What are the electric fields at points 1, 2, and 3 in Figure P22.64? Give your answer in component form.

**Figure P22.64**




**65.** ••• A 10.0 nC charge is located at position $(x, y) = (1.0\,\text{cm},\ 2.0\,\text{cm})$. At what $(x, y)$ position(s) is the electric field

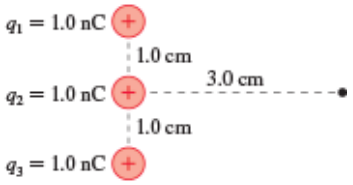
**a.** $-225{,}000\,\hat{i}\ \text{N/C}$?

**b.** $(161{,}000\,\hat{i} + 80{,}500\,\hat{j})\ \text{N/C}$?

**c.** $(21{,}600\,\hat{i} - 28{,}800\,\hat{j})\ \text{N/C}$?

**66.** •• Three 1.0 nC charges are placed as shown in Figure P22.66. Each of these charges creates an electric field $\vec{E}$ at a point 3.0 cm in front of the middle charge.

**Figure P22.66**



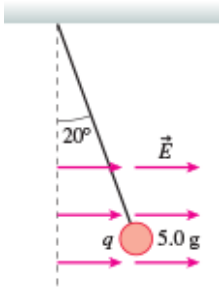
**a.** What are the three fields $\vec{E}_1$, $\vec{E}_2$, and $\vec{E}_3$ created by the three charges? Write your answer for each as a vector in component form.

**b.** Do you think that electric fields obey a principle of superposition? That is, is there a "net field" at this point given by $\vec{E}_{\text{net}} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3$? Use what you learned in this chapter and previously in our study of forces to argue why this is or is not true.

**c.** If it is true, what is $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$?

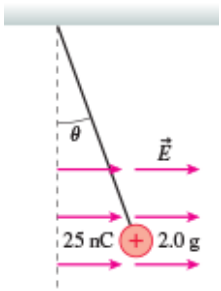
**67.** •• **INT** An electric field $\vec{E} = 100{,}000\,\hat{i}$ N/C causes the 5.0 g point charge in Figure P22.67 to hang at a 20° angle. What is the charge on the ball?

**Figure P22.67**




**68.** •• **INT** An electric field $\vec{E} = 200{,}000\,\hat{i}$ N/C causes the point charge in Figure P25.68 to hang at an angle. What is $\theta$?

**Figure P22.68**



In Problems 69, 70, 71, 72 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these,

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**69.**

$$\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\,\mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})\times N\times(1.60\times10^{-19}\,\mathrm{C})}{(1.0\times10^{-6}\,\mathrm{m})^2} = 1.5\times10^{6}\,\mathrm{N/C}$$

**70.**

$$\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})\,q^2}{(0.0150\ \mathrm{m})^2} = 0.020\ \mathrm{N}$$

**71.**

$$\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})\,(15\times10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C})}{r^2} = 54{,}000\ \mathrm{N/C}$$

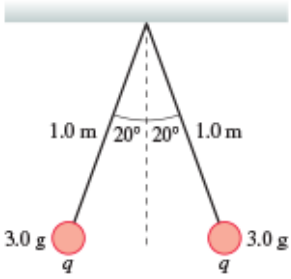
**72.**

$$\begin{aligned}\sum F_x &= 2\times\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\,\mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})(1.0\times10^{-9}\,\mathrm{C})q}{((0.020\,\mathrm{m})/\sin30^\circ)^2}\times\cos30^\circ\\ &= 5.0\times10^{-5}\,\mathrm{N}\\ \sum F_y &= 0\,\mathrm{N}\end{aligned}$$

## Challenge Problems

**73.** ••• Two 3.0 g point charges on 1.0-m-long threads repel each other after being equally charged, as shown in Figure CP22.73. What is the magnitude of the charge $q$?

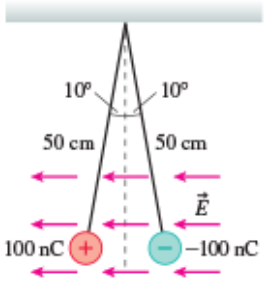
**Figure CP22.73**




**74.** ••• Three 3.0 g balls are tied to 80-cm-long threads and hung from a *single* fixed point. Each of the balls is given the same charge $q$. At equilibrium, the three balls form an equilateral triangle in a horizontal plane with 20 cm sides. What is $q$?

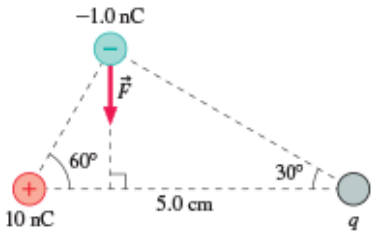
**75.** ••• The identical small spheres shown in Figure CP22.75 are charged to +100 nC and −100 nC. They hang as shown in a 100,000 N/C electric field. What is the mass of each sphere?

**Figure CP22.75**




**76.** ••• The force on the −1.0 nC charge is as shown in Figure CP22.76. What is the magnitude of this force?

**Figure CP22.76**



77. ••• In Section 22.3 we claimed that a charged object exerts a net attractive force on an electric dipole. Let's investigate this. Figure CP22.77 shows a *permanent* electric dipole consisting of charges $+q$ and $-q$ separated by the fixed distance $s$. Charge $+Q$ is distance $r$ from the center of the dipole. We'll assume, as is usually the case in practice, that $s \ll r$.

**Figure CP22.77**

**a.** Write an expression for the net force exerted on the dipole by charge $+Q$.

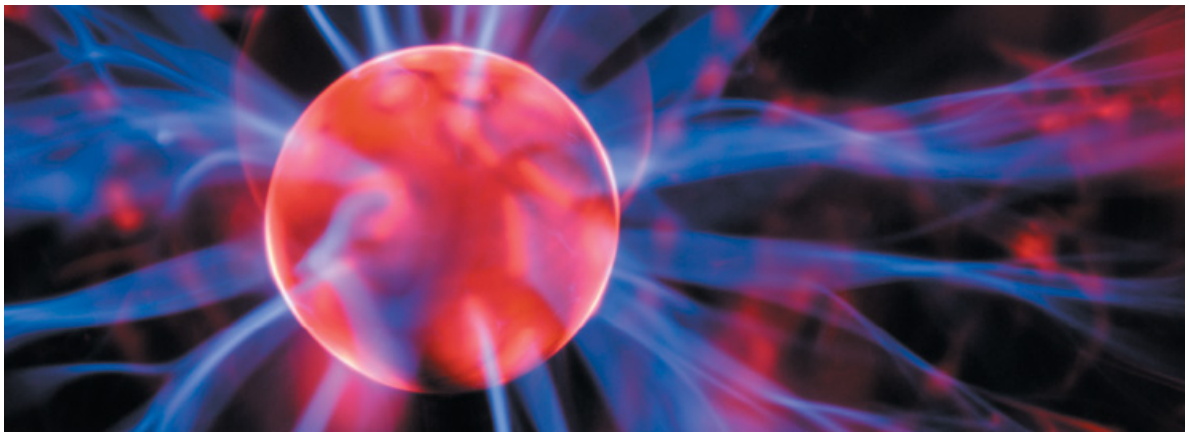
**b.** Is this force toward $+Q$ or away from $+Q$? Explain.

**c.** Use the *binomial approximation* $(1+x)^{-n} \approx 1 - nx$ if $x \ll 1$ to show that your expression from part a can be written $F_{\text{net}} = 2KqQs/r^3$.

**d.** How can an electric force have an inverse-cube dependence? Doesn't Coulomb's law say that the electric force depends on the inverse square of the distance? Explain.

# Chapter 23
# The Electric Field





In a plasma ball, electrons follow the electric field lines outward from the center electrode. The streamers appear where gas atoms emit light after the high-speed electrons collide with them.

**In This Chapter**

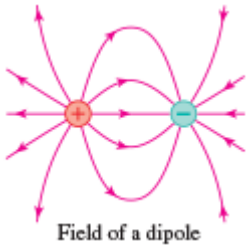
you will learn how to calculate and use the electric field.

## Where do electric fields come from?

Electric fields are created by charges.

- Electric fields add. The field due to several point charges is the sum of the fields due to each charge.
- Electric fields are *vectors*. Summing electric fields is vector addition.
- Two equal but opposite charges form an electric dipole.
- Electric fields can be represented by electric field vectors or electric field lines.

Looking Back Section 22.5 The electric field of a point charge

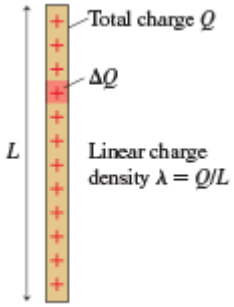


Field of a dipole

## What if the charge is continuous?

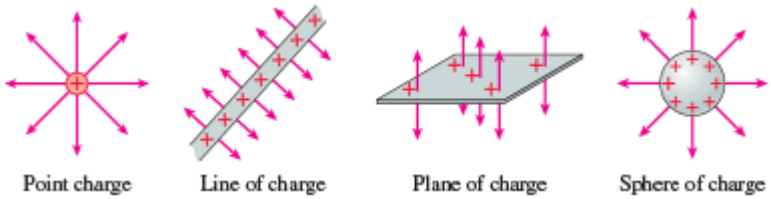
For macroscopic charged objects, like rods or disks, we can think of the charge as having a continuous distribution.

- A charged object is characterized by its charge density—the charge per length, area, or volume.
- We'll divide objects into small point charge-like pieces $\Delta Q$.
- The summation of their electric fields will become an integral.
- We'll calculate the electric fields of charged rods, loops, disks, and planes.




## What fields are especially important?

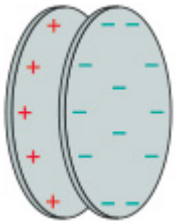
We will develop and use four important electric field models.



Point charge  Line of charge  Plane of charge  Sphere of charge

## What is a parallel-plate capacitor?

Two parallel conducting plates with equal but opposite charges form a parallel-plate capacitor. You'll learn that the electric field between the plates is a uniform electric field, the same at every point. Capacitors are also important elements of circuits, as you'll see in Chapter 26.

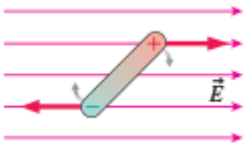


## How do charges respond to fields?

Electric fields exert forces on charges.

- Charged particles *accelerate*. Acceleration depends on the charge-to-mass ratio.
- A charged particle in a uniform field follows a parabolic trajectory.
- A dipole in an electric field feels a torque that aligns the dipole with the field.

Looking Back Section 4.2 Projectiles



# 23.1 Electric Field Models[630]

Chapter 22 introduced the key idea that **charged particles interact via the electric field.** In this chapter you will learn how to calculate the electric field of a set of charges. We will start with discrete point charges, then move on to calculating the electric field of a continuous distribution of charge. The latter will let you practice the mathematical skills you've been learning in calculus. Only at the end of the chapter will we look at what happens to charges that find themselves *in* an electric field.

The electric fields used in science and engineering are often caused by fairly complex distributions of charge. Sometimes these fields require exact calculations, but much of the time we can understand the physics by using simplified models of the electric field. A *model*, you'll recall, is a highly simplified picture of reality, one that captures the essence of what we want to study without unnecessary complications.

Four common electric field models are the basis for understanding a wide variety of electric phenomena. We present them here together as a reference; the first half of this chapter will then be devoted to justifying and explaining these results.

MODEL 23.1 **Four key electric fields**

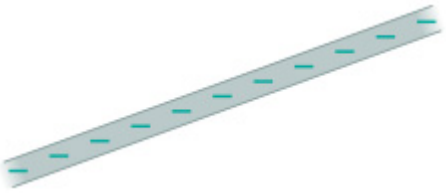
**A point charge:**

- Small charged objects

$\oplus$ $\vec{E} = \dfrac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\dfrac{q}{r^2}\,\hat{r}$

**An infinitely long line of charge:**

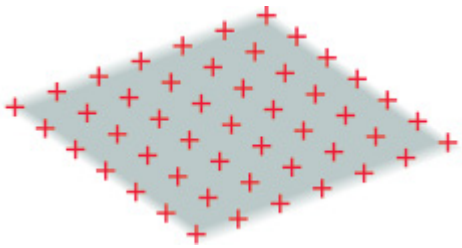
- Wires



$$\vec{E} = \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2\,|\lambda|}{r}, \begin{cases} \text{away if } + \\ \text{toward if } - \end{cases} \right)$$

**An infinitely wide plane of charge:**

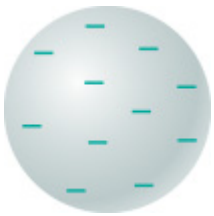
- Capacitors



$$\vec{E} = \left( \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}, \begin{cases} \text{away if } + \\ \text{toward if } - \end{cases} \right)$$

**A sphere of charge:**

- Electrodes



$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r^2} \hat{r} \text{ for } r > R$$

# 23.2 The Electric Field of Point Charges

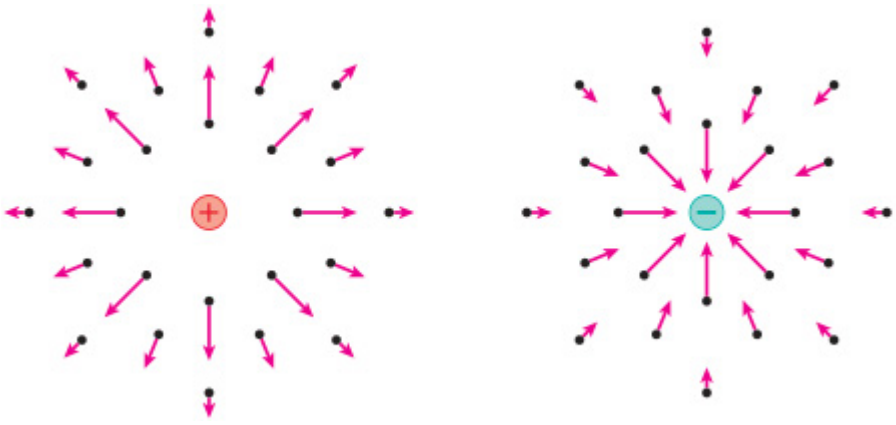
Our starting point, from Section 22.5, is the electric field of a point charge $q$:

**(23.1)**

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r} \qquad \text{(electric field of a point charge)}$$

where $\hat{r}$ is a unit vector pointing away from $q$ and $\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2}$ is the permittivity constant. Figure 23.1 reminds you of the electric fields of point charges. Although we have to give each vector we draw a length, keep in mind that each arrow represents the electric field *at a point*. The electric field is not a spatial quantity that "stretches" from one end of the arrow to the other.

**Figure 23.1**



The electric field of a positive and a negative point charge.

# Multiple Point Charges

What happens if there is more than one charge? The electric field was defined as $\vec{E} = \vec{F}_{\text{on } q}/q$, where $\vec{F}_{\text{on } q}$ is the electric force on charge $q$. Forces add as vectors, so the net force on $q$ due to a group of point charges is the vector sum

$$\vec{F}_{\text{on } q} = \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } q} + \vec{F}_{2 \text{ on } q} + \cdots$$

Consequently, the net electric field due to a group of point charges is

**(23.2)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{net}} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{on } q}}{q} = \frac{\vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } q}}{q} + \frac{\vec{F}_{2 \text{ on } q}}{q} + \cdots = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \cdots = \sum_i \vec{E}_i$$

where $\vec{E}_i$ is the field from point charge $i$. That is, **the net electric field is the *vector sum* of the electric fields due to each charge.** In other words, electric fields obey the *principle of superposition*.

Thus vector addition is the key to electric field calculations.

---

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 23.1 The electric field of multiple point charges**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model charged objects as point charges.

**VISUALIZE** For the pictorial representation:

- Establish a coordinate system and show the locations of the charges.

- Identify the point P at which you want to calculate the electric field.
- Draw the electric field of each charge at P.
- Use symmetry to determine if any components of $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$ are zero.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is $\vec{E}_{\text{net}} = \sum \vec{E}_i$.

- For each charge, determine its distance from P and the angle of $\vec{E}_i$ from the axes.
- Calculate the field strength of each charge's electric field.
- Write each vector $\vec{E}_i$ in component form.
- Sum the vector components to determine $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable (see Table 23.1), and agrees with any known limiting cases.

**Table 23.1**

| Field location | Field strength (N/C) |
|---|---|
| Inside a current-carrying wire | $10^{-3}$–$10^{-1}$ |
| Near the earth's surface | $10^{2}$–$10^{4}$ |
| Near objects charged by rubbing | $10^{3}$–$10^{6}$ |
| Electric breakdown in air, causing a spark | $3 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Inside an atom | $10^{11}$ |

Typical electric field strengths

**Example 23.1 The electric field of three equal point charges**

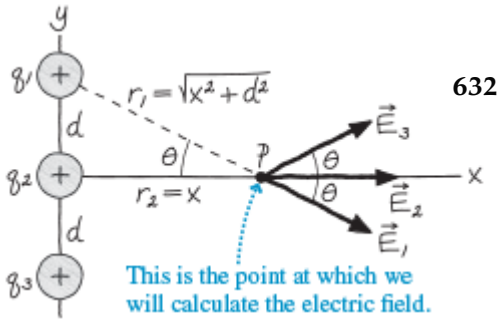
Three equal point charges $q$ are located on the $y$-axis at $y = 0$ and at $y = \pm d$. What is the electric field at a point on the $x$-axis?

---

**MODEL** This problem is a step along the way to understanding the electric field of a charged wire. We'll assume that $q$ is positive when drawing pictures, but the solution should allow for the possibility that $q$ is negative. The question does not ask about any specific point, so we will be looking for a symbolic expression in terms of the unspecified position $x$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.2 shows the charges, the coordinate system, and the three electric field vectors $\vec{E}_1$, $\vec{E}_2$, and $\vec{E}_3$. Each of these fields points *away from* its source charge because of the assumption that $q$ is positive. We need to find the vector sum $\vec{E}_{\text{net}} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3$.

## Figure 23.2






Calculating the electric field of three equal point charges.

Before rushing into a calculation, we can make our task *much* easier by first thinking qualitatively about the situation. For example, the fields $\vec{E}_1$, $\vec{E}_2$, and $\vec{E}_3$ all lie in the $xy$-plane, hence we can conclude without any calculations that $(E_{\text{net}})_z = 0$. Next, look at the $y$-components of the fields. The fields $\vec{E}_1$, and $\vec{E}_3$, have equal magnitudes and are tilted away from the $x$-axis by the same angle $\theta$.

Consequently, the $y$-components of $\vec{E}_1$ and $\vec{E}_3$ will *cancel* when added. $\vec{E}_2$ has no $y$-component, so we can conclude that $(E_{\text{net}})_y = 0$. The only component we need to calculate is $(E_{\text{net}})_x$.

**SOLVE** We're ready to calculate. The $x$-component of the field is

$$(E_{\text{net}})_x = (E_1)_x + (E_2)_x + (E_3)_x = 2(E_1)_x + (E_2)_x$$

where we used the fact that fields $\vec{E}_1$, and $\vec{E}_3$, have *equal* $x$-components. Vector $\vec{E}_2$ has *only* the $x$-component

$$(E_2)_x = E_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_2}{r_2^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{x^2}$$

where $r_2 = x$ is the distance from $q_2$ to the point at which we are calculating the field. Vector $\vec{E}_1$ is at angle $\theta$ from the $x$-axis, so its $x$-component is

$$(E_1)_x = E_1 \cos\theta = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r_1^2}\cos\theta$$

where $r_1$ is the distance from $q_1$. This expression for $(E_1)_x$ is correct, but it is not yet sufficient. Both the distance $r_1$ and the angle $\theta$ vary with the position $x$ and need to be expressed as functions of $x$. From the Pythagorean theorem, $r_1 = (x^2 + d^2)^{1/2}$. Thus

$$\cos\theta = \frac{x}{r_1} = \frac{x}{(x^2+d^2)^{1/2}}$$

By combining these pieces, we see that $(E_1)_x$ is

$$(E_1)_x = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{x^2+d^2}\frac{x}{(x^2+d^2)^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{xq}{(x^2+d^2)^{3/2}}$$

This expression is a bit complex, but notice that the dimensions of $x/(x^2 + d^2)^{3/2}$ are $1/\text{m}^2$, as they *must* be for the field of a point charge.

Checking dimensions is a good way to verify that you haven't made algebra errors.

We can now combine $(E_1)_x$ and $(E_2)_x$ to write

$$(E_{\text{net}})_x = 2(E_1)_x + (E_2)_x = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\left[\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{2x}{(x^2+d^2)^{3/2}}\right]$$

The other two components of $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$ are zero, hence the electric field of the three charges at a point on the $x$-axis is

$$\vec{E}_{\text{net}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\left[\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{2x}{(x^2+d^2)^{3/2}}\right]\hat{i}$$

**ASSESS** This is the electric field only at points *on the x-axis*. Furthermore, this expression is valid only for $x > 0$. The electric field to the left of the charges points in the opposite direction, but our expression doesn't change sign for negative $x$. (This is a consequence of how we wrote $(E_2)_x$.) We would need to modify this expression to use it for negative values of $x$. The good news, though, is that our expression *is* valid for both positive and negative $q$. A negative value of $q$ makes $(E_{\text{net}})_x$ negative, which would be an electric field pointing to the left, toward the negative charges.

## Limiting Cases

There are two cases for which we know what the result should be. First, let $x$ become really small. As the point in Figure 23.2 approaches the origin, the fields $\vec{E}_1$ and $\vec{E}_3$ become opposite to each other and cancel.

Thus as $x \to 0$, the field *should* be that of the single point charge $q$ at the origin, a field we already know. Is it? Notice that

**(23.3)**

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{2x}{(x^2 + d^2)^{3/2}} = 0$$

Thus $E_{\text{net}} \to q/4\pi\epsilon_0 x^2$ as $x \to 0$, the expected field of a single point charge.

Now consider the opposite situation, where $x$ becomes extremely large. From very far away, the three source charges will seem to merge into a single charge of size $3q$, just as three very distant lightbulbs appear to be a single light. Thus the field for $x \gg d$ *should* be that of a point charge $3q$. Is it?

The field is zero in the limit $x \to \infty$. That doesn't tell us much, so we don't want to go *that* far away. We simply want $x$ to be very large in comparison to the spacing $d$ between the source charges. If $x \gg d$, then the denominator of the second term of $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$ is well approximated by $(x^2 + d^2)^{3/2} \approx (x^2)^{3/2} = x^3$. Thus

**(23.4)**

$$\lim_{x \gg d} \left[ \frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{2x}{(x^2 + d^2)^{3/2}} \right] = \frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{2x}{x^3} = \frac{3}{x^2}$$



Consequently, the net electric field far from the source charges is

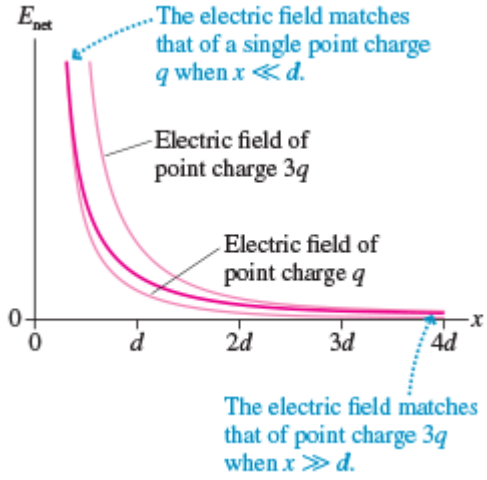
**(23.5)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{net}}(x \gg d) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(3q)}{x^2} \hat{i}$$

As expected, this is the field of a point charge $3q$. These checks of limiting cases provide confidence in the result of the calculation.

Figure 23.3 is a graph of the field strength $E_{net}$ for the three charges of Example 23.1. Although we don't have any numerical values, we can specify $x$ as a multiple of the charge separation $d$. Notice how the graph matches the field of a single point charge when $x \ll d$ and matches the field of a point charge $3q$ when $x \gg d$.

**Figure 23.3**

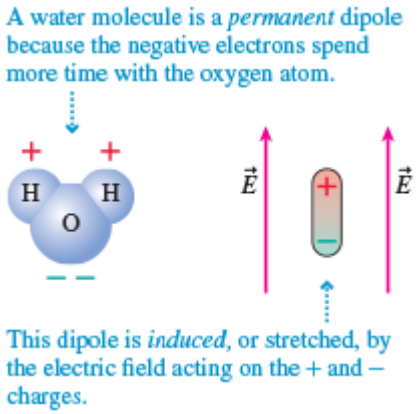



The electric field strength along a line perpendicular to three equal point charges.

# The Electric Field of a Dipole

Two equal but opposite charges separated by a small distance form an *electric dipole*. Figure 23.4 shows two examples. In a *permanent electric dipole*, such as the water molecule, the oppositely charged particles maintain a small permanent separation. We can also create an electric dipole, as you learned in Chapter 22, by polarizing a neutral atom with an external electric field. This is an *induced electric dipole*.

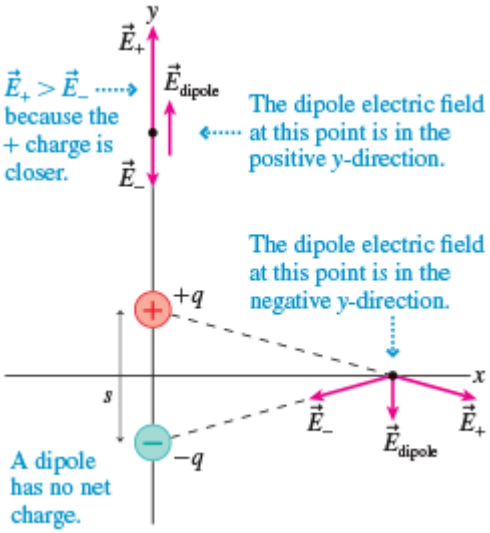
**Figure 23.4**




Permanent and induced electric dipoles.

Figure 23.5 shows that we can represent an electric dipole, whether permanent or induced, by two opposite charges $\pm q$ separated by the small distance $s$. The dipole has zero net charge, but it *does* have an electric field. Consider a point on the positive $y$-axis. This point is slightly closer to $+q$ than to $-q$, so the fields of the two charges do not cancel. You can see in the figure that $\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}}$ points in the positive $y$-direction. Similarly, vector addition shows that $\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}}$ points in the negative $y$-direction at points along the $x$-axis.

## Figure 23.5




The dipole electric field at two points.

Let's calculate the electric field of a dipole at a point on the axis of the dipole. This is the $y$-axis in Figure 23.5. The point is distance $r_+ = y - s/2$ from the positive charge and $r_- = y + s/2$ from the negative charge. The net electric field at this point has only a $y$-component, and the sum of the fields of the two point charges gives

**(23.6)**

$$(E_{\text{dipole}})_y = (E_+)_y + (E_-)_y = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{(y-\frac{1}{2}s)^2} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{(-q)}{(y+\frac{1}{2}s)^2}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\left[\frac{1}{(y-\frac{1}{2}s)^2} - \frac{1}{(y+\frac{1}{2}s)^2}\right]$$

Combining the two terms over a common denominator, we find

**(23.7)**

$$(E_{\text{dipole}})_y = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\left[\frac{2ys}{(y-\frac{1}{2}s)^2(y+\frac{1}{2}s)^2}\right]$$

We omitted some of the algebraic steps, but be sure you can do this yourself. Some of the homework problems will require similar algebra.

In practice, we almost always observe the electric field of a dipole at distances $y \gg s$—that is, for distances much larger than the charge separation. In such cases, the denominator can be approximated

$\left(y - \frac{1}{2}s\right)^2 \left(y + \frac{1}{2}s\right)^2 \approx y^4$. With this approximation, Equation 23.7 becomes



**(23.8)**

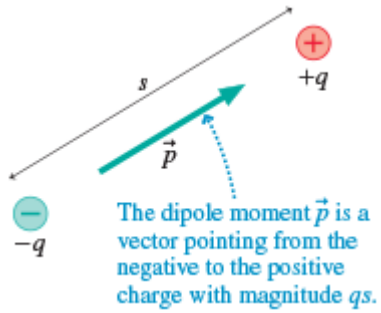
$$(E_{\text{dipole}})_y \approx \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2qs}{y^3}$$

It is useful to define the **dipole moment** $\vec{p}$, shown in Figure 23.6, as the vector

**(23.9)**

$$\vec{p} = (qs, \text{ from the negative to the positive charge})$$

## Figure 23.6




The dipole moment.

The direction of $\vec{p}$ identifies the orientation of the dipole, and the dipole-moment magnitude $p = qs$ determines the electric field strength. The SI units of the dipole moment are Cm.

We can use the dipole moment to write a succinct expression for the electric field at a point on the axis of a dipole:

**(23.10)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}} \approx \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2\vec{p}}{r^3} \quad \text{(on the axis of an electric dipole)}$$

where $r$ is the distance measured from the *center* of the dipole. We've switched from $y$ to $r$ because we've now specified that Equation 23.10 is valid only along the axis of the dipole. Notice that the electric field along the axis points in the direction of the dipole moment $\vec{p}$.

A homework problem will let you calculate the electric field in the plane that bisects the dipole. This is the field shown on the $x$-axis in Figure 23.5, but it could equally well be the field on the $z$-axis as it comes out of the page. The field, for $r \gg s$, is

---

**(23.11)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}} \approx -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\vec{p}}{r^3} \quad \text{(bisecting plane)}$$

This field is *opposite* to $\vec{p}$, and it is only half the strength of the on-axis field at the same distance.

> **Note**
>
> Do these inverse-cube equations violate Coulomb's law? Not at all. Coulomb's law describes the force between two *point charges*, and from Coulomb's law we found that the electric field of a *point charge* varies with the inverse square of the distance. But a dipole is not a point charge. The field of a dipole decreases more rapidly than that of a point charge,

which is to be expected because the dipole is, after all, electrically neutral.

**Example 23.2 The electric field of a water molecule**

The water molecule $H_2O$ has a permanent dipole moment of magnitude $6.2 \times 10^{-30}$ C m. What is the electric field strength 1.0 nm from a water molecule at a point on the dipole's axis?

**MODEL** The size of a molecule is ≈ 0.1 nm. Thus $r \gg s$, and we can use Equation 23.10 for the on-axis electric field of the molecule's dipole moment.



**SOLVE** The on-axis electric field strength at $r = 1.0$ nm is

$$E \approx \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2p}{r^3} = (9.0 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2/\text{C}^2)\frac{2(6.2 \times 10^{-30} \text{ C m})}{(1.0 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m})^3}$$
$$= 1.1 \times 10^8 \text{ N/C}$$

**ASSESS** By referring to Table 23.1 you can see that the field strength is "strong" compared to our everyday experience with charged objects but "weak" compared to the electric field inside the atoms themselves. This seems reasonable.

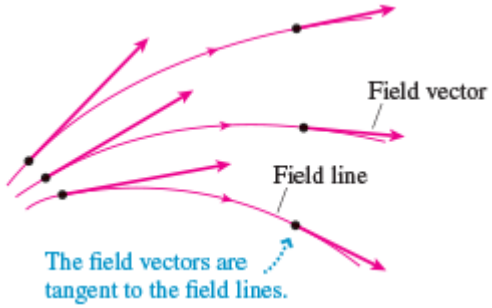
## Electric Field Lines

We can't see the electric field. Consequently, we need pictorial tools to help us visualize it in a region of space. One method, introduced in Chapter 22, is to picture the electric field by drawing electric field vectors at various points in space.

Another common way to picture the field is to draw **electric field lines.** As Figure 23.7 shows,

- Electric field lines are *continuous* curves tangent to the electric field vectors.
- Closely spaced field lines indicate a greater field strength; widely spaced field lines indicate a smaller field strength.
- Electric field lines start on positive charges and end on negative charges.
- Electric field lines never cross.

## Figure 23.7

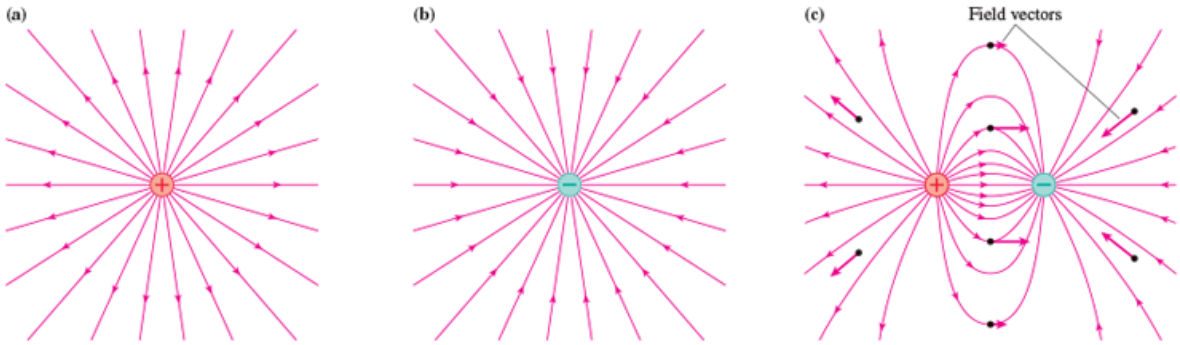



Electric field lines.

The third bullet point follows from the fact that electric fields are created by charge. However, we will have to modify this idea in Chapter 30 when we find another way to create an electric field.

Figure 23.8 shows three electric fields represented by electric field lines. Notice that the electric field of a dipole points in the direction of $\vec{p}$ (left to right) on both sides of the dipole, but points opposite to $\vec{p}$ in the bisecting plane.

## Figure 23.8




The electric field lines of (a) a positive point charge, (b) a negative point charge, and (c) a dipole.

Neither field-vector diagrams nor field-line diagrams are perfect pictorial representations of an electric field. The field vectors are somewhat harder to draw, and they show the field at only a few points, but they do clearly indicate the direction and strength of the electric field at those points. Field-line diagrams perhaps look more elegant, and they're sometimes easier to sketch, but there's no formula for knowing where to draw the lines. We'll use both field-vector diagrams and field-line diagrams, depending on the circumstances.

## Stop to Think 23.1

At the dot, the electric field points

**a.** Left.
**b.** Right.
**c.** Up.
**d.** Down.
**e.** The electric field is zero.

# 23.3 The Electric Field of a Continuous Charge Distribution



Ordinary objects—tables, chairs, beakers of water—seem to our senses to be continuous distributions of matter. There is no obvious evidence for atoms, even though we have good reasons to believe that we would find atoms if we subdivided the matter sufficiently far. Thus it is easier, for many practical purposes, to consider matter to be continuous and to talk about the *density* of matter. Density—the number of kilograms of matter per cubic meter—allows us to describe the distribution of matter *as if* the matter were continuous rather than atomic.

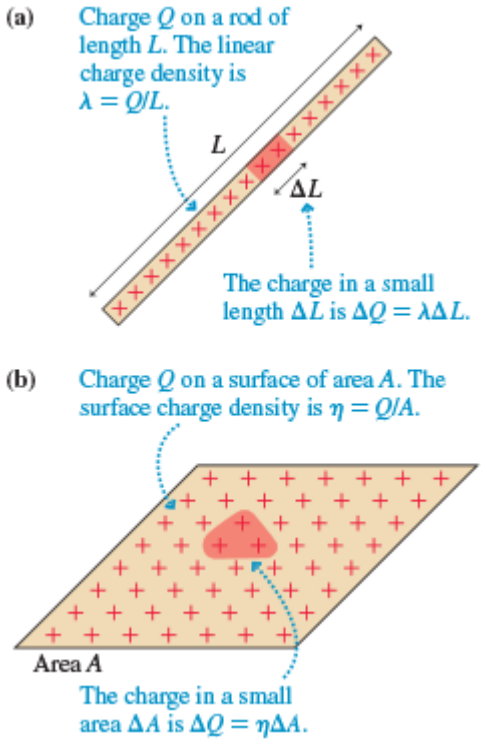
Much the same situation occurs with charge. If a charged object contains a large number of excess electrons—for example, $10^{12}$ extra electrons on a metal rod—it is not practical to track every electron. It makes more sense to consider the charge to be *continuous* and to describe how it is distributed over the object.

Figure 23.9a shows an object of length $L$, such as a plastic rod or a metal wire, with charge $Q$ spread uniformly along it. (We will use an uppercase $Q$ for the total charge of an object, reserving lowercase $q$ for individual point charges.) The **linear charge density** $\lambda$ is defined to be

**(23.12)**

$$\lambda = \frac{Q}{L}$$

**Figure 23.9**




One-dimensional and two-dimensional continuous charge distributions.

Linear charge density, which has units of C/m, is the amount of charge *per meter* of length. The linear charge density of a 20-cm-long wire with 40 nC of charge is $2.0\,\text{nC/cm}$ or $2.0 \times 10^{-7}\,\text{C/m}$.

> **Note**
>
> The linear charge density $\lambda$ is analogous to the linear mass density $\mu$ that you used in Chapter 16 to find the speed of a wave on a string.

We'll also be interested in charged surfaces. Figure 23.9b shows a two-dimensional distribution of charge across a surface of area $A$. We define the **surface charge density** $\eta$ (lowercase Greek eta) to be

**(23.13)**

$$\eta = \frac{Q}{A}$$

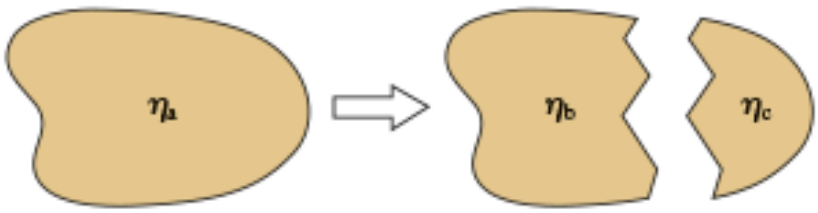
Surface charge density, with units of $\text{C/m}^2$, is the amount of charge *per square meter*. A $1.0\ \text{mm} \times 1.0\ \text{mm}$ square on a surface with $\eta = 2.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{C/m}^2$ contains $2.0 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{C}$ or $0.20\ \text{nC}$ of charge. (The volume charge density $\rho = Q/V$, measured in $\text{C/m}^3$, will be used in Chapter 24.)

Figure 23.9 and the definitions of Equations 23.12 and 23.13 assume that the object is **uniformly charged,** meaning that the charges are evenly spread over the object. We will assume objects are uniformly charged unless noted otherwise.

> **Note**
>
> Some textbooks represent the surface charge density with the symbol $\sigma$. Because $\sigma$ is also used to represent *conductivity*, an idea we'll introduce in Chapter 27, we've selected a different symbol for surface charge density.

## Stop to Think 23.2

A piece of plastic is uniformly charged with surface charge density $\eta_a$. The plastic is then broken into a large piece with surface charge density $\eta_b$ and a small piece with surface charge density $\eta_c$. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the surface charge densities $\eta_a$ to $\eta_c$.



# Integration Is Summation

Calculating the electric field of a continuous charge distribution usually requires setting up and evaluating integrals—a skill you've been learning in calculus. It is common to think that "an integral is the area under a curve," an idea we used in our study of kinematics.

But integration is much more than a tool for finding areas. More generally, **integration is summation.** That is, an integral is a sophisticated way to add an infinite number of infinitesimally small pieces. The area under a curve happens to be a special case in which you're summing the small areas $y(x)\,dx$ of an infinite number of tall, narrow boxes, but the idea of integration as summation has many other applications.

Suppose, for example, that a charged object is divided into a large number of small pieces numbered $i = 1,\ 2,\ 3, \ldots\ ,\ N$ having small quantities of charge $\Delta Q_1,\ \Delta Q_2,\ \Delta Q_3,\ \ldots\ ,\ \Delta Q_N$. Figure 23.9 showed small pieces of charge for a charged rod and a charged sheet, but the object could have any shape. The total charge on the object is found by *summing* all the small charges:

**(23.14)**

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \Delta Q_i$$

If we now let $\Delta Q_i \to 0$ and $N \to \infty$, then we *define* the integral:

**(23.15)**

$$Q = \lim_{\Delta Q \to 0} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \Delta Q_i = \int_{\text{object}} dQ$$

That is, integration is the summing of an infinite number of infinitesimally small pieces of charge. This use of integration has nothing to do with the area under a curve.

Although Equation 23.15 is a formal statement of "add up all the little pieces," it's not yet an expression that can actually be integrated with the tools of calculus. Integrals are carried out over coordinates, such as $dx$ or $dy$, and we also need coordinates to specify what is meant by "integrate over the object." This is where densities come in.

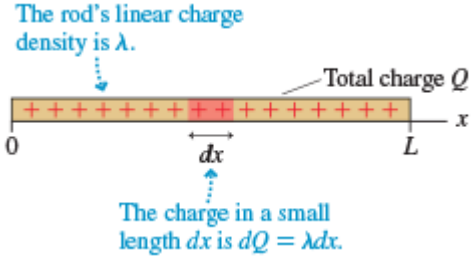
Suppose we want to find the total charge of a thin, charged rod of length $L$. First, we establish an $x$-axis with the origin at one end of the rod, as shown in Figure 23.10. Then we divide the rod into lots of tiny segments of length $dx$. Each of these little segments has a charge $dQ$, and the total charge on the rod is the sum of all the $dQ$ values—that's what Equation 23.15 is saying. Now the critical step: The rod has some linear charge density $\lambda$. Consequently, the charge of a small segment of the rod is $dQ = \lambda\, dx$. **Densities are the link between quantities and coordinates.** Finally, "integrate over the rod" means to integrate from $x = 0$ to $x = L$. Thus the total charge on the rod is



**(23.16)**

$$Q = \int_{\text{rod}} dQ = \int_0^L \lambda\, dx$$

## Figure 23.10



*Now* we have an expression that can be integrated. If λ is constant, as it is for a uniformly charged rod, we can take it outside the integral to find $Q = \lambda L$. But we could also use Equation 23.16 for a nonuniformly charged rod where λ is some function of $x$.

This discussion reveals two key ideas that will be needed for calculating electric fields:

- Integration is the tool for summing a vast number of small pieces.
- Density is the connection between quantities and coordinates.

## A Problem-Solving Strategy

Our goal is to find the electric field of a continuous distribution of charge, such as a charged rod or a charged disk. We have two basic tools to work with:

- The electric field of a point charge, and
- The principle of superposition.

We can apply these tools with a three-step strategy:

1. Divide the total charge $Q$ into many small point-like charges $\Delta Q$.
2. Use our knowledge of the electric field of a point charge to find the electric field of each $\Delta Q$.
3. Calculate the net field $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$ by summing the fields of all the $\Delta Q$.

As you've no doubt guessed, we'll let the sum become an integral.

We will go step by step through several examples to illustrate the procedures. However, we first need to flesh out the steps of the problem-solving strategy. The aim of this problem-solving strategy is to break a difficult problem down into small steps that are individually manageable.

### PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 23.2 The electric field of a continuous distribution of charge

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the charge distribution as a simple shape.

**VISUALIZE** For the pictorial representation:

- Draw a picture, establish a coordinate system, and identify the point P at which you want to calculate the electric field.
- Divide the total charge $Q$ into small pieces of charge $\Delta Q$, using shapes for which you *already know* how to determine $\vec{E}$. This is often, but not always, a division into point charges.
- Draw the electric field vector at P for one or two small pieces of charge. This will help you identify distances and angles that need to be calculated.



**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is $\vec{E}_{\text{net}} = \sum \vec{E}_i$.

- Write an algebraic expression for *each* of the three components of $\vec{E}$ (unless you are sure one or more is zero) at point P. Let the $(x, y, z)$ coordinates of the point remain variables.
- Replace the small charge $\Delta Q$ with an equivalent expression involving a charge density and a coordinate, such as $dx$. **This is the critical step in making the transition from a sum to an**

**integral** because you need a coordinate to serve as the integration variable.

- Express all angles and distances in terms of the coordinates.
- Let the sum become an integral. The integration limits for this variable must "cover" the entire charged object.

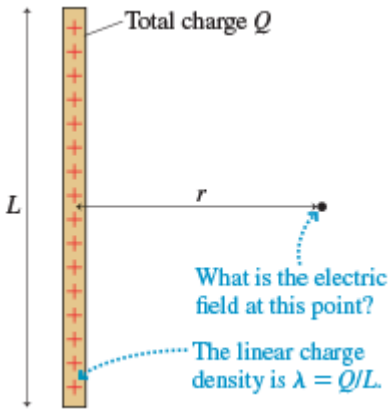
**ASSESS** Check that your result is consistent with any limits for which you know what the field should be.

Workbook Exercise 16

### Example 23.3 The electric field of a line of charge

Figure 23.11 shows a thin, uniformly charged rod of length $L$ with total charge $Q$. Find the electric field strength at radial distance $r$ in the plane that bisects the rod.

#### Figure 23.11

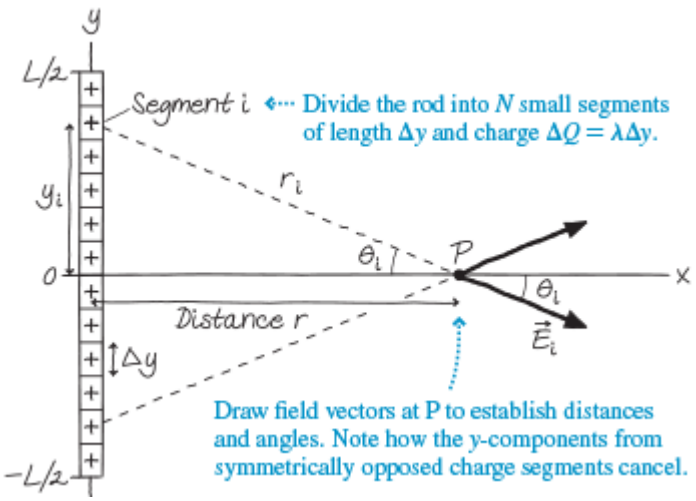



A thin, uniformly charged rod.

**MODEL** The rod is thin, so we'll assume the charge lies along a line and forms what we call a *line of charge*. The rod's linear charge density is $\lambda = Q/L$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.12 illustrates the steps of the problem-solving strategy. We've chosen a coordinate system in which the rod lies along the $y$-axis and point P, in the bisecting plane, is on the $x$-axis. We've then divided the rod into $N$ small segments of charge $\Delta Q$, each of which is small enough to model as a point charge. For every $\Delta Q$ in the bottom half of the wire with a field that points to the right and up, there's a matching $\Delta Q$ in the top half whose field points to the right and down. The $y$-components of these two fields cancel, hence **the net electric field on the $x$-axis points straight away from the rod.** The only component we need to calculate is $E_x$. (This is the same reasoning on the basis of symmetry that we used in Example 23.1.)

## Figure 23.12




Calculating the electric field of a line of charge.

**SOLVE** Each of the little segments of charge can be modeled as a point charge. We know the electric field of a point charge, so we

can write the $x$-component of $\vec{E}_i$, the electric field of segment $i$, as

$$(E_i)_x = E_i \cos\theta_i = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\Delta Q}{{r_i}^2}\cos\theta_i$$

where $r_i$ is the distance from charge $i$ to point P. You can see from the figure that $r_i = ({y_i}^2 + r^2)^{1/2}$ and $\cos\theta_i = r/r_i = r/({y_i}^2 + r^2)^{1/2}$. With these, $(E_i)_x$ is

$$\begin{aligned}(E_i)_x &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\Delta Q}{{y_i}^2 + r^2}\frac{r}{\sqrt{{y_i}^2 + r^2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{r\,\Delta Q}{({y_i}^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}\end{aligned}$$

Compare this result to the very similar calculation we did in Example 23.1. If we now sum this expression over all the charge segments, the net $x$-component of the electric field is

$$E_x = \sum_{i=1}^{N}(E_i)_x = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{r\,\Delta Q}{(y_i^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

This is the same superposition we did for the $N = 3$ case in Example 23.1. The only difference is that we have now written the result as an explicit summation so that $N$ can have any value. We want to let $N \to \infty$ and to replace the sum with an integral, but we can't integrate over $Q$; it's not a geometric quantity. This is where the linear charge density enters. The quantity of charge in each segment is related to its length $\Delta y$ by $\Delta Q = \lambda \Delta y = (Q/L)\,\Delta y$. In terms of the linear charge density, the electric field is

$$E_x = \frac{Q/L}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{r\,\Delta y}{(y_i^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

Now we're ready to let the sum become an integral. If we let $N \to \infty$ then each segment becomes an infinitesimal length $\Delta y \to dy$ while the discrete position variable $y_i$ becomes the continuous integration variable $y$. The sum from $i = 1$ at the bottom end of the line of charge to $i = N$ at the top end will be replaced with an integral from $y = -L/2$ to $y = +L/2$. Thus in the limit $N \to \infty$,

$$E_x = \frac{Q/L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \frac{r\, dy}{(y^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

This is a standard integral that you have learned to do in calculus and that can be found in Appendix A. Note that $r$ is a *constant* as far as this integral is concerned. Integrating gives

$$\begin{aligned} E_x &= \frac{Q/L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{y}{r\sqrt{y^2 + r^2}} \Bigg|_{-L/2}^{L/2} \\ &= \frac{Q/L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{L/2}{r\sqrt{(L/2)^2 + r^2}} - \frac{-L/2}{r\sqrt{(-L/2)^2 + r^2}} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r\sqrt{r^2 + (L/2)^2}} \end{aligned}$$

Because $E_x$ is the *only* component of the field, the electric field strength $E_{\text{rod}}$ at distance $r$ from the center of a charged rod is

$$E_{\text{rod}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{|Q|}{r\sqrt{r^2 + (L/2)^2}}$$

The field strength must be positive, so we added absolute value signs to $Q$ to allow for the possibility that the charge could be

negative. The only restriction is to remember that this is the electric field at a point in the plane that bisects the rod.

**ASSESS** Suppose we are at a point *very* far from the rod. If $r \gg L$, the length of the rod is not relevant and the rod appears to be a point charge Q in the distance. Thus in the *limiting case* $r \gg L$, we expect the rod's electric field to be that of a point charge. If $r \gg L$, the square root becomes $\left(r^2 + (L/2)^2\right)^{1/2} \approx \left(r^2\right)^{1/2} = r$ and the electric field strength at distance $r$ becomes $E_{\text{rod}} \approx Q/4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2$, the field of a point charge. The fact that our expression of $E_{\text{rod}}$ has the correct limiting behavior gives us confidence that we haven't made any mistakes in its derivation.

## An Infinite Line of Charge

What if the rod or wire becomes very long, becoming a **line of charge,** while the linear charge density λ remains constant? To answer this question, we can rewrite the expression for $E_{\text{rod}}$ by factoring $(L/2)^2$ out of the denominator:

$$E_{\text{rod}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{|Q|}{r \cdot L/2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 4r^2/L^2}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2|\lambda|}{r}\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 4r^2/L^2}}$$

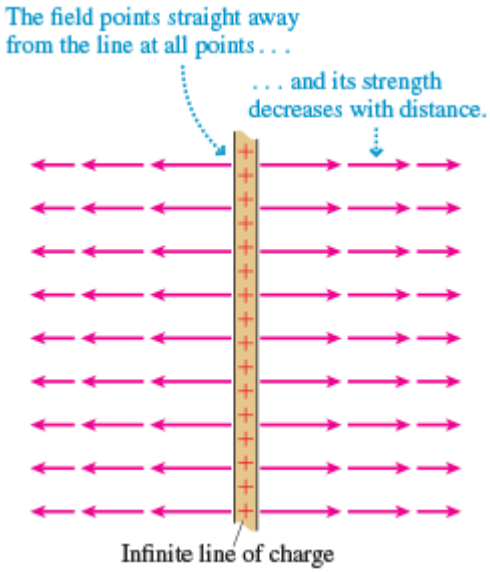
where $|\lambda| = |Q|/L$ is the magnitude of the linear charge density. If we now let $L \to \infty$, the last term becomes simply 1 and we're left with

**(23.17)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{line}} = \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2\,|\lambda|}{r},\ \begin{cases}\text{away from line if charge} + \\ \text{toward line if charge} -\end{cases}\right) \quad \text{(line of charge)}$$

where we've now included the field's direction. Figure 23.13 shows the electric field vectors of an infinite line of positive charge. The vectors would point inward for a negative line of charge.

## Figure 23.13




The electric field of an infinite line of charge.

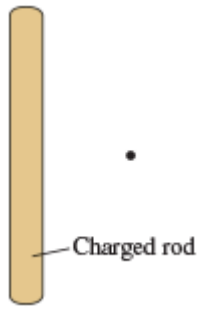
> **Note**
>
> Unlike a point charge, for which the field decreases as $1/r^2$, the field of an infinitely long charged wire decreases more slowly—as only $1/r$.

The infinite line of charge is the second of our important electric field models. Although no real wire is infinitely long, the field of a realistic finite-length wire is well approximated by Equation 23.17 except at points near the end of the wire.

### Stop to Think 23.3

Which of the following actions will increase the electric field strength at the position of the dot?

**a.** Make the rod longer without changing the charge.
**b.** Make the rod shorter without changing the charge.
**c.** Make the rod wider without changing the charge.
**d.** Make the rod narrower without changing the charge.
**e.** Add charge to the rod.
**f.** Remove charge from the rod.
**g.** Move the dot farther from the rod.
**h.** Move the dot closer to the rod.



# 23.4 The Electric Fields of Rings, Disks, Planes, and Spheres



In this section we'll derive the electric fields for several important charge distributions.

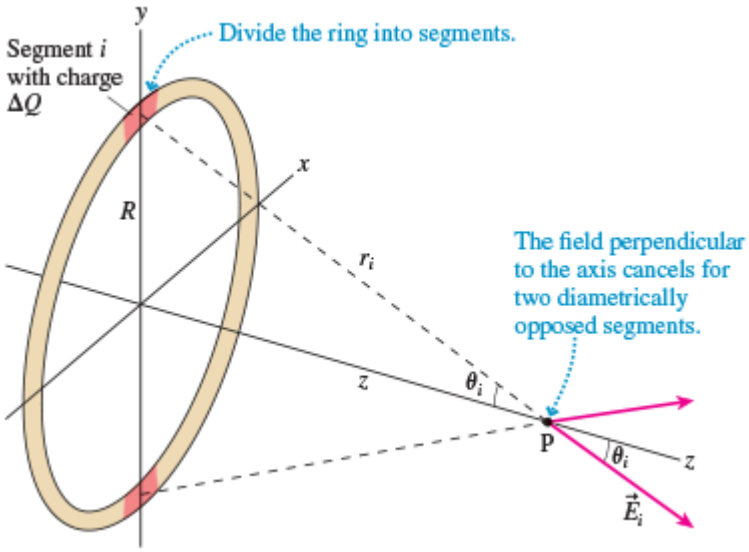
**Example 23.4 The electric field of a ring of charge**

A thin ring of radius $R$ is uniformly charged with total charge $Q$. Find the electric field at a point on the axis of the ring (perpendicular to the ring).

**MODEL** Because the ring is thin, we'll assume the charge lies along a circle of radius $R$. You can think of this as a line of charge of length $2\pi R$ wrapped into a circle. The linear charge density along the ring is $\lambda = Q/2\pi R$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.14 on the next page shows the ring and illustrates the steps of the problem-solving strategy. We've chosen a coordinate system in which the ring lies in the $xy$-plane and point P is on the $z$-axis. We've then divided the ring into $N$ small segments of charge $\Delta Q$, each of which can be modeled as a point charge. As you can see from the figure, the component of the field perpendicular to the axis cancels for two diametrically opposite segments. Thus we need to calculate only the $z$-component $E_z$.

**Figure 23.14**




Calculating the on-axis electric field of a ring of charge.

---

**SOLVE** The $z$-component of the electric field due to segment $i$ is

$$(E_i)_z = E_i \cos\theta_i = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\Delta Q}{r_i^2}\cos\theta_i$$

You can see from the figure that *every* segment of the ring, independent of $i$, has

$$r_i = \sqrt{z^2 + R^2}$$
$$\cos\theta_i = \frac{z}{r_i} = \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}}$$

Consequently, the field of segment $i$ is

$$(E_i)_z = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\Delta Q}{z^2 + R^2}\frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{z}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}}\Delta Q$$

The net electric field is found by summing $(E_i)_z$ due to all $N$ segments:

$$E_z = \sum_{i=1}^{N}(E_i)_z = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{z}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\Delta Q$$

We were able to bring all terms involving $z$ to the front because $z$ is a constant as far as the summation is concerned. Surprisingly, we don't need to convert the sum to an integral to complete this calculation. The sum of all the $\Delta Q$ around the ring is simply the ring's total charge, $\sum \Delta Q = Q$, hence the field on the axis is

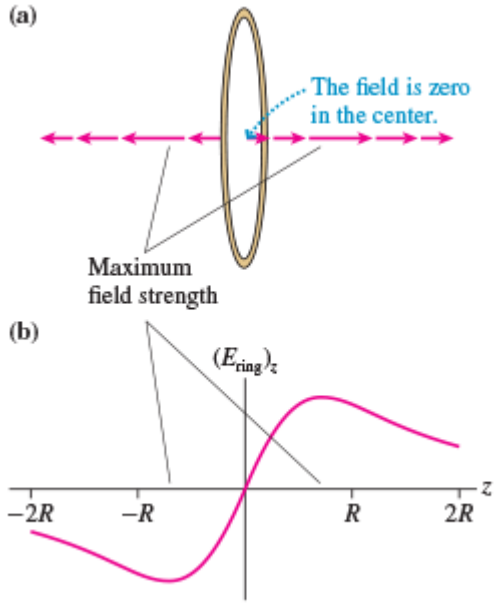
$$(E_{\text{ring}})_z = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{zQ}{(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}}$$

This expression is valid for both positive and negative $z$ (i.e., on either side of the ring) and for both positive and negative charge.

**ASSESS** It will be left as a homework problem to show that this result gives the expected limit when $z \gg R$.

Figure 23.15 shows two representations of the on-axis electric field of a positively charged ring. Figure 23.15a shows that the electric field vectors point away from the ring, increasing in length until reaching a maximum when $|z| \approx R$, then decreasing. The graph of $(E_{\text{ring}})_z$ in Figure 23.15b confirms that the field strength has a maximum on either side of the ring. Notice that the electric field at the center of the ring is zero, even though this point is surrounded by charge. You might want to spend a minute thinking about why this has to be the case.

**Figure 23.15**




The on-axis electric field of a ring of charge.



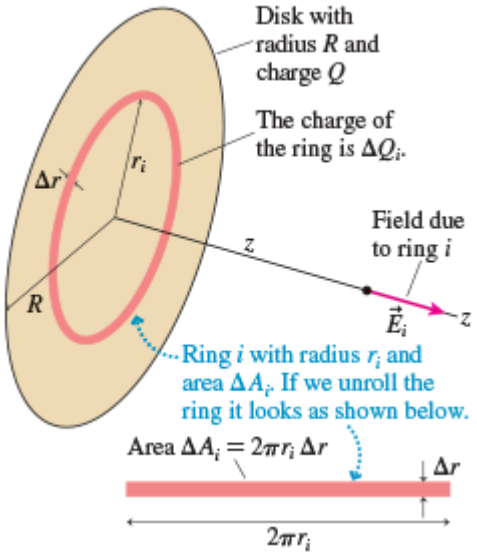
# A Disk of Charge

Figure 23.16 shows a disk of radius $R$ that is uniformly charged with charge $Q$. This is a mathematical disk, with no thickness, and its surface charge density is

**(23.18)**

$$\eta = \frac{Q}{A} = \frac{Q}{\pi R^2}$$

**Figure 23.16**




Calculating the on-axis field of a charged disk.

---

We would like to calculate the on-axis electric field of this disk. Our problem-solving strategy tells us to divide a continuous charge into segments for which we already know how to find $\vec{E}$. Because we now know the on-axis electric field of a ring of charge, let's divide the disk into $N$ very narrow rings of radius $r$ and width $\Delta r$. One such ring, with radius $r_i$ and charge $\Delta Q_i$, is shown.

We need to be careful with notation. The $R$ in Example 23.4 was the radius of the ring. Now we have many rings, and the radius of ring $i$ is $r_i$. Similarly, $Q$ was the charge on the ring. Now the charge on ring $i$ is $\Delta Q_i$, a small fraction of the total charge on the disk. With these changes, the electric field of ring $i$, with radius $r_i$, is

**(23.19)**

$$(E_i)_z = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{z\,\Delta Q_i}{(z^2 + r_i^2)^{3/2}}$$

The on-axis electric field of the charged disk is the sum of the electric fields of all of the rings:

**(23.20)**

$$(E_{\text{disk}})_z = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (E_i)_z = \frac{z}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\Delta Q_i}{(z^2 + r_i^2)^{3/2}}$$

The critical step, as always, is to relate $\Delta Q$ to a coordinate. Because we now have a surface, rather than a line, the charge in ring $i$ is $\Delta Q = \eta \, \Delta A_i$, where $\Delta A_i$ is the area of ring $i$. We can find $\Delta A_i$, as you've learned to do in calculus, by "unrolling" the ring to form a narrow rectangle of length $2\pi r_i$ and height $\Delta r$. Thus the area of ring $i$ is $\Delta A_i = 2\pi r_i \Delta r$ and the charge is $\Delta Q_i = 2\pi\eta r_i \Delta r$. With this substitution, Equation 23.20 becomes

**(23.21)**

$$(E_{\text{disk}})_z = \frac{\eta z}{2\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{r_i \, \Delta r}{(z^2 + r_i^2)^{3/2}}$$



As $N \to \infty$, $\Delta r \to dr$ and the sum becomes an integral. Adding all the rings means integrating from $r = 0$ to $r = R$; thus

**(23.22)**

$$(E_{\text{disk}})_z = \frac{\eta z}{2\epsilon_0} \int_0^R \frac{r \, dr}{(z^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

All that remains is to carry out the integration. This is straightforward if we make the variable change $u = z^2 + r^2$. Then $du = 2r dr$ or, equivalently, $r dr = \frac{1}{2} du$. At the lower integration limit $r = 0$, our new variable is $u = z^2$. At the upper limit $r = R$, the new variable is $u = z^2 + R^2$.

> **Note**
>
> When changing variables in a definite integral, you *must* also change the limits of integration.

With this variable change the integral becomes

**(23.23)**

$$(E_{\text{disk}})_z = \frac{\eta z}{2\epsilon_0}\frac{1}{2}\int_{z^2}^{z^2+R^2}\frac{du}{u^{3/2}} = \frac{\eta z}{4\epsilon_0}\frac{-2}{u^{1/2}}\Bigg|_{z^2}^{z^2+R^2} = \frac{\eta z}{2\epsilon_0}\left[\frac{1}{z} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{z^2+R^2}}\right]$$

If we multiply through by $z$, the on-axis electric field of a charged disk with surface charge density $\eta = Q/\pi R^2$ is

---

**(23.24)**

$$(E_{\text{disk}})_z = \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}\left[1 - \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2+R^2}}\right]$$

> **Note**
>
> This expression is valid only for $z > 0$. The field for $z < 0$ has the same magnitude but points in the opposite direction.

## Limiting Cases

It's a bit difficult to see what Equation 23.24 is telling us, so let's compare it to what we already know. First, you can see that the quantity in square brackets is dimensionless. The surface charge density $\eta = Q/A$ has the same units as $q/r^2$, so $\eta/2\epsilon_0$ has the same units as $q/4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2$. This tells us that $\eta/2\epsilon_0$ really is an electric field.

Next, let's move very far away from the disk. At distance $z \gg R$, the disk appears to be a point charge $Q$ in the distance and the field of the disk should approach that of a point charge. If we let $z \to \infty$ in Equation 23.24, so that $z^2 + R^2 \approx z^2$, we find $(E_{\text{disk}})_z \to 0$. This is true, but not quite what we wanted. We need to let $z$ be very large in comparison to $R$, but not so large as to make $E_{\text{disk}}$ vanish. That requires a little more care in taking the limit.

We can cast Equation 23.24 into a somewhat more useful form by factoring the $z^2$ out of the square root to give

**(23.25)**

$$(E_{\text{disk}})_z = \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}\left[1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + R^2/z^2}}\right]$$

Now $R^2/z^2 \ll 1$ if $z \gg R$, so the second term in the square brackets is of the form $(1+x)^{-1/2}$ where $x \ll 1$. We can then use the *binomial approximation*

$$(1+x)^n \approx 1 + nx \quad \text{if} \quad x \ll 1 \qquad \text{(binomial approximation)}$$

to simplify the expression in square brackets:

**(23.26)**

$$1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + R^2/z^2}} = 1 - (1 + R^2/z^2)^{-1/2} \approx 1 - \left(1 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{R^2}{z^2}\right) = \frac{R^2}{2z^2}$$

This is a good approximation when $z \gg R$. Substituting this approximation into Equation 23.25, we find that the electric field of the disk for $z \gg R$ is

(23.27)
$$(E_{\text{disk}})_z \approx \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}\frac{R^2}{2z^2} = \frac{Q/\pi R^2}{4\epsilon_0}\frac{R^2}{z^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{z^2} \qquad \text{if } z \gg R$$

This is, indeed, the field of a point charge $Q$, giving us confidence in Equation 23.24 for the on-axis electric field of a disk of charge.

### Example 23.5 The electric field of a charged disk

A 10-cm-diameter plastic disk is charged uniformly with an extra $10^{11}$ electrons. What is the electric field 1.0 mm above the surface at a point near the center?

**MODEL** Model the plastic disk as a uniformly charged disk. We are seeking the on-axis electric field. Because the charge is negative, the field will point *toward* the disk.

**SOLVE** The total charge on the plastic square is $Q = N(-e) = -1.60 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{C}$. The surface charge density is

$$\eta = \frac{Q}{A} = \frac{Q}{\pi R^2} = \frac{-1.60 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{C}}{\pi(0.050\ \text{m})^2} = -2.04 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{C/m}^2$$

The electric field at $z = 0.0010\ \text{m}$, given by Equation 23.25, is

$$E_z = \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}\left[1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + R^2/z^2}}\right] = -1.1 \times 10^5\ \text{N/C}$$

The minus sign indicates that the field points *toward*, rather than away from, the disk. As a vector,

$$\vec{E} = (1.1 \times 10^5\ \text{N/C},\ \text{toward the disk})$$

**ASSESS** The total charge, –16 nC, is typical of the amount of charge produced on a small plastic object by rubbing or friction. Thus $10^5$ N/C is a typical electric field strength near an object that has been charged by rubbing.

## A Plane of Charge

Many electronic devices use charged, flat surfaces—disks, squares, rectangles, and so on—to steer electrons along the proper paths. These charged surfaces are called **electrodes.** Although any real electrode is finite in extent, we can often model an electrode as an infinite **plane of charge.** As long as the distance $z$ to the electrode is small in comparison to the distance to the edges, we can reasonably treat the edges *as if* they are infinitely far away.

The electric field of a plane of charge is found from the on-axis field of a charged disk by letting the radius $R \to \infty$. That is, a disk with infinite radius is an infinite plane. From Equation 23.24, we see that the electric field of a plane of charge with surface charge density $\eta$ is

**(23.28)**

$$E_{\text{plane}} = \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0} = \text{constant}$$

This is a simple result, but what does it tell us? First, the field strength is directly proportional to the charge density $\eta$: more charge, bigger field. Second, and more interesting, the field strength is the same at *all* points in space, independent of the distance $z$. The field strength 1000 m from the plane is the same as the field strength 1 mm from the plane.

How can this be? It seems that the field should get weaker as you move away from the plane of charge. But remember that we are dealing with an *infinite* plane of charge. What does it mean to be "close to" or "far from" an infinite object? For a disk of finite radius $R$, whether a point at distance $z$ is "close to" or "far from" the disk is a comparison of $z$ to $R$. If $z \ll R$, the point is close to the disk. If $z \gg R$, the point is far from the disk. But as $R \to \infty$, we have no *scale* for distinguishing near and far. In essence, *every* point in space is "close to" a disk of infinite radius.

No real plane is infinite in extent, but we can interpret Equation 23.28 as saying that the field of a surface of charge, regardless of its shape, is a constant $\eta/2\epsilon_0$ for those points whose distance $z$ to the surface is much smaller than their distance to the edge.

We do need to note that the derivation leading to Equation 23.28 considered only $z > 0$. For a positively charged plane, with $\eta > 0$, the electric field points *away from* the plane on both sides of the plane. This requires $E_z < 0$ ($\vec{E}$ pointing in the negative $z$-direction) on the side with $z < 0$. Thus a complete description of the electric field, valid for both sides of the plane and for either sign of $\eta$, is

---

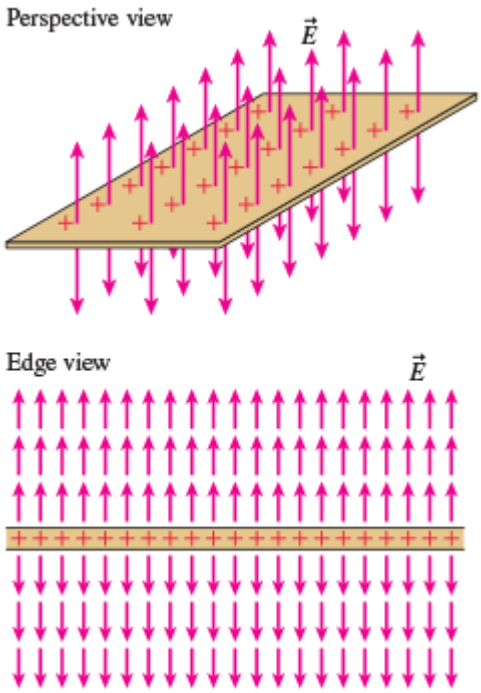
**(23.29)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{plane}} = \left( \frac{|\eta|}{2\epsilon_0}, \begin{cases} \text{away from plane if charge} + \\ \text{toward plane if charge} - \end{cases} \right) \quad (\text{plane of charge})$$

The infinite plane of charge is the third of our important electric field models.

Figure 23.17 shows two views of the electric field of a positively charged plane. All the arrows would be reversed for a negatively charged plane. It would have been very difficult to anticipate this result from Coulomb's law or from the electric field of a single point charge, but step by step we have been able to use the concept of the electric field to look at increasingly complex distributions of charge.

**Figure 23.17**




Two views of the electric field of a plane of charge.

## A Sphere of Charge

The one last charge distribution for which we need to know the electric field is a **sphere of charge.** This problem is analogous to wanting to know the gravitational field of a spherical planet or star. The procedure for calculating the field of a sphere of charge is the same as we used for lines and planes, but the integrations are significantly more difficult. We will skip the details of the calculations and, for now, simply assert the result

without proof. In Chapter 24 we'll use an alternative procedure to find the field of a sphere of charge.

A sphere of charge $Q$ and radius $R$, be it a uniformly charged sphere or just a spherical shell, has an electric field *outside* the sphere ($r \geq R$) that is exactly the same as that of a point charge $Q$ located at the center of the sphere:

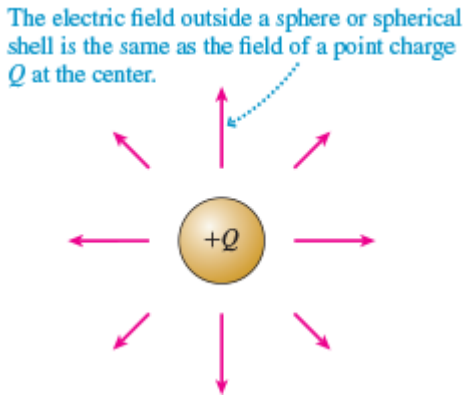
**(23.30)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{sphere}} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}\hat{r} \qquad \text{for } r \geq R$$

This assertion is analogous to our earlier assertion that the gravitational force between stars and planets can be computed as if all the mass is at the center.

Figure 23.18 shows the electric field of a sphere of positive charge. The field of a negative sphere would point inward.

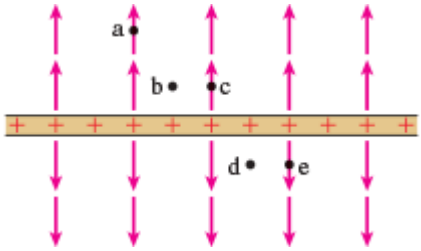
## Figure 23.18




The electric field of a sphere of positive charge.

## Stop to Think 23.4

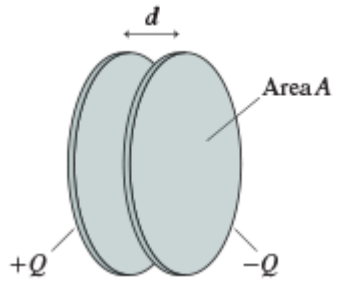
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the electric field strengths $E_a$ to $E_e$ at these five points near a plane of charge.



# 23.5 The Parallel-Plate Capacitor

Figure 23.19 shows two electrodes, one with charge +Q and the other with –Q, placed face-to-face a distance *d* apart. This arrangement of two electrodes, charged equally but oppositely, is called a **parallel-plate capacitor.** Capacitors play important roles in many electric circuits. Our goal is to find the electric field both inside the capacitor (i.e., between the plates) and outside the capacitor.

**Figure 23.19**



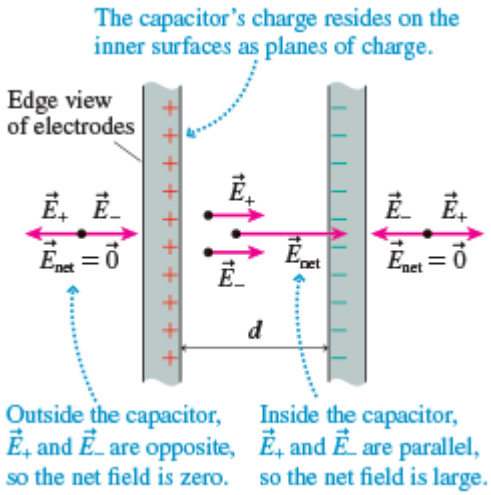

A parallel-plate capacitor.

> **Note**
>
> The *net* charge of a capacitor is zero. Capacitors are charged by transferring electrons from one plate to the other. The plate that gains *N* electrons has charge $-Q = N(-e)$. The plate that loses electrons has charge +Q.

Figure 23.20 is an enlarged view of the capacitor plates, seen from the side. Because opposite charges attract, all of the charge is on the *inner* surfaces of the two plates. Thus the inner surfaces of the plates can be modeled as two planes of charge with equal but opposite surface charge densities. As you can see from the figure, at all points in space the electric

field $\vec{E}_+$ of the positive plate points *away from* the plane of positive charges. Similarly, the field $\vec{E}_-$ of the negative plate everywhere points *toward* the plane of negative charges.

## Figure 23.20




The electric fields inside and outside a parallel-plate capacitor.

> **Note**
>
> You might think the right capacitor plate would somehow "block" the electric field created by the positive plate and prevent the presence of an $\vec{E}_+$ field to the right of the capacitor. To see that it doesn't, consider an analogous situation with gravity. The strength of gravity above a table is the same as its strength below it. Just as the table doesn't block the earth's gravitational field, intervening matter or charges do not alter or block an object's electric field.

Outside the capacitor, $\vec{E}_+$ and $\vec{E}_-$ point in opposite directions and, because the field of a plane of charge is independent of the distance from the plane, have equal magnitudes. Consequently, the fields $\vec{E}_+$ and $\vec{E}_-$

add to zero outside the capacitor plates. There's *no* electric field outside an ideal parallel-plate capacitor.

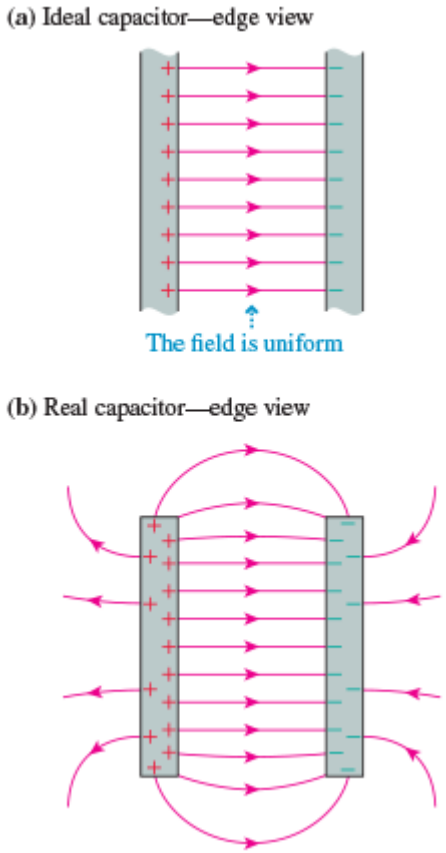
Inside the capacitor, between the electrodes, field $\vec{E}_+$ points from positive to negative and has magnitude $\eta/2\epsilon_0 = Q/2\epsilon_0 A$, where $A$ is the surface area of each electrode. Field $\vec{E}_-$ *also* points from positive to negative and *also* has magnitude $Q/2\epsilon_0 A$, so the inside field $\vec{E}_+ + \vec{E}_-$ is twice that of a plane of charge. Thus the electric field of a parallel-plate capacitor is

**(23.31)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{capacitor}} = \begin{cases} \left(\dfrac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A}, \text{ from positive to negative}\right) & \text{inside} \\ \vec{0} & \text{outside} \end{cases}$$

Figure 23.21a shows the electric field—this time using field lines—of an ideal parallel-plate capacitor. Now, it's true that no real capacitor is infinite in extent, but the ideal parallel-plate capacitor is a very good approximation for all but the most precise calculations as long as the electrode separation $d$ is much smaller than the electrodes' size. Figure 23.21b shows that the interior field of a real capacitor is virtually identical to that of an ideal capacitor but that the exterior field isn't quite zero. This weak field outside the capacitor is called the **fringe field.** We will keep things simple by always assuming the plates are very close together and using Equation 23.31 for the field inside a parallel-plate capacitor.

**Figure 23.21**




Ideal versus real capacitors.

**Note**

The shape of the electrodes—circular or square or any other shape—is not relevant as long as the electrodes are very close together.

**Example 23.6 The electric field inside a capacitor**

Two 1.0 cm × 2.0 cm rectangular electrodes are 1.0 mm apart. What charge must be placed on each electrode to create a uniform electric field of strength $2.0 \times 10^6$ N/C? How many electrons must be moved from one electrode to the other to accomplish this?

**MODEL** The electrodes can be modeled as an ideal parallel-plate capacitor because the spacing between them is much smaller than

their lateral dimensions.

**SOLVE** The electric field strength inside the capacitor is $E = \mathrm{Q}/\epsilon_0 A$. Thus the charge to produce a field of strength $E$ is

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= (8.85 \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2})\,(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\mathrm{m^2})\,(2.0 \times 10^{6}\,\mathrm{N/C}) \\ &= 3.5 \times 10^{-9}\,\mathrm{C} = 3.5\,\mathrm{nC} \end{aligned}$$



The positive plate must be charged to +3.5 nC and the negative plate to –3.5 nC. In practice, the plates are charged by using a *battery* to move electrons from one plate to the other. The number of electrons in 3.5 nC is

$$N = \frac{Q}{e} = \frac{3.5 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C}}{1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \mathrm{C/electron}} = 2.2 \times 10^{10}\ \text{electrons}$$

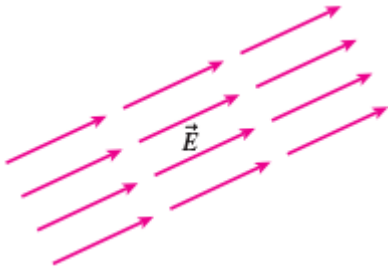
Thus $2.2 \times 10^{10}$ electrons are moved from one electrode to the other. Note that the capacitor *as a whole* has no net charge.

**ASSESS** The plate spacing does not enter the result. As long as the spacing is much smaller than the plate dimensions, as is true in this example, the field is independent of the spacing.

## Uniform Electric Fields

Figure 23.22 shows an electric field that is the *same*—in strength and direction—at every point in a region of space. This is called a **uniform electric field.** A uniform electric field is analogous to the uniform gravitational field near the surface of the earth. Uniform fields are of great practical significance because, as you will see in the next section, computing the trajectory of a charged particle moving in a uniform electric field is a straightforward process.

## Figure 23.22

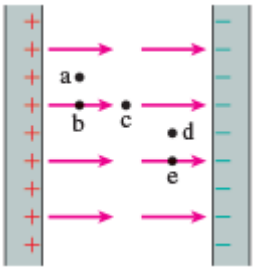



A uniform electric field.

The easiest way to produce a uniform electric field is with a parallel-plate capacitor, as you can see in Figure 23.21a. Indeed, our interest in capacitors is due in large measure to the fact that the electric field is uniform. Many electric field problems refer to a uniform electric field. Such problems carry an implicit assumption that the action is taking place *inside* a parallel-plate capacitor.

### Stop to Think 23.5

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the forces $F_a$ to $F_e$ a proton would experience if placed at points a to e in this parallel-plate capacitor.



# 23.6 Motion of a Charged Particle in an Electric Field

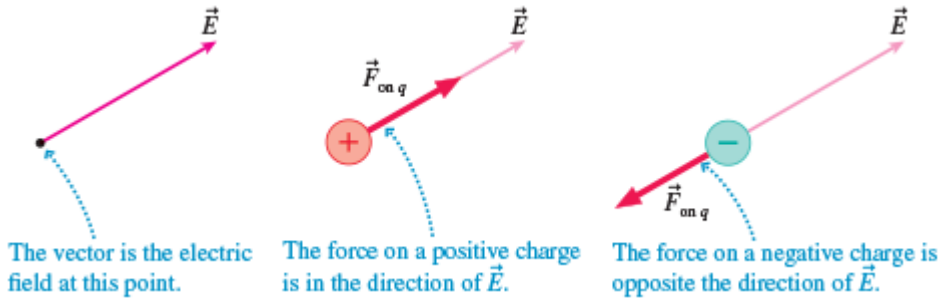
Our motivation for introducing the concept of the electric field was to understand the long-range electric interaction of charges. Some charges, the *source charges,* create an electric field. Other charges then respond to that electric field. The first five sections of this chapter have focused on the electric field of the source charges. Now we turn our attention to the second half of the interaction.

Figure 23.23 shows a particle of charge $q$ and mass $m$ at a point where an electric field $\vec{E}$ has been produced by *other* charges, the source charges. The electric field exerts a force

$$\vec{F}_{\text{on } q} = q\vec{E}$$

on the charged particle. Notice that the force on a negatively charged particle is *opposite* in direction to the electric field vector. Signs are important!

**Figure 23.23**




The electric field exerts a force on a charged particle.

If $\vec{F}_{\text{on } q}$ is the only force acting on $q$, it causes the charged particle to accelerate with

**(23.32)**

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{on } q}}{m} = \frac{q}{m}\vec{E}$$

This acceleration is the *response* of the charged particle to the source charges that created the electric field. The ratio $q/m$ is especially important for the dynamics of charged-particle motion. It is called the **charge-to-mass ratio.** Two *equal* charges, say a proton and a $Na^+$ ion, will experience *equal* forces $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$ if placed at the same point in an electric field, but their accelerations will be *different* because they have different masses and thus different charge-to-mass ratios. Two particles with different charges and masses *but* with the same charge-to-mass ratio will undergo the same acceleration and follow the same trajectory.

The technique of *gel electrophoresis* uses an electric field to measure "DNA fingerprints." DNA fragments are charged, and fragments with different charge-to-mass ratios are separated by the field.

---

# Motion in a Uniform Field

The motion of a charged particle in a *uniform* electric field is especially important for its basic simplicity and because of its many valuable applications. A uniform field is *constant* at all points—constant in both magnitude and direction—within the region of space where the charged particle is moving. It follows, from Equation 23.32, that **a charged particle in a uniform electric field will move with constant acceleration.** The magnitude of the acceleration is

**(23.33)**

$$a = \frac{qE}{m} = \text{constant}$$

where $E$ is the electric field strength, and the direction of $\vec{a}$ is parallel or antiparallel to $\vec{E}$, depending on the sign of $q$.

Identifying the motion of a charged particle in a uniform field as being one of constant acceleration brings into play all the kinematic machinery that we developed in Chapters 2 and 4 for constant-acceleration motion. The basic trajectory of a charged particle in a uniform field is a *parabola*, analogous to the projectile motion of a mass in the near-earth uniform gravitational field. In the special case of a charged particle moving parallel to the electric field vectors, the motion is one-dimensional, analogous to the one-dimensional vertical motion of a mass tossed straight up or falling straight down.

> **Note**
>
> The gravitational acceleration $\vec{a}_{\text{grav}}$ always points straight down. The electric field acceleration $\vec{a}_{\text{elec}}$ can point in *any* direction. You must determine the electric field $\vec{E}$ in order to learn the direction of $\vec{a}$.

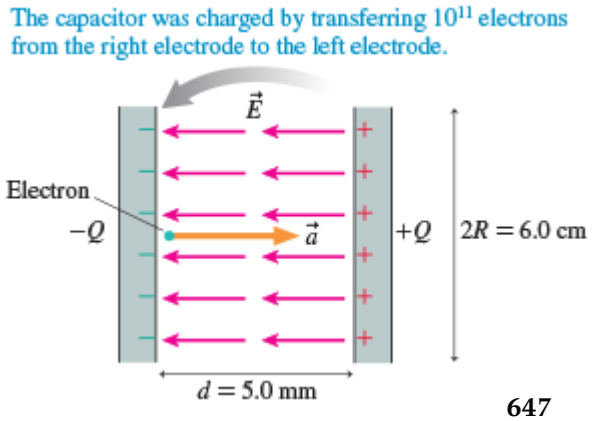
## Example 23.7 An electron moving across a capacitor

Two 6.0-cm-diameter electrodes are spaced 5.0 mm apart. They are charged by transferring $1.0 \times 10^{11}$ electrons from one electrode to the other. An electron is released from rest just above the surface of the negative electrode. How long does it take the electron to cross to the positive electrode? What is its speed as it collides with the positive electrode? Assume the space between the electrodes is a vacuum.

**MODEL** The electrodes form a parallel-plate capacitor. The charges *on* the electrodes cannot escape, but any additional charges *between* the capacitor plates will be accelerated by the electric field. The electric field inside a parallel-plate capacitor is a uniform field, so the electron will have constant acceleration.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.24 shows an edge view of the capacitor and the electron. The force on the negative electron is *opposite* the electric field, so the electron is repelled by the negative electrode as it accelerates across the gap of width $d$.

### Figure 23.24






An electron accelerates across a capacitor (plate separation exaggerated).

**SOLVE** The electrodes are not point charges, so we cannot use Coulomb's law to find the force on the electron. Instead, we must analyze the electron's motion in terms of the electric field inside the capacitor. The field is the agent that exerts the force on the electron, causing it to accelerate. The electric field strength inside a parallel-plate capacitor with charge $Q = Ne$ is

$$E = \frac{\eta}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A} = \frac{Ne}{\epsilon_0 \pi R^2} = 639{,}000 \text{ N/C}$$

The electron's acceleration in this field is

$$a = \frac{eE}{m} = 1.1 \times 10^{17} \text{ m/s}^2$$

where we used the electron mass $m = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg. This is an enormous acceleration compared to accelerations we're familiar with for macroscopic objects. We can use one-dimensional kinematics, with $x_\text{i} = 0$ and $v_\text{i} = 0$, to find the time required for the electron to cross the capacitor:

$$\begin{aligned} x_\text{f} &= d = \tfrac{1}{2} a \, (\Delta t)^2 \\ \Delta t &= \sqrt{\frac{2d}{a}} = 3.0 \times 10^{-10} \text{ s} = 0.30 \text{ ns} \end{aligned}$$

The electron's speed as it reaches the positive electrode is

$$v = a \, \Delta t = 3.3 \times 10^7 \text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** We used *e* rather than –*e* to find the acceleration because we already knew the direction; we needed only the magnitude. The electron's speed, after traveling a mere 5 mm, is approximately 10% the speed of light.

Parallel electrodes such as those in Example 23.7 are often used to accelerate charged particles. If the positive plate has a small hole in the center, a *beam* of electrons will pass through the hole and emerge with a speed of $3.3 \times 10^7$ m/s. This is the basic idea of the *electron gun* used until quite recently in *cathode-ray tube* (CRT) devices such as televisions and computer display terminals. (A negatively charged electrode is called a *cathode*, so the physicists who first learned to produce electron beams in the late 19th century called them *cathode rays*.)

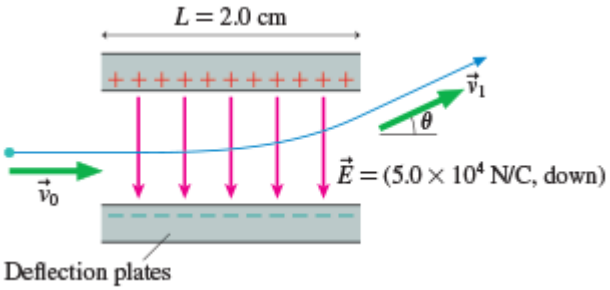
### Example 23.8 Deflecting an electron beam

An electron gun creates a beam of electrons moving horizontally with a speed of $3.3 \times 10^7$ m/s. The electrons enter a 2.0-cm-long gap between two parallel electrodes where the electric field is $\vec{E} = (5.0 \times 10^4\ \text{N/C, down})$. In which direction, and by what angle, is the electron beam deflected by these electrodes?

**MODEL** The electric field between the electrodes is uniform. Assume that the electric field outside the electrodes is zero.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.25 shows an electron moving through the electric field. The electric field points down, so the force on the (negative) electrons is upward. The electrons will follow a parabolic trajectory, analogous to that of a ball thrown horizontally, except that the electrons "fall up" rather than down.

**Figure 23.25**




The deflection of an electron beam in a uniform electric field.

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**SOLVE** This is a two-dimensional motion problem. The electron enters the capacitor with velocity *vector* $\vec{v}_0 = v_{0x}\hat{i} = 3.3 \times 10^7\ \hat{i}\ \text{m/s}$ and leaves with velocity $\vec{v}_1 = v_{1x}\hat{i} + v_{1y}\hat{j}$. The electron's angle of travel upon leaving the electric field is

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{v_{1y}}{v_{1x}}\right)$$

This is the *deflection angle.* To find $\theta$ we must compute the final velocity vector $\vec{v}_1$.

There is no horizontal force on the electron, so $v_{1x} = v_{0x} = 3.3 \times 10^7\ \text{m/s}$. The electron's upward acceleration has magnitude

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \frac{eE}{m} = \frac{(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C})\,(5.0 \times 10^4\ \text{N/C})}{9.11 \times 10^{-31}\ \text{kg}} \\ &= 8.78 \times 10^{15}\ \text{m/s}^2 \end{aligned}$$

We can use the fact that the horizontal velocity is constant to determine the time interval $\Delta t$ needed to travel length 2.0 cm:

$$\Delta t = \frac{L}{v_{0x}} = \frac{0.020\ \text{m}}{3.3 \times 10^7\ \text{m/s}} = 6.06 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{s}$$

Vertical acceleration will occur during this time interval, resulting in a final vertical velocity

$$v_{1y} = v_{0y} + a\,\Delta t = 5.3 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}$$

The electron's velocity as it leaves the capacitor is thus

$$\vec{v}_1 = (3.3 \times 10^7\ \hat{i} + 5.3 \times 10^6\ \hat{j}) \text{ m/s}$$

and the deflection angle $\theta$ is

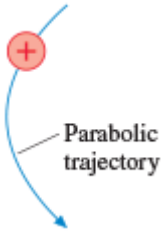
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{v_{1y}}{v_{1x}}\right) = 9.1^\circ$$

**ASSESS** We know that the electron beam in a cathode-ray tube can be deflected enough to cover the screen, so a deflection angle of $9^\circ$ seems reasonable. Our neglect of the gravitational force is seen to be justified because the acceleration of the electrons is enormous in comparison to the free-fall acceleration $g$.

By using two sets of deflection plates—one for vertical deflection and one for horizontal—a cathode-ray tube could steer the electrons to any point on the screen. Electrons striking a phosphor coating on the inside of the screen would then make a dot of light.

## Stop to Think 23.6

Which electric field is responsible for the proton's trajectory?




**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

# 23.7 Motion of a Dipole in an Electric Field

Let us conclude this chapter by returning to one of the more striking puzzles we faced when making the observations at the beginning of Chapter 22. There you found that charged objects of *either* sign exert forces on neutral objects, such as when a comb used to brush your hair picks up pieces of paper. Our qualitative understanding of the *polarization force* was that it required two steps:

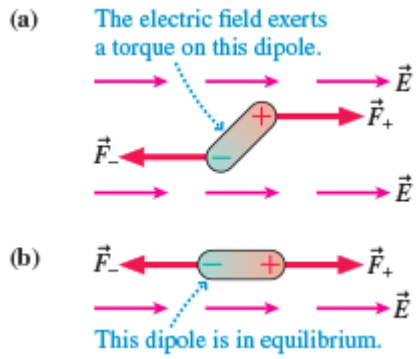
- The charge polarizes the neutral object, creating an induced electric dipole.
- The charge then exerts an attractive force on the near end of the dipole that is slightly stronger than the repulsive force on the far end.

We are now in a position to make that understanding more quantitative.

## Dipoles in a Uniform Field

Figure 23.26a shows an electric dipole in a *uniform* external electric field $\vec{E}$ that has been created by source charges we do not see. That is, $\vec{E}$ is *not* the field of the dipole but, instead, is a field to which the dipole is responding. In this case, because the field is uniform, the dipole is presumably inside an unseen parallel-plate capacitor.

**Figure 23.26**




A dipole in a uniform electric field.

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The net force on the dipole is the sum of the forces on the two charges forming the dipole. Because the charges $\pm q$ are equal in magnitude but opposite in sign, the two forces $\vec{F}_+ = +q\vec{E}$ and $\vec{F}_- = -q\vec{E}$ are also equal but opposite. Thus the net force on the dipole is

**(23.34)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \vec{F}_+ + \vec{F}_- = \vec{0}$$

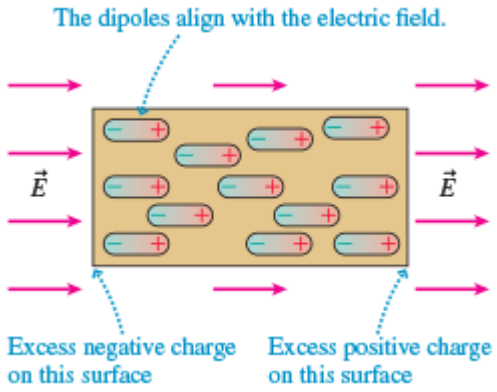
**There is no net force on a dipole in a uniform electric field**.

There may be no net force, but the electric field *does* affect the dipole. Because the two forces in Figure 23.26a are in opposite directions but not aligned with each other, the electric field exerts a *torque* on the dipole and causes the dipole to *rotate*.

The torque rotates the dipole until it is aligned with the electric field, as shown in Figure 23.26b. In this position, the dipole experiences not only no net force but also no torque. Thus Figure 23.26b represents the *equilibrium position* for a dipole in a uniform electric field. Notice that the positive end of the dipole is in the direction in which $\vec{E}$ points.

Figure 23.27 shows a sample of permanent dipoles, such as water molecules, in an external electric field. All the dipoles rotate until they are aligned with the electric field. This is the mechanism by which the sample becomes *polarized*. Once the dipoles are aligned, there is an excess of positive charge at one end of the sample and an excess of negative charge at the other end. The excess charges at the ends of the sample are the basis of the polarization forces we discussed in Section 22.3.

## Figure 23.27



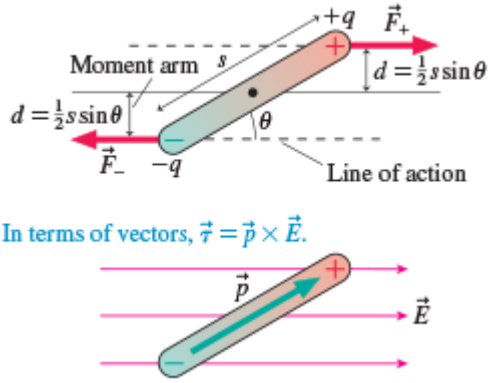

A sample of permanent dipoles is *polarized* in an electric field.

It's not hard to calculate the torque. Recall from Chapter 12 that the magnitude of a torque is the product of the force and the moment arm. Figure 23.28 shows that there are two forces of the same magnitude ($F_+ = F_- = qE$), each with the same moment arm ($d = \frac{1}{2}s\sin\theta$). Thus the torque on the dipole is

**(23.35)**

$$\tau = 2 \times dF_+ = 2(\tfrac{1}{2}s\sin\theta)(qE) = pE\sin\theta$$

## Figure 23.28




The torque on a dipole.

where $p = qs$ was our definition of the dipole moment. The torque is zero when the dipole is aligned with the field, making $\theta = 0$.

Also recall from Chapter 12 that the torque can be written in a compact mathematical form as the cross product between two vectors. The terms $p$ and $E$ in Equation 23.35 are the magnitudes of vectors, and $\theta$ is the angle between them. Thus in vector notation, the torque exerted on a dipole moment $\vec{p}$ by an electric field $\vec{E}$ is

**(23.36)**

$$\vec{\tau} = \vec{p} \times \vec{E}$$

The torque is greatest when $\vec{p}$ is perpendicular to $\vec{E}$, zero when $\vec{p}$ is aligned with or opposite to $\vec{E}$.

### Example 23.9 The angular acceleration of a dipole dumbbell

Two 1.0 g balls are connected by a 2.0-cm-long insulating rod of negligible mass. One ball has a charge of +10 nC, the other a charge of –10 nC. The rod is held in a $1.0 \times 10^4$ N/C uniform

electric field at an angle of 30° with respect to the field, then released. What is its initial angular acceleration?

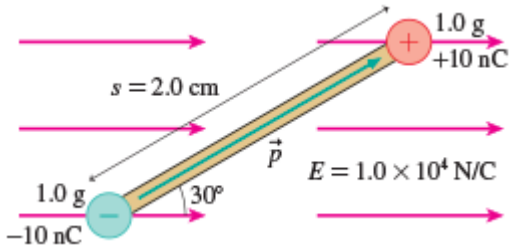
---

**MODEL** The two oppositely charged balls form an electric dipole. The electric field exerts a torque on the dipole, causing an angular acceleration.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.29 shows the dipole in the electric field.

---

**Figure 23.29**




The dipole of Example 23.9.

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**SOLVE** The dipole moment is $p = qs = (1.0 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{C}) \times (0.020\ \text{m}) = 2.0 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{C m}$. The torque exerted on the dipole moment by the electric field is

$$\begin{aligned}\tau &= pE \sin\theta = (2.0 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{C m})(1.0 \times 10^{4}\ \text{N/C}) \sin 30^\circ \\ &= 1.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{N m}\end{aligned}$$

You learned in Chapter 12 that a torque causes an angular acceleration $\alpha = \tau/I$, where $I$ is the moment of inertia. The dipole rotates about its center of mass, which is at the center of the rod, so the moment of inertia is

$$I = m_1 r_1^{\,2} + m_2 r_2^{\,2} = 2m\left(\tfrac{1}{2}s\right)^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}ms^2 = 2.0 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{kg m}^2$$

Thus the rod's angular acceleration is

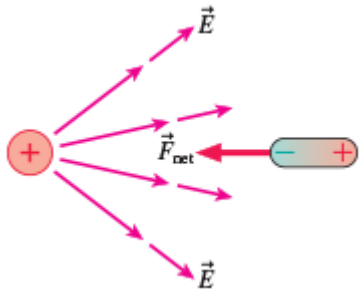
$$\alpha = \frac{\tau}{I} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{N m}}{2.0 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{kg m}^2} = 5.0\ \text{rad/s}^2$$

**ASSESS** This value of $\alpha$ is the initial angular acceleration, when the rod is first released. The torque and the angular acceleration will decrease as the rod rotates toward alignment with $\vec{E}$.

## Dipoles in a Nonuniform Field

Suppose that a dipole is placed in a nonuniform electric field, one in which the field strength changes with position. For example, Figure 23.30 shows a dipole in the nonuniform field of a point charge. The first response of the dipole is to rotate until it is aligned with the field, with the dipole's positive end pointing in the same direction as the field. Now, however, there is a *slight difference* between the forces acting on the two ends of the dipole. This difference occurs because the electric field, which depends on the distance from the point charge, is stronger at the end of the dipole nearest the charge. This causes a net force to be exerted on the dipole.

**Figure 23.30**




An aligned dipole is drawn toward a point charge.

Which way does the force point? Once the dipole is aligned, the leftward attractive force on its negative end is slightly stronger than the rightward repulsive force on its positive end. This causes a net force *toward* the point charge.

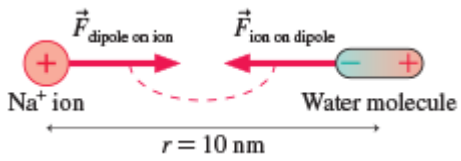
In fact, for any nonuniform electric field, **the net force on a dipole is toward the direction of the strongest field.** Because any finite-size charged object, such as a charged rod or a charged disk, has a field strength that increases as you get closer to the object, we can conclude that **a dipole will experience a net force toward any charged object.**

### Example 23.10 The force on a water molecule

The water molecule $H_2O$ has a permanent dipole moment of magnitude $6.2 \times 10^{-30}$ C m. A water molecule is located 10 nm from a $Na^+$ ion in a saltwater solution. What force does the ion exert on the water molecule?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.31 shows the ion and the dipole. The forces are an action/reaction pair.

#### Figure 23.31




The interaction between an ion and a permanent dipole.

**SOLVE** A $Na^+$ ion has charge $q = +e$. The electric field of the ion aligns the water's dipole moment and exerts a net force on it. We

could calculate the net force on the dipole as the small difference between the attractive force on its negative end and the repulsive force on its positive end. Alternatively, we know from Newton's third law that the force $\vec{F}_{\text{dipole on ion}}$ has the same magnitude as the force $\vec{F}_{\text{ion on dipole}}$ that we are seeking. We calculated the on-axis field of a dipole in Section 23.2. An ion of charge $q = e$ will experience a force of magnitude $F = qE_{\text{dipole}} = eE_{\text{dipole}}$ when placed in that field. The dipole's electric field, which we found in Equation 23.10, is

$$E_{\text{dipole}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2p}{r^3}$$

The force on the ion at distance $r = 1.0 \times 10^{-8}$ m is

$$F_{\text{dipole on ion}} = eE_{\text{dipole}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2ep}{r^3} = 1.8 \times 10^{-14}\,\text{N}$$

Thus the force on the water molecule is
$F_{\text{ion on dipole}} = 1.8 \times 10^{-14}\,\text{N}$.

**ASSESS** While $1.8 \times 10^{-14}$ N may seem like a very small force, it is $\approx 10^{11}$ times larger than the size of the earth's gravitational force on these atomic particles. Forces such as these cause water molecules to cluster around any ions that are in solution. This clustering plays an important role in the microscopic physics of solutions studied in chemistry and biochemistry.

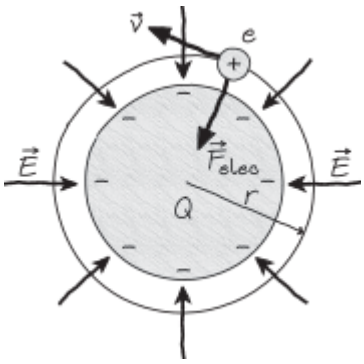
**Challenge Example 23.11 An orbiting proton**

In a vacuum chamber, a proton orbits a 1.0-cm-diameter metal ball 1.0 mm above the surface with a period of 1.0 $\mu$s. What is the charge on the ball?

**MODEL** Model the ball as a charged sphere. The electric field of a charged sphere is the same as that of a point charge at the center, so the radius of the ball is irrelevant. Assume that the gravitational force on the proton is extremely small compared to the electric force and can be neglected.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 23.32 shows the orbit and the force on the proton.

**Figure 23.32**




An orbiting proton.

**SOLVE** The ball must be negative, with an inward electric field exerting an inward electric force on the positive proton. This is exactly the necessary condition for uniform circular motion. Recall from Chapter 8 that Newton's second law for uniform circular motion is $(F_{\text{net}})_r = mv^2/r$. Here the only radial force has magnitude $F_{\text{elec}} = eE$, so the proton will move in a circular orbit if

$$eE = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

The electric field strength of a sphere of charge $Q$ at distance $r$ is $E = Q/4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2$. From Chapter 4, orbital speed and period are related by $v = \text{circumference}/\text{period} = 2\pi r/T$. With these substitutions, Newton's second law becomes

$$\frac{eQ}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 m}{T^2} r$$

Solving for $Q$, we find

$$Q = \frac{16\pi^3 \epsilon_0 m r^3}{eT^2} = 9.9 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{C}$$

where we used $r = 6.0$ mm as the radius of the proton's orbit. $Q$ is the *magnitude* of the charge on the ball. Including the sign, we have

$$Q_{\text{ball}} = -9.9 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{C}$$

**ASSESS** This is not a lot of charge, but it shouldn't take much charge to affect the motion of something as light as a proton.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 23 has been to learn how to calculate and use the electric field.

## General Principles

### Sources of $\vec{E}$

Electric fields are created by charges.

#### Multiple point charges

**MODEL** Model objects as point charges.

**VISUALIZE** Establish a coordinate system and draw field vectors.

**SOLVE** Use superposition: $\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + \cdots$

#### Continuous distribution of charge

**MODEL** Model objects as simple shapes.

**VISUALIZE**

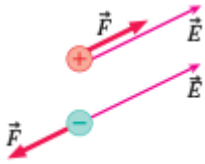
- Establish a coordinate system.
- Divide the charge into small segments $\Delta Q$.
- Draw a field vector for one or two pieces of charge.

**SOLVE**

- Find the field of each $\Delta Q$.

- Write $\overrightarrow{E}$ as the sum of the fields of all $\Delta Q$. Don't forget that it's a *vector* sum; use components.
- Use the charge density ($\lambda$ or $\eta$) to replace $\Delta Q$ with an integration coordinate, then integrate.

## Consequences of $\vec{\mathbf{E}}$



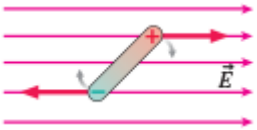

The electric field exerts a force on a charged particle:

$$\overrightarrow{F} = q\overrightarrow{E}$$

The force causes acceleration:

$$\overrightarrow{a} = (q/m)\ \overrightarrow{E}$$

Trajectories of charged particles are calculated with kinematics.

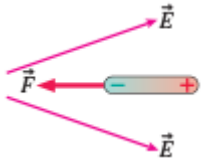



The electric field exerts a torque on a dipole:

$$\tau = pE\sin\theta$$

The torque tends to align the dipoles with the field.

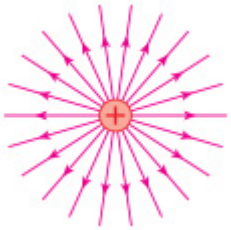
In a nonuniform electric field, a dipole has a net force in the direction of increasing field strength.




# Applications

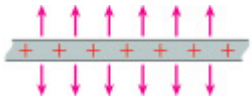
## Four Key Electric Field Models

**Point charge** with charge $q$



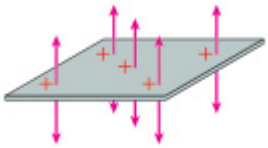
$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

**Infinite line of charge** with linear charge density $\lambda$



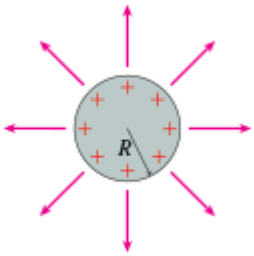
$$\vec{E}_{\text{line}} = \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2\,|\lambda|}{r}, \begin{cases}\text{away if} + \\ \text{toward if} -\end{cases}\right)$$

**Infinite plane of charge** with surface charge density $\eta$

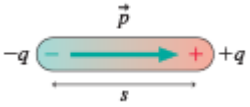


$$\overrightarrow{E}_{\text{plane}} = \left( \frac{|\eta|}{2\epsilon_0}, \begin{cases} \text{away if} + \\ \text{toward if} - \end{cases} \right)$$

**Sphere of charge** with total charge Q Same as a point charge Q for $r > R$




## Electric dipole




The electric dipole moment is

$$\overrightarrow{p} = (qs, \text{ from negative to positive})$$

Field on axis: $\overrightarrow{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2\overrightarrow{p}}{r^3}$

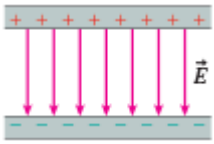
Field in bisecting plane: $\overrightarrow{E} = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\overrightarrow{p}}{r^3}$

## Parallel-plate capacitor

The electric field inside an ideal capacitor is a **uniform electric field:**

$$\overrightarrow{E} = \left( \frac{\eta}{\epsilon_0}, \text{ from positive to negative} \right)$$






## Terms and Notation

dipole moment, $\overrightarrow{p}$

electric field line

linear charge density, $\lambda$

surface charge density, $\eta$

uniformly charged

line of charge

electrode

plane of charge

sphere of charge

parallel-plate capacitor

fringe field

uniform electric field

charge-to-mass ratio, $q/m$

# Conceptual Questions

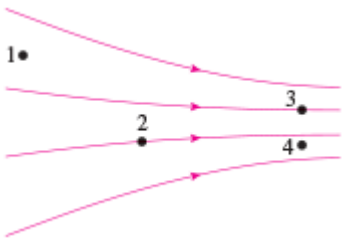


1. You've been assigned the task of determining the magnitude and direction of the electric field at a point in space. Give a step-by-step procedure of how you will do so. List any objects you will use, any measurements you will make, and any calculations you will need to perform. Make sure that your measurements do not disturb the charges that are creating the field.
2. Reproduce Figure Q23.2 on your paper. For each part, draw a dot or dots on the figure to show any position or positions (other than infinity) where $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$.

**Figure Q23.2**

3. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the electric field strengths $E_1$ to $E_4$ at points 1 to 4 in Figure Q23.3. Explain.

**Figure Q23.3**



**4.** A small segment of wire in Figure Q23.4 contains 10 nC of charge.

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**Figure Q23.4**

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**a.** The segment is shrunk to one-third of its original length. What is the ratio $\lambda_f/\lambda_i$, where $\lambda_i$ and $\lambda_f$ are the initial and final linear charge densities?

**b.** A proton is very far from the wire. What is the ratio $F_f/F_i$ of the electric force on the proton after the segment is shrunk to the force before the segment was shrunk?

**c.** Suppose the original segment of wire is stretched to 10 times its original length. How much charge must be *added* to the wire to keep the linear charge density unchanged?

**5.** An electron experiences a force of magnitude $F$ when it is 1 cm from a very long, charged wire with linear charge density $\lambda$. If the charge density is doubled, at what distance from the wire will a proton experience a force of the same magnitude $F$?

**6.** Figure Q23.6 shows a hollow soda straw that has been uniformly charged with positive charge. What is the electric field at the center (inside) of the straw? Explain.

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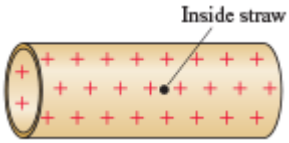
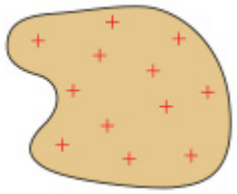
**Figure Q23.6**



7. The irregularly shaped area of charge in Figure Q23.7 has surface charge density $\eta_i$. Each dimension ($x$ and $y$) of the area is reduced by a factor of 3.163.

**Figure Q23.7**



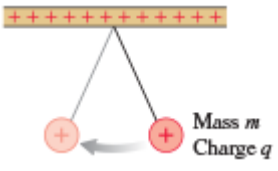
   a. What is the ratio $\eta_f/\eta_i$, where $\eta_f$ is the final surface charge density?
   b. An electron is very far from the area. What is the ratio $F_f/F_i$ of the electric force on the electron after the area is reduced to the force before the area was reduced?

8. A circular disk has surface charge density 8 nC/cm$^2$. What will the surface charge density be if the radius of the disk is doubled?

9. A sphere of radius $R$ has charge $Q$. The electric field strength at distance $r > R$ is $E_i$. What is the ratio $E_f/E_i$ of the final to initial electric field strengths if (a) $Q$ is halved, (b) $R$ is halved, and (c) $r$ is halved (but is still $> R$)? Each part changes only one quantity; the other quantities have their initial values.

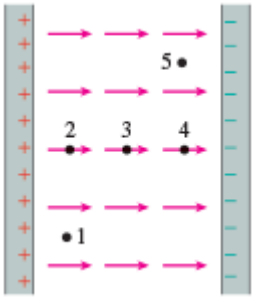
10. The ball in Figure Q23.10 is suspended from a large, uniformly charged positive plate. It swings with period $T$. If the ball is discharged, will the period increase, decrease, or stay the same? Explain.

**Figure Q23.10**



**11.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the electric field strengths $E_1$ to $E_5$ at the five points in Figure Q23.11. Explain.

**Figure Q23.11**




**12.** A parallel-plate capacitor consists of two square plates, size $L \times L$, separated by distance $d$. The plates are given charge $\pm Q$. What is the ratio $E_f/E_i$ of the final to initial electric field strengths if (a) $Q$ is doubled, (b) $L$ is doubled, and (c) $d$ is doubled? Each part changes only one quantity; the other quantities have their initial values.

**13.** A small object is released at point 3 in the center of the capacitor in Figure Q23.11. For each situation, does the object move to the right, to the left, or remain in place? If it moves, does it accelerate or move at constant speed?

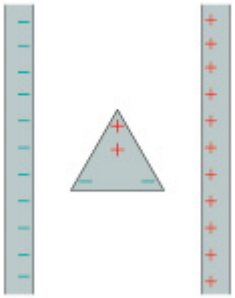
- **a.** A positive object is released from rest.
- **b.** A neutral but polarizable object is released from rest.
- **c.** A negative object is released from rest.

**14.** A proton and an electron are released from rest in the center of a capacitor.

- **a.** Is the force ratio $F_p/F_e$ greater than 1, less than 1, or equal to 1? Explain.
- **b.** Is the acceleration ratio $a_p/a_e$ greater than 1, less than 1, or equal to 1? Explain.

**15.** Three charges are placed at the corners of the triangle in Figure Q23.15. The ++ charge has twice the quantity of charge of the two – charges; the net charge is zero. Is the triangle in equilibrium? If so, explain why. If not, draw the equilibrium orientation.

**Figure Q23.15**



# Exercises and Problems

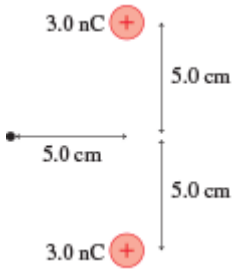
Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 23.2 The Electric Field of Point Charges

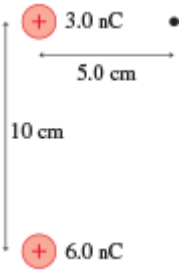
**1.** •• What are the strength and direction of the electric field at the position indicated by the dot in Figure EX23.1? Specify the direction as an angle above or below horizontal.

**Figure EX23.1**



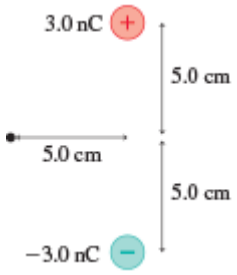

**2.** •• What are the strength and direction of the electric field at the position indicated by the dot in Figure EX23.2? Specify the direction as an angle above or below horizontal.

**Figure EX23.2**




**3.** •• What are the strength and direction of the electric field at the position indicated by the dot in Figure EX23.3? Specify the direction as an angle above or below horizontal.

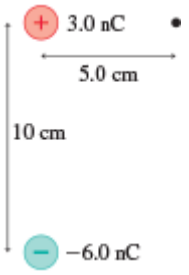
**Figure EX23.3**






**4.** •• What are the strength and direction of the electric field at the position indicated by the dot in Figure EX23.4? Specify the direction as an angle above or below horizontal.

**Figure EX23.4**




**5.** •• An electric dipole is formed from two charges, $\pm q$, spaced 1.0 cm apart. The dipole is at the origin, oriented along the $y$-axis. The electric field strength at the point $(x,\ y) = (0\text{ cm}, 10\text{ cm})$ is 360 N/C.

**a.** What is the charge $q$? Give your answer in nC.

**b.** What is the electric field strength at the point $(x, y) = (10\text{ cm},\ 0\text{ cm})$?

**6.** •• An electric dipole is formed from ±1.0 nC charges spaced 2.0 mm apart. The dipole is at the origin, oriented along the $x$-axis. What is the electric field strength at the points (a) $(x,\ y)\ = (10\text{ cm},\ 0\text{ cm})$ and (b) $(x,\ y) = (0\text{ cm}, 10\text{ cm})$?

**7.** •• An *electret* is similar to a magnet, but rather than being permanently magnetized, it has a permanent electric dipole moment. Suppose a small electret with electric dipole moment $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$ C m is 25 cm from a small ball charged to +25 nC, with the ball on the axis of the electric dipole. What is the magnitude of the electric force on the ball?

## Section 23.3 The Electric Field of a Continuous Charge Distribution

**8.** •• The electric field strength 10.0 cm from a very long charged wire is 2000 N/C. What is the electric field strength 5.0 cm

from the wire?

**9.** •• A 10-cm-long thin glass rod uniformly charged to +10 nC and a 10-cm-long thin plastic rod uniformly charged to –10 nC are placed side by side, 4.0 cm apart. What are the electric field strengths $E_1$ to $E_3$ at distances 1.0 cm, 2.0 cm, and 3.0 cm from the glass rod along the line connecting the midpoints of the two rods?

**10.** •• Two 10-cm-long thin glass rods uniformly charged to +10 nC are placed side by side, 4.0 cm apart. What are the electric field strengths $E_1$ to $E_3$ at distances 1.0 cm, 2.0 cm, and 3.0 cm to the right of the rod on the left along the line connecting the midpoints of the two rods?

**11.** •• A small glass bead charged to +6.0 nC is in the plane that bisects a thin, uniformly charged, 10-cm-long glass rod and is 4.0 cm from the rod's center. The bead is repelled from the rod with a force of 840 $\mu$N. What is the total charge on the rod?

**12.** ••• The electric field 5.0 cm from a very long charged wire is (2000 N/C, toward the wire). What is the charge (in nC) on a 1.0-cm-long segment of the wire?

**13.** ••• **CALC** A 12-cm-long thin rod has the *nonuniform* charge density $\lambda(x) = (2.0\ \text{nC/cm})e^{-|x|/(6.0\ \text{cm})}$, where $x$ is measured from the center of the rod. What is the total charge on the rod? **Hint:** This exercise requires an integration. Think about how to handle the absolute value sign.

## Section 23.4 The Electric Fields of Rings, Disks, Planes, and Spheres

**14.** •• Two 10-cm-diameter charged rings face each other, 20 cm apart. The left ring is charged to –20 nC and the right ring is charged to +20 nC.

**a.** What is the electric field $\vec{E}$, both magnitude and direction, at the midpoint between the two rings?

**b.** What is the force on a proton at the midpoint?

**15.** •• Two 10-cm-diameter charged rings face each other, 20 cm apart. Both rings are charged to +20 nC. What is the electric field strength at (a) the midpoint between the two rings and (b) the center of the left ring?

**16.** •• Two 10-cm-diameter charged disks face each other, 20 cm apart. The left disk is charged to –50 nC and the right disk is charged to +50 nC.

**a.** What is the electric field $\vec{E}$, both magnitude and direction, at the midpoint between the two disks?

**b.** What is the force $\vec{F}$ on a –1.0 nC charge placed at the midpoint?

**17.** •• The electric field strength 2.0 cm from the surface of a 10-cm-diameter metal ball is 50,000 N/C. What is the charge (in nC) on the ball?

**18.** •• A 20 cm $\times$ 20 cm horizontal metal electrode is uniformly charged to +80 nC. What is the electric field strength 2.0 mm above the center of the electrode?

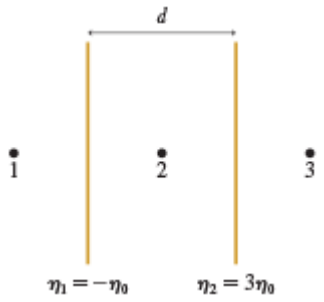
**19.** •• Two 2.0-cm-diameter insulating spheres have a 6.0 cm space between them. One sphere is charged to +10 nC, the other to –15 nC. What is the electric field strength at the midpoint between the two spheres?

**20.** •• You've hung two very large sheets of plastic facing each other with distance $d$ between them, as shown in Figure EX23.20. By rubbing them with wool and silk, you've managed to give one sheet a uniform surface charge density $\eta_1 = -\eta_0$ and the other a uniform surface charge density

$\eta_2 = +3\eta_0$. What are the electric field vectors at points 1, 2, and 3?



**Figure EX23.20**




**21.** • A 2.0 m $\times$ 4.0 m flat carpet acquires a uniformly distributed charge of –10 $\mu$C after you and your friends walk across it several times. A 2.5 $\mu$g dust particle is suspended in midair just above the center of the carpet. What is the charge on the dust particle?

## Section 23.5 The Parallel-Plate Capacitor

**22.** •• Two circular disks spaced 0.50 mm apart form a parallel-plate capacitor. Transferring $3.0 \times 10^9$ electrons from one disk to the other causes the electric field strength to be $2.0 \times 10^5$ N/C. What are the diameters of the disks?

**23.** •• A parallel-plate capacitor is formed from two 6.0-cm-diameter electrodes spaced 2.0 mm apart. The electric field strength inside the capacitor is $1.0 \times 10^6$ N/C. What is the charge (in nC) on each electrode?

**24.** ••• Air "breaks down" when the electric field strength reaches $3.0 \times 10^6$ N/C, causing a spark. A parallel-plate capacitor is made from two 4.0 cm $\times$ 4.0 cm electrodes. How many electrons must be transferred from one electrode to the other to create a spark between the electrodes?

**25.** •• **INT** Two parallel plates 1.0 cm apart are equally and oppositely charged. An electron is released from rest at the surface of the negative plate and simultaneously a proton is released from rest at the surface of the positive plate. How far from the negative plate is the point at which the electron and proton pass each other?

## Section 23.6 Motion of a Charged Particle in an Electric Field

**26.** •• **INT** Two 2.0-cm-diameter disks face each other, 1.0 mm apart. They are charged to $\pm 10\,\mathrm{nC}$.

**a.** What is the electric field strength between the disks?

**b.** A proton is shot from the negative disk toward the positive disk. What launch speed must the proton have to just barely reach the positive disk?

**27.** • **BIO** Honeybees acquire a charge while flying due to friction with the air. A 100 mg bee with a charge of +23 pC experiences an electric force in the earth's electric field, which is typically 100 N/C, directed downward.

**a.** What is the ratio of the electric force on the bee to the bee's weight?

**b.** What electric field strength and direction would allow the bee to hang suspended in the air?

**28.** •• **INT** An electron traveling parallel to a uniform electric field increases its speed from $2.0 \times 10^7\ \mathrm{m/s}$ to $4.0 \times 10^7\ \mathrm{m/s}$ over a distance of 1.2 cm. What is the electric field strength?

**29.** •• **INT** The surface charge density on an infinite charged plane is $-2.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \mathrm{C/m^2}$. A proton is shot straight away from the plane at $2.0 \times 10^6\ \mathrm{m/s}$. How far does the proton travel before reaching its turning point?

**30.** •• **INT** An electron in a vacuum chamber is fired with a speed of 8300 km/s toward a large, uniformly charged plate 75 cm away. The electron reaches a closest distance of 15 cm before being repelled. What is the plate's surface charge density?

**31.** ••• **INT** A 1.0-$\mu$m-diameter oil droplet (density 900 kg/m$^3$) is negatively charged with the addition of 25 extra electrons. It is released from rest 2.0 mm from a very wide plane of positive charge, after which it accelerates toward the plane and collides with a speed of 3.5 m/s. What is the surface charge density of the plane?

## Section 23.7 Motion of a Dipole in an Electric Field

**32.** • **INT** The permanent electric dipole moment of the water molecule ($H_2O$) is $6.2 \times 10^{-30}\ \mathrm{Cm}$. What is the maximum possible torque on a water molecule in a $5.0 \times 10^8\ \mathrm{N/C}$ electric field?

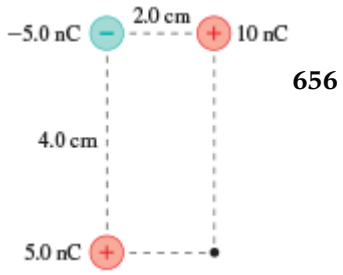
**33.** •• A point charge $Q$ is distance $r$ from a dipole consisting of charges $\pm q$ separated by distance $s$. The dipole is initially oriented so that $Q$ is in the plane bisecting the dipole. Immediately after the dipole is released, what are (a) the magnitude of the force and (b) the magnitude of the torque on the dipole? You can assume $r \gg s$.

**34.** •• An ammonia molecule ($NH_3$) has a permanent electric dipole moment $5.0 \times 10^{-30}\ \mathrm{Cm}$. A proton is 2.0 nm from the molecule in the plane that bisects the dipole. What is the electric force of the molecule on the proton?

# Problems

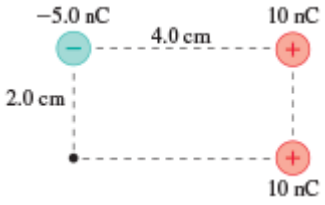
**35.** •• What are the strength and direction of the electric field at the position indicated by the dot in Figure P23.35? Give your answer (a) in component form and (b) as a magnitude and angle measured cw or ccw (specify which) from the positive $x$-axis.

**Figure P23.35**



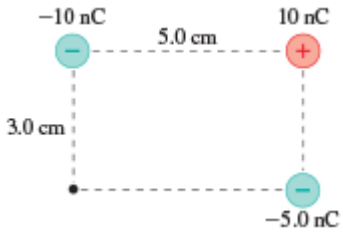

**36.** • • What are the strength and direction of the electric field at the position indicated by the dot in Figure P23.36? Give your answer (a) in component form and (b) as a magnitude and angle measured cw or ccw (specify which) from the positive $x$-axis.

**Figure P23.36**



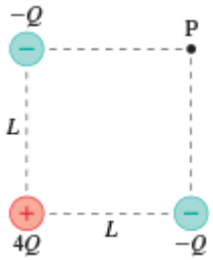

**37.** •• What are the strength and direction of the electric field at the position indicated by the dot in Figure P23.37? Give your answer (a) in component form and (b) as a magnitude and angle measured cw or ccw (specify which) from the positive $x$-axis.

## Figure P23.37



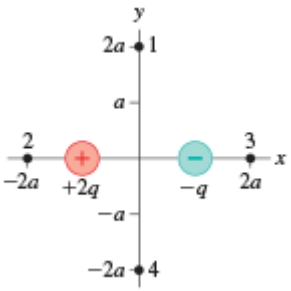

**38.** •• Figure P23.38 shows three charges at the corners of a square. Write the electric field at point P in component form.

## Figure P23.38




**39.** •• Charges $-q$ and $+2q$ in Figure P23.39 are located at $x = \pm a$. Determine the electric field at points 1 to 4. Write each field in component form.

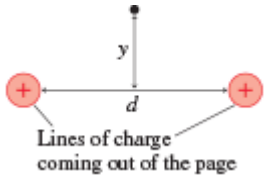
## Figure P23.39




**40.** •• Derive Equation 23.11 for the field $\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}}$ in the plane that bisects an electric dipole.

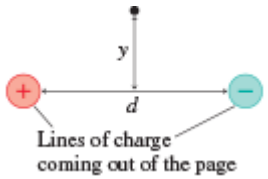
**41.** •• Figure P23.41 is a cross section of two infinite lines of charge that extend out of the page. Both have linear charge density $\lambda$. Find an expression for the electric field strength $E$ at height $y$ above the midpoint between the lines.

**Figure P23.41**




**42.** ••• Figure P23.42 is a cross section of two infinite lines of charge that extend out of the page. The linear charge densities are $\pm\lambda$. Find an expression for the electric field strength $E$ at height $y$ above the midpoint between the lines.

**Figure P23.42**



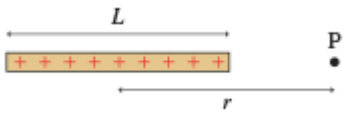

**43.** •• **CALC** Figure P23.43 shows a thin rod of length $L$ with total charge $Q$.

**a.** Find an expression for the electric field strength at point P on the axis of the rod at distance $r$ from the center.

**b.** Verify that your expression has the expected behavior if $r \gg L$.

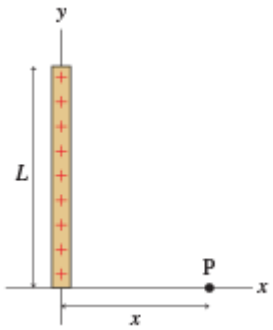
**c.** Evaluate $E$ at $r = 3.0$ cm if $L = 5.0$ cm and $Q = 3.0$ nC.

**Figure P23.43**




**44.** •• **CALC** Figure P23.44 shows a thin rod of length $L$ with total charge $Q$. Find an expression for the electric field $\vec{E}$ at point P. Give your answer in component form.

**Figure P23.44**




**45.** •• Show that the on-axis electric field of a ring of charge has the expected behavior when $z \ll R$ and when $z \gg R$.

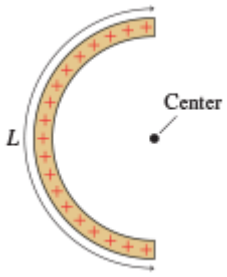
**46.** •• **CALC** A ring of radius $R$ has total charge $Q$.

**a.** At what distance along the $z$-axis is the electric field strength a maximum?

**b.** What is the electric field strength at this point?

**47.** •• **CALC** Charge $Q$ is uniformly distributed along a thin, flexible rod of length $L$. The rod is then bent into the semicircle shown in Figure P23.47.

**Figure P23.47**



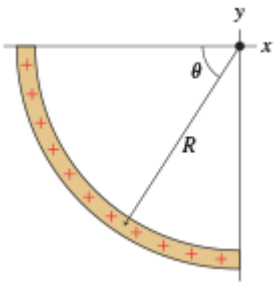

**a.** Find an expression for the electric field $\vec{E}$ at the center of the semicircle.

**Hint:** A small piece of arc length $\Delta s$ spans a small angle $\Delta\theta = \Delta s/R$, where $R$ is the radius.

**b.** Evaluate the field strength if $L = 10$ cm and $Q = 30$ nC.

**48.** •• **CALC** A plastic rod with linear charge density $\lambda$ is bent into the quarter circle shown in Figure P23.48. We want to find the electric field at the origin.

**Figure P23.48**




**a.** Write expressions for the $x$- and $y$-components of the electric field at the origin due to a small piece of charge at angle $\theta$.

**b.** Write, but do not evaluate, definite integrals for the $x$- and $y$-components of the net electric field at the origin.

**c.** Evaluate the integrals and write $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$ in component form.

**49.** •• An infinite plane of charge with surface charge density 3.2 $\mu C/m^2$ has a 20-cm-diameter circular hole cut out of it. What is the electric field strength directly over the center of the hole at a distance of 12 cm?

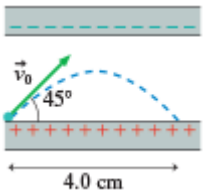
**Hint:** Can you create this charge distribution as a superposition of charge distributions for which you know the electric field?

**50.** •• A sphere of radius $R$ and surface charge density $\eta$ is positioned with its center distance $2R$ from an infinite plane with surface charge density $\eta$. At what distance from the plane, along a line toward the center of the sphere, is the electric field zero?

**51.** •• **INT** A parallel-plate capacitor has $2.0\text{ cm} \times 2.0\text{ cm}$ electrodes with surface charge densities $\pm 1.0 \times 10^{-6}\text{ C/m}^2$. A proton traveling parallel to the electrodes at $1.0 \times 10^6\text{ m/s}$ enters the center of the gap between them. By what distance has the proton been deflected sideways when it reaches the far edge of the capacitor? Assume the field is uniform inside the capacitor and zero outside the capacitor.

**52.** •• **INT** An electron is launched at a 45° angle and a speed of $5.0 \times 10^6\text{ m/s}$ from the positive plate of the parallel-plate capacitor shown in Figure P23.52. The electron lands 4.0 cm away.

**Figure P23.52**

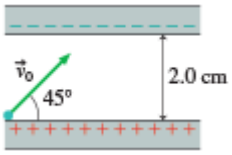


**a.** What is the electric field strength inside the capacitor?

**b.** What is the smallest possible spacing between the plates?

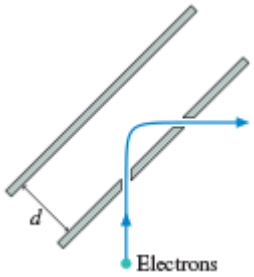
**53.** ••• **INT** The two parallel plates in Figure P23.53 are 2.0 cm apart and the electric field strength between them is $1.0 \times 10^4$ N/C. An electron is launched at a 45° angle from the positive plate. What is the maximum initial speed $v_0$ the electron can have without hitting the negative plate?

**Figure P23.53**




**54.** •• **INT** A problem of practical interest is to make a beam of electrons turn a 90° corner. This can be done with the parallel-plate capacitor shown in Figure P23.54. An electron with kinetic energy $3.0 \times 10^{-17}$ J enters through a small hole in the bottom plate of the capacitor.

**Figure P23.54**




**a.** Should the bottom plate be charged positive or negative relative to the top plate if you want the

electron to turn to the right? Explain.

**b.** What strength electric field is needed if the electron is to emerge from an exit hole 1.0 cm away from the entrance hole, traveling at right angles to its original direction?

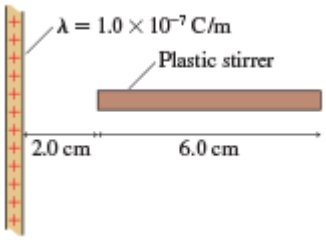
**Hint:** The difficulty of this problem depends on how you choose your coordinate system.

**c.** What minimum separation $d_{\text{min}}$ must the capacitor plates have?

**55.** ••• **INT** A *positron* is an elementary particle identical to an electron except that its charge is $+e$. An electron and a positron can rotate about their center of mass as if they were a dumbbell connected by a massless rod. What is the orbital frequency for an electron and a positron 1.0 nm apart?

**56.** ••• **CALC** Your physics assignment is to figure out a way to use electricity to launch a small 6.0-cm-long plastic drink stirrer. You decide that you'll charge the little plastic rod by rubbing it with fur, then hold it near a long, charged wire, as shown in Figure P23.56. When you let go, the electric force of the wire on the plastic rod will shoot it away. Suppose you can uniformly charge the plastic stirrer to 10 nC and that the linear charge density of the long wire is $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$ C/m. What is the net electric force on the plastic stirrer if the end closest to the wire is 2.0 cm away?

**Figure P23.56**




**Hint:** The stirrer cannot be modeled as a point charge; an integration is required.

**57.** ••• **INT** The combustion of fossil fuels produces micron-sized particles of soot, one of the major components of air pollution. The terminal speeds of these particles are extremely small, so they remain suspended in air for very long periods of time. Furthermore, very small particles almost always acquire small amounts of charge from cosmic rays and various atmospheric effects, so their motion is influenced not only by gravity but also by the earth's weak electric field. Consider a small spherical particle of radius $r$, density $\rho$, and charge $q$. A small sphere moving with speed $v$ experiences a drag force $F_{\text{drag}} = 6\pi\eta r v$, where $\eta$ is the viscosity of the air. (This differs from the drag force you learned in Chapter 6 because there we considered macroscopic rather than microscopic objects.)

**a.** A particle falling at its terminal speed $v_{\text{term}}$ is in equilibrium with no net force. Write Newton's first law for this particle falling in the presence of a *downward* electric field of strength $E$, then solve to find an expression for $v_{\text{term}}$.

**b.** Soot is primarily carbon, and carbon in the form of graphite has a density of 2200 kg/m$^3$. In the absence of an electric field, what is the terminal speed in mm/s of

a 1.0-$\mu$m-diameter graphite particle? The viscosity of air at 20°C is $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ kg/m s.

**c.** The earth's electric field is typically (150 N/C, downward). In this field, what is the terminal speed in mm/s of a 1.0-$\mu$m-diameter graphite particle that has acquired 250 extra electrons?

**58.** •• **INT** A 2.0-mm-diameter glass sphere has a charge of +1.0 nC. What speed does an electron need to orbit the sphere 1.0 mm above the surface?

**59.** •• **INT** In a classical model of the hydrogen atom, the electron orbits the proton in a circular orbit of radius 0.053 nm. What is the orbital frequency? The proton is so much more massive than the electron that you can assume the proton is at rest.

**60.** •• An electric field can *induce* an electric dipole in a neutral atom or molecule by pushing the positive and negative charges in opposite directions. The dipole moment of an induced dipole is directly proportional to the electric field. That is, $\vec{p} = \alpha \vec{E}$, where $\alpha$ is called the *polarizability* of the molecule. A bigger field stretches the molecule farther and causes a larger dipole moment.

**a.** What are the units of $\alpha$?

**b.** An ion with charge $q$ is distance $r$ from a molecule with polarizability $\alpha$. Find an expression for the force $\vec{F}_{\text{ion on dipole}}$.

**61.** •• Show that an infinite line of charge with linear charge density $\lambda$ exerts an attractive force on an electric dipole with

magnitude $F = 2\lambda p/4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2$. Assume that $r$, the distance from the line, is much larger than the charge separation in the dipole.

**62.** ••• **INT** The ozone molecule $O_3$ has a permanent dipole moment of $1.8 \times 10^{-30}$ C m. Although the molecule is very slightly bent—which is why it has a dipole moment—it can be modeled as a uniform rod of length $2.5 \times 10^{-10}$ m with the dipole moment perpendicular to the axis of the rod. Suppose an ozone molecule is in a 5000 N/C uniform electric field. In equilibrium, the dipole moment is aligned with the electric field. But if the molecule is rotated by a *small* angle and released, it will oscillate back and forth in simple harmonic motion. What is the frequency $f$ of oscillation?

In Problems 63, 64, 65, and 66 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).
**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**63.** $$(9.0 \times 10^9\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})\,\frac{(2.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C})\,s}{(0.025\ \mathrm{m})^3} = 1150\ \mathrm{N/C}$$

**64.** $$(9.0 \times 10^9\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})\,\frac{2\,(2.0 \times 10^{-7}\ \mathrm{C/m})}{r} = 25{,}000\ \mathrm{N/C}$$

**65.** $$\frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}\left[1 - \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}}\right] = \frac{1}{2}\,\frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}$$

**66.** $$2.0 \times 10^{12}\ \mathrm{m/s^2} = \frac{(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \mathrm{C})E}{(1.67 \times 10^{-27}\ \mathrm{kg})}$$

$$E = \frac{Q}{(8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2})(0.020\ \mathrm{m})^2}$$

# Challenge Problems

**67.** ••• **CALC** A rod of length $L$ lies along the $y$-axis with its center at the origin. The rod has a nonuniform linear charge density $\lambda = a|y|$, where $a$ is a constant with the units C/m$^2$.

**a.** Draw a graph of $\lambda$ versus $y$ over the length of the rod.

**b.** Determine the constant $a$ in terms of $L$ and the rod's total charge $Q$.

**c.** Find the electric field strength of the rod at distance $x$ on the $x$-axis.

**68.** ••• **CALC**

**a.** An infinitely long *sheet* of charge of width $L$ lies in the $xy$-plane between $x = -L/2$ and $x = L/2$. The surface charge density is $\eta$. Derive an expression for the electric field $\vec{E}$ at height $z$ above the centerline of the sheet.

**b.** Verify that your expression has the expected behavior if $z \ll L$ and if $z \gg L$.

**c.** Draw a graph of field strength $E$ versus $z$.

**69.** ••• **CALC**

**a.** An infinitely long *sheet* of charge of width $L$ lies in the $xy$-plane between $x = -L/2$ and $x = L/2$. The surface charge density is $\eta$. Derive an expression for the electric field $\vec{E}$ along the $x$-axis for points outside the sheet ($x > L/2$).

**b.** Verify that your expression has the expected behavior if $x \gg L$.

**Hint:** $\ln(1 + u) \approx u$ if $u \ll 1$.

**c.** Draw a graph of field strength $E$ versus $x$ for $x > L/2$.

**70.** ••• **CALC** A thin cylindrical shell of radius $R$ and length $L$, like a soda straw, is uniformly charged with surface charge density

$\eta$. What is the electric field strength at the center of one end of the cylinder?

**71.** ••• One type of ink-jet printer, called an electrostatic ink-jet printer, forms the letters by using deflecting electrodes to steer charged ink drops up and down vertically as the ink jet sweeps horizontally across the page. The ink jet forms 30-$\mu$m-diameter drops of ink, charges them by spraying 800,000 electrons on the surface, and shoots them toward the page at a speed of 20 m/s. Along the way, the drops pass through two horizontal, parallel electrodes that are 6.0 mm long, 4.0 mm wide, and spaced 1.0 mm apart. The distance from the center of the electrodes to the paper is 2.0 cm. To form the tallest letters, which have a height of 6.0 mm, the drops need to be deflected upward (or downward) by 3.0 mm. What electric field strength is needed between the electrodes to achieve this deflection? Ink, which consists of dye particles suspended in alcohol, has a density of 800 kg/m$^3$.

**72.** ••• A proton orbits a long charged wire, making $1.0 \times 10^6$ revolutions per second. The radius of the orbit is 1.0 cm. What is the wire's linear charge density?

**73.** ••• You have a summer intern position with a company that designs and builds nanomachines. An engineer with the company is designing a microscopic oscillator to help keep time, and you've been assigned to help him analyze the design. He wants to place a negative charge at the center of a very small, positively charged metal ring. His claim is that the negative charge will undergo simple harmonic motion at a frequency determined by the amount of charge on the ring.

**a.** Consider a negative charge near the center of a positively charged ring centered on the $z$-axis. Show

that there is a restoring force on the charge if it moves along the $z$-axis but stays close to the center of the ring. That is, show there's a force that tries to keep the charge at $z = 0$.

**b.** Show that for *small* oscillations, with amplitude $\ll R$, a particle of mass $m$ with charge $-q$ undergoes simple harmonic motion with frequency

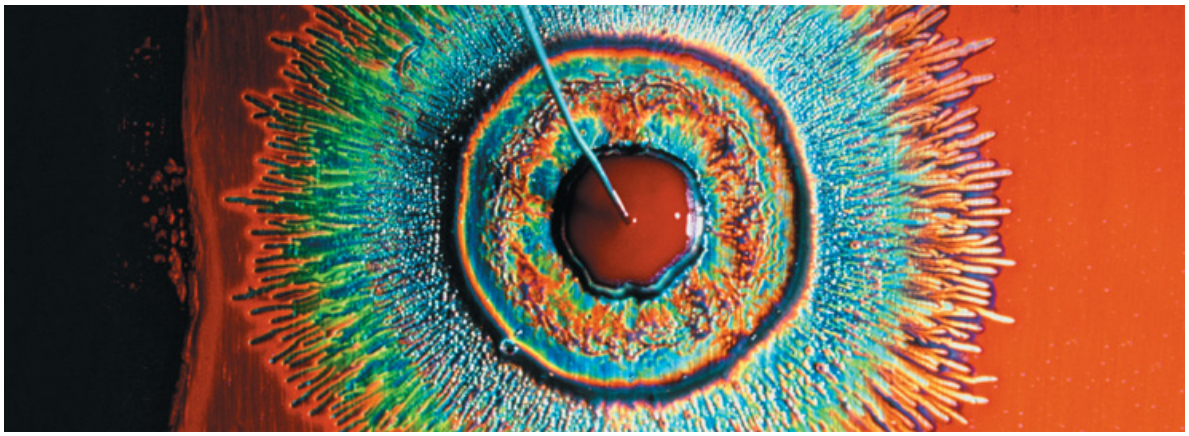
$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{qQ}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m R^3}}$$

$R$ and $Q$ are the radius and charge of the ring.

**c.** Evaluate the oscillation frequency for an electron at the center of a 2.0-$\mu$m-diameter ring charged to $1.0 \times 10^{-13}$ C.

# Chapter 24
# Gauss's Law





An electric field image of blood plasma from healthy blood. The wire in the center creates the electric field. Variations in the shape and color of the pattern can give early warning of cancer.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn about and apply Gauss's law.

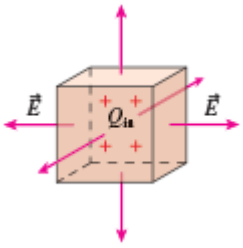
## What is Gauss's law?

Gauss's law is a general statement about the nature of electric fields. It is more fundamental than Coulomb's law and is the first of what we will later call Maxwell's equations, the governing equations of electricity and magnetism.

Gauss's law says that the electric flux through a closed surface is proportional to the amount of charge $Q_{in}$ enclosed within the surface. This seemingly abstract statement will be the basis of a powerful strategy for finding the electric fields of charge distributions that have a high degree of symmetry.

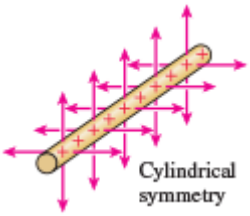
Looking Back Section 22.5 The electric field of a point charge

Section 23.2 Electric field lines




## What good is symmetry?

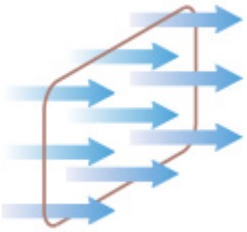
For charge distributions with a high degree of symmetry, the symmetry of the electric field must match the symmetry of the charge distribution. Important symmetries are planar symmetry, cylindrical symmetry, and spherical symmetry. The concept of symmetry plays an important role in math and science.




## What is electric flux?

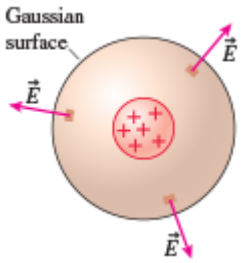
The amount of electric field passing through a surface is called the electric flux. Electric flux is analogous to the amount of air or water flowing through a loop. You will learn to calculate the flux through open and closed surfaces.

Looking Back Section 9.3 Vector dot products



## How is Gauss's law used?

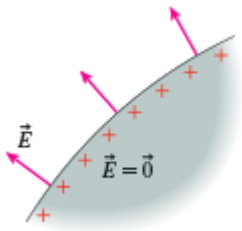
Gauss's law is easier to use than superposition for finding the electric field both inside and outside of charged spheres, cylinders, and planes. To use Gauss's law, you calculate the electric flux through a Gaussian surface surrounding the charge. This will turn out to be much easier than it sounds!




## What can we learn about conductors?

Gauss's law can be used to establish several properties of conductors in electrostatic equilibrium. In particular:

- Any excess charge is all on the surface.
- The interior electric field is zero.
- The external field is perpendicular to the surface.



# 24.1 Symmetry

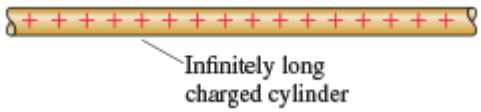


To continue our exploration of electric fields, suppose we knew only two things:

1. The field points away from positive charges, toward negative charges, and
2. An electric field exerts a force on a charged particle.

From this information alone, what can we deduce about the electric field of the infinitely long charged cylinder shown in Figure 24.1?

**Figure 24.1**




A charge distribution with cylindrical symmetry.

We don't know if the cylinder's diameter is large or small. We don't know if the charge density is the same at the outer edge as along the axis. All we know is that the charge is positive and the charge distribution has *cylindrical symmetry*. We say that a charge distribution is **symmetric** if there is a group of *geometric transformations* that don't cause any *physical* change.

To make this idea concrete, suppose you close your eyes while a friend transforms a charge distribution in one of the following three ways. He or she can

- *Translate* (that is, displace) the charge parallel to an axis,
- *Rotate* the charge about an axis, or
- *Reflect* the charge in a mirror.

When you open your eyes, will you be able to tell if the charge distribution has been changed? You might tell by observing a visual difference in the distribution. Or the results of an experiment with charged particles could reveal that the distribution has changed. If nothing you can see or do reveals any change, then we say that the charge distribution is symmetric under that particular transformation.

Figure 24.2 shows that the charge distribution of Figure 24.1 is symmetric with respect to

- Translation parallel to the cylinder axis. Shifting an infinitely long cylinder by 1 mm or 1000 m makes no noticeable or measurable change.
- Rotation by any angle about the cylinder axis. Turning a cylinder about its axis by 1° or 100° makes no detectable change.
- Reflections in any plane containing or perpendicular to the cylinder axis. Exchanging top and bottom, front and back, or left and right makes no detectable change.

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**Figure 24.2**

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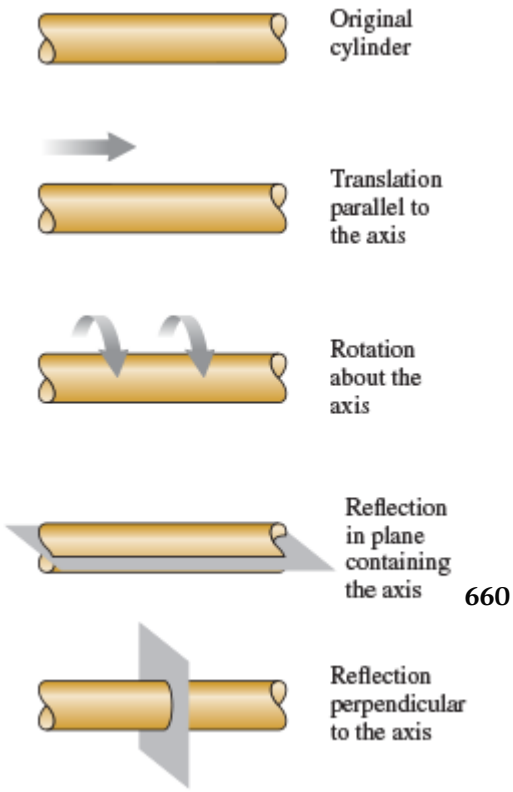



Transformations that don't change an infinite cylinder of charge.



A charge distribution that is symmetric under these three groups of geometric transformations is said to be *cylindrically symmetric*. Other charge distributions have other types of symmetries. Some charge distributions have no symmetry at all.

Our interest in symmetry can be summed up in a single statement:

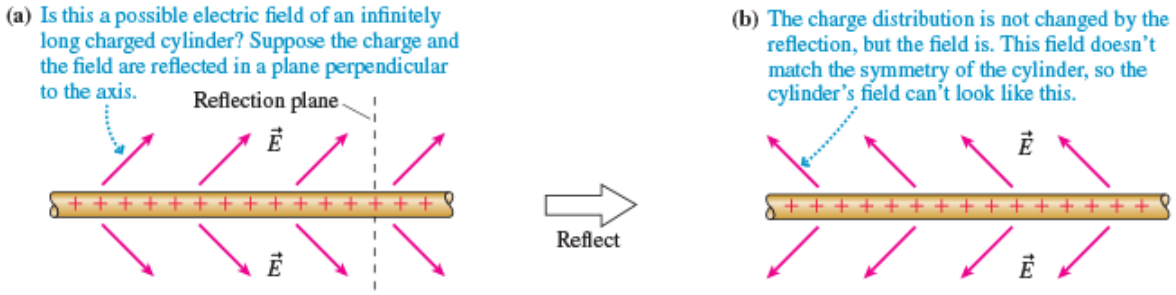
> The symmetry of the electric field must match the symmetry of the charge distribution.

If this were not true, you could use the electric field to test whether the charge distribution had undergone a transformation.

Now we're ready to see what we can learn about the electric field in Figure 24.1. Could the field look like Figure 24.3a? (Imagine this picture rotated about the axis.) That is, is this a *possible* field? This field

looks the same if it's translated parallel to the cylinder axis, if up and down are exchanged by reflecting the field in a plane coming out of the page, or if you rotate the cylinder about its axis.

## Figure 24.3



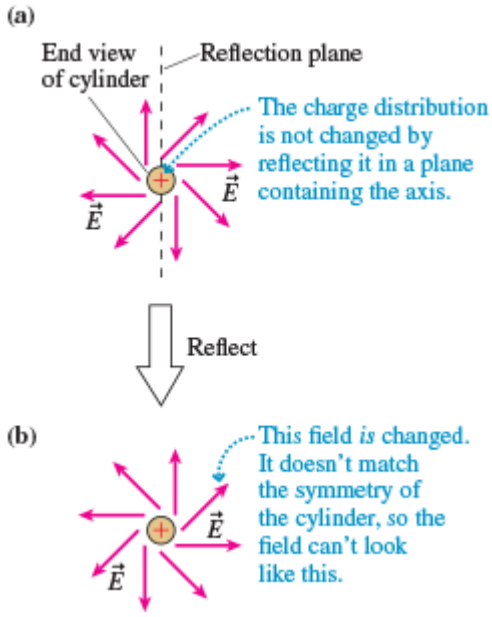

Could the field of a cylindrical charge distribution look like this?

But the proposed field fails one test: reflection in a plane perpendicular to the axis, a reflection that exchanges left and right. This reflection, which would *not* make any change in the charge distribution itself, produces the field shown in Figure 24.3b. This change in the field is detectable because a positively charged particle would now have a component of motion to the left instead of to the right.

The field of Figure 24.3a, which makes a distinction between left and right, is not cylindrically symmetric and thus is *not* a possible field. In general, **the electric field of a cylindrically symmetric charge distribution cannot have a component parallel to the cylinder axis.**

Well then, what about the electric field shown in Figure 24.4a? Here we're looking down the axis of the cylinder. The electric field vectors are restricted to planes perpendicular to the cylinder and thus do not have any component parallel to the cylinder axis. This field is symmetric for rotations about the axis, but it's *not* symmetric for a reflection in a plane containing the axis.

## Figure 24.4



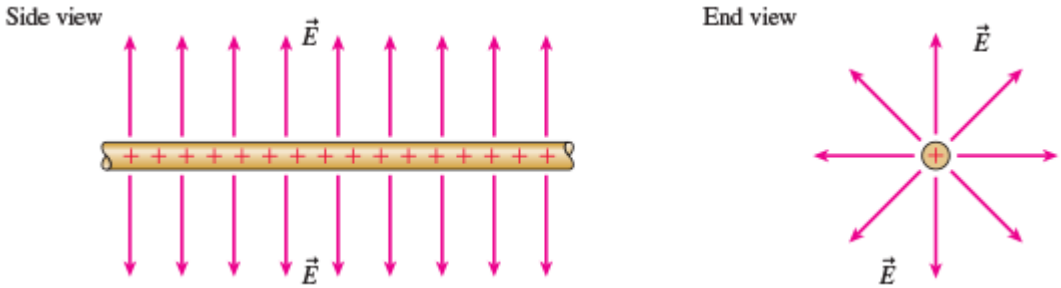

Or might the field of a cylindrical charge distribution look like this?



The field of Figure 24.4b, after this reflection, is easily distinguishable from the field of Figure 24.4a. Thus **the electric field of a cylindrically symmetric charge distribution cannot have a component tangent to the circular cross section.**

Figure 24.5 shows the only remaining possible field shape. The electric field is radial, pointing straight out from the cylinder like the bristles on a bottle brush. This is the one electric field shape matching the symmetry of the charge distribution.

## Figure 24.5



This is the only shape for the electric field that matches the symmetry of the charge distribution.

## What Good Is Symmetry?

Given how little we assumed about Figure 24.1—that the charge distribution is cylindrically symmetric and that electric fields point away from positive charges—we've been able to deduce a great deal about the electric field. In particular, we've deduced the *shape* of the electric field.

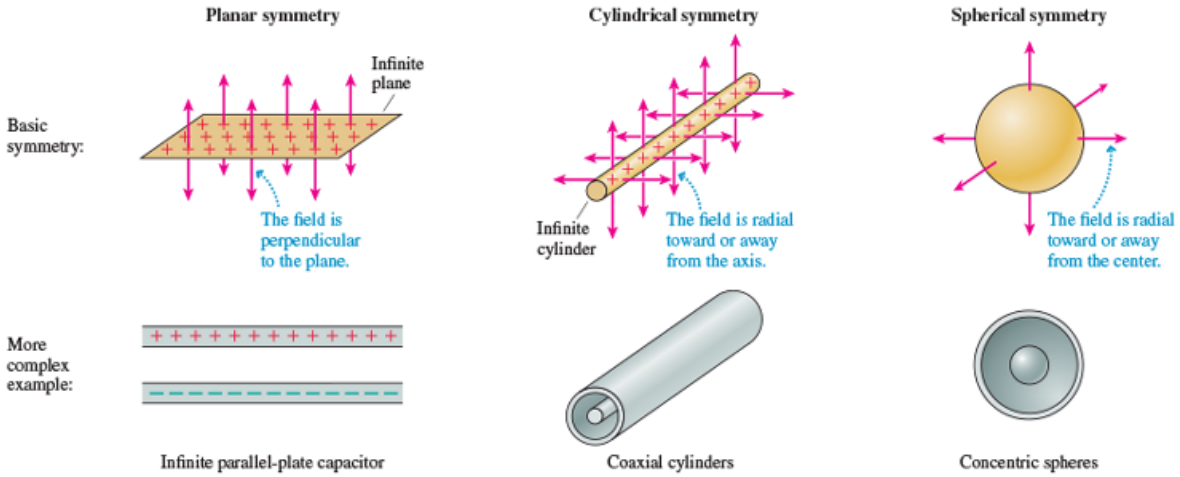
Now, shape is not everything. We've learned nothing about the strength of the field or how strength changes with distance. Is $E$ constant? Does it decrease like $1/r$ or $1/r^2$? We don't yet have a complete description of the field, but knowing what shape the field *has* to have will make finding the field strength a much easier task.

That's the good of symmetry. Symmetry arguments allow us to *rule out* many conceivable field shapes as simply being incompatible with the symmetry of the charge distribution. Knowing what doesn't happen, or can't happen, is often as useful as knowing what does happen. By the process of elimination, we're led to the one and only shape the field can possibly have. Reasoning on the basis of symmetry is a sometimes subtle but always powerful means of reasoning.

## Three Fundamental Symmetries

Three fundamental symmetries appear frequently in electrostatics. The first row of Figure 24.6 shows the simplest form of each symmetry. The second row shows a more complex, but more realistic, situation with the same symmetry.

## Figure 24.6



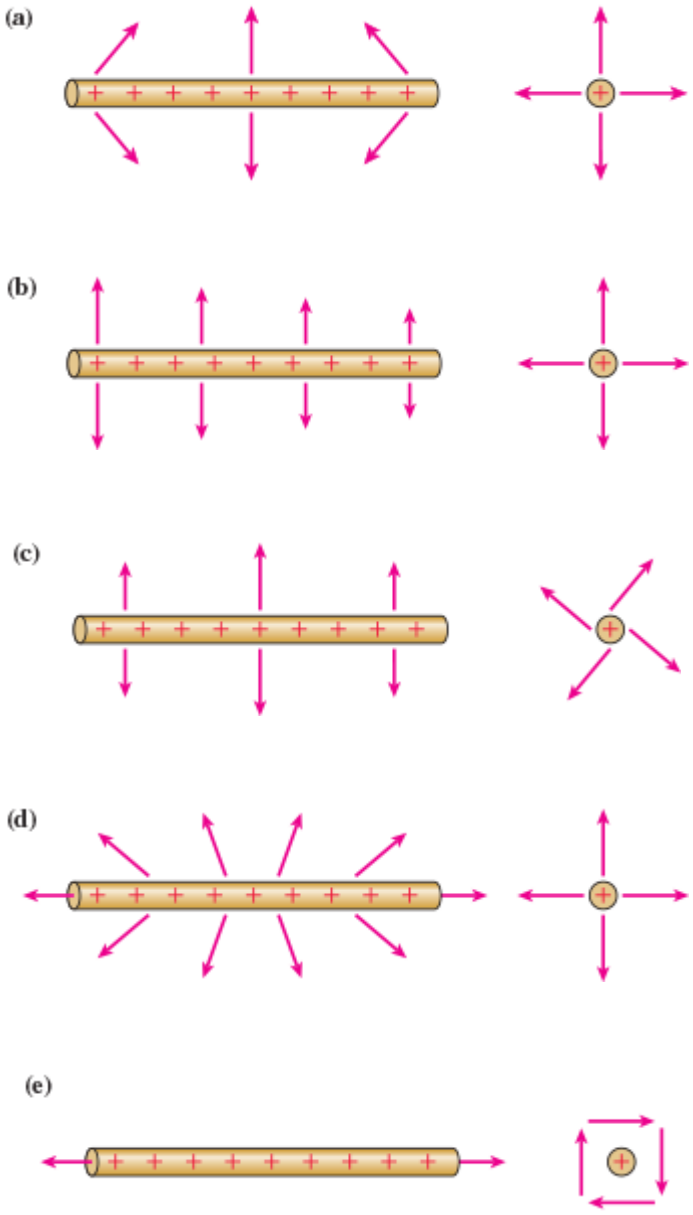

Three fundamental symmetries.

> **Note**
>
> Figures must be finite in extent, but the planes and cylinders in Figure 24.6 are assumed to be infinite.

Objects do exist that are extremely close to being perfect spheres, but no real cylinder or plane can be infinite in extent. Even so, the fields of infinite planes and cylinders are good models for the fields of finite planes and cylinders at points not too close to an edge or an end. The fields that we'll study in this chapter, even if idealized, have many important applications.

### Stop to Think 24.1

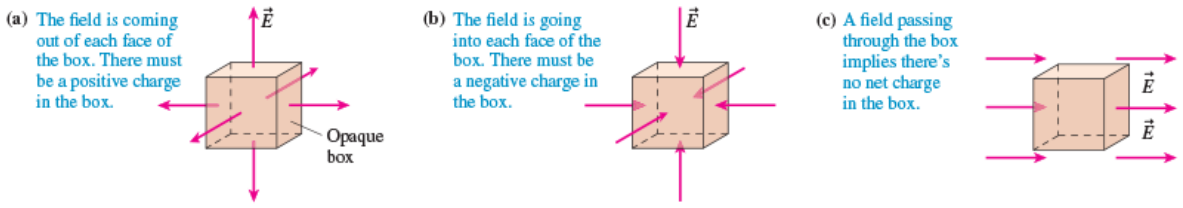
A uniformly charged rod has a *finite* length *L*. The rod is symmetric under rotations about the axis and under reflection in any plane containing the axis. It is *not* symmetric under translations or under reflections in a plane perpendicular to the axis unless that plane bisects the rod. Which field shape or shapes match the symmetry of the rod?


(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)
(e)

# 24.2 The Concept of Flux 662

Figure 24.7a on the next page shows an opaque box surrounding a region of space. We can't see what's in the box, but there's an electric field vector coming out of each face of the box. Can you figure out what's in the box?

**Figure 24.7**




Although we can't see into the boxes, the electric fields passing through the faces tell us something about what's in them.

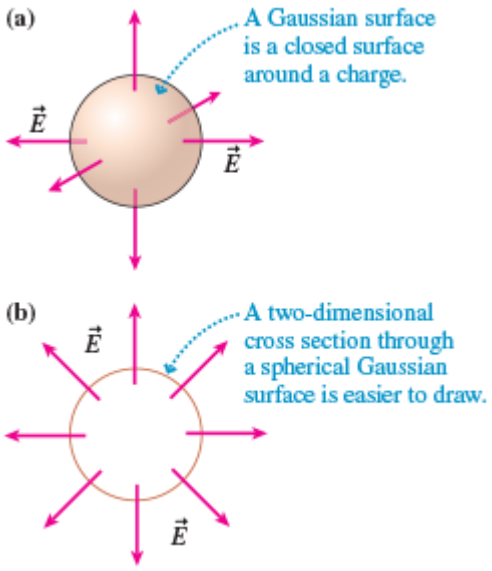
Of course you can. Because electric fields point away from positive charges, it seems clear that the box contains a positive charge or charges. Similarly, the box in Figure 24.7b certainly contains a negative charge.

What can we tell about the box in Figure 24.7c? The electric field points into the box on the left. An equal electric field points out on the right. An electric field passes *through* the box, but we see no evidence there's any charge (or at least any net charge) inside the box. These examples suggest that the electric field as it passes into, out of, or through the box is in some way connected to the charge within the box.

To explore this idea, suppose we surround a region of space with a *closed surface*, a surface that divides space into distinct inside and outside regions. Within the context of electrostatics, a closed surface through

which an electric field passes is called a **Gaussian surface,** named after the 19th-century mathematician Karl Gauss. This is an imaginary, mathematical surface, not a physical surface, although it might coincide with a physical surface. For example, Figure 24.8a shows a spherical Gaussian surface surrounding a charge.

## Figure 24.8



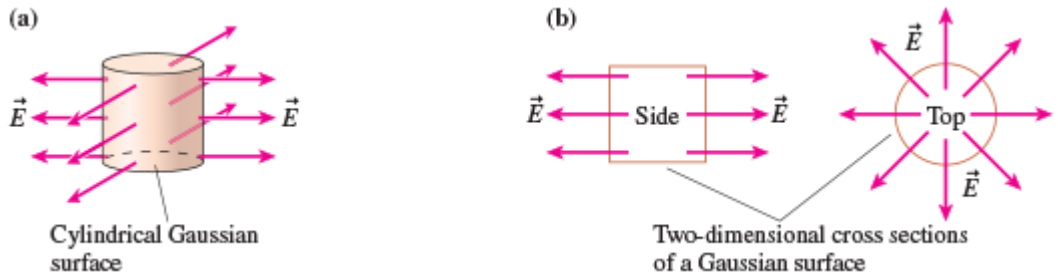

Gaussian surface surrounding a charge. A two-dimensional cross section is usually easier to draw.

A closed surface must, of necessity, be a surface in three dimensions. But three-dimensional pictures are hard to draw, so we'll often look at two-dimensional cross sections through a Gaussian surface, such as the one shown in Figure 24.8b. Now we can tell from the *spherical symmetry* of the electric field vectors poking through the surface that the positive charge inside must be spherically symmetric and centered at the *center* of the sphere.

A Gaussian surface is most useful when it matches the shape and symmetry of the field. For example, Figure 24.9a shows a cylindrical Gaussian surface—a *closed* cylinder—surrounding some kind of cylindrical

charge distribution, such as a charged wire. Figure 24.9b simplifies the drawing by showing two-dimensional end and side views. Because the Gaussian surface matches the symmetry of the charge distribution, the electric field is everywhere *perpendicular* to the side wall and *no* field passes through the top and bottom surfaces.

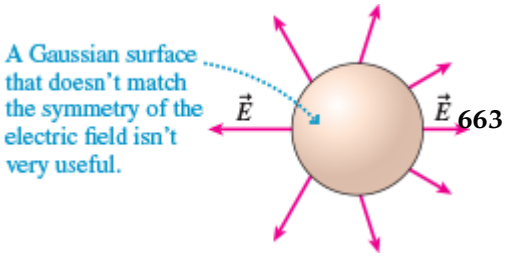
## Figure 24.9




A Gaussian surface is most useful when it matches the shape of the field.

For contrast, consider the spherical surface in Figure 24.10. This is also a Gaussian surface, and the protruding electric field tells us there's a positive charge inside. It might be a point charge located on the left side, but we can't really say. A Gaussian surface that doesn't match the symmetry of the charge distribution isn't terribly useful.

## Figure 24.10




Not every surface is useful for learning about charge.

These examples lead us to two conclusions:

1. The electric field, in some sense, "flows" *out of* a closed surface surrounding a region of space containing a net positive charge and *into* a closed surface surrounding a net negative charge. The electric field may flow *through* a closed surface surrounding a region of space in which there is no net charge, but the *net flow* is zero.
2. The electric field pattern through the surface is particularly simple if the closed surface matches the symmetry of the charge distribution inside.

The electric field doesn't really flow like a fluid, but the metaphor is a useful one. The Latin word for flow is *flux*, and the amount of electric field passing through a surface is called the **electric flux.** Our first conclusions, stated in terms of electric flux, are

- There is an outward flux through a closed surface around a net positive charge.
- There is an inward flux through a closed surface around a net negative charge.
- There is no net flux through a closed surface around a region of space in which there is no net charge.

This chapter has been entirely qualitative thus far as we've established pictorially what we mean by symmetry, flux, and the fact that the electric flux through a closed surface has something to do with the charge inside. In the next two sections you'll learn how to calculate the electric flux through a surface and how the flux is related to the enclosed charge. That relationship, Gauss's law, will allow us to determine the electric fields of some interesting and useful charge distributions.

## Stop to Think 24.2

This box contains

**a.** A positive charge.

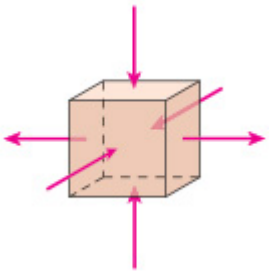
**b.** A negative charge.

**c.** No charge.

**d.** A net positive charge.

**e.** A net negative charge.

**f.** No net charge.



# 24.3 Calculating Electric Flux



Let's start with a brief overview of where this section will take us. We'll begin with a definition of flux that is easy to understand, then we'll turn that simple definition into a formidable-looking integral. We need the integral because the simple definition applies only to uniform electric fields and flat surfaces. Those are good starting points, but we'll soon need to calculate the flux of nonuniform fields through curved surfaces.

Mathematically, the flux of a nonuniform field through a curved surface is described by a special kind of integral called a *surface integral*. It's quite possible that you have not yet encountered surface integrals in your calculus course, and the "novelty factor" contributes to making this integral look worse than it really is. We will emphasize over and over the idea that an integral is just a fancy way of doing a sum, in this case the sum of the small amounts of flux through many small pieces of a surface.

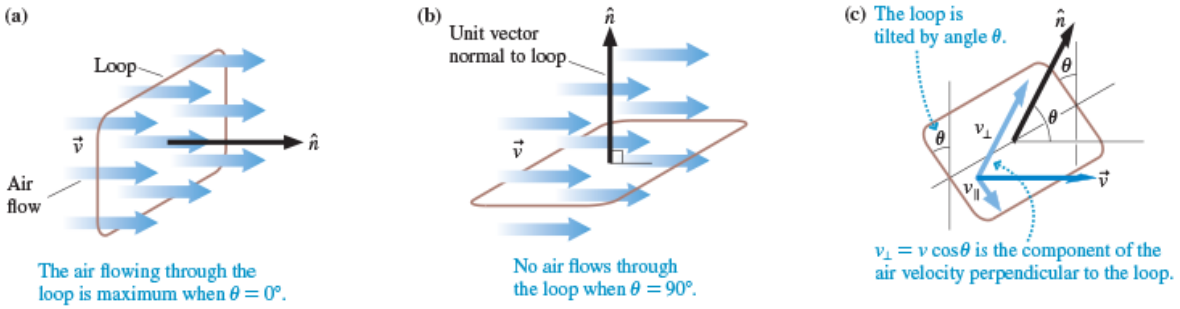
The good news is that *every* surface integral we need to evaluate in this chapter, or that you will need to evaluate for the homework problems, is either zero or is so easy that you will be able to do it in your head. This seems like an astounding claim, but you will soon see it is true. The key will be to make effective use of the *symmetry* of the electric field.

## The Basic Definition of Flux

Imagine holding a rectangular wire loop of area $A$ in front of a fan. As Figure 24.11 on the next page shows, the volume of air flowing through the loop each second depends on the angle between the loop and the

direction of flow. The flow is maximum through a loop that is perpendicular to the airflow; no air goes through the same loop if it lies parallel to the flow.

## Figure 24.11




The amount of air flowing through a loop depends on the angle between $\vec{v}$ and $\hat{n}$.

The flow direction is identified by the velocity vector $\vec{v}$. We can identify the loop's orientation by defining a unit vector $\hat{n}$ normal to the plane of the loop. Angle $\theta$ is then the angle between $\vec{v}$ and $\hat{n}$. The loop perpendicular to the flow in Figure 24.11a has $\theta = 0^\circ$; the loop parallel to the flow in Figure 24.11b has $\theta = 90^\circ$. You can think of $\theta$ as the angle by which a loop has been tilted away from perpendicular.

> **Note**
>
> A surface has two sides, so $\hat{n}$ could point either way. We'll choose the side that makes $\theta \leq 90^\circ$.

You can see from Figure 24.11c that the velocity vector $\vec{v}$ can be decomposed into components $v_\perp = v\cos\theta$ perpendicular to the loop and $v_\parallel = v\sin\theta$ parallel to the loop. Only the perpendicular component $v_\perp$ carries air *through* the loop. Consequently, the volume of air flowing through the loop each second is

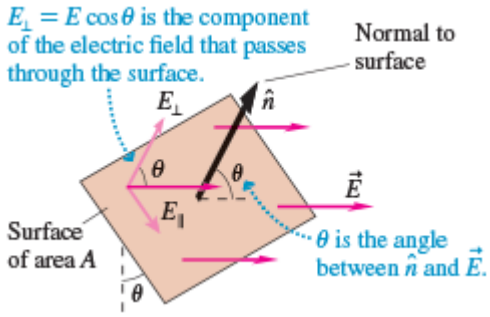
**(24.1)**

$$\text{volume of air per second } (\text{m}^3/\text{s}) = v_\perp A = vA\cos\theta$$

$\theta = 0^\circ$ is the orientation for maximum flow through the loop, as expected, and no air flows through the loop if it is tilted 90°.

An electric field doesn't flow in a literal sense, but we can apply the same idea to an electric field passing through a surface. Figure 24.12 shows a surface of area $A$ in a uniform electric field $\vec{E}$. Unit vector $\hat{n}$ is normal to the surface, and $\theta$ is the angle between $\hat{n}$ and $\vec{E}$. Only the component $E_\perp = E\cos\theta$ passes *through* the surface.

## Figure 24.12




An electric field passing through a surface.

With this in mind, and using Equation 24.1 as an analog, let's define the *electric flux* $\Phi_e$ (uppercase Greek phi) as

**(24.2)**

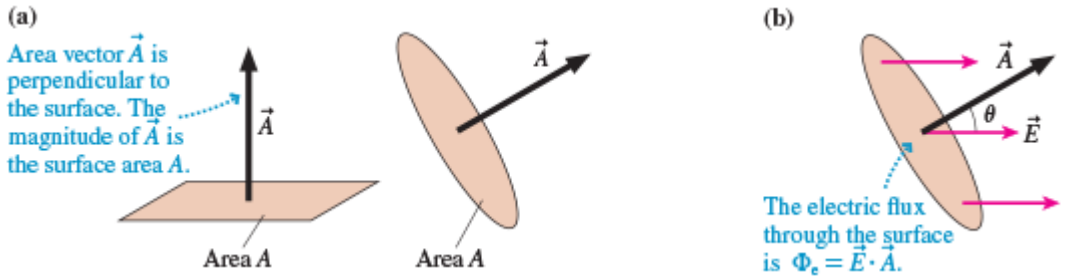
$$\Phi_e = E_\perp A = EA\cos\theta$$



The electric flux measures the amount of electric field passing through a surface of area $A$ if the normal to the surface is tilted at angle $\theta$ from the field.

Equation 24.2 looks very much like a vector dot product: $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} = EA\cos\theta$. For this idea to work, let's define an **area vector** $\vec{A} = A\hat{n}$ to be a vector in the direction of $\hat{n}$—that is, *perpendicular* to the surface—with a magnitude $A$ equal to the area of the surface. Vector $\vec{A}$ has units of m². Figure 24.13a shows two area vectors.

## Figure 24.13




The electric flux can be defined in terms of the area vector $\vec{A}$.

Figure 24.13b shows an electric field passing through a surface of area $A$. The angle between vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{E}$ is the same angle used in Equation 24.2 to define the electric flux, so Equation 24.2 really is a dot product. We can define the electric flux more concisely as

**(24.3)**

$$\Phi_e = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} \qquad \text{(electric flux of a constant electric field)}$$

Writing the flux as a dot product helps make clear how angle $\theta$ is defined: $\theta$ is the angle between the electric field and a line *perpendicular* to the plane of the surface.

**Note**

Figure 24.13b shows a circular area, but the shape of the surface is not relevant. However, Equation 24.3 is restricted to a *constant* electric field passing through a *planar* surface.

**Example 24.1 The electric flux inside a parallel-plate capacitor**

Two 100 $\text{cm}^2$ parallel electrodes are spaced 2.0 cm apart. One is charged to +5.0 nC, the other to –5.0 nC. A $1.0\,\text{cm} \times 1.0\,\text{cm}$ surface between the electrodes is tilted to where its normal makes a 45° angle with the electric field. What is the electric flux through this surface?

**MODEL** Assume the surface is located near the center of the capacitor where the electric field is uniform. The electric flux doesn't depend on the shape of the surface.

**VISUALIZE** The surface is square, rather than circular, but otherwise the situation looks like Figure 24.13b.

**SOLVE** In Chapter 23, we found the electric field inside a parallel-plate capacitor to be

$$E = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A_{\text{plates}}} = \frac{5.0 \times 10^{-9}\,\text{C}}{(8.85 \times 10^{-12}\,\text{C}^2/\text{N}\,\text{m}^2)\,(1.0 \times 10^{-2}\,\text{m}^2)}$$
$$= 5.65 \times 10^4\,\text{N/C}$$

A $1.0\,\text{cm} \times 1.0\,\text{cm}$ surface has $A = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}^2$. The electric flux through this surface is

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_e &= \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} = EA \cos\theta \\ &= (5.65 \times 10^4\,\mathrm{N/C})\,(1.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\mathrm{m^2})\,\cos 45^\circ \\ &= 4.0\,\mathrm{N\,m^2/C}\end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The units of electric flux are the product of electric field and area units: N m$^2$/C.

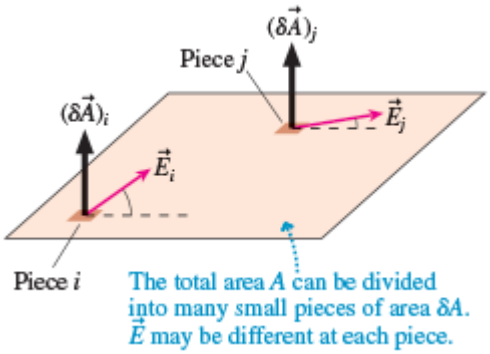
## The Electric Flux of a Nonuniform Electric Field

Our initial definition of the electric flux assumed that the electric field $\vec{E}$ was constant over the surface. How should we calculate the electric flux if $\vec{E}$ varies from point to point on the surface? We can answer this question by returning to the analogy of air flowing through a loop. Suppose the airflow varies from point to point. We can still find the total volume of air passing through the loop each second by dividing the loop into many small areas, finding the flow through each small area, then adding them. Similarly, **the electric flux through a surface can be calculated as the sum of the fluxes through smaller pieces of the surface.** Because flux is a scalar, adding fluxes is easier than adding electric fields.



Figure 24.14 shows a surface in a nonuniform electric field. Imagine dividing the surface into many small pieces of area $\delta A$. Each little area has an area vector $\delta\vec{A}$ perpendicular to the surface. Two of the little pieces are shown in the figure. The electric fluxes through these two pieces differ because the electric fields are different.

**Figure 24.14**




A surface in a nonuniform electric field.

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Consider the small piece $i$ where the electric field is $\vec{E}_i$. The small electric flux $\delta\Phi_i$ through area $(\delta\vec{A})_i$ is

**(24.4)**

$$\delta\Phi_i = \vec{E}_i \cdot (\delta\vec{A})_i$$

The flux through every other little piece of the surface is found the same way. The total electric flux through the entire surface is then the sum of the fluxes through each of the small areas:

**(24.5)**

$$\Phi_e = \sum_i \delta\Phi_i = \sum_i \vec{E}_i \cdot (\delta\vec{A})i$$

Now let's go to the limit $\delta\vec{A} \longrightarrow d\vec{A}$. That is, the little areas become infinitesimally small, and there are infinitely many of them. Then the sum becomes an integral, and the electric flux through the surface is

---

**(24.6)**

$$\Phi_e = \int_{\text{surface}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

The integral in Equation 24.6 is called a **surface integral.**

Equation 24.6 may look rather frightening if you haven't seen surface integrals before. Despite its appearance, a surface integral is no more complicated than integrals you know from calculus. After all, what does $\int f(x)\, dx$ really mean? This expression is a shorthand way to say "Divide the $x$-axis into many little segments of length $\delta x$, evaluate the function $f(x)$ in each of them, then add up $f(x)\, \delta x$ for all the segments along the line." The integral in Equation 24.6 differs only in that we're dividing a surface into little pieces instead of a line into little segments. In particular, we're summing the fluxes through a vast number of very tiny pieces.

You may be thinking, "OK, I understand the idea, but I don't know what to *do*. In calculus, I learned formulas for evaluating integrals such as $\int x^2\, dx$. How do I evaluate a surface integral?" This is a good question. We'll deal with evaluation shortly, and it will turn out that the surface integrals in electrostatics are quite easy to evaluate. But don't confuse *evaluating* the integral with understanding what the integral *means.* The surface integral in Equation 24.6 is simply a shorthand notation for the summation of the electric fluxes through a vast number of very tiny pieces of a surface.

The electric field might be different at every point on the surface, but suppose it isn't. That is, suppose a flat surface is in a uniform electric field $\vec{E}$. A field that is the same at every single point on a surface is a constant as far as the integration of Equation 24.6 is concerned, so we can take it outside the integral. In that case,

**(24.7)**

$$\Phi_e = \int_{\text{surface}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \int_{\text{surface}} E \cos\theta \, dA = E \cos\theta \int_{\text{surface}} dA$$

The integral that remains in Equation 24.7 tells us to add up all the little areas into which the full surface was subdivided. But the sum of all the little areas is simply the area of the surface:

**(24.8)**

$$\int_{\text{surface}} dA = A$$

This idea—that the surface integral of $dA$ is the area of the surface—is one we'll use to evaluate most of the surface integrals of electrostatics. If we substitute Equation 24.8 into Equation 24.7, we find that the electric flux in a uniform electric field is $\Phi_e = EA\cos\theta$. We already knew this, from Equation 24.2, but it was important to see that the surface integral of Equation 24.6 gives the correct result for the case of a uniform electric field.

## The Flux Through a Curved Surface

Most of the Gaussian surfaces we considered in the last section were curved surfaces. Figure 24.15 shows an electric field passing through a curved surface. How do we find the electric flux through this surface? Just as we did for a flat surface!

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**Figure 24.15**

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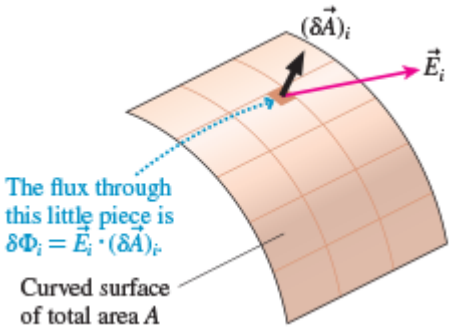



A curved surface in an electric field.

Divide the surface into many small pieces of area $\delta A$. For each, define the area vector $\delta\vec{A}$ perpendicular to the surface *at that point*. Compared to Figure 24.14, the only difference that the curvature of the surface makes is that the $\delta\vec{A}$ are no longer parallel to each other. Find the small electric flux $\delta\Phi_i = \vec{E}_i \cdot (\delta\vec{A})_i$ through each little area, then add them all up. The result, once again, is

**(24.9)**

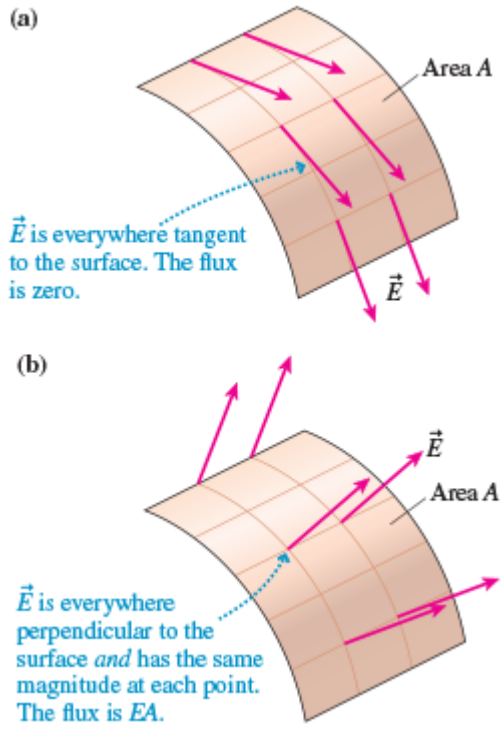
$$\Phi_e = \int_{\text{surface}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

We *assumed*, in deriving this expression the first time, that the surface was flat and that all the $\delta\vec{A}$ were parallel to each other. But that assumption wasn't necessary. The *meaning* of Equation 24.9—a summation of the fluxes through a vast number of very tiny pieces—is unchanged if the pieces lie on a curved surface.

We seem to be getting more and more complex, using surface integrals first for nonuniform fields and now for curved surfaces. But consider the two situations shown in Figure 24.16. The electric field $\vec{E}$ in Figure 24.16a is everywhere tangent, or parallel, to the curved surface. We don't need to know the magnitude of $\vec{E}$ to recognize that $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$ is *zero*

*at every point* on the surface because $\vec{E}$ is perpendicular to $d\vec{A}$ at every point. Thus $\Phi_e = 0$. A tangent electric field never pokes through the surface, so it has no flux through the surface.

## Figure 24.16




Electric fields that are everywhere tangent to or everywhere perpendicular to a curved surface.

The electric field in Figure 24.16b is everywhere perpendicular to the surface *and* has the same magnitude $E$ at every point. $\vec{E}$ differs in direction at different points on a curved surface, but at any particular point $\vec{E}$ is parallel to $d\vec{A}$ and $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$ is simply $E\,dA$. In this case,

**(24.10)**

$$\Phi_e = \int_{\text{surface}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \int_{\text{surface}} E\,dA = E \int_{\text{surface}} dA = EA$$

As we evaluated the integral, the fact that $E$ has the same magnitude at every point on the surface allowed us to bring the constant value outside the integral. We then used the fact that the integral of $dA$ over the surface is the surface area $A$.

We can summarize these two situations with a Tactics Box.

TACTICS BOX 24.1 **Evaluating surface integrals**

**Mastering Physics**

1. If the electric field is everywhere tangent to a surface, the electric flux through the surface is $\Phi_e = 0$.
2. If the electric field is everywhere perpendicular to a surface *and* has the same magnitude $E$ at every point, the electric flux through the surface is $\Phi_e = EA$.

These two results will be of immeasurable value for using Gauss's law because *every* flux we'll need to calculate will be one of these situations. This is the basis for our earlier claim that the evaluation of surface integrals is not going to be difficult.

## The Electric Flux Through a Closed Surface

Our final step, to calculate the electric flux through a closed surface such as a box, a cylinder, or a sphere, requires nothing new. We've already learned how to calculate the electric flux through flat and curved

surfaces, and a closed surface is nothing more than a surface that happens to be closed.

However, the mathematical notation for the surface integral over a closed surface differs slightly from what we've been using. It is customary to use a little circle on the integral sign to indicate that the surface integral is to be performed over a closed surface. With this notation, the electric flux through a closed surface is

**(24.11)**

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Only the notation has changed. The electric flux is still the summation of the fluxes through a vast number of tiny pieces, pieces that now cover a closed surface.

> **Note**
>
> A closed surface has a distinct inside and outside. The area vector $d\vec{A}$ is defined to always point *toward the outside.* This removes an ambiguity that was present for a single surface, where $d\vec{A}$ could point to either side.

Now we're ready to calculate the flux through a closed surface.

TACTICS BOX 24.2 **Finding the flux through a closed surface**

**Mastering Physics**

1. Choose a Gaussian surface made up of pieces that are everywhere tangent to the electric field or everywhere

perpendicular to the electric field.

2. Use Tactics Box 24.1 to evaluate the surface integrals over these surfaces, then add the results.

Workbook Exercise 10

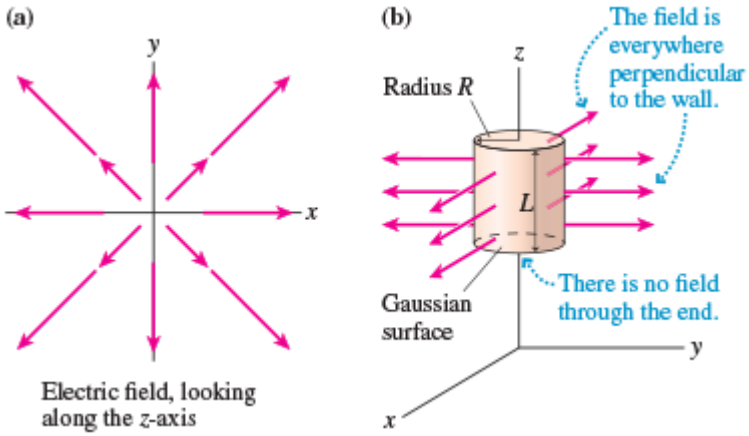
**Example 24.2 Calculating the electric flux through a closed cylinder**

A charge distribution with cylindrical symmetry has created the electric field $\vec{E} = E_0(r^2/{r_0}^2)\hat{r}$, where $E_0$ and $r_0$ are constants and where unit vector $\hat{r}$ lies in the $xy$-plane. Calculate the electric flux through a closed cylinder of length $L$ and radius $R$ that is centered along the $z$-axis.

**MODEL** The electric field extends radially outward from the $z$-axis with cylindrical symmetry. The $z$-component is $E_z = 0$. The cylinder is a Gaussian surface.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 24.17a is a view of the electric field looking along the $z$-axis. The field strength increases with increasing radial distance, and it's symmetric about the $z$-axis. Figure 24.17b is the closed Gaussian surface for which we need to calculate the electric flux. We can place the cylinder anywhere along the $z$-axis because the electric field extends forever in that direction.

**Figure 24.17**




The electric field and the closed surface through which we will calculate the electric flux.

---

**SOLVE** To calculate the flux, we divide the closed cylinder into three surfaces: the top, the bottom, and the cylindrical wall. The electric field is tangent to the surface at every point on the top and bottom surfaces. Hence, according to step 1 in Tactics Box 24.1, the flux through those two surfaces is zero. For the cylindrical wall, the electric field is perpendicular to the surface at every point *and* has the constant magnitude $E = E_0(R^2/{r_0}^2)$ at every point on the surface. Thus, from step 2 in Tactics Box 24.1,

$$\Phi_{\text{wall}} = EA_{\text{wall}}$$

If we add the three pieces, the net flux through the closed surface is

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \Phi_{\text{top}} + \Phi_{\text{bottom}} + \Phi_{\text{wall}} = 0 + 0 + EA_{\text{wall}}$$
$$= EA_{\text{wall}}$$

We've evaluated the surface integral, using the two steps in Tactics Box 24.1, and there was nothing to it! To finish, all we need to recall is that the surface area of a cylindrical wall is circumference $\times$ height, or $A_{\text{wall}} = 2\pi RL$. Thus

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = \left(E_0 \frac{R^2}{{r_0}^2}\right)(2\pi RL) = \frac{2\pi LR^3}{{r_0}^2} E_0$$

**ASSESS** $LR^3/{r_0}^2$ has units of $m^2$, an area, so this expression for $\Phi_e$ has units of N $m^2$/C. These are the correct units for electric flux, giving us confidence in our answer. Notice the important role played by symmetry. The electric field was perpendicular to the wall and of constant value at every point on the wall *because* the Gaussian surface had the same symmetry as the charge distribution. We would not have been able to evaluate the surface integral in such an easy way for a surface of any other shape. Symmetry is the key.

## Stop to Think 24.3

The total electric flux through this box is

**a.** 0 N $m^2$/C

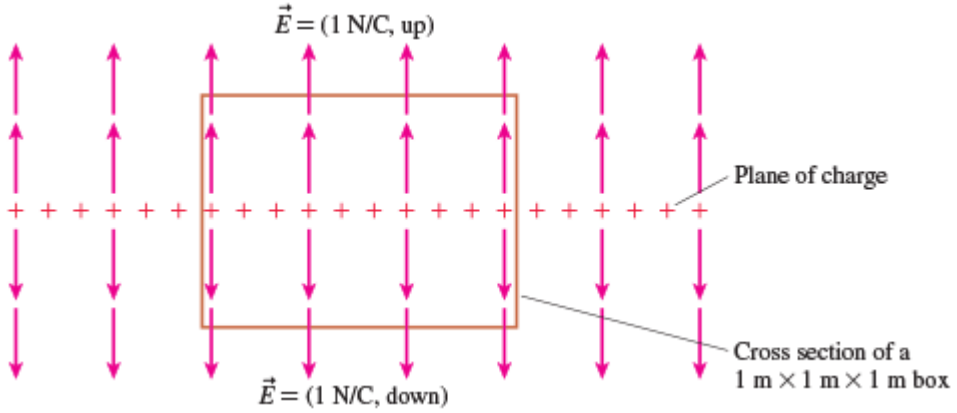
**b.** 1 N $m^2$/C

**c.** 2 N $m^2$/C

**d.** 4 N $m^2$/C

**e.** 6 N $m^2$/C

**f.** 8 N $m^2$/C



# 24.4 Gauss's Law



The last section was long, but knowing how to calculate the electric flux through a closed surface is essential for the main topic of this chapter: Gauss's law. Gauss's law is equivalent to Coulomb's law for static charges, although Gauss's law will look very different.

The purpose of learning Gauss's law is twofold:

- Gauss's law allows the electric fields of some continuous distributions of charge to be found much more easily than does Coulomb's law.
- Gauss's law is valid for *moving* charges, but Coulomb's law is not (although it's a very good approximation for velocities that are much less than the speed of light). Thus Gauss's law is ultimately a more fundamental statement about electric fields than is Coulomb's law.

Let's start with Coulomb's law for the electric field of a point charge. Figure 24.18 shows a spherical Gaussian surface of radius $r$ centered on a positive charge $q$. Keep in mind that this is an imaginary, mathematical surface, not a physical surface. There is a net flux through this surface because the electric field points outward at every point on the surface. To evaluate the flux, given formally by the surface integral of Equation 24.11, notice that the electric field is perpendicular to the surface at every point on the surface *and*, from Coulomb's law, it has the same magnitude $E = q/4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2$ at every point on the surface. This simple situation arises because **the Gaussian surface has the same symmetry as the electric field.**

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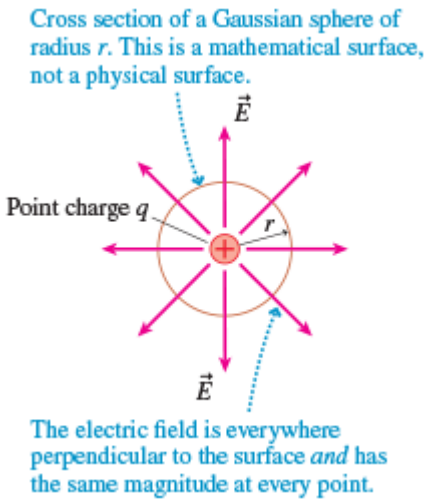
**Figure 24.18**




A spherical Gaussian surface surrounding a point charge.

Thus we know, without having to do any hard work, that the flux integral is

**(24.12)**

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = EA_{\text{sphere}}$$

The surface area of a sphere of radius $r$ is $A_{\text{sphere}} = 4\pi r^2$. If we use $A_{\text{sphere}}$ and the Coulomb-law expression for $E$ in Equation 24.12, we find that the electric flux through the spherical surface is

**(24.13)**

$$\Phi_e = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}\, 4\pi r^2 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

You should examine the logic of this calculation closely. We really did evaluate the surface integral of Equation 24.11, although it may appear, at first, as if we didn't do much. The integral was easily evaluated, we reiterate for emphasis, because the closed surface on which we performed the integration matched the *symmetry* of the charge distribution.

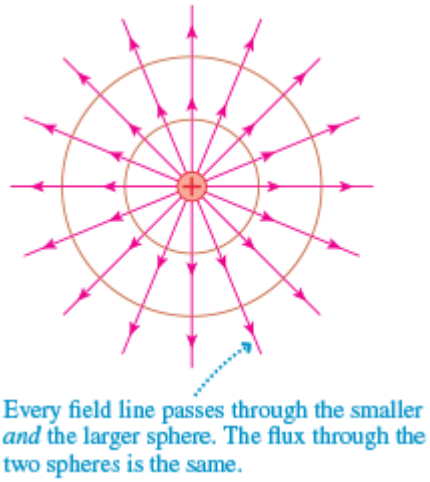
**Note**

We found Equation 24.13 for a positive charge, but it applies equally to negative charges. According to Equation 24.13, $\Phi_e$ is negative if $q$ is negative. And that's what we would expect from the basic definition of flux, $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{A}$. The electric field of a negative charge points inward, while the area vector of a closed surface points outward, making the dot product negative.

## Electric Flux Is Independent of Surface Shape and Radius

Notice something interesting about Equation 24.13[670]. The electric flux depends on the amount of charge but *not* on the radius of the sphere. Although this may seem a bit surprising, it's really a direct consequence of what we *mean* by flux. Think of the fluid analogy with which we introduced the term "flux." If fluid flows outward from a central point, all the fluid crossing a small-radius spherical surface will, at some later time, cross a large-radius spherical surface. No fluid is lost along the way, and no new fluid is created. Similarly, the point charge in Figure 24.19 is the only source of electric field. Every electric field line passing through a small-radius spherical surface also passes through a large-radius spherical surface. Hence the electric flux is independent of $r$.

**Figure 24.19**

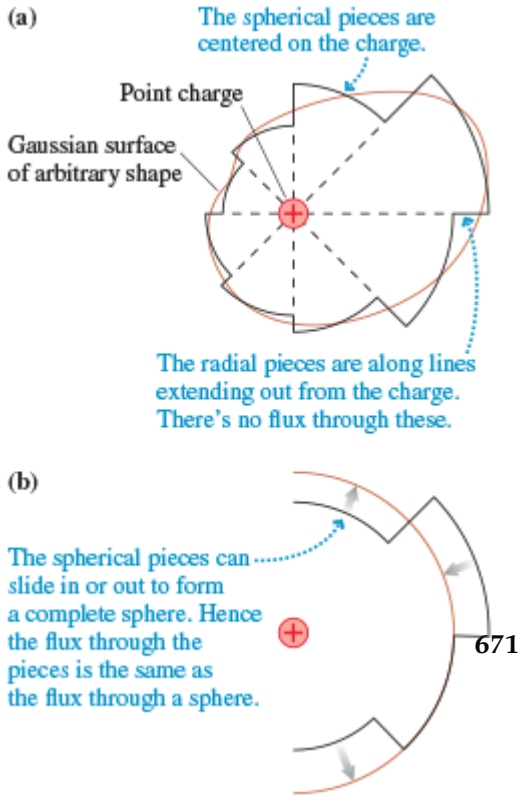



The electric flux is the same through *every* sphere centered on a point charge.

> **Note**
>
> This argument hinges on the fact that Coulomb's law is an inverse-square force law. The electric field strength, which is proportional to $1/r^2$, decreases with distance. But the surface area, which increases in proportion to $r^2$, exactly compensates for this decrease. Consequently, the electric flux of a point charge through a spherical surface is independent of the radius of the sphere.

This conclusion about the flux has an extremely important generalization. Figure 24.20a shows a point charge and a closed Gaussian surface of arbitrary shape and dimensions. All we know is that the charge is *inside* the surface. What is the electric flux through this arbitrary surface?

**Figure 24.20**




An arbitrary Gaussian surface can be approximated with spherical and radial pieces.

One way to answer the question is to approximate the surface as a patchwork of spherical and radial pieces. The spherical pieces are centered on the charge and the radial pieces lie along lines extending outward from the charge. (Figure 24.20 is a two-dimensional drawing so you need to imagine these arcs as actually being pieces of a spherical shell.) The figure, of necessity, shows fairly large pieces that don't match the actual surface all that well. However, we can make this approximation as good as we want by letting the pieces become sufficiently small.

The electric field is everywhere tangent to the radial pieces. Hence the electric flux through the radial pieces is zero. The spherical pieces, although at varying distances from the charge, form a *complete sphere*. That is, any line drawn radially outward from the charge will pass through exactly one spherical piece, and no radial lines can avoid passing

through a spherical piece. You could even imagine, as Figure 24.20b shows, sliding the spherical pieces in and out *without changing the angle they subtend* until they come together to form a complete sphere.

Consequently, the electric flux through these spherical pieces that, when assembled, form a complete sphere must be exactly the same as the flux $q/\epsilon_0$ through a spherical Gaussian surface. In other words, **the flux through *any* closed surface surrounding a point charge $q$ is**

**(24.14)**

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

This surprisingly simple result is a consequence of the fact that Coulomb's law is an inverse-square force law. Even so, the reasoning that got us to Equation 24.14 is rather subtle and well worth reviewing.

## Charge Outside the Surface

The closed surface shown in Figure 24.21a has a point charge $q$ outside the surface but no charges inside. Now what can we say about the flux? By approximating this surface with spherical and radial pieces *centered on the charge*, as we did in Figure 24.20, we can reassemble the surface into the equivalent surface of Figure 24.21b. This closed surface consists of sections of two spherical shells, and it is equivalent in the sense that the electric flux through this surface is the same as the electric flux through the original surface of Figure 24.21a.

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**Figure 24.21**

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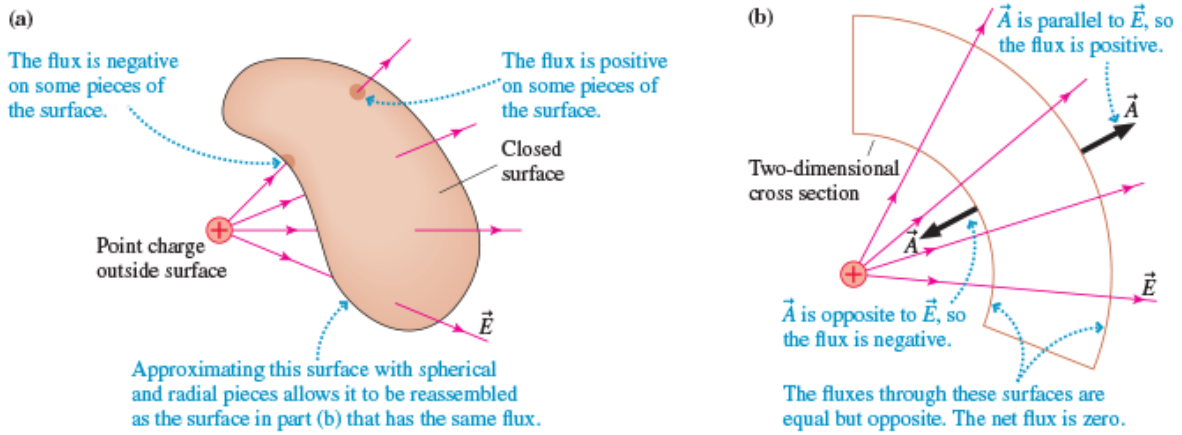


A point charge outside a Gaussian surface.

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If the electric field were a fluid flowing outward from the charge, all the fluid *entering* the closed region through the first spherical surface would later *exit* the region through the second spherical surface. There is no *net* flow into or out of the closed region. Similarly, every electric field line entering this closed volume through one spherical surface exits through the other spherical surface.



Mathematically, the electric fluxes through the two spherical surfaces have the same magnitude because $\Phi_e$ is independent of $r$. But they have *opposite signs* because the outward-pointing area vector $\vec{A}$ is parallel to $\vec{E}$ on one surface but opposite to $\vec{E}$ on the other. The sum of the fluxes through the two surfaces is zero, and we are led to the conclusion that **the net electric flux is zero through a closed surface that does not contain any net charge.** Charges outside the surface do not produce a net flux through the surface.

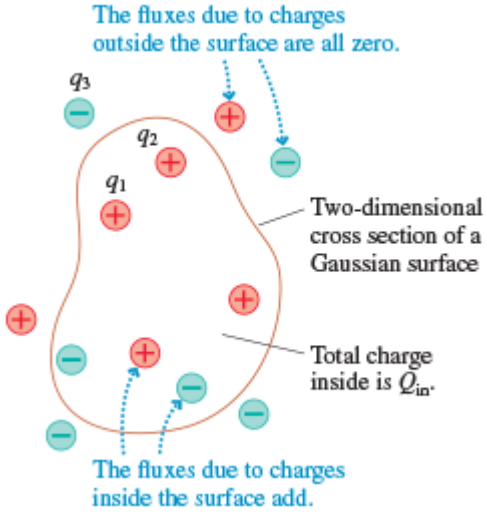
This isn't to say that the flux through a small piece of the surface is zero. In fact, as Figure 24.21a shows, nearly every piece of the surface has an electric field either entering or leaving and thus has a nonzero flux. But some of these are positive and some are negative. When summed over

the *entire* surface, the positive and negative contributions exactly cancel to give no *net* flux.

## Multiple Charges

Finally, consider an arbitrary Gaussian surface and a group of charges $q_1$, $q_2$, $q_3$, ... such as those shown in Figure 24.22. What is the net electric flux through the surface?

**Figure 24.22**




Charges both inside and outside a Gaussian surface.

By definition, the net flux is

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

From the principle of superposition, the electric field is $\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + \cdots$, where $\vec{E}_1, \vec{E}_2, \vec{E}_3, \cdots$ are the fields of the individual charges. Thus the flux is

**(24.15)**

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{\mathrm{e}} &= \oint \vec{E}_1 \cdot d\vec{A} + \oint \vec{E}_2 \cdot d\vec{A} + \oint \vec{E}_3 \cdot d\vec{A} + \cdots \\ &= \Phi_1 + \Phi_2 + \Phi_3 + \cdots\end{aligned}$$

where $\Phi_1$, $\Phi_2$, $\Phi_3, \ldots$ are the fluxes through the Gaussian surface due to the individual charges. That is, the net flux is the sum of the fluxes due to individual charges. But we know what those are: $q/\epsilon_0$ for the charges inside the surface and zero for the charges outside. Thus

**(24.16)**

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{\mathrm{e}} \quad = \quad & \left(\frac{q_1}{\epsilon_0} + \frac{q_2}{\epsilon_0} + \cdots + \frac{q_i}{\epsilon_0} \text{ for all charges inside the surface}\right) \\ & + (0 + 0 + \cdots + 0 \text{ for all charges outside the surface})\end{aligned}$$

We define

**(24.17)**

$$Q_{\mathrm{in}} = q_1 + q_2 + \cdots + q_i \text{ for all charges inside the surface}$$

as the total charge enclosed *within* the surface. With this definition, we can write our result for the net electric flux in a very neat and compact fashion. For any *closed* surface enclosing total charge $Q_{\mathrm{in}}$, the net electric flux through the surface is

---

**(24.18)**

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{e}} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\mathrm{in}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

This result for the electric flux is known as **Gauss's law.**

# What Does Gauss's Law Tell Us?

In one sense, Gauss's law doesn't say anything new or anything that we didn't already know from Coulomb's law. After all, we derived Gauss's law from Coulomb's law. But in another sense, Gauss's law is more important than Coulomb's law. Gauss's law states a very general property of electric fields—namely, that charges create electric fields in just such a way that the net flux of the field is the same through *any* surface surrounding the charges, no matter what its size and shape may be. This fact may have been implied by Coulomb's law, but it was by no means obvious. And Gauss's law will turn out to be particularly useful later when we combine it with other electric and magnetic field equations.

Gauss's law is the mathematical statement of our observations in Section 24.2. There we noticed a net "flow" of electric field out of a closed surface containing charges. Gauss's law quantifies this idea by making a specific connection between the "flow," now measured as electric flux, and the amount of charge.

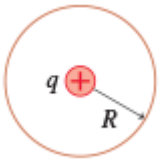
But is it useful? Although to some extent Gauss's law is a formal statement about electric fields, not a tool for solving practical problems, there are exceptions: Gauss's law will allow us to find the electric fields of some very important and very practical charge distributions much more easily than if we had to rely on Coulomb's law. We'll consider some examples in the next section.

## Stop to Think 24.4

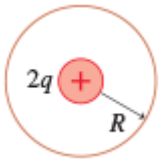
These are two-dimensional cross sections through three-dimensional closed spheres and a cube. Rank in order, from

largest to smallest, the electric fluxes $\Phi_a$ to $\Phi_e$ through surfaces a to e.

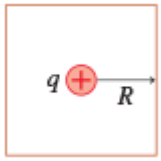
**a.**



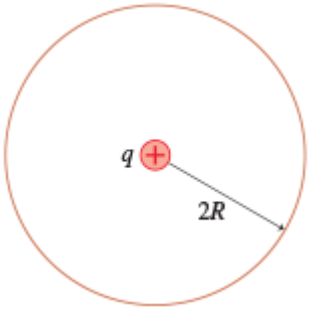

**b.**



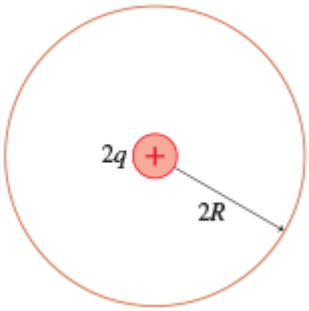

**c.**




**d.**




**e.**



# 24.5 Using Gauss's Law 673

In this section, we'll use Gauss's law to determine the electric fields of several important charge distributions. Some of these you already know, from Chapter 23; others will be new. Three important observations can be made about using Gauss's law:

1. Gauss's law applies only to a *closed* surface, called a Gaussian surface.
2. A Gaussian surface is not a physical surface. It need not coincide with the boundary of any physical object (although it could if we wished). It is an imaginary, mathematical surface in the space surrounding one or more charges.
3. We can't find the electric field from Gauss's law alone. We need to apply Gauss's law in situations where, from symmetry and superposition, we already can guess the *shape* of the field.

These observations and our previous discussion of symmetry and flux lead to the following strategy for solving electric field problems with Gauss's law.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 24.1 Gauss's law**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the charge distribution as a distribution with symmetry.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a picture of the charge distribution.

- Determine the symmetry of its electric field.
- Choose and draw a Gaussian surface with the *same symmetry*.
- You need not enclose all the charge within the Gaussian surface.
- Be sure every part of the Gaussian surface is either tangent to or perpendicular to the electric field.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on Gauss's law

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$$

- Use Tactics Boxes 24.1 and 24.2 to evaluate the surface integral.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 19

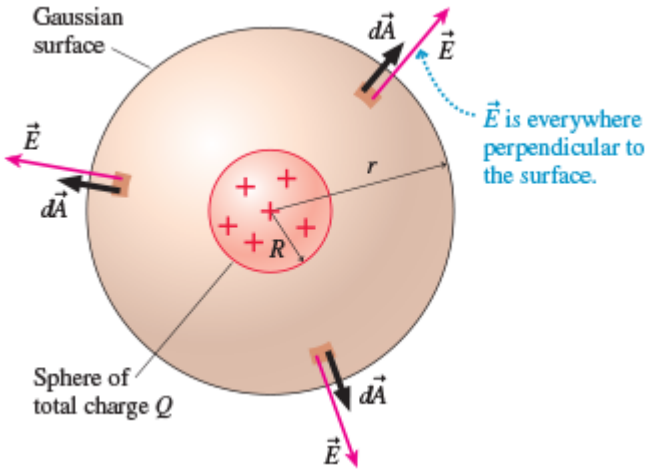
**Example 24.3 Outside a sphere of charge**

In Chapter 23 we asserted, without proof, that the electric field outside a sphere of total charge $Q$ is the same as the field of a point charge $Q$ at the center. Use Gauss's law to prove this result.

**MODEL** The charge distribution within the sphere need not be uniform (i.e., the charge density might increase or decrease with $r$), but it must have spherical symmetry in order for us to use Gauss's law. We will assume that it does.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 24.23 shows a sphere of charge $Q$ and radius $R$. We want to find $\vec{E}$ outside this sphere, for distances $r > R$. The spherical symmetry of the charge distribution tells us that the electric field must point *radially outward* from the sphere. Although Gauss's law is true for any surface surrounding the charged sphere, it is useful only if we choose a Gaussian surface to match the spherical symmetry of the charge distribution and the field. Thus a spherical surface of radius $r > R$ *concentric with* the charged sphere will be our Gaussian surface. Because this surface surrounds the entire sphere of charge, the enclosed charge is simply $Q_{\text{in}} = Q$.

## Figure 24.23




A spherical Gaussian surface surrounding a sphere of charge.

**SOLVE** Gauss's law is

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}$$

To calculate the flux, notice that the electric field is everywhere perpendicular to the spherical surface. And although we don't know the electric field magnitude $E$, spherical symmetry dictates that $E$ must have the same value at all points equally distant from

the center of the sphere. Thus we have the simple result that the net flux through the Gaussian surface is

$$\Phi_e = EA_{\text{sphere}} = 4\pi r^2 E$$

where we used the fact that the surface area of a sphere is $A_{\text{sphere}} = 4\pi r^2$. With this result for the flux, Gauss's law is

$$4\pi r^2 E = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \qquad \textbf{674}$$

Thus the electric field at distance $r$ outside a sphere of charge is

$$E_{\text{outside}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{r^2}$$

Or in vector form, making use of the fact that $\vec{E}$ is radially outward,

$$\vec{E}_{\text{outside}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

where $\hat{r}$ is a radial unit vector.

**ASSESS** The field is exactly that of a point charge $Q$, which is what we wanted to show.

---

The derivation of the electric field of a sphere of charge depended crucially on a proper choice of the Gaussian surface. We would not have been able to evaluate the flux integral so simply for any other choice of surface. It's worth noting that the result of Example 24.3 can also be proven by the superposition of point-charge fields, but it requires a difficult three-dimensional integral and about a page of algebra. We obtained the answer using Gauss's law in just a few lines. Where Gauss's

law works, it works *extremely* well! However, it works only in situations, such as this, with a very high degree of symmetry.

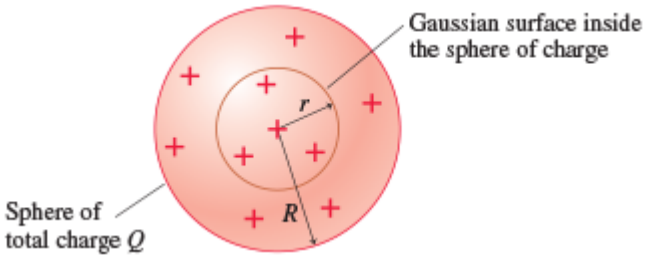
### Example 24.4 Inside a sphere of charge

What is the electric field *inside* a uniformly charged sphere?

**MODEL** We haven't considered a situation like this before. To begin, we don't know if the field strength is increasing or decreasing as we move outward from the center of the sphere. But the field inside must have spherical symmetry. That is, the field must point radially inward or outward, and the field strength can depend only on $r$. This is sufficient information to solve the problem because it allows us to choose a Gaussian surface.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 24.24 shows a spherical Gaussian surface with radius $r \leq R$ *inside*, and *concentric with*, the sphere of charge. This surface matches the symmetry of the charge distribution, hence $\vec{E}$ is perpendicular to this surface and the field strength $E$ has the same value at all points on the surface.

**Figure 24.24**




A spherical Gaussian surface inside a uniform sphere of charge.

**SOLVE** The flux integral is identical to that of Example 24.3:

$$\Phi_e = EA_{\text{sphere}} = 4\pi r^2 E$$

Consequently, Gauss's law is

$$\Phi_e = 4\pi r^2 E = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

The difference between this example and Example 24.3 is that $Q_{\text{in}}$ is no longer the total charge of the sphere. Instead, $Q_{\text{in}}$ is the amount of charge *inside* the Gaussian sphere of radius $r$. Because the charge distribution is *uniform*, the volume charge density is

$$\rho = \frac{Q}{V_R} = \frac{Q}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R^3}$$

The charge enclosed in a sphere of radius $r$ is thus

$$Q_{\text{in}} = \rho V_r = \left(\frac{Q}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R^3}\right)\left(\tfrac{4}{3}\pi r^3\right) = \frac{r^3}{R^3}Q$$

The amount of enclosed charge increases with the cube of the distance $r$ from the center and, as expected, $Q_{\text{in}} = Q$ if $r = R$. With this expression for $Q_{\text{in}}$, Gauss's law is

$$4\pi r^2 E = \frac{(r^3/R^3)Q}{\epsilon_0}$$

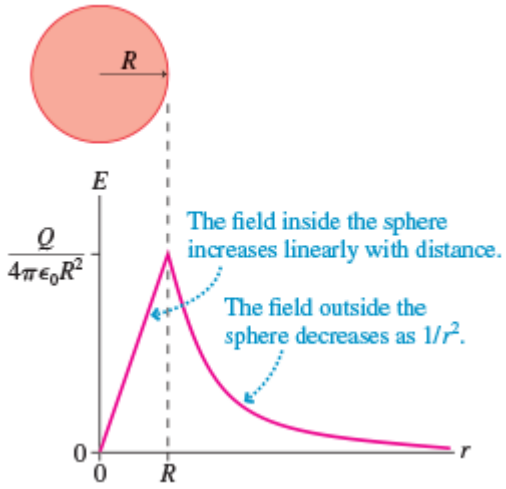
Thus the electric field at radius $r$ inside a uniformly charged sphere is

$$E_{\text{inside}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{R^3}r$$

The electric field strength inside the sphere increases *linearly* with the distance $r$ from the center.

**ASSESS** The field inside and the field outside a sphere of charge match at the boundary of the sphere, $r = R$, where both give $E = Q/4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2$. In other words, the field strength is *continuous* as we cross the boundary of the sphere. These results are shown graphically in Figure 24.25.

**Figure 24.25**




The electric field strength of a uniform sphere of charge of radius $R$.

**Example 24.5 The electric field of a long, charged wire**

In Chapter 23, we used superposition to find the electric field of a long, charged wire with linear charge density $\lambda$ (C/m). It was not an easy derivation. Find the electric field using Gauss's law.

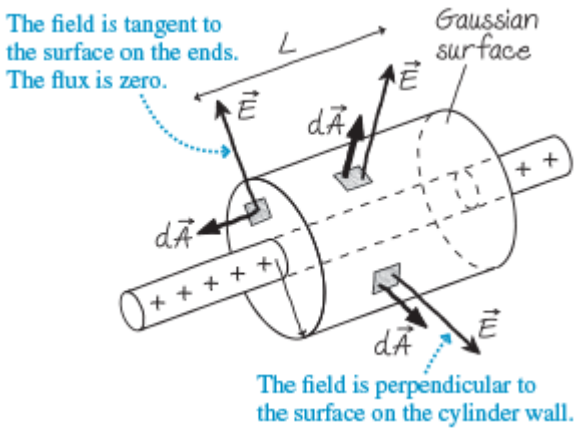


**MODEL** A long, charged wire can be modeled as an infinitely long line of charge.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 24.26 shows an infinitely long line of charge. We can use the symmetry of the situation to see that the only

possible shape of the electric field is to point straight into or out from the wire, rather like the bristles on a bottle brush. The shape of the field suggests that we choose our Gaussian surface to be a cylinder of radius $r$ and length $L$, centered on the wire. Because Gauss's law refers to *closed* surfaces, we must include the ends of the cylinder as part of the surface.

**Figure 24.26**




A Gaussian surface around a charged wire.

**SOLVE** Gauss's law is

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$$

where $Q_{in}$ is the charge *inside* the closed cylinder. We have two tasks: to evaluate the flux integral, and to determine how much charge is inside the closed surface. The wire has linear charge density $\lambda$, so the amount of charge inside a cylinder of length $L$ is simply

$$Q_{in} = \lambda L$$

Finding the net flux is just as straightforward. We can divide the flux through the entire closed surface into the flux through each

end plus the flux through the cylindrical wall. The electric field $\vec{E}$, pointing straight out from the wire, is tangent to the end surfaces at every point. Thus the flux through these two surfaces is zero. On the wall, $\vec{E}$ is perpendicular to the surface and has the same strength $E$ at every point. Thus

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = \Phi_{\text{top}} + \Phi_{\text{bottom}} + \Phi_{\text{wall}} = 0 + 0 + EA_{\text{cyl}} = 2\pi rLE$$

where we used $A_{\text{cyl}} = 2\pi rL$ as the surface area of a cylindrical wall of radius $r$ and length $L$. Once again, the proper choice of the Gaussian surface reduces the flux integral merely to finding a surface area. With these expressions for $Q_{\text{in}}$ and $\Phi_{\text{e}}$, Gauss's law is

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = 2\pi rLE = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\lambda L}{\epsilon_0}$$

Thus the electric field at distance $r$ from a long, charged wire is

$$E_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

**ASSESS** This agrees exactly with the result of the more complex derivation in Chapter 23. Notice that the result does not depend on our choice of $L$. A Gaussian surface is an imaginary device, not a physical object. We needed a finite-length cylinder to do the flux calculation, but the electric field of an *infinitely* long wire can't depend on the length of an imaginary cylinder.

---

Example 24.5, for the electric field of a long, charged wire, contains a subtle but important idea, one that often occurs when using Gauss's law. The Gaussian cylinder of length $L$ encloses only some of the wire's charge. The pieces of the charged wire outside the cylinder are not

enclosed by the Gaussian surface and consequently do not contribute anything to the net flux. Even so, *they are essential* to the use of Gauss's law because it takes the *entire* charged wire to produce an electric field with cylindrical symmetry. In other words, the charge outside the cylinder may not contribute to the flux, but it affects the *shape* of the electric field. Our ability to write $\Phi_e = EA_{cyl}$ depended on knowing that $E$ is the same at every point on the wall of the cylinder. That would not be true for a charged wire of finite length, so we cannot use Gauss's law to find the electric field of a finite-length charged wire.



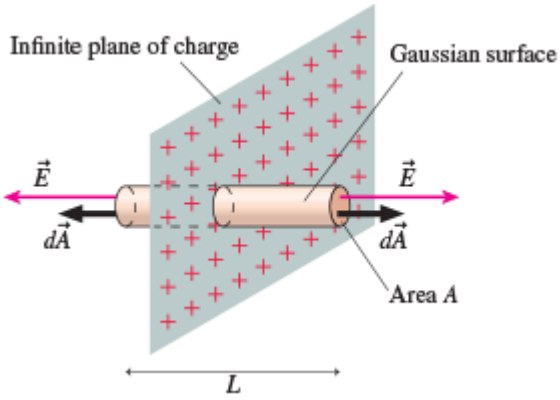
### Example 24.6 The electric field of a plane of charge

Use Gauss's law to find the electric field of an infinite plane of charge with surface charge density $\eta$(C/m$^2$).

**MODEL** A uniformly charged flat electrode can be modeled as an infinite plane of charge.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 24.27 on the next page shows a uniformly charged plane with surface charge density $\eta$. We will assume that the plane extends infinitely far in all directions, although we obviously have to show "edges" in our drawing. The planar symmetry allows the electric field to point only straight toward or away from the plane. With this in mind, choose as a Gaussian surface a cylinder with length $L$ and faces of area $A$ centered on the plane of charge. Although we've drawn them as circular, the shape of the faces is not relevant.

**Figure 24.27**




The Gaussian surface extends to both sides of a plane of charge.

---

**SOLVE** The electric field is perpendicular to both faces of the cylinder, so the total flux through both faces is $\Phi_{\text{faces}} = 2EA$. (The fluxes add rather than cancel because the area vector $\vec{A}$ points *outward* on each face.) There's *no* flux through the wall of the cylinder because the field vectors are tangent to the wall. Thus the net flux is simply

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = 2EA$$

The charge inside the cylinder is the charge contained in area $A$ of the plane. This is

$$Q_{\text{in}} = \eta A$$

With these expressions for $Q_{\text{in}}$ and $\Phi_{\text{e}}$, Gauss's law is

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = 2EA = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\eta A}{\epsilon_0}$$

Thus the electric field of an infinite charged plane is

$$E_{\text{plane}} = \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}$$

This agrees with the result in Chapter 23.

**ASSESS** This is another example of a Gaussian surface enclosing only some of the charge. Most of the plane's charge is outside the Gaussian surface and does not contribute to the flux, but it does affect the shape of the field. We wouldn't have planar symmetry, with the electric field exactly perpendicular to the plane, without all the rest of the charge on the plane.

The plane of charge is an especially good example of how powerful Gauss's law can be. Finding the electric field of a plane of charge via superposition was a difficult and tedious derivation. With Gauss's law, once you see how to apply it, the problem is simple enough to solve in your head!

You might wonder, then, why we bothered with superposition at all. The reason is that Gauss's law, powerful though it may be, is effective only in a limited number of situations where the field is highly symmetric. Superposition always works, even if the derivation is messy, because superposition goes directly back to the fields of individual point charges. It's good to use Gauss's law when you can, but superposition is often the only way to attack real-world charge distributions.

## Stop to Think 24.5

Which Gaussian surface would allow you to use Gauss's law to calculate the electric field outside a uniformly charged cube?

**a.** A sphere whose center coincides with the center of the charged cube

**b.** A cube whose center coincides with the center of the charged cube and that has parallel faces

**c.** Either a or b

**d.** Neither a nor b

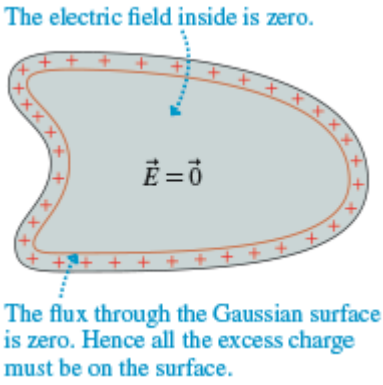
# 24.6 Conductors in Electrostatic Equilibrium

Consider a charged conductor, such as a charged metal electrode, in electrostatic equilibrium. That is, there is no current through the conductor and the charges are all stationary. One very important conclusion is that **the electric field is zero at all points within a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium.** That is, $\vec{E}_{\text{in}} = \vec{0}$. If this weren't true, the electric field would cause the charge carriers to move and thus violate the assumption that all the charges are at rest. Let's use Gauss's law to see what else we can learn.

## At the Surface of a Conductor

Figure 24.28 shows a Gaussian surface just barely inside the physical surface of a conductor that's in electrostatic equilibrium. The electric field is zero at all points within the conductor, hence the electric flux $\Phi_{\text{e}}$ through this Gaussian surface must be zero. But if $\Phi_{\text{e}} = 0$, Gauss's law tells us that $Q_{\text{in}} = 0$. That is, there's no net charge within this surface. There are charges—electrons and positive ions—but no *net* charge.

**Figure 24.28**

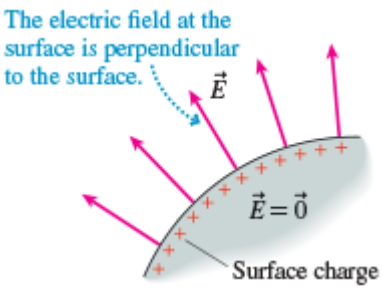



A Gaussian surface just inside a conductor's surface.

If there's no net charge in the interior of a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium, then **all the excess charge on a charged conductor resides on the exterior surface of the conductor.** Any charges added to a conductor quickly spread across the surface until reaching positions of electrostatic equilibrium, but there is no net charge *within* the conductor.

There may be no electric field within a charged conductor, but the presence of net charge requires an exterior electric field in the space outside the conductor. Figure 24.29 shows that **the electric field right at the surface of the conductor has to be perpendicular to the surface.** To see that this is so, suppose $\overrightarrow{E}_{\text{surface}}$ had a component tangent to the surface. This component of $\overrightarrow{E}_{\text{surface}}$ would exert a force on the surface charges and cause a surface current, thus violating the assumption that all charges are at rest. The only exterior electric field consistent with electrostatic equilibrium is one that is perpendicular to the surface.

## Figure 24.29



We can use Gauss's law to relate the field strength at the surface to the charge density on the surface. Figure 24.30 shows a small Gaussian cylinder with faces very slightly above and below the surface of a charged conductor. The charge inside this Gaussian cylinder is $\eta A$, where $\eta$ is the surface charge density at this point on the conductor. There's a flux $\Phi = AE_{\text{surface}}$ through the outside face of this cylinder but, unlike Example 24.6 for the plane of charge, *no* flux through the inside face because $\vec{E}_{\text{in}} = \vec{0}$ within the conductor. Furthermore, there's no flux through the wall of the cylinder because $\vec{E}_{\text{surface}}$ is perpendicular to the surface. Thus the net flux is $\Phi = AE_{\text{surface}}$. Gauss's law is

**(24.19)**

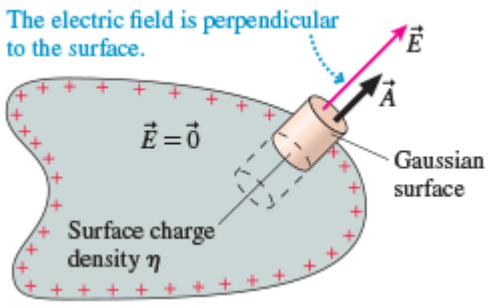
$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = AE_{\text{surface}} = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\eta A}{\epsilon_0}$$

from which we can conclude that the electric field at the surface of a charged conductor is

**(24.20)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{surface}} = \left(\frac{\eta}{\epsilon_0},\ \text{perpendicular to surface}\right)$$

## Figure 24.30



A Gaussian surface extending through the surface has a flux only through the outer face.

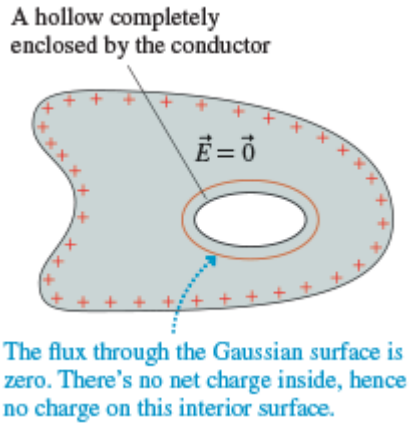
In general, the surface charge density $\eta$ is *not* constant on the surface of a conductor but depends on the shape of the conductor. If we can determine $\eta$, by either calculating it or measuring it, then Equation 24.20 tells us the electric field at that point on the surface. Alternatively, we can use Equation 24.20 to deduce the charge density on the conductor's surface if we know the electric field just outside the conductor.



## Charges and Fields Within a Conductor

Figure 24.31 shows a charged conductor with a hole inside. Can there be charge on this interior surface? To find out, we place a Gaussian surface around the hole, infinitesimally close but entirely within the conductor. The electric flux $\Phi_e$ through this Gaussian surface is zero because the electric field is zero everywhere inside the conductor. Thus we must conclude that $Q_{\text{in}} = 0$. There's no net charge inside this Gaussian surface and thus no charge on the surface of the hole. Any excess charge resides on the *exterior* surface of the conductor, not on any interior surfaces.

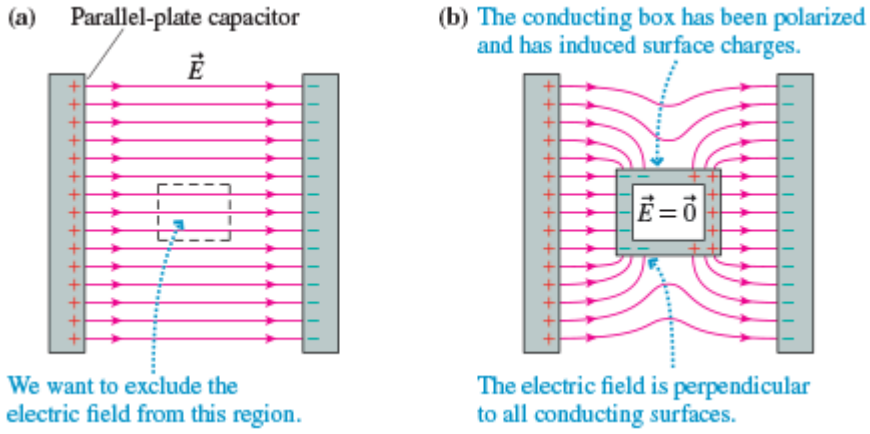
**Figure 24.31**




A Gaussian surface surrounding a hole inside a conductor.

Furthermore, because there's no electric field inside the conductor and no charge inside the hole, the electric field inside the hole must also be zero. This conclusion has an important practical application. For example, suppose we need to exclude the electric field from the region in Figure 24.32a on the next page enclosed within dashed lines. We can do so by surrounding this region with the neutral conducting box of Figure 24.32b.

## Figure 24.32



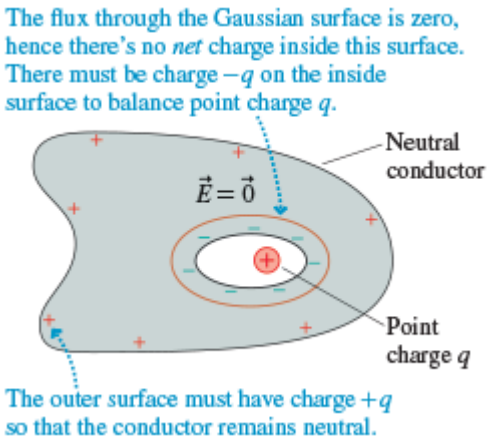

The electric field can be excluded from a region of space by surrounding it with a conducting box.

This region of space is now a hole inside a conductor, thus the interior electric field is zero. The use of a conducting box to exclude electric fields

from a region of space is called **screening.** Solid metal walls are ideal, but in practice wire screen or wire mesh—sometimes called a *Faraday cage*—provides sufficient screening for all but the most sensitive applications. The price we pay is that the exterior field is now very complicated.

Finally, Figure 24.33 shows a charge $q$ inside a hole within a neutral conductor. The electric field *within* the conductor is still zero, hence the electric flux through the Gaussian surface is zero. But $\Phi_e = 0$ requires $Q_{in} = 0$. Consequently, the charge inside the hole attracts an equal charge of opposite sign, and charge $-q$ now lines the inner surface of the hole.

## Figure 24.33




A charge in the hole causes a net charge on the interior and exterior surfaces.

The conductor as a whole is neutral, so moving $-q$ to the surface of the hole must leave $+q$ behind somewhere else. Where is it? It can't be in the interior of the conductor, as we've seen, and that leaves only the exterior surface. In essence, an internal charge polarizes the conductor just as an external charge would. Net charge $-q$ moves to the inner surface and net charge $+q$ is left behind on the exterior surface.

In summary, conductors in electrostatic equilibrium have the properties described in Tactics Box 24.3.

TACTICS BOX 24.3 **Finding the electric field of a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium**

**Mastering Physics**

1. The electric field is zero at all points within the volume of the conductor.
2. Any excess charge resides entirely on the *exterior* surface.
3. The external electric field at the surface of a charged conductor is perpendicular to the surface and of magnitude $\eta/\epsilon_0$, where $\eta$ is the surface charge density at that point.
4. The electric field is zero inside any hole within a conductor unless there is a charge in the hole.

Workbook Exercises 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

**Example 24.7 The electric field at the surface of a charged metal sphere**

A 2.0-cm-diameter brass sphere has been given a charge of 2.0 nC. What is the electric field strength at the surface?

**MODEL** Brass is a conductor. The excess charge resides on the surface.

**VISUALIZE** The charge distribution has spherical symmetry. The electric field points radially outward from the surface.

**SOLVE** We can solve this problem in two ways. One uses the fact that a sphere, because of its complete symmetry, is the one shape for which any excess charge will spread out to a *uniform* surface charge density. Thus

$$\eta = \frac{q}{A_{\text{sphere}}} = \frac{q}{4\pi R^2} = \frac{2.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{C}}{4\pi(0.010\,\text{m})^2} = 1.59 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{C/m}^2$$

From Equation 24.20, we know the electric field at the surface has strength

$$E_{\text{surface}} = \frac{\eta}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{1.59 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{C/m}^2}{8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{C}^2/\text{N m}^2} = 1.8 \times 10^5\ \text{N/C}$$

Alternatively, we could have used the result, obtained earlier in the chapter, that the electric field strength outside a sphere of charge $Q$ is $E_{\text{outside}} = Q_{\text{in}}/\left(4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2\right)$. But $Q_{\text{in}} = q$ and, at the surface, $r = R$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{surface}} &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{R^2} = (9.0 \times 10^9\ \text{N m}^2/\text{C}^2)\frac{2.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{C}}{(0.010\,\text{m})^2} \\ &= 1.8 \times 10^5\ \text{N/C} \end{aligned}$$

As we can see, both methods lead to the same result.

**Challenge Example 24.8 The electric field of a slab of charge**

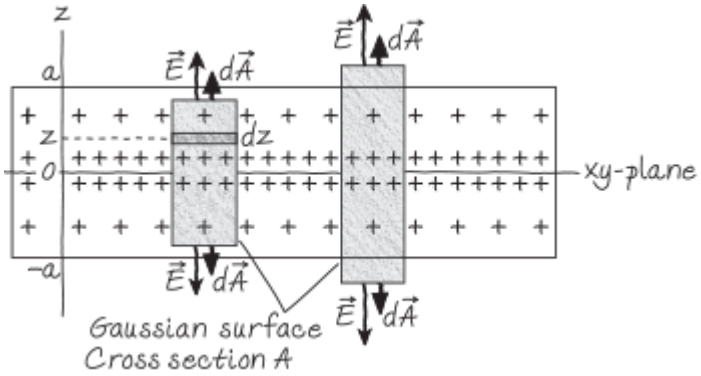
An infinite slab of charge of thickness $2a$ is centered in the $xy$-plane. The charge density is $\rho = \rho_0 (1 - |z|/a)$. Find the electric field strengths inside and outside this slab of charge.

---

**MODEL** The charge density is not uniform. Starting at $\rho_0$ in the $xy$-plane, it decreases linearly with distance above and below the $xy$-plane until reaching zero at $z = \pm a$, the edges of the slab.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 24.34 shows an edge view of the slab of charge and, as Gaussian surfaces, side views of two cylinders with cross-section area $A$. By symmetry, the electric field must point away from the $xy$-plane; the field cannot have an $x$- or $y$-component.

**Figure 24.34**




Two cylindrical Gaussian surfaces for an infinite slab of charge.

**SOLVE** Gauss's law is

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$$

With symmetry, finding the net flux is straightforward. The electric field is perpendicular to the faces of the cylinders and pointing

outward, so the total flux through the faces is $\Phi_{\text{faces}} = 2EA$, where $E$ may depend on distance $z$. The field is parallel to the walls of the cylinders, so $\Phi_{\text{wall}} = 0$. Thus the net flux is simply

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = 2EA$$

Because the charge density is not uniform, we need to integrate to find $Q_{\text{in}}$, the charge *inside* the cylinder. We can slice the cylinder into small slabs of infinitesimal thickness $dz$ and volume $dV = A\,dz$. Figure 24.34 shows one such little slab at distance $z$ from the $xy$-plane. The charge in this little slab is

$$dq = \rho\,dV = \rho_0\left(1 - \frac{z}{a}\right)A\,dz$$

where we assumed that $z$ is positive. Because the charge is symmetric about $z = 0$, we can avoid difficulties with the absolute value sign in the charge density by integrating from 0 and multiplying by 2. For the Gaussian cylinder that ends inside the slab of charge, at distance $z$, the total charge inside is

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\text{in}} &= \int dq = 2\int_0^z \rho_0\left(1 - \frac{z}{a}\right)A\,dz \\ &= 2\rho_0 A\left[z\cdot\Big|_0^z - \frac{1}{2a}z^2\Big|_0^z\right] \\ &= 2\rho_0 A_z\left(1 - \frac{z}{2a}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Gauss's law inside the slab is then

$$\Phi_{\text{e}} = 2E_{\text{inside}}A = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{2\rho_0 Az}{\epsilon_0}\left(1 - \frac{z}{2a}\right)$$

The area $A$ cancels, as it must because it was an arbitrary choice, leaving

$$E_{\text{inside}} = \frac{\rho_0 z}{\epsilon_0}\left(1 - \frac{z}{2a}\right)$$

The field strength is zero at $z = 0$, then increases as $z$ increases. This expression is valid only above the $xy$-plane, for $z > 0$, but the field strength is symmetric on the other side.

For the Gaussian cylinder that extends outside the slab of charge, the integral for $Q$ has to end at $z = a$. Thus

$$Q_{\text{in}} = 2\rho_0 Aa\left(1 - \frac{a}{2a}\right) = \rho_0 Aa$$

independent of distance $z$. With this, Gauss's law gives

$$E_{\text{outside}} = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{2\epsilon_0 A} = \frac{\rho_0 a}{2\epsilon_0}$$

This matches $E_{\text{inside}}$ at the surface, $z = a$, so the field is continuous as it crosses the boundary.

**ASSESS** Outside a sphere of charge, the field is the same as that of a point charge at the center. Similarly, the field outside an infinite slab of charge should be the same as that of an infinite charged plane. We found, by integration, that the total charge in an area $A$ of the slab is $Q = \rho_0 Aa$. If we squished this charge into a plane, the surface charge density would be $\eta = Q/A = \rho_0 a$. Thus our expression for $E_{\text{outside}}$ could be written $\eta/2\epsilon_0$, which matches the field we found in Example 24.6 for a plane of charge.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 24 has been to learn about and apply Gauss's law.

## General Principles

### Gauss's Law

For any *closed* surface enclosing net charge $Q_{in}$, the net electric flux through the surface is

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$$

The electric flux $\Phi_e$ is the same for *any* closed surface enclosing charge $Q_{in}$.

To solve electric field problems with Gauss's law:

**MODEL** Model the charge distribution as one with symmetry.

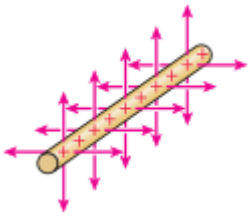
**VISUALIZE** Draw a picture of the charge distribution. Draw a Gaussian surface with the same symmetry as the electric field, every part of which is either tangent to or perpendicular to the electric field.

**SOLVE** Apply Gauss's law and Tactics Boxes 24.1 and 24.2 to evaluate the surface integral.

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

## Symmetry

The symmetry of the electric field must match the symmetry of the charge distribution.



In practice, $\Phi_e$ is computable only if the symmetry of the Gaussian surface matches the symmetry of the charge distribution.

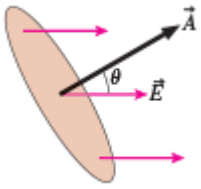
# Important Concepts

**Charge** creates the electric field that is responsible for the electric flux.

**Flux** is the amount of electric field passing through a surface of area $A$:

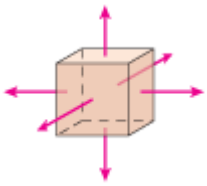
$$\Phi_e = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A}$$

where $\vec{A}$ is the **area vector.**

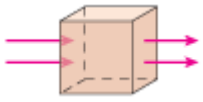


**For closed surfaces:**

A net flux in or out indicates that the surface encloses a net charge.

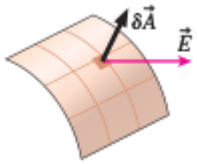


Field lines through but with no *net* flux mean that the surface encloses no *net* charge.



**Surface integrals** calculate the flux by summing the fluxes through many small pieces of the surface:

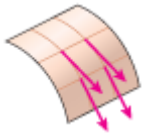
$$\Phi_e = \sum \vec{E} \cdot \delta \vec{A}$$
$$\rightarrow \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$




**Two important situations:**

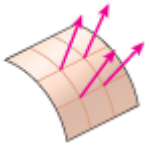
If the electric field is everywhere tangent to the surface, then

$$\Phi_e = 0$$



If the electric field is everywhere perpendicular to the surface *and* has the same strength $E$ at all points, then

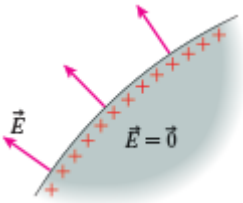
$$\Phi_{\mathrm{e}} = EA$$



# Applications

## Conductors in electrostatic equilibrium

- The electric field is zero at all points within the conductor.
- Any excess charge resides entirely on the exterior surface.
- The external electric field is perpendicular to the surface and of magnitude $\eta/\epsilon_0$, where $\eta$ is the surface charge density.
- The electric field is zero inside any hole within a conductor unless there is a charge in the hole.




# Terms and Notation



symmetric

Gaussian surface

electric flux, $\Phi_e$

area vector, $\overrightarrow{A}$

surface integral

Gauss's law

screening

# Conceptual Questions

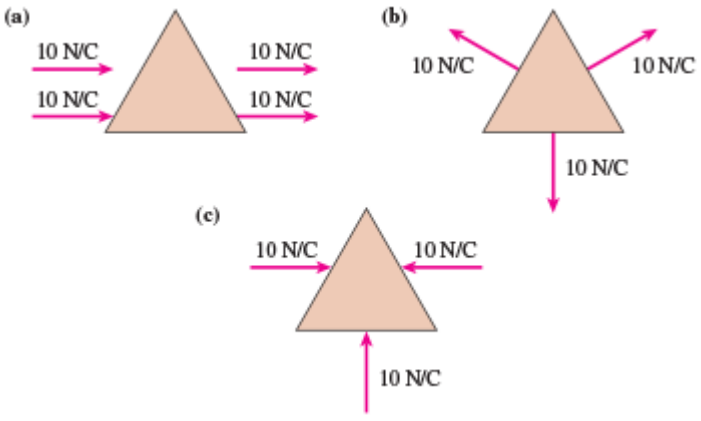


**1.** Suppose you have the uniformly charged cube in Figure Q24.1. Can you use symmetry alone to deduce the *shape* of the cube's electric field? If so, sketch and describe the field shape. If not, why not?

**Figure Q24.1**

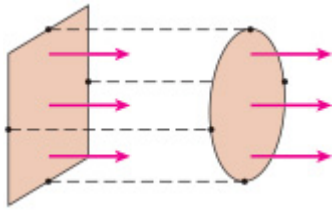
**2.** Figure Q24.2 shows cross sections of three-dimensional closed surfaces. They have a flat top and bottom surface above and below the plane of the page. However, the electric field is everywhere parallel to the page, so there is no flux through the top or bottom surface. The electric field is uniform over each face of the surface. For each, does the surface enclose a net positive charge, a net negative charge, or no net charge? Explain.

**Figure Q24.2**



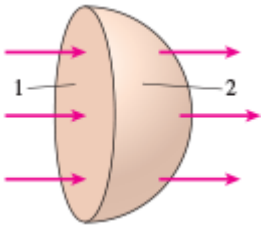
**3.** The square and circle in Figure Q24.3 are in the same uniform field. The diameter of the circle equals the edge length of the square. Is $\Phi_{\text{square}}$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to $\Phi_{\text{circle}}$? Explain.

**Figure Q24.3**



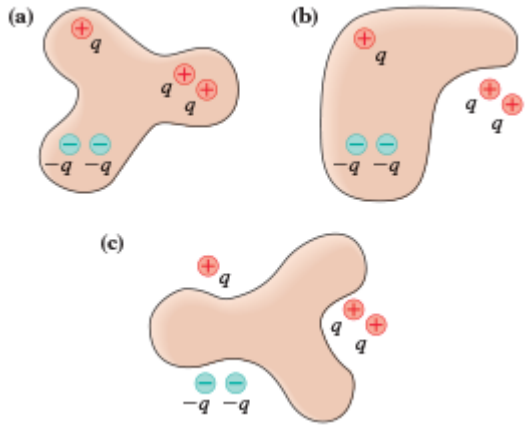
**4.** In Figure Q24.4, where the field is uniform, is the magnitude of $\Phi_1$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to the magnitude of $\Phi_2$? Explain.

**Figure Q24.4**



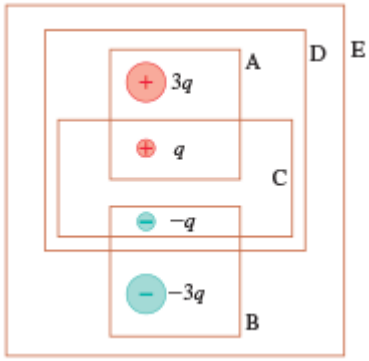

**5.** What is the electric flux through each of the surfaces in Figure Q24.5? Give each answer as a multiple of $q/\epsilon_0$.

**Figure Q24.5**



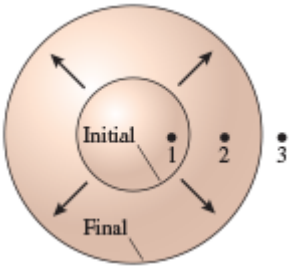

**6.** What is the electric flux through each of the surfaces A to E in Figure Q24.6? Give each answer as a multiple of $q/\epsilon_0$.

**Figure Q24.6**




**7.** The charged balloon in Figure Q24.7 expands as it is blown up, increasing in size from the initial to final diameters shown. Do the electric field strengths at points 1, 2, and 3 increase, decrease, or stay the same? Explain your reasoning for each.

**Figure Q24.7**



**8.** The two spheres in Figure Q24.8 on the next page surround equal charges. Three students are discussing the situation.

**Student 1:** The fluxes through spheres A and B are equal because they enclose equal charges.

**Student 2:** But the electric field on sphere B is weaker than the electric field on sphere A. The flux depends on the electric field strength, so the flux through A is larger than the flux through B.

**Student 3:** I thought we learned that flux was about surface area. Sphere B is larger than sphere A, so I think the flux through B is larger than the flux through A.

Which of these students, if any, do you agree with? Explain.

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**Figure Q24.8**

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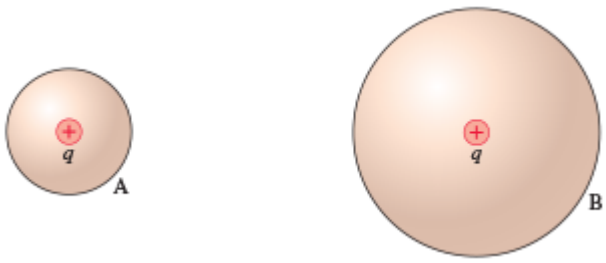



**9.** The sphere and ellipsoid in Figure Q24.9 surround equal charges. Four students are discussing the situation.

**Student 1:** The fluxes through A and B are equal because the average radius is the same.

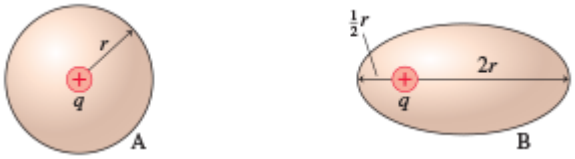
**Student 2:** I agree that the fluxes are equal, but that's because they enclose equal charges.

**Student 3:** The electric field is not perpendicular to the surface for B, and that makes the flux through B less than the flux through A.

**Student 4:** I don't think that Gauss's law even applies to a situation like B, so we can't compare the fluxes through A and B.

Which of these students, if any, do you agree with? Explain.

**Figure Q24.9**



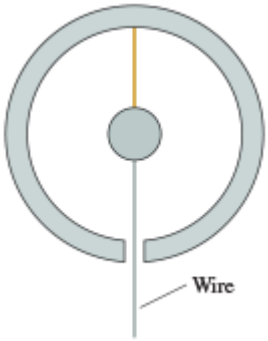

**10.** A small, metal sphere hangs by an insulating thread within the larger, hollow conducting sphere of Figure Q24.10. A conducting wire extends from the small sphere through, but not touching, a small hole in the hollow sphere. A charged rod is used to transfer positive charge to the protruding wire. After the charged rod has touched the wire and been removed, are the following surfaces positive, negative, or not charged? Explain.

**a.** The small sphere.

**b.** The inner surface of the hollow sphere.

**c.** The outer surface of the hollow sphere.

**Figure Q24.10**






# Exercises and Problems

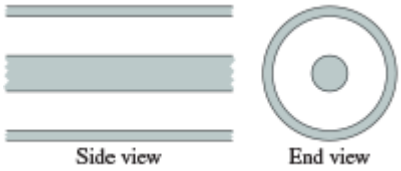
Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

# Exercises

## Section 24.1 Symmetry

**1.** • Figure EX24.1 shows two cross sections of two infinitely long coaxial cylinders. The inner cylinder has a positive charge, the outer cylinder has an equal negative charge. Draw this figure on your paper, then draw electric field vectors showing the shape of the electric field.

**Figure EX24.1**




**2.** • Figure EX24.2 shows a cross section of two concentric spheres. The inner sphere has a negative charge. The outer sphere has a positive charge larger in magnitude than the charge on the inner sphere. Draw this figure on your paper, then draw electric field vectors showing the shape of the electric field.

**Figure EX24.2**

**3.** • Figure EX24.3 shows a cross section of two infinite parallel planes of charge. Draw this figure on your paper, then draw

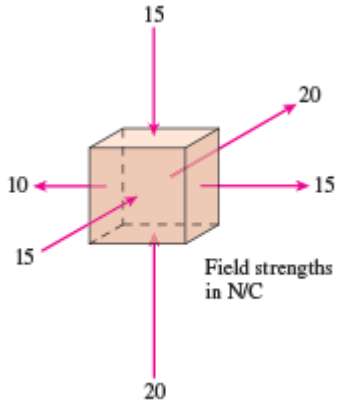
electric field vectors showing the shape of the electric field.

**Figure EX24.3**

## Section 24.2 The Concept of Flux

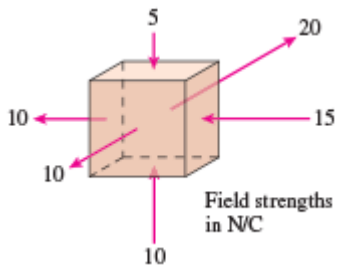
**4.** • The electric field is constant over each face of the cube shown in Figure EX24.4. Does the box contain positive charge, negative charge, or no charge? Explain.

**Figure EX24.4**



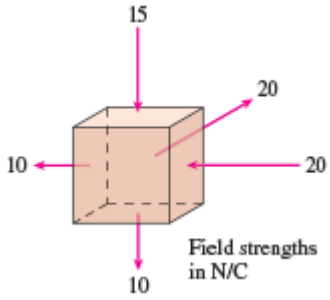

**5.** • The electric field is constant over each face of the cube shown in Figure EX24.5. Does the box contain positive charge, negative charge, or no charge? Explain.

**Figure EX24.5**



**6.** • The cube in Figure EX24.6 contains negative charge. The electric field is constant over each face of the cube. Does the missing electric field vector on the front face point in or out? What strength must this field exceed?

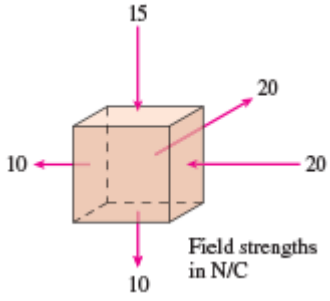
**Figure EX24.6**




**7.** • The cube in Figure EX24.7 contains negative charge. The electric field is constant over each face of the cube. Does the missing electric field vector on the front face point in or out? What strength must this field exceed?

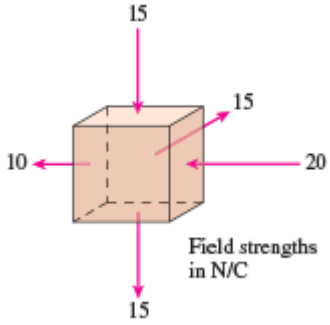
**Figure EX24.7**






**8.** • The cube in Figure EX24.8 contains no net charge. The electric field is constant over each face of the cube. Does the missing electric field vector on the front face point in or out? What is the field strength?

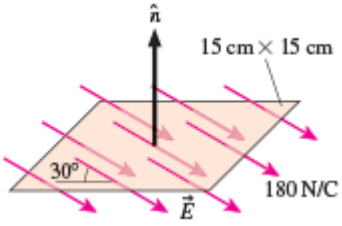
**Figure EX24.8**




## Section 24.3 Calculating Electric Flux

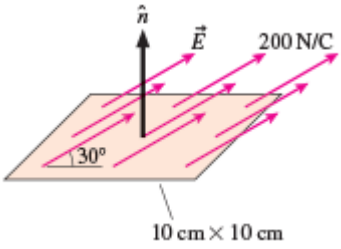
**9.** •• What is the electric flux through the surface shown in Figure EX24.9?

**Figure EX24.9**



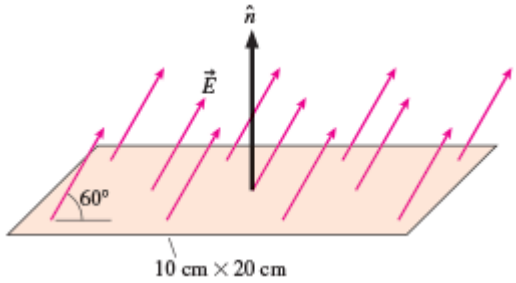

**10.** •• What is the electric flux through the surface shown in Figure EX24.10?

**Figure EX24.10**




**11.** •• The electric flux through the surface shown in Figure EX24.11 is 25 N m$^2$/C. What is the electric field strength?

**Figure EX24.11**




**12.** •• A 2.0 cm × 3.0 cm rectangle lies in the *xy*-plane. What is the magnitude of the electric flux through the rectangle if

**a.** $\vec{E} = (100\hat{i} - 200\hat{k})$ N/C?

**b.** $\vec{E} = (100\hat{i} - 200\hat{j})$ N/C?

**13.** •• A 2.0 cm × 3.0 cm rectangle lies in the *xz*-plane. What is the magnitude of the electric flux through the rectangle if

**a.** $\vec{E} = (100\hat{i} - 200\hat{k})$ N/C?

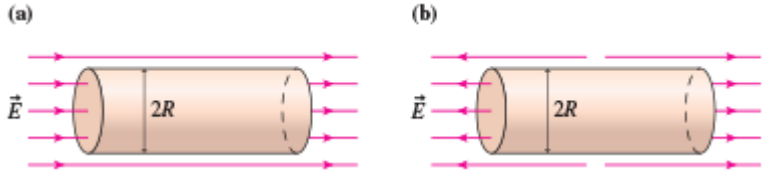
**b.** $\vec{E} = (100\hat{i} - 200\hat{j})$ N/C?

**14.** •• A 3.0-cm-diameter circle lies in the *xz*-plane in a region where the electric field is $\vec{E} = (1500\hat{i} + 1500\hat{j} - 1500\hat{k})$ N/C. What is the electric flux through the circle?

**15.** •• A 1.0 cm × 1.0 cm × 1.0 cm box with its edges aligned with the *xyz*-axes is in the electric field $\vec{E} = (350x + 150)\,\hat{i}$ N/C, where *x* is in meters. What is the net electric flux through the box?

**16.** • What is the net electric flux through the two cylinders shown in Figure EX24.16? Give your answer in terms of *R* and *E*.

## Figure EX24.16

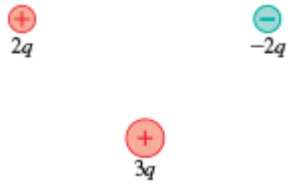


## Section 24.4 Gauss's Law

## Section 24.5 Using Gauss's Law

**17.** • Figure EX24.17 shows three charges. Draw these charges on your paper four times. Then draw two-dimensional cross sections of three-dimensional closed surfaces through which the electric flux is (a) $2q/\epsilon_0$, (b) $q/\epsilon_0$, (c) 0, and (d) $5q/\epsilon_0$.

**Figure EX24.17**

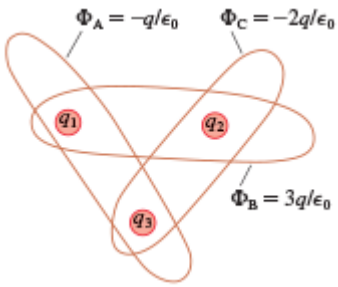



**18.** • Figure EX24.18 shows three charges. Draw these charges on your paper four times. Then draw two-dimensional cross sections of three-dimensional closed surfaces through which the electric flux is (a) $-q/\epsilon_0$,(b) $q/\epsilon_0$,(c) $3q/\epsilon_0$, and (d) $4q/\epsilon_0$.

**Figure EX24.18**

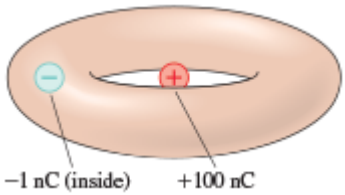
**19.** • Figure EX24.19 shows three Gaussian surfaces and the electric flux through each. What are the three charges $q_1$, $q_2$, and $q_3$?

**Figure EX24.19**



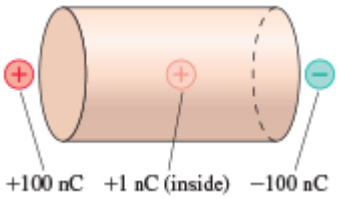

**20.** •• What is the net electric flux through the torus (i.e., doughnut shape) of Figure EX24.20?

**Figure EX24.20**




**21.** •• What is the net electric flux through the cylinder of Figure EX24.21?

**Figure EX24.21**




**22.** •• The net electric flux through an octahedron is –1000 N $m^2/C$. How much charge is enclosed within the octahedron?

**23.** •• 55.3 million excess electrons are inside a closed surface. What is the net electric flux through the surface?

## Section 24.6 Conductors in Electrostatic Equilibrium

**24.** • A spark occurs at the tip of a metal needle if the electric field strength exceeds $3.0 \times 10^6 \text{N/C}$, the field strength at which air breaks down. What is the minimum surface charge density for producing a spark?

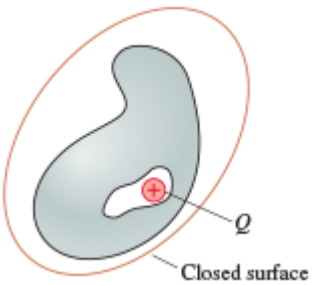
**25.** •• The electric field strength just above one face of a copper penny is 2000 N/C. What is the surface charge density on this face of the penny?

**26.** • The conducting box in Figure EX24.26 has been given an excess negative charge. The surface density of excess electrons at the center of the top surface is $5.0 \times 10^{10} \text{electrons/m}^2$. What are the electric field strengths $E_1$ to $E_3$ at points 1 to 3?

**Figure EX24.26**

**27.** •• Figure EX24.27 shows a hollow cavity within a neutral conductor. A point charge $Q$ is inside the cavity. What is the net electric flux through the closed surface that surrounds the conductor?

**Figure EX24.27**



**28.** • A thin, horizontal, 10-cm-diameter copper plate is charged to 3.5 nC. If the charge is uniformly distributed on the surface, what are the strength and direction of the electric field

**a.** 0.1 mm above the center of the top surface of the plate?

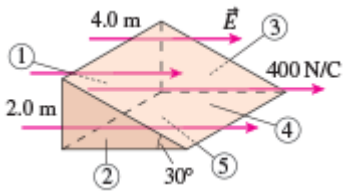
**b.** at the plate's center of mass?

**c.** 0.1 mm below the center of the bottom surface of the plate?

# Problems

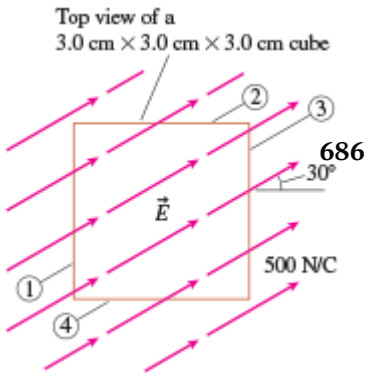
**29.** •• Find the electric fluxes $\Phi_1$ to $\Phi_5$ through surfaces 1 to 5 in Figure P24.29.

**Figure P24.29**




**30.** • Figure P24.30 shows four sides of a $3.0\,\text{cm} \times 3.0\,\text{cm} \times 3.0\,\text{cm}$ cube.

**Figure P24.30**



**a.** What are the electric fluxes $\Phi_1$ to $\Phi_4$ through sides 1 to 4?

**b.** What is the net flux through these four sides?

**31.** •• A tetrahedron has an equilateral triangle base with 20-cm-long edges and three equilateral triangle sides. The base is parallel to the ground, and a vertical uniform electric field of strength 200 N/C passes upward through the tetrahedron.

**a.** What is the electric flux through the base?

**b.** What is the electric flux through each of the three sides?

**32.** • Charges $q_1 = -4Q$ and $q_2 = +2Q$ are located at $x = -a$ and $x = +a$, respectively. What is the net electric flux through a sphere of radius $2a$ centered (a) at the origin and (b) at $x = 2a$?

**33.** •• A 10 nC charge is at the center of a $2.0\,\mathrm{m} \times 2.0\,\mathrm{m} \times 2.0\,\mathrm{m}$ cube. What is the electric flux through the top surface of the cube?

**34.** •• A spherically symmetric charge distribution produces the electric field $\vec{E} = (5000r^2)\,\hat{r}\ \mathrm{N/C}$, where $r$ is in m.

**a.** What is the electric field strength at $r = 20\,\mathrm{cm}$?

**b.** What is the electric flux through a 40-cm-diameter spherical surface that is concentric with the charge distribution?

**c.** How much charge is inside this 40-cm-diameter spherical surface?

**35.** •• A neutral conductor contains a hollow cavity in which there is a +100 nC point charge. A charged rod then transfers –50 nC to the conductor. Afterward, what is the charge (a) on the inner wall of the cavity, and (b) on the exterior surface of the conductor?

**36.** •• A hollow metal sphere has inner radius $a$ and outer radius $b$. The hollow sphere has charge +2$Q$. A point charge +$Q$ sits at the center of the hollow sphere.

**a.** Determine the electric fields in the three regions $r \leq a$, $a < r < b$, and $r \geq b$.

**b.** How much charge is on the inside surface of the hollow sphere? On the exterior surface?

**37.** ••• A 20-cm-radius ball is uniformly charged to 80 nC.

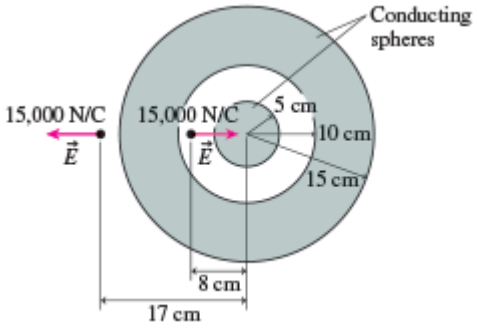
**a.** What is the ball's volume charge density (C/m$^3$)?

**b.** How much charge is enclosed by spheres of radii 5, 10, and 20 cm?

**c.** What is the electric field strength at points 5, 10, and 20 cm from the center?

**38.** ••• Figure P24.38 shows a solid metal sphere at the center of a hollow metal sphere. What is the total charge on (a) the exterior of the inner sphere, (b) the inside surface of the hollow sphere, and (c) the exterior surface of the hollow sphere?

**Figure P24.38**




**39.** •• The earth has a vertical electric field at the surface, pointing down, that averages 100 N/C. This field is maintained by various atmospheric processes, including lightning. What is the excess charge on the surface of the earth?

**40.** •• Figure 24.32b showed a conducting box inside a parallel-plate capacitor. The electric field inside the box is $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$. Suppose the surface charge on the exterior of the box could be frozen. Draw a picture of the electric field inside the box after the box, with its frozen charge, is removed from the capacitor. **Hint:** Superposition.

**41.** •• A hollow metal sphere has 6 cm and 10 cm inner and outer radii, respectively. The surface charge density on the inside surface is –100 nC/m$^2$. The surface charge density on the exterior surface is +100 nC/m$^2$. What are the strength and direction of the electric field at points 4, 8, and 12 cm from the center?

**42.** •• A positive point charge $q$ sits at the center of a hollow spherical shell. The shell, with radius $R$ and negligible thickness, has net charge $-2q$. Find an expression for the electric field strength (a) inside the sphere, $r < R$, and (b) outside the sphere, $r > R$. In what direction does the electric field point in each case?

**43.** •• Find the electric field inside and outside a hollow plastic ball of radius $R$ that has charge $Q$ uniformly distributed on its outer surface.

**44.** •• A uniformly charged ball of radius $a$ and charge $-Q$ is at the center of a hollow metal shell with inner radius $b$ and outer radius $c$. The hollow sphere has net charge $+2Q$. Determine the electric field strength in the four regions
$r \le a$, $a < r < b$, $b \le r \le c$, and $r > c$.

**45.** • The three parallel planes of charge shown in Figure P24.45 have surface charge densities $-\frac{1}{2}\eta$, $\eta$, and $-\frac{1}{2}\eta$. Find the electric fields $\vec{E}_1$ to $\vec{E}_4$ in regions 1 to 4.

## Figure P24.45

**46.** •• An infinite slab of charge of thickness $2z_0$ lies in the $xy$-plane between $z = -z_0$ and $z = +z_0$. The volume charge density $\rho$ (C/m$^3$) is a constant.

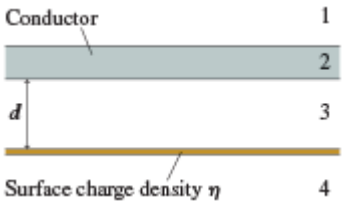
**a.** Use Gauss's law to find an expression for the electric field strength inside the slab $(-z_0 \leq z \leq z_0)$.

**b.** Find an expression for the electric field strength above the slab $(z \geq z_0)$.

**c.** Draw a graph of $E$ from $z = 0$ to $z = 3z_0$.

**47.** •• Figure P24.47 shows an infinitely wide conductor parallel to and distance $d$ from an infinitely wide plane of charge with surface charge density $\eta$. What are the electric fields $\vec{E}_1$ to $\vec{E}_4$ in regions 1 to 4?

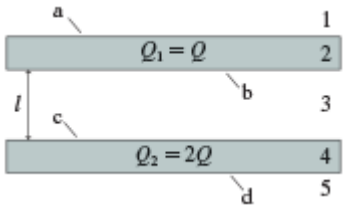
## Figure P24.47




**48.** •• Figure P24.48 shows two very large slabs of metal that are parallel and distance $l$ apart. The top and bottom of each slab has surface area $A$. The thickness of each slab is so small in comparison to its lateral dimensions that the surface area around the sides is negligible. Metal 1 has total charge $Q_1 = Q$

and metal 2 has total charge $Q_2 = 2Q$. Assume $Q$ is positive. In terms of $Q$ and $A$, determine

**Figure P24.48**




**a.** The electric field strengths $E_1$ to $E_5$ in regions 1 to 5.

**b.** The surface charge densities $\eta_a$ to $\eta_d$ on the four surfaces a to d.

**49.** •• A long, thin straight wire with linear charge density λ runs down the center of a thin, hollow metal cylinder of radius $R$. The cylinder has a net linear charge density 2λ. Assume λ is positive. Find expressions for the electric field strength (a) inside the cylinder, $r < R$, and (b) outside the cylinder, $r > R$. In what direction does the electric field point in each of the cases?

**50.** •• A very long, uniformly charged cylinder has radius $R$ and linear charge density λ. Find the cylinder's electric field strength (a) outside the cylinder, $r \geq R$, and (b) inside the cylinder, $r \leq R$. (c) Show that your answers to parts a and b match at the boundary, $r = R$.

**51.** •• The electric field must be zero inside a *conductor* in electrostatic equilibrium, but not inside an insulator. It turns out that we can still apply Gauss's law to a Gaussian surface that is entirely within an insulator by replacing the right-hand side of Gauss's law, $Q_{in}/\epsilon_0$, with $Q_{in}/\epsilon$, where $\epsilon$ is the *permittivity* of the material. (Technically, $\epsilon_0$ is called the *vacuum*

*permittivity*.) Suppose that a 50 nC point charge is surrounded by a thin, 32-cm-diameter spherical rubber shell and that the electric field strength inside the rubber shell is 2500 N/C. What is the permittivity of rubber?

**52.** •• The electric field must be zero inside a *conductor* in electrostatic equilibrium, but not inside an insulator. It turns out that we can still apply Gauss's law to a Gaussian surface that is entirely within an insulator by replacing the right-hand side of Gauss's law, $Q_{\text{in}}/\epsilon_0$, with $Q_{\text{in}}/\epsilon$, where $\epsilon$ is the *permittivity* of the material. (Technically, $\epsilon_0$ is called the *vacuum permittivity*.) Suppose a long, straight wire with linear charge density 250 nC/m is covered with insulation whose permittivity is $2.5\epsilon_0$. What is the electric field strength at a point inside the insulation that is 1.5 mm from the axis of the wire?

**53.** ••• A long cylinder with radius $b$ and volume charge density $\rho$ has a spherical hole with radius $a < b$ centered on the axis of the cylinder. What is the electric field strength inside the hole at radial distance $r < a$ in a plane that is perpendicular to the cylinder through the center of the hole?

**Hint:** Can you create this charge distribution as a superposition of charge distributions for which you can use Gauss's law to find the electric field?

**54.** •• A spherical shell has inner radius $R_{\text{in}}$ and outer radius $R_{\text{out}}$. The shell contains total charge $Q$, uniformly distributed. The interior of the shell is empty of charge and matter.

**a.** Find the electric field strength outside the shell, $r \geq R_{\text{out}}$.

**b.** Find the electric field strength in the interior of the shell, $r \leq R_{\text{in}}$.

**c.** Find the electric field strength within the shell, $R_{\text{in}} \le r \le R_{\text{out}}$.

**d.** Show that your solutions match at both the inner and outer boundaries.

**55.** ••• An early model of the atom, proposed by Rutherford after his discovery of the atomic nucleus, had a positive point charge $+Ze$ (the nucleus) at the center of a sphere of radius $R$ with uniformly distributed negative charge $-Ze$. $Z$ is the atomic number, the number of protons in the nucleus and the number of electrons in the negative sphere.

**a.** Show that the electric field strength inside this atom is

$$E_{\text{in}} = \frac{Ze}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\left(\frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{r}{R^3}\right)$$

**b.** What is $E$ at the surface of the atom? Is this the expected value? Explain.

**c.** A uranium atom has $Z = 92$ and $R = 0.10\,\text{nm}$. What is the electric field strength at $r = \frac{1}{2}R$?

**56.** •• **CALC** Newton's law of gravity and Coulomb's law are both inverse-square laws. Consequently, there should be a "Gauss's law for gravity."

**a.** The electric field was defined as $\vec{E} = \vec{F}_{\text{on } q}/q$, and we used this to find the electric field of a point charge. Using analogous reasoning, what is the gravitational field $\vec{g}$ of a point mass? Write your answer using the unit vector $\hat{r}$, but be careful with signs; the gravitational force between two "like masses" is attractive, not repulsive.

**b.** What is Gauss's law for gravity, the gravitational equivalent of Equation 24.18? Use $\Phi_G$ for the gravitational flux, $\vec{g}$ for the gravitational field, and $M_{in}$ for the enclosed mass.

**c.** A spherical planet is discovered with mass $M$, radius $R$, and a mass density that varies with radius as $\rho = \rho_0 (1 - r/2R)$, where $\rho_0$ is the density at the center. Determine $\rho_0$ in terms of $M$ and $R$.

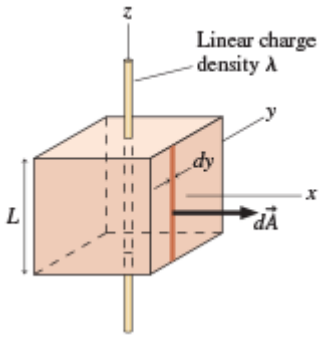
**Hint:** Divide the planet into infinitesimal shells of thickness $dr$, then sum (i.e., integrate) their masses.

**d.** Find an expression for the gravitational field strength inside the planet at distance $r < R$.

## Challenge Problems

**57.** ••• **CALC** All examples of Gauss's law have used highly symmetric surfaces where the flux integral is either zero or $EA$. Yet we've claimed that the net $\Phi_e = Q_{in}/\epsilon_0$ is independent of the surface. This is worth checking. Figure CP24.57 shows a cube of edge length $L$ centered on a long thin wire with linear charge density $\lambda$. The flux through one face of the cube is *not* simply $EA$ because, in this case, the electric field varies in both strength and direction. But you can calculate the flux by actually doing the flux integral.

**Figure CP24.57**




**a.** Consider the face parallel to the *yz*-plane. Define area $d\vec{A}$ as a strip of width $dy$ and height $L$ with the vector pointing in the $x$-direction. One such strip is located at position $y$. Use the known electric field of a wire to calculate the electric flux $d\Phi$ through this little area. Your expression should be written in terms of $y$, which is a variable, and various constants. It should not explicitly contain any angles.

**b.** Now integrate $d\Phi$ to find the total flux through this face.

**c.** Finally, show that the net flux through the cube is $\Phi_e = Q_{in}/\epsilon_0$.

**58.** ••• **CALC** An infinite cylinder of radius $R$ has a linear charge density $\lambda$. The volume charge density (C/m$^3$) within the cylinder ($r \leq R$) is $\rho(r) = r\rho_0/R$, where $\rho_0$ is a constant to be determined.

**a.** Draw a graph of $\rho$ versus $x$ for an $x$-axis that crosses the cylinder perpendicular to the cylinder axis. Let $x$ range from –2$R$ to 2$R$.

**b.** The charge within a small volume $dV$ is $dq = \rho\, dV$. The integral of $\rho\ dV$ over a cylinder of length $L$ is the total charge $Q = \lambda L$ within the cylinder. Use this fact to show that $\rho_0 = 3\lambda/2\pi R^2$.

**Hint:** Let $dV$ be a cylindrical shell of length $L$, radius $r$, and thickness $dr$. What is the volume of such a shell?

**c.** Use Gauss's law to find an expression for the electric field strength $E$ inside the cylinder, $r \leq R$, in terms of $\lambda$ and $R$.

**d.** Does your expression have the expected value at the surface, $r = R$? Explain.

**59.** ••• **CALC** A sphere of radius $R$ has total charge $Q$. The volume charge density (C/m$^3$) within the sphere is $\rho(r) = C/r^2$, where $C$ is a constant to be determined.

**a.** The charge within a small volume $dV$ is $dq = \rho\, dV$. The integral of $\rho\, dV$ over the entire volume of the sphere is the total charge $Q$. Use this fact to determine the constant $C$ in terms of $Q$ and $R$.

**Hint:** Let $dV$ be a spherical shell of radius $r$ and thickness $dr$. What is the volume of such a shell?

**b.** Use Gauss's law to find an expression for the electric field strength $E$ inside the sphere, $r \leq R$, in terms of $Q$ and $R$.

**c.** Does your expression have the expected value at the surface, $r = R$? Explain.

**60.** ••• **CALC** A sphere of radius $R$ has total charge $Q$. The volume charge density (C/m$^3$) within the sphere is

$$\rho = \rho_0 \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right)$$

This charge density decreases linearly from $\rho_0$ at the center to zero at the edge of the sphere.

**a.** Show that $\rho_0 = 3Q/\pi R^3$.

**b.** Show that the electric field inside the sphere points radially outward with magnitude

$$E = \frac{Qr}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3}\left(4 - 3\frac{r}{R}\right)$$

**c.** Show that your result of part b has the expected value at $r = R$.

**61.** ••• **CALC** A spherical ball of charge has radius $R$ and total charge $Q$. The electric field strength inside the ball ($r \leq R$) is $E(r) = r^4 E_{\text{max}}/R^4$.

**a.** What is $E_{\text{max}}$ in terms of $Q$ and $R$?

**b.** Find an expression for the volume charge density $\rho(r)$ inside the ball as a function of $r$.

**c.** Verify that your charge density gives the total charge $Q$ when integrated over the volume of the ball.

# Chapter 25
# The Electric Potential

City lights seen from space show where millions of lightbulbs are transforming electric energy into light and thermal energy.

**In This Chapter**

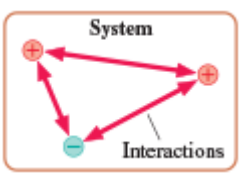
you will learn to use the electric potential and electric potential energy.

## What is electric potential energy?

Recall that potential energy is an interaction energy. Charged particles that interact via the electric force have electric potential energy $U$. You'll learn that there's a close analogy with gravitational potential energy.

Looking Back Section 10.1 Potential energy

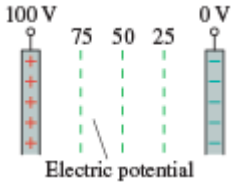
Looking Back Section 10.5 Energy diagrams



## What is the electric potential?

You've seen that source charges create an electric field. Source charges also create an electric potential. The electric potential $V$

- Exists everywhere in space.
- Is a scalar.
- Causes charges to have potential energy.
- Is measured in volts.

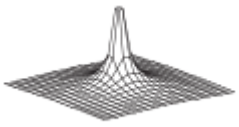


Electric potential

## What potentials are especially important?

We'll calculate the electric potential of four important charge distributions: a point charge, a charged sphere, a ring of charge, and a parallel-plate capacitor. Finding the potential of a continuous charge distribution is similar to calculating electric fields, but easier because potential is a scalar.

Looking Back Section 23.3 The electric field


Potential of a point charge

## How is potential represented?

Electric potential is a fairly abstract idea, so it will be important to visualize how the electric potential varies in space. One way of doing so is with equipotential surfaces. These are

mathematical surfaces, not physical surfaces, with the same value of the potential *V* at every point.

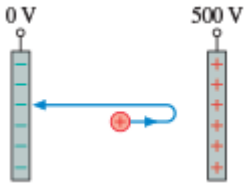
## How is electric potential used?

A charged particle *q* in an electric potential *V* has electric potential energy $U = qV$.

- Charged particles accelerate as they move through a potential difference.
- Mechanical energy is conserved:

$$K_{\mathrm{f}} + qV_{\mathrm{f}} = K_{\mathrm{i}} + qV_{\mathrm{i}}$$

Looking Back Section 10.4 Energy conservation




## Why is energy important in electricity?

Energy allows things to happen. You want your lights to light, your computer to compute, and your music to play. All these require energy—*electric* energy. This is the first of two chapters that explore electric energy and its connection to electric forces and fields. You'll then be prepared to understand electric circuits—which are all about how energy is transformed and transferred from sources, such as batteries, to devices that utilize and dissipate the energy.

# 25.1 Electric Potential Energy



We started our study of electricity with electric forces and fields. But in electricity, just as in mechanics, *energy* is also a powerful idea. This chapter and the next will explore how energy is used in electricity, introduce the important concept of *electric potential*, and lay the groundwork for our upcoming study of electric circuits.

It's been many chapters since we dealt much with work and energy, but these ideas will now be *essential* to our story. Consequently, the Looking Back recommendations in the chapter preview are especially important. You will recall that a system's mechanical energy $E_{\text{mech}} = K + U$ is conserved for particles that interact with each other via *conservative forces*, where $K$ and $U$ are the kinetic and potential energy. That is,

**(25.1)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{mech}} = \Delta K + \Delta U = 0$$

We need to be careful with notation because we are now using $E$ to represent the electric field strength. To avoid confusion, we will represent mechanical energy either as the sum $K + U$ or as $E_{\text{mech}}$, with an explicit subscript.

> **Note**
>
> Recall that for any $X$, the *change* in $X$ is $\Delta X = X_{\text{final}} - X_{\text{initial}}$.

A key idea of Chapters 9 and 10 was that energy is the energy *of a system*, and clearly defining the system is crucial. Kinetic energy

$K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ is a system's *energy of motion*. For a multiparticle system, $K$ is the sum of the kinetic energies of each particle in the system.

Potential energy $U$ is the *interaction energy* of the system. Suppose the particles of the system move from some initial set of positions i to final positions f. As the particles move, the action/reaction pairs of forces between the particles—the interaction forces—do work and the system's potential energy changes. In Section 10.1 we defined the *change* in potential energy to be

**(25.2)**

$$\Delta U = -W_{\text{interaction}}\,(\text{i} \rightarrow \text{f})$$

where the notation means the work done by the interaction forces as the configuration changes from i to f. This rather abstract definition will make more sense when we see specific applications.

Recall that *work* is done when a force acts on a particle as it is being displaced. In Section 9.3 you learned that a *constant* force $\vec{F}$ does work

**(25.3)**

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \Delta \vec{r} = F\,\Delta r \cos\theta$$

as the particle undergoes displacement $\Delta \vec{r}$, where $\theta$ is the angle between the two vectors. Figure 25.1 reminds you of the three special cases $\theta = 0^\circ$, $90^\circ$, and $180^\circ$.

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**Figure 25.1**

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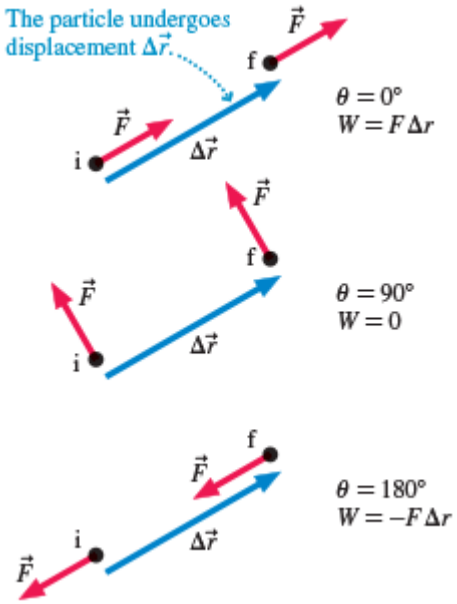


The work done by a constant force.

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> **Note**
>
> Work is *not* the oft-remembered "force times distance." Work is force times distance only in the one very special case in which the force is both constant *and* parallel to the displacement.



If the force is *not* constant, we can calculate the work by dividing the path into many small segments of length $dx$, finding the work done in each segment, and then summing (i.e., integrating) from the start of the path to the end. The work done in one such segment is $dW = F(x)\cos\theta\,dx$, where $F(x)$ indicates that the force is a function of position $x$. Thus the work done on the particle as it moves from $x_\mathrm{i}$ to $x_\mathrm{f}$ is

**(25.4)**

$$W = \int_{x_\mathrm{i}}^{x_\mathrm{f}} F(x)\cos\theta\,dx$$

Finally, recall that a *conservative force* is one for which the work done on a particle as it moves from position i to position f is *independent of the path*

*followed*. We'll assert for now, and prove later, that **the electric force is a conservative force**, and thus we can define an electric potential energy.

## A Gravitational Analogy

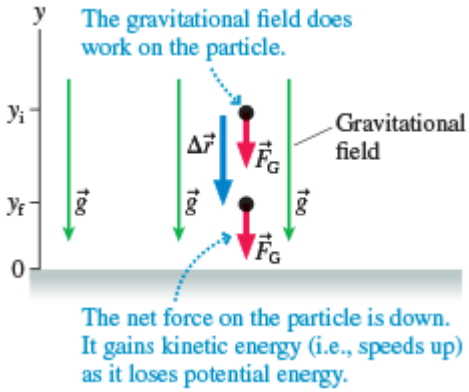
Gravity, like electricity, is a long-range force. Much as we defined the electric field $\vec{E} = \vec{F}_{\text{on } q}/q$, we can also define a *gravitational field*—the agent that exerts gravitational forces on masses—as $\vec{F}_{\text{on } m}/m$. But $\vec{F}_{\text{on } m} = m\vec{g}$ near the earth's surface; thus the familiar $\vec{g} = (9.80\,\text{N/kg}, \text{down})$ is really the gravitational field! Notice how we've written the units of $\vec{g}$ as N/kg, but you can easily show that $\text{N/kg} = \text{m/s}^2$. The gravitational field near the earth's surface is a *uniform* field in the downward direction.

Figure 25.2 shows a particle of mass $m$ falling in the gravitational field. The gravitational force is in the same direction as the particle's displacement, so the gravitational field does a *positive* amount of work on the particle. The gravitational force is constant, hence the work done by the gravitational field is

**(25.5)**

$$W_{\text{G}} = F_{\text{G}}\Delta r\,\cos 0^\circ = mg\,|y_{\text{f}} - y_{\text{i}}| = mgy_{\text{i}} - mgy_{\text{f}}$$

**Figure 25.2**




Potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy as a particle moves in a gravitational field.

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We have to be careful with signs because $\Delta r$, the magnitude of the displacement vector, must be a positive number.

Now we can see how the definition of $\Delta U$ in Equation 25.2 makes sense. The *change* in gravitational potential energy is

**(25.6)**

$$\Delta U_{\mathrm{G}} = U_{\mathrm{f}} - U_{\mathrm{i}} = -W_{\mathrm{G}}(\mathrm{i} \to \mathrm{f}) = mgy_{\mathrm{f}} - mgy_{\mathrm{i}}$$

Comparing the initial and final terms on the two sides of the equation, we see that the gravitational potential energy near the earth is the familiar quantity

**(25.7)**

$$U_{\mathrm{G}} = U_0 + mgy$$

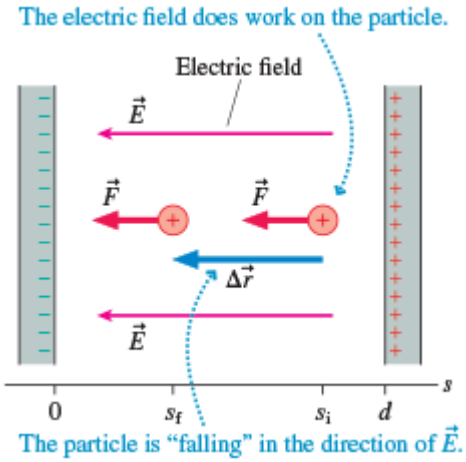
where $U_0$ is the value of $U_{\mathrm{G}}$ at $y = 0$. We usually choose $U_0 = 0$, in which case $U_{\mathrm{G}} = mgy$, but such a choice is not necessary.

# A Uniform Electric Field

Figure 25.3 shows a charged particle inside a parallel-plate capacitor with electrode spacing $d$. This is a uniform electric field, and the situation looks very much like Figure 25.2 for a mass in a uniform gravitational field. The one difference is that $\vec{g}$ always points down whereas the positive-to-negative electric field can point in any direction. To deal with this, let's define a coordinate axis $s$ that points *from* the negative plate, which we define to be $s = 0$, *toward* the positive plate. The electric field $\vec{E}$ then points in the negative $s$-direction, just as the gravitational field $\vec{g}$ points in the negative $y$-direction. This $s$-axis, which is valid no matter how the capacitor is oriented, is analogous to the $y$-axis used for gravitational potential energy.



## Figure 25.3




The electric field does work on the charged particle.

A positive charge $q$ inside the capacitor speeds up and gains kinetic energy as it "falls" toward the negative plate. Is the charge losing potential energy as it gains kinetic energy? Indeed it is, and the calculation of the potential energy is just like the calculation of gravitational potential energy. The electric field exerts a *constant* force $F = qE$ on the charge in the direction of motion; thus the work done on the charge by the electric field is

(25.8)

$$W_{\text{elec}} = F\,\Delta r \cos 0^\circ = qE|s_\text{f} - s_\text{i}| = qEs_\text{i} - qEs_\text{f}$$

where we again have to be careful with the signs because $s_\text{f} < s_\text{i}$.

The work done by the electric field causes the *electric* potential energy to change by

(25.9)

$$\Delta U_{\text{elec}} = U_\text{f} - U_\text{i} = -W_{\text{elec}}(\text{i} \to \text{f}) = qEs_\text{f} - qEs_\text{i}$$

Comparing the initial and final terms on the two sides of the equation, we see that the **electric potential energy** of charge $q$ in a uniform electric field is

---

(25.10)

$$U_{\text{elec}} = U_0 + qEs$$

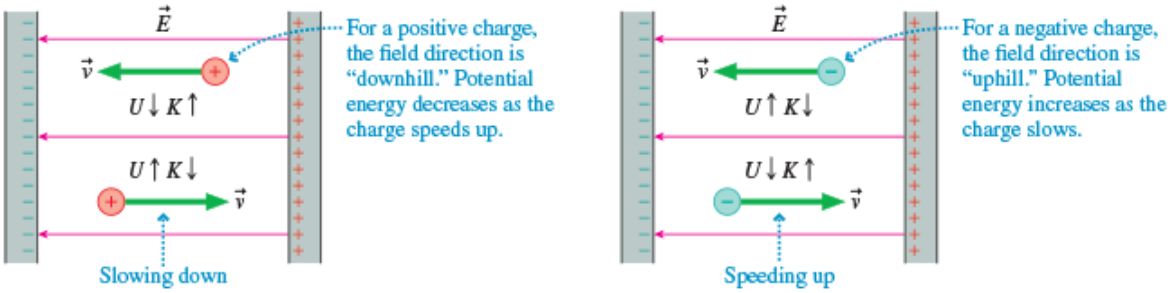
where $s$ is measured from the negative plate and $U_0$ is the potential energy at the negative plate $(s = 0)$. It will often be convenient to choose $U_0 = 0$, but the choice has no physical consequences because it doesn't affect $\Delta U_{\text{elec}}$. Equation 25.10 was derived with the assumption that $q$ is positive, but it is valid for either sign of $q$.

> **Note**
>
> Although Equation 25.10 is sometimes called "the potential energy of charge $q$," it is really the potential energy of the charge + capacitor system.

Figure 25.4 shows positive and negative charged particles moving inside a parallel-plate capacitor. For a positive charge, $U_{elec}$ decreases and $K$ increases as the charge moves toward the negative plate (decreasing $s$). Thus a positive charge is going "downhill" if it moves in the direction of the electric field. A positive charge moving opposite the field direction is going "uphill," slowing as it transforms kinetic energy into electric potential energy.



## Figure 25.4



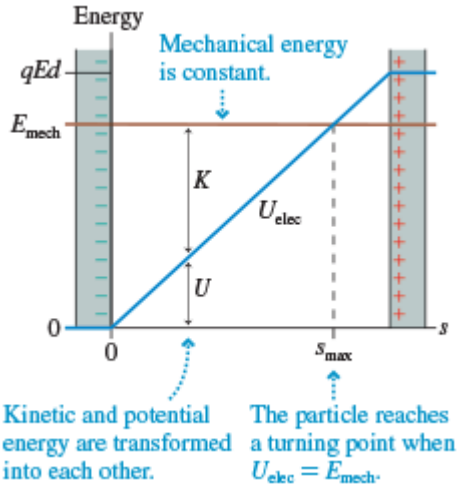

A charged particle exchanges kinetic and potential energy as it moves in an electric field.

If we choose $U_0 = 0$, so that potential energy is zero at the negative plate, then a negative charged particle has *negative* potential energy. You learned in Chapter 10 that there's nothing wrong with negative potential energy—it's simply less than the potential energy at some arbitrarily chosen reference location. The more important point, from Equation 25.10, is that the potential energy *increases* (becomes less negative) as a negative charge moves toward the negative plate. A negative charge moving in the field direction is going "uphill," transforming kinetic energy into electric potential energy as it slows.

Figure 25.5 is an *energy diagram* for a positively charged particle in an electric field. Recall that an energy diagram is a graphical representation of how kinetic and potential energies are transformed as a particle

moves. For positive $q$, the electric potential energy given by Equation 25.10 increases linearly from 0 at the negative plate (with $U_0 = 0$) to $qEd$ at the positive plate. The total mechanical energy—which is under your control—is constant. If $E_{\text{mech}} < qEd$, as shown here, a positively charged particle projected from the negative plate will gradually slow (transforming kinetic energy into potential energy) until it reaches a *turning point* where $U_{\text{elec}} = E_{\text{mech}}$. But if you project the particle with greater speed, such that $E_{\text{mech}} > qEd$, it will be able to cross the gap to collide with the positive plate.

## Figure 25.5




The energy diagram for a positively charged particle in a uniform electric field.

### Example 25.1 Conservation of energy

A 2.0 cm × 2.0 cm parallel-plate capacitor with a 2.0 mm spacing is charged to ±1.0 nC. First a proton and then an electron are released from rest at the midpoint of the capacitor.

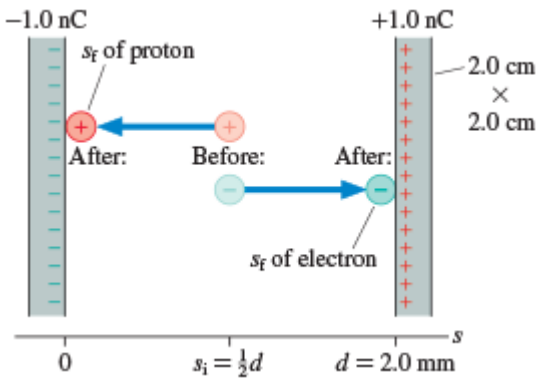
**a.** What is each particle's energy?

**b.** What is each particle's speed as it reaches the plate?

**MODEL** The mechanical energy is conserved. A parallel-plate capacitor has a uniform electric field.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.6 is a before-and-after pictorial representation, as you learned to draw in Part II. Each particle is released from rest ($K = 0$) and moves "downhill" toward lower potential energy. Thus the proton moves toward the negative plate, the electron toward the positive plate.

## Figure 25.6




A proton and an electron in a capacitor.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The $s$-axis was defined to point from the negative toward the positive plate of the capacitor. Both charged particles have $s_i = \frac{1}{2}d$, where $d = 2.0$ mm is the plate separation. If we let $U_0 = 0$, defining the negative plate as our zero-energy reference point, then the proton ($q = e$) has energy

$$E_{\text{mech p}} = K_i + U_i = 0 + eE\left(\tfrac{1}{2}d\right)$$

while the electron ($q = -e$) has

$$E_{\text{mech e}} = K_{\text{i}} + U_{\text{i}} = 0 - eE\left(\tfrac{1}{2}d\right)$$

The electric field inside the parallel-plate capacitor, from Chapter 23, is

$$E = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A} = 2.82 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C}$$

Thus the particles' energies can be calculated to be

$$E_{\text{mech p}} = 4.5 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J and } E_{\text{mech e}} = -4.5 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J}$$

Notice that the electron's mechanical energy is negative.

**b.** Conservation of mechanical energy requires $K_{\text{f}} + U_{\text{f}} = K_{\text{i}} + U_{\text{i}} = E_{\text{mech}}$. The proton collides with the negative plate, so $U_{\text{f}} = 0$, and the final kinetic energy is $K_{\text{f}} = \tfrac{1}{2}m_{\text{p}}v_{\text{f}}^2 = E_{\text{mech p}}$. Thus the proton's impact speed is

$$(v_{\text{f}})_{\text{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{2E_{\text{mech p}}}{m_{\text{p}}}} = 2.3 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}$$

Similarly, the electron collides with the positive plate, where $U_{\text{f}} = qEd = -eEd = 2E_{\text{mech e}}$. Thus energy conservation for the electron is

$$K_{\text{f}} = \tfrac{1}{2}\, m_{\text{e}} v_{\text{f}}^2 = E_{\text{mech e}} - U_{\text{f}} = E_{\text{mech e}} - 2E_{\text{mech e}} = -E_{\text{mech e}}$$

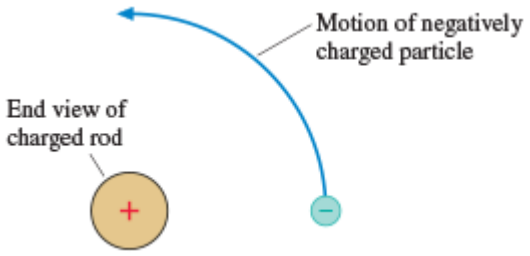
We found the electron's mechanical energy to be negative, so $K_{\text{f}}$ is positive. The electron reaches the positive plate with speed

$$(v_f)_e = \sqrt{\frac{-2E_{\text{mech e}}}{m_e}} = 1.0 \times 10^7 \text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** Even though both particles have mechanical energy with the same magnitude, the electron has a much greater final speed due to its much smaller mass.

## Stop to Think 25.1

A glass rod is positively charged. The figure shows an end view of the rod. A negatively charged particle moves in a circular arc around the glass rod. Is the work done on the charged particle by the rod's electric field positive, negative, or zero?

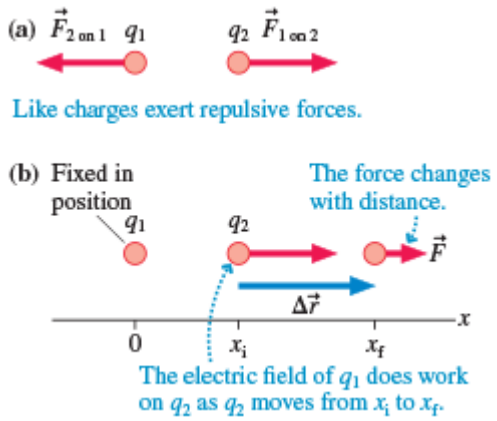


# 25.2 The Potential Energy of Point Charges



Figure 25.7a shows two charges $q_1$ and $q_2$, which we will assume to be like charges. These two charges interact, and the energy of their interaction can be found by calculating the work done by the electric field of $q_1$ on $q_2$ as $q_2$ moves from position $x_i$ to position $x_f$. We'll assume that $q_1$ has been glued down and is unable to move, as shown in Figure 25.7b.

## Figure 25.7




The interaction between two point charges.

The force is entirely in the direction of motion, so $\cos\theta = 1$. Thus

**(25.11)**

$$W_{\text{elec}} = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} F_{1\text{ on }2}\,dx = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} \frac{Kq_1q_2}{x^2}dx = Kq_1q_2\frac{-1}{x}\bigg|_{x_i}^{x_f} = -\frac{Kq_1q_2}{x_f} + \frac{Kq_1q_2}{x_i}$$

The potential energy of the two charges is related to the work done by

**(25.12)**

$$\Delta U_{\text{elec}} = U_{\text{f}} - U_{\text{i}} = -W_{\text{elec}}(\text{i} \to \text{f}) = \frac{Kq_1q_2}{x_{\text{f}}} - \frac{Kq_1q_2}{x_{\text{i}}}$$

By comparing the left and right sides of the equation we see that the potential energy of the two-point-charge system is

**(25.13)**

$$U_{\text{elec}} = \frac{Kq_1q_2}{x}$$

We could include a constant $U_0$, as we did in Equation 25.10, for the potential energy of a charge in a uniform electric field, but it is customary to set $U_0 = 0$.

We chose to integrate along the $x$-axis for convenience, but all that matters is the *distance* between the charges. Thus a general expression for the electric potential energy is

---

**(25.14)**

$$U_{\text{elec}} = \frac{Kq_1q_2}{r} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1q_2}{r} \qquad \text{(two point charges)}$$

This is explicitly the energy *of the system*, not the energy of just $q_1$ or $q_2$.

> **Note**
>
> The electric potential energy of two point charges looks *almost* the same as the force between the charges. The difference is

> the $r$ in the denominator of the potential energy compared to the $r^2$ in Coulomb's law.

Three important points need to be noted:

- The choice $U_0 = 0$ is equivalent to saying that the potential energy of two charged particles is zero only when they are infinitely far apart. This makes sense because two charged particles cease interacting only when they are infinitely far apart.
- We derived Equation 25.14 for two like charges, but it is equally valid for two opposite charges. The potential energy of two like charges is *positive* and of two opposite charges is *negative*.
- Because the electric field outside a *sphere of charge* is the same as that of a point charge at the center, Equation 25.14 is also the electric potential energy of two charged spheres. Distance $r$ is the distance between their centers.

## Charged-Particle Interactions

Figure 25.8a shows the potential-energy curve—a hyperbola—for two like charges as a function of the distance $r$ between them. Also shown is the total energy line for two charged particles shot toward each other with equal but opposite momenta.

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**Figure 25.8**

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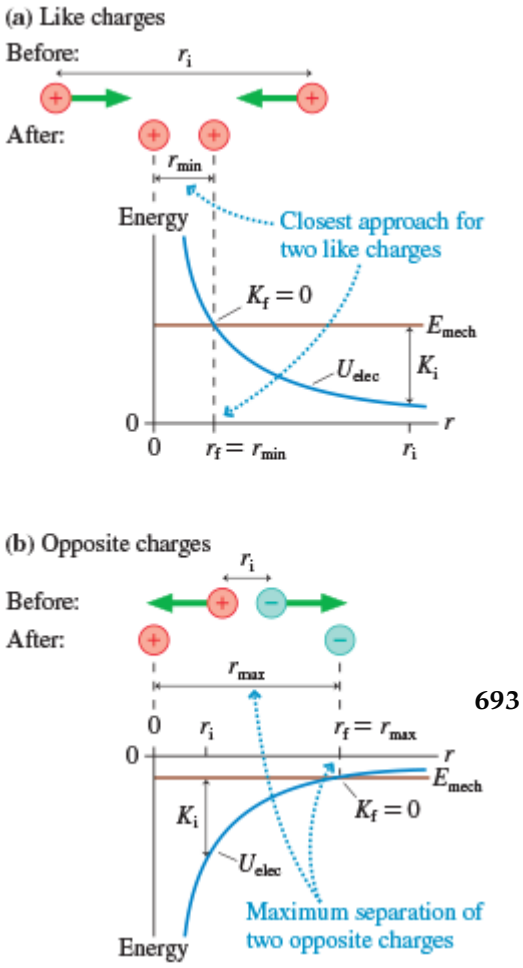





The potential-energy diagrams for two like charges and two opposite charges.

---

You can see that the total energy line crosses the potential-energy curve at $r_{min}$. This is a turning point. The two charges gradually slow down, because of the repulsive force between them, until the distance separating them is $r_{min}$. At this point, the kinetic energy is zero and both particles are instantaneously at rest. Both then reverse direction and move apart, speeding up as they go. $r_{min}$ is the *distance of closest approach*.

Two opposite charges are a little trickier because of the negative energies. Negative total energies seem troubling at first, but they characterize *bound systems*. Figure 25.8b shows two oppositely charged particles shot apart from each other with equal but opposite momenta. If $E_{mech} < 0$, as shown, then their total energy line crosses the potential-energy curve at $r_{max}$. That is, the particles slow down, lose kinetic energy, reverse

directions at *maximum separation* $r_{max}$, and then "fall" back together. They cannot escape from each other. Although moving in three dimensions rather than one, the electron and proton of a hydrogen atom are a realistic example of a bound system, and their mechanical energy is negative.

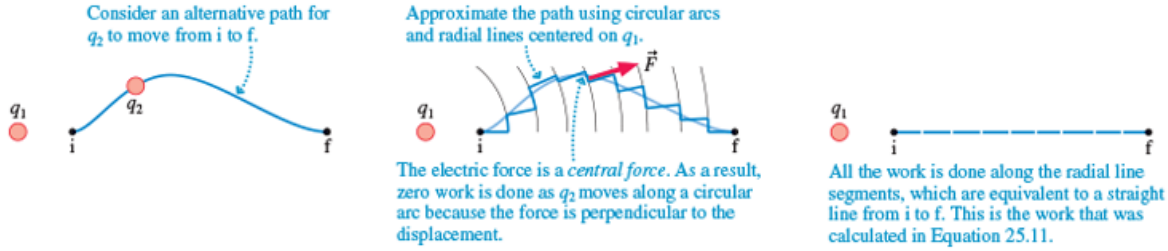
Two oppositely charged particles *can* escape from each other if $E_{mech} > 0$. They'll slow down, but eventually the potential energy vanishes and the particles still have kinetic energy. The threshold condition for escape is $E_{mech} = 0$, which will allow the particles to reach infinite separation $(U \to 0)$ at infinitesimally slow speed $(K \to 0)$. The initial speed that gives $E_{mech} = 0$ is called the *escape speed*.

> **Note**
>
> Real particles can't be infinitely far apart, but because $U_{elec}$ decreases with distance, there comes a point when $U_{elec} = 0$ is an excellent approximation. Two charged particles for which $U_{elec} \approx 0$ are sometimes described as "far apart" or "far away."

## The Electric Force Is a Conservative Force

Potential energy can be defined only if the force is *conservative*, meaning that the work done on the particle as it moves from position i to position f is independent of the path followed between i and f. Figure 25.9 demonstrates that electric force is indeed conservative.

**Figure 25.9**




The work done on $q_2$ is independent of the path from i to f.

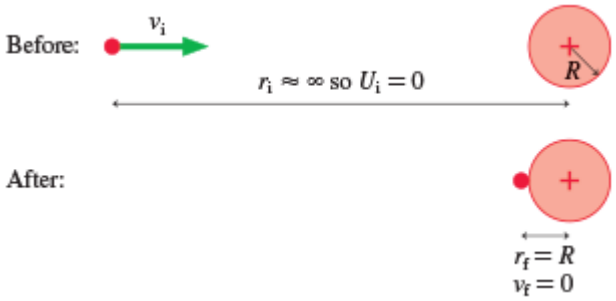
## Example 25.2 Approaching a charged sphere

A proton is fired from far away at a 1.0-mm-diameter glass sphere that has been charged to +100 nC. What initial speed must the proton have to just reach the surface of the glass?

**MODEL** Energy is conserved. The glass sphere can be modeled as a charged particle, so the potential energy is that of two point charges. The glass is so much more massive than the proton that it remains at rest as the proton moves. The proton starts "far away," which we interpret as sufficiently far to make $U_i \approx 0$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.10 shows the before-and-after pictorial representation. To "just reach" the glass sphere means that the proton comes to rest, $v_f = 0$, as it reaches $r_f = 0.50$ mm, the *radius* of the sphere.

### Figure 25.10



A proton approaching a glass sphere.

**SOLVE** Conservation of energy $K_\text{f} + U_\text{f} = K_\text{i} + U_\text{i}$ is

$$0 + \frac{Kq_\text{p}q_\text{sphere}}{r_\text{f}} = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_\text{i}^2 + 0$$

The proton charge is $q_\text{p} = e$. With this, we can solve for the proton's initial speed:

$$v_\text{i} = \sqrt{\frac{2Keq_\text{sphere}}{mr_\text{f}}} = 1.86 \times 10^7 \text{ m/s}$$

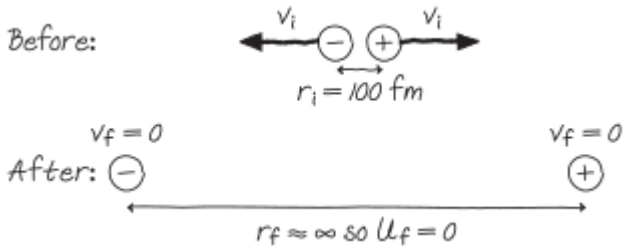
**Example 25.3 Escape speed**

An interaction between two elementary particles causes an electron and a positron (a positive electron) to be shot out back to back with equal speeds. What minimum speed must each have when they are 100 fm apart in order to escape each other?

**MODEL** Energy is conserved. The particles end "far apart," which we interpret as sufficiently far to make $U_\text{f} \approx 0$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.11 shows the before-and-after pictorial representation. The minimum speed to escape is the speed that allows the particles to reach $r_\text{f} = \infty$ with $v_\text{f} = 0$.

**Figure 25.11**




An electron and a positron flying apart.

**SOLVE** $U_{\text{elec}}$ is the potential energy of the electron + positron system. Similarly, $K$ is the *total* kinetic energy of the system. The electron and the positron, with equal masses and equal speeds, have equal kinetic energies. Conservation of energy $K_\text{f} + U_\text{f} = K_\text{i} + U_\text{i}$ is

$$0 + 0 + 0 = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_\text{i}^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}mv_\text{i}^2 + \frac{Kq_\text{e}q_\text{p}}{r_\text{i}} = mv_\text{i}^2 - \frac{Ke^2}{r_\text{i}}$$

Using $r_\text{i} = 100 \text{ fm} = 1.0 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}$, we can calculate the minimum initial speed to be

$$v_\text{i} = \sqrt{\frac{Ke^2}{mr_\text{i}}} = 5.0 \times 10^7 \text{ m/s}$$

**ASSESS** $v_\text{i}$ is a little more than 10% the speed of light, just about the limit of what a "classical" calculation can predict. We would need to use the theory of relativity if $v_\text{i}$ were any larger.

# Multiple Point Charges

If more than two charges are present, their potential energy is the sum of the potential energies due to all pairs of charges:

**(25.15)**

$$U_{\text{elec}} = \sum_{i<j} \frac{K q_i q_j}{r_{ij}}$$

where $r_{ij}$ is the distance between $q_i$ and $q_j$. The summation contains the $i < j$ restriction to ensure that each pair of charges is counted only once.

> **Note**
>
> For energy conservation problems, it's necessary to calculate only the potential energy for those pairs of charges for which the distance $r_{ij}$ changes. The potential energy of any pair that doesn't move is an additive constant with no physical consequences.

**Example 25.4 Launching an electron**

Three electrons are spaced 1.0 mm apart along a vertical line. The outer two electrons are fixed in position.

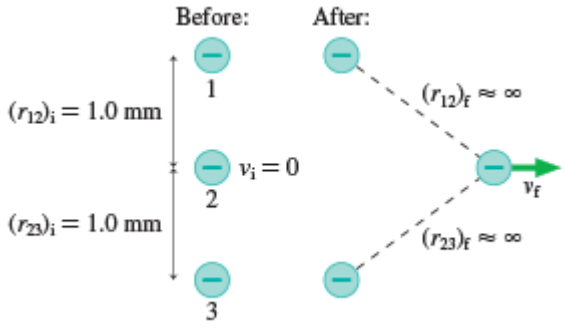
**a.** Is the center electron at a point of stable or unstable equilibrium?

**b.** If the center electron is displaced horizontally by a small distance, what will its speed be when it is very far away?

**MODEL** Energy is conserved. The outer two electrons don't move, so we don't need to include the potential energy of their interaction.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.12 shows the situation.

**Figure 25.12**




Three electrons.

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## SOLVE

**a.** The center electron is in equilibrium *exactly* in the center because the two electric forces on it balance. But if it moves a little to the right or left, no matter how little, then the horizontal components of the forces from both outer electrons will push the center electron farther away. This is an unstable equilibrium for horizontal displacements, like being on the top of a hill.

**b.** A small displacement will cause the electron to move away. If the displacement is only infinitesimal, the initial conditions are $(r_{12})_i = (r_{23})_i = 1.0$ mm and $v_i = 0$. "Far away" is interpreted as $r_f \to \infty$, where $U_f \approx 0$. There are now *two* terms in the potential energy, so conservation of energy $K_f + U_f = K_i + U_i$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} \tfrac{1}{2}mv_f^2 + 0 + 0 &= 0 + \left[\frac{Kq_1q_2}{(r_{12})_i} + \frac{Kq_2q_3}{(r_{23})_i}\right] \\ &= \left[\frac{Ke^2}{(r_{12})_i} + \frac{Ke^2}{(r_{23})_i}\right] \end{aligned}$$

This is easily solved to give

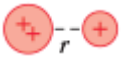
$$v_{\mathrm{f}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{m}\left[\frac{Ke^2}{(r_{12})_{\mathrm{i}}} + \frac{Ke^2}{(r_{23})_{\mathrm{i}}}\right]} = 1000\ \mathrm{m/s}$$

## Stop to Think 25.2

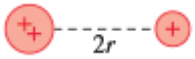
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the potential energies $U_{\mathrm{a}}$ to $U_{\mathrm{d}}$ of these four pairs of charges. Each + symbol represents the same amount of charge.

**a.**

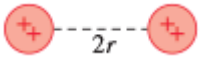
**b.**




**c.**




**d.**

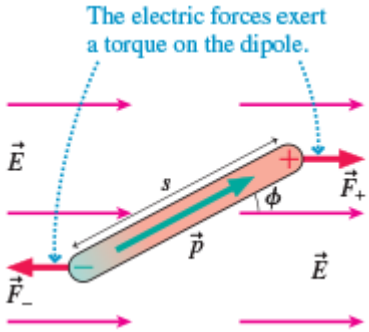


# 25.3 The Potential Energy of a Dipole

The electric dipole has been our model for understanding how charged objects interact with neutral objects. In Chapter 23 we found that an electric field exerts a *torque* on a dipole. We can complete the picture by calculating the potential energy of an electric dipole in a uniform electric field.

Figure 25.13 shows a dipole in an electric field $\vec{E}$. Recall that the dipole moment $\vec{p}$ is a vector that points from $-q$ to $q$ with magnitude $p = qs$. The forces $\vec{F}_+$ and $\vec{F}_-$ exert a torque on the dipole, but now we're interested in calculating the *work* done by these forces as the dipole rotates from angle $\phi_i$ to angle $\phi_f$.

**Figure 25.13**




The electric field does work as a dipole rotates.

When a force component $F_s$ acts through a small displacement $ds$, the force does work $dW = F_s ds$. If we exploit the rotational-linear motion analogy from Chapter 12, where torque $\tau$ is the analog of force and

angular displacement $\Delta\phi$ is the analog of linear displacement, then a torque acting through a small angular displacement $d\phi$ does work $dW = \tau\, d\phi$. From Chapter 23, the torque on the dipole in Figure 25.13 is $\tau = -pE \sin\phi$, where the minus sign is due to the torque trying to cause a clockwise rotation. Thus the work done by the electric field on the dipole as it rotates through the small angle $d\phi$ is

**(25.16)**

$$dW_{\text{elec}} = -pE \sin\phi\, d\phi$$

The total work done by the electric field as the dipole turns from $\phi_{\text{i}}$ to $\phi_{\text{f}}$ is

**(25.17)**

$$W_{\text{elec}} = -pE \int_{\phi_{\text{i}}}^{\phi_{\text{f}}} \sin\phi\, d\phi = pE\cos\phi_{\text{f}} - pE\cos\phi_{\text{i}}$$

The potential energy associated with the work done on the dipole is

**(25.18)**

$$\Delta U_{\text{dipole}} = U_{\text{f}} - U_{\text{i}} = -W_{\text{elec}}\,(\text{i} \to \text{f}) = -pE\cos\phi_{\text{f}} + pE\cos\phi_{\text{i}}$$

By comparing the left and right sides of Equation 25.18, we see that the potential energy of an electric dipole $\vec{p}$ in a uniform electric field $\vec{E}$ is

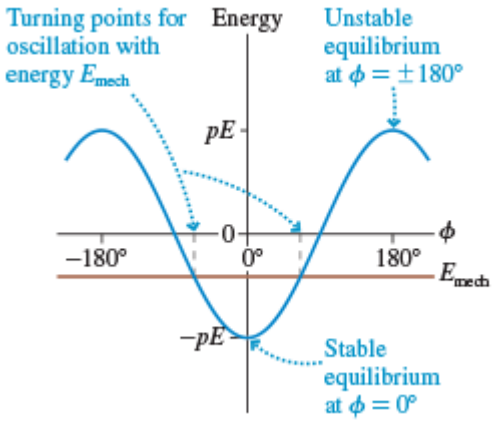
---

**(25.19)**

$$U_{\text{dipole}} = -pE\cos\phi = -\vec{p}\cdot\vec{E}$$

Figure 25.14 shows the energy diagram of a dipole. The potential energy is minimum at $\phi = 0^\circ$ where the dipole is aligned with the electric field. This is a point of stable equilibrium. A dipole exactly opposite $\vec{E}$, at $\phi = \pm 180^\circ$, is at a point of unstable equilibrium. Any disturbance will cause it to flip around. A frictionless dipole with mechanical energy $E_{\text{mech}}$ will oscillate back and forth between turning points on either side of $\phi = 0^\circ$.

## Figure 25.14




The energy of a dipole in an electric field.

### Example 25.5 Rotating a molecule

The water molecule is a permanent electric dipole with dipole moment $6.2 \times 10^{-30}$ C m. A water molecule is aligned in an electric field with field strength $1.0 \times 10^7$ N/C. How much energy is needed to rotate the molecule 90°?

**MODEL** The molecule is at the point of minimum energy. It won't spontaneously rotate 90°. However, an external force that supplies energy, such as a collision with another molecule, can cause the water molecule to rotate.

**SOLVE** The molecule starts at $\phi_\text{i} = 0^\circ$ and ends at $\phi_\text{f} = 90^\circ$. The increase in potential energy is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta U_\text{dipole} &= U_\text{f} - U_\text{i} = -pE\cos 90^\circ - (-pE\cos 0^\circ) \\ &= pE = 6.2 \times 10^{-23}\,\text{J}\end{aligned}$$

This is the energy needed to rotate the molecule 90°.

**ASSESS** $\Delta U_\text{dipole}$ is significantly less than $k_\text{B}T$ at room temperature. Thus collisions with other molecules can easily supply the energy to rotate the water molecules and keep them from staying aligned with the electric field.

# 25.4 The Electric Potential[96]

We introduced the concept of the *electric field* in Chapter 22 because action at a distance raised concerns and difficulties. The field provides an intermediary through which two charges exert forces on each other. Charge $q_1$ somehow alters the space around it by creating an electric field $\vec{E}_1$. Charge $q_2$ then responds to the field, experiencing force $\vec{F} = q_2 \vec{E}_1$.

In defining the electric field, we separated the charges that are the *source* of the field from the charge *in* the field. The force on charge $q$ is related to the electric field of the source charges by

$$\text{force on } q \text{ by sources} = [\text{charge } q] \times [\text{alteration of space by the source charges}]$$

Let's try a similar procedure for the potential energy. The electric potential energy is due to the interaction of charge $q$ with other charges, so let's write

$$\text{potential energy of } q + \text{sources} = [\text{charge } q] \times [\textit{potential} \text{ for interaction with the source charges}]$$

Figure 25.15 shows this idea schematically.

---

**Figure 25.15**

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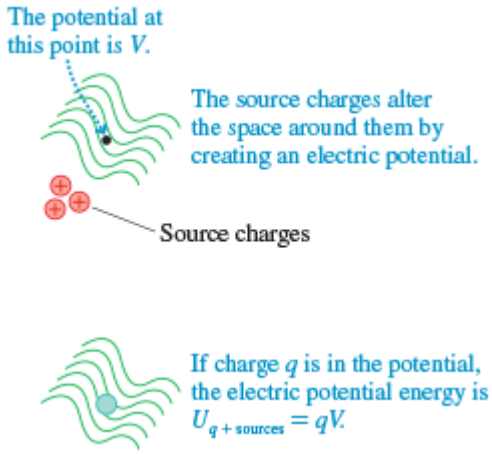



Source charges alter the space around them by creating an electric potential.

In analogy with the electric field, we will define the **electric potential** $V$ (or, for brevity, just *the potential*) as

**(25.20)**

$$V \equiv \frac{U_{q+\text{sources}}}{q}$$

Charge $q$ is used as a probe to determine the electric potential, but the value of $V$ is *independent of* $q$. **The electric potential, like the electric field, is a property of the source charges**. And, like the electric field, the electric potential fills the space around the source charges. It is there whether or not another charge is there to experience it.

In practice, we're usually more interested in knowing the potential energy if a charge $q$ happens to be at a point in space where the electric potential of the source charges is $V$. Turning Equation 25.20 around, we see that the electric potential energy is

**(25.21)**

$$U_{q+\text{sources}} = qV$$

Once the potential has been determined, it's very easy to find the potential energy.

The unit of electric potential is the joule per coulomb, which is called the **volt V**:

$$1 \text{ volt} = 1 \text{ V} \equiv 1 \text{ J/C}$$

This unit is named for Alessandro Volta, who invented the electric battery in the year 1800. Microvolts ($\mu$V), millivolts (mV), and kilovolts (kV) are commonly used units.

This battery is labeled 1.5 volts. As we'll soon see, a battery is a source of electric potential.

---

> **Note**
>
> Once again, commonly used symbols are in conflict. The symbol *V* is widely used to represent *volume,* and now we're introducing the same symbol to represent *potential.* To make matters more confusing, V is the abbreviation for *volts.* In printed text, *V* for potential is italicized and V for volts is not, but you can't make such a distinction in handwritten work. This is not a pleasant state of affairs, but these are the commonly accepted symbols. It's incumbent upon you to be especially alert to the *context* in which a symbol is used.

# Using the Electric Potential

The electric potential is an abstract idea, and it will take some practice to see just what it means and how it is useful. We'll use multiple representations—words, pictures, graphs, and analogies—to explain and describe the electric potential.

> **Note**
>
> It is unfortunate that the terms *potential* and *potential energy* are so much alike. Despite the similar names, they are very different concepts and are not interchangeable. Table 25.1 will help you to distinguish between the two.



**Table 25.1**

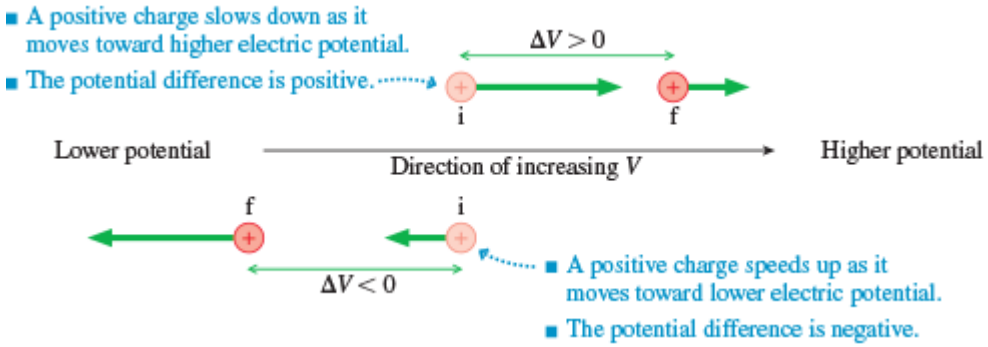
| |
|---|
| The *electric potential* is a property of the source charges and, as you'll soon see, is related to the electric field. The electric potential is present whether or not a charged particle is there to experience it. Potential is measured in J/C, or V. |
| The *electric potential energy* is the interaction energy of a charged particle with the source charges. Potential energy is measured in J. |

Distinguishing electric potential and potential energy

Basically, knowing the electric potential in a region of space allows us to determine whether a charged particle speeds up or slows down as it moves through that region. Figure 25.16 illustrates this idea. Here a group of source charges, which remains hidden offstage, has created an electric potential $V$ that increases from left to right. A charged particle $q$, which for now we'll assume to be positive, has electric potential energy $U = qV$. If the particle moves to the right, its potential energy increases and so, by energy conservation, its kinetic energy must decrease. **A**

**positive charge slows down as it moves into a region of higher electric potential.**

## Figure 25.16




A charged particle speeds up or slows down as it moves through a potential difference.

It is customary to say that the particle moves through a **potential difference** $\Delta V = V_f - V_i$. The potential difference between two points is often called the **voltage**. The particle moving to the right moves through a positive potential difference ($\Delta V > 0$ because $V_f > V_i$), so we can say that a positively charged particle slows down as it moves through a positive potential difference.

The particle moving to the left in Figure 25.16 travels in the direction of decreasing electric potential—through a negative potential difference—and is losing potential energy. It speeds up as it transforms potential energy into kinetic energy. A negatively charged particle would slow down because its potential energy $qV$ would increase as $V$ decreases. Table 25.2 summarizes these ideas.

## Table 25.2

| | Electric potential | |
|---|---|---|
| | Increasing ($\Delta V > 0$) | Decreasing ($\Delta V < 0$) |
| + charge | Slows down | Speeds up |
| − charge | Speeds up | Slows down |

Charged particles moving in an electric potential

If a particle moves through a potential difference $\Delta V$, its electric potential energy changes by $\Delta U = q\Delta V$. We can write the conservation of energy equation in terms of the electric potential as
$\Delta K + \Delta U = \Delta K + q\Delta V = 0$ or, as is often more practical,

**(25.22)**

$$K_\mathrm{f} + qV_\mathrm{f} = K_\mathrm{i} + qV_\mathrm{i}$$

Conservation of energy is the basis of a powerful problem-solving strategy.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 25.1 Conservation of energy in charge interactions**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Define the system. If possible, model it as an isolated system for which mechanical energy is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation. Define symbols, list known values, and identify what you're trying to find.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on the law of conservation of mechanical energy:

$$K_\mathrm{f} + qV_\mathrm{f} = K_\mathrm{i} + qV_\mathrm{i}$$

- Is the electric potential given in the problem statement? If not, you'll need to use a known potential, such as that of a point charge, or calculate the potential using the procedure given later, in Problem-Solving Strategy 25.2.
- $K_i$ and $K_f$ are the sums of the kinetic energies of all moving particles.
- Some problems may need additional conservation laws, such as conservation of charge or conservation of momentum.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 22

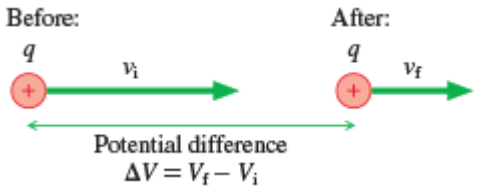
**Example 25.6 Moving through a potential difference**

A proton with a speed of $2.0 \times 10^5$ m/s enters a region of space in which there is an electric potential. What is the proton's speed after it moves through a potential difference of 100 V? What will be the final speed if the proton is replaced by an electron?

**MODEL** The system is the charge plus the unseen source charges creating the potential. This is an isolated system, so mechanical energy is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.17 is a before-and-after pictorial representation of a charged particle moving through a potential difference. A positive charge *slows down* as it moves into a region of higher potential ($K \rightarrow U$). A negative charge *speeds up* ($U \rightarrow K$).

## Figure 25.17




A charged particle moving through a potential difference.

**SOLVE** The potential energy of charge $q$ is $U = qV$. Conservation of energy, now expressed in terms of the electric potential $V$, is $K_f + qV_f = K_i + qV_i$, or

$$K_f = K_i - q\,\Delta V$$

where $\Delta V = V_f - V_i$ is the potential difference through which the particle moves. In terms of the speeds, energy conservation is

$$\tfrac{1}{2}mv_f^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_i^2 - q\,\Delta V$$

We can solve this for the final speed:

$$v_f = \sqrt{v_i^2 - \frac{2q}{m}\Delta V}$$

For a proton, with $q = e$, the final speed is

$$\begin{aligned}(v_f)_p &= \sqrt{(2.0 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s})^2 - \frac{2(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C})(100\ \text{V})}{1.67 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg}}} \\ &= 1.4 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}\end{aligned}$$

An electron, though, with $q = -e$ and a different mass, reaches speed $(v_f)_e = 5.9 \times 10^6\ \text{m/s}$.

**ASSESS** The proton slowed down and the electron sped up, as we expected. Note that the electric potential *already existed* in space

due to other charges that are not explicitly seen in the problem. The electron and proton have nothing to do with creating the potential. Instead, they *respond* to the potential by having potential energy $U = qV$.

## Stop to Think 25.3

A proton is released from rest at point B, where the potential is 0 V. Afterward, the proton

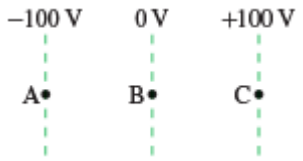
**a.** Remains at rest at B.

**b.** Moves toward A with a steady speed.

**c.** Moves toward A with an increasing speed.

**d.** Moves toward C with a steady speed.

**e.** Moves toward C with an increasing speed.



# 25.5 The Electric Potential Inside a Parallel-Plate Capacitor

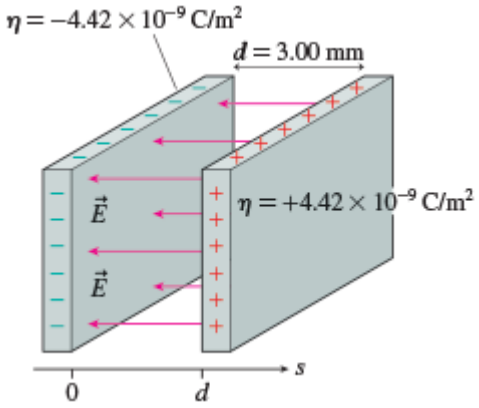
We began this chapter with the potential energy of a charge inside a parallel-plate capacitor. Now let's investigate the electric potential. Figure 25.18 shows two parallel electrodes, separated by distance $d$, with surface charge density $\pm\eta$. As a specific example, we'll let $d = 3.00$ mm and $\eta = 4.42 \times 10^{-9}$ C/m$^2$. The electric field inside the capacitor, as you learned in Chapter 23, is

**(25.23)**

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E} &= \left(\frac{\eta}{\epsilon_0}, \text{from positive toward negative}\right)\\ &= (500\ \text{N/C}, \text{from right to left})\end{aligned}$$

This electric field is due to the *source charges* on the capacitor plates.

**Figure 25.18**




A parallel-plate capacitor.

In Section 25.1, we found that the electric potential energy of a charge $q$ in the uniform electric field of a parallel-plate capacitor is

**(25.24)**

$$U_{\text{elec}} = U_{q\,+\,\text{sources}} = qEs$$

We've set the constant term $U_0$ to zero. $U_{\text{elec}}$ is the energy of $q$ interacting with the source charges on the capacitor plates.

Our new view of the interaction is to separate the role of charge $q$ from the role of the source charges by defining the electric potential $V = U_{q\,+\,\text{sources}}/q$. Thus the electric potential inside a parallel-plate capacitor is

---

**(25.25)**

$$V = Es \qquad \text{(electric potential inside a parallel-plate capacitor)}$$

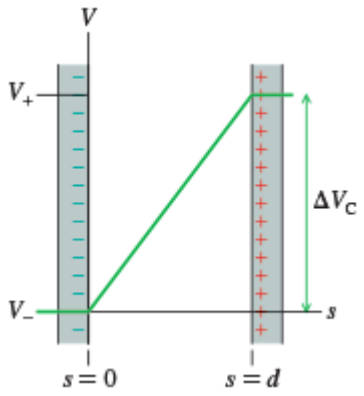
where ***s* is the distance from the *negative* electrode**. The electric potential, like the electric field, exists at *all points* inside the capacitor. The electric potential is created by the source charges on the capacitor plates and exists whether or not charge $q$ is inside the capacitor.

Figure 25.19 illustrates the important point that the electric potential increases linearly from the negative plate, where $V_- = 0$, to the positive plate, where $V_+ = Ed$. Let's define the *potential difference* $\Delta V_{\text{C}}$ between the two capacitor plates to be

**(25.26)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{C}} = V_+ - V_- = Ed$$

## Figure 25.19




The electric potential of a parallel-plate capacitor increases linearly from the negative to the positive plate.

In our specific example, $\Delta V_\mathrm{C} = (500\,\mathrm{N/C})(0.0030\,\mathrm{m}) = 1.5\,\mathrm{V}$. The units work out because $1.5\ (\mathrm{N\,m})/\mathrm{C} = 1.5\ \mathrm{J/C} = 1.5\ \mathrm{V}$.

> **Note**
>
> People who work with circuits would call $\Delta V_\mathrm{C}$ "the voltage across the capacitor" or simply "the capacitor voltage."

Equation 25.26 has an interesting implication. Thus far, we've determined the electric field inside a capacitor by specifying the surface charge density $\eta$ on the plates. Alternatively, we could specify the capacitor voltage $\Delta V_\mathrm{C}$ (i.e., the potential difference between the capacitor plates) and then determine the electric field strength as

**(25.27)**

$$E = \frac{\Delta V_\mathrm{C}}{d}$$

In fact, this is how $E$ is determined in practical applications because it's easy to measure $\Delta V_\mathrm{C}$ with a voltmeter but difficult, in practice, to know the value of $\eta$.

Equation 25.27 implies that the units of electric field are volts per meter, or V/m. We have been using electric field units of newtons per coulomb. In fact, as you can show as a homework problem, these units are equivalent to each other. That is,

$$1\ \mathrm{N/C} = 1\ \mathrm{V/m}$$

> **Note**
>
> Volts per meter are the electric field units used by scientists and engineers in practice. We will now adopt them as our standard electric field units.



Returning to the electric potential, we can substitute Equation 25.27 for $E$ into Equation 25.25 for $V$. Thus the electric potential inside the capacitor is

**(25.28)**

$$V = Es = \frac{s}{d}\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}$$

The potential increases linearly from $V_{-} = 0\ \mathrm{V}$ at the negative plate $(s = 0)$ to $V_{+} = \Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}$ at the positive plate $(s = d)$.

## Visualizing Electric Potential

Let's explore the electric potential inside the capacitor by looking at several different, but related, ways that the potential can be represented graphically.

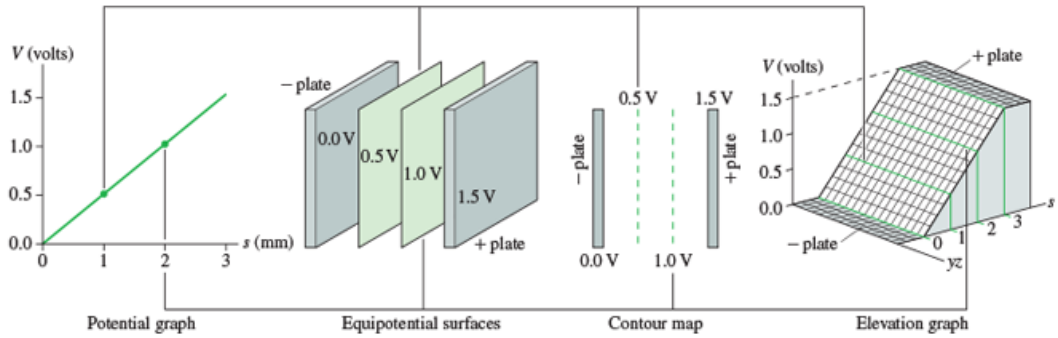
**Graphical representations of the electric potential inside a capacitor**

A graph of potential versus $s$. You can see the potential increasing from 0.0 V at the negative plate to 1.5 V at the positive plate.

A three-dimensional view showing **equipotential surfaces.** These are mathematical surfaces, not physical surfaces, with the same value of $V$ at every point. The equipotential surfaces of a capacitor are planes parallel to the capacitor plates. The capacitor plates are also equipotential surfaces.

A two-dimensional **contour map.** The capacitor plates and the equipotential surfaces are seen edge-on, so you need to imagine them extending above and below the plane of the page.

A three-dimensional **elevation graph.** The potential is graphed vertically versus the $s$-coordinate on one axis and a generalized "yz-coordinate" on the other axis. Viewing the right face of the elevation graph gives you the potential graph.




These four graphical representations show the same information from different perspectives, and the connecting lines help you see how they are related. If you think of the elevation graph as a "mountain," then the contour lines on the contour map are like the lines of a topographic map.

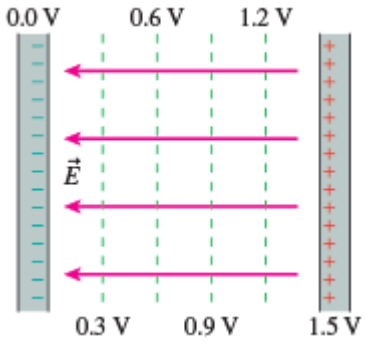
The potential graph and the contour map are the two representations most widely used in practice because they are easy to draw. Their limitation is that they are trying to convey three-dimensional information in a two-dimensional presentation. When you see graphs or contour maps, you need to imagine the three-dimensional equipotential surfaces or the three-dimensional elevation graph.



There's nothing special about showing equipotential surfaces or contour lines every 0.5 V. We chose these intervals because they were convenient. As an alternative, Figure 25.20 shows how the contour map looks if the contour lines are spaced every 0.3 V. Contour lines and equipotential surfaces are *imaginary* lines and surfaces drawn to help us visualize how the potential changes in space. Drawing the map more than one way reinforces the idea that there is an electric potential at *every*

point inside the capacitor, not just at the points where we happened to draw a contour line or an equipotential surface.

## Figure 25.20




Equipotentials and electric field vectors inside a parallel-plate capacitor.

Figure 25.20 also shows the electric field vectors. Notice that

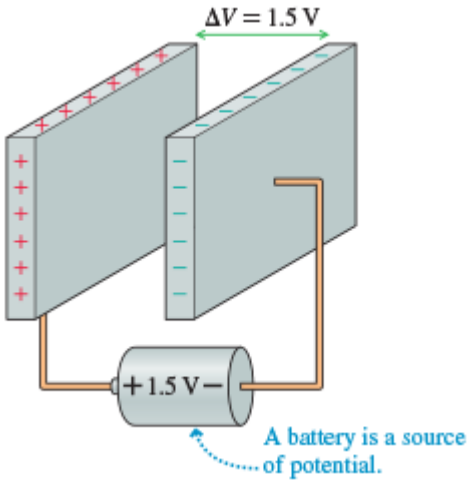
- The electric field vectors are perpendicular to the equipotential surfaces.
- The electric field points in the direction of decreasing potential. In other words, the electric field points "downhill" on a graph or map of the electric potential.

Chapter 26 will present a more in-depth exploration of the connection between the electric field and the electric potential. There you will find that these observations are always true. They are not unique to the parallel-plate capacitor.

Finally, you might wonder how we can arrange a capacitor to have a surface charge density of precisely $4.42 \times 10^{-9}$ C/m$^2$. Simple! As Figure 25.21 shows, we use wires to attach 3.00-mm-spaced capacitor plates to a 1.5 V battery. This is another topic that we'll explore in Chapter 26, but it's worth noting now that **a battery is a source of potential**. That's

why batteries are labeled in volts, and it's a major reason we need to thoroughly understand the concept of potential.

## Figure 25.21




Using a battery to charge a capacitor to a precise value of $\Delta V_C$.

### Example 25.7 Measuring the speed of a proton

You've been assigned the task of measuring the speed of protons as they emerge from a small accelerator. To do so, you decide to measure how much voltage is needed across a parallel-plate capacitor to stop the protons. The capacitor you choose has a 2.0 mm plate separation and a small hole in one plate that you shoot the protons through. By filling the space between the plates with a low-density gas, you can see (with a microscope) a slight glow from the region where the protons collide with and excite the gas molecules. The width of the glow tells you how far the protons travel before being stopped and reversing direction. Varying the voltage across the capacitor gives the following data:

| Voltage (V) | Glow width (mm) |
|---|---|
| 1000 | 1.7 |
| 1250 | 1.3 |
| 1500 | 1.1 |
| 1750 | 1.0 |
| 2000 | 0.8 |

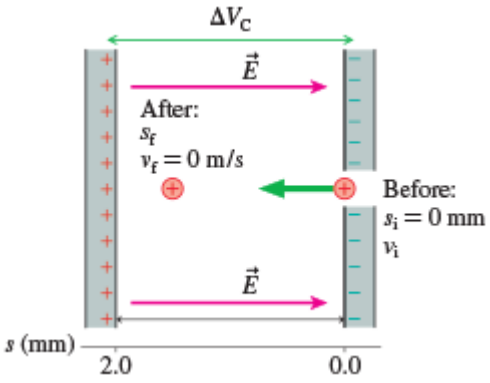
What value will you report for the speed of the protons?

---

**MODEL** The system is the proton plus the capacitor charges. This is an isolated system, so mechanical energy is conserved.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.22 is a before-and-after pictorial representation of the proton entering the capacitor with speed $v_i$ and later reaching a turning point with $v_f = 0$ m/s after traveling distance $s_f =$ glow width. For the protons to slow, the hole through which they pass has to be in the negative plate. The $s$-axis has $s = 0$ at this point.

## Figure 25.22




A proton stopping in a capacitor.

**SOLVE** The conservation of energy equation, with the proton having charge $q = e$, is $K_f + eV_f = K_i + eV_i$. The initial potential energy is zero, because the capacitor's electric potential is zero at

$s_i = 0$, and the final kinetic energy is zero. Equation 25.28 for the potential inside the capacitor gives

$$eV_f = e\left(\frac{s_f}{d}\Delta V_C\right) = K_i = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_i{}^2$$

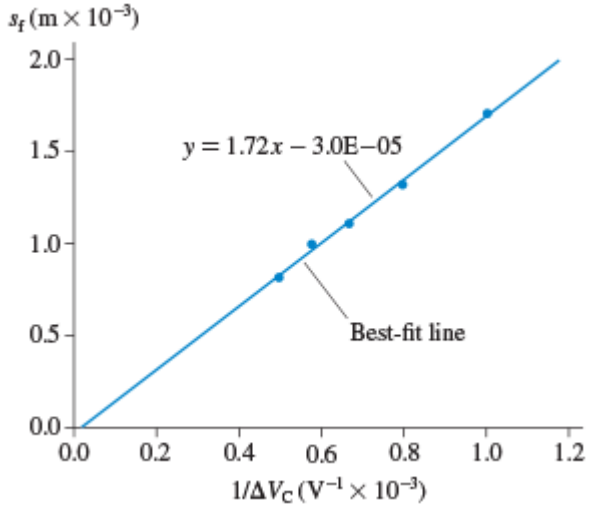
Solving for the distance traveled, you find

$$s_f = \frac{dmv_i^2}{2e}\frac{1}{\Delta V_C}$$

Thus a graph of the distance traveled versus the *inverse* of the capacitor voltage should be a straight line with zero $y$-intercept and slope $dmv_i^2/2e$. You can use the experimentally determined slope to find the proton speed.

Figure 25.23 is a graph of $s_f$ versus $1/\Delta V_C$. It has the expected shape, and the slope of the best-fit line is seen to be 1.72 V m. The units are those of the rise-over-run. Using the slope, you calculate the proton speed:

**Figure 25.23**



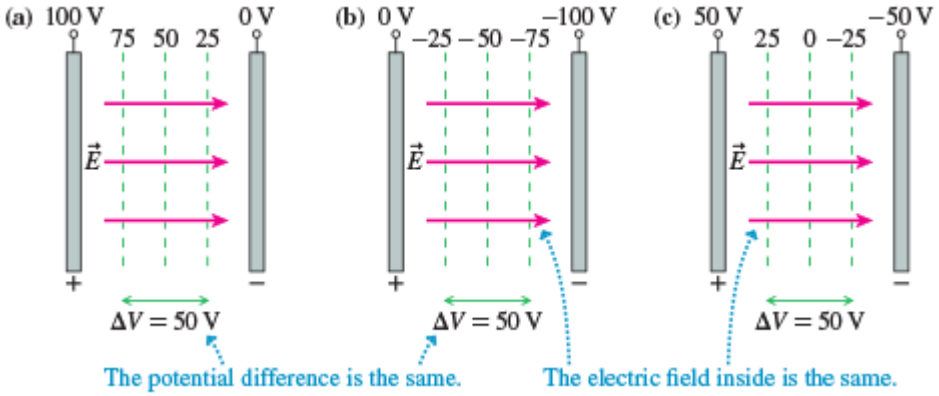

A graph of the data.

$$v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2e}{dm} \times \text{slope}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C})(1.72\ \text{V m})}{(0.0020\ \text{m})(1.67 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg})}}$$
$$= 4.1 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** This would be a very high speed for a macroscopic object but is quite typical of the speeds of charged particles.

In writing the electric potential inside a parallel-plate capacitor, we made the choice that $V_- = 0$ V at the negative plate. But that is not the only possible choice. Figure 25.24 on the next page shows three parallel-plate capacitors, each having the same capacitor voltage $\Delta V_C = V_+ - V_- = 100$ V, but each with a different choice for the location of the zero point of the electric potential. Notice the *terminal symbols* (lines with small circles at the end) showing how the potential, from a battery or a power supply, is applied to each plate; these symbols are common in electronics.

## Figure 25.24



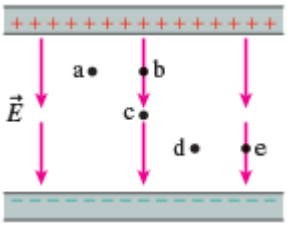

These three choices for $V = 0$ represent the same physical situation. These are contour maps, showing the edges of the equipotential surfaces.

The important thing to notice is that the three contour maps in Figure 25.24 represent the *same physical situation*. The potential difference

between any two points is the same in all three maps. The electric field is the same in all three. We may *prefer* one of these figures over the others, but there is no measurable physical difference between them.

## Stop to Think 25.4

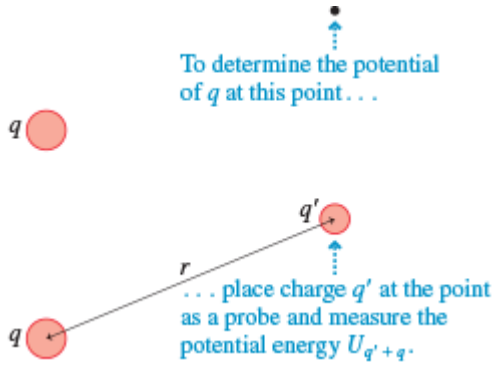
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the potentials $V_a$ to $V_e$ at the points a to e.



# 25.6 The Electric Potential of a Point Charge

Another important electric potential is that of a point charge. Let $q$ in Figure 25.25 be the source charge, and let a second charge $q'$ probe the electric potential of $q$. The potential energy of the two point charges is

**Figure 25.25**




Measuring the electric potential of charge $q$.

**(25.29)**

$$U_{q'+q} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{qq'}{r}$$

Thus, by definition, the electric potential of charge $q$ is

**(25.30)**

$$V = \frac{U_{q'+q}}{q'} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r} \qquad \text{(electric potential of a point charge)}$$

The potential of Equation 25.30 extends through all of space, showing the influence of charge $q$, but it weakens with distance as $1/r$. This expression for $V$ assumes that we have chosen $V = 0\ \text{V}$ to be at $r = \infty$. This is the most logical choice for a point charge because the influence of charge $q$ ends at infinity.

The expression for the electric potential of charge $q$ is similar to that for the electric field of charge $q$. The difference most quickly seen is that $V$ depends on $1/r$ whereas $\vec{E}$ depends on $1/r^2$. But it is also important to notice that **the potential is a scalar** whereas the field is a vector. Thus the mathematics of using the potential are much easier than the vector mathematics using the electric field requires.

For example, the electric potential 1.0 cm from a +1.0 nC charge is

$$V_{1\text{ cm}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r} = (9.0 \times 10^9\ \text{N}\,\text{m}^2/\text{C}^2)\ \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{C}}{0.010\ \text{m}} = 900\ \text{V}$$

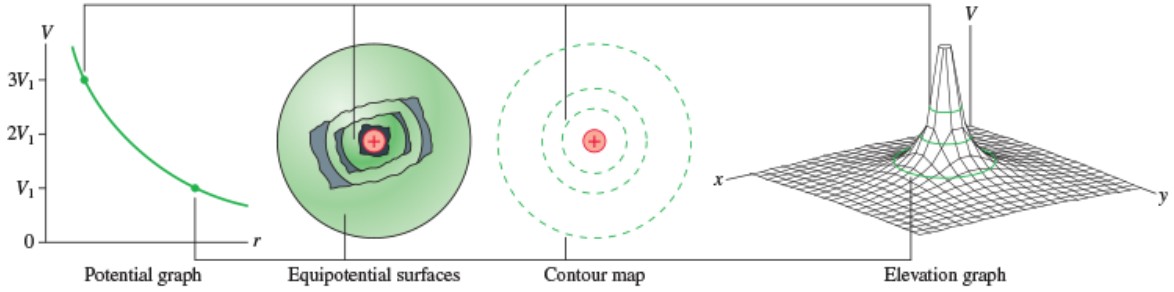
1 nC is typical of the electrostatic charge produced by rubbing, and you can see that such a charge creates a fairly large potential nearby. Why are we not shocked and injured when working with the "high voltages" of such charges? The sensation of being shocked is a result of current, not potential. Some high-potential sources simply do not have the ability to generate much current. We will look at this issue in Chapter 28.

## Visualizing the Potential of a Point Charge

Figure 25.26 shows four graphical representations of the electric potential of a point charge. These match the four representations of the electric potential inside a capacitor, and a comparison of the two is

worthwhile. This figure assumes that $q$ is positive; you may want to think about how the representations would change if $q$ were negative.

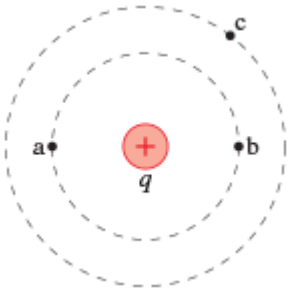
**Figure 25.26**




Four graphical representations of the electric potential of a point charge.

### Stop to Think 25.5

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the potential differences $\Delta V_{ab}$, $\Delta V_{ac}$, and $\Delta V_{bc}$ between points a and b, points a and c, and points b and c.




## The Electric Potential of a Charged Sphere

In practice, you are more likely to work with a charged sphere, of radius $R$ and total charge $Q$, than with a point charge. Outside a uniformly

charged sphere, the electric potential is identical to that of a point charge $Q$ at the center. That is,

**(25.31)**

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{r} \qquad (\text{sphere of charge}, r \geq R)$$

We can cast this result in a more useful form. It is customary to speak of charging an electrode, such as a sphere, "to" a certain potential, as in "Bob charged the sphere to a potential of 3000 volts." This potential, which we will call $V_0$, is the potential right on the surface of the sphere. We can see from Equation 25.31 that

**(25.32)**

$$V_0 = V(\text{at } r = R) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R}$$

Consequently, a sphere of radius $R$ that is charged to potential $V_0$ has total charge

**(25.33)**

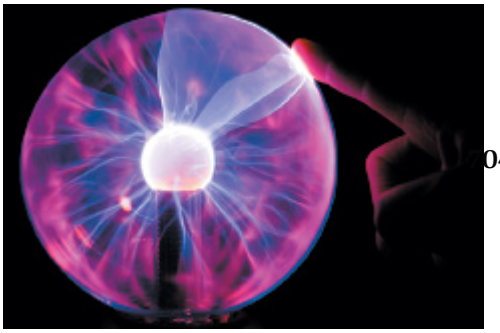
$$Q = 4\pi\epsilon_0 R V_0$$

If we substitute this expression for $Q$ into Equation 25.31, we can write the potential outside a sphere that is charged to potential $V_0$ as

**(25.34)**

$$V = \frac{R}{r}V_0 \qquad (\text{sphere charged to potential } V_0)$$

Equation 25.34 tells us that the potential of a sphere is $V_0$ on the surface and decreases inversely with the distance. The potential at $r = 3R$ is $\frac{1}{3}V_0$.



A *plasma ball* consists of a small metal ball charged to a potential of about 2000 V inside a hollow glass sphere. The electric field of the high-voltage ball is sufficient to cause a gas breakdown at this pressure, creating "lightning bolts" between the ball and the glass sphere.

### Example 25.8 A proton and a charged sphere

A proton is released from rest at the surface of a 1.0-cm-diameter sphere that has been charged to +1000 V.

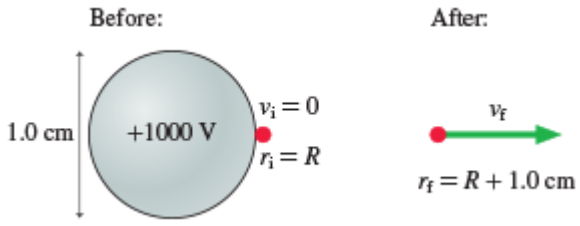
**a.** What is the charge of the sphere?

**b.** What is the proton's speed at 1.0 cm from the sphere?

**MODEL** Energy is conserved. The potential outside the charged sphere is the same as the potential of a point charge at the center.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.27 shows the situation.

**Figure 25.27**




A sphere and a proton.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The charge of the sphere is

$$Q = 4\pi\epsilon_0 R V_0 = 0.56 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{C} = 0.56\ \text{nC}$$

**b.** A sphere charged to $V_0 = +1000$ V is positively charged. The proton will be repelled by this charge and move away from the sphere. The conservation of energy equation $K_\text{f} + eV_\text{f} = K_\text{i} + eV_\text{i}$, with Equation 25.34 for the potential of a sphere, is

$$\tfrac{1}{2}mv_\text{f}^2 + \frac{eR}{r_\text{f}}V_0 = \tfrac{1}{2}mv_\text{i}^2 + \frac{eR}{r_\text{i}}V_0$$

The proton starts from the surface of the sphere, $r_\text{i} = R$, with $v_\text{i} = 0$. When the proton is 1.0 cm from the *surface* of the sphere, it has $r_\text{f} = 1.0\ \text{cm} + R = 1.5\ \text{cm}$. Using these, we can solve for $v_\text{f}$:

$$v_\text{f} = \sqrt{\frac{2eV_0}{m}\left(1 - \frac{R}{r_\text{f}}\right)} = 3.6 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** This example illustrates how the ideas of electric potential and potential energy work together, yet they are *not* the same thing.

# 25.7 The Electric Potential of Many Charges



Suppose there are many source charges $q_1$, $q_2$, . . . . The electric potential $V$ at a point in space is the sum of the potentials due to each charge:

**(25.35)**

$$V = \sum_i \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_i}{r_i}$$

where $r_i$ is the distance from charge $q_i$ to the point in space where the potential is being calculated. In other words, **the electric potential, like the electric field, obeys the principle of superposition**.

As an example, the contour map and elevation graph in Figure 25.28 show that the potential of an electric dipole is the sum of the potentials of the positive and negative charges. Potentials such as these have many practical applications. For example, electrical activity within the body can be monitored by measuring equipotential lines on the skin. Figure 25.28c shows that the equipotentials near the heart are a slightly distorted but recognizable electric dipole.

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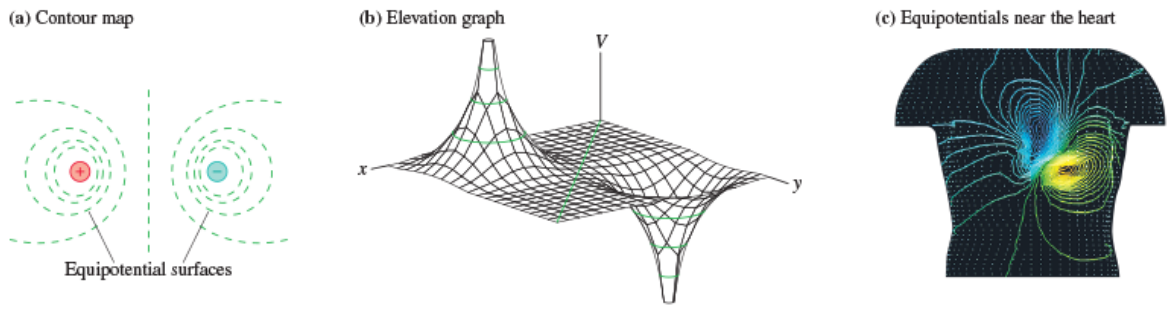
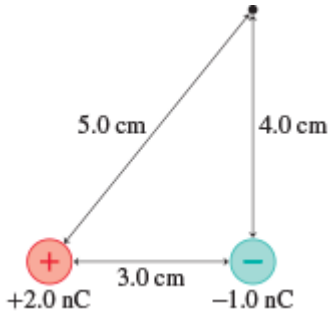
## Figure 25.28



### Example 25.9 The potential of two charges

What is the electric potential at the point indicated in Figure 25.29?

**Figure 25.29**




Finding the potential of two charges.

**MODEL** The potential is the sum of the potentials due to each charge.

**SOLVE** The potential at the indicated point is

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r_1} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_2}{r_2} \\ &= (9.0 \times 10^9\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})\left(\frac{2.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C}}{0.050\ \mathrm{m}} + \frac{-1.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C}}{0.040\ \mathrm{m}}\right) \\ &= 135\ \mathrm{V} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The potential is a *scalar,* so we found the net potential by adding two numbers. We don't need any angles or components to calculate the potential.

# A Continuous Distribution of Charge

Equation 25.35 is the basis for determining the potential of a continuous distribution of charge, such as a charged rod or a charged disk. The procedure is much like the one you learned in Chapter 23 for calculating the electric field of a continuous distribution of charge, but *easier* because the potential is a scalar. We will continue to assume that the object is *uniformly charged*, meaning that the charges are evenly spaced over the object.

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**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 25.2 The electric potential of a continuous distribution of charge**

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**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the charge distribution as a simple shape.

**VISUALIZE** For the pictorial representation:

- Draw a picture, establish a coordinate system, and identify the point P at which you want to calculate the electric potential.
- Divide the total charge $Q$ into small pieces of charge $\Delta Q$, using shapes for which you *already know* how to determine $V$. This division is often, but not always, into point charges.
- Identify distances that need to be calculated.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is $V = \sum V_i$.

- Use superposition to form an algebraic expression for the potential at P. Let the $(x,y,z)$ coordinates of the point remain as variables.

- Replace the small charge $\Delta Q$ with an equivalent expression involving a *charge density* and a *coordinate*, such as $dx$. **This is the critical step in making the transition from a sum to an integral** because you need a coordinate to serve as the integration variable.
- All distances must be expressed in terms of the coordinates.
- Let the sum become an integral. The integration limits will depend on the coordinate system you have chosen.

**ASSESS** Check that your result is consistent with any limits for which you know what the potential should be.

Workbook Exercise 29



### Example 25.10 The potential of a ring of charge

A thin, uniformly charged ring of radius $R$ has total charge $Q$. Find the potential at distance $z$ on the axis of the ring.

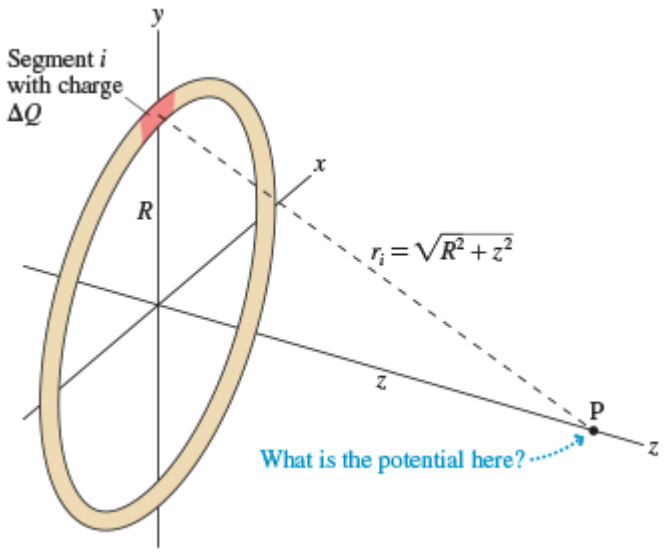
**MODEL** Because the ring is thin, we'll assume the charge lies along a circle of radius $R$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 25.30 on the next page illustrates the problem-solving strategy. We've chosen a coordinate system in which the ring lies in the $xy$-plane and point P is on the $z$-axis. We've then divided the ring into $N$ small segments of charge $\Delta Q$, each of which can be modeled as a point charge. The distance $r_i$ between segment $i$ and point P is

$$r_i = \sqrt{R^2 + z^2}$$

Note that $r_i$ is a constant distance, the same for every charge segment.

## Figure 25.30




Finding the potential of a ring of charge.

**SOLVE** The potential $V$ at P is the sum of the potentials due to each segment of charge:

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^{N} V_i = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\Delta Q}{r_i} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \Delta Q$$

We were able to bring all terms involving $z$ to the front because $z$ is a constant as far as the summation is concerned. Surprisingly, we don't need to convert the sum to an integral to complete this calculation. The sum of all the $\Delta Q$ charge segments around the ring is simply the ring's total charge, $\Sigma(\Delta Q) = Q$; hence the electric potential on the axis of a charged ring is

$$V_{\text{ring on axis}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}}$$

**ASSESS** From far away, the ring appears as a point charge $Q$ in the distance. Thus we expect the potential of the ring to be that of a point charge when $z \gg R$. You can see that $V_{\text{ring}} \approx Q/4\pi\epsilon_0 z$ when $z \gg R$, which is, indeed, the potential of a point charge $Q$.

### Challenge Example 25.11 The potential of a charged disk

A thin plastic disk of radius $R$ is uniformly coated with charge until it receives total charge $Q$.

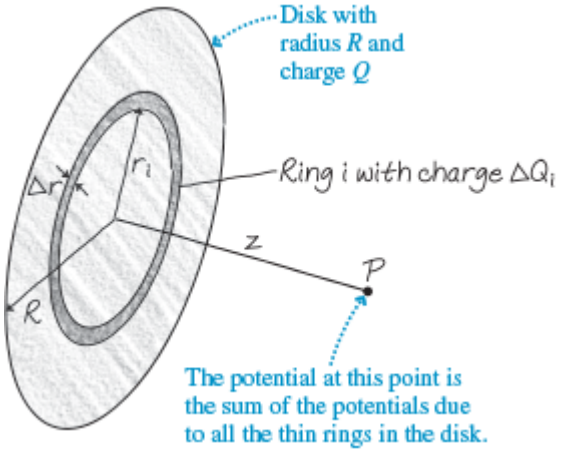
**a.** What is the potential at distance $z$ along the axis of the disk?

**b.** What is the potential energy if an electron is 1.00 cm from a 35.0-cm-diameter disk that has been charged to +5.00 nC?

**MODEL** Model the disk as a uniformly charged disk of zero thickness, radius $R$, and charge $Q$. The disk has uniform surface charge density $\eta = Q/A = Q/\pi R^2$. We can take advantage of now knowing the on-axis potential of a ring of charge.

**VISUALIZE** Orient the disk in the $xy$-plane, as shown in Figure 25.31, with point P at distance $z$. Then divide the disk into *rings* of equal width $\Delta r$. Ring $i$ has radius $r_i$ and charge $\Delta Q_i$.

**Figure 25.31**




Finding the potential of a disk of charge.

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## SOLVE

**a.** We can use the result of Example 25.10 to write the potential at distance $z$ of ring $i$ as

$$V_i = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\Delta Q_i}{\sqrt{r_i^2 + z^2}}$$

The potential at P due to all the rings is the sum

$$V = \sum_i V_i = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{\Delta Q_i}{\sqrt{r_i^2 + z^2}}$$

The critical step is to relate $\Delta Q_i$ to a coordinate. Because we now have a surface, rather than a line, the charge in ring $i$ is $\Delta Q_i = \eta \Delta A_i$, where $\Delta A_i$ is the area of ring $i$. We can find $\Delta A_i$, as you've learned to do in calculus, by "unrolling" the ring to form a narrow rectangle of length $2\pi r_i$ and height $\Delta r$. Thus the area of ring $i$ is $\Delta A_i = 2\pi r_i \, \Delta r$ and the charge is

$$\Delta Q_i = \eta\,\Delta A_i = \frac{Q}{\pi R^2} 2\pi r_i\,\Delta r = \frac{2Q}{R^2}\,r_i\,\Delta r$$

With this substitution, the potential at P is

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{2Q}{R^2}\frac{r_i\,\Delta r_i}{\sqrt{r_i^2+z^2}} \to \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}\int_0^R \frac{r\,dr}{\sqrt{r^2+z^2}}$$

where, in the last step, we let $N \to \infty$ and the sum become an integral. This integral can be found in Appendix A, but it's not hard to evaluate with a change of variables. Let $u = r^2 + z^2$, in which case $r\,dr = \frac{1}{2}du$. Changing variables requires that we also change the integration limits. You can see that $u = z^2$ when $r = 0$, and $u = R^2 + z^2$ when $r = R$. With these changes, the on-axis potential of a charged disk is

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{disk on axis}} &= \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}\int_{z^2}^{R^2+z^2}\frac{\frac{1}{2}\,du}{u^{1/2}} = \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}u^{1/2}\Big|_{z^2}^{R^2+z^2} \\ &= \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}\left(\sqrt{R^2+z^2} - z\right) \end{aligned}$$

**b.** To calculate the potential energy, we first need to determine the potential of the disk at $z = 1.00$ cm. Using $R = 0.0175$ m and $Q = 5.00$ nC, you can calculate $V = 3870$ V. The electron's charge is $q = -e = -1.60 \times 10^{-19}$ C, so the potential energy with an electron at $z = 1.00$ cm is $U = qV = -6.19 \times 10^{-16}$ J.

**ASSESS** Although we had to go through a number of steps, this procedure is easier than evaluating the electric field because we do not have to worry about vector components.

# Summary



> The goals of Chapter 25 have been to use the electric potential and electric potential energy.

## General Principles

### Sources of Potential

The **electric potential** $V$, like the electric field, is created by source charges. Two major tools for calculating the potential are:

- The potential of a point charge, $V = \dfrac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\dfrac{q}{r}$
- The principle of superposition

#### For multiple point charges

Use superposition: $V = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + \cdots$

#### For a continuous distribution of charge

**MODEL** Model as a simple charge distribution.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a pictorial representation.

- Establish a coordinate system.
- Identify where the potential will be calculated.

**SOLVE** Set up a sum.

- Divide the charge into point-like $\Delta Q$.

- Find the potential due to each $\Delta Q$.
- Use the charge density ($\lambda$ or $\eta$) to replace $\Delta Q$ with an integration coordinate, then sum by integrating.

$V$ is easier to calculate than $\vec{E}$ because potential is a scalar.

## Electric Potential Energy

If charge $q$ is placed in an electric potential $V$, the system's **electric potential energy** (interaction energy) is

$$U = qV$$

### Point charges and dipoles

The electric potential energy of two **point charges** is

$$U_{q_1+q_2} = \frac{Kq_1q_2}{r} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1q_2}{r}$$

The potential energy of two opposite charges is negative.

The potential energy in an electric field of an **electric dipole** with dipole moment $\vec{p}$ is

$$U_{\text{dipole}} = -pE\cos\theta = -\vec{p}.\vec{E}$$

### Solving conservation of energy problems

**MODEL** Model as an isolated system.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after representation.

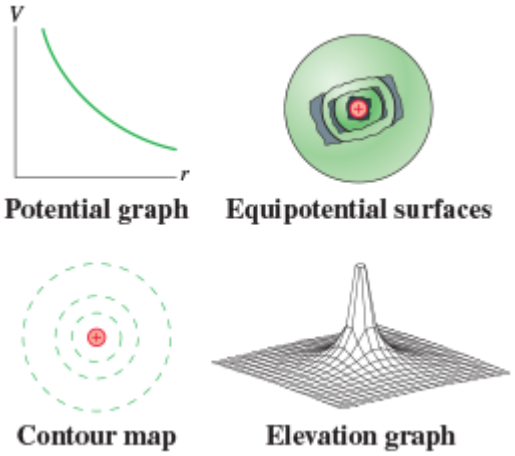
**SOLVE**

Mechanical energy is conserved.

- Mathematically $K_\mathrm{f} + qV_\mathrm{f} = K_\mathrm{i} + qV_\mathrm{i}$.
- $K$ is the sum of the kinetic energies of all particles.
- $V$ is the potential due to the source charges.

# Applications

Graphical representations of the potential:



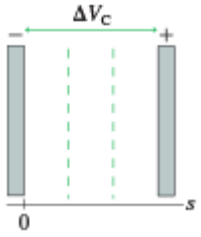

## Sphere of charge $Q$

Same as a point charge if $r \geq R$

## Parallel-plate capacitor

$V = Es$, where $s$ is measured from the negative plate. The electric field inside is

$$E = \frac{\Delta V_\mathrm{C}}{d}$$




### Units

Electric potential: $1\ \mathrm{V} = 1\ \mathrm{J/C}$

Electric field: $1\ \mathrm{V/m} = 1\ \mathrm{N/C}$

## Terms and Notation

electric potential energy, $U$

electric potential, $V$

volt, $V$

potential difference, $\Delta V$

voltage, $\Delta V$

equipotential surface

contour map

elevation graph

# Conceptual Questions

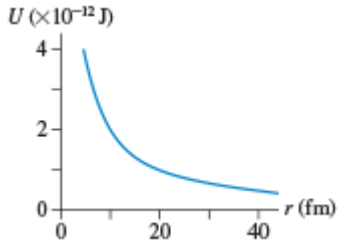


**1.** **a.** Charge $q_1$ is distance $r$ from a positive point charge $Q$. Charge $q_2 = q_1/3$ is distance $2r$ from $Q$. What is the ratio $U_1/U_2$ of their potential energies due to their interactions with $Q$?

**b.** Charge $q_1$ is distance $s$ from the negative plate of a parallel-plate capacitor. Charge $q_2 = q_1/3$ is distance $2s$ from the negative plate. What is the ratio $U_1/U_2$ of their potential energies?

**2.** Figure Q25.2 shows the potential energy of a proton $(q = +e)$ and a lead nucleus $(q = +82e)$. The horizontal scale is in units of *femtometers*, where $1\ \text{fm} = 10^{-15}\ \text{m}$.

**Figure Q25.2**




**a.** A proton is fired toward a lead nucleus from very far away. How much initial kinetic energy does the proton need to reach a turning point 10 fm from the nucleus? Explain.

**b.** How much kinetic energy does the proton of part a have when it is 20 fm from the nucleus and moving toward it, before the collision?

**3.** An electron moves along the trajectory of Figure Q25.3 from i to f.

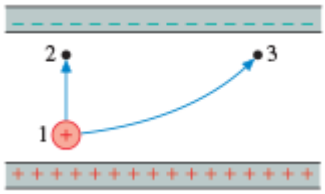
**Figure Q25.3**

**a.** Does the electric potential energy increase, decrease, or stay the same? Explain.

**b.** Is the electron's speed at f greater than, less than, or equal to its speed at i? Explain.

**4.** Two protons are launched with the same speed from point 1 inside the parallel-plate capacitor of Figure Q25.4. Points 2 and 3 are the same distance from the negative plate.

**Figure Q25.4**

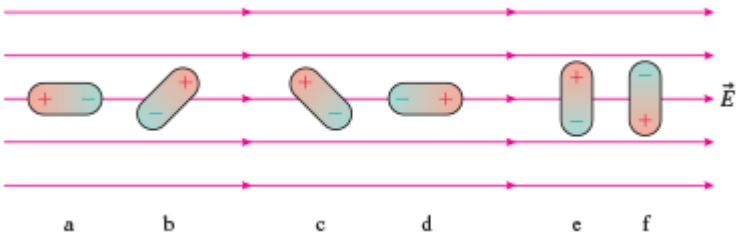



**a.** Is $\Delta U_{1\to 2}$, the change in potential energy along the path $1 \to 2$, larger than, smaller than, or equal to $\Delta U_{1\to 3}$?

**b.** Is the proton's speed $v_2$ at point 2 larger than, smaller than, or equal to $v_3$? Explain.

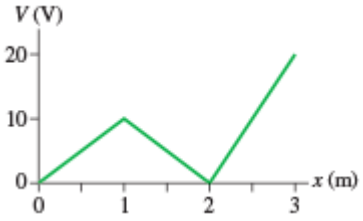
**5.** Rank in order, from most positive to most negative, the potential energies $U_a$ to $U_f$ of the six electric dipoles in the uniform electric field of Figure Q25.5. Explain.

**Figure Q25.5**




**6.** Figure Q25.6 shows the electric potential along the $x$-axis.

**Figure Q25.6**




**a.** Draw a graph of the potential energy of a 0.1 C charged particle. Provide a numerical scale for both axes.

**b.** If the charged particle is shot toward the right from $x = 1$ m with 1.0 J of kinetic energy, where is its turning point? Use your graph to explain.

**7.** A capacitor with plates separated by distance $d$ is charged to a potential difference $\Delta V_C$. All wires and batteries are disconnected, then the two plates are pulled apart (with insulated handles) to a new separation of distance $2d$.

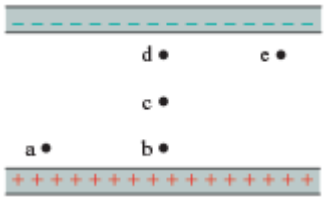
**a.** Does the capacitor charge $Q$ change as the separation increases? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**b.** Does the electric field strength $E$ change as the separation increases? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**c.** Does the potential difference $\Delta V_C$ change as the separation increases? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**8.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the electric potentials $V_a$ to $V_e$ at points a to e in Figure Q25.8. Explain.

**Figure Q25.8**

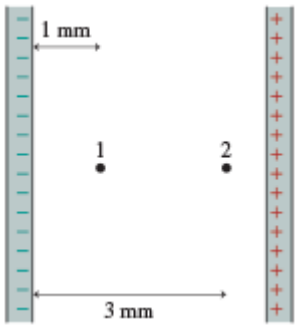



**9.** Figure Q25.9 shows two points inside a capacitor. Let $V = 0$ V at the negative plate.

**a.** What is the ratio $V_2/V_1$ of the electric potentials? Explain.

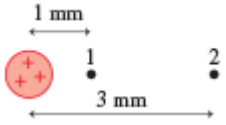
**b.** What is the ratio $E_2/E_1$ of the electric field strengths?

**Figure Q25.9**




**10.** Figure Q25.10 shows two points near a positive point charge.

**Figure Q25.10**

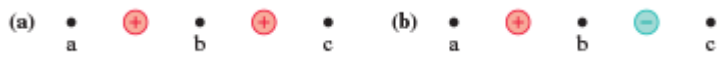



**a.** What is the ratio $V_2/V_1$ of the electric potentials? Explain.

**b.** What is the ratio $E_2/E_1$ of the electric field strengths?

**11.** Figure Q25.11 shows three points near two point charges. The charges have equal magnitudes. For each part, rank in order, from most positive to most negative, the potentials $V_a$ to $V_c$.

**Figure Q25.11**




**12.** Reproduce Figure Q25.12 on your paper. Then draw a dot (or dots) on the figure to show the position (or positions) at which the electric potential is zero.

**Figure Q25.12**

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 25.1 Electric Potential Energy

**1.** •• The electric field strength is 20,000 N/C inside a parallel-plate capacitor with a 1.0 mm spacing. An electron is released from rest at the negative plate. What is the electron's speed when it reaches the positive plate?

**2.** •• The electric field strength is 50,000 N/C inside a parallel-plate capacitor with a 2.0 mm spacing. A proton is released

from rest at the positive plate. What is the proton's speed when it reaches the negative plate?

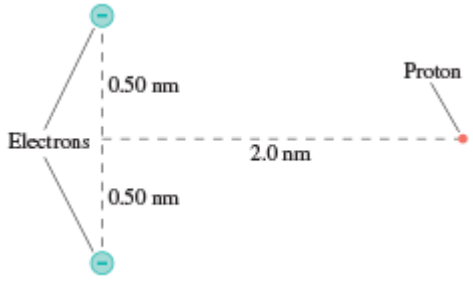
**3.** •• A proton is released from rest at the positive plate of a parallelplate capacitor. It crosses the capacitor and reaches the negative plate with a speed of 50,000 m/s. What will be the final speed of an electron released from rest at the negative plate?

**4.** • A proton is released from rest at the positive plate of a parallelplate capacitor. It crosses the capacitor and reaches the negative plate with a speed of 50,000 m/s. The experiment is repeated with a $He^+$ ion (charge $e$, mass 4 u). What is the ion's speed at the negative plate?

## Section 25.2 The Potential Energy of Point Charges

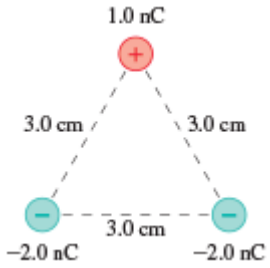
**5.** •• What is the potential energy of the electron-proton interactions in Figure EX25.5? The electrons are fixed and cannot move.

**Figure EX25.5**



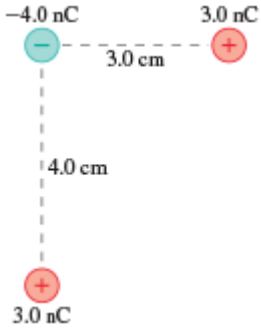

**6.** •• What is the electric potential energy of the group of charges in Figure EX25.6?

**Figure EX25.6**




**7.** •• What is the electric potential energy of the group of charges in Figure EX25.7?

**Figure EX25.7**



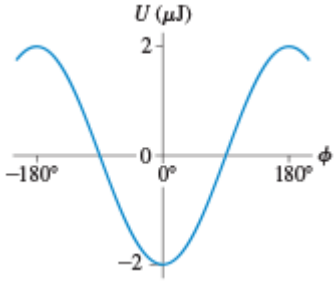

**8.** •• Two positive point charges are 5.0 cm apart. If the electric potential energy is 72 $\mu$J, what is the magnitude of the force between the two charges?

## Section 25.3 The Potential Energy of a Dipole

**9.** •• A water molecule perpendicular to an electric field has $1.0 \times 10^{-21}$ J more potential energy than a water molecule aligned with the field. The dipole moment of a water molecule is $6.2 \times 10^{-30}$ C m. What is the strength of the electric field?

**10.** •• Figure EX25.10 shows the potential energy of an electric dipole. Consider a dipole that oscillates between ±60°.

**Figure EX25.10**




**a.** What is the dipole's mechanical energy?

**b.** What is the dipole's kinetic energy when it is aligned with the electric field?

## Section 25.4 The Electric Potential

**11.** • What is the speed of a proton that has been accelerated from rest through a potential difference of –1000 V?

**12.** • What is the speed of an electron that has been accelerated from rest through a potential difference of 1000 V?

**13.** •• What potential difference is needed to accelerate an electron from rest to a speed of $2.0 \times 10^6$ m/s?



**14.** •• What potential difference is needed to accelerate a $He^+$ ion (charge $+e$, mass 4 u) from rest to a speed of $2.0 \times 10^6$ m/s?

**15.** • A proton with an initial speed of 800,000 m/s is brought to rest by an electric field.

**a.** Did the proton move into a region of higher potential or lower potential?

**b.** What was the potential difference that stopped the proton?

**16.** •• An electron with an initial speed of 500,000 m/s is brought to rest by an electric field.

**a.** Did the electron move into a region of higher potential or lower potential?

**b.** What was the potential difference that stopped the electron?

**17.** • Through what potential difference must a proton be accelerated to reach the speed it would have by falling 100 m in vacuum?

**18.** •• **BIO** In *proton-beam therapy*, a high-energy beam of protons is fired at a tumor. As the protons stop in the tumor, their kinetic energy breaks apart the tumor's DNA, thus killing the tumor cells. For one patient, it is desired to deposit 0.10 J of proton energy in the tumor. To create the proton beam, protons are accelerated from rest through a 10,000 kV potential difference. What is the total charge of the protons that must be fired at the tumor?

**19.** • A student wants to make a very small particle accelerator using a 9.0 V battery. What speed will (a) a proton and (b) an electron have after being accelerated from rest through the 9.0 V potential difference?

**20.** •• Physicists often use a different unit of energy, the *electron volt*, when dealing with energies at the atomic level. One electron volt, abbreviated eV, is defined as the amount of kinetic energy gained by an electron upon accelerating through a 1.0 V potential difference.

**a.** What is 1.0 electron volt in joules?

**b.** What is the speed of a proton with 5000 eV of kinetic energy?

## Section 25.5 The Electric Potential Inside a Parallel-Plate Capacitor

**21.** • Show that $1\ \mathrm{V/m} = 1\ \mathrm{N/C}$.

**22.** ••

**a.** What is the potential of an ordinary AA or AAA battery? (If you're not sure, find one and look at the label.)

**b.** An AA battery is connected to a parallel-plate capacitor having 4.0 cm × 4.0 cm plates spaced 1.0 mm apart. How much charge does the battery supply to each plate?

**23.** •• A 3.0-cm-diameter parallel-plate capacitor has a 2.0 mm spacing. The electric field strength inside the capacitor is $1.0 \times 10^5$ V/m.

**a.** What is the potential difference across the capacitor?

**b.** How much charge is on each plate?

**24.** •• Two 2.00 cm × 2.00 cm plates that form a parallel-plate capacitor are charged to ±0.708 nC. What are the electric field strength inside and the potential difference across the capacitor if the spacing between the plates is (a) 1.00 mm and (b) 2.00 mm?

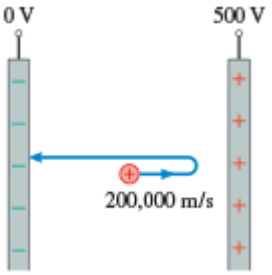
**25.** •• Two 2.0-cm-diameter disks spaced 2.0 mm apart form a parallel-plate capacitor. The electric field between the disks is $5.0 \times 10^5$ V/m.

**a.** What is the voltage across the capacitor?

**b.** An electron is launched from the negative plate. It strikes the positive plate at a speed of $2.0 \times 10^7$ m/s. What was the electron's speed as it left the negative plate?

**26.** •• In Figure EX25.26, a proton is fired with a speed of 200,000 m/s from the midpoint of the capacitor toward the positive plate.

**Figure EX25.26**




**a.** Show that this is insufficient speed to reach the positive plate.

**b.** What is the proton's speed as it collides with the negative plate?

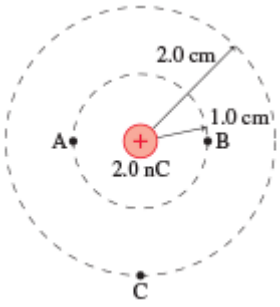
## Section 25.6 The Electric Potential of a Point Charge

**27.** •

**a.** What is the electric potential at points A, B, and C in Figure EX25.27?



**Figure EX25.27**




**b.** What are the potential differences $\Delta V_{AB} = V_B - V_A$ and $\Delta V_{CB} = V_B - V_C$?

**28.** •• A 1.0-mm-diameter ball bearing has $2.0 \times 10^9$ excess electrons. What is the ball bearing's potential?

**29.** • In a semiclassical model of the hydrogen atom, the electron orbits the proton at a distance of 0.053 nm.

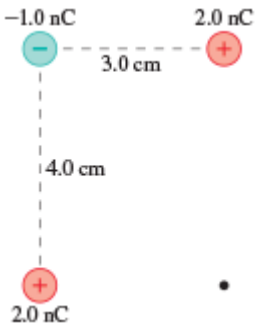
**a.** What is the electric potential of the proton at the position of the electron?

**b.** What is the electron's potential energy?

## Section 25.7 The Electric Potential of Many Charges

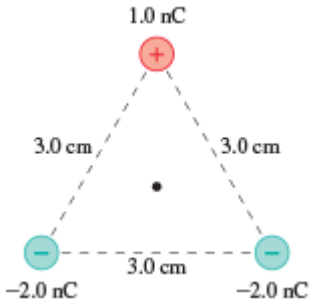
**30.** • What is the electric potential at the point indicated with the dot in Figure EX25.30?

**Figure EX25.30**



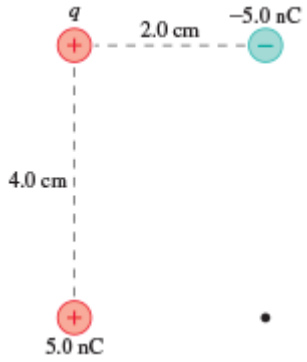

**31.** • What is the electric potential at the point indicated with the dot in Figure EX25.31?

**Figure EX25.31**




**32.** •• The electric potential at the dot in Figure EX25.32 is 3140 V. What is charge $q$?

**Figure EX25.32**




**33.** •• A –2.0 nC charge and a +2.0 nC charge are located on the $x$-axis at $x = -1.0$ cm and $x = +1.0$ cm, respectively.

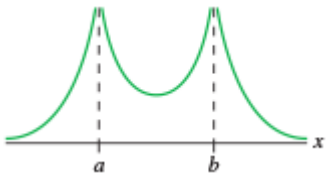
**a.** Other than at infinity, is there a position or positions on the $x$-axis where the electric field is zero? If so, where?

**b.** Other than at infinity, at what position or positions on the $x$-axis is the electric potential zero?

**c.** Sketch graphs of the electric field strength and the electric potential along the $x$-axis.

**34.** •• Two point charges $q_a$ and $q_b$ are located on the $x$-axis at $x = a$ and $x = b$. Figure EX25.34 is a graph of $V$, the electric potential.

**Figure EX25.34**



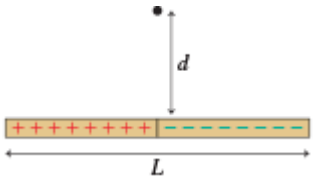

**a.** What are the signs of $q_a$ and $q_b$?

**b.** What is the ratio $|q_a/q_b|$?

**c.** Draw a graph of $E_x$, the $x$-component of the electric field, as a function of $x$.

**35.** • The two halves of the rod in Figure EX25.35 are uniformly charged to $\pm Q$. What is the electric potential at the point indicated by the dot?

**Figure EX25.35**




**36.** •• A 5.0-cm-diameter metal ball has a surface charge density of 10 $\mu$C/m$^2$. How much work is required to remove one electron from this ball?

## Problems

**37.** ••• Two point charges 2.0 cm apart have an electric potential energy –180 $\mu$J. The total charge is 30 nC. What are the two charges?

**38.** ••• A –10.0 nC point charge and a +20.0 nC point charge are 15.0 cm apart on the $x$-axis.

**a.** What is the electric potential at the point on the $x$-axis where the electric field is zero?

**b.** What is the magnitude of the electric field at the point on the $x$-axis, between the charges, where the electric potential is zero?

**39.** ••• A +3.0 nC charge is at $x = 0$ cm and a –1.0 nC charge is at $x = 4$ cm. At what point or points on the $x$-axis is the electric potential zero?

**40.** •• A –3.0 nC charge is on the $x$-axis at $x = -9$ cm and a +4.0 nC charge is on the $x$-axis at $x = 16$ cm. At what point or points on the $y$-axis is the electric potential zero?

**41.** •• **INT** Two small metal cubes with masses 2.0 g and 4.0 g are tied together by a 5.0-cm-long massless string and are at rest on a frictionless surface. Each is charged to +2.0 $\mu$C.



**a.** What is the energy of this system?

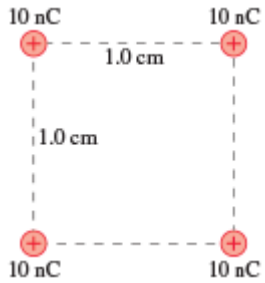
**b.** What is the tension in the string?

**c.** The string is cut. What is the speed of each cube when they are far apart?

**Hint:** There are *two* conserved quantities. Make use of both.

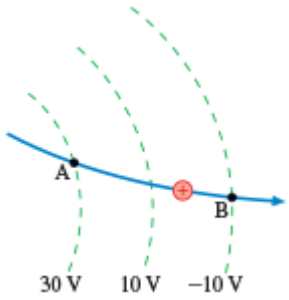
**42.** •• The four 1.0 g spheres shown in Figure P25.42 are released simultaneously and allowed to move away from each other. What is the speed of each sphere when they are very far apart?

**Figure P25.42**




**43.** •• A proton's speed as it passes point A is 50,000 m/s. It follows the trajectory shown in Figure P25.43. What is the proton's speed at point B?

**Figure P25.43**




**44.** •• **BIO** Living cells "pump" singly ionized sodium ions, $Na^+$, from the inside of the cell to the outside to maintain a membrane potential $\Delta V_{\text{membrane}} = V_{\text{in}} - V_{\text{out}} = -70\,\text{mV}$. It is called *pumping* because work must be done to move a positive ion from the negative inside of the cell to the positive outside, and it must go on continuously because sodium ions "leak" back through the cell wall by diffusion.

**a.** How much work must be done to move one sodium ion from the inside of the cell to the outside?

**b.** At rest, the human body uses energy at the rate of approximately 100 W to maintain basic metabolic functions. It has been estimated that 20% of this energy is used to operate the sodium pumps of the body. Estimate—to one significant figure—the number of sodium ions pumped per second.

**45.** ••• **INT** An arrangement of source charges produces the electric potential $V = 5000x^2$ along the $x$-axis, where $V$ is in volts and $x$ is in meters. What is the maximum speed of a 1.0 g, 10 nC charged particle that moves in this potential with turning points at ±8.0 cm?

**46.** •• A proton moves along the $x$-axis where some arrangement of charges has produced the potential $V(x) = V_0 \sin(2\pi x/\lambda)$,

where $V_0 = 5000$ V and $\lambda = 1.0$ mm.

**a.** What minimum speed must the proton have at $x = 0$ to move down the axis without being reflected?

**b.** What is the maximum speed reached by a proton that at $x = 0$ has the speed you calculated in part a?

**47.** •• The electron gun in an old TV picture tube accelerates electrons between two parallel plates 1.2 cm apart with a 25 kV potential difference between them. The electrons enter through a small hole in the negative plate, accelerate, then exit through a small hole in the positive plate. Assume that the holes are small enough not to affect the electric field or potential.

**a.** What is the electric field strength between the plates?

**b.** With what speed does an electron exit the electron gun if its entry speed is close to zero?

> **Note**
>
> The exit speed is so fast that we really need to use the theory of relativity to compute an accurate value. Your answer to part b is in the right range but a little too big.

**48.** •• **INT** A room with 3.0-m-high ceilings has a metal plate on the floor with $V = 0$ V and a separate metal plate on the ceiling. A 1.0 g glass ball charged to +4.9 nC is shot straight up at 5.0 m/s. How high does the ball go if the ceiling voltage is (a) $+3.0 \times 10^6$ V and (b) $-3.0 \times 10^6$ V?

**49.** •• A group of science and engineering students embarks on a quest to make an electrostatic projectile launcher. For their first

trial, a horizontal, frictionless surface is positioned next to the 12-cm-diameter sphere of a Van de Graaff generator, and a small, 5.0 g plastic cube is placed on the surface with its center 2.0 cm from the edge of the sphere. The cube is given a positive charge, and then the Van de Graaff generator is turned on, charging the sphere to a potential of 200,000 V in a negligible amount of time. How much charge does the plastic cube need to achieve a final speed of a mere 3.0 m/s? Does this seem like a practical projectile launcher?

**50.** •• Two 2.0 g plastic buttons each with +50 nC of charge are placed on a frictionless surface 2.0 cm (measured between centers) on either side of a 5.0 g button charged to +250 nC. All three are released simultaneously.

**a.** How many interactions are there that have a potential energy?

**b.** What is the final speed of each button?

**51.** •• What is the escape speed of an electron launched from the surface of a 1.0-cm-diameter glass sphere that has been charged to 10 nC?

**52.** ••• An electric dipole has dipole moment $p$. If $r \gg s$, where $s$ is the separation between the charges, show that the electric potential of the dipole can be written

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{p\cos\theta}{r^2}$$



where $r$ is the distance from the center of the dipole and $\theta$ is the angle from the dipole axis.

**53.** ••• Three electrons form an equilateral triangle 1.0 nm on each side. A proton is at the center of the triangle. What is the potential energy of this group of charges?

**54.** ••• A 2.0-mm-diameter glass bead is positively charged. The potential difference between a point 2.0 mm from the bead and a point 4.0 mm from the bead is 500 V. What is the charge on the bead?

**55.** •• **INT** Your lab assignment for the week is to measure the amount of charge on the 6.0-cm-diameter metal sphere of a Van de Graaff generator. To do so, you're going to use a spring with spring constant 0.65 N/m to launch a small, 1.5 g bead horizontally toward the sphere. You can reliably charge the bead to 2.5 nC, and your plan is to use a video camera to measure the bead's closest approach to the edge of the sphere as you change the compression of the spring. Your data are as follows:

| Compression (cm) | Closest approach (cm) |
|---|---|
| 1.6 | 5.5 |
| 1.9 | 2.6 |
| 2.2 | 1.6 |
| 2.5 | 0.4 |

Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine the sphere's charge in nC. You can assume that the bead's motion is entirely horizontal, that the spring is so far away that the bead has no interaction with the sphere as it's launched, and that the approaching bead does not alter the charge distribution on the sphere.

**56.** •• A proton is fired from far away toward the nucleus of an iron atom. Iron is element number 26, and the diameter of the

nucleus is 9.0 fm. What initial speed does the proton need to just reach the surface of the nucleus? Assume the nucleus remains at rest.

**57.** ••• A proton is fired from far away toward the nucleus of a mercury atom. Mercury is element number 80, and the diameter of the nucleus is 14.0 fm. If the proton is fired at a speed of $4.0 \times 10^7\ \mathrm{m/s}$, what is its closest approach to the surface of the nucleus? Assume the nucleus remains at rest.

**58.** •• In the form of radioactive decay known as *alpha decay*, an unstable nucleus emits a helium-atom nucleus, which is called an *alpha particle.* An alpha particle contains two protons and two neutrons, thus having mass $m = 4$ u and charge $q = 2e$. Suppose a uranium nucleus with 92 protons decays into thorium, with 90 protons, and an alpha particle. The alpha particle is initially at rest at the surface of the thorium nucleus, which is 15 fm in diameter. What is the speed of the alpha particle when it is detected in the laboratory? Assume the thorium nucleus remains at rest.

**59.** •• One form of nuclear radiation, *beta decay*, occurs when a neutron changes into a proton, an electron, and a neutral particle called a *neutrino:* $\mathrm{n} \rightarrow \mathrm{p}^+ + \mathrm{e}^- + \nu$ where $v$ is the symbol for a neutrino. When this change happens to a neutron within the nucleus of an atom, the proton remains behind in the nucleus while the electron and neutrino are ejected from the nucleus. The ejected electron is called a *beta particle.* One nucleus that exhibits beta decay is the isotope of hydrogen $^3$H, called *tritium*, whose nucleus consists of one proton (making it hydrogen) and two neutrons (giving tritium an atomic mass

$m = 3$ u). Tritium is radioactive, and it decays to helium: ${}^3\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + e^- + v$.

**a.** Is charge conserved in the beta decay process? Explain.

**b.** Why is the final product a helium atom? Explain.

**c.** The nuclei of both ${}^3$H and ${}^3$He have radii of $1.5 \times 10^{-15}$ m. With what minimum speed must the electron be ejected if it is to escape from the nucleus and not fall back?

**60.** •• Two 10-cm-diameter electrodes 0.50 cm apart form a parallel-plate capacitor. The electrodes are attached by metal wires to the terminals of a 15 V battery. After a long time, the capacitor is disconnected from the battery but is not discharged. What are the charge on each electrode, the electric field strength inside the capacitor, and the potential difference between the electrodes

**a.** Right after the battery is disconnected?

**b.** After insulating handles are used to pull the electrodes away from each other until they are 1.0 cm apart?

**c.** After the original electrodes (not the modified electrodes of part b) are expanded until they are 20 cm in diameter?

**61.** •• Two 10-cm-diameter electrodes 0.50 cm apart form a parallelplate capacitor. The electrodes are attached by metal wires to the terminals of a 15 V battery. What are the charge on each electrode, the electric field strength inside the capacitor, and the potential difference between the electrodes

**a.** While the capacitor is attached to the battery?

**b.** After insulating handles are used to pull the electrodes away from each other until they are 1.0 cm apart? The electrodes remain connected to the battery during this process.

**c.** After the original electrodes (not the modified electrodes of part b) are expanded until they are 20 cm in diameter while remaining connected to the battery?

**62.** •• **CALC** Electrodes of area $A$ are spaced distance $d$ apart to form a parallel-plate capacitor. The electrodes are charged to $\pm q$.

**a.** What is the infinitesimal increase in electric potential energy $dU$ if an infinitesimal amount of charge $dq$ is moved from the negative electrode to the positive electrode?

**b.** An uncharged capacitor can be charged to $\pm Q$ by transferring charge $dq$ over and over and over. Use your answer to part a to show that the potential energy of a capacitor charged to $\pm Q$ is $U_{\text{cap}} = \frac{1}{2} Q \, \Delta V_{\text{C}}$.

**63.** ••

**a.** Find an algebraic expression for the electric field strength $E_0$ at the surface of a charged sphere in terms of the sphere's potential $V_0$ and radius $R$.

**b.** What is the electric field strength at the surface of a 1.0-cm-diameter marble charged to 500 V?

**64.** •• Two spherical drops of mercury each have a charge of 0.10 nC and a potential of 300 V at the surface. The two drops

merge to form a single drop. What is the potential at the surface of the new drop?

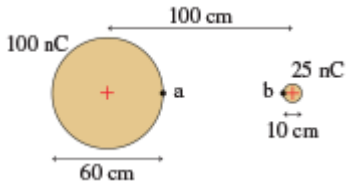
**65.** •• A Van de Graaff generator is a device for generating a large electric potential by building up charge on a hollow metal sphere. A typical classroom-demonstration model has a diameter of 30 cm.

**a.** How much charge is needed on the sphere for its potential to be 500,000 V?

**b.** What is the electric field strength just outside the surface of the sphere when it is charged to 500,000 V?

**66.** •• Figure P25.66 shows two uniformly charged spheres. What is the potential difference between points a and b? Which point is at the higher potential?

**Figure P25.66**




**Hint:** The potential at any point is the superposition of the potentials due to *all* charges.

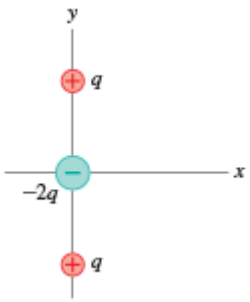
**67.** •• Two positive point charges $q$ are located on the $y$-axis at $y = \pm\frac{1}{2}s$.

**a.** Find an expression for the potential along the $x$-axis.

**b.** Draw a graph of $V$ versus $x$ for $-\infty < x < \infty$. For comparison, use a dotted line to show the potential of a point charge $2q$ located at the origin.

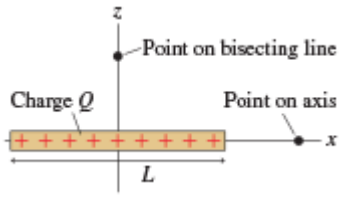
**68.** •• The arrangement of charges shown in Figure P25.68 is called a *linear electric quadrupole.* The positive charges are located at $y = \pm s$. Notice that the net charge is zero. Find an expression for the electric potential on the $y$-axis at distances $y \gg s$. Give your answer in terms of the *quadrupole moment,* $Q = 2qs^2$.

**Figure P25.68**




**69.** •• **CALC** Figure P25.69 shows a thin rod of length $L$ and charge $Q$. Find an expression for the electric potential a distance $x$ away from the center of the rod on the axis of the rod.

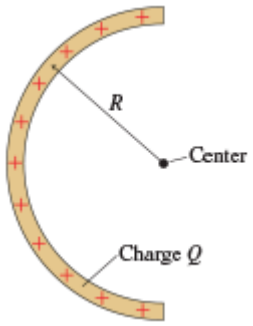
**Figure P25.69**




**70.** ••• **CALC** Figure P25.69 shows a thin rod of length $L$ and charge $Q$. Find an expression for the electric potential a distance $z$ away from the center of rod on the line that bisects the rod.

**71.** • Figure P25.71 shows a thin rod with charge $Q$ that has been bent into a semicircle of radius $R$. Find an expression for the electric potential at the center.

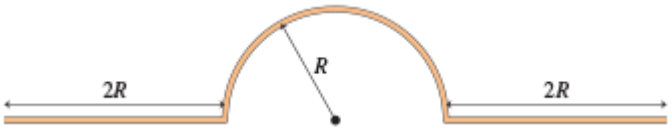
**Figure P25.71**




**72.** •• **CALC** A disk with a hole has inner radius $R_{in}$ and outer radius $R_{out}$. The disk is uniformly charged with total charge $Q$. Find an expression for the on-axis electric potential at distance $z$ from the center of the disk. Verify that your expression has the correct behavior when $R_{in} \to 0$.

**73.** •• **CALC** The wire in Figure P25.73 has linear charge density $\lambda$. What is the electric potential at the center of the semicircle?

**Figure P25.73**




In Problems 74, 75, 76 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these,

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**74.**
$$\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})q_1q_2}{0.030\ \mathrm{m}}=90\times10^{-6}\ \mathrm{J}$$
$$q_1+q_2=40\ \mathrm{nC}$$

**75.**
$$\tfrac{1}{2}(1.67\times10^{-27}\ \mathrm{kg})(2.5\times10^{6}\ \mathrm{m/s})^2+0=$$
$$\tfrac{1}{2}(1.67\times10^{-27}\ \mathrm{kg})v_{\mathrm{i}}^2+$$
$$\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\ \mathrm{Nm^2/C^2})(2.0\times10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C})(1.60\times10^{-19}\ \mathrm{C})}{0.0010\,\mathrm{m}}$$

**76.**
$$\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})(3.0\times10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C})}{0.030\ \mathrm{m}}+$$
$$\frac{(9.0\times10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2})(3.0\times10^{-9}\ \mathrm{C})}{(0.030\ \mathrm{m})+d}=1200\ \mathrm{V}$$

# Challenge Problems

**77.** ••• An electric dipole consists of 1.0 g spheres charged to ±2.0 nC at the ends of a 10-cm-long massless rod. The dipole rotates on a frictionless pivot at its center. The dipole is held perpendicular to a uniform electric field with field strength 1000 V/m, then released. What is the dipole's angular velocity at the instant it is aligned with the electric field?

**78.** ••• A proton and an alpha particle ($q=+2e$, $m=4$ u) are fired directly toward each other from far away, each with an initial speed of $0.010c$. What is their distance of closest approach, as measured between their centers?

**79.** ••• Bead A has a mass of 15 g and a charge of –5.0 nC. Bead B has a mass of 25 g and a charge of –10.0 nC. The beads are held 12 cm apart (measured between their centers) and released. What maximum speed is achieved by each bead?

**80.** ••• Two 2.0-mm-diameter beads, C and D, are 10 mm apart, measured between their centers. Bead C has mass 1.0 g and

charge 2.0 nC. Bead D has mass 2.0 g and charge –1.0 nC. If the beads are released from rest, what are the speeds $v_C$ and $v_D$ at the instant the beads collide?

**81.** ••• **CALC** A thin rod of length $L$ and total charge $Q$ has the nonuniform linear charge distribution $\lambda(x) = \lambda_0 x/L$, where $x$ is measured from the rod's left end.

**a.** What is $\lambda_0$ in terms of $Q$ and $L$?

**b.** What is the electric potential on the axis at distance $d$ left of the rod's left end?

**82.** ••• **CALC** A hollow cylindrical shell of length $L$ and radius $R$ has charge $Q$ uniformly distributed along its length. What is the electric potential at the center of the cylinder?

# Chapter 26
# Potential and Field

These solar cells are *photovoltaic* cells, meaning that light creates a voltage—a potential difference.

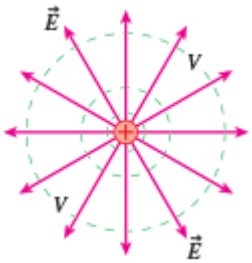
**In This Chapter**

you will learn how the electric potential is related to the electric field.

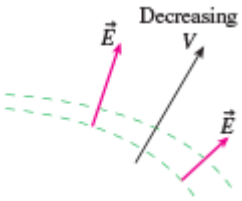
## How are electric potential and field related?

The electric field and the electric potential are intimately connected. In fact, they are simply two different perspectives on how source charges alter the space around them.

- The electric potential can be found if you know the electric field.



- The electric field can be found if you know the electric potential.
- Electric field lines are always perpendicular to equipotential surfaces.
- The electric field points "downhill" in the direction of decreasing potential.



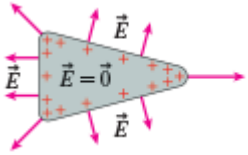

- The electric field is stronger where equipotentials are closer together.

Looking Back Sections 25.4, 25.5, 25.6 The electric potential and its graphical representations

## What are the properties of conductors?

You'll learn about the properties of conductors in electrostatic equilibrium, finding the same results as using Gauss's law:

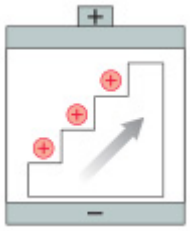
- Any excess charge is on the surface.
- The interior electric field is zero.
- The exterior electric field is perpendicular to the surface.
- The entire conductor is an equipotential.




## What are sources of electric potential?

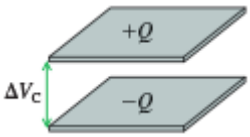
A potential difference—voltage—is created by separating positive and negative charges.

- Work must be done to separate charges. The work done per charge is called the emf of a device. Emf is measured in volts.
- We'll use a charge escalator model of a battery in which chemical reactions "lift" charges from one terminal to the other.



## What is a capacitor?

Any two electrodes with equal and opposite charges form a capacitor. Their capacitance indicates their capacity for storing charge. The energy stored in a capacitor will lead us to recognize that electric energy is stored in the electric field.



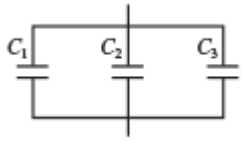

Looking Back Section 23.5 Parallel-plate capacitors

## How are capacitors used?

Capacitors are important circuit elements that store charge and energy.

- You'll learn to work with combinations of capacitors arranged in series and parallel.

- You'll learn that an insulator—called a dielectric—between the capacitor plates alters the capacitor in useful ways.

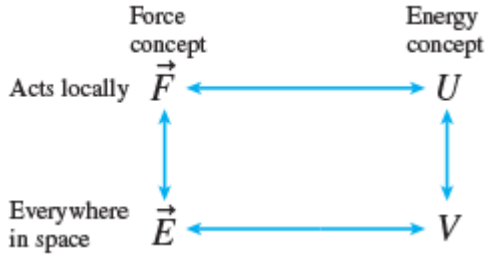


# 26.1 Connecting Potential and Field



Figure 26.1 shows the four key ideas of force, field, potential energy, and potential. The electric field and the electric potential were based on force and potential energy. We know, from Chapters 9 and 10, that force and potential energy are closely related. The focus of this chapter is to establish a similar relationship between the electric field and the electric potential. **The electric potential and electric field are not two distinct entities but, instead, two different perspectives or two different mathematical representations of how source charges alter the space around them.**

## Figure 26.1




The four key ideas.

If this is true, we should be able to find the electric potential from the electric field. Chapter 25 introduced all the pieces we need to do so. We used the potential energy of charge $q$ and the source charges to define the electric potential as

**(26.1)**

$$V \equiv \frac{U_{q+\text{sources}}}{q}$$

Potential energy is defined in terms of the work done by force $\vec{F}$ on charge $q$ as it moves from position i to position f:

**(26.2)**

$$\Delta U = -W(\mathrm{i} \to \mathrm{f}) = -\int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} F_s \, ds = -\int_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{f}} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

But the force exerted on charge $q$ by the electric field is $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$. Putting these three pieces together, you can see that the charge $q$ cancels out and the potential difference between two points in space is

---

**(26.3)**

$$\Delta V = V_\mathrm{f} - V_\mathrm{i} = -\int_{s_\mathrm{i}}^{s_\mathrm{f}} E_s \, ds = -\int_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{f}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

where $s$ is the position along a line from point i to point f. That is, **we can find the potential difference between two points if we know the electric field.**

> **Note**
>
> The minus sign tells us that the potential *decreases* along the field direction.

A graphical interpretation of Equation 26.3 is

**(26.4)**

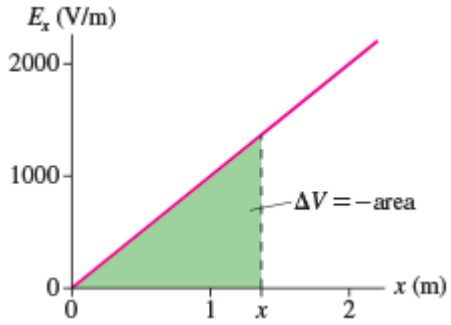
$$V_\mathrm{f} = V_\mathrm{i} - (\text{area under the } E_s\text{-versus-}s \text{ curve between } s_\mathrm{i} \text{ and } s_\mathrm{f})$$

Notice, because of the minus sign in Equation 26.3, that the area is *subtracted* from $V_i$.

### Example 26.1 Finding the potential

Figure 26.2 is a graph of $E_x$, the $x$-component of the electric field, versus position along the $x$-axis. Find and graph $V(x)$. Assume $V = 0\,\text{V}$ at $x = 0\,\text{m}$.

#### Figure 26.2




Graph of $E_x$ versus $x$.

**MODEL** The potential difference is the *negative* of the area under the curve.

**VISUALIZE** $E_x$ is positive throughout this region of space, meaning that $\vec{E}$ points in the positive $x$-direction.

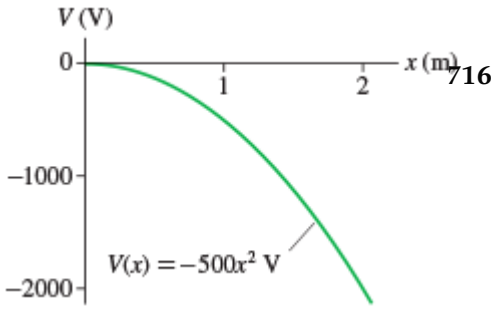
**SOLVE** We can see that $E_x = 1000x\,\text{V/m}$, where $x$ is in m. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} V_\text{f} = V(x) &= 0 - (\text{area under the } E_x \text{ curve}) \\ &= -\tfrac{1}{2} \times \text{base} \times \text{height} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(x)(1000x) = -500x^2\,\text{V} \end{aligned}$$

Figure 26.3 shows that the electric potential in this region of space is parabolic, decreasing from 0 V at $x = 0\,\text{m}$ to –2000 V at

$x = 2\,\text{m}$.

## Figure 26.3






Graph of $V$ versus $x$.

**ASSESS** The electric field points in the direction in which $V$ is *decreasing*. We'll soon see that this is a general rule.

TACTICS BOX 26.1 **Finding the potential from the electric field**

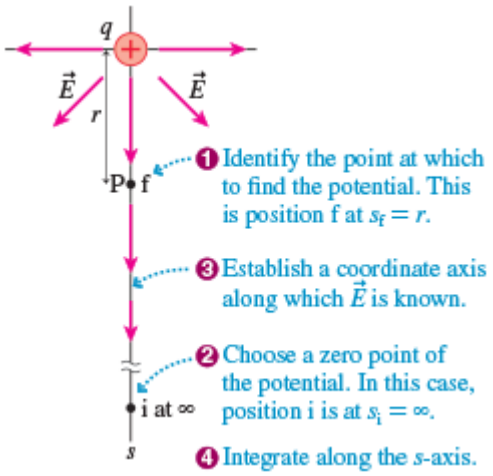
**Mastering Physics**

1. Draw a picture and identify the point at which you wish to find the potential. Call this position f.
2. Choose the zero point of the potential, often at infinity. Call this position i.
3. Establish a coordinate axis from i to f along which you already know or can easily determine the electric field component $E_s$.
4. Carry out the integration of Equation 26.3 to find the potential.

Workbook Exercise 1

To see how this works, let's use the electric field of a point charge to find its electric potential. Figure 26.4 identifies a point P at $s_f = r$ at which we want to know the potential and calls this position f. We've chosen position i to be at $s_i = \infty$ and identified that as the zero point of the potential. The integration of Equation 26.3 is straight inward along the radial line from i to f:

## Figure 26.4




Finding the potential of a point charge.

**(26.5)**

$$\Delta V = V(r) - V(\infty) = -\int_{\infty}^{r} E_s ds = \int_{r}^{\infty} E_s ds$$

The electric field is radially outward. Its $s$-component is

$$E_s = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{s^2}$$

Thus the potential at distance $r$ from a point charge $q$ is

(26.6)

$$V(r) = V(\infty) + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\int_r^\infty \frac{ds}{s^2} = V(\infty) + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{-1}{s}\bigg|_r^\infty = 0 + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r}$$

We've rediscovered the potential of a point charge that you learned in Chapter 25:

(26.7)

$$V_{\text{point charge}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r}$$

**Example 26.2 The potential of a parallel-plate capacitor**

In Chapter 23, the electric field inside a capacitor was found to be

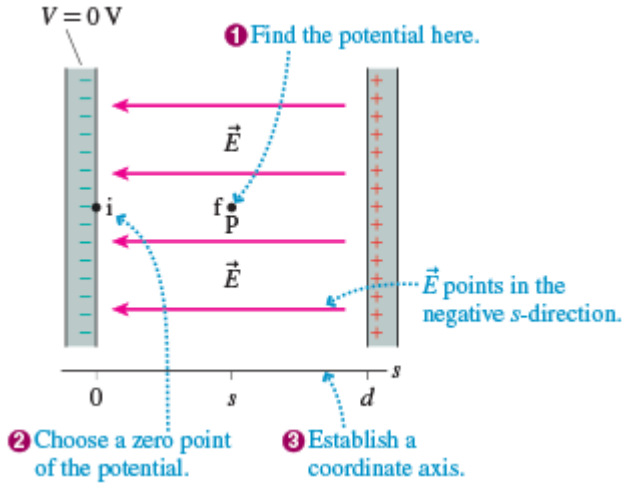
$$\vec{E} = \left(\frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A}, \text{from positive to negative}\right)$$

Find the electric potential inside the capacitor. Let $V = 0\,\text{V}$ at the negative plate.

**MODEL** The electric field inside a capacitor is a uniform field.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 26.5 shows the capacitor and establishes a point P where we want to find the potential. We've chosen an $s$-axis measured from the negative plate, which is the zero point of the potential.

Figure 26.5




Finding the potential inside a capacitor.

---

**SOLVE** We'll integrate along the $s$-axis from $s_\mathrm{i} = 0$ (where $V_\mathrm{i} = 0\,\mathrm{V}$ to $s_\mathrm{f} = s$. Notice that $\vec{E}$ points in the negative $s$-direction, so $E_s = -Q/\epsilon_0 A$. $Q/\epsilon_0 A$ is a constant, so

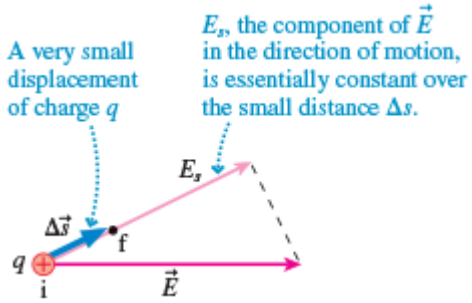
$$V(s) = V_\mathrm{f} = V_\mathrm{i} - \int_0^s E_s ds = -\left(-\frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A}\right)\int_0^s ds = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A}s = Es$$

**ASSESS** $V = Es$ is the capacitor potential we deduced in Chapter 25 by working directly with the potential energy. The potential increases linearly from $V = 0$ at the negative plate to $V = Ed$ at the positive plate. Here we found the potential by explicitly recognizing the connection between the potential and the field.

# 26.2 Finding the Electric Field from the Potential

Figure 26.6 shows two points i and f separated by a very small distance $\Delta s$, so small that the electric field is essentially constant over this very short distance. The work done by the electric field as a charge $q$ moves through this small distance is $W = F_s\,\Delta s = qE_s\,\Delta s$. Consequently, the potential difference between these two points is

**Figure 26.6**




The electric field does work on charge $q$.

**(26.8)**

$$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta U_{q+\text{sources}}}{q} = \frac{-W}{q} = -E_s\,\Delta s$$

In terms of the potential, the component of the electric field in the $s$-direction is $E_s = -\Delta V/\Delta s$. In the limit $\Delta s \to 0$,

**(26.9)**

$$E_s = -\frac{dV}{ds}$$

Now we have reversed Equation 26.3 and can find the electric field from the potential. We'll begin with examples where the field is parallel to a coordinate axis, then we'll look at what Equation 26.9 tells us about the geometry of the field and the potential.

## Field Parallel to a Coordinate Axis

The derivative in Equation 26.9 gives $E_s$, the component of the electric field parallel to the displacement $\Delta \vec{s}$. It doesn't tell us about the electric field component perpendicular to $\Delta \vec{s}$. Thus Equation 26.9 is most useful if we can use symmetry to select a coordinate axis that is parallel to $\vec{E}$ and along which the perpendicular component of $\vec{E}$ is known to be zero.

For example, suppose we knew the potential of a point charge to be $V = q/4\pi\epsilon_0 r$ but didn't remember the electric field. Symmetry requires that the field point straight outward from the charge, with only a radial component $E_r$. If we choose the $s$-axis to be in the radial direction, parallel to $\vec{E}$, we can use Equation 26.9 to find

**(26.10)**

$$E_r = -\frac{dV}{dr} = -\frac{d}{dr}\left(\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}\right) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}$$

This is, indeed, the well-known electric field of a point charge.

Equation 26.9 is especially useful for a continuous distribution of charge because calculating $V$, which is a scalar, is usually much easier than

calculating the vector $\vec{E}$ directly from the charge. Once $V$ is known, $\vec{E}$ is found simply by taking a derivative.

**Example 26.3 The electric field of a ring of charge**

In Chapter 25, we found the on-axis potential of a ring of radius $R$ and charge $Q$ to be

$$V_{\text{ring}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{\sqrt{z^2+R^2}}$$

Find the on-axis electric field of a ring of charge.

**SOLVE** Symmetry requires the electric field along the axis to point straight outward from the ring with only a $z$-component $E_z$. The electric field at position $z$ is

$$\begin{aligned} E_z &= -\frac{dV}{dz} = -\frac{d}{dz}\left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{\sqrt{z^2+R^2}}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{zQ}{(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This result is in perfect agreement with the electric field we found in Chapter 23, but this calculation was easier because we didn't have to deal with angles.

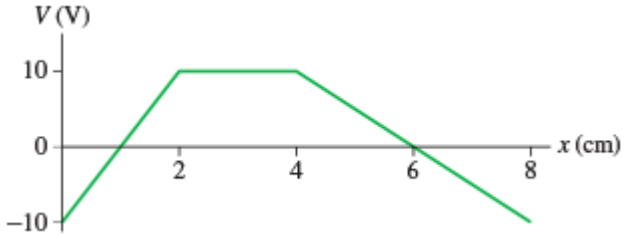
A geometric interpretation of Equation 26.9 is that the electric field is the negative of the *slope* of the $V$-versus-$s$ graph. This interpretation should be familiar. You learned in Chapter 10 that the force on a particle is the negative of the slope of the potential-energy graph: $F = -dU/ds$. In fact, Equation 26.9 is simply $F = -dU/ds$ with both

sides divided by $q$ to yield $E$ and $V$. This geometric interpretation is an important step in developing an understanding of potential.

### Example 26.4 Finding $E$ from the slope of $V$

Figure 26.7 is a graph of the electric potential in a region of space where $\vec{E}$ is parallel to the $x$-axis. Draw a graph of $E_x$ versus $x$.

**Figure 26.7**




Graph of $V$ versus position $x$.

**MODEL** The electric field is the *negative* of the slope of the potential graph.

**SOLVE** There are three regions of different slope:

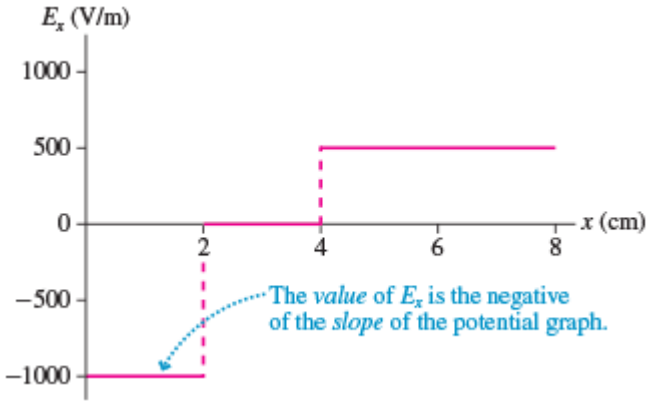
$$0 < x < 2\,\text{cm} \quad \begin{cases} \Delta V/\Delta x = (20\,\text{V})/(0.020\,\text{m}) = 1000\,\text{V/m} \\ E_x = -1000\,\text{V/m} \end{cases}$$

$$2 < x < 4\,\text{cm} \quad \begin{cases} \Delta V/\Delta x = 0\,\text{V/m} \\ E_x = 0\,\text{V/m} \end{cases}$$

$$4 < x < 8\,\text{cm} \quad \begin{cases} \Delta V/\Delta x = (-20\,\text{V})/(0.040\,\text{m}) = -500\,\text{V/m} \\ E_x = 500\,\text{V/m} \end{cases}$$

The results are shown in Figure 26.8.

**Figure 26.8**

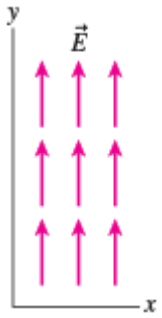



Graph of $E_x$ versus position $x$.

**ASSESS** The electric field $\vec{E}$ points to the left ($E_x$ is negative) for $0 < x < 2\,\text{cm}$ and to the right ($E_x$ is positive) for $4 < x < 8\,\text{cm}$. Notice that **the electric field is zero in a region of space where the potential is not changing.**

## Stop to Think 26.1

Which potential graph describes the electric field at the left?

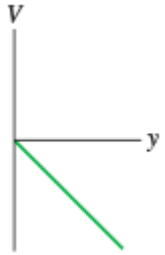




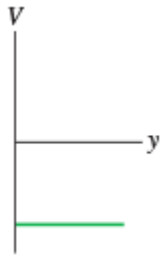

**a.**

**b.**

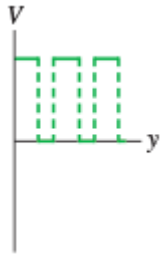
**c.**




**d.**




**e.**

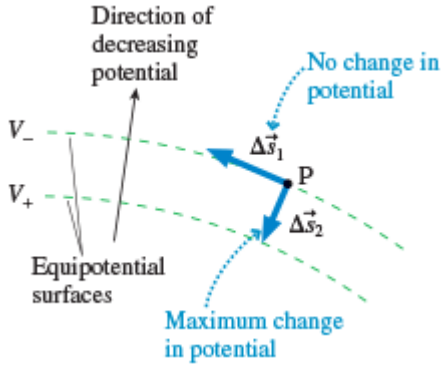



## The Geometry of Potential and Field

Equations 26.3 for $V$ in terms of $E_s$ and 26.9 for $E_s$ in terms of $V$ have profound implications for the geometry of the potential and the field. Figure 26.9 shows two equipotential surfaces, with $V_+$ positive relative to $V_-$. To learn about the electric field $\vec{E}$ at point P, allow a charge to

move through the two displacements $\Delta \vec{s}_1$ and $\Delta \vec{s}_2$. Displacement $\Delta \vec{s}_1$ is *tangent* to the equipotential surface, hence a charge moving in this direction experiences *no* potential difference. According to Equation 26.9, the electric field component along a direction of *constant* potential is $E_s = -dV/ds = 0$. In other words, **the electric field component tangent to the equipotential is $E_{||} = 0$.**

## Figure 26.9




The electric field at P is related to the shape of the equipotential surfaces.

Displacement $\Delta \vec{s}_2$ is *perpendicular* to the equipotential surface. There is a potential difference along $\Delta \vec{s}_2$, hence the electric field component is

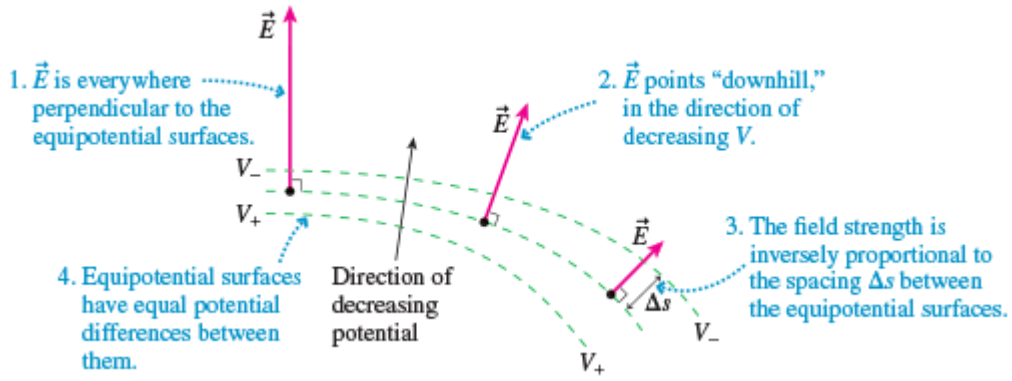
$$E_\perp = -\frac{dV}{ds} \approx -\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta s} = -\frac{V_+ - V_-}{\Delta s_2}$$



You can see that the electric field is inversely proportional to $\Delta s_2$, the spacing between the equipotential surfaces. Furthermore, because $(V_+ - V_-) > 0$, the minus sign tells us that the electric field is *opposite* in direction to $\Delta \vec{s}_2$. In other words, $\vec{E}$ **is perpendicular to the equipotential surfaces and points "downhill" in the direction of *decreasing* potential.**

These important ideas are summarized in Figure 26.10.

## Figure 26.10




The geometry of the potential and the field.

Mathematically, we can calculate the individual components of $\vec{E}$ at any point by extending Equation 26.9 to three dimensions:

**(26.11)**

$$\vec{E} = E_x\,\hat{i} + E_y\,\hat{j} + E_z\,\hat{k} = -\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\hat{i} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}\hat{j} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}\hat{k}\right)$$

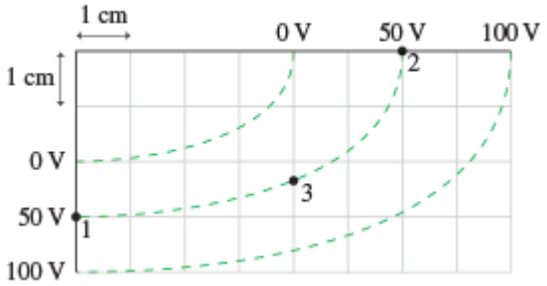
where $\partial V/\partial x$ is the partial derivative of $V$ with respect to $x$ while $y$ and $z$ are held constant. You may recognize from calculus that the expression in parentheses is the *gradient* of $V$, written $\nabla V$. Thus, $\vec{E} = -\nabla V$. More advanced treatments of the electric field make extensive use of this mathematical relationship, but for the most part we'll limit our investigations to those we can analyze graphically.

### Example 26.5 Finding the electric field from the equipotential surfaces

In Figure 26.11 a 1 cm $\times$ 1 cm grid is superimposed on a contour map of the potential. Estimate the strength and direction of the

electric field at points 1, 2, and 3. Show your results graphically by drawing the electric field vectors on the contour map.

## Figure 26.11




Equipotential lines.

**MODEL** The electric field is perpendicular to the equipotential lines, points "downhill," and depends on the slope of the potential hill.

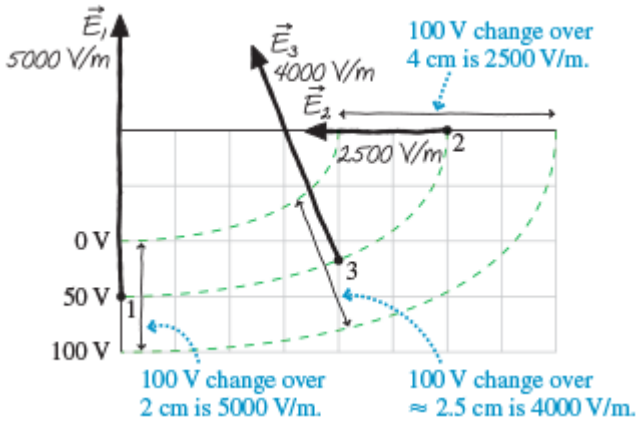
**VISUALIZE** The potential is highest on the bottom and the right. An elevation graph of the potential would look like the lower-right quarter of a bowl or a football stadium.

**SOLVE** Some distant but unseen source charges have created an electric field and potential. We do not need to see the source charges to relate the field to the potential. Because $E \approx -\Delta V/\Delta s$, the electric field is stronger where the equipotential lines are closer together and weaker where they are farther apart. If Figure 26.11 were a topographic map, you would interpret the closely spaced contour lines at the bottom of the figure as a steep slope.

Figure 26.12 shows how measurements of $\Delta s$ from the grid are combined with values of $\Delta V$ to determine $\vec{E}$. Point 3 requires an estimate of the spacing between the 0 V and the 100 V surfaces.

Notice that we're using the 0 V and 100 V equipotential surfaces to determine $\vec{E}$ at a point on the 50 V equipotential.

**Figure 26.12**



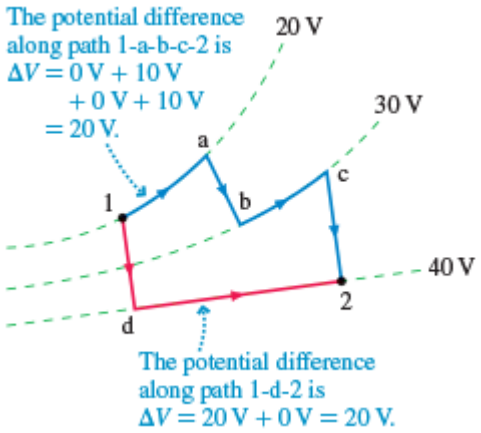

The electric field at points 1 to 3.

**ASSESS** The *directions* of $\vec{E}$ are found by drawing downhill vectors perpendicular to the equipotentials. The distances between the equipotential surfaces are needed to determine the field strengths.

# Kirchhoff's Loop Law

Figure 26.13 shows two points, 1 and 2, in a region of electric field and potential. You learned in Chapter 25 that the work done in moving a charge between points 1 and 2 is *independent of the path*. Consequently, the potential difference between points 1 and 2 along any two paths that join them is $\Delta V = 20\,\text{V}$. This must be true in order for the idea of an equipotential surface to make sense.

**Figure 26.13**




The potential difference between points 1 and 2 is the same along either path.

Now consider the path 1–a–b–c–2–d–1 that ends where it started. What is the potential difference "around" this closed path? The potential increases by 20 V in moving from 1 to 2, but then decreases by 20 V in moving from 2 back to 1. Thus $\Delta V = 0\,\text{V}$ around the closed path.

The numbers are specific to this example, but the idea applies to any loop (i.e., a closed path) through an electric field. The situation is analogous to hiking on the side of a mountain. You may walk uphill during parts of your hike and downhill during other parts, but if you return to your starting point your *net* change of elevation is zero. So for any path that starts and ends at the same point, we can conclude that

**(26.12)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{loop}} = \sum_i (\Delta V)_i = 0$$

Stated in words, **the sum of all the potential differences encountered while moving around a loop or closed path is zero**. This statement is known as **Kirchhoff's loop law**.

Kirchhoff's loop law is a statement of energy conservation because a charge that moves around a loop and returns to its starting point has $\Delta U = q\Delta V = 0$. Kirchhoff's loop law and a second Kirchhoff's law you'll meet in the next chapter will turn out to be the two fundamental principles of circuit analysis.

## Stop to Think 26.2

Which set of equipotential surfaces matches this electric field?

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

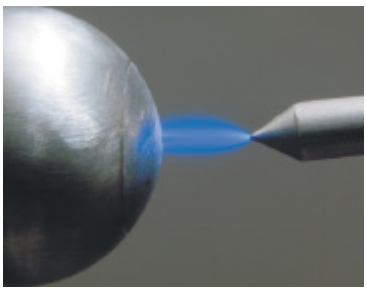
**f.**

# 26.3 A Conductor in Electrostatic Equilibrium



The basic relationships between potential and field allow us to draw some interesting and important conclusions about conductors. Consider a conductor, such as a metal, that is in electrostatic equilibrium. The conductor may be charged, but all the charges are at rest.

You learned in Chapter 22 that any excess charges on a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium are always located on the *surface* of the conductor. Using similar reasoning, we can conclude that **the electric field is zero at any interior point of a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium**. Why? If the field were other than zero, then there would be a force $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$ on the charge carriers and they would move, creating a current. But there are no currents in a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium, so it must be that $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$ at all interior points.



A *corona discharge* occurs at pointed metal tips where the electric field can be very strong.

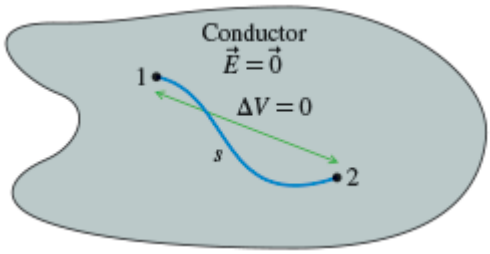
---

The two points inside the conductor in Figure 26.14 are connected by a line that remains entirely inside the conductor. We can find the potential difference $\Delta V = V_2 - V_1$ between these points by using Equation 26.3

to integrate $E_s$ along the line from 1 to 2. But $E_s = 0$ at all points along the line, because $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$; thus the value of the integral is zero and $\Delta V = 0$. In other words, **any two points inside a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium are at the same potential**.

---

## Figure 26.14




All points inside a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium are at the same potential.

---

When a conductor is in electrostatic equilibrium, the *entire conductor* is at the same potential. If we charge a metal sphere, then the entire sphere is at a single potential. Similarly, a charged metal rod or wire is at a single potential *if* it is in electrostatic equilibrium.

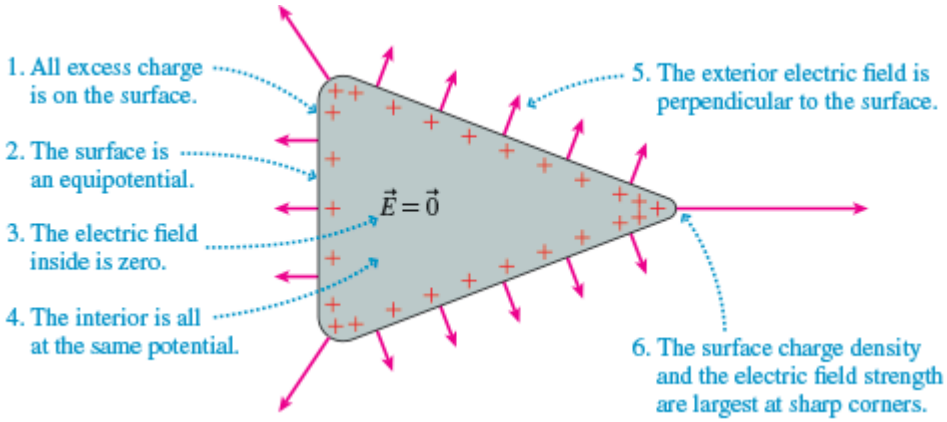
If $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$ inside a charged conductor but $\vec{E} \neq \vec{0}$ outside, what happens right at the surface? If the entire conductor is at the same potential, then the surface is an equipotential surface. You have seen that the electric field is always perpendicular to an equipotential surface, hence **the exterior electric field $\vec{E}$ of a charged conductor is perpendicular to the surface**.

We can also conclude that the electric field, and thus the surface charge density, is largest at sharp points. This follows from our earlier discovery that the field at the surface of a sphere of radius $R$ can be written $E = V_0/R$. If we approximate the rounded corners of a conductor with sections of spheres, all of which are at the same potential $V_0$, the field

strength will be largest at the corners with the smallest radii of curvature —the sharpest points.

Figure 26.15 summarizes what we know about conductors in electrostatic equilibrium. These are important and practical conclusions because conductors are the primary components of electrical devices.

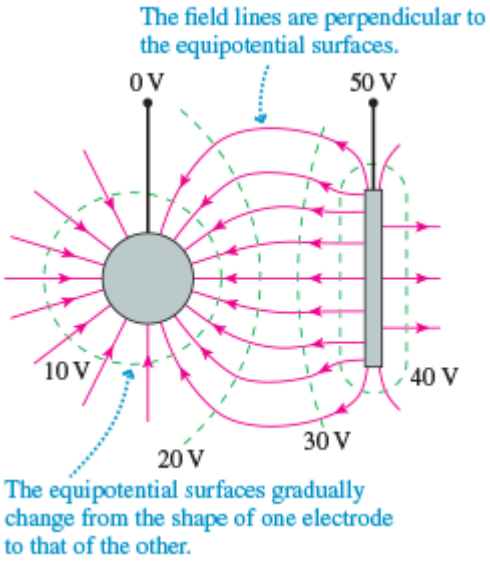
## Figure 26.15




Properties of a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium.

We can use similar reasoning to estimate the electric field and potential between two charged conductors. As an example, Figure 26.16 shows a negatively charged metal sphere near a flat metal plate. The surfaces of the sphere and the flat plate are equipotentials, hence the electric field must be perpendicular to both. Close to a surface, the electric field is still *nearly* perpendicular to the surface. Consequently, **an equipotential surface close to an electrode must roughly match the shape of the electrode**.

## Figure 26.16




Estimating the field and potential between two charged conductors.

In between, the equipotential surfaces *gradually* change as they "morph" from one electrode shape to the other. It's not hard to sketch a contour map showing a plausible set of equipotential surfaces. You can then draw electric field lines (field lines are easier to draw than field vectors) that are perpendicular to the equipotentials, point "downhill," and are closer together where the contour line spacing is smaller.

## Stop to Think 26.3

Three charged metal spheres of different radii are connected by a thin metal wire. The potential and electric field at the surface of each sphere are $V$ and $E$. Which of the following is true?

**a.** $V_1 = V_2 = V_3$ and $E_1 = E_2 = E_3$

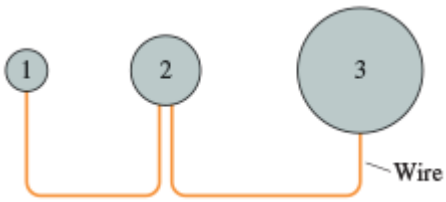
**b.** $V_1 = V_2 = V_3$ and $E_1 > E_2 > E_3$

**c.** $V_1 > V_2 > V_3$ and $E_1 = E_2 = E_3$

**d.** $V_1 > V_2 > V_3$ and $E_1 > E_2 > E_3$

**e.** $V_3 > V_2 > V_1$ and $E_3 = E_2 = E_1$

**f.** $V_3 > V_2 > V_1$ and $E_3 > E_2 > E_1$


1
2
3
Wire

# 26.4 Sources of Electric Potential

We've now studied many properties of the electric potential and seen how potential and field are connected, but we've not said much about how an electric potential is created. Simply put, **an electric potential difference is created by separating positive and negative charge**. Shuffling your feet on the carpet transfers electrons from the carpet to you, creating a potential difference between you and a doorknob that causes a spark and a shock as you touch it. Charging a capacitor by moving electrons from one plate to the other creates a potential difference across the capacitor.

As Figure 26.17 shows, moving charge from one electrode to another creates an electric field $\vec{E}$ pointing from the positive toward the negative electrode. As a consequence, there is a potential difference between the electrodes that is given by

$$\Delta V = V_{\text{pos}} - V_{\text{neg}} = -\int_{\text{neg}}^{\text{pos}} E_s \, ds$$

where the integral runs from any point on the negative electrode to any point on the positive. The *net* charge is zero, but pulling the positive and negative charge apart creates a potential difference.

---

**Figure 26.17**

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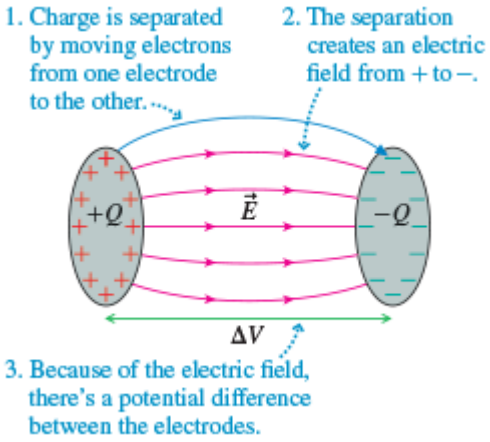
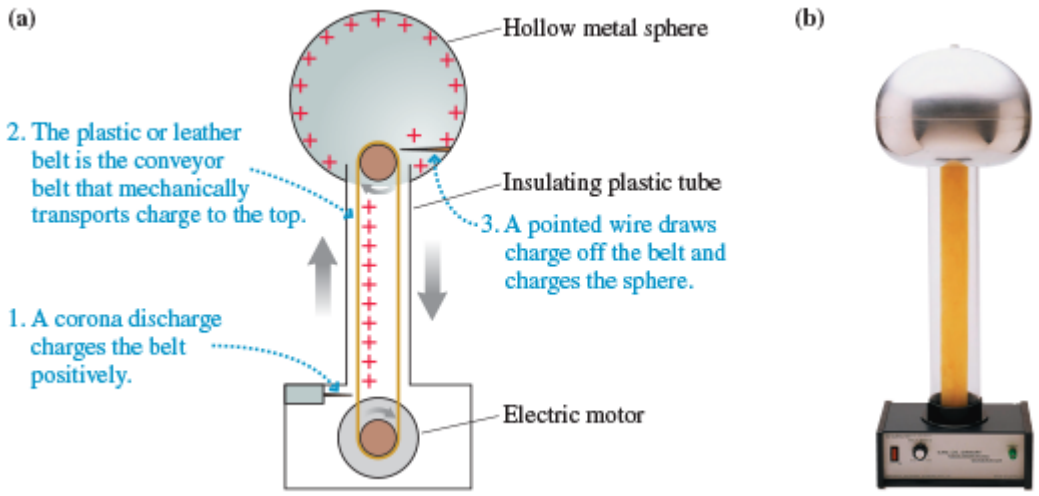



A charge separation creates a potential difference.

Now electric forces try to bring positive and negative charges together, so **a nonelectrical process is needed to separate charge**. As an example, the **Van de Graaff generator** shown in Figure 26.18a separates charges mechanically. A moving plastic or leather belt is charged, then the charge is mechanically transported via the conveyor belt to the spherical electrode at the top of the insulating column. The charging of the belt could be done by friction, but in practice a *corona discharge* created by the strong electric field at the tip of a needle is more efficient and reliable.

## Figure 26.18




A Van de Graaff generator.

A Van de Graaff generator has two noteworthy features:

- Charge is *mechanically* transported from the negative side to the positive side. This charge separation creates a potential difference between the spherical electrode and its surroundings.
- The electric field of the spherical electrode exerts a downward force on the positive charges moving up the belt. Consequently, *work must be done* to "lift" the positive charges. The work is done by the electric motor that runs the belt.

A classroom-demonstration Van de Graaff generator like the one shown in Figure 26.18b creates a potential difference of several hundred thousand volts between the upper sphere and its surroundings. The maximum potential is reached when the electric field near the sphere becomes large enough to cause a breakdown of the air. This produces a spark and temporarily discharges the sphere. A large Van de Graaff generator surrounded by vacuum can reach a potential of 20 MV or more. These generators are used to accelerate protons for nuclear physics experiments.

## Batteries and emf

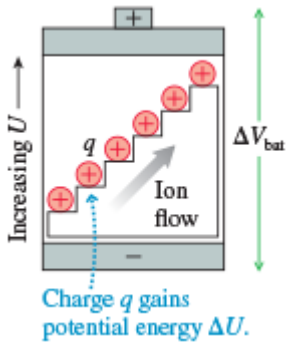
The most common source of electric potential is a **battery**, which uses *chemical reactions* to separate charge. A battery consists of chemicals, called *electrolytes*, sandwiched between two electrodes made of different metals. Chemical reactions in the electrolytes transport ions (i.e., charges) from one electrode to the other. This chemical process pulls positive and negative charges apart, creating a potential difference between the terminals of the battery. When the chemicals are used up, the reactions cease and the battery is dead.

We can sidestep the chemistry details by introducing the **charge escalator model** of a battery.

MODEL 26.1 **Charge escalator model of a battery**

A battery uses chemical reactions to separate charge.

- The charge escalator "lifts" positive charges from the negative terminal to the positive terminal. This requires *work*, with the energy being supplied by the chemical reactions.
- The work done *per charge* is called the **emf** of the battery: $\mathcal{E} = W_{\text{chem}}/q$.
- The charge separation creates a potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$ between the terminals. An *ideal battery* has $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$.
- Limitations: $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} < \mathcal{E}$ if current flows through the battery. In most cases, the difference is small and a battery can be considered ideal.




Emf is pronounced as the sequence of letters e-m-f. The symbol for emf is $\mathcal{E}$, a script E, and the units of emf are joules per coulomb, or volts. The

rating of a battery, such as 1.5 V or 9 V, is the battery's emf.

The key idea is that **emf is work**, specifically the work done *per charge* to pull positive and negative charges apart. This work can be done by mechanical forces, chemical reactions, or—as you'll see later—magnetic forces. *Because* work is done, charges gain potential energy and their separation creates a potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$ between the positive and negative terminals of the battery. This is called the **terminal voltage**.

In an **ideal battery**, which has no internal energy losses, the work $W_{\text{chem}}$ done to move charge $q$ from the negative to the positive terminal goes entirely to increasing the potential energy of the charge, and so $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$. In practice, the terminal voltage is slightly less than the emf when current flows through a battery—we'll discuss this in Chapter 28—but the difference usually small and in most cases we can model batteries as being ideal.

## Batteries in Series

Many consumer goods, from flashlights to digital cameras, use more than one battery. Why? A particular type of battery, such as an AA or AAA battery, produces a fixed emf determined by the chemical reactions inside. The emf of one battery, often 1.5 V, is not sufficient to light a lightbulb or power a camera. But just as you can reach the third floor of a building by taking three escalators in succession, we can produce a larger potential difference by placing two or more batteries *in series*.

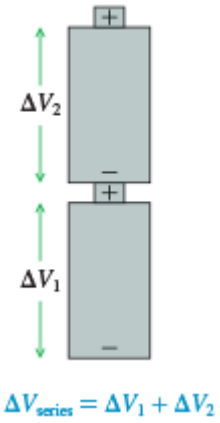
Figure 26.19 shows two batteries with the positive terminal of one literally touching the negative terminal of the next. Flashlight batteries usually are arranged like this. Other devices, such as cameras, achieve the

same effect by using conducting metal wires between one battery and the next. Either way, the total potential difference of batteries in series is simply the sum of their individual terminal voltages:

**(26.13)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{series}} = \Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2 + \cdots (\text{batteries in series})$$

## Figure 26.19



Batteries in series.

## Stop to Think 26.4

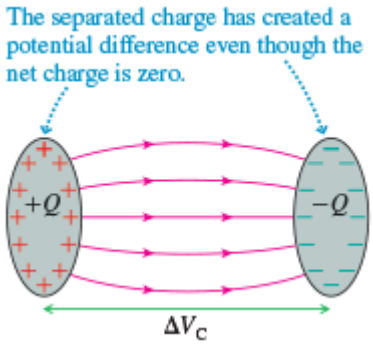
What total potential difference is created by these three batteries?

# 26.5 Capacitance and Capacitors



Figure 26.20 shows two electrodes that have been charged to $\pm Q$. Their net charge is zero, but something has separated positive and negative charges. Consequently, there is a potential difference $\Delta V$ between the electrodes.

**Figure 26.20**




Two equally but oppositely charged electrodes form a capacitor.

It seems plausible that $\Delta V$ is directly proportional to $Q$. That is, doubling the amount of charge on the electrodes will double the potential difference. We can write this as $Q = C\,\Delta V$, where the proportionality constant

**(26.14)**

$$C = \frac{Q}{\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}}$$

is called the **capacitance** of the two electrodes. The two electrodes themselves form a **capacitor**, so we've written a subscript C on $\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}$ to

indicate that this is the **capacitor voltage**, the potential difference between the positive and negative electrodes.

> **Note**
>
> You've already met the parallel-plate capacitor, but a capacitor can be formed from any two electrodes. The electrodes of a capacitor always have *equal but opposite charges* (zero net charge), and the $Q$ appearing in equations is the magnitude (always positive) of this amount of charge.

The SI unit of capacitance is the **farad**, named in honor of Michael Faraday. One farad is defined as

$$1 \text{ farad} \;=\; 1 \text{ F} \;=\; 1 \text{ C/V}$$

One farad turns out to be an enormous amount of capacitance. Practical capacitors are usually measured in units of microfarads ($\mu$F) or picofarads ($1 \text{ pF} = 10^{-12} \text{ F}$).

Turning Equation 26.14 around, we see that the amount of charge on a capacitor that has been charged to $\Delta V_C$ is

---

**(26.15)**

$$Q = C\,\Delta V_C \qquad (\text{charge on a capacitor})$$

The amount of charge is determined jointly by the potential difference *and* by a property of the electrodes called capacitance. As we'll see, **capacitance depends only on the geometry of the electrodes**.

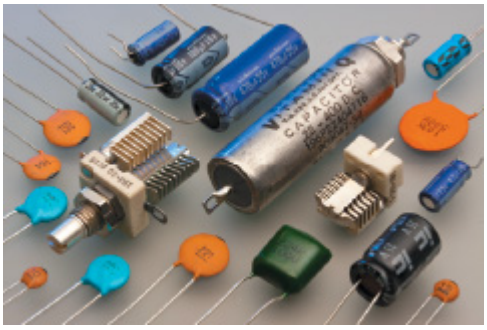
# The Parallel-Plate Capacitor

A parallel-plate capacitor consists of two flat electrodes (the plates) facing each other with a plate separation $d$ that is small compared to the sizes of the plates. You learned in Chapter 25 that the potential difference across a parallel-plate capacitor is related to the electric field inside by $\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}} = Ed$. And you know from Chapter 23 that the electric field inside a parallel-plate capacitor is

**(26.16)**

$$E = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A}$$

where $A$ is the surface area of the plates. Combining these gives



Capacitors are important elements in electric circuits.

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**(26.17)**

$$Q = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}$$

You can see that the charge is proportional to the potential difference, as expected. So from the definition of capacitance, Equation 26.14, we find that the capacitance of a parallel-plate capacitor is

(26.18)

$$C = \frac{Q}{\Delta V_C} = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} \qquad \text{(parallel-plate capacitor)}$$

The capacitance is a purely *geometric* property of the electrodes, depending only on their surface area and spacing. Capacitors of other shapes will have different formulas for their capacitance, but all will depend entirely on geometry. A cylindrical capacitor is the topic of Challenge Example 26.11, and a homework problem will let you analyze a spherical capacitor.

**Example 26.6 Charging a capacitor**

The spacing between the plates of a 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor is 0.050 mm.

**a.** What is the surface area of the plates?

**b.** How much charge is on the plates if this capacitor is charged to 1.5 V?

**MODEL** Assume the capacitor is a parallel-plate capacitor.

**SOLVE**

**a.** From the definition of capacitance,

$$A = \frac{dc}{\epsilon_0} = 5.65\,\text{m}^2$$

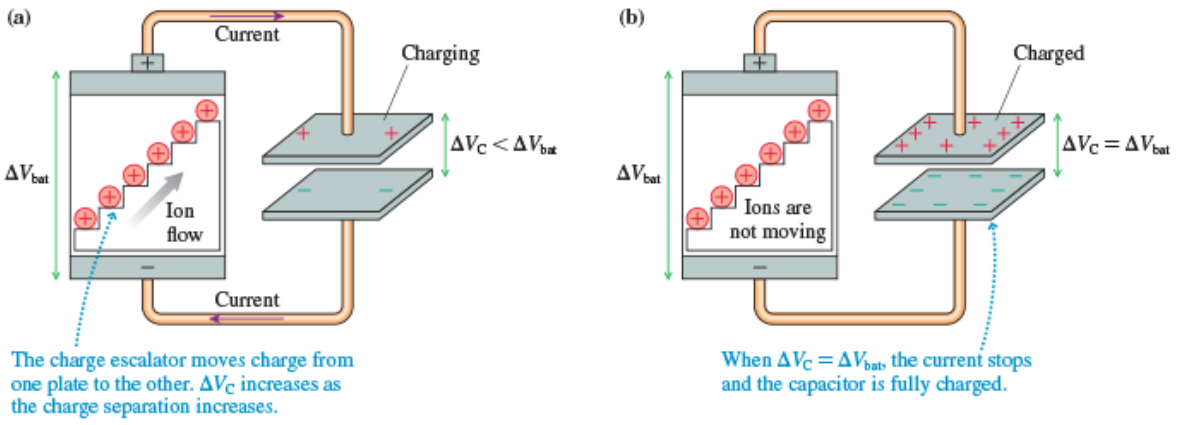
**b.** The charge is $Q = C\,\Delta V_C = 1.5 \times 10^{-6}\,\text{C} = 1.5\,\mu\text{C}$.

**ASSESS** The surface area needed to construct a 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor (a fairly typical value) is enormous. We'll see in Section 26.7 how the area can be reduced by inserting an insulator between the capacitor plates.

## Charging a Capacitor

All well and good, but *how* does a capacitor get charged? By connecting it to a battery! Figure 26.21a shows the two plates of a capacitor shortly after two conducting wires have connected them to the two terminals of a battery. At this instant, the battery's charge escalator is moving charge from one capacitor plate to the other, and it is this work done by the battery that charges the capacitor. (The connecting wires are conductors, and you learned in Chapter 22 that charges can move through conductors as a *current*.) The capacitor voltage $\Delta V_C$ steadily increases as the charge separation continues.

### Figure 26.21




A parallel-plate capacitor is charged by a battery.

But this process cannot continue forever. The growing positive charge on the upper capacitor plate exerts a repulsive force on new charges coming

up the escalator, and eventually the capacitor charge gets so large that no new charges can arrive. The capacitor in Figure 26.21b is now *fully charged*. In Chapter 28 we'll analyze how long the charging process takes, but it is typically less than a nanosecond for a capacitor connected directly to a battery with copper wires.

The keys on computer keyboards are capacitor switches. Pressing the key pushes two capacitor plates closer together, increasing their capacitance. A larger capacitor can hold more charge, so a momentary current carries charge from the battery (or power supply) to the capacitor. This current is sensed, and the keystroke is then recorded.

---

Once the capacitor is fully charged, with charges no longer in motion, the positive capacitor plate, the upper wire, and the positive terminal of the battery form a single conductor in electrostatic equilibrium. This is an important idea, and it wasn't true while the capacitor was charging. As you just learned, any two points in a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium are at the same potential. **Thus the positive plate of a fully charged capacitor is at the same potential as the positive terminal of the battery**.

Similarly, the negative plate of a fully charged capacitor is at the same potential as the negative terminal of the battery. Consequently, the potential difference $\Delta V_C$ between the capacitor plates exactly matches the potential difference $\Delta V_{bat}$ between the battery terminals. **A capacitor attached to a battery charges until $\Delta V_C = \Delta V_{bat}$**. Once the capacitor is charged, you can disconnect it from the battery; it will maintain this

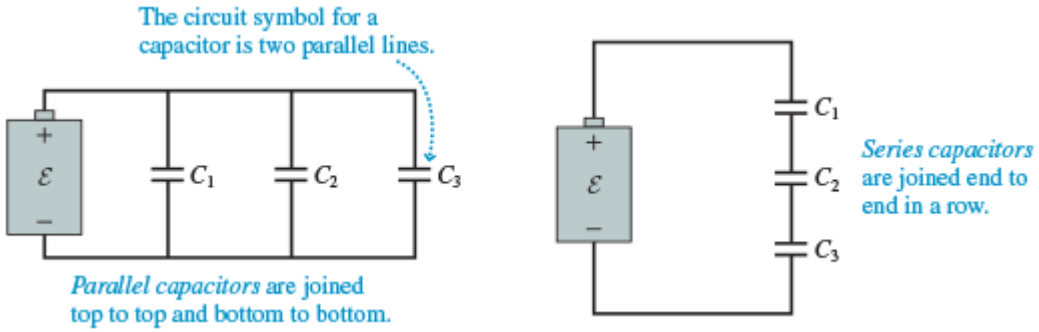
charge and potential difference until and unless something—a current—allows positive charge to move back to the negative plate. An ideal capacitor in vacuum would stay charged forever.

## Combinations of Capacitors

Two or more capacitors are often joined together. Figure 26.22 illustrates two basic combinations: **parallel capacitors** and **series capacitors**. Notice that a capacitor, no matter what its actual geometric shape, is represented in *circuit diagrams* by two parallel lines.

**Figure 26.22**






Parallel and series capacitors.

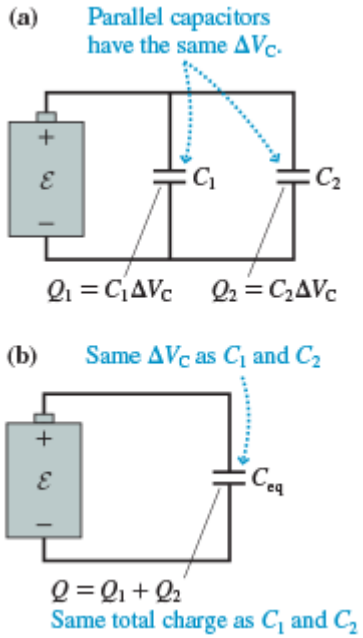
> **Note**
>
> The terms “parallel capacitors” and “parallel-plate capacitor” do not describe the same thing. The former term describes how two or more capacitors are connected to each other, the latter describes how a particular capacitor is constructed.

As we’ll show, parallel or series capacitors (or, as is sometimes said, capacitors “in parallel” or “in series”) can be represented by a single **equivalent capacitance**. We’ll demonstrate this first with the two parallel capacitors $C_1$ and $C_2$ of Figure 26.23a. Because the two top electrodes are connected by a conducting wire, they form a single conductor in

electrostatic equilibrium. Thus the two top electrodes are at the same potential. Similarly, the two connected bottom electrodes are at the same potential. Consequently, two (or more) capacitors in parallel each have the *same* potential difference $\Delta V_C$ between the two electrodes.

The charges on the two capacitors are $Q_1 = C_1 \, \Delta V_C$ and $Q_2 = C_2 \, \Delta V_C$. Altogether, the battery's charge escalator moved total charge $Q = Q_1 + Q_2$ from the negative electrodes to the positive electrodes. Suppose, as in Figure 26.23b, we replaced the two capacitors with a single capacitor having charge $Q = Q_1 + Q_2$ and potential difference $\Delta V_C$. This capacitor is equivalent to the original two in the sense that the battery can't tell the difference. In either case, the battery has to establish the same potential difference and move the same amount of charge.

## Figure 26.23




Replacing two parallel capacitors with an equivalent capacitor.

By definition, the capacitance of this equivalent capacitor is

**(26.19)**

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{Q}{\Delta V_{\text{C}}} = \frac{Q_1 + Q_2}{\Delta V_{\text{C}}} = \frac{Q_1}{\Delta V_{\text{C}}} + \frac{Q_2}{\Delta V_{\text{C}}} = C_1 + C_2$$

This analysis hinges on the fact that **parallel capacitors each have the same potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{C}}$**. We could easily extend this analysis to more than two capacitors. If capacitors $C_1$, $C_2$, $C_3$, … are in parallel, their equivalent capacitance is

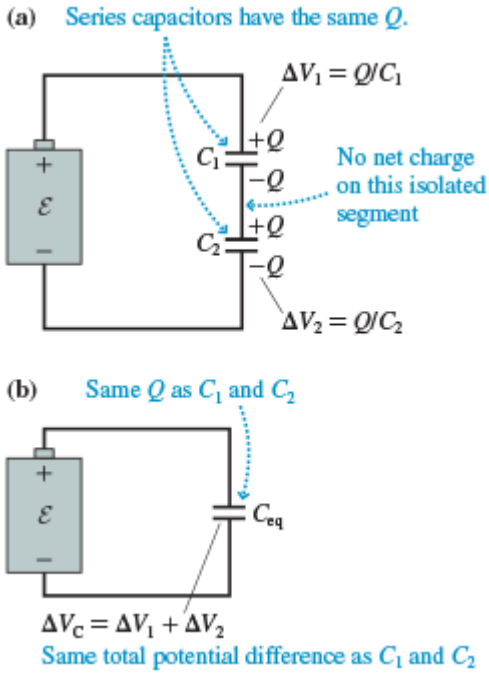
**(26.20)**

$$C_{\text{eq}} = C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + \cdots \qquad (\text{parallel capacitors})$$

Neither the battery nor any other part of a circuit can tell if the parallel capacitors are replaced by a single capacitor having capacitance $C_{\text{eq}}$.

Now consider the two series capacitors in Figure 26.24a. The center section, consisting of the bottom plate of $C_1$, the top plate of $C_2$, and the connecting wire, is electrically isolated. The battery cannot remove charge from or add charge to this section. If it starts out with no net charge, it must end up with no net charge. As a consequence, the two capacitors in series have equal charges $\pm Q$. The battery transfers $Q$ from the bottom of $C_2$ to the top of $C_1$. This transfer polarizes the center section, as shown, but it still has $Q_{\text{net}} = 0$.

**Figure 26.24**




Replacing two series capacitors with an equivalent capacitor.

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The potential differences across the two capacitors are $\Delta V_1 = Q/C_1$ and $\Delta V_2 = Q/C_2$. The total potential difference across both capacitors is $\Delta V_\text{C} = \Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2$. Suppose, as in Figure 26.24b, we replaced the two capacitors with a single capacitor having charge $Q$ and potential difference $\Delta V_\text{C} = \Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2$. This capacitor is equivalent to the original two because the battery has to establish the same potential difference and move the same amount of charge in either case.

By definition, the capacitance of this equivalent capacitor is $C_\text{eq} = Q/\Delta V_\text{C}$. The inverse of the equivalent capacitance is thus

**(26.21)**

$$\frac{1}{C_\text{eq}} = \frac{\Delta V_\text{C}}{Q} = \frac{\Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2}{Q} = \frac{\Delta V_1}{Q} + \frac{\Delta V_2}{Q} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2}$$

This analysis hinges on the fact that **series capacitors each have the same charge** $Q$. We could easily extend this analysis to more than two

capacitors. If capacitors $C_1$, $C_2$, $C_3$,… are in series, their equivalent capacitance is

**(26.22)**

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \left( \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} + \cdots \right)^{-1} \qquad \text{(series capacitors)}$$

> **Note**
>
> Be careful to avoid the common error of adding the inverses but forgetting to invert the sum.

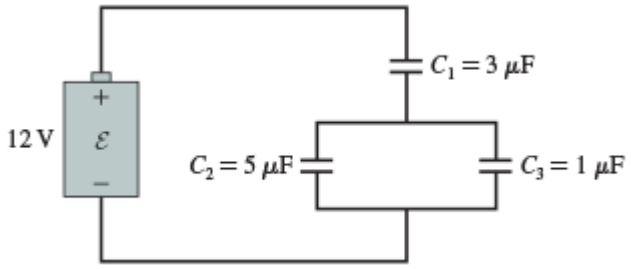
Let's summarize the key facts before looking at a numerical example:

- Parallel capacitors all have the same potential difference $\Delta V_C$. Series capacitors all have the same amount of charge $\pm Q$.
- The equivalent capacitance of a parallel combination of capacitors is *larger* than any single capacitor in the group. The equivalent capacitance of a series combination of capacitors is *smaller* than any single capacitor in the group.

**Example 26.7 A capacitor circuit**

Find the charge on and the potential difference across each of the three capacitors in Figure 26.25.

**Figure 26.25**



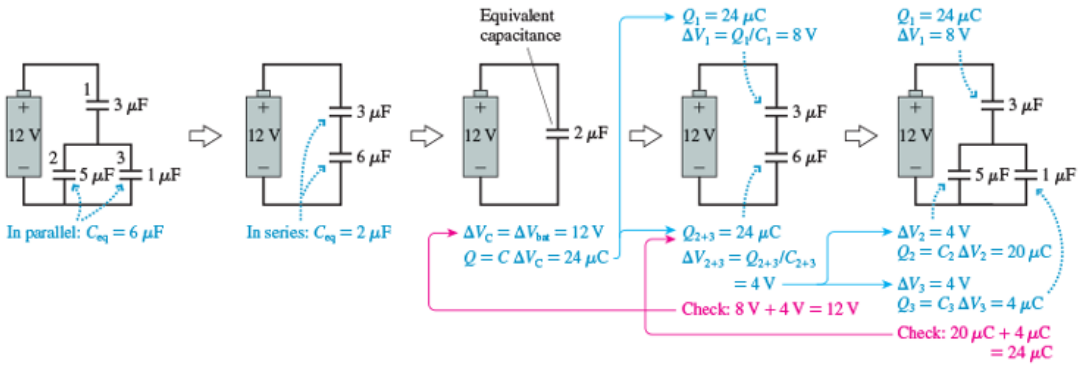

A capacitor circuit.

**MODEL** Assume the battery is ideal, with $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E} = 12\ \text{V}$. Use the results for parallel and series capacitors.

**SOLVE** The three capacitors are neither in parallel nor in series, but we can break them down into smaller groups that are. A useful method of *circuit analysis* is first to combine elements until reaching a single equivalent element, then to reverse the process and calculate values for each element. Figure 26.26 shows the analysis of this circuit. Notice that we redraw the circuit after every step. The equivalent capacitance of the 3 $\mu$F and 6 $\mu$F capacitors in series is found from

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \left(\frac{1}{3\ \mu\text{F}} + \frac{1}{6\ \mu\text{F}}\right)^{-1} = \left(\frac{2}{6} + \frac{1}{6}\right)^{-1} \mu\text{F} = 2\ \mu\text{F}$$

## Figure 26.26




Analyzing the capacitor circuit.

Once we get to the single equivalent capacitance, we find that $\Delta V_C = \Delta V_{bat} = 12\,V$ and $Q = C\,\Delta V_C = 24\,\mu C$. Now we can reverse direction. Capacitors in series all have the same charge, so the charge on $C_1$ and on $C_{2+3}$ is $\pm 24\,\mu C$. This is enough to determine that $\Delta V_1 = 8\,V$ and $\Delta V_{2+3} = 4\,V$. Capacitors in parallel all have the same potential difference, so $\Delta V_2 = \Delta V_3 = 4V$. This is enough to find that $Q_2 = 20\,\mu C$ and $Q_3 = 4\,\mu C$. The charge on and the potential difference across each of the three capacitors are shown in the final step of Figure 26.26.

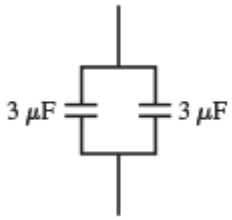
**ASSESS** Notice that we had two important checks of internal consistency. $\Delta V_1 + \Delta V_{2+3} = 8\,V + 4\,V$ add up to the 12 V we had found for the $2\mu F$ equivalent capacitor. Then $Q_2 + Q_3 = 20\,\mu C + 4\,\mu C$ add up to the $24\,\mu C$ we had found for the $6\,\mu F$ equivalent capacitor. We'll do much more circuit analysis of this type in Chapter 28, but it's worth noting now that circuit analysis becomes nearly foolproof *if* you make use of these checks of internal consistency.

## Stop to Think 26.5

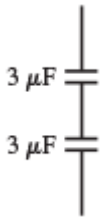
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the equivalent capacitance $(C_{eq})_a$ to $(C_{eq})_d$ of circuits a to d.

**a.**

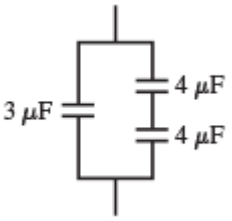
**b.**




**c.**




**d.**

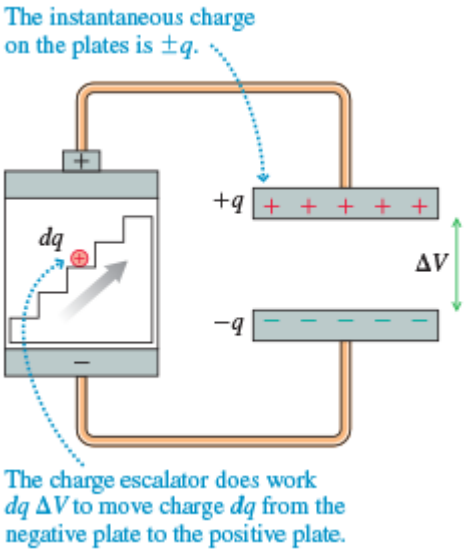


# 26.6 The Energy Stored in a Capacitor



Capacitors are important elements in electric circuits because of their ability to store energy. Figure 26.27 shows a capacitor being charged. The instantaneous value of the charge on the two plates is $\pm q$, and this charge separation has established a potential difference $\Delta V = q/C$ between the two electrodes.

**Figure 26.27**




The charge escalator does work on charge $dq$ as the capacitor is being charged.

An additional charge $dq$ is in the process of being transferred from the negative to the positive electrode. The battery's charge escalator must do work to lift charge $dq$ "uphill" to a higher potential. Consequently, the potential energy of $dq$ + capacitor increases by

**(26.23)**

$$dU = dq\,\Delta V = \frac{q\,dq}{C}$$

> **Note**
>
> Energy must be conserved. This increase in the capacitor's potential energy is provided by the battery.

The total energy transferred from the battery to the capacitor is found by integrating Equation 26.23 from the start of charging, when $q = 0$, until the end, when $q = Q$. Thus we find that the energy stored in a charged capacitor is

**(26.24)**

$$U_{\mathrm{C}} = \frac{1}{C}\int_0^Q q\,dq = \frac{Q^2}{2C}$$

In practice, it is often easier to write the stored energy in terms of the capacitor's potential difference $\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}} = Q/C$. This is

**(26.25)**

$$U_{\mathrm{C}} = \frac{Q^2}{2C} = \tfrac{1}{2}C(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})^2$$

The potential energy stored in a capacitor depends on the *square* of the potential difference across it. This result is reminiscent of the potential energy $U = \tfrac{1}{2}k(\Delta x)^2$ stored in a spring, and a charged capacitor really is analogous to a stretched spring. A stretched spring holds the energy until we release it, then that potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy. Likewise, a charged capacitor holds energy until we discharge it. Then the potential energy is transformed into the kinetic energy of moving charges (the current).

**Example 26.8 Storing energy in a capacitor**

How much energy is stored in a 220 $\mu$F camera-flash capacitor that has been charged to 330 V? What is the average power dissipation if this capacitor is discharged in 1.0 ms?

**SOLVE** The energy stored in the charged capacitor is

$$U_{\mathrm{C}} = \tfrac{1}{2}C(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(220 \times 10^{-6}\,\mathrm{F})\,(330\,\mathrm{V})^2 = 12\,\mathrm{J}$$

If this energy is released in 1.0 ms, the average power dissipation is

$$P = \frac{\Delta E}{\Delta t} = \frac{12\,\mathrm{J}}{1.0 \times 10^{-3}\,\mathrm{s}} = 12{,}000\,\mathrm{W}$$

**ASSESS** The stored energy is equivalent to raising a 1 kg mass 1.2 m. This is a rather large amount of energy, which you can see by imagining the damage a 1 kg mass could do after falling 1.2 m. When this energy is released very quickly, which is possible in an electric circuit, it provides an *enormous* amount of power.



The usefulness of a capacitor stems from the fact that it can be charged slowly (the charging rate is usually limited by the battery's ability to transfer charge) but then can release the energy very quickly. A mechanical analogy would be using a crank to slowly stretch the spring of a catapult, then quickly releasing the energy to launch a massive rock.

The capacitor described in Example 26.8 is typical of the capacitors used in the flash units of cameras. The camera batteries charge a capacitor, then the energy stored in the capacitor is quickly discharged

into a *flashlamp*. The charging process in a camera takes several seconds, which is why you can't fire a camera flash twice in quick succession.

A defibrillator, which can restore a normal heartbeat, discharges a capacitor through the patient's chest.

An important medical application of capacitors is the *defibrillator*. A heart attack or a serious injury can cause the heart to enter a state known as *fibrillation* in which the heart muscles twitch randomly and cannot pump blood. A strong electric shock through the chest completely stops the heart, giving the cells that control the heart's rhythm a chance to restore the proper heartbeat. A defibrillator has a large capacitor that can store up to 360 J of energy. This energy is released in about 2 ms through two "paddles" pressed against the patient's chest. It takes several seconds to charge the capacitor, which is why, on television medical shows, you hear an emergency room doctor or nurse shout "Charging!"

## The Energy in the Electric Field

We can "see" the potential energy of a stretched spring in the tension of the coils. If a charged capacitor is analogous to a stretched spring, where is the stored energy? It's in the electric field!

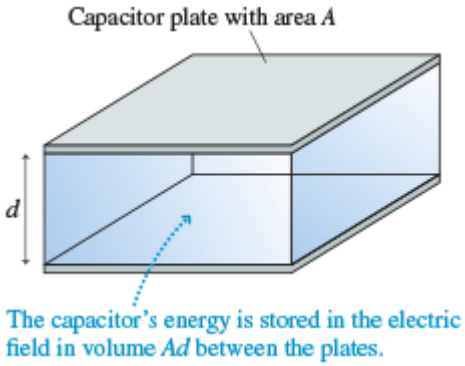
Figure 26.28 shows a parallel-plate capacitor in which the plates have area $A$ and are separated by distance $d$. The potential difference across

the capacitor is related to the electric field inside the capacitor by $\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}} = Ed$. The capacitance, which we found in Equation 26.18, is $C = \epsilon_0 A/d$. Substituting these into Equation 26.25, we find that the energy stored in the capacitor is

**(26.26)**

$$U_{\mathrm{C}} = \tfrac{1}{2} C(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})^2 = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{2d}(Ed)^2 = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2}(Ad)\,E^2$$

## Figure 26.28




A capacitor's energy is stored in the electric field.

The quantity $Ad$ is the volume *inside* the capacitor, the region in which the capacitor's electric field exists. (Recall that an ideal capacitor has $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$ everywhere except between the plates.) Although we talk about "the energy stored in the capacitor," Equation 26.26 suggests that, strictly speaking, **the energy is stored in the capacitor's electric field**.

Because $Ad$ is the volume in which the energy is stored, we can define an **energy density** $u_{\mathrm{E}}$ of the electric field:

**(26.27)**

$$u_{\mathrm{E}} = \frac{\text{energy stored}}{\text{volume in which it is stored}} = \frac{U_{\mathrm{C}}}{Ad} = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2}E^2$$

The energy density has units $J/m^3$. We've derived Equation 26.27 for a parallel-plate capacitor, but it turns out to be the correct expression for any electric field.

From this perspective, charging a capacitor stores energy in the capacitor's electric field as the field grows in strength. Later, when the capacitor is discharged, the energy is released as the field collapses.

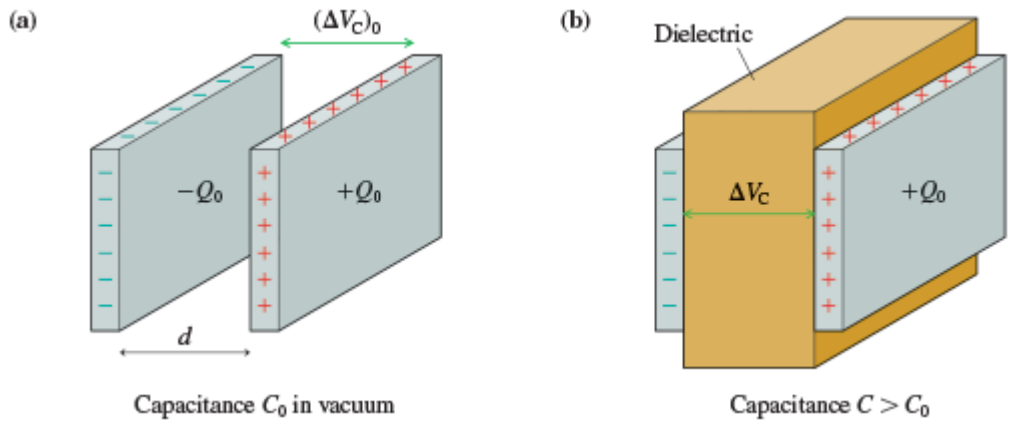
We first introduced the electric field as a way to visualize how a long-range force operates. But if the field can store energy, the field must be real, not merely a pictorial device. We'll explore this idea further in Chapter 31, where we'll find that the energy transported by a light wave—the very real energy of warm sunshine—is the energy of electric and magnetic fields.

# 26.7 Dielectrics



Figure 26.29a shows a parallel-plate capacitor with the plates separated by vacuum, the perfect insulator. Suppose the capacitor is charged to voltage $(\Delta V_C)_0$, then disconnected from the battery. The charge on the plates will be $\pm Q_0$, where $Q_0 = C_0(\Delta V_C)_0$. We'll use a subscript 0 in this section to refer to a vacuum-insulated capacitor.

## Figure 26.29




Vacuum-insulated and dielectric-filled capacitors.

Now suppose, as in Figure 26.29b, an insulating material, such as oil or glass or plastic, is slipped between the capacitor plates. We'll assume for now that the insulator is of thickness $d$ and completely fills the space. An insulator in an electric field is called a **dielectric**, for reasons that will soon become clear, so we call this a *dielectric-filled capacitor*. How does a dielectric-filled capacitor differ from the vacuum-insulated capacitor?

The charge on the capacitor plates does not change. The insulator doesn't allow charge to move through it, and the capacitor has been disconnected from the battery, so no charge can be added to or removed from either

plate. That is, $Q = Q_0$. Nonetheless, measurements of the capacitor voltage with a voltmeter would find that the voltage has decreased: $\Delta V_\text{C} < (\Delta V_\text{C})_0$. Consequently, based on the definition of capacitance, the capacitance has increased:

$$C = \frac{Q}{\Delta V_\text{C}} > \frac{Q_0}{(\Delta V_\text{C})_0} = C_0$$

Example 26.6 found that the plate size needed to make a 1 $\mu$F capacitor is unreasonably large. It appears that we can get more capacitance *with the same plates* by filling the capacitor with an insulator.

We can utilize two tools you learned in Chapter 23, superposition and polarization, to understand the properties of dielectric-filled capacitors. Figure 23.27 showed how an insulating material becomes *polarized* in an external electric field. Figure 26.30a reproduces the basic ideas from that earlier figure. The electric dipoles in Figure 26.30a could be permanent dipoles, such as water molecules, or simply induced dipoles due to a slight charge separation in the atoms. However the dipoles originate, their alignment in the electric field—the *polarization* of the material—produces an excess positive charge on one surface, an excess negative charge on the other. The insulator as a whole is still neutral, but the external electric field separates positive and negative charge.

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**Figure 26.30**

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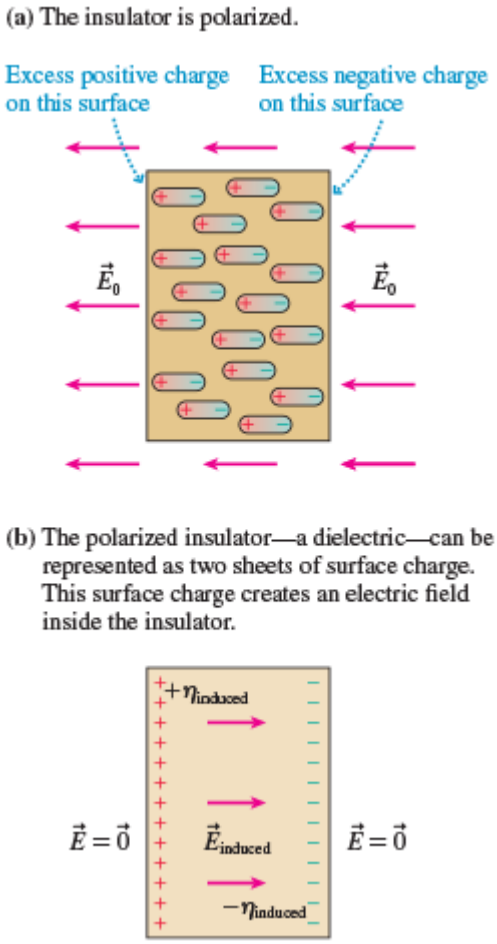



An insulator in an external electric field.

Figure 26.30b represents the polarized insulator as simply two sheets of charge with surface charge densities $\pm\eta_{\text{induced}}$. The size of $\eta_{\text{induced}}$ depends both on the strength of the electric field and on the properties of the insulator. These two sheets of charge create an electric field—a situation we analyzed in Chapter 23. In essence, the two sheets of induced charge act just like the two charged plates of a parallel-plate capacitor. The **induced electric field** (keep in mind that this field is due to the insulator responding to the external electric field) is[732]

**(26.28)**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{induced}} = \begin{cases} \left(\dfrac{\eta_{\text{induced}}}{\epsilon_0}, \text{ from positive to negative}\right) & \text{inside the insulator} \\ \vec{0} & \text{outside the insulator} \end{cases}$$

It is because an insulator in an electric field has *two* sheets of induced *electric* charge that we call it a *dielectric*, with the prefix *di*, meaning *two*, the same as in "diatomic" and "dipole."

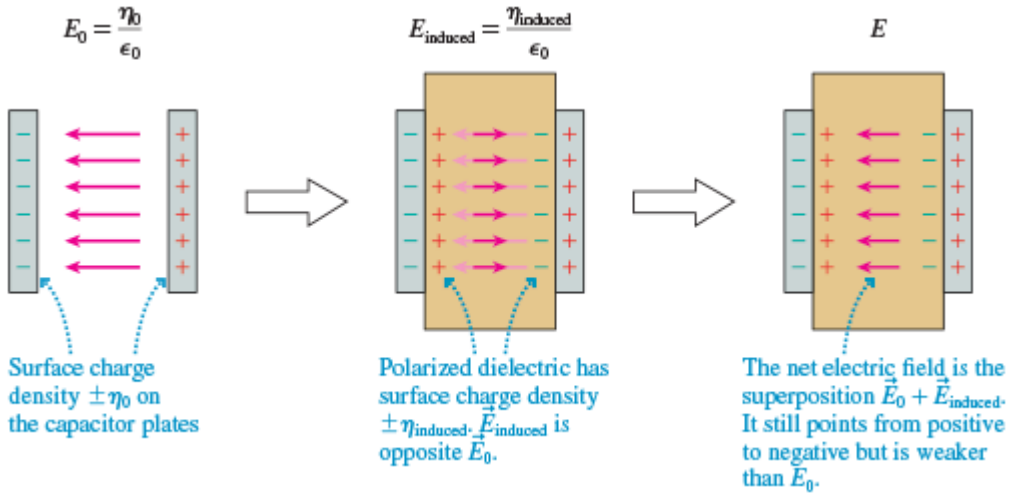
## Inserting a Dielectric into a Capacitor

Figure 26.31 on the next page shows what happens when you insert a dielectric into a capacitor. The capacitor plates have their own surface charge density $\eta_0 = Q_0/A$. This creates the electric field $\vec{E}_0 = (\eta_0/\epsilon_0$, from positive to negative) into which the dielectric is placed. The dielectric responds with induced surface charge density $\eta_{\text{induced}}$ and the induced electric field $\vec{E}_{\text{induced}}$. Notice that $\vec{E}_{\text{induced}}$ points *opposite* to $\vec{E}_0$. By the principle of superposition, another important lesson from Chapter 23, the net electric field between the capacitor plates is the *vector* sum of these two fields:

**(26.29)**

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_0 + \vec{E}_{\text{induced}} = (E_0 - E_{\text{induced}}, \text{ from positive to negative})$$

**Figure 26.31**




The consequences of filling a capacitor with a dielectric.

**The presence of the dielectric weakens the electric field**, from $E_0$ to $E_0 - E_{\text{induced}}$, but the field still points from the positive capacitor plate to the negative capacitor plate. The field is weakened because the induced surface charge in the dielectric acts to counter the electric field of the capacitor plates.

Let's define the **dielectric constant** $\kappa$ (Greek *kappa*) as

**(26.30)**

$$\kappa \equiv \frac{E_0}{E}$$

Equivalently, the field strength inside a dielectric in an external field is $E = E_0/\kappa$. The dielectric constant is the factor by which a dielectric *weakens* an electric field, so $\kappa \geq 1$. You can see from the definition that $\kappa$ is a pure number with no units.



The dielectric constant, like density or specific heat, is a property of a material. Easily polarized materials have larger dielectric constants than materials not easily polarized. Vacuum has $\kappa = 1$ exactly, and low-pressure gases have $\kappa \approx 1$. (Air has $\kappa_{\text{air}} = 1.00$ to three significant figures, so we won't worry about the very slight effect air has on capacitors.) Table 26.1 lists the dielectric constants for different materials.

---

**Table 26.1**

| Material | Dielectric constant $\kappa$ | Dielectric strength $E_{max}(10^6$ V/m) |
|---|---|---|
| Vacuum | 1 | — |
| Air (1 atm) | 1.0006 | 3 |
| Teflon | 2.1 | 60 |
| Polystyrene plastic | 2.6 | 24 |
| Mylar | 3.1 | 7 |
| Paper | 3.7 | 16 |
| Pyrex glass | 4.7 | 14 |
| Pure water (20°C) | 80 | — |
| Titanium dioxide | 110 | 6 |
| Strontium titanate | 300 | 8 |

Properties of dielectrics

The electric field inside the capacitor, although weakened, is still uniform. Consequently, the potential difference across the capacitor is

**(26.31)**

$$\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}} = Ed = \frac{E_0}{\kappa} d = \frac{(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})_0}{\kappa}$$

where $(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})_0 = E_0 d$ was the voltage of the vacuum-insulated capacitor. The presence of a dielectric reduces the capacitor voltage, the observation with which we started this section. Now we see why; it is due to the polarization of the material. Further, the new capacitance is

**(26.32)**

$$C = \frac{Q}{\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}} = \frac{Q_0}{(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})_0/\kappa} = \kappa \frac{Q_0}{(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})_0} = \kappa C_0$$

**Filling a capacitor with a dielectric increases the capacitance by a factor equal to the dielectric constant**. This ranges from virtually no increase

for an air-filled capacitor to a capacitance 300 times larger if the capacitor is filled with strontium titanate.

We'll leave it as a homework problem to show that the induced surface charge density is

**(26.33)**

$$\eta_{\text{induced}} = \eta_0 \left(1 - \frac{1}{\kappa}\right)$$

$\eta_{\text{induced}}$ ranges from nearly zero when $\kappa \approx 1$ to $\approx \eta_0$ when $\kappa \gg 1$.

> **Note**
>
> We assumed that the capacitor was disconnected from the battery after being charged, so $Q$ couldn't change. If you insert a dielectric while a capacitor is attached to a battery, then it will be $\Delta V_C$, fixed at the battery voltage, that can't change. In this case, more charge will flow from the battery until $Q = \kappa Q_0$. In both cases, the capacitance increases to $C = \kappa C_0$.

**Example 26.9 A water-filled capacitor**

A 5.0 nF parallel-plate capacitor is charged to 160 V. It is then disconnected from the battery and immersed in distilled water. What are (a) the capacitance and voltage of the water-filled capacitor and (b) the energy stored in the capacitor before and after its immersion?

**MODEL** Pure distilled water is a good insulator. (The conductivity of tap water is due to dissolved ions.) Thus the immersed capacitor has a dielectric between the electrodes.

**SOLVE**

**a.** From Table 26.1, the dielectric constant of water is $\kappa = 80$. The presence of the dielectric increases the capacitance to

$$C = \kappa C_0 = 80 \times 5.0\ \text{nF} = 400\ \text{nF}$$

At the same time, the voltage decreases to

$$\Delta V_\text{C} = \frac{(\Delta V_\text{C})_0}{\kappa} = \frac{160\ \text{V}}{80} = 2.0\ \text{V}$$

**b.** The presence of a dielectric does not alter the derivation leading to Equation 26.25 for the energy stored in a capacitor. Right after being disconnected from the battery, the stored energy was

$$(U_\text{C})_0 = \tfrac{1}{2} C_0 (\Delta V_\text{C})_0^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(5.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{F})\,(160\ \text{V})^2 = 6.4 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{J}$$



After being immersed, the stored energy is

$$U_\text{C} = \tfrac{1}{2} C (\Delta V_\text{C})^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(400 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{F})\,(2.0\ \text{V})^2 = 8.0 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{J}$$

**ASSESS** Water, with its large dielectric constant, has a *big* effect on the capacitor. But where did the energy go? We learned in Chapter 23 that a dipole is drawn into a region of stronger electric field. The electric field inside the capacitor is much stronger than just

outside the capacitor, so the polarized dielectric is actually *pulled* into the capacitor. The "lost" energy is the work the capacitor's electric field did pulling in the dielectric.

**Example 26.10 Energy density of a defibrillator**

A defibrillator unit contains a 150 $\mu$F capacitor that is charged to 2100 V. The capacitor plates are separated by a 0.050-mm-thick insulator with dielectric constant 120.

**a.** What is the area of the capacitor plates?

**b.** What are the stored energy and the energy density in the electric field when the capacitor is charged?

**MODEL** Model the defibrillator as a parallel-plate capacitor with a dielectric.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The capacitance of a parallel-plate capacitor in a vacuum is $C_0 = \epsilon_0 A/d$. A dielectric increases the capacitance by the factor $\kappa$, to $C = \kappa C_0$, so the area of the capacitor plates is

$$A = \frac{Cd}{\kappa\epsilon_0} = \frac{(150 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{F})(5.0 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{m})}{120(8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{C}^2/\text{N}\,\text{m}^2)} = 7.1\ \text{m}^2$$

Although the surface area is very large, Figure 26.32 shows how very large sheets of very thin metal can be rolled up into capacitors that you hold in your hand.

**b.** The energy stored in the capacitor is

$$U_{\mathrm{C}} = \tfrac{1}{2}C(\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(150 \times 10^{-6}\,\mathrm{F}\right)(2100\,\mathrm{V})^2 = 330\,\mathrm{J}$$

Because the dielectric has increased $C$ by a factor of $\kappa$, the energy density of Equation 26.27 is increased by a factor of $\kappa$ to $u_{\mathrm{E}} = \tfrac{1}{2}\kappa\epsilon_0 E^2$. The electric field strength in the capacitor is

$$E = \frac{\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}}{d} = \frac{2100\,\mathrm{V}}{5.0 \times 10^{-5}\,\mathrm{m}} = 4.2 \times 10^7\,\mathrm{V/m}$$

Consequently, the energy density is

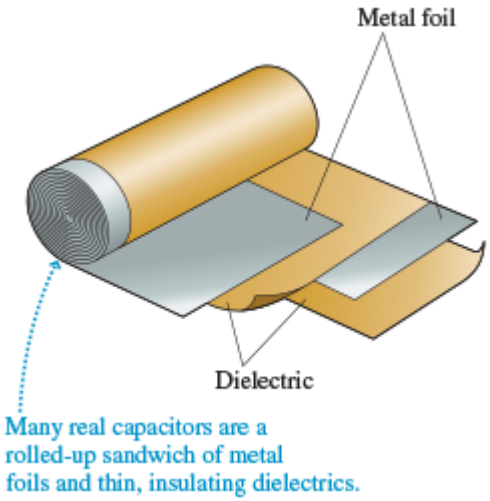
$$\begin{aligned} u_{\mathrm{E}} &= \tfrac{1}{2}(120)(8.85 \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2})(4.2 \times 10^7\,\mathrm{V/m})^2 \\ &= 9.4 \times 10^5\,\mathrm{J/m^3} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** 330 J is a substantial amount of energy—equivalent to that of a 1 kg mass traveling at 25 m/s. And it can be delivered very quickly as the capacitor is discharged through the patient's chest.

Solid or liquid dielectrics allow a set of electrodes to have more capacitance than they would if filled with air. Not surprisingly, as Figure 26.32 shows, this is important in the production of practical capacitors. In addition, dielectrics allow capacitors to be charged to higher voltages. All materials have a maximum electric field they can sustain without *breakdown*—the production of a spark. The breakdown electric field of air, as we've noted previously, is about $3 \times 10^6$ V/m. In general, a material's maximum sustainable electric field is called its **dielectric strength**. Table 26.1 includes dielectric strengths for air and the solid dielectrics. (The

breakdown of water is extremely sensitive to ions and impurities in the water, so water doesn't have a well-defined dielectric strength.)

## Figure 26.32




A practical capacitor.

Many materials have dielectric strengths much larger than air. Teflon, for example, has a dielectric strength 20 times that of air. Consequently, a Teflon-filled capacitor can be safely charged to a voltage 20 times larger than an air-filled capacitor with the same plate separation. An air-filled capacitor with a plate separation of 0.2 mm can be charged only to 600 V, but a capacitor with a 0.2-mm-thick Teflon sheet could be charged to 12,000 V.

### Challenge Example 26.11 The Geiger counter: A cylindrical capacitor

The radiation detector known as a *Geiger counter* consists of a 25-mm-diameter cylindrical metal tube, sealed at the ends, with a 1.0-mm-diameter wire along its axis. The wire and cylinder are separated by a low-pressure gas whose dielectric strength is $1.0 \times 10^6$ V/m.

**a.** What is the capacitance per unit length?

**b.** What is the maximum potential difference between the wire and the tube?

---

**MODEL** Model the Geiger counter as two infinitely long, concentric, conducting cylinders. Applying a potential difference between the cylinders charges them like a capacitor; indeed, they *are* a cylindrical capacitor. The charge on an infinitely long conductor is infinite, but the linear charge density $\lambda$ is the charge per unit length (C/m), which is finite. So for a cylindrical capacitor we compute the capacitance per unit length $C = \lambda/\Delta V$, in F/m, rather than an absolute capacitance. To avoid breakdown of the gas, the field strength at the surface of the wire—the point of maximum field strength—must not exceed the dielectric strength.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 26.33 shows a cross section of the Geiger counter tube. We've chosen to let the outer cylinder be positive, with an inward-pointing electric field, but a negative outer cylinder would lead to the same answer since it's only the field strength that we're interested in.

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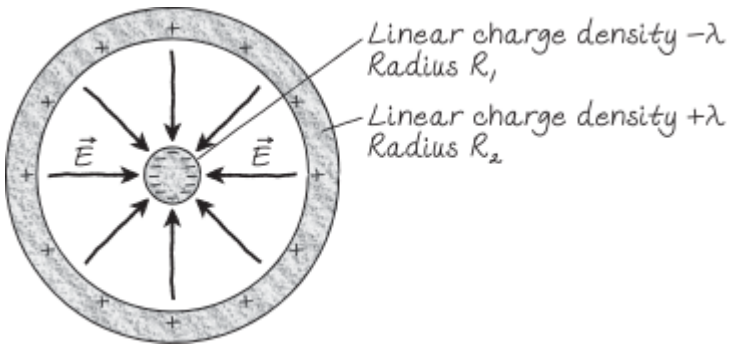
## Figure 26.33




Cross section of a Geiger counter tube.

**SOLVE**

**a.** Gauss's law tells us that the electric field between the cylinders is due only to the charge on the inner cylinder. Thus $\vec{E}$ is the field of a long, charged wire—a field we found in Chapter 23 using superposition and again in Chapter 24 using Gauss's law. It is

$$\vec{E} = \left( \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r}, \text{ inward} \right)$$

where $\lambda$ is the magnitude of the linear charge density. We need to connect this field to the potential difference between the wire and the outer cylinder. For that, we need to use Equation 26.3:

$$\Delta V = V_\text{f} - V_\text{i} = -\int_{s_\text{i}}^{s_\text{f}} E_s ds$$

We'll integrate along a radial line from $s_\text{i} = R_1$ on the surface of the inner cylinder to $s_\text{f} = R_2$ at the outer cylinder. The field component $E_s$ is negative because the field points inward. Thus the potential difference is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V &= -\int_{R_1}^{R_2} \left( -\frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 s} \right) ds = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{R_1}^{R_2} \frac{ds}{s} \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \ln s \Big|_{R_1}^{R_2} = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

We see that the applied potential difference and the linear charge density are related by

$$\frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0} = \frac{\Delta V}{\ln\left(R_2/R_1\right)}$$

Thus the capacitance per unit length is

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \frac{\lambda}{\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}} = \frac{2\pi\epsilon_0}{\ln(R_2/R_1)} \\ &= \frac{2\pi(8.85\times10^{-12}\ \mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2})}{\ln(25)} = 17\ \mathrm{pF/m} \end{aligned}$$

You should convince yourself that the units of $\epsilon_0$ are equivalent to F/m.

**b.** Using the above in the expression for $\vec{E}$, we find the electric field strength at distance *r* is

$$E = \frac{\Delta V}{r\ln\left(R_2/R_1\right)}$$

The field strength is a maximum at the surface of the wire, where it reaches

$$E_{\max} = \frac{\Delta V}{R_1\ln\left(R_2/R_1\right)}$$

The maximum applied voltage will bring $E_{\max}$ to the dielectric strength, $E_{\max} = 1.0\times10^6\ \mathrm{V/m}$. Thus the maximum potential difference between the wire and the tube is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V_{\max} &= R_1 E_{\max} \ln\left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right) \\ &= (5.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m})(1.0 \times 10^{6}\ \text{V/m})\ln(25) \\ &= 1600\ \text{V}\end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This is the *maximum* possible voltage, but it's not practical to operate right at the maximum. Real Geiger counters operate with typically a 1000 V potential difference to avoid an accidental breakdown of the gas. If a high-speed charged particle from a radioactive decay then happens to pass through the tube, it will collide with and ionize a number of the gas atoms. Because the tube is already very close to breakdown, the addition of these extra ions and electrons is enough to push it over the edge: A breakdown of the gas occurs, with a spark jumping across the tube. The "clicking" sounds of a Geiger counter are made by amplifying the current pulses associated with the sparks.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 26 has been to learn how the electric potential is related to the electric field.

## General Principles

### Connecting $V$ and $\vec{E}$

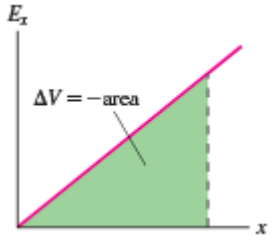
The electric potential and the electric field are two different perspectives of how source charges alter the space around them. $V$ and $\vec{E}$ are related by

$$\Delta V = V_{\mathrm{f}} - V_{\mathrm{i}} = -\int_{s_{\mathrm{i}}}^{s_{\mathrm{f}}} E_s \, ds$$

where $s$ is measured from point i to point f and $E_s$ is the component of $\vec{E}$ parallel to the line of integration.

Graphically

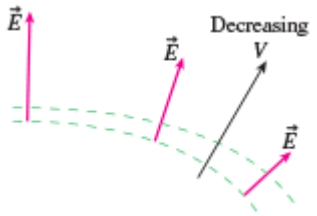
$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V &= \text{the negative of the area} \\ &\quad \text{under the } E_s \text{ graph} \\ E_s &= -\frac{dV}{ds} \\ &= \text{the negative of the slope} \\ &\quad \text{of the potential graph} \end{aligned}$$




## The Geometry of Potential and Field

The electric field

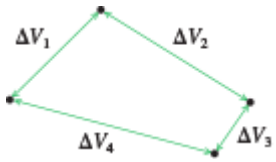
- Is perpendicular to the equipotential surfaces.
- Points "downhill" in the direction of decreasing $V$.
- Is inversely proportional to the spacing $\Delta s$ between the equipotential surfaces.




## Conservation of Energy

The sum of all potential differences around a closed path is zero.

$$\sum (\Delta V)_i = 0$$

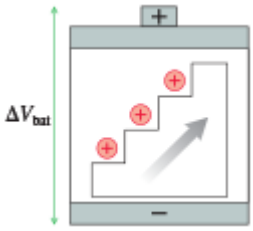



# Important Concepts

A **battery** is a **source of potential**. The charge escalator in a battery uses chemical reactions to move charges from the negative terminal to the positive terminal:

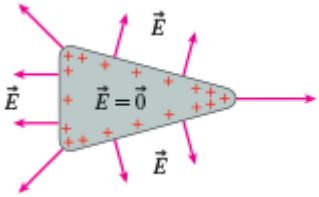
$$\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$$

where the emf $\mathcal{E}$ is the work per charge done by the charge escalator.




For a **conductor in electrostatic equilibrium**

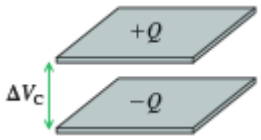
- The interior electric field is zero.
- The exterior electric field is perpendicular to the surface.
- The surface is an equipotential.
- The interior is at the same potential as the surface.




# Applications

## Capacitors

The **capacitance** of two conductors charged to $\pm Q$ is




$$C = \frac{Q}{\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}}}$$

A parallel-plate capacitor has

$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$$

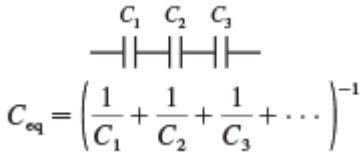
Filling the space between the plates with a **dielectric** of dielectric constant $\kappa$ increases the capacitance to $C = \kappa C_0$.

The energy stored in a capacitor is $u_{\mathrm{C}} = \frac{1}{2} C (\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}})^2$.

This energy is stored in the electric field at density $u_{\mathrm{E}} = \frac{1}{2} \kappa \epsilon_0 E^2$.

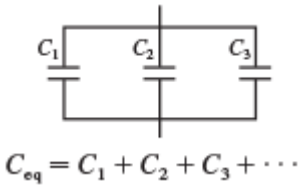
## Combinations of capacitors

**Series capacitors**






**Parallel capacitors**



# Terms and Notation

Kirchhoff's loop law

Van de Graaff generator

battery

charge escalator model

emf, $\mathcal{E}$

terminal voltage, $\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$

ideal battery

capacitance, $C$

capacitor

capacitor voltage, $\Delta V_{\text{C}}$

farad, F

parallel capacitors

series capacitors

equivalent capacitance, $C_{\text{eq}}$

energy density, $u_{\text{E}}$

dielectric

induced electric field

dielectric constant, $\kappa$

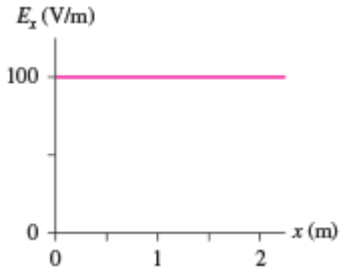
dielectric strength

# Conceptual Questions



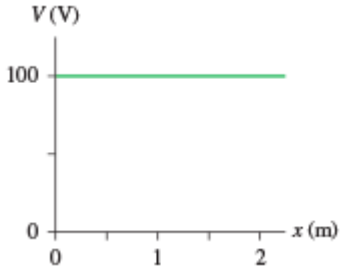
**1.** Figure Q26.1 shows the $x$-component of $\vec{E}$ as a function of $x$. Draw a graph of $V$ versus $x$ in this same region of space. Let $V = 0\,\text{V}$ at $x = 0\,\text{m}$ and include an appropriate vertical scale.

**Figure Q26.1**




**2.** Figure Q26.2 shows the electric potential as a function of $x$. Draw a graph of $E_x$ versus $x$ in this same region of space.

**Figure Q26.2**




**3.**

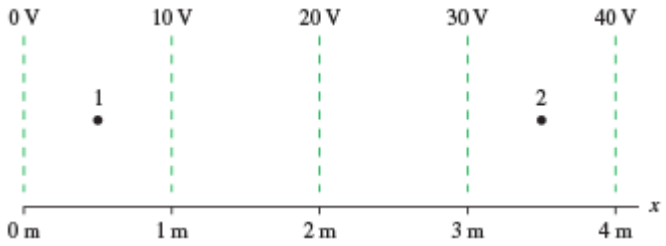
**a.** Suppose that $\vec{E} = \vec{0}\,\text{V/m}$ throughout some region of space. Can you conclude that $V = 0\,\text{V}$ in this region? Explain.

**b.** Suppose that $V = 0\,\text{V}$ throughout some region of space. Can you conclude that $\vec{E} = \vec{0}\,\text{V/m}$ in this region?

Explain.

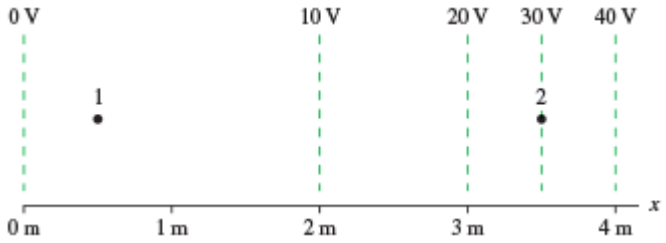
**4.** Estimate the electric fields $\vec{E}_1$ and $\vec{E}_2$ at points 1 and 2 in Figure Q26.4. Don't forget that $\vec{E}$ is a vector.

**Figure Q26.4**



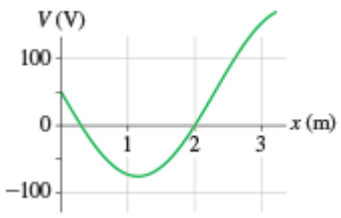

**5.** Estimate the electric fields $\vec{E}_1$ and $\vec{E}_2$ at points 1 and 2 in Figure Q26.5. Don't forget that $\vec{E}$ is a vector.

**Figure Q26.5**



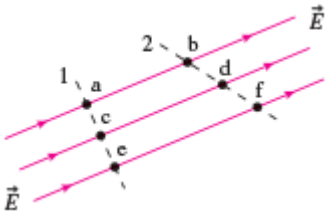

**6.** An electron is released from rest at $x = 2$ m in the potential shown in Figure Q26.6. Does it move? If so, to the left or to the right? Explain.

**Figure Q26.6**



7. Figure Q26.7 shows an electric field diagram. Dashed lines 1 and 2 are two surfaces in space, not physical objects.

**Figure Q26.7**



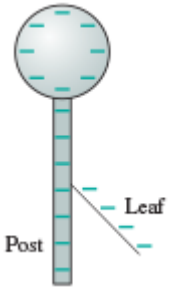

**a.** Is the electric potential at point a higher than, lower than, or equal to the electric potential at point b? Explain.

**b.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the magnitudes of the potential differences $\Delta V_{ab}$, $\Delta V_{cd}$, and $\Delta V_{ef}$.

**c.** Is surface 1 an equipotential surface? What about surface 2? Explain why or why not.

8. Figure Q26.8 shows a negatively charged electroscope. The gold leaf stands away from the rigid metal post. Is the electric potential of the leaf higher than, lower than, or equal to the potential of the post? Explain.

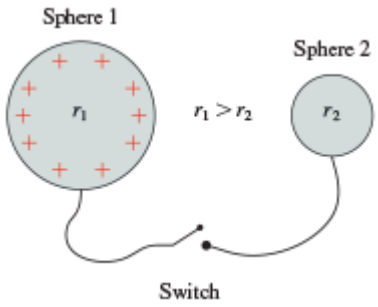
**Figure Q26.8**




9. The two metal spheres in Figure Q26.9 are connected by a metal wire with a switch in the middle. Initially the switch is open. Sphere 1, with the larger radius, is given a positive charge.

Sphere 2, with the smaller radius, is neutral. Then the switch is closed. Afterward, sphere 1 has charge $Q_1$, is at potential $V_1$, and the electric field strength at its surface is $E_1$. The values for sphere 2 are $Q_2$, $V_2$, and $E_2$.

**Figure Q26.9**



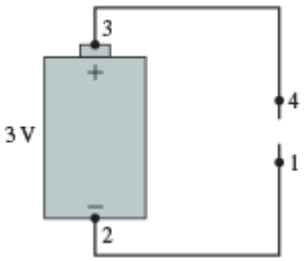

**a.** Is $V_1$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to $V_2$? Explain.

**b.** Is $Q_1$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to $Q_2$? Explain.

**c.** Is $E_1$ larger than, smaller than, or equal to $E_2$? Explain.

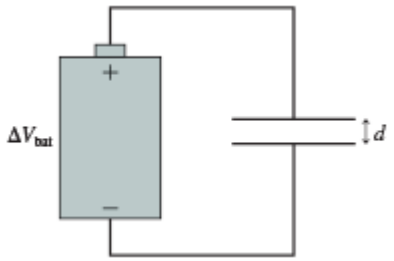
**10.** Figure Q26.10 shows a 3 V battery with metal wires attached to each end. What are the potential differences $\Delta V_{12} = V_2 - V_1$, $\Delta V_{23} = V_3 - V_2$, $\Delta V_{34} = V_4 - V_3$, and $\Delta V_{41} = V_1 - V_4$?

**Figure Q26.10**




**11.** The parallel-plate capacitor in Figure Q26.11 is connected to a battery having potential difference $\Delta V_{bat}$. Without breaking any of the connections, insulating handles are used to increase the plate separation to $2d$.

**Figure Q26.11**



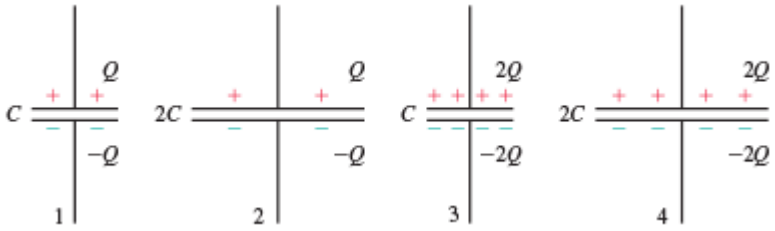

**a.** Does the potential difference $\Delta V_C$ change as the separation increases? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**b.** Does the capacitance change? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**c.** Does the capacitor charge $Q$ change? If so, by what factor? If not, why not?

**12.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the potential differences $(\Delta V_C)_1$ to $(\Delta V_C)_4$ of the four capacitors in Figure Q26.12. Explain.

**Figure Q26.12**




# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

# Exercises



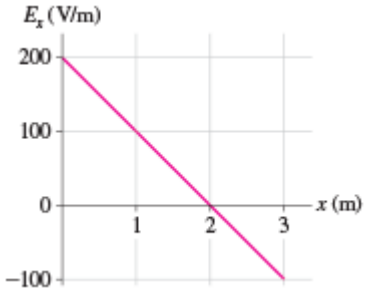
## Section 26.1 Connecting Potential and Field

**1.** •• What is the potential difference between $x_i = 10\,\text{cm}$ and $x_f = 30\,\text{cm}$ in the uniform electric field $E_x = 1000\,\text{V/m}$?

**2.** •• What is the potential difference between $y_i = -5\,\text{cm}$ and $y_f = 5\,\text{cm}$ in the uniform electric field $\vec{E} = (20{,}000\hat{i} - 50{,}000\hat{j})\ \text{V/m}$?

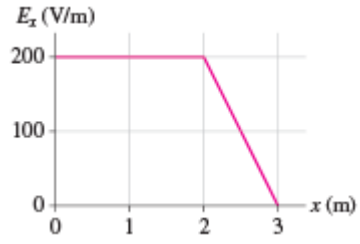
**3.** •• Figure EX26.3 is a graph of $E_x$. What is the potential difference between $x_i = 1.0\,\text{m}$ and $x_f = 3.0\,\text{m}$?

**Figure EX26.3**




**4.** •• Figure EX26.4 is a graph of $E_x$. The potential at the origin is –50 V. What is the potential at $x = 3.0\,\text{m}$?

**Figure EX26.4**

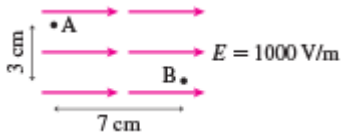



**5.** •

**a.** Which point in Figure EX26.5, A or B, has a larger electric potential?

**b.** What is the potential difference between A and B?

**Figure EX26.5**

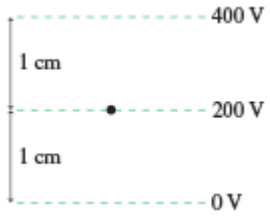



## Section 26.2 Finding the Electric Field from the Potential

**6.** • Two flat, parallel electrodes 2.5 cm apart are kept at potentials of 20 V and 35 V. Estimate the electric field strength between them.

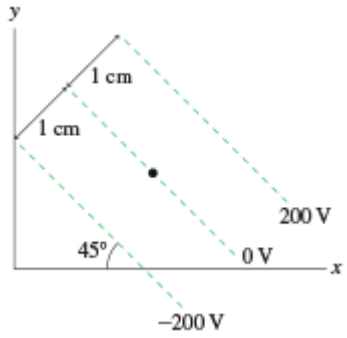
**7.** • What are the magnitude and direction of the electric field at the dot in Figure EX26.7?

**Figure EX26.7**



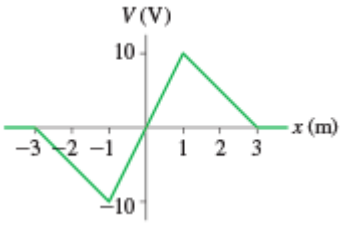

**8.** • What are the magnitude and direction of the electric field at the dot in Figure EX26.8?

**Figure EX26.8**



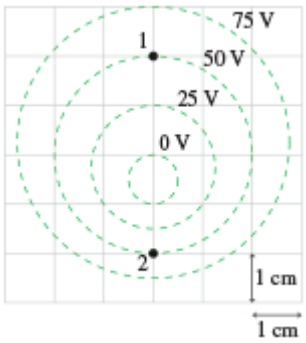

**9.** • Figure EX26.9 shows a graph of $V$ versus $x$ in a region of space. The potential is independent of $y$ and $z$. What is $E_x$ at (a) $x = -2\,\text{cm}$, (b) $x = 0\,\text{cm}$, and (c) $x = 2\,\text{cm}$?

**Figure EX26.9**



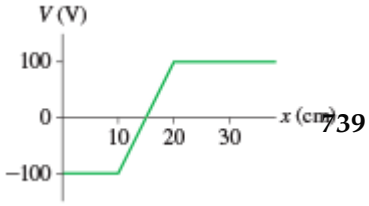

**10.** • Determine the magnitude and direction of the electric field at points 1 and 2 in Figure EX26.10.

**Figure EX26.10**




**11.** •• Figure EX26.11 is a graph of $V$ versus $x$. Draw the corresponding graph of $E_x$ versus $x$.

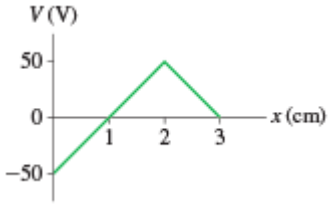
## Figure EX26.11






**12.** •• Figure EX26.12 is a graph of $V$ versus $x$. Draw the corresponding graph of $E_x$ versus $x$.

## Figure EX26.12



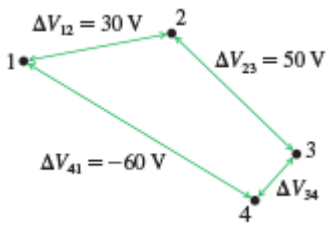

**13.** •• The electric potential in a region of uniform electric field is –1000 V at $x = -1.0\,\text{m}$ and +1000 V at $x = +1.0\,\text{m}$. What is $E_x$?

**14.** •• **CALC** The electric potential along the $x$-axis is $V = 100x^2$ V, where $x$ is in meters. What is $E_x$ at (a) $x = 0\,\text{m}$ and (b) $x = 1\,\text{m}$?

**15.** •• **CALC** The electric potential along the $x$-axis is $V = 100e^{-2x}$ V, where $x$ is in meters. What is $E_x$ at (a) $x = 1.0\,\text{m}$ and (b) $x = 2.0\,\text{m}$?

**16.** • What is the potential difference $\Delta V_{34}$ in Figure EX26.16?

## Figure EX26.16



## Section 26.4 Sources of Electric Potential

**17.** • How much work does the charge escalator do to move 1.0 $\mu$C of charge from the negative terminal to the positive terminal of a 1.5 V battery?

**18.** • How much charge does a 9.0 V battery transfer from the negative to the positive terminal while doing 27 J of work?

**19.** • How much work does the electric motor of a Van de Graaff generator do to lift a positive ion ($q = e$) if the potential of the spherical electrode is 1.0 MV?

**20.** • Light from the sun allows a solar cell to move electrons from the positive to the negative terminal, doing $2.4 \times 10^{-19}$ J of work per electron. What is the emf of this solar cell?

## Section 26.5 Capacitance and Capacitors

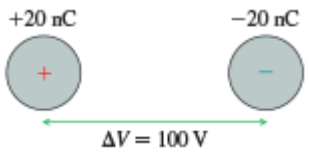
**21.** •• Two 3.0-cm-diameter aluminum electrodes are spaced 0.50 mm apart. The electrodes are connected to a 100 V battery.

**a.** What is the capacitance?

**b.** What is the magnitude of the charge on each electrode?

**22.** •• What is the capacitance of the two metal spheres shown in Figure EX26.22?

**Figure EX26.22**




**23.** • You need to construct a 100 pF capacitor for a science project. You plan to cut two $L \times L$ metal squares and insert small

spacers between their corners. The thinnest spacers you have are 0.20 mm thick. What is the proper value of $L$?

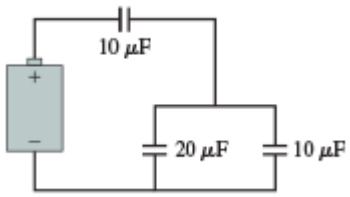
**24.** • A switch that connects a battery to a 10 $\mu$F capacitor is closed. Several seconds later you find that the capacitor plates are charged to ±30 $\mu$C. What is the emf of the battery?

**25.** • A 6 $\mu$F capacitor, a 10 $\mu$F capacitor, and a 16 $\mu$F capacitor are connected in series. What is their equivalent capacitance?

**26.** • A 6 $\mu$F capacitor, a 10 $\mu$F capacitor, and a 16 $\mu$F capacitor are connected in parallel. What is their equivalent capacitance?

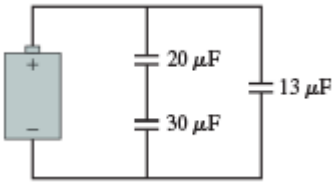
**27.** • What is the equivalent capacitance of the three capacitors in Figure EX26.27?

**Figure EX26.27**




**28.** • What is the equivalent capacitance of the three capacitors in Figure EX26.28?

**Figure EX26.28**




**29.** • You need a capacitance of 50 $\mu$F, but you don't happen to have a 50 $\mu$F capacitor. You do have a 30 $\mu$F capacitor. What additional capacitor do you need to produce a total capacitance

of 50 $\mu$F? Should you join the two capacitors in parallel or in series?

**30.** • You need a capacitance of 50 $\mu$F, but you don't happen to have a 50 $\mu$F capacitor. You do have a 75 $\mu$F capacitor. What additional capacitor do you need to produce a total capacitance of 50 $\mu$F? Should you join the two capacitors in parallel or in series?

## Section 26.6 The Energy Stored in a Capacitor



**31.** •• To what potential should you charge a 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor to store 1.0 J of energy?

**32.** •• 50 pJ of energy is stored in a $2.0\text{ cm} \times 2.0\text{ cm} \times 2.0\text{ cm}$ region of uniform electric field. What is the electric field strength?

**33.** •• A 2.0-cm-diameter parallel-plate capacitor with a spacing of 0.50 mm is charged to 200 V. What are (a) the total energy stored in the electric field and (b) the energy density?

**34.** •• **INT BIO** The 90 $\mu$F capacitor in a defibrillator unit supplies an average of 6500 W of power to the chest of the patient during a discharge lasting 5.0 ms. To what voltage is the capacitor charged?

## Section 26.7 Dielectrics

**35.** •• Two $4.0\text{ cm} \times 4.0\text{ cm}$ metal plates are separated by a 0.20-mm-thick piece of Teflon.

**a.** What is the capacitance?

**b.** What is the maximum potential difference between the plates?

**36.** •• Two 5.0 cm × 5.0 cm electrodes are held 0.10 mm apart and are attached to a 9.0 V battery. Without disconnecting the battery, a 0.10-mm-thick sheet of Mylar is inserted between the electrodes. What are the capacitor's potential difference, electric field, and charge (a) before and (b) after the Mylar is inserted?

**Hint:** Section 26.7 considered a capacitor with *isolated* plates. What changes, and what doesn't, when the plates stay connected to the battery?

**37.** •• **BIO** A typical cell has a layer of negative charge on the inner surface of the cell wall and a layer of positive charge on the outside surface, thus making the cell wall a capacitor. What is the capacitance of a 50-$\mu$m-diameter cell with a 7.0-nm-thick cell wall whose dielectric constant is 9.0? Because the cell's diameter is much larger than the wall thickness, it is reasonable to ignore the curvature of the cell and think of it as a parallel-plate capacitor.

# Problems

**38.** •• **CALC** The electric field in a region of space is $E_x = 5000x$ V/m, where $x$ is in meters.

**a.** Graph $E_x$ versus $x$ over the region $-1\,\text{m} \leq x \leq 1\,\text{m}$.

**b.** Find an expression for the potential $V$ at position $x$. As a reference, let $V = 0\,\text{V}$ at the origin.

**c.** Graph $V$ versus $x$ over the region $-1\,\text{m} \leq x \leq 1\,\text{m}$.

**39.** ••• **CALC** The electric field in a region of space is $E_x = -1000x$ V/m, where $x$ is in meters.

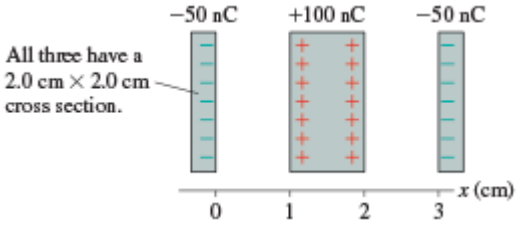
**a.** Graph $E_x$ versus $x$ over the region $-1\,\text{m} \leq x \leq 1\,\text{m}$.

**b.** What is the potential difference between $x_i = -20\,\text{cm}$ and $x_f = 30\,\text{cm}$?

**40.** •• **INT CALC** An infinitely long cylinder of radius $R$ has linear charge density $\lambda$. The potential on the surface of the cylinder is $V_0$, and the electric field outside the cylinder is $E_r = \lambda/2\pi\epsilon_0 r$. Find the potential relative to the surface at a point that is distance $r$ from the axis, assuming $r > R$.

**41.** •• Figure P26.41 is an edge view of three charged metal electrodes. Let the left electrode be the zero point of the electric potential. What are $V$ and $\vec{E}$ at (a) $x = 0.5\,\text{cm}$, (b) $x = 1.5\,\text{cm}$, and (c) $x = 2.5\,\text{cm}$?

**Figure P26.41**

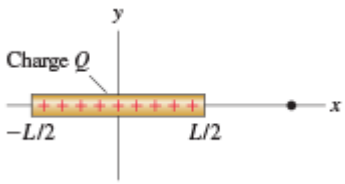



**42.** •• Use the on-axis potential of a charged disk from Chapter 25 to find the on-axis electric field of a charged disk.

**43.** ••

**a.** Use the methods of Chapter 25 to find the potential at distance $x$ on the axis of the charged rod shown in Figure P26.43.

**Figure P26.43**



**b.** Use the result of part a to find the electric field at distance $x$ on the axis of a rod.

**44.** •• It is postulated that the radial electric field of a group of charges falls off as $E_r = C/r^n$, where $C$ is a constant, $r$ is the distance from the center of the group, and $n$ is an unknown exponent. To test this hypothesis, you make a *field probe* consisting of two needle tips spaced 1.00 mm apart. You orient the needles so that a line between the tips points to the center of the charges, then use a voltmeter to read the potential difference between the tips. After you take measurements at several distances from the center of the group, your data are as follows:

| Distance (cm) | Potential difference (mV) |
|---|---|
| 2.0 | 34.7 |
| 4.0 | 6.6 |
| 6.0 | 2.1 |
| 8.0 | 1.2 |
| 10.0 | 0.6 |



Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine the constants $C$ and $n$.

**45.** •• **CALC** Engineers discover that the electric potential between two electrodes can be modeled as $V(x) = V_0 \ln(1 + x/d)$, where $V_0$ is a constant, $x$ is the distance from the first electrode in the direction of the second, and $d$ is the distance between the electrodes. What is the electric field strength midway between the electrodes?

**46.** •• **CALC** The electric potential in a region of space is $V = (150x^2 - 200y^2)$ V, where $x$ and $y$ are in meters. What are the strength and direction of the electric field at $(x,y) = (2.0\,\text{m}, 2.0\,\text{m})$? Give the direction as an angle cw or ccw (specify which) from the positive $x$-axis.

**47.** •• **CALC** The electric potential in a region of space is $V = 200/\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, where $x$ and $y$ are in meters. What are the strength and direction of the electric field at $(x,y) = (2.0\,\text{m}, 1.0\,\text{m})$? Give the direction as an angle cw or ccw (specify which) from the positive $x$-axis.

**48.** •• **CALC** Consider a large, thin, electrically neutral conducting plate in the $xy$-plane at $z = 0$ and a point charge $q$ on the $z$-axis at distance $z_{\text{charge}} = d$. What is the electric field on and above the plate? Although the plate is neutral, electric forces from the point charge *polarize* the conducting plate and cause it to have some complex distribution of surface charge. The electric field and potential are then a superposition of fields and potentials due to the point charge *and* the plate's surface charge. That's complicated! However, it is shown in more advanced classes that the field and potential outside the plate ($z \geq 0$) are exactly the same as the field and potential of the original charge $q$ plus a "mirror image" charge $-q$ located at $z_{\text{image}} = -d$.

**a.** Find an expression for the electric potential in the $yz$-plane for $z \geq 0$ (i.e., in the space above the plate).

**b.** We know that electric fields are perpendicular to conductors in electrostatic equilibrium, so the field at the surface of the plate has only a $z$-component. Find an expression for the field $E_z$ on the surface of the plate ($z = 0$) as a function of distance $y$ away from the $z$-axis.

**c.** A +10 nC point charge is 2.0 cm above a large conducting plate. What is the electric field strength at the surface of the plate (i) directly beneath the point charge and (ii) 2.0 cm away from being directly beneath the point charge?

**49.** •• Metal sphere 1 has a positive charge of 6.0 nC. Metal sphere 2, which is twice the diameter of sphere 1, is initially uncharged. The spheres are then connected together by a long, thin metal wire. What are the final charges on each sphere?

**50.** •• The metal spheres in Figure P26.50 are charged to ±300 V. Draw this figure on your paper, then draw a plausible contour map of the potential, showing and labeling the –300 V, –200 V, –100 V, …, 300 V equipotential surfaces.

**Figure P26.50**

**51.** •• The potential at the center of a 4.0-cm-diameter copper sphere is 500 V, relative to $V = 0$ V at infinity. How much excess charge is on the sphere?

**52.** •• The electric potential is 40 V at point A near a uniformly charged sphere. At point B, 2.0 $\mu$m farther away from the sphere, the potential has decreased by 0.16 mV. How far is point A from the center of the sphere?

**53.** •• Two 2.0 cm × 2.0 cm metal electrodes are spaced 1.0 mm apart and connected by wires to the terminals of a 9.0 V battery.

**a.** What are the charge on each electrode and the potential difference between them?

The wires are disconnected, and insulated handles are used to pull the plates apart to a new spacing of 2.0 mm.

**b.** What are the charge on each electrode and the potential difference between them?

**54.** • Two 2.0 cm × 2.0 cm metal electrodes are spaced 1.0 mm apart and connected by wires to the terminals of a 9.0 V battery.

**a.** What are the charge on each electrode and the potential difference between them?

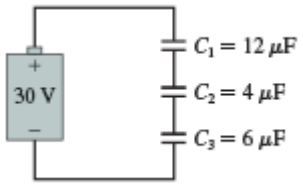
While the plates are still connected to the battery, insulated handles are used to pull them apart to a new spacing of 2.0 mm.

**b.** What are the charge on each electrode and the potential difference between them?

**55.** • Find expressions for the equivalent capacitance of (a) $N$ identical capacitors $C$ in parallel and (b) $N$ identical capacitors $C$ in series.

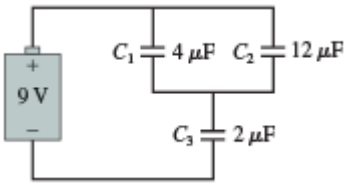
**56.** •• What are the charge on and the potential difference across each capacitor in Figure P26.56?

**Figure P26.56**



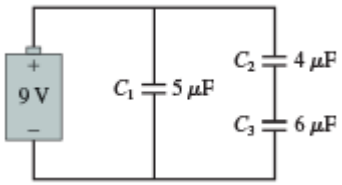

**57.** •• What are the charge on and the potential difference across each capacitor in Figure P26.57?

**Figure P26.57**



**58.** •• What are the charge on and the potential difference across each capacitor in Figure P26.58?

**Figure P26.58**



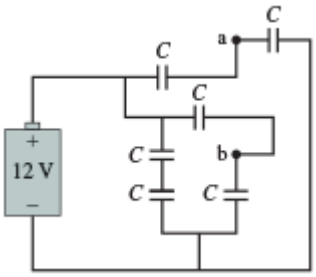

**59.** • You have three 12 $\mu$F capacitors. Draw diagrams showing how you could arrange all three so that their equivalent capacitance is (a) 4.0 $\mu$F, (b) 8.0 $\mu$F, (c) 18 $\mu$F, and (d) 36 $\mu$F.

**60.** • Six identical capacitors with capacitance $C$ are connected as shown in Figure P26.60.

**a.** What is the equivalent capacitance of these six capacitors?

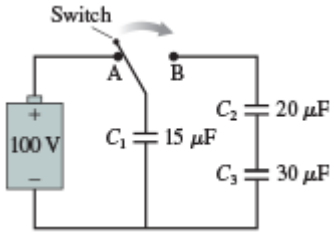
**b.** What is the potential difference between points a and b?

**Figure P26.60**



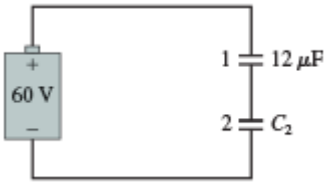

**61.** •• Initially, the switch in Figure P26.61 is in position A and capacitors $C_2$ and $C_3$ are uncharged. Then the switch is flipped to position B. Afterward, what are the charge on and the potential difference across each capacitor?

## Figure P26.61




**62.** •• A battery with an emf of 60 V is connected to the two capacitors shown in Figure P26.62. Afterward, the charge on capacitor 2 is 450 $\mu$C. What is the capacitance of capacitor 2?

## Figure P26.62




**63.** •• Capacitors $C_1 = 10\,\mu\text{F}$ and $C_2 = 20\,\mu\text{F}$ are each charged to 10 V, then disconnected from the battery without changing the charge on the capacitor plates. The two capacitors are then connected in parallel, with the positive plate of $C_1$ connected to the negative plate of $C_2$ and vice versa. Afterward, what are the charge on and the potential difference across each capacitor?

**64.** •• **INT** An isolated 5.0 $\mu$F parallel-plate capacitor has 4.0 mC of charge. An external force changes the distance between the electrodes until the capacitance is 2.0 $\mu$F. How much work is done by the external force?

**65.** •• An ideal parallel-plate capacitor has a uniform electric field between the plates, zero field outside. By superposition, half the field strength is due to one plate and half due to the other.

**a.** The plates of a parallel-plate capacitor are oppositely charged and attract each other. Find an expression in terms of $C$, $\Delta V_C$, and the plate separation $d$ for the force one plate exerts on the other.

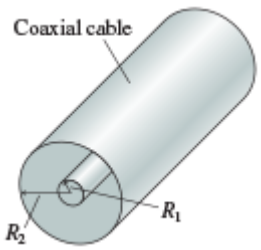
**b.** What is the attractive force on each plate of a 100 pF capacitor with a 1.0 mm plate spacing when charged to 1000 V?

**66.** ••• **CALC** High-frequency signals are often transmitted along a *coaxial cable*, such as the one shown in Figure P26.66. For example, the cable TV hookup coming into your home is a coaxial cable. The signal is carried on a wire of radius $R_1$ while the outer conductor of radius $R_2$ is grounded (i.e., at $V = 0\,\text{V}$). An insulating material fills the space between them, and an insulating plastic coating goes around the outside.

**a.** Find an expression for the capacitance per meter of a coaxial cable. Assume that the insulating material between the cylinders is air.

**b.** Evaluate the capacitance per meter of a cable having, $R_1 = 0.50\,\text{mm}$ and $R_2 = 3.0\,\text{mm}$.

**Figure P26.66**




**67.** •• **INT** The flash unit in a camera uses a 3.0 V battery to charge a capacitor. The capacitor is then discharged through a flashlamp. The discharge takes 10 $\mu$s, and the average power

dissipated in the flashlamp is 10 W. What is the capacitance of the capacitor?

**68.** •• The label rubbed off one of the capacitors you are using to build a circuit. To find out its capacitance, you place it in series with a 10 $\mu$F capacitor and connect them to a 9.0 V battery. Using your voltmeter, you measure 6.0 V across the unknown capacitor. What is the unknown capacitor's capacitance?

**69.** •• **CALC** A capacitor being charged has a *current* carrying charge to and away from the plates. In the next chapter we will define current to be $dQ/dt$, the rate of charge flow. What is the current to a 10 $\mu$F capacitor whose voltage is increasing at the rate of 2.0 V/s?

**70.** •• **CALC** The current that charges a capacitor transfers energy that is stored in the capacitor's electric field. Consider a 2.0 $\mu$F capacitor, initially uncharged, that is storing energy at a constant 200 W rate. What is the capacitor voltage 2.0 $\mu$s after charging begins?

**71.** •• **BIO** A typical cell has a membrane potential of –70 mV, meaning that the potential inside the cell is 70 mV less than the potential outside due to a layer of negative charge on the inner surface of the cell wall and a layer of positive charge on the outer surface. This effectively makes the cell wall a charged capacitor. Because a cell's diameter is much larger than the wall thickness, it is reasonable to ignore the curvature of the cell and think of it as a parallel-plate capacitor. How much energy is stored in the electric field of a 50-$\mu$m-diameter cell with a 7.0-nm-thick cell wall whose dielectric constant is 9.0?

**72.** ••• **BIO** A nerve cell in its resting state has a membrane potential of –70 mV, meaning that the potential inside the cell is 70 mV less than the potential outside due to a layer of

negative charge on the inner surface of the cell wall and a layer of positive charge on the outer surface. This effectively makes the cell wall a charged capacitor. When the nerve cell fires, sodium ions, $Na^+$, flood through the cell wall to briefly switch the membrane potential to +40 mV. Model the central body of a nerve cell—the *soma*—as a 50-$\mu$m-diameter sphere with a 7.0-nm-thick cell wall whose dielectric constant is 9.0. Because a cell's diameter is much larger than the wall thickness, it is reasonable to ignore the curvature of the cell and think of it as a parallel-plate capacitor. How many sodium ions enter the cell as it fires?

**73.** •• Derive Equation 26.33 for the induced surface charge density on the dielectric in a capacitor.

**74.** •• A vacuum-insulated parallel-plate capacitor with plate separation $d$ has capacitance $C_0$. What is the capacitance if an insulator with dielectric constant $\kappa$ and thickness $d/2$ is slipped between the electrodes without changing the plate separation?

In Problems 75, 76, 77 you are given the equation(s) used to solve a problem. For each of these, you are to

**a.** Write a realistic problem for which this is the correct equation(s).

**b.** Finish the solution of the problem.

**75.** $2az\,\mathrm{V/m} = -\dfrac{dV}{dz}$, where $a$ is a constant with units of $\mathrm{V/m^2}$
$V\,(z = 0) = 10\,\mathrm{V}$

**76.**
$$400\,\mathrm{nC} = (100\,\mathrm{V})C$$
$$\mathrm{C} = \frac{(8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2})(0.10\ \mathrm{m} \times 0.10\ \mathrm{m})}{d}$$

**77.** $$\left(\frac{1}{3\,\mu\text{F}}+\frac{1}{6\,\mu\text{F}}\right)^{-1}+C=4\,\mu\text{F}$$

## Challenge Problems

**78.** ••• Two 5.0-cm-diameter metal disks separated by a 0.50-mm-thick piece of Pyrex glass are charged to a potential difference of 1000 V. What are (a) the surface charge density on the disks and (b) the surface charge density on the glass?

**79.** ••• **CALC** An electric dipole at the origin consists of two charges $\pm q$ spaced distance $s$ apart along the $y$-axis.

**a.** Find an expression for the potential $V(x, y)$ at an arbitrary point in the $xy$-plane. Your answer will be in terms of $q$, $s$, $x$, and $y$.

**b.** Use the binomial approximation to simplify your result of part a when $s \ll x$ and $s \ll y$.

**c.** Assuming $s \ll x$ and $y$, find expressions for $E_x$ and $E_y$, the components of $\vec{E}$ for a dipole.

**d.** What is the on-axis field $\vec{E}$? Does your result agree with Equation 23.10?

**e.** What is the field $\vec{E}$ on the bisecting axis? Does your result agree with Equation 23.11?

**80.** ••• **CALC** Charge is uniformly distributed with charge density $\rho$ inside a very long cylinder of radius $R$. Find the potential difference between the surface and the axis of the cylinder.

**81.** ••• **CALC** Consider a uniformly charged sphere of radius $R$ and total charge $Q$. The electric field $E_{\text{out}}$ *outside* the sphere ($r \geq R$) is simply that of a point charge $Q$. In Chapter 24, we used Gauss's law to find that the electric field $E_{\text{in}}$ *inside* the sphere ($r \leq R$) is radially outward with field strength

$$E_{\text{in}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{Q}{R^3}r$$

**a.** The electric potential $V_{\text{out}}$ *outside* the sphere is that of a point charge $Q$. Find an expression for the electric potential $V_{\text{in}}$ at position $r$ *inside* the sphere. As a reference, let $V_{\text{in}} = V_{\text{out}}$ at the surface of the sphere.

**b.** What is the ratio $V_{\text{center}}/V_{\text{surface}}$?

**c.** Graph $V$ versus $r$ for $0 \leq r \leq 3R$.

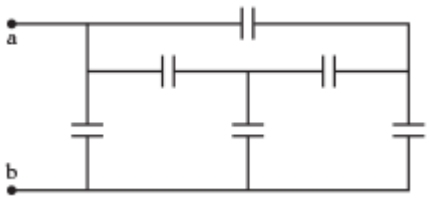
**82.** ••• **CALC**

**a.** Find an expression for the capacitance of a *spherical capacitor*, consisting of concentric spherical shells of radii $R_1$ (inner shell) and $R_2$ (outer shell).

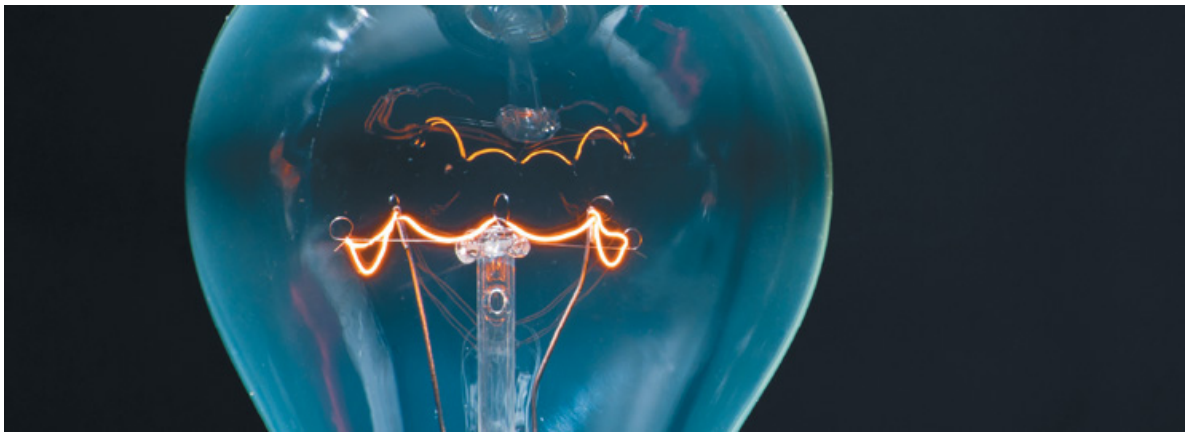
**b.** A spherical capacitor with a 1.0 mm gap between the shells has a capacitance of 100 pF. What are the diameters of the two spheres?

**83.** ••• Each capacitor in Figure CP26.83 has capacitance $C$. What is the equivalent capacitance between points a and b?

**Figure CP26.83**



# Chapter 27
# Current and Resistance



A lightbulb filament is a very thin tungsten wire that is heated until it glows by passing a current through it.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn how and why charge moves through a wire as a current.

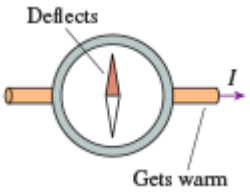
## What is current?

Current is the flow of charge through a conductor. We can't see charge moving, but two indicators of current are:

- A nearby compass needle is deflected.
- A wire with a current gets warm.

Current *I* is measured in amperes, a charge flow rate of one coulomb per second. You know this informally as "amps."

Looking Back Section 23.6 The motion of charges in electric fields

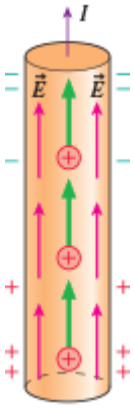



## How does current flow?

We'll develop a model of conduction:

- Connecting a wire to a battery causes a nonuniform surface charge distribution.
- The surface charges create an electric field inside the wire.
- The electric field pushes the sea of electrons through the metal.
- Electrons are the charge carriers in metals, but it is customary to treat current as the motion of *positive* charges.

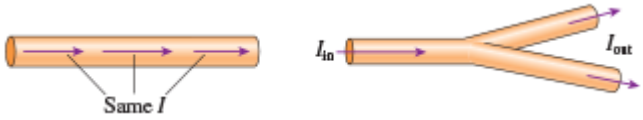
Current is *I*. Current density $J = I/A$ is the amount of current per square meter.




## What law governs current?

Current is governed by Kirchhoff's junction law.

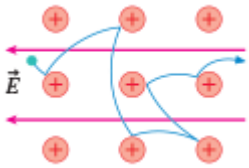
- The current is the same everywhere in a circuit with no junctions.
- The sum of currents entering a junction equals the sum leaving.




## What are resistivity and resistance?

Collisions of electrons with atoms cause a conductor to *resist* the motion of charges.

- Resistivity is an electrical property of a material, such as copper.
- Resistance is a property of a specific wire or circuit element based on the material of which it is made *and* its size and shape.

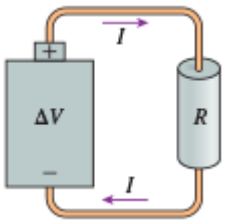



## What is Ohm's law?

Ohm's law says that the current flowing through a wire or circuit element depends on both the potential difference across it and the element's resistance:

$$I = \Delta V / R$$

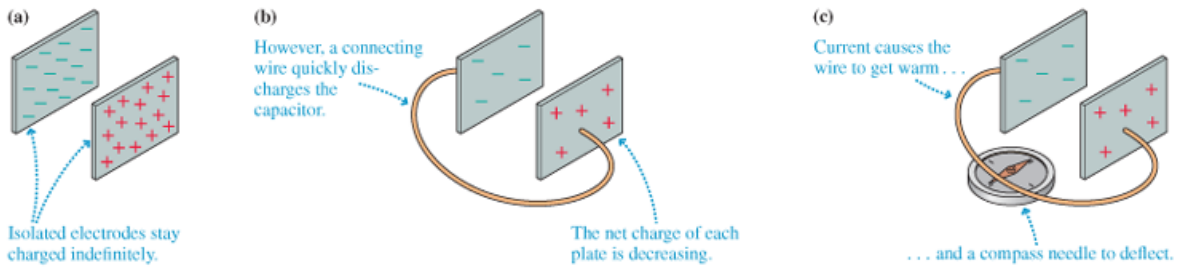
Looking Back Section 26.4 Sources of potential


I
ΔV
R
I

# 27.1 The Electron Current[743]

We've focused thus far on situations in which charges are in static equilibrium. Now it's time to explore the *controlled motion* of charges—currents. Let's begin with a simple question: How does a capacitor get discharged? Figure 27.1a shows a charged capacitor. If, as in Figure 27.1b, we connect the two capacitor plates with a metal wire, a conductor, the plates quickly become neutral; that is, the capacitor has been *discharged*. Charge has somehow moved from one plate to the other.

**Figure 27.1**



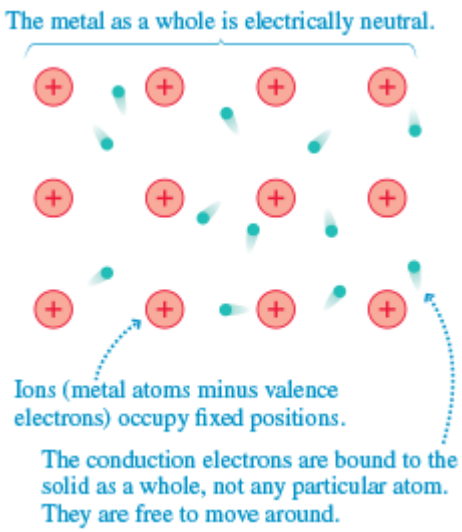

A capacitor is discharged by a metal wire.

In Chapter 22, we defined **current** as the motion of charges. It would seem that the capacitor is discharged by a current in the connecting wire. Let's see what else we can observe. Figure 27.1c shows that the connecting wire gets warm. If the wire is very thin in places, such as the thin filament in a lightbulb, the wire gets hot enough to glow. The current-carrying wire also deflects a compass needle, an observation we'll explore further in Chapter 29. For now, we will use "makes the wire warm" and "deflects a compass needle" as *indicators* that a current is present in a wire.

# Charge Carriers

The charges that move in a conductor are called the *charge carriers*. Figure 27.2 reminds you of the microscopic model of a metallic conductor that we introduced in Chapter 22. The outer electrons of metal atoms—the valence electrons—are only weakly bound to the nuclei. When the atoms come together to form a solid, the outer electrons become detached from their parent nuclei to form a fluid-like *sea of electrons* that can move through the solid. That is, **electrons are the charge carriers in metals**. Notice that the metal as a whole remains electrically neutral. This is not a perfect model because it overlooks some quantum effects, but it provides a reasonably good description of current in a metal.

## Figure 27.2




The sea of electrons is a model of electrons in a metal.

> **Note**
>
> Electrons are the charge carriers in *metals.* Other conductors, such as ionic solutions or semiconductors, have different charge carriers. We will focus on metals because of their

> importance to circuits, but don't think that electrons are *always* the charge carrier.

The conduction electrons in a metal, like molecules in a gas, undergo random thermal motions, but there is no *net* motion. We can change that by pushing on the sea of electrons with an electric field, causing the entire sea of electrons to move in one direction like a gas or liquid flowing through a pipe. This net motion, which takes place at what we'll call the **drift speed** $v_d$, is superimposed on top of the random thermal motions of the individual electrons. The drift speed is quite small. As we'll establish later, $10^{-4}$ m/s is a fairly typical value for $v_d$.

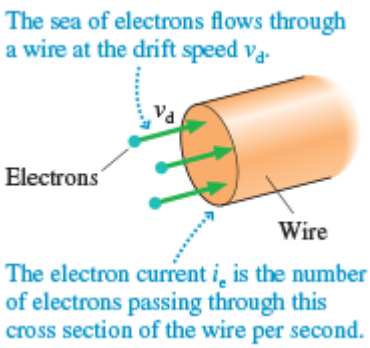


As Figure 27.3 shows, the entire sea of electrons moves from left to right at the drift speed. Suppose an observer could count the electrons as they pass through this cross section of the wire. Let's define the **electron current** $i_e$ to be the number of electrons *per second* that pass through a cross section of a wire or other conductor. The units of electron current are $s^{-1}$. Stated another way, the number $N_e$ of electrons that pass through the cross section during the time interval $\Delta t$ is

**(27.1)**

$$N_e = i_e \, \Delta t$$

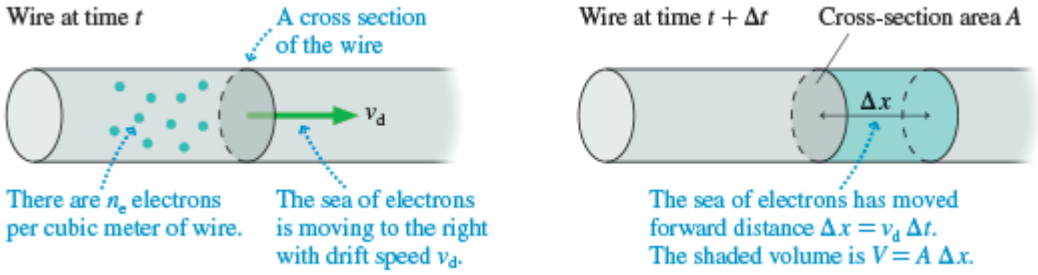
## Figure 27.3




The electron current.

Not surprisingly, the electron current depends on the electrons' drift speed. To see how, Figure 27.4 shows the sea of electrons moving through a wire at the drift speed $v_d$. The electrons passing through a particular cross section of the wire during the interval $\Delta t$ are shaded. How many of them are there?

## Figure 27.4




The sea of electrons moves to the right with drift speed $v_d$.

The electrons travel distance $\Delta x = v_d \Delta t$ to the right during the interval $\Delta t$, forming a cylinder of charge with volume $V = A \Delta x$. If the *number density* of conduction electrons is $n_e$ electrons per cubic meter, then the total number of electrons in the cylinder is

**(27.2)**

$$N_e = n_e V = n_e A \Delta x = n_e A v_d \Delta t$$

Comparing Equations 27.1 and 27.2, you can see that the electron current in the wire is

**(27.3)**

$$i_e = n_e A v_d$$

You can increase the electron current—the number of electrons per second moving through the wire—by making them move faster, by having more of them per cubic meter, or by increasing the size of the pipe they're flowing through. That all makes sense.

In most metals, each atom contributes one valence electron to the sea of electrons. Thus the number of conduction electrons per cubic meter is the same as the number of atoms per cubic meter, a quantity that can be determined from the metal's mass density. Table 27.1 gives values of the conduction-electron density $n_e$ for several metals.

**Table 27.1**

| Metal | Electron density ($m^{-3}$) |
|---|---|
| Aluminum | $6.0 \times 10^{28}$ |
| Copper | $8.5 \times 10^{28}$ |
| Iron | $8.5 \times 10^{28}$ |
| Gold | $5.9 \times 10^{28}$ |
| Silver | $5.8 \times 10^{28}$ |

Conduction-electron density in metals



**Example 27.1 The size of the electron current**

What is the electron current in a 2.0-mm-diameter copper wire if the electron drift speed is $1.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \mathrm{m/s}$?

**SOLVE** This is a straightforward calculation. The wire's cross-section area is $A = \pi r^2 = 3.14 \times 10^{-6}\ \mathrm{m}^2$. Table 27.1 gives the electron density for copper as $8.5 \times 10^{28}\ \mathrm{m}^{-3}$. Thus we find

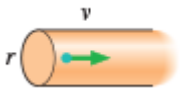
$$i_e = n_e A v_d = 2.7 \times 10^{19}\ \mathrm{s}^{-1}$$

**ASSESS** This is an incredible number of electrons to pass through a section of the wire every second. The number is high not because the sea of electrons moves fast—in fact, it moves at literally a snail's pace—but because the density of electrons is so enormous. This is a fairly typical electron current.

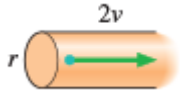
### Stop to Think 27.1

These four wires are made of the same metal. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the electron currents $i_a$ to $i_d$.

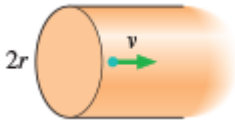
**a.**




**b.**




**c.**



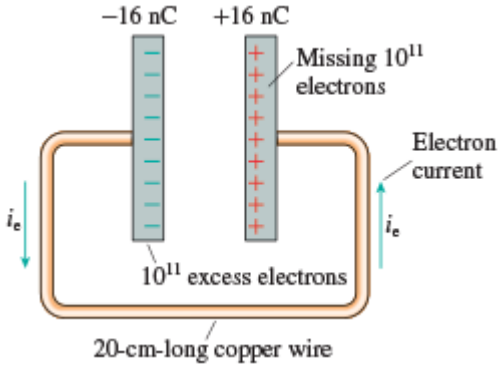

**d.**

## Discharging a Capacitor

Figure 27.5 shows a capacitor charged to ±16 nC as it is being discharged by a 2.0-mm-diameter, 20-cm-long copper wire. *How long does*

*it take* to discharge the capacitor? We've noted that a fairly typical drift speed of the electron current through a wire is $10^{-4}$ m/s. At this rate, it would take 2000 s, or about a half hour, for an electron to travel 20 cm.

## Figure 27.5




How long does it take to discharge this capacitor?

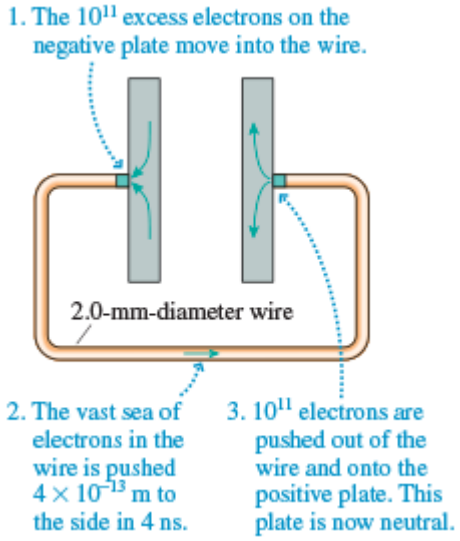
But this isn't what happens. As far as our senses are concerned, the discharge of a capacitor is instantaneous. So what's wrong with our simple calculation?

The important point we overlooked is that the wire is *already full* of electrons. As an analogy, think of water in a hose. If the hose is already full of water, adding a drop to one end immediately (or very nearly so) pushes a drop out the other end. Likewise with the wire. As soon as the excess electrons move from the negative capacitor plate into the wire, they immediately (or very nearly so) push an equal number of electrons out the other end of the wire and onto the positive plate, thus neutralizing it. We don't have to wait for electrons to move all the way through the wire from one plate to the other. Instead, we just need to slightly rearrange the charges on the plates *and* in the wire.

Let's do a rough estimate of how much rearrangement is needed and how long the discharge takes. Using the conduction-electron density of copper

in Table 27.1, we can calculate that there are $5 \times 10^{22}$ conduction electrons in the wire. The negative plate in Figure 27.6, with $Q = -16\,\text{nC}$, has $10^{11}$ excess electrons, far fewer than in the wire. In fact, the length of copper wire needed to hold $10^{11}$ electrons is a mere $4 \times 10^{-13}\,\text{m}$.

## Figure 27.6




The sea of electrons needs only a minuscule rearrangement.

The instant the wire joins the capacitor plates together, the repulsive forces between the excess $10^{11}$ electrons on the negative plate cause them to push their way into the wire. As they do, $10^{11}$ electrons are squeezed out of the final $4 \times 10^{-13}$ m of the wire and onto the positive plate. If the electrons all move together, and if they move at the typical drift speed of $10^{-4}$ m/s—both less than perfect assumptions but fine for making an estimate—it takes $4 \times 10^{-9}$ s, or 4 ns, to move $4 \times 10^{-13}\,\text{m}$ and discharge the capacitor. And, indeed, this is the right order of magnitude for how long the electrons take to rearrange themselves so that the capacitor plates are neutral.

## Stop to Think 27.2

Why does the light in a room come on instantly when you flip a switch several meters away?

# 27.2 Creating a Current 746

Suppose you want to slide a book across the table to your friend. You give it a quick push to start it moving, but it begins slowing down because of friction as soon as you take your hand off. The book's kinetic energy is transformed into thermal energy, leaving the book and the table slightly warmer. The only way to keep the book moving at a constant speed is to *continue pushing it.*

As Figure 27.7 shows, the sea of electrons is similar to the book. If you push the sea of electrons, you create a current of electrons moving through the conductor. But the electrons aren't moving in a vacuum. Collisions between the electrons and the atoms of the metal transform the electrons' kinetic energy into the thermal energy of the metal, making the metal warmer. (Recall that "makes the wire warm" is one of our indicators of a current.) Consequently, the sea of electrons will quickly slow down and stop *unless you continue pushing.* How do you push on electrons? With an electric field!

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**Figure 27.7**

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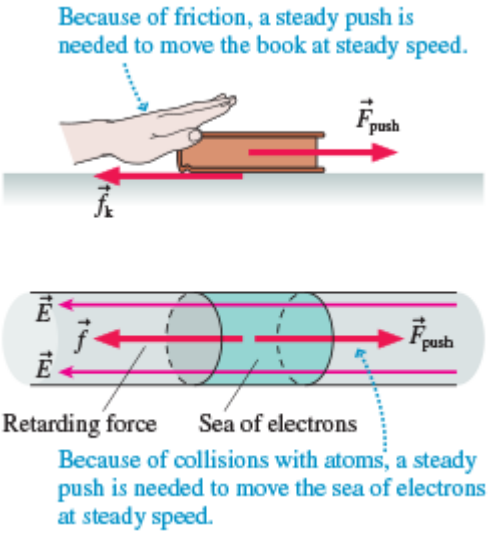



Sustaining the electron current with an electric field.

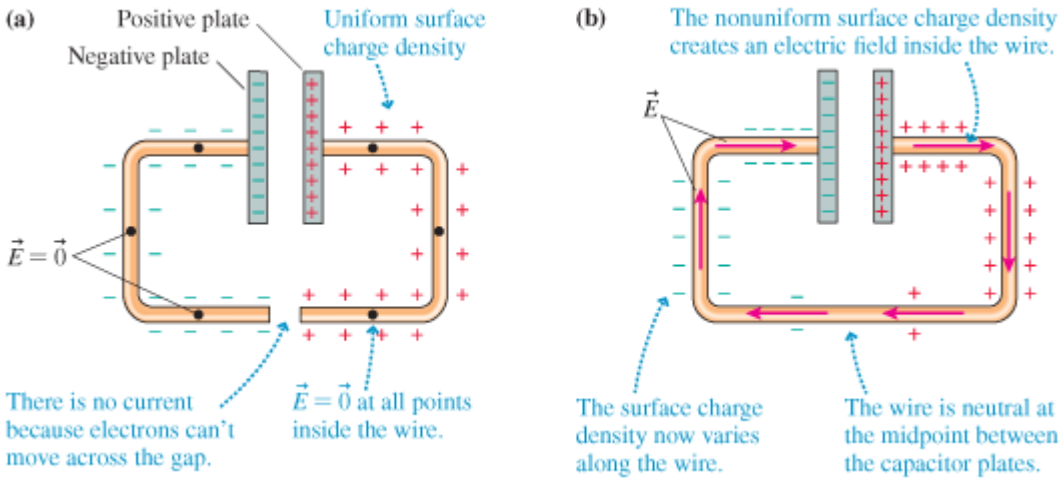
One of the important conclusions of Chapter 24 was that $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$ inside a conductor in electrostatic equilibrium. But a conductor with electrons moving through it is *not* in electrostatic equilibrium. **An electron current is a nonequilibrium motion of charges sustained by an internal electric field.**

Thus the quick answer to "What creates a current?" is "An electric field." But why is there an electric field in a current-carrying wire?

## Establishing the Electric Field in a Wire

Figure 27.8a shows two metal wires attached to the plates of a charged capacitor. The wires are conductors, so some of the charges on the capacitor plates become spread out along the wires as a surface charge. (Remember that all excess charge on a conductor is located on the surface.)

**Figure 27.8**




The surface charge on the wires before and after they are connected.

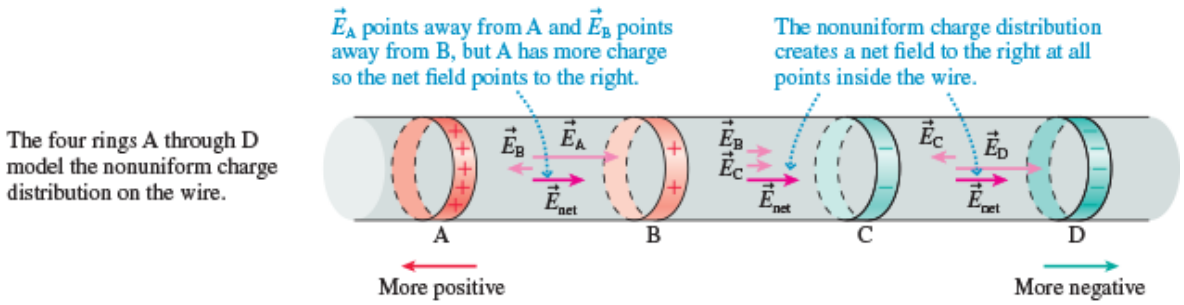
This is an electrostatic situation, with no current and no charges in motion. Consequently—because this is always true in electrostatic equilibrium—the electric field inside the wire is zero. Symmetry requires there to be equal amounts of charge to either side of each point to make $\vec{E} = \vec{0}$ at that point; hence the surface charge density must be uniform along each wire except near the ends (where the details need not concern us). We implied this uniform density in Figure 27.8a by drawing equally spaced + and – symbols along the wire. Remember that a positively charged surface is a surface that is *missing* electrons.

Now we connect the ends of the wires together. What happens? The excess electrons on the negative wire suddenly have an opportunity to move onto the positive wire that is missing electrons. Within a *very* brief interval of time ($\approx 10^{-9}$ s), the sea of electrons shifts slightly and the surface charge is rearranged into a *nonuniform* distribution like that shown in Figure 27.8b. The surface charge near the positive and negative plates remains strongly positive and negative because of the large amount of charge on the capacitor plates, but the midpoint of the wire, halfway between the positive and negative plates, is now electrically neutral. The new surface charge density on the wire varies

from positive at the positive capacitor plate through zero at the midpoint to negative at the negative plate.

This nonuniform distribution of surface charge has an *extremely* important consequence. Figure 27.9 shows a section from a wire on which the surface charge density becomes more positive toward the left and more negative toward the right. Calculating the exact electric field is complicated, but we can understand the basic idea if we *model* this section of wire with four circular rings of charge.

## Figure 27.9




A varying surface charge distribution creates an internal electric field inside the wire.

In Chapter 23, we found that the on-axis field of a ring of charge

- Points away from a positive ring, toward a negative ring;
- Is proportional to the amount of charge on the ring; and
- Decreases with distance away from the ring.

The field midway between rings A and B is well approximated as $\vec{E}_{\text{net}} \approx \vec{E}_{\text{A}} + \vec{E}_{\text{B}}$. Ring A has more charge than ring B, so $\vec{E}_{\text{net}}$ points away from A.

The analysis of Figure 27.9 leads to a very important conclusion:

A *nonuniform* distribution of surface charges along a wire creates a net electric field *inside* the wire that points from the more positive end of the wire toward the more negative end of the wire. This is the internal electric field $\vec{E}$ that pushes the electron current through the wire.

Note that the surface charges are *not* the moving charges of the current. Further, the current—the moving charges—is *inside* the wire, not on the surface. In fact, as the next example shows, the electric field inside a current-carrying wire can be established with an extremely small amount of surface charge.

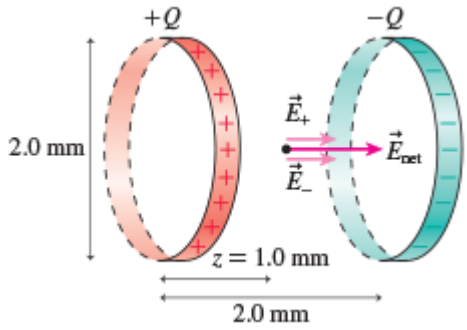
**Example 27.2 The surface charge on a current-carrying wire**

Table 23.1 in Chapter 23 gave a typical electric field strength in a current-carrying wire as 0.01 N/C or, as we would now say, 0.01 V/m. (We'll verify this value later in this chapter.) Two 2.0-mm-diameter rings are 2.0 mm apart. They are charged to $\pm Q$. What value of $Q$ causes the electric field at the midpoint to be 0.010 V/m?

**MODEL** Use the on-axis electric field of a ring of charge from Chapter 23.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 27.10 shows the two rings. Both contribute equally to the field strength, so the electric field strength of the positive ring is $E_+ = 0.0050\ \text{V/m}$. The distance $z = 1.0\,\text{mm}$ is half the ring spacing.

**Figure 27.10**




The electric field of two charged rings.

**SOLVE** Chapter 23 found the on-axis electric field of a ring of charge $Q$ to be

$$E_+ = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{zQ}{(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}}$$

Thus the charge needed to produce the desired field is

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}}{z}E_+ \\ &= \frac{\left((0.0010\,\text{m})^2+(0.0010\,\text{m})^2\right)^{3/2}}{(9.0\times10^9\,\text{N m}^2/\text{C}^2)(0.0010\,\text{m})}(0.0050\,\text{V/m}) \\ &= 1.6\times10^{-18}\,\text{C} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The electric field of a ring of charge is largest at $z \approx R$, so these two rings are a simple but reasonable model for estimating the electric field inside a 2.0-mm-diameter wire. We find that the surface charge needed to establish the electric field is *very small*. A mere 10 electrons have to be moved from one ring to the other to charge them to $\pm1.6\times10^{-18}$ C. The resulting electric field is sufficient to drive a sizable electron current through the wire.



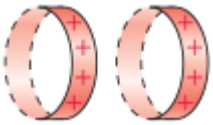
## Stop to Think 27.3

The two charged rings are a model of the surface charge distribution along a wire. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the electron currents $E_a$ to $E_e$ at the midpoint between the rings.

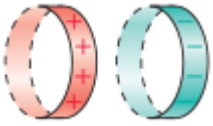
**a.**

**b.**

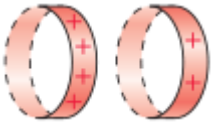
**c.**



**d.**



**e.**



## A Model of Conduction

Electrons don't just magically move through a wire as a current. They move because an electric field inside the wire—a field created by a nonuniform surface charge density on the wire—pushes on the sea of electrons to create the electron current. The field has to *keep* pushing because the electrons continuously lose energy in collisions with the

positive ions that form the structure of the solid. These collisions provide a drag force, much like friction.

We will model the conduction electrons—those electrons that make up the sea of electrons—as free particles moving through the lattice of the metal. In the absence of an electric field, the electrons, like the molecules in a gas, move randomly in all directions with a distribution of speeds. If we assume that the average thermal energy of the electrons is given by the same $\frac{3}{2}k_{\text{B}}T$ that applies to an ideal gas, we can calculate that the average electron speed at room temperature is $\approx 10^5$ m/s. This estimate turns out, for quantum physics reasons, to be not quite right, but it correctly indicates that the conduction electrons are moving very fast.

However, an individual electron does not travel far before colliding with an ion and being scattered to a new direction. Figure 27.11a shows that an electron bounces back and forth between collisions, but its *average* velocity is zero, and it undergoes no *net* displacement. This is similar to molecules in a container of gas.

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**Figure 27.11**

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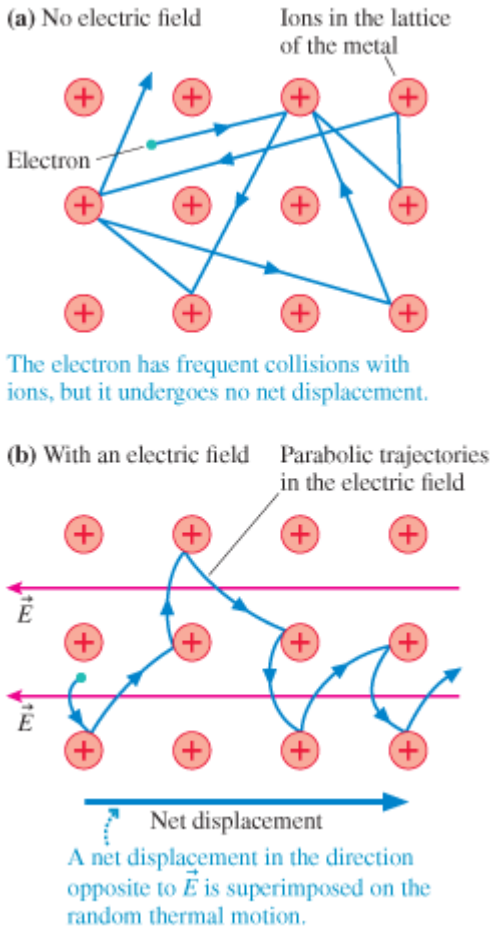



A microscopic view of a conduction electron moving through a metal.

Suppose we now turn on an electric field. Figure 27.11b shows that the steady electric force causes the electrons to move along *parabolic trajectories* between collisions. Because of the curvature of the trajectories, the negatively charged electrons begin to drift slowly in the direction opposite the electric field. The motion is similar to a ball moving in a pinball machine with a slight downward tilt. An individual electron ricochets back and forth between the ions at a high rate of speed, but now there is a slow *net* motion in the "downhill" direction. Even so, this net displacement is a *very* small effect superimposed on top of the much larger thermal motion. Figure 27.11b has greatly exaggerated the rate at which the drift would occur.



Suppose an electron just had a collision with an ion and has rebounded with velocity $\vec{v}_0$. The acceleration of the electron between collisions is

(27.4)

$$a_x = \frac{F}{m} = \frac{eE}{m}$$

where $E$ is the electric field strength inside the wire and $m$ is the mass of the electron. (We'll assume that $\vec{E}$ points in the negative $x$-direction.) The field causes the $x$-component of the electron's velocity to increase linearly with time:

(27.5)

$$v_x = v_{0x} + a_x \, \Delta t = v_{0x} + \frac{eE}{m} \Delta t$$

The electron speeds up, with increasing kinetic energy, until its next collision with an ion. The collision transfers much of the electron's kinetic energy to the ion and thus to the thermal energy of the metal. **This energy transfer is the "friction" that raises the temperature of the wire**. The electron then rebounds, in a random direction, with a new initial velocity $\vec{v}_0$, and starts the process all over.

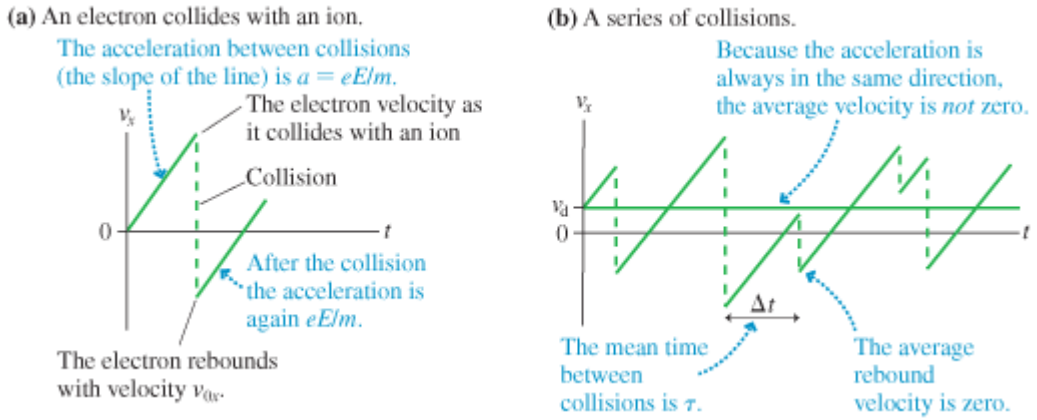
Figure 27.12a shows how the velocity abruptly changes due to a collision. Notice that the acceleration (the slope of the line) is the same before and after the collision. Figure 27.12b follows an electron through a series of collisions. You can see that each collision "resets" the velocity. The primary observation we can make from Figure 27.12b is that this repeated process of speeding up and colliding gives the electron a nonzero *average* velocity. **The magnitude of the electron's average velocity, due to the electric field, is the *drift speed* $v_d$ of the electron.**

If we observe all the electrons in the metal at one instant of time, their average velocity is

(27.6)

$$v_{\mathrm{d}} = \overline{v_x} = \overline{v_{0x}} + \frac{eE}{m}\overline{\Delta t}$$

## Figure 27.12




The electron velocity as a function of time.

where a bar over a quantity indicates an average value. The average value of $v_{0x}$, the velocity with which an electron rebounds after a collision, is zero. We know this because, in the absence of an electric field, the sea of electrons moves neither right nor left.

The quantity $\Delta t$ is the time between collisions, so the average value of $\Delta t$ is the **mean time between collisions**, which we designate $\tau$. The mean time between collisions, analogous to the mean free path between collisions in the kinetic theory of gases, depends on the metal's temperature but can be considered a constant in the equations below.

Thus the average speed at which the electrons are pushed along by the electric field is

(27.7)

$$v_{\mathrm{d}} = \frac{e\tau}{m}E$$

We can complete our model of conduction by using Equation 27.7 for $v_d$ in the electron-current equation $i_e = n_e A v_d$. Upon doing so, we find that an electric field strength $E$ in a wire of cross-section area $A$ causes an electron current

(27.8)

$$i_e = \frac{n_e e \tau A}{m} E$$

The electron density $n_e$ and the mean time between collisions $\tau$ are properties of the metal.

Equation 27.8 is the main result of this model of conduction. We've found that **the electron current is directly proportional to the electric field strength**. A stronger electric field pushes the electrons faster and thus increases the electron current.

### Example 27.3 Collisions in a copper wire

Example 27.1 found the electron current to be $2.7 \times 10^{19}$ s$^{-1}$ for a 2.0-mm-diameter copper wire in which the electron drift speed is $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ m/s. If an internal electric field of 0.020 V/m is needed to sustain this current, a typical value, how many collisions per second, on average, do electrons in copper undergo?

**MODEL** Use the model of conduction.

**SOLVE** From Equation 27.7, the mean time between collisions is

$$\tau = \frac{mv_{\mathrm{d}}}{eE} = 2.8 \times 10^{-14}\ \mathrm{s}$$

The average number of collisions per second is the inverse:

$$\text{Collision rate } = \frac{1}{\tau} = 3.5 \times 10^{13}\ \mathrm{s}^{-1}$$

**ASSESS** This was another straightforward calculation simply to illustrate the incredibly large collision rate of conduction electrons.

# 27.3 Current and Current Density



We have developed the idea of a current as the motion of electrons through metals. But the properties of currents were known and used for a century before the discovery that electrons are the charge carriers in metals. We need to connect our ideas about the electron current to the conventional definition of current.

Because the coulomb is the unit of charge, and because currents are charges in motion, it seemed quite natural in the 19th century to define current as the *rate*, in coulombs per second, at which charge moves through a wire. If $Q$ is the total amount of charge that has moved past a point in the wire, we define the current $I$ in the wire to be the rate of charge flow:

**(27.9)**

$$I \equiv \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

For a *steady current*, which will be our primary focus, the amount of charge delivered by current $I$ during the time interval $\Delta t$ is

**(27.10)**

$$Q = I\,\Delta t$$

The SI unit for current is the coulomb per second, which is called the **ampere** A:

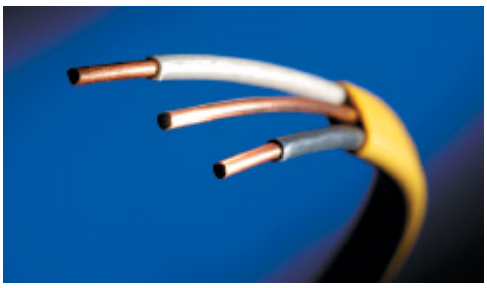
$$1 \text{ ampere } = 1 \text{ A } \equiv 1 \text{ coulomb per second } = 1 \text{ C/s}$$

The current unit is named after the French scientist André Marie Ampère, who made major contributions to the study of electricity and magnetism in the early 19th century. The *amp* is an informal abbreviation of ampere. Household currents are typically ≈ 1 A. For example, the current through a 100 watt lightbulb is 0.85 A, meaning that 0.85 C of charge flow through the bulb every second. Currents in consumer electronics, such as stereos and computers, are much less. They are typically measured in milliamps $(1\,\text{mA}=10^{-3}\ \text{A})$ or microamps $(1\,\mu\text{A}=10^{-6}\ \text{A})$.

Equation 27.10 is closely related to Equation 27.1, which said that the number of electrons delivered during a time interval $\Delta t$ is $N_\text{e} = i_\text{e}\,\Delta t$. Each electron has charge of magnitude $e$; hence the total charge of $N_\text{e}$ electrons is $Q = eN_\text{e}$. Consequently, the conventional current $I$ and the electron current $i_\text{e}$ are related by

**(27.11)**

$$I = \frac{Q}{\Delta t} = \frac{eN_\text{e}}{\Delta t} = ei_\text{e}$$



The electron current in the copper wire of Examples 27.1 and 27.3 was $2.7 \times 10^{19}$ electrons/s. To find the conventional current, multiply by $e$ to get 4.3 C/s, or 4.3 A.

---

Because electrons are the charge carriers, the rate at which charge moves is $e$ times the rate at which the electrons move.

In one sense, the current $I$ and the electron current $i_e$ differ by only a scale factor. The electron current $i_e$, the rate at which electrons move through a wire, is more *fundamental* because it looks directly at the charge carriers. The current $I$, the rate at which the charge of the electrons moves through the wire, is more *practical* because we can measure charge more easily than we can count electrons.

Despite the close connection between $i_e$ and $I$, there's one extremely important distinction. Because currents were known and studied before it was known what the charge carriers are, **the direction of current is *defined* to be the direction in which positive charges *seem* to move**. Thus the direction of the current $I$ is the same as that of the internal electric field $\vec{E}$. But because the charge carriers turned out to be negative, at least for a metal, **the direction of the current $I$ in a metal is opposite the direction of motion of the electrons**.



The situation shown in Figure 27.13 may seem disturbing, but it makes no real difference. A capacitor is discharged regardless of whether positive charges move toward the negative plate or negative charges move toward the positive plate. The primary application of current is the analysis of circuits, and in a circuit—a macroscopic device—we simply can't tell what is moving through the wires. All of our calculations will be correct and all of our circuits will work perfectly well if we choose to think of current as the flow of positive charge. The distinction is important only at the microscopic level.

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**Figure 27.13**

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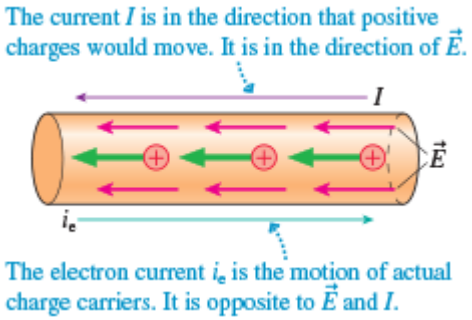



The current $I$ is opposite the direction of motion of the electrons in a metal.

---

# The Current Density in a Wire

We found the electron current in a wire of cross-section area $A$ to be $i_e = n_e A v_d$. Thus the current $I$ is

**(27.12)**

$$I = e i_e = n_e e v_d A$$

The quantity $n_e e v_d$ depends on the charge carriers and on the internal electric field that determines the drift speed, whereas $A$ is simply a physical dimension of the wire. It will be useful to separate these quantities by defining the **current density** $J$ in a wire as the current per square meter of cross section:

---

**(27.13)**

$$J = \text{current density} \equiv \frac{I}{A} = n_e e v_d$$

The current density has units of A/m$^2$. A specific piece of metal, shaped into a wire with cross-section area $A$, carries current $I = JA$.

**Example 27.4 Finding the electron drift speed**

A 1.0 A current passes through a 1.0-mm-diameter aluminum wire. What are the current density and the drift speed of the electrons in the wire?

**SOLVE** We can find the drift speed from the current density. The current density is

$$J = \frac{I}{A} = \frac{I}{\pi r^2} = \frac{1.0\ \text{A}}{\pi(0.00050\ \text{m})^2} = 1.3 \times 10^6\ \text{A/m}^2$$

The electron drift speed is thus

$$v_\text{d} = \frac{J}{n_\text{e} e} = 1.3 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m/s} = 0.13\ \text{mm/s}$$

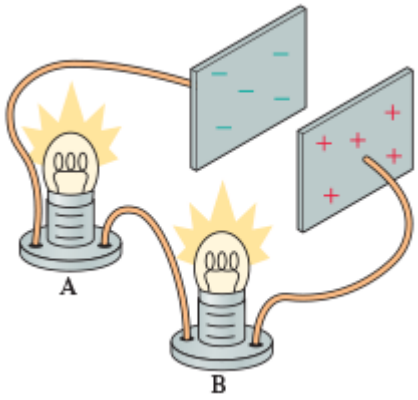
where the conduction-electron density for aluminum was taken from Table 27.1.

**ASSESS** We earlier used $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ m/s as a typical electron drift speed. This example shows where that value comes from.

## Charge Conservation and Current

Figure 27.14 shows two identical lightbulbs in the wire connecting two charged capacitor plates. Both bulbs glow as the capacitor is discharged. How do you think the brightness of bulb A compares to that of bulb B? Is one brighter than the other? Or are they equally bright? Think about this before going on.

## Figure 27.14




How does the brightness of bulb A compare to that of bulb B?

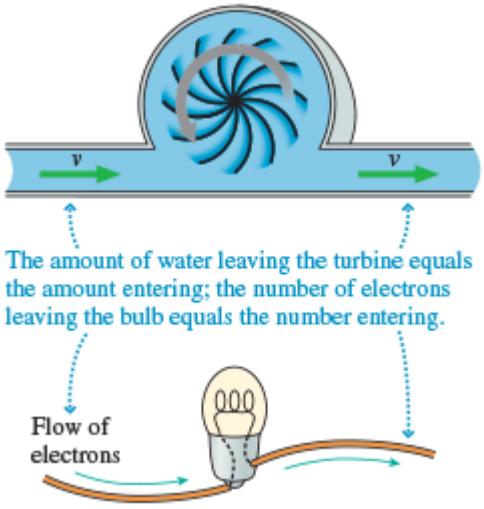


You might have predicted that B is brighter than A because the current *I*, which carries positive charges from plus to minus, reaches B first. In order to be glowing, B must use up some of the current, leaving less for A. Or perhaps you realized that the actual charge carriers are electrons, moving from minus to plus. The conventional current *I* may be mathematically equivalent, but physically it's the negative electrons rather than positive charge that actually move. Because the electron current gets to A first, you might have predicted that A is brighter than B.

In fact, both bulbs are equally bright. This is an important observation, one that demands an explanation. After all, "something" gets used up to make the bulb glow, so why don't we observe a decrease in the current? Current is the amount of charge moving through the wire per second. There are only two ways to decrease *I*: either decrease the amount of charge, or decrease the charge's drift speed through the wire. Electrons, the charge carriers, are charged particles. The lightbulb can't destroy electrons without violating both the law of conservation of mass and the law of conservation of charge. Thus the amount of charge (i.e., the *number* of electrons) cannot be changed by a lightbulb.

Do charges slow down after passing through the bulb? This is a little trickier, so consider the fluid analogy shown in Figure 27.15. Suppose the water flows into one end at a rate of 2.0 kg/s. Is it possible that the water, after turning a paddle wheel, flows out the other end at a rate of only 1.5 kg/s? That is, does turning the paddle wheel cause the water current to decrease?

## Figure 27.15




A current dissipates energy, but the flow is unchanged.

We can't destroy water molecules any more than we can destroy electrons, we can't increase the density of water by pushing the molecules closer together, and there's nowhere to store extra water inside the pipe. Each drop of water entering the left end pushes a drop out the right end; hence water flows out at exactly the same rate it flows in.

The same is true for electrons in a wire. **The rate of electrons leaving a lightbulb (or any other device) is exactly the same as the rate of electrons entering the lightbulb. The current does not change**. A lightbulb doesn't "use up" current, but it *does*—like the paddlewheel in the fluid analogy—use energy. The kinetic energy of the electrons is

dissipated by their collisions with the ions in the lattice of the metal (the atomic-level friction) as the electrons move through the atoms, making the wire hotter until, in the case of the lightbulb filament, it glows. The lightbulb affects the amount of current *everywhere* in the wire, a process we'll examine later in the chapter, but the current doesn't change as it passes through the bulb.

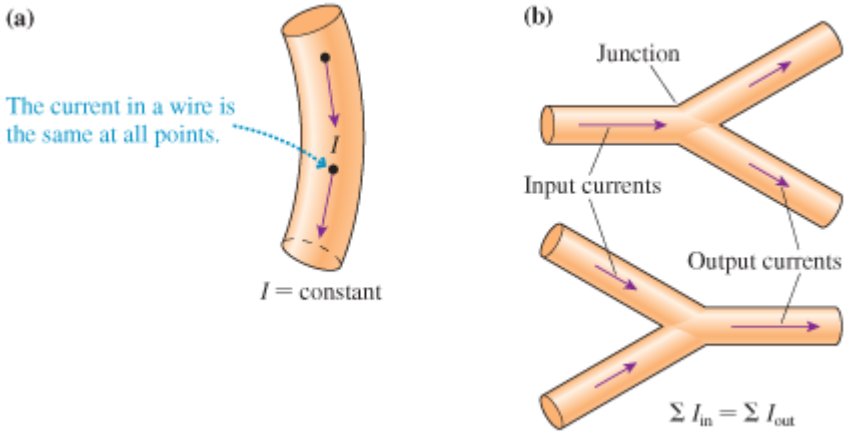
There are many issues that we'll need to look at before we can say that we understand how currents work, and we'll take them one at a time. For now, we draw a first important conclusion: **Due to conservation of charge, the current must be the same at all points in a current-carrying wire**.

Figure 27.16a summarizes the situation in a single wire. But what about Figure 27.16b, where two wires merge into one and another wire splits into two? A point where a wire branches is called a **junction**. The presence of a junction doesn't change our basic reasoning. We cannot create or destroy electrons in the wire, and neither can we store them in the junction. The rate at which electrons flow into one *or many* wires must be exactly balanced by the rate at which they flow out of others. For a *junction*, the law of conservation of charge requires that

$$\sum I_{\text{in}} = \sum I_{\text{out}} \tag{27.14}$$

where, as usual, the $\sum$ symbol means summation.

**Figure 27.16**

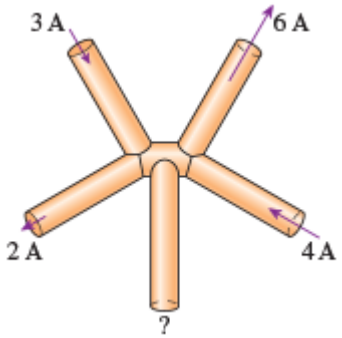



The sum of the currents into a junction must equal the sum of the currents leaving the junction.

This basic conservation statement—that the sum of the currents into a junction equals the sum of the currents leaving—is called **Kirchhoff's junction law**. The junction law, together with *Kirchhoff's loop law* that you met in Chapter 26, will play an important role in circuit analysis in the next chapter.

## Stop to Think 27.4

What are the magnitude and the direction of the current in the fifth wire?



# 27.4 Conductivity and Resistivity



The current density $J = n_e e v_d$ is directly proportional to the electron drift speed $v_d$. We earlier used the microscopic model of conduction to find that the drift speed is $v_d = e\tau E/m$, where $\tau$ is the mean time between collisions and $m$ is the mass of an electron. Combining these, we find the current density is

**(27.15)**

$$J = n_e e v_d = n_e e \left( \frac{e\tau E}{m} \right) = \frac{n_e e^2 \tau}{m} E$$

This woman is measuring her percentage body fat by gripping a device that sends a small electric current through her body. Because muscle and fat have different resistivities, the amount of current allows the fat-to-muscle ratio to be determined.

---

The quantity $n_e e^2 \tau/m$ depends *only* on the conducting material. According to Equation 27.15, a given electric field strength will generate a larger current density in a material with a larger electron density $n_e$ or longer times $\tau$ between collisions than in materials with smaller values. In other words, such a material is a *better conductor* of current.

It makes sense, then, to define the **conductivity** $\sigma$ of a material as

(27.16)

$$\sigma = \text{conductivity} = \frac{n_e e^2 \tau}{m}$$

Conductivity, like density, characterizes a material as a whole. All pieces of copper (at the same temperature) have the same value of $\sigma$, but the conductivity of copper is different from that of aluminum. Notice that the mean time between collisions $\tau$ can be inferred from measured values of the conductivity.

With this definition of conductivity, Equation 27.15 becomes

---

(27.17)

$$J = \sigma E$$

This is a result of fundamental importance. Equation 27.17 tells us three things:

1. Current is caused by an electric field exerting forces on the charge carriers.
2. The current density, and hence the current $I = JA$, depends linearly on the strength of the electric field. To double the current, you must double the strength of the electric field that pushes the charges along.
3. The current density also depends on the *conductivity* of the material. Different conducting materials have different conductivities because they have different values of the electron density and, especially, different values of the mean time between electron collisions with the lattice of atoms.

The value of the conductivity is affected by the structure of a metal, by any impurities, and by the temperature. As the temperature increases, so do the thermal vibrations of the lattice atoms. This makes them "bigger targets" and causes collisions to be more frequent, thus lowering $\tau$ and decreasing the conductivity. Metals conduct better at low temperatures than at high temperatures.

For many practical applications of current it will be convenient to use the inverse of the conductivity, called the **resistivity:**

**(27.18)**

$$\rho = \text{resistivity} = \frac{1}{\sigma} = \frac{m}{n_e e^2 \tau}$$

The resistivity of a material tells us how reluctantly the electrons move in response to an electric field. Table 27.2 gives measured values of the resistivity and conductivity for several metals and for carbon. You can see that they vary quite a bit, with copper and silver being the best two conductors.



## Table 27.2

| Material | Resistivity ($\Omega$ m) | Conductivity ($\Omega^{-1}$ m$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|---|
| Aluminum | $2.8 \times 10^{-8}$ | $3.5 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Copper | $1.7 \times 10^{-8}$ | $6.0 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Gold | $2.4 \times 10^{-8}$ | $4.1 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Iron | $9.7 \times 10^{-8}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Silver | $1.6 \times 10^{-8}$ | $6.2 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Tungsten | $5.6 \times 10^{-8}$ | $1.8 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Nichrome* | $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ | $6.7 \times 10^{5}$ |
| Carbon | $3.5 \times 10^{-5}$ | $2.9 \times 10^{4}$ |

*Nickel-chromium alloy used for heating wires.

Resistivity and conductivity of conducting materials

The units of conductivity, from Equation 27.17, are those of $J/E$, namely A C/N $m^2$. These are clearly awkward. In the next section we will introduce a new unit called the *ohm*, symbolized by Ω (uppercase Greek omega). It will then turn out that resistivity has units of Ω m and conductivity has units of $\Omega^{-1}$ $m^{-1}$.

**Example 27.5 The electric field in a wire**

A 2.0-mm-diameter aluminum wire carries a current of 800 mA. What is the electric field strength inside the wire?

**SOLVE** The electric field strength is

$$E = \frac{J}{\sigma} = \frac{I}{\sigma \pi r^2} = \frac{0.80\,\text{A}}{(3.5 \times 10^7\,\Omega^{-1}\,\text{m}^{-1})\pi(0.0010\,\text{m})^2} = 0.0073\,\text{V/m}$$

where the conductivity of aluminum was taken from Table 27.2.

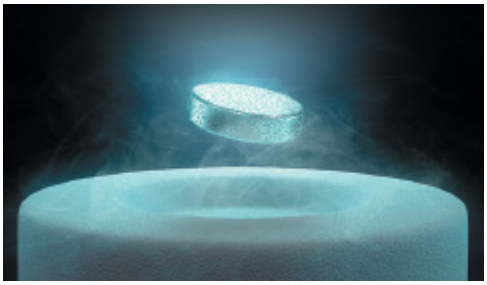
**ASSESS** This is a *very* small field in comparison with those we calculated in Chapters 22 and 23. This calculation justifies the claim in Table 23.1 that a typical electric field strength inside a current-carrying wire is ≈ 0.01 V/m. It takes *very few* surface charges on a wire to create the weak electric field necessary to push a considerable current through the wire. The reason, once again, is the enormous value of the charge-carrier density $n_e$. Even though the electric field is very tiny and the drift speed is agonizingly slow, a wire can carry a substantial current due to the vast number of charge carriers able to move.

# Superconductivity

In 1911, the Dutch physicist Heike Kamerlingh Onnes was studying the conductivity of metals at very low temperatures. Scientists had just recently discovered how to liquefy helium, and this opened a whole new field of *low-temperature physics.* As we noted above, metals become better conductors (i.e., they have higher conductivity and lower resistivity) at lower temperatures. But the effect is gradual. Onnes, however, found that mercury suddenly and dramatically loses *all* resistance to current when cooled below a temperature of 4.2 K. This complete loss of resistance at low temperatures is called **superconductivity**.

Later experiments established that the resistivity of a superconducting metal is not just small, it is truly zero. The electrons are moving in a frictionless environment, and charge will continue to move through a superconductor *without an electric field.* Superconductivity was not understood until the 1950s, when it was explained as being a specific quantum effect.

Superconducting wires can carry enormous currents because the wires are not heated by electrons colliding with the atoms. Very strong magnetic fields can be created with superconducting electromagnets, but applications remained limited for many decades because all known superconductors required temperatures less than 20 K. This situation changed dramatically in 1986 with the discovery of *high-temperature superconductors.* These ceramic-like materials are superconductors at temperatures as "high" as 125 K. Although –150°C may not seem like a high temperature to you, the technology for producing such temperatures is simple and inexpensive. Thus many new superconductor applications are likely to appear in coming years.



Superconductors have unusual magnetic properties. Here a small permanent magnet levitates above a disk of the high-temperature superconductor $YBa_2Cu_3O_7$ that has been cooled to liquid-nitrogen temperature.

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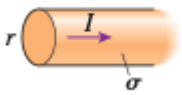
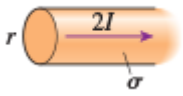
## Stop to Think 27.5

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the current densities $J_a$ to $J_d$ in these four wires.

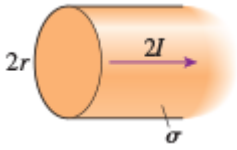
**a.**



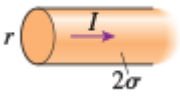

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**

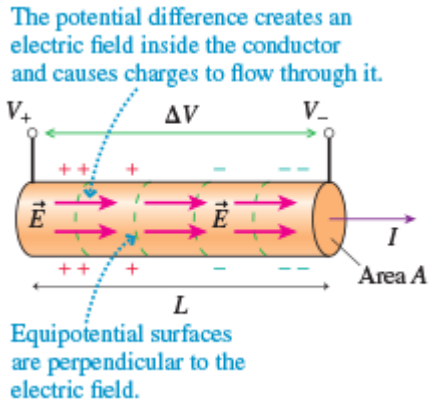


# 27.5 Resistance and Ohm's Law



Figure 27.17 shows a section of wire of length $L$ with a potential difference $\Delta V = V_+ - V_-$ between the ends. Perhaps the two ends of the wire are connected to a battery. A potential difference represents separated positive and negative charges, and, as you saw earlier, some of these charges move onto the surface of the wire. The nonuniform charge distribution creates an electric field in the wire, and that electric field is now driving current through the wire by pushing the charge carriers.

**Figure 27.17**




The current $I$ is related to the potential difference $\Delta V$.

We found in Chapter 26 that the field and the potential are closely related to each other, with the field pointing "downhill," perpendicular to the equipotential surfaces. Thus it should come as no surprise that the current through the wire is related to the potential difference between the ends of the wire.

Recall that the electric field component $E_s$ is related to the potential by $E_s = -dV/ds$. We're interested in only the electric field strength

$E = |E_s|$, so the minus sign isn't relevant. The field strength is constant inside a constant-diameter conductor; thus

**(27.19)**

$$E = \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta s} = \frac{\Delta V}{L}$$

Equation 27.19 is an important result: The electric field strength inside a constant-diameter conductor—the field that drives the current forward—is simply the potential difference between the ends of the conductor divided by its length.

Now we can use $E$ to find the current $I$ in the conductor. We found earlier that the current density is $J = \sigma E$, and the current in a wire of cross-section area $A$ is related to the current density by $I = JA$. Thus

**(27.20)**

$$I = JA = A\sigma E = \frac{A}{\rho} E$$

where $\rho = 1/\sigma$ is the resistivity.

Combining Equations 27.19 and 27.20, we see that the current is

**(27.21)**

$$I = \frac{A}{\rho L} \Delta V$$

That is, **the current is directly proportional to the potential difference between the ends of a conductor**. We can cast Equation 27.21 into a more useful form if we define the **resistance** of a conductor to be

(27.22)

$$R = \frac{\rho L}{A}$$

The resistance is a property of a *specific* conductor because it depends on the conductor's length and diameter as well as on the resistivity of the material from which it is made.

The SI unit of resistance is the **ohm**, defined as

$$1 \text{ ohm} = 1\ \Omega\ \equiv\ 1\ \text{V/A}$$

The ohm is the basic unit of resistance, although kilohms $(1\,\text{k}\Omega = 10^3\ \Omega)$ and megohms $(1\,\text{M}\Omega = 10^6\ \Omega)$ are widely used. You can now see from Equation 27.22 why the resistivity $\rho$ has units of $\Omega$ m while the units of conductivity $\sigma$ are $\Omega^{-1}$ m$^{-1}$.

The resistance of a wire or conductor increases as the length increases. This seems reasonable because it should be harder to push electrons through a longer wire than a shorter one. Decreasing the cross-section area also increases the resistance. This again seems reasonable because the same electric field can push more electrons through a fat wire than a skinny one.

> **Note** 756
>
> It is important to distinguish between resistivity and resistance. *Resistivity* describes just the *material*, not any particular piece of it. *Resistance* characterizes a specific piece of the conductor with a specific geometry. The relationship between resistivity and resistance is analogous to that between mass density and mass.

The definition of resistance allows us to write the current through a conductor as

(27.23)

$$I = \frac{\Delta V}{R} \qquad (\text{Ohm's law})$$

In other words, establishing a potential difference $\Delta V$ between the ends of a conductor of resistance $R$ creates an electric field (via the nonuniform distribution of charges on the surface) that, in turn, causes a current $I = \Delta V/R$ through the conductor. The smaller the resistance, the larger the current. This simple relationship between potential difference and current is known as **Ohm's law**.

> **Note**
>
> Ohm's law is true for a conductor of any shape, but Equation 27.22 for the value of the resistance is valid only for a conductor with a constant cross-section area.

**Example 27.6 The resistivity of a leaf**

Resistivity measurements on the leaves of corn plants are a good way to assess stress and the plant's overall health. To determine resistivity, the current is measured when a voltage is applied between two electrodes placed 20 cm apart on a leaf that is 2.5 cm wide and 0.20 mm thick. The following data are obtained by using several different voltages:

| Voltage (V) | Current ($\mu$A) |
|---|---|
| 5.0 | 2.3 |
| 10.0 | 5.1 |
| 15.0 | 7.5 |
| 20.0 | 10.3 |
| 25.0 | 12.2 |

What is the resistivity of the leaf tissue?

---

**MODEL** Model the leaf as a bar of length $L = 0.20\,\text{m}$ with a rectangular cross-section area $A = (0.025\,\text{m})(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{m}) = 5.0 \times 10^{-6}\,\text{m}^2$. The potential difference creates an electric field inside the leaf and causes a current. The current and the potential difference are related by Ohm's law.

**SOLVE** We can find the leaf's resistivity $\rho$ from its resistance $R$. Ohm's law

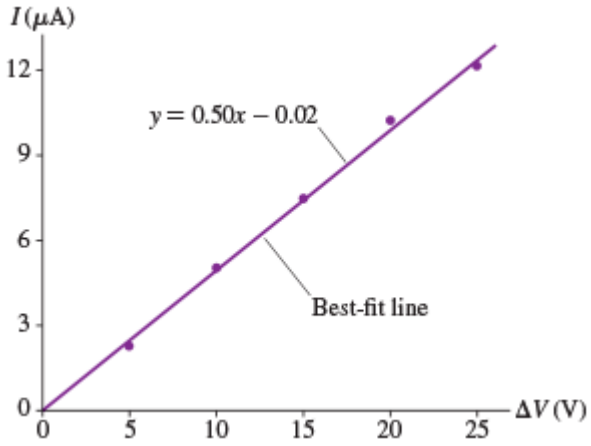
$$I = \frac{1}{R}\Delta V$$

tells us that a graph of current versus potential difference should be a straight line through the origin with slope $1/R$. The graph of the data in Figure 27.18 is as expected. Using the slope of the best-fit line, 0.50 $\mu$A/V, we find the leaf's resistance to be

$$R = \frac{1}{0.50\ \mu\text{A/V}} = 2.0 \times 10^6\ \frac{\text{V}}{\text{A}} = 2.0 \times 10^6\ \Omega$$

---

**Figure 27.18**




A graph of current versus potential difference.

We can now use Equation 27.22 to find the resistivity:

$$\rho = \frac{AR}{L} = \frac{(5.0 \times 10^{-6}\,\text{m}^2)(2.0 \times 10^{6}\,\Omega)}{0.20\,\text{m}} = 50\,\Omega\,\text{m}$$

**ASSESS** This is a huge resistivity compared to metals, but that's not surprising; the conductivity of the salty fluids in a leaf is certainly much less than that of a metal. In fact, this value is typical of the resistivities of plant and animal tissues.

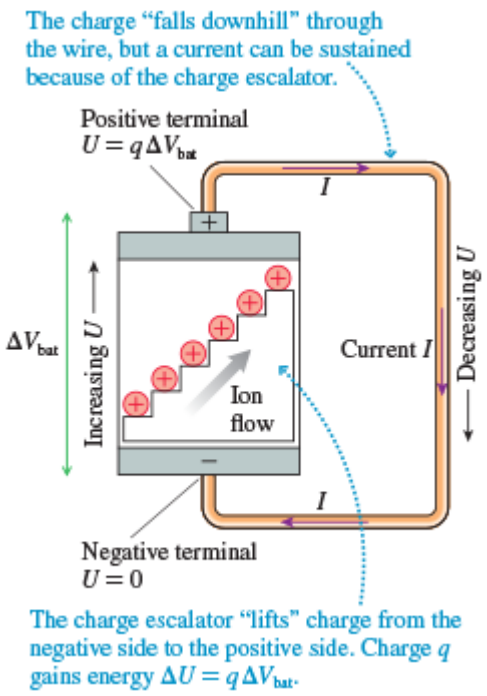
## Batteries and Current

Our study of current has focused on the discharge of a capacitor because we can understand where all the charges are and how they move. By contrast, we can't easily see what's happening to the charges inside a battery. Nonetheless, current in most "real" circuits is driven by a battery rather than by a capacitor. Just like the wire discharging a capacitor, a wire connecting two battery terminals gets warm, deflects a compass needle, and makes a lightbulb glow brightly. These indicators tell us that charges flow through the wire from one terminal to the other.

The one major difference between a capacitor and a battery is the duration of the current. The current discharging a capacitor is transient, ceasing as soon as the excess charge on the capacitor plates is removed. In contrast, the current supplied by a battery is *sustained*.

We can use the charge escalator model of a battery to understand why. Figure 27.19 shows the charge escalator creating a potential difference $\Delta V_{bat}$ by lifting positive charge from the negative terminal to the positive terminal. Once at the positive terminal, positive charges can move *through the wire* as current *I*. In essence, the charges are "falling downhill" through the wire, losing the energy they gained on the escalator. This energy transfer to the wire warms the wire.

## Figure 27.19




A battery's charge escalator causes a sustained current in a wire.

Eventually the charges find themselves back at the negative terminal of the battery, where they can ride the escalator back up and repeat the journey. A battery, unlike a charged capacitor, has an internal source of

energy (the chemical reactions) that keeps the charge escalator running. It is the charge escalator that *sustains* the current in the wire by providing a continually renewed supply of charge at the battery terminals.

An important consequence of the charge escalator model, one you learned in the previous chapter, is that **a battery is a source of potential difference**. It is true that charges flow through a wire connecting the battery terminals, but current is a *consequence* of the battery's potential difference. The battery's emf is the *cause;* current, heat, light, sound, and so on are all *effects* that happen when the battery is used in certain ways.

Distinguishing cause and effect will be vitally important for understanding how a battery functions in a circuit. The reasoning is as follows:

1. A battery is a source of potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$. An ideal battery has $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$.
2. The battery creates a potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{wire}} = \Delta V_{\text{bat}}$ between the ends of a wire.
3. The potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{wire}}$ causes an electric field $E = \Delta V_{\text{wire}}/L$ in the wire.
4. The electric field establishes a current $I = JA = \sigma AE$ in the wire.
5. The magnitude of the current is determined *jointly* by the battery and the wire's resistance $R$ to be $I = \Delta V_{\text{wire}}/R$.

## Resistors and Ohmic Materials

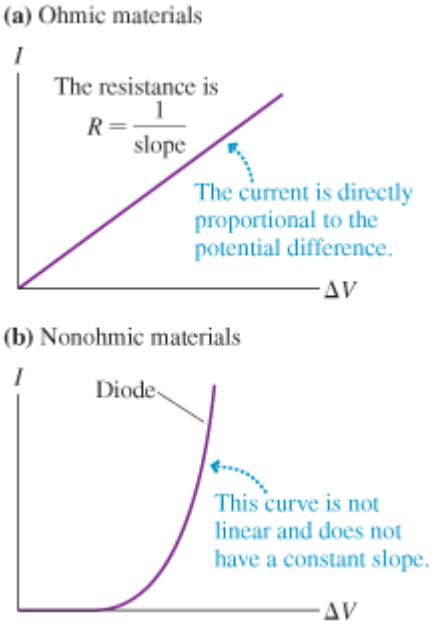
Circuit textbooks often write Ohm's law as $V = IR$ rather than $I = \Delta V/R$. This can be misleading until you have sufficient experience with circuit analysis. First, Ohm's law relates the current to the potential

*difference* between the ends of the conductor. Engineers and circuit designers *mean* "potential difference" when they use the symbol $V$, but the symbol is easily misinterpreted as simply "the potential." Second, $V = IR$ or even $\Delta V = IR$ suggests that a current $I$ causes a potential difference $\Delta V$. As you have seen, current is a *consequence* of a potential difference; hence $I = \Delta V/R$ is a better description of cause and effect.



Despite its name, Ohm's law is *not* a law of nature. It is limited to those materials whose resistance $R$ remains constant—or very nearly so—during use. The materials to which Ohm's law applies are called *ohmic*. Figure 27.20a shows that the current through an ohmic material is directly proportional to the potential difference. Doubling the potential difference doubles the current. Metal and other conductors are ohmic devices.

## Figure 27.20

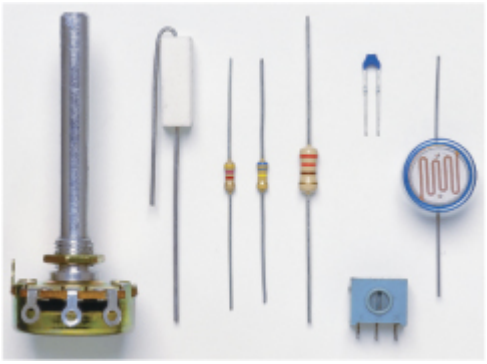



Current-versus-potential-difference graphs for ohmic and nonohmic materials.

Because the resistance of metals is small, a circuit made exclusively of metal wires would have enormous currents and would quickly deplete the battery. It is useful to limit the current in a circuit with ohmic devices,

called **resistors**, whose resistance is significantly larger than the metal wires. Resistors are made with poorly conducting materials, such as carbon, or by depositing very thin metal films on an insulating substrate.

Some materials and devices are *nonohmic*, meaning that the current through the device is *not* directly proportional to the potential difference. For example, Figure 27.20b shows the $I$-versus-$\Delta V$ graph of a commonly used semiconductor device called a *diode*. Diodes do not have a well-defined resistance. Batteries, where $\Delta V = \mathcal{E}$ is determined by chemical reactions, and capacitors, where the relationship between $I$ and $\Delta V$ differs from that of a resistor, are important nonohmic devices.



The resistors used in circuits range from a few ohms to millions of ohms of resistance.

---

We can identify three important classes of ohmic circuit materials:

1. *Wires* are metals with very small resistivities $\rho$ and thus very small resistances $(R \ll 1\,\Omega)$. An **ideal wire** has $R = 0\,\Omega$; hence the potential difference between the ends of an ideal wire is $\Delta V = 0\,\mathrm{V}$ *even if there is a current in it*. We will usually adopt the *ideal-wire model* of assuming that any connecting wires in a circuit are ideal.
2. *Resistors* are poor conductors with resistances usually in the range $10^1$ to $10^6\,\Omega$. They are used to control the current in a

circuit. Most resistors in a circuit have a specified value of $R$, such as 500 Ω. The filament in a lightbulb (a tungsten wire with a high resistance due to an extremely small cross-section area $A$) functions as a resistor as long as it is glowing, but the filament is slightly nonohmic because the value of its resistance when hot is larger than its room-temperature value.

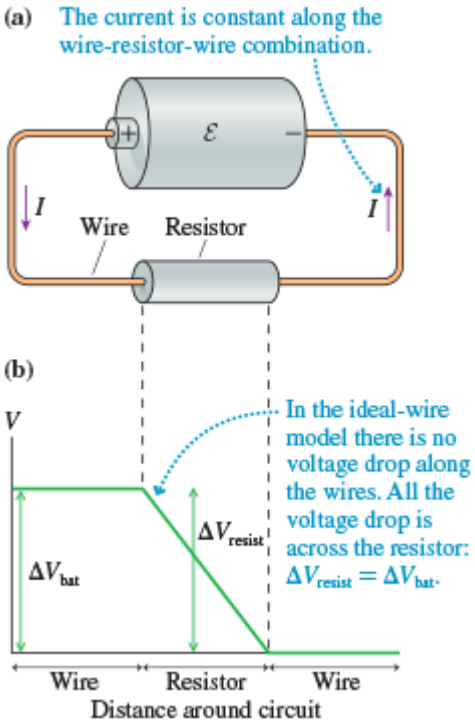
3. *Insulators* are materials such as glass, plastic, or air. An **ideal insulator** has $R = \infty\,\Omega$; hence there is no current in an insulator even if there is a potential difference across it ($I = \Delta V/R = 0\,\text{A}$). This is why insulators can be used to hold apart two conductors at different potentials. All practical insulators have $R \gg 10^9\,\Omega$ and can be treated, for our purposes, as ideal.

> **Note**
>
> Ohm's law will be an important part of circuit analysis in the next chapter because resistors are essential components of almost any circuit. However, it is important that you apply Ohm's law *only* to the resistors and not to anything else.

Figure 27.21a shows a resistor connected to a battery with current-carrying wires. There are no junctions; hence the current $I$ through the resistor is the same as the current in each wire. Because the wire's resistance is *much* less than that of the resistor, $R_{\text{wire}} \ll R_{\text{resist}}$, the potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{wire}} = IR_{\text{wire}}$ between the ends of each wire is *much* less than the potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{resist}} = IR_{\text{resist}}$ across the resistor.



**Figure 27.21**




The potential along a wire-resistor-wire combination.

If we assume ideal wires with $R_{\text{wire}} = 0\,\Omega$, then $\Delta V_{\text{wire}} = 0\,\text{V}$ and *all* the voltage drop occurs across the resistor. In this **ideal-wire model**, shown in Figure 27.21b, the wires are equipotentials, and the segments of the voltage graph corresponding to the wires are horizontal. As we begin circuit analysis in the next chapter, we will assume that all wires are ideal unless stated otherwise. Thus our analysis will be focused on the resistors.

### Example 27.7 A battery and a resistor

What resistor would have a 15 mA current if connected across the terminals of a 9.0 V battery?

**MODEL** Assume the resistor is connected to the battery with ideal wires.

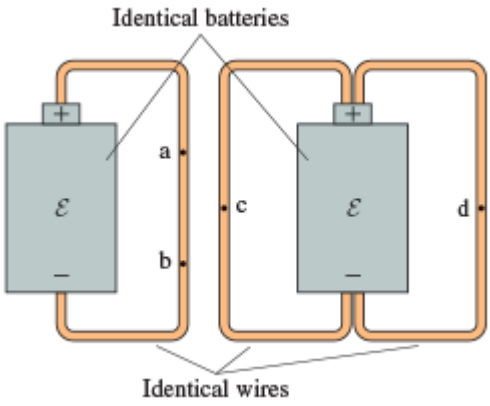
**SOLVE** Connecting the resistor to the battery with ideal wires makes $\Delta V_{\text{resist}} = \Delta V_{\text{bat}} = 9.0\,\text{V}$. From Ohm's law, the resistance giving a 15 mA current is

$$R = \frac{\Delta V_{\text{resist}}}{I} = \frac{9.0\,\text{V}}{0.015\,\text{A}} = 600\,\Omega$$

**ASSESS** Currents of a few mA and resistances of a few hundred ohms are quite typical of real circuits.

## Stop to Think 27.6

A wire connects the positive and negative terminals of a battery. Two identical wires connect the positive and negative terminals of an identical battery. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the currents $I_a$ to $I_d$ at points a to d.



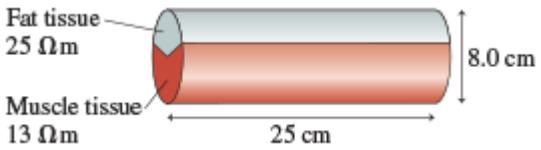

### Challenge Example 27.8 Measuring body composition

The woman in the photo is gripping a device that measures body fat. To illustrate how this works, Figure 27.22 models an upper

arm as part muscle and part fat, showing the resistivities of each. Nonconductive elements, such as skin and bone, have been ignored. This is obviously not a picture of the actual structure, but gathering all the fat tissue together and all the muscle tissue together is a model that predicts the arm's electrical character quite well.

A 0.87 mA current is recorded when a 0.60 V potential difference is applied across an upper arm having the dimensions shown in the figure. What are the percentages of muscle and fat in this person's upper arm?

**Figure 27.22**

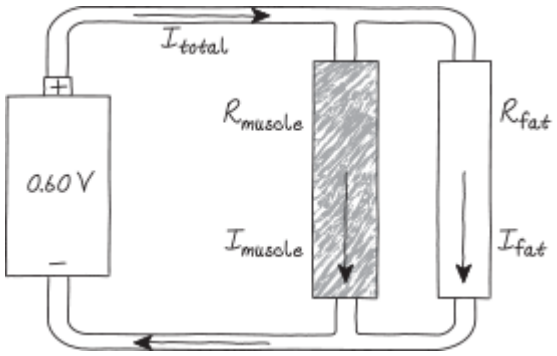



A simple model for the resistance of an arm.

**MODEL** Model the muscle and the fat as separate resistors connected to a 0.60 V battery. Assume the connecting wires to be ideal, with no "loss" of potential along the wires.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 27.23 shows the circuit, with the side-by-side muscle and fat resistors connected to the two terminals of the battery.

**Figure 27.23**




Circuit for passing current through the upper arm.

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**SOLVE** The measured current of 0.87 mA is $I_{\text{total}}$, the current traveling from the battery to the arm and later back to the battery. This current splits at the junction between the two resistors. Kirchhoff's junction law, for the conservation of charge, requires

$$\mathrm{I}_{\text{total}} = I_{\text{muscle}} + I_{\text{fat}}$$

The current through each resistor can be found from Ohm's law: $I = \Delta V / R$. Each resistor has $\Delta V = 0.60\,\mathrm{V}$ because each is connected to the battery terminals by lossless, ideal wires, but they have different resistances.

Let the fraction of muscle tissue be $x$; the fraction of fat is then $1 - x$. If the cross-section area of the upper arm is $A = \pi r^2$, then the muscle resistor has $A_{\text{muscle}} = xA$ while the fat resistor has $A_{\text{fat}} = (1 - x)\, A$. The resistances are related to the resistivities and the geometry by

$$R_{\text{muscle}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{muscle}}\, L}{A_{\text{muscle}}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{muscle}}\, L}{x \pi r^2}$$
$$R_{\text{fat}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{fat}}\, L}{A_{\text{fat}}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{fat}}\, L}{(1 - x)\, \pi r^2}$$

The currents are thus

$$I_{\text{muscle}} = \frac{\Delta V}{R_{\text{muscle}}} = \frac{x\pi r^2\,\Delta V}{\rho_{\text{muscle}} L} = 0.93x\,\text{mA}$$

$$I_{\text{fat}} = \frac{\Delta V}{R_{\text{fat}}} = \frac{(1-x)\,\pi r^2\,\Delta V}{\rho_{\text{fat}} L} = 0.48\,(1-x)\ \text{mA}$$

The sum of these is the total current:

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\text{total}} &= 0.87\,\text{mA} = 0.93x\,\text{mA} + 0.48(1-x)\,\text{mA} \\ &= (0.48 + 0.45x)\,\text{mA} \end{aligned}$$

Solving, we find $x = 0.87$. This subject's upper arm is 87% muscle tissue, 13% fat tissue.

**ASSESS** The percentages seem reasonable for a healthy adult. A real measurement of body fat requires a more detailed model of the human body, because the current passes through both arms and across the chest, but the principles are the same.

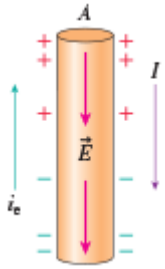
# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 27 has been to learn how and why charge moves through a wire as a current.

## General Principles

**Current** is a nonequilibrium motion of charges sustained by an electric field. Nonuniform surface charge density creates an electric field in a wire. The electric field pushes the electron current $i_e$ in a direction opposite to $\vec{E}$. The conventional current $I$ is in the direction in which positive charge *seems* to move.



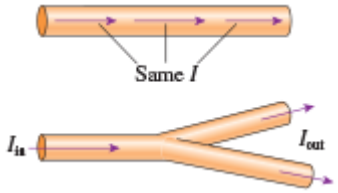

### Conservation of Charge

The current is the same at any two points in a wire.

At a junction,

$$\sum I_{\text{in}} = \sum I_{\text{out}}$$

This is **Kirchhoff's junction law**.




### Electron current

$i_\mathrm{e}$ = rate of electron flow

$N_\mathrm{e} = i_\mathrm{e}\,\Delta t$

### Conventional current

$I$ = rate of charge flow $= e i_\mathrm{e}$

$Q = I\,\Delta t$

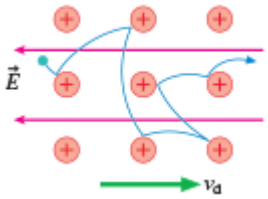
### Current density

$J = I/A$

## Important Concepts

### Sea of electrons

Conduction electrons move freely around the positive ions that form the atomic lattice.




### Conduction

An electric field causes a slow drift at speed $v_\mathrm{d}$ to be superimposed on the rapid but random thermal motions of the electrons.

**Collisions** of electrons with the ions transfer energy to the atoms. This makes the wire warm and lightbulbs glow. More collisions mean a higher resistivity $\rho$ and a lower conductivity $\sigma$.

The **drift speed** is $v_\mathrm{d} = \dfrac{e\tau}{m}E$, where $\tau$ is the mean time between collisions.

The electron current is related to the drift speed by

$$i_\mathrm{e} = n_\mathrm{e}\, A v_\mathrm{d}$$

where $n_\mathrm{e}$ is the electron density.

An electric field $E$ in a conductor causes a current density $J = n_\mathrm{e} e v_\mathrm{d} = \sigma E$, where the **conductivity** is

$$\sigma = \frac{n_\mathrm{e} e^2 \tau}{m}$$

The **resistivity** is $\rho = 1/\sigma$.

# Applications

## Resistors

A potential difference $\Delta V_\mathrm{wire}$ between the ends of a wire creates an electric field inside the wire:

$$E_\mathrm{wire} = \frac{\Delta V_\mathrm{wire}}{L}$$

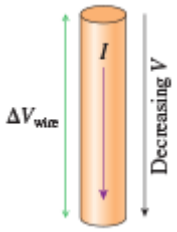
The electric field causes a current in the direction of decreasing potential.

The size of the current is

$$I = \frac{\Delta V_{\text{wire}}}{R}$$

where $R = \dfrac{\rho L}{A}$ is the wire's **resistance**.

This is **Ohm's law**.




# Terms and Notation

current, $I$

drift speed, $V_{\text{d}}$

electron current, $i_{\text{e}}$

mean time between collisions, $\tau$

ampere, A

current density, $J$

junction

Kirchhoff's junction law

conductivity, $\sigma$

resistivity, $\rho$

superconductivity

resistance, $R$

ohm, $\Omega$

Ohm's law

resistor

ideal wire

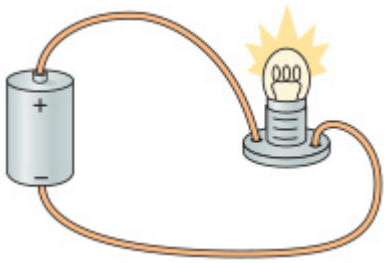
ideal insulator

ideal-wire model

# Conceptual Questions 

**1.** Suppose a time machine has just brought you forward from 1750 (post-Newton but pre-electricity) and you've been shown the lightbulb demonstration of Figure Q27.1. Do observations or *simple* measurements you might make—measurements that must make sense to you with your 1700s knowledge—prove that something is *flowing* through the wires? Or might you advance an alternative hypothesis for why the bulb is glowing? If your answer to the first question is yes, state what observations and/or measurements are relevant and the reasoning from which you can infer that something must be flowing. If not, can you offer an alternative hypothesis about why the bulb glows that could be tested?

**Figure Q27.1**




**2.** Consider a lightbulb circuit such as the one in Figure Q27.1.

**a.** From the simple observations and measurements you can make on this circuit, can you distinguish a current composed of positive charge carriers from a current composed of negative charge carriers? If so, describe how you can tell which it is. If not, why not?

**b.** One model of current is the motion of discrete charged particles. Another model is that current is the flow of a continuous charged fluid. Do simple observations and measurements on this circuit provide evidence in favor of either one of these models? If so, describe how. If not, why not?

**3.** The electron drift speed in a wire is exceedingly slow—typically only a fraction of a millimeter per second. Yet when you turn on a flashlight switch, the light comes on almost instantly. Resolve this apparent paradox.

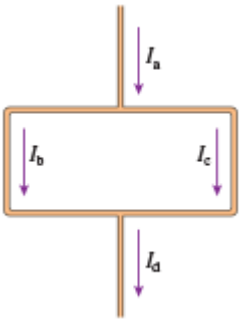
**4.** Is Figure Q27.4 a possible surface charge distribution for a current-carrying wire? If so, in which direction is the current? If not, why not?

**Figure Q27.4**

**5.** What is the difference between current and current density?

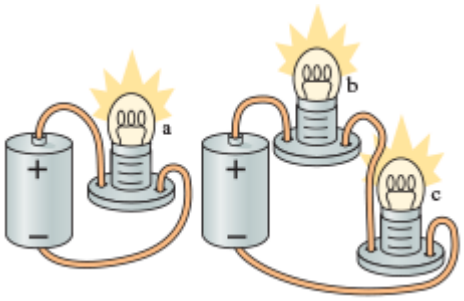
**6.** All the wires in Figure Q27.6 are made of the same material and have the same diameter. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the currents $I_a$ to $I_d$. Explain.

**Figure Q27.6**



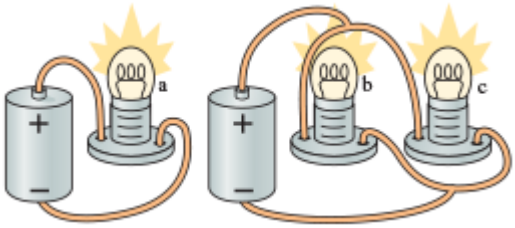
**7.** Both batteries in Figure Q27.7 are ideal and identical, and all lightbulbs are the same. Rank in order, from brightest to least bright, the brightness of bulbs a to c. Explain.

**Figure Q27.7**




**8.** Both batteries in Figure Q27.8 are ideal and identical, and all lightbulbs are the same. Rank in order, from brightest to least bright, the brightness of bulbs a to c. Explain.

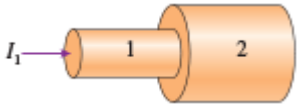
**Figure Q27.8**




**9.** The wire in Figure Q27.9 consists of two segments of different diameters but made from the same metal. The current in segment 1 is $I_1$.



**Figure Q27.9**



**a.** Compare the currents in the two segments. That is, is $I_2$ greater than, less than, or equal to $I_1$? Explain.

**b.** Compare the current densities $J_1$ and $J_2$ in the two segments.

**c.** Compare the electric field strengths $E_1$ and $E_2$ in the two segments.

**d.** Compare the drift speeds $(v_d)_1$ and $(v_d)_2$ in the two segments.

**10.** The current in a wire is doubled. What happens to (a) the current density, (b) the conduction-electron density, (c) the mean time between collisions, and (d) the electron drift speed? Are each of these doubled, halved, or unchanged? Explain.

**11.** The wires in Figure Q27.11 are all made of the same material. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the resistances $R_a$ to $R_e$ of these wires. Explain.

---

**Figure Q27.11**

**12.** Which, if any, of these statements are true? (More than one may be true.) Explain. Assume the batteries are ideal.

**a.** A battery supplies the energy to a circuit.

**b.** A battery is a source of potential difference; the potential difference between the terminals of the battery is always the same.

**c.** A battery is a source of current; the current leaving the battery is always the same.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 27.1 The Electron Current

**1.** •• $1.0 \times 10^{20}$ electrons flow through a cross section of a 2.0-mm-diameter iron wire in 5.0 s. What is the electron drift speed?

**2.** •• The electron drift speed in a 1.0-mm-diameter gold wire is $5.0 \times 10^{-5}\,\mathrm{m/s}$. How long does it take 1 mole of electrons to flow through a cross section of the wire?

**3.** •• $1.0 \times 10^{16}$ electrons flow through a cross section of a silver wire in 320 $\mu$s with a drift speed of $8.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\mathrm{m/s}$. What is the diameter of the wire?

**4.** •• Electrons flow through a 1.6-mm-diameter aluminum wire at $2.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\mathrm{m/s}$. How many electrons move through a cross section of the wire each day?

### Section 27.2 Creating a Current

**5.** • The electron drift speed is $2.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\mathrm{m/s}$ in a metal with a mean time between collisions of $5.0 \times 10^{-14}\,\mathrm{s}$. What is the electric field strength?

**6.** ••

**a.** How many conduction electrons are there in a 1.0-mm-diameter gold wire that is 10 cm long?

**b.** How far must the sea of electrons in the wire move to deliver –32 nC of charge to an electrode?

**7.** •• A $2.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \mathrm{V/m}$ electric field creates a $3.5 \times 10^{17}$ electrons/s current in a 1.0-mm-diameter aluminum wire. What are (a) the drift speed and (b) the mean time between collisions for electrons in this wire?

**8.** •• The mean time between collisions in iron is $4.2 \times 10^{-15}\ \mathrm{s}$. What electron current is driven through a 1.8-mm-diameter iron wire by a 0.065 V/m electric field?

## Section 27.3 Current and Current Density

**9.** • The wires leading to and from a 0.12-mm-diameter lightbulb filament are 1.5 mm in diameter. The wire to the filament carries a current with a current density of $4.5 \times 10^5\ \mathrm{A/m^2}$. What are (a) the current and (b) the current density in the filament?

**10.** •• The current in a 100 watt lightbulb is 0.85 A. The filament inside the bulb is 0.25 mm in diameter.

**a.** What is the current density in the filament?

**b.** What is the electron current in the filament?

**11.** •• In an integrated circuit, the current density in a 2.5-$\mu$m-thick $\times$ 7.5-$\mu$m-wide gold film is $7.5 \times 10^5\ \mathrm{A/m^2}$. How much charge flows through the film in 15 min?

**12.** • The current in an electric hair dryer is 10.0 A. How many electrons flow through the hair dryer in 5.0 min?

**13.** • **BIO** When a nerve cell fires, charge is transferred across the cell membrane to change the cell's potential from negative to positive. For a typical nerve cell, 9.0 pC of charge flows in a time of 0.50 ms. What is the average current through the cell membrane?

**14.** •• The current in a $2.0\ \mathrm{mm} \times 2.0\ \mathrm{mm}$ square aluminum wire is 2.5 A. What are (a) the current density and (b) the electron drift

speed?

**15.** •• A hollow copper wire with an inner diameter of 1.0 mm and an outer diameter of 2.0 mm carries a current of 10 A. What is the current density in the wire?



**16.** • A car battery is rated at 90 A h, meaning that it can supply a 90 A current for 1 h before being completely discharged. If you leave your headlights on until the battery is completely dead, how much charge leaves the battery?

## Section 27.4 Conductivity and Resistivity

**17.** • What is the mean time between collisions for electrons in (a) an aluminum wire and (b) an iron wire?

**18.** •• The electric field in a $2.0\ \text{mm} \times 2.0\ \text{mm}$ square aluminum wire is 0.012 V/m. What is the current in the wire?

**19.** •• A 15-cm-long nichrome wire is connected across the terminals of a 1.5 V battery.

**a.** What is the electric field inside the wire?

**b.** What is the current density inside the wire?

**c.** If the current in the wire is 2.0 A, what is the wire's diameter?

**20.** • What electric field strength is needed to create a 5.0 A current in a 2.0-mm-diameter iron wire?

**21.** • A 0.0075 V/m electric field creates a 3.9 mA current in a 1.0-mm-diameter wire. What material is the wire made of?

**22.** •• A 3.0-mm-diameter wire carries a 12 A current when the electric field is 0.085 V/m. What is the wire's resistivity?

**23.** •• A 0.50-mm-diameter silver wire carries a 20 mA current. What are (a) the electric field and (b) the electron drift speed in the wire?

**24.** • The two segments of the wire in Figure EX27.24 have equal diameters but different conductivities $\sigma_1$ and $\sigma_2$. Current $I$ passes through this wire. If the conductivities have the ratio $\sigma_2/\sigma_1 = 2$, what is the ratio $E_2/E_1$ of the electric field strengths in the two segments of the wire?

**Figure EX27.24**

## Section 27.5 Resistance and Ohm's Law

**25.** • **INT** A 1.5 V battery provides 0.50 A of current.

**a.** At what rate (C/s) is charge lifted by the charge escalator?

**b.** How much work does the charge escalator do to lift 1.0 C of charge?

**c.** What is the power output of the charge escalator?

**26.** •• Wires 1 and 2 are made of the same metal. Wire 2 has twice the length and twice the diameter of wire 1. What are the ratios (a) $\rho_2/\rho_1$ of the resistivities and (b) $R_2/R_1$ of the resistances of the two wires?

**27.** • What is the resistance of

**a.** A 2.0-m-long gold wire that is 0.20 mm in diameter?

**b.** A 10-cm-long piece of carbon with a $1.0\ \text{mm} \times 1.0\ \text{mm}$ square cross section?

**28.** •• An engineer cuts a 1.0-m-long, 0.33-mm-diameter piece of wire, connects it across a 1.5 V battery, and finds that the current in the wire is 8.0 A. Of what material is the wire made?

**29.** • The electric field inside a 30-cm-long copper wire is 5.0 mV/m. What is the potential difference between the ends of

the wire?

**30.** ••

**a.** How long must a 0.60-mm-diameter aluminum wire be to have a 0.50 A current when connected to the terminals of a 1.5 V flashlight battery?

**b.** What is the current if the wire is half this length?

**31.** •• The terminals of a 0.70 V watch battery are connected by a 100-m-long gold wire with a diameter of 0.10 mm. What is the current in the wire?

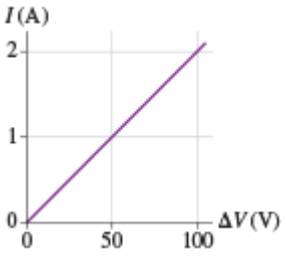
**32.** •• **BIO** The femoral artery is the large artery that carries blood to the leg. What is the resistance of a 20-cm-long column of blood in a 1.0-cm-diameter femoral artery? The conductivity of blood is 0.63 $\Omega^{-1}$ $m^{-1}$.

**33.** • Pencil "lead" is actually carbon. What is the current if a 9.0 V potential difference is applied between the ends of a 0.70-mm-diameter, 6.0-cm-long lead from a mechanical pencil?

**34.** ••• The resistance of a very fine aluminum wire with a 10 $\mu$m $\times$ 10 $\mu$m square cross section is 1000 Ω. A 1000 Ω resistor is made by wrapping this wire in a spiral around a 3.0-mm-diameter glass core. How many turns of wire are needed?

**35.** • Figure EX27.35 is a current-versus-potential-difference graph for a material. What is the material's resistance?

**Figure EX27.35**



**36.** •• A circuit calls for a 0.50-mm-diameter copper wire to be stretched between two points. You don't have any copper wire, but you do have aluminum wire in a wide variety of diameters. What diameter aluminum wire will provide the same resistance?

**37.** •• Household wiring often uses 2.0-mm-diameter copper wires. The wires can get rather long as they snake through the walls from the fuse box to the farthest corners of your house. What is the potential difference across a 20-m-long, 2.0-mm-diameter copper wire carrying an 8.0 A current?

**38.** •• An ideal battery would produce an extraordinarily large current if "shorted" by connecting the positive and negative terminals with a short wire of very low resistance. Real batteries do not. The current of a real battery is limited by the fact that the battery itself has resistance. What is the resistance of a 9.0 V battery that produces a 21 A current when shorted by a wire of negligible resistance?



## Problems

**39.** •• For what electric field strength would the current in a 2.0-mm-diameter nichrome wire be the same as the current in a 1.0-mm-diameter aluminum wire in which the electric field strength is 0.0080 V/m?

**40.** •• **INT** The electron beam inside an old television picture tube is 0.40 mm in diameter and carries a current of 50 $\mu$A. This electron beam impinges on the inside of the picture tube screen.

**a.** How many electrons strike the screen each second?

**b.** What is the current density in the electron beam?

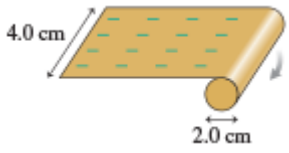
**c.** The electrons move with a velocity of $4.0 \times 10^7$ m/s. What electric field strength is needed to accelerate electrons from rest to this velocity in a distance of 5.0 mm?

**d.** Each electron transfers its kinetic energy to the picture tube screen upon impact. What is the *power* delivered to the screen by the electron beam?

**41.** •• Energetic particles, such as protons, can be detected with a *silicon detector*. When a particle strikes a thin piece of silicon, it creates a large number of free electrons by ionizing silicon atoms. The electrons flow to an electrode on the surface of the detector, and this current is then amplified and detected. In one experiment, each incident proton creates, on average, 35,000 electrons; the electron current is amplified by a factor of 100; and the experimenters record an amplified current of 3.5 $\mu$A. How many protons are striking the detector per second?

**42.** •• **INT** Figure P27.42 shows a 4.0-cm-wide plastic film being wrapped onto a 2.0-cm-diameter roller that turns at 90 rpm. The plastic has a uniform surface charge density of –2.0 nC/cm$^2$.

**Figure P27.42**




**a.** What is the current of the moving film?

**b.** How long does it take the roller to accumulate a charge of –10 $\mu$C?

**43.** •• **INT** A sculptor has asked you to help electroplate gold onto a brass statue. You know that the charge carriers in the ionic solution are singly charged gold ions, and you've calculated that you must deposit 0.50 g of gold to reach the necessary thickness. How much current do you need, in mA, to plate the statue in 3.0 hours?

**44.** •• **INT** In a classic model of the hydrogen atom, the electron moves around the proton in a circular orbit of radius 0.053 nm.

**a.** What is the electron's orbital frequency?

**b.** What is the effective current of the electron?

**45.** •• You've been asked to determine whether a new material your company has made is ohmic and, if so, to measure its electrical conductivity. Taking a $0.50\ \text{mm} \times 1.0\ \text{mm} \times 45\ \text{mm}$ sample, you wire the ends of the long axis to a power supply and then measure the current for several different potential differences. Your data are as follows:

| Voltage (V) | Current (A) |
|---|---|
| 0.200 | 0.47 |
| 0.400 | 1.06 |
| 0.600 | 1.53 |
| 0.800 | 1.97 |

Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine whether the material is ohmic and, if so, its conductivity.

**46.** • **BIO** The biochemistry that takes place inside cells depends on various elements, such as sodium, potassium, and calcium, that are dissolved in water as ions. These ions enter cells through narrow pores in the cell membrane known as *ion channels.* Each ion channel, which is formed from a specialized protein molecule, is selective for one type of ion. Measurements with microelectrodes have shown that a 0.30-

nm-diameter potassium ion ($K^+$) channel carries a current of 1.8 pA.

**a.** How many potassium ions pass through if the ion channel opens for 1.0 ms?

**b.** What is the current density in the ion channel?

**47.** •• The starter motor of a car engine draws a current of 150 A from the battery. The copper wire to the motor is 5.0 mm in diameter and 1.2 m long. The starter motor runs for 0.80 s until the car engine starts.

**a.** How much charge passes through the starter motor?

**b.** How far does an electron travel along the wire while the starter motor is on?

**48.** •• A 1.5-m-long wire is made of a metal with the same electron density as copper. The wire is connected across the terminals of a 9.0 V battery. What conductivity would the metal need for the drift velocity of electrons in the wire to be 60 mph? By what factor is this larger than the conductivity of copper?

**49.** •• The resistivity of a metal increases slightly with increased temperature. This can be expressed as $\rho = \rho_0[1 + \alpha(T - T_0)]$, where $T_0$ is a reference temperature, usually 20°C, and $\alpha$ is the *temperature coefficient of resistivity*. For copper, $\alpha = 3.9 \times 10^{-3}\ ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$. Suppose a long, thin copper wire has a resistance of 0.25 Ω at 20°C. At what temperature, in °C, will its resistance be 0.30 Ω?



**50.** •• **BIO** Variations in the resistivity of blood can give valuable clues about changes in various properties of the blood. Suppose a medical device attaches two electrodes into a 1.5-mm-diameter vein at positions 5.0 cm apart. What is the blood resistivity if a 9.0 V potential difference causes a 230 $\mu$A current through the blood in the vein?

**51.** •• **BIO** The conducting path between the right hand and the left hand can be modeled as a 10-cm-diameter, 160-cm-long cylinder. The average resistivity of the interior of the human body is 5.0 Ω m. Dry skin has a much higher resistivity, but skin resistance can be made negligible by soaking the hands in salt water. If skin resistance is neglected, what potential difference between the hands is needed for a lethal shock of 100 mA across the chest? Your result shows that even small potential differences can produce dangerous currents when the skin is wet.

**52.** ••• **BIO** The conductive tissues of the upper leg can be modeled as a 40-cm-long, 12-cm-diameter cylinder of muscle and fat. The resistivities of muscle and fat are 13 Ω m and 25 Ω m, respectively. One person's upper leg is 82% muscle, 18% fat. What current is measured if a 1.5 V potential difference is applied between the person's hip and knee?

**53.** •• **CALC** The resistivity of a metal increases slightly with increased temperature. This can be expressed as $\rho = \rho_0[1 + \alpha(T - T_0)]$, where $T_0$ is a reference temperature, usually 20°C, and $\alpha$ is the *temperature coefficient of resistivity*.

**a.** First find an expression for the current $I$ through a wire of length $L$, cross-section area $A$, and temperature $T$ when connected across the terminals of an ideal battery with terminal voltage $\Delta V$. Then, because the *change* in resistance is small, use the *binomial approximation* to simplify your expression. Your final expression should have the temperature coefficient $\alpha$ in the numerator.

**b.** For copper, $\alpha = 3.9 \times 10^{-3}\ ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$. Suppose a 2.5-m-long, 0.40-mm-diameter copper wire is connected

across the terminals of a 1.5 V ideal battery. What is the current in the wire at 20°C?

**c.** What is the rate, in A/°C, at which the current changes with temperature as the wire heats up?

**54.** •• Electrical engineers sometimes use a wire's *conductance*, $G = \sigma A/L$, instead of its resistance.

**a.** Write Ohm's law in terms of conductance, starting with "$\Delta V$ = ".

**b.** What is the conductance of a 5.4-cm-long, 0.15-mm-diameter tungsten wire?

**c.** A 1.5 A current flows through the wire of part b. What is the potential difference between the ends of the wire?

**55.** •• You need to design a 1.0 A fuse that "blows" if the current exceeds 1.0 A. The fuse material in your stockroom melts at a current density of 500 A/cm$^2$. What diameter wire of this material will do the job?

**56.** •• A hollow metal cylinder has inner radius $a$, outer radius $b$, length $L$, and conductivity $\sigma$. The current $I$ is *radially* outward from the inner surface to the outer surface.

**a.** Find an expression for the electric field strength inside the metal as a function of the radius $r$ from the cylinder's axis.

**b.** Evaluate the electric field strength at the inner and outer surfaces of an iron cylinder if $a = 1.0\,\text{cm}$, $b = 2.5\,\text{cm}$, $L = 10\,\text{cm}$, and $I = 25\,\text{A}$.

**57.** •• A hollow metal sphere has inner radius $a$, outer radius $b$, and conductivity $\sigma$. The current $I$ is *radially* outward from the inner surface to the outer surface.

**a.** Find an expression for the electric field strength inside the metal as a function of the radius $r$ from the center.

**b.** Evaluate the electric field strength at the inner and outer surfaces of a copper sphere if $a = 1.0\,\text{cm}$, $b = 2.5\,\text{cm}$, and $I = 25\,\text{A}$.

**58.** •• **CALC** The total amount of charge in coulombs that has entered a wire at time $t$ is given by the expression $Q = 4t - t^2$, where $t$ is in seconds and $t \geq 0$.

**a.** Find an expression for the current in the wire at time $t$.

**b.** Graph $I$ versus $t$ for the interval $0 \leq t \leq 4\,\text{s}$.

**59.** •• **CALC** The total amount of charge that has entered a wire at time $t$ is given by the expression $Q = (20\text{ C})(1 - e^{-t/(2.0\text{ s})})$, where $t$ is in seconds and $t \geq 0$.

**a.** Find an expression for the current in the wire at time $t$.

**b.** What is the maximum value of the current?

**c.** Graph $I$ versus $t$ for the interval $0 \leq t \leq 10\,\text{s}$.

**60.** •• **CALC** The current in a wire at time $t$ is given by the expression $I = (2.0\text{ A})e^{-t/(2.0\,\mu\text{s})}$, where $t$ is in microseconds and $t \geq 0$.

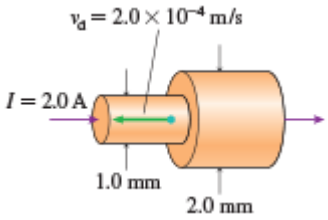
**a.** Find an expression for the total amount of charge (in coulombs) that has entered the wire at time $t$. The initial conditions are $Q = 0\,\text{C}$ at $t = 0\,\mu\text{s}$.

**b.** Graph $Q$ versus $t$ for the interval $0 \leq t \leq 10\,\mu\text{s}$.

**61.** •• **CALC** The current supplied by a battery slowly decreases as the battery runs down. Suppose that the current as a function of time is $I = (0.75\text{ A})e^{-t/(6\,\text{h})}$. What is the total number of electrons transported from the positive electrode to the negative electrode by the charge escalator from the time the battery is first used until it is completely dead?

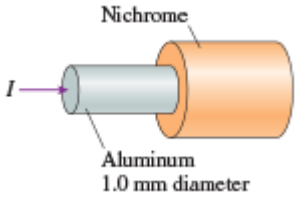
**62.** •• The two wires in Figure P27.62 are made of the same material. What are the current and the electron drift speed in the 2.0-mm-diameter segment of the wire?

**Figure P27.62**



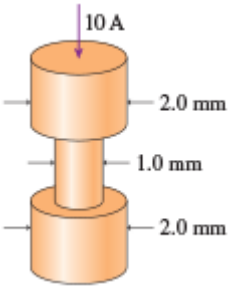

**63.** •• What diameter should the nichrome wire in Figure P27.63 be in order for the electric field strength to be the same in both wires?

**Figure P27.63**




**64.** •• An aluminum wire consists of the three segments shown in Figure P27.64. The current in the top segment is 10 A. For each of these three segments, find the

**Figure P27.64**



**a.** Current $I$.

**b.** Current density $J$.

**c.** Electric field $E$.

**d.** Drift velocity $v_d$.

**e.** Electron current $i$.

Place your results in a table for easy viewing.

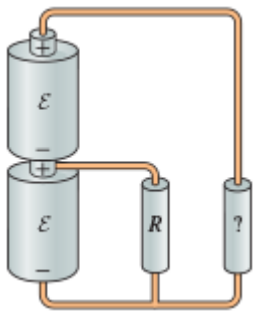
**65.** •• **CALC** A wire of radius $R$ has a current density that increases linearly with distance from the center of the wire: $J(r) = kr$, where $k$ is a constant. Find an expression for $k$ in terms of $R$ and the total current $I$ carried by the wire.

**66.** •• **CALC** A 0.60-mm-diameter wire made from an alloy (a combination of different metals) has a conductivity that decreases linearly with distance from the center of the wire: $\sigma(r) = \sigma_0 - cr$, with $\sigma_0 = 5.0 \times 10^7\ \Omega^{-1}\ \text{m}^{-1}$ and $c = 1.2 \times 10^{11}\ \Omega^{-1}\ \text{m}^{-2}$. What is the resistance of a 4.0 m length of this wire?

**67.** •• A 20-cm-long hollow nichrome tube of inner diameter 2.8 mm, outer diameter 3.0 mm is connected, at its ends, to a 3.0 V battery. What is the current in the tube?

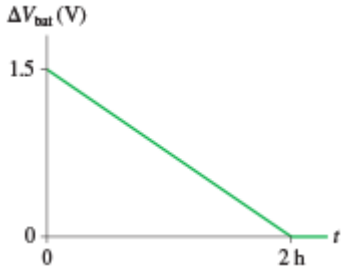
**68.** •• The batteries in Figure P27.68 are identical. Both resistors have equal currents. What is the resistance of the resistor on the right?

**Figure P27.68**



**69.** •• A 1.5 V flashlight battery is connected to a wire with a resistance of 3.0 Ω. Figure P27.69 shows the battery's potential difference as a function of time. What is the total charge lifted by the charge escalator?

**Figure P27.69**




**70.** •• **INT** Two 10-cm-diameter metal plates 1.0 cm apart are charged to ±12.5 nC. They are suddenly connected together by a 0.224-mm-diameter copper wire stretched taut from the center of one plate to the center of the other.

**a.** What is the maximum current in the wire?

**b.** Does the current increase with time, decrease with time, or remain steady? Explain.

**c.** What is the total amount of energy dissipated in the wire?

**71.** •• A long, round wire has resistance *R*. What will the wire's resistance be if you stretch it to twice its initial length?

**72.** •• You've decided to protect your house by placing a 5.0-m-tall iron lightning rod next to the house. The top is sharpened to a point and the bottom is in good contact with the ground. From your research, you've learned that lightning bolts can carry up to 50 kA of current and last up to 50 $\mu$s.

**a.** How much charge is delivered by a lightning bolt with these parameters?

**b.** You don't want the potential difference between the top and bottom of the lightning rod to exceed 100 V. What minimum diameter must the rod have?

## Challenge Problems

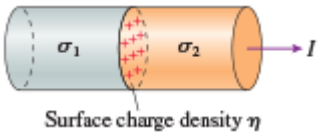
**73.** ••• **CALC** A 5.0-mm-diameter proton beam carries a total current of 1.5 mA. The current density in the proton beam, which increases with distance from the center, is given by $J = J_{\text{edge}}\,(r/R)$, where $R$ is the radius of the beam and $J_{\text{edge}}$ is the current density at the edge.

**a.** How many protons per second are delivered by this proton beam?

**b.** Determine the value of $J_{\text{edge}}$.

**74.** ••• Figure CP27.74 shows a wire that is made of two equal-diameter segments with conductivities $\sigma_1$ and $\sigma_2$. When current $I$ passes through the wire, a thin layer of charge appears at the boundary between the segments.

**Figure CP27.74**



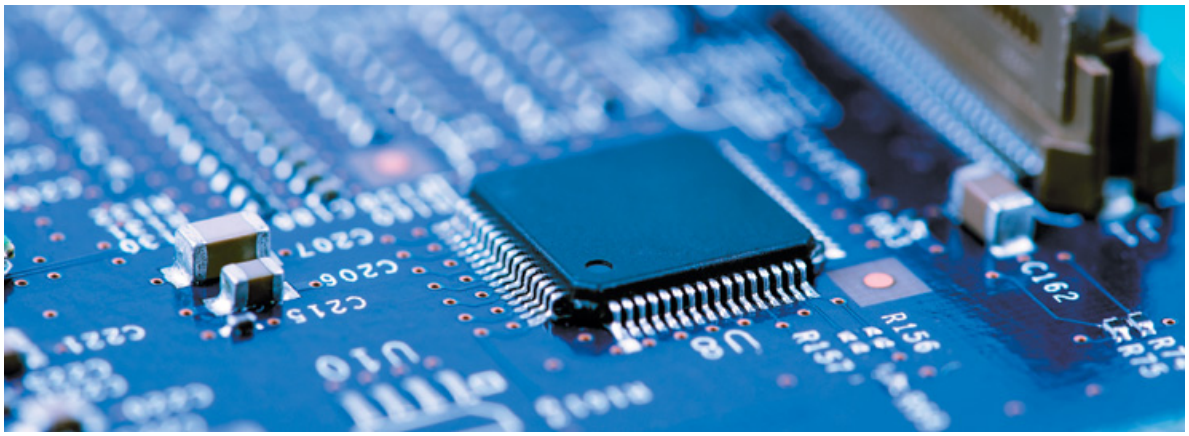

**a.** Find an expression for the surface charge density $\eta$ on the boundary. Give your result in terms of $I$, $\sigma_1$, $\sigma_2$, and the wire's cross-section area $A$.

**b.** A 1.0-mm-diameter wire made of copper and iron segments carries a 5.0 A current. How much charge accumulates at the boundary between the segments?

**75.** ••• **CALC** A 300 $\mu$F capacitor is charged to 9.0 V, then connected in parallel with a 5000 $\Omega$ resistor. The capacitor will discharge because the resistor provides a conducting pathway between the capacitor plates, but much more slowly than if the plates were connected by a wire. Let $t = 0\,\text{s}$ be the instant the fully charged capacitor is first connected to the resistor. At what time has the capacitor voltage decreased by half, to 4.5 V? **Hint:** The current through the resistor is related to the rate at which charge is *leaving* the capacitor. Consequently, you'll need a minus sign that you might not have expected.

**76.** ••• **CALC** A thin metal cylinder of length $L$ and radius $R_1$ is coaxial with a thin metal cylinder of length $L$ and a larger radius $R_2$. The space between the two coaxial cylinders is filled with a material that has resistivity $\rho$. The two cylinders are connected to the terminals of a battery with potential difference $\Delta V$, causing current $I$ to flow *radially* from the inner cylinder to the outer cylinder. Find an expression for the resistance of this device.

# Chapter 28
# Fundamentals of Circuits



A microprocessor, the heart of a powerful computer, is a complex device. Even so, a microprocessor operates on the basis of just a few fundamental physical principles.

**In This Chapter**

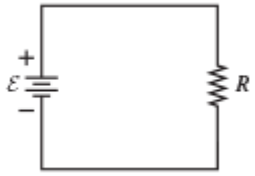
you will learn the fundamental physical principles that govern electric circuits.

## What is a circuit?

Circuits—from flashlights to computers—are the controlled motion of charges through conductors and resistors.

- This chapter focuses on DC circuits, meaning *direct current*, in which potentials and currents are constant.
- You'll learn to draw circuit diagrams.

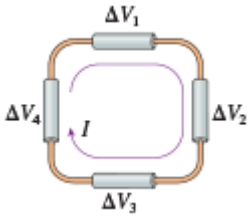
Looking Back Section 26.4 Sources of potential




## How are circuits analyzed?

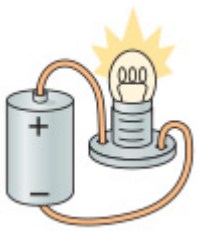
Any circuit, no matter how complex, can be analyzed with Kirchhoff's two laws:

- The junction law (charge conservation) relates the currents at a junction.
- The loop law (energy conservation) relates the voltages around a closed loop.
- We'll also use Ohm's law for resistors.




## How do circuits use energy?

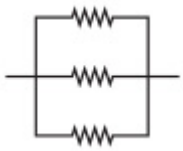
Circuits use energy to do things, such as lighting a bulb or turning a motor. You'll learn to calculate power, the rate at which the battery supplies energy to a circuit and the rate at which a resistor dissipates energy. Many circuit elements are *rated* by their power consumption in watts.



## How are resistors combined?

Resistors, like capacitors, often occur in series or in parallel. These combinations of resistors can be simplified by replacing them with a single resistor with equivalent resistance.

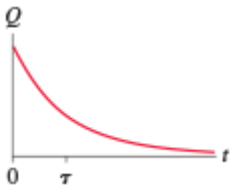
Looking Back Sections 27.3, 27.4, 27.5 Current, resistance, and Ohm's law



## What is an *RC* circuit?

Capacitors are charged and discharged by current flowing through a resistor. These important circuits are called *RC* circuits. Their uses range from heart defibrillators to digital electronics. You'll learn that capacitors charge and discharge exponentially with time constant $\tau = RC$.

Looking Back Section 26.5 Capacitors




## Why are circuits important?

We live in an electronic era, and electric circuits surround you: your household wiring, the ignition system in your car, your music and communication devices, and your tablets and computers. Electric circuits are one of the most important applications of physics, and in this chapter you will see how the seemingly abstract ideas of electric charge, field, and potential

are the foundation for many of the things we take for granted in the 21st century.

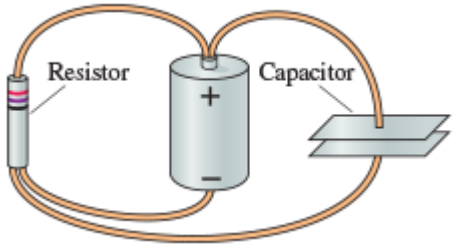
# 28.1 Circuit Elements and Diagrams



The last several chapters have focused on the physics of electric forces, fields, and potentials. Now we'll put those ideas to use by looking at one of the most important applications of electricity: the controlled motion of charges in *electric circuits*. This chapter is not about circuit design—you will see that in more advanced courses—but about understanding the fundamental ideas that underlie all circuits.

Figure 28.1 shows an electric circuit in which a resistor and a capacitor are connected by wires to a battery. To understand the functioning of this circuit, we do not need to know whether the wires are bent or straight, or whether the battery is to the right or to the left of the resistor. The literal picture of Figure 28.1 provides many irrelevant details. It is customary when describing or analyzing circuits to use a more abstract picture called a **circuit diagram**. A circuit diagram is a *logical* picture of what is connected to what.

**Figure 28.1**

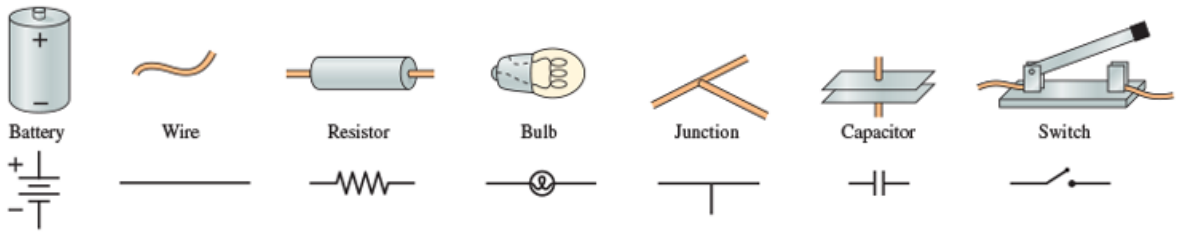



An electric circuit.

A circuit diagram also replaces pictures of the circuit elements with symbols. Figure 28.2 shows the basic symbols that we will need. The

longer line at one end of the battery symbol represents the positive terminal of the battery. Notice that a lightbulb, like a wire or a resistor, has two "ends," and current passes *through* the bulb. It is often useful to think of a lightbulb as a resistor that gives off light when a current is present. A lightbulb filament is not a perfectly ohmic material, but the resistance of a *glowing* lightbulb remains reasonably constant if you don't change $\Delta V$ by much.

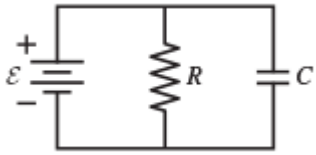
## Figure 28.2




A library of basic symbols used for electric circuit drawings.

Figure 28.3 is a circuit diagram of the circuit shown in Figure 28.1. Notice how the circuit elements are labeled. The battery's emf $\mathcal{E}$ is shown beside the battery, and + and – symbols, even though somewhat redundant, are shown beside the terminals. We would use numerical values for $\mathcal{E}$, $R$, and $C$ if we knew them. The wires, which in practice may bend and curve, are shown as straight-line connections between the circuit elements.

## Figure 28.3

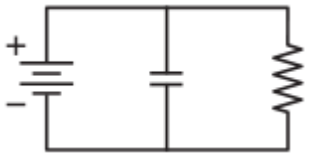



A circuit diagram for the circuit of Figure 28.1.

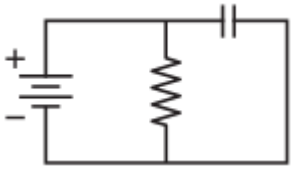
## Stop to Think 28.1

Which of these diagrams represent the same circuit?

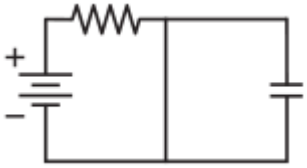
**a.**



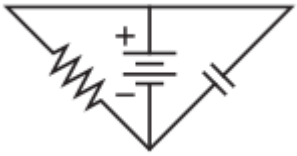
**b.**



**c.**



**d.**



# 28.2 Kirchhoff's Laws and the Basic Circuit



We are now ready to begin analyzing circuits. To analyze a circuit means to find:

1. The potential difference across each circuit component.
2. The current in each circuit component.

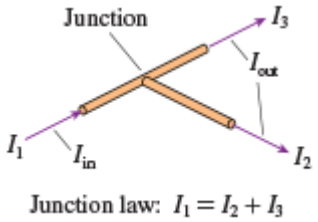
**Because charge is conserved**, the total current into the junction of Figure 28.4 must equal the total current leaving the junction. That is,

**(28.1)**

$$\sum I_{\text{in}} = \sum I_{\text{out}}$$

This statement, which you met in Chapter 27, is **Kirchhoff's junction law**.

## Figure 28.4




Kirchhoff's junction law.

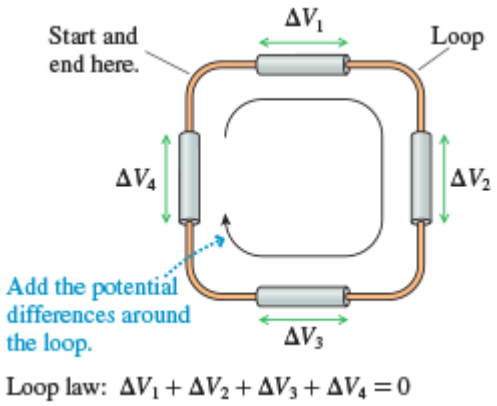
**Because energy is conserved**, a charge that moves around a closed path has $\Delta U = 0$. We apply this idea to the circuit of Figure 28.5 by adding

all of the potential differences *around* the loop formed by the circuit. Doing so gives

**(28.2)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{loop}} = \sum(\Delta V)_i = 0$$

## Figure 28.5




Kirchhoff's loop law.

where $(\Delta V)_i$ is the potential difference of the $i$th component in the loop. This statement, introduced in Chapter 26, is **Kirchhoff's loop law**.

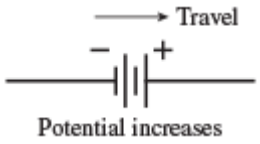
Kirchhoff's loop law can be true only if at least one of the $(\Delta V)_i$ is negative. To apply the loop law, we need to explicitly identify which potential differences are positive and which are negative.

TACTICS BOX 28.1 **Using Kirchhoff's loop law**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Draw a circuit diagram.** Label all known and unknown quantities.

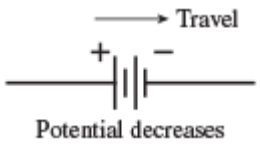
2. **Assign a direction to the current.** Draw and label a current arrow $I$ to show your choice.
    - If you know the actual current direction, choose that direction.
    - If you don't know the actual current direction, make an arbitrary choice. All that will happen if you choose wrong is that your value for $I$ will end up negative.
3. **"Travel" around the loop.** Start at any point in the circuit, then go all the way around the loop in the direction you assigned to the current in step 2. As you go through each circuit element, $\Delta V$ is interpreted to mean $\Delta V = V_{\text{downstream}} - V_{\text{upstream}}$.
    - For an ideal battery in the negative-to-positive direction:




$$\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = +\mathcal{E}$$

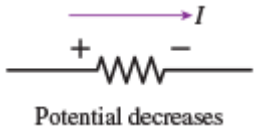
    - For an ideal battery in the positive-to-negative direction:






$$\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = -\mathcal{E}$$

- For a resistor:




$$\Delta V_{\text{res}} = -\Delta V_{\text{R}} = -IR$$

**4. Apply the loop law:** $\sum (\Delta V)_i = 0$

Workbook Exercises 4, 5, 6, 7

---

**Note**

Ohm's law gives us only the *magnitude* $\Delta V_{\text{R}} = IR$ of the potential difference across a resistor. For using Kirchhoff's law, $\Delta V_{\text{res}} = V_{\text{downstream}} - V_{\text{upstream}} = -\Delta V_{\text{R}}$.

## The Basic Circuit

The most basic electric circuit is a single resistor connected to the two terminals of a battery. Figure 28.6a shows a literal picture of the circuit elements and the connecting wires; Figure 28.6b is the circuit diagram. Notice that this is a **complete circuit**, forming a continuous path between the battery terminals.

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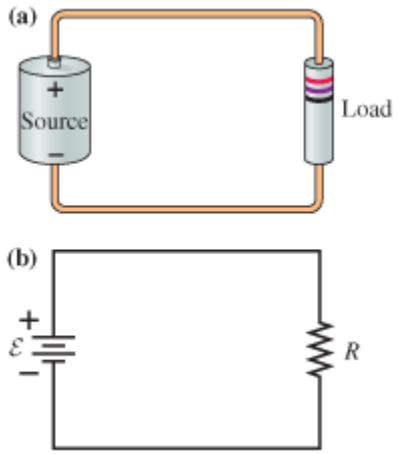
**Figure 28.6**



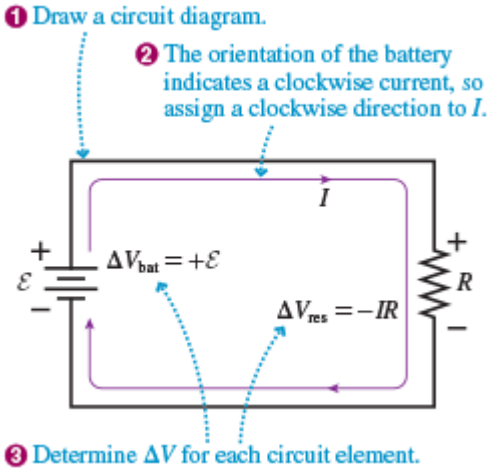

The basic circuit of a resistor connected to a battery.

The resistor might be a known resistor, such as "a 10 Ω resistor," or it might be some other resistive device, such as a lightbulb. Regardless of what the resistor is, it is called the **load**. The battery is called the **source**.

Figure 28.7 shows the use of Kirchhoff's loop law to analyze this circuit. Two things are worth noting:

1. This circuit has no junctions, so the current $I$ is the same in all four sides of the circuit. Kirchhoff's junction law is not needed.
2. We're assuming the ideal-wire model, in which there are *no* potential differences along the connecting wires.

## Figure 28.7



Kirchhoff's loop law, with two circuit elements, is [770]

**(28.3)**

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V_{\text{loop}} &= \sum (\Delta V)_i = \Delta V_{\text{bat}} + \Delta V_{\text{res}} \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Let's look at each of the two voltages in Equation 28.3:

1. The potential *increases* as we travel through the battery on our clockwise journey around the loop. We enter the negative terminal and, farther downstream, exit the positive terminal after having gained potential $\mathcal{E}$. Thus

$$\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = +\mathcal{E}$$

2. The potential of a conductor *decreases* in the direction of the current, which we've indicated with the + and – signs in Figure 28.7. Thus

$$\Delta V_{\text{res}} = V_{\text{downstream}} - V_{\text{upstream}} = -IR$$

> **Note**
>
> Determining which potential differences are positive and which are negative is perhaps *the* most important step in circuit analysis.

With this information, the loop equation becomes

**(28.4)**

$$\mathcal{E} - IR = 0$$

We can solve the loop equation to find that the current in the circuit is

(28.5)

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R}$$

We can then use the current to find that the magnitude of the resistor's potential difference is

(28.6)

$$\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}} = IR = \mathcal{E}$$

This result should come as no surprise. The potential energy that the charges gain in the battery is subsequently lost as they "fall" through the resistor.

> **Note**
>
> The current that the battery delivers depends jointly on the emf of the battery and the resistance of the load.

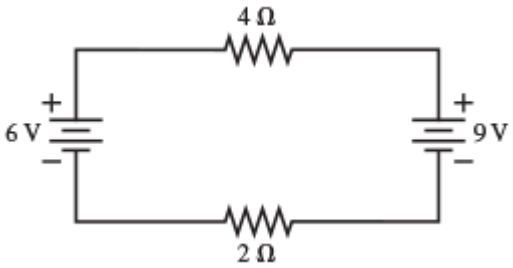
**Example 28.1 Two resistors and two batteries**

Analyze the circuit shown in Figure 28.8.

**a.** Find the current in and the potential difference across each resistor.

**b.** Draw a graph showing how the potential changes around the circuit, starting from $V = 0$ V at the negative terminal of the 6 V battery.

**Figure 28.8**



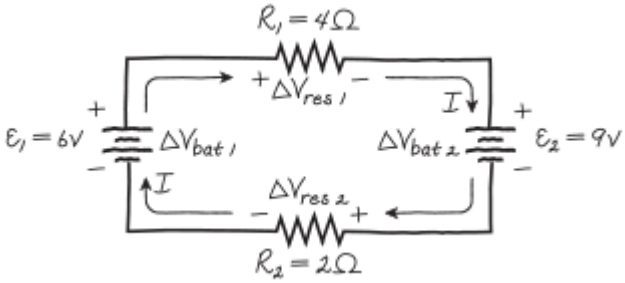

Circuit for Example 28.1.

**MODEL** Assume ideal connecting wires and ideal batteries, for which $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$.

**VISUALIZE** In Figure 28.9, we've redrawn the circuit and defined $\mathcal{E}_1$, $\mathcal{E}_2$, $R_1$, and $R_2$. Because there are no junctions, the current is the same through *each* component in the circuit. With some thought, we might deduce whether the current is cw or ccw, but we do not need to know in advance of our analysis. We will choose a clockwise direction and solve for the value of $I$. If our solution is positive, then the current really is cw. If the solution should turn out to be negative, we will know that the current is ccw.



## Figure 28.9




Analyzing the circuit.

**SOLVE**

**a.** How do we deal with *two* batteries? Can charge flow "backward" through a battery, from positive to negative?

Consider the charge escalator analogy. Left to itself, a charge escalator lifts charge from lower to higher potential. But it *is* possible to run down an up escalator, as many of you have probably done. If two escalators are placed "head to head," whichever is stronger will, indeed, force the charge to run down the up escalator of the other battery. The current in a battery *can* be from positive to negative if driven in that direction by a larger emf from a second battery. Indeed, this is how rechargeable batteries are recharged.

Kirchhoff's loop law, going clockwise from the negative terminal of battery 1, is

$$\Delta V_{\text{loop}} = \sum (\Delta V)_i = \Delta V_{\text{bat}\,1} + \Delta V_{\text{res}\,1} + \Delta V_{\text{bat}\,2} + \Delta V_{\text{res}\,2} = 0$$

*All* the signs are + because this is a formal statement of *adding* potential differences around the loop. Next we can evaluate each $\Delta V$. As we go cw, the charges *gain* potential in battery 1 but *lose* potential in battery 2. Thus $\Delta V_{\text{bat }1} = +\mathcal{E}_1$ and $\Delta V_{\text{bat }2} = -\mathcal{E}_2$. There is a *loss* of potential in traveling through each resistor, because we're traversing them in the direction we assigned to the current, so $\Delta V_{\text{res }1} = -IR_1$ and $\Delta V_{\text{res }2} = -IR_2$. Thus Kirchhoff's loop law becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\sum (\Delta V)_i &= \mathcal{E}_1 - IR_1 - \mathcal{E}_2 - IR_2 \\ &= \mathcal{E}_1 - \mathcal{E}_2 - I(R_1 + R_2) = 0\end{aligned}$$

We can solve this equation to find the current in the loop:

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}_1 - \mathcal{E}_2}{R_1 + R_2} = \frac{6\ \text{V} - 9\ \text{V}}{4\ \Omega + 2\ \Omega} = -0.50\ \text{A}$$

The value of $I$ is negative; hence the actual current in this circuit is 0.50 A *counterclockwise*. You perhaps anticipated this from the orientation of the 9 V battery with its larger emf.

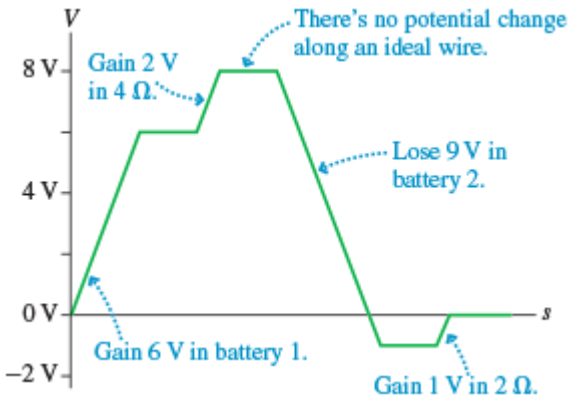
The potential difference across the 4 Ω resistor is

$$\Delta V_{\text{res } 1} = -IR_1 = -(-0.50\ \text{A})(4\ \Omega) = +2.0\ \text{V}$$

Because the current is actually ccw, the resistor's potential *increases* in the cw direction of our travel around the loop. Similarly, $\Delta V_{\text{res } 2} = 1.0\,\text{V}$.

**b.** Figure 28.10 shows the potential experienced by charges flowing around the circuit. The distance $s$ is measured from the 6 V battery's negative terminal, and we have chosen to let $V = 0$ V at that point. The potential ends at the value from which it started.

**Figure 28.10**

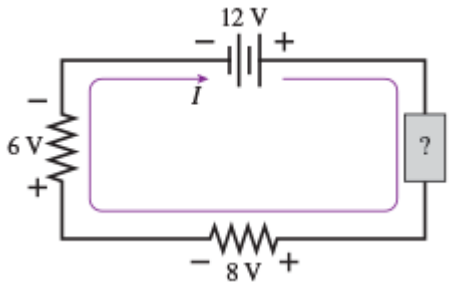



A graphical presentation of how the potential changes around the loop.

**ASSESS** Notice how the potential *drops* 9 V upon passing through battery 2 in the cw direction. It then gains 1 V upon passing through $R_2$ to end at the starting potential.

## Stop to Think 28.2

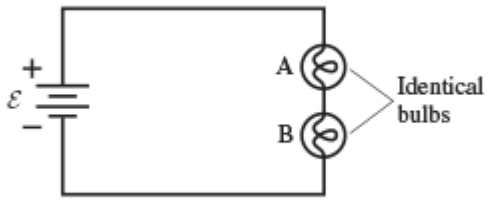
What is $\Delta V$ across the unspecified circuit element? Does the potential increase or decrease when traveling through this element in the direction assigned to $I$?



# 28.3 Energy and Power 772

The circuit of Figure 28.11 has two identical lightbulbs, A and B. Which is brighter? Or are they equally bright? Think about this before going on.

**Figure 28.11**




Which lightbulb is brighter?

You might have been tempted to say that A is brighter. After all, the current gets to A first, so A might "use up" some of the current and leave less for B. But this would violate the law of conservation of charge. There are no junctions between A and B, so the current through the two bulbs must be the same. Hence the bulbs are equally bright.

What a bulb uses is not current but *energy*. The battery's charge escalator is an energy-transfer process, transferring chemical energy $E_{\text{chem}}$ stored in the battery to the potential energy $U$ of the charges. That energy is, in turn, transformed into the *thermal energy* of the resistors, increasing their temperature until—in the case of lightbulb filaments—they glow.

A charge gains potential energy $\Delta U = q\,\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$ as it moves up the charge escalator in the battery. For an ideal battery, with $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$, the battery supplies energy $\Delta U = q\mathcal{E}$ as it lifts charge $q$ from the negative to the positive terminal.

It is useful to know the *rate* at which the battery supplies energy to the charges. Recall from Chapter 9 that the rate at which energy is transferred is *power*, measured in joules per second or *watts*. If energy $\Delta U = q\mathcal{E}$ is transferred to charge $q$, then the *rate* at which energy is transferred from the battery to the moving charges is

**(28.7)**

$$P_{\text{bat}} = \text{rate of energy transfer} = \frac{dU}{dt} = \frac{dq}{dt}\mathcal{E}$$

But $dq/dt$, the rate at which charge moves through the battery, is the current $I$. Hence the power supplied by a battery, or the rate at which the battery (or any other source of emf) transfers energy to the charges passing through it, is

---

**(28.8)**

$$P_{\text{bat}} = I\mathcal{E} \qquad (\text{power delivered by an emf})$$

$I\varepsilon$ has units of J/s, or W. For example, a 120 V battery that generates 2 A of current is delivering 240 W of power to the circuit.

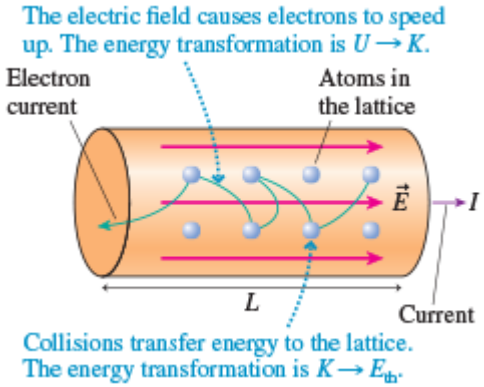
## Energy Dissipation in Resistors

$P_{\text{bat}}$ is the energy transferred per second from the battery's store of chemicals to the moving charges that make up the current. But what happens to this energy? Where does it end up? Figure 28.12, a section of a current-carrying resistor, reminds you of our microscopic model of conduction. The electrons accelerate in the electric field, transforming

potential energy into kinetic, then collide with atoms in the lattice. The collisions transfer the electron's kinetic energy to the *thermal* energy of the lattice. The potential energy was acquired in the battery, so the entire energy-transfer process looks like

$$E_{\text{chem}} \rightarrow U \rightarrow K \rightarrow E_{\text{th}}$$

## Figure 28.12




A current-carrying resistor dissipates energy.

The net result is that **the battery's chemical energy is transferred to the thermal energy of the resistors**, raising their temperature.

Consider a charge $q$ that moves all the way through a resistor with a potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{R}}$ between its two ends. The charge *loses potential energy* $\Delta U = -q\,\Delta V_{\text{R}}$, and, after a vast number of collisions, all that energy is transformed into thermal energy. Thus the resistor's *increase in thermal energy* due to this one charge is

**(28.9)**

$$\Delta E_{\text{th}} = q\,\Delta V_{\text{R}}$$

The *rate* at which energy is transferred from the current to the resistor is then

(28.10)

$$P_{\mathrm{R}} = \frac{dE_{\mathrm{th}}}{dt} = \frac{dq}{dt}\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}} = I\,\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}}$$

Power—so many joules per second—is the rate at which energy is *dissipated* by the resistor as charge flows through it. The resistor, in turn, transfers this energy to the air and to the circuit board on which it is mounted, causing the circuit and all its surroundings to heat up.

From our analysis of the basic circuit, in which a single resistor is connected to a battery, we learned that $\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}} = \mathcal{E}$. That is, the potential difference across the resistor is exactly the emf supplied by the battery. But then Equations 28.8 and 28.10, for $P_{\mathrm{bat}}$ and $P_{\mathrm{R}}$, are numerically equal, and we find that

(28.11)

$$P_{\mathrm{R}} = P_{\mathrm{bat}}$$

The answer to the question "What happens to the energy supplied by the battery?" is "The battery's chemical energy is transformed into the thermal energy of the resistor." The *rate* at which the battery supplies energy is exactly equal to the *rate* at which the resistor dissipates energy. This is, of course, exactly what we would have expected from energy conservation.

**Example 28.2 The power of light**

How much current is "drawn" by a 100 W lightbulb connected to a 120 V outlet?

**MODEL** Most household appliances, such as a 100 W lightbulb or a 1500 W hair dryer, have a power rating. The rating does *not* mean that these appliances *always* dissipate that much power. These appliances are intended for use at a standard household voltage of 120 V, and their rating is the power they will dissipate *if* operated with a potential difference of 120 V. Their power consumption will differ from the rating if they are operated at any other potential difference.

**SOLVE** Because the lightbulb is operating as intended, it will dissipate 100 W of power. Thus

$$I = \frac{P_{\text{R}}}{\Delta V_{\text{R}}} = \frac{100\,\text{W}}{120\,\text{V}} = 0.833\,\text{A}$$

**ASSESS** A current of 0.833 A in this lightbulb transfers 100 J/s to the thermal energy of the filament, which, in turn, dissipates 100 J/s as heat and light to its surroundings.

A resistor obeys Ohm's law, $\Delta V_{\text{R}} = IR$. (Remember that Ohm's law gives only the *magnitude* of $\Delta V_{\text{R}}$.)This gives us two alternative ways of writing the power dissipated by a resistor. We can either substitute $IR$ for $\Delta V_{\text{R}}$ or substitute $\Delta V_{\text{R}}/R$ for $I$. Thus

(28.12)

$$P_{\text{R}} = I\,\Delta V_{\text{R}} = I^2 R = \frac{(\Delta V_{\text{R}})^2}{R} \qquad \text{(power dissipated by a resistor)}$$

If the same current $I$ passes through several resistors in series, then $P_{\mathrm{R}} = I^2R$ tells us that most of the power will be dissipated by the largest resistance. This is why a lightbulb filament glows but the connecting wires do not. Essentially *all* of the power supplied by the battery is dissipated by the high-resistance lightbulb filament and essentially no power is dissipated by the low-resistance wires. The filament gets very hot, but the wires do not.



**Example 28.3 The power of sound**

Most loudspeakers are designed to have a resistance of 8 Ω.If an 8 Ω loudspeaker is connected to a stereo amplifier with a rating of 100 W, what is the maximum possible current to the loudspeaker?

**MODEL** The rating of an amplifier is the *maximum* power it can deliver. Most of the time it delivers far less, but the maximum might be reached for brief, intense sounds like cymbal crashes.

**SOLVE** The loudspeaker is a resistive load. The maximum current to the loudspeaker occurs when the amplifier delivers maximum power $P_{\max} = (I_{\max})^2R$. Thus

$$I_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{P_{\max}}{R}} = \sqrt{\frac{100\,\mathrm{W}}{8\,\Omega}} = 3.5\,\mathrm{A}$$

## Kilowatt Hours

The energy dissipated (i.e., transformed into thermal energy) by a resistor during time $\Delta t$ is $E_{\mathrm{th}} = P_{\mathrm{R}}\,\Delta t$. The product of watts and seconds

is joules, the SI unit of energy. However, your local electric company prefers to use a different unit, the *kilowatt hour*, to measure the energy you use each month.

A load that consumes $P_R$ kW of electricity for $\Delta t$ hours has used $P_R \, \Delta t$ **kilowatt hours** of energy, abbreviated kWh. For example, a 4000 W electric water heater uses 40 kWh of energy in 10 hours. A 1500 W hair dryer uses 0.25 kWh of energy in 10 minutes. Despite the rather unusual name, a kilowatt hour is a unit of energy. A homework problem will let you find the conversion factor from kilowatt hours to joules.

Your monthly electric bill specifies the number of kilowatt hours you used last month. This is the amount of energy that the electric company delivered to you, via an electric current, and that you transformed into light and thermal energy inside your home. The cost of electricity varies throughout the country, but the average cost of electricity in the United States is approximately 10¢ per kWh ($0.10/kWh). Thus it costs about $4.00 to run your water heater for 10 hours, about 2.5¢ to dry your hair.

The electric meter on the side of your house or apartment records the kilowatt hours of electric energy that you use.

## Stop to Think 28.3

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the powers $P_a$ to $P_d$ dissipated in resistors a to d.

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

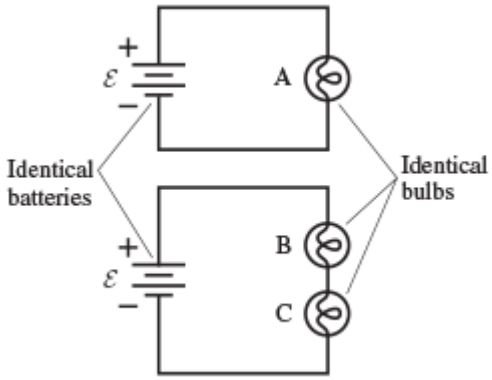
**d.**

# 28.4 Series Resistors



Consider the three lightbulbs in Figure 28.13. The batteries are identical and the bulbs are identical. You learned in the previous section that B and C are equally bright, because the current is the same through both, but how does the brightness of B compare to that of A? Think about this before going on.

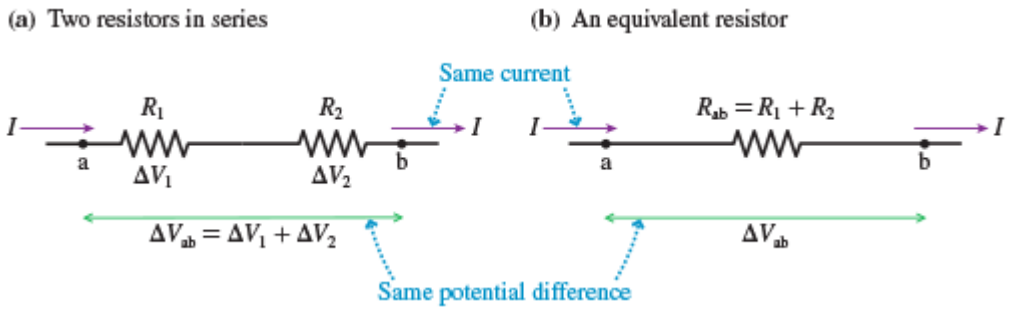
**Figure 28.13**




How does the brightness of bulb B compare to that of A?

Figure 28.14a shows two resistors placed end to end between points a and b. Resistors that are aligned end to end, *with no junctions between them*, are called **series resistors** or, sometimes, resistors "in series." Because there are no junctions, the current $I$ must be the same through each of these resistors. That is, the current out of the last resistor in a series is equal to the current into the first resistor.

**Figure 28.14**




Replacing two series resistors with an equivalent resistor.

The potential differences across the two resistors are $\Delta V_1 = IR_1$ and $\Delta V_2 = IR_2$. The total potential difference $\Delta V_{ab}$ between points a and b is the sum of the individual potential differences:

**(28.13)**

$$\Delta V_{ab} = \Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2 = IR_1 + IR_2 = I(R_1 + R_2)$$

Suppose, as in Figure 28.14b, we replaced the two resistors with a single resistor having current $I$ and potential difference $\Delta V_{ab} = \Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2$. We can then use Ohm's law to find that the resistance $R_{ab}$ between points a and b is

**(28.14)**

$$R_{ab} = \frac{\Delta V_{ab}}{I} = \frac{I(R_1 + R_2)}{I} = R_1 + R_2$$

Because the battery has to establish the same potential difference across the load and provide the same current in both cases, the two resistors $R_1$ and $R_2$ act exactly the same as a *single* resistor of value $R_1 + R_2$. We can say that the single resistor $R_{ab}$ is *equivalent* to the two resistors in series.

There was nothing special about having only two resistors. If we have $N$ resistors in series, their **equivalent resistance** is

(28.15)

$$R_{\text{eq}} = R_1 + R_2 + \cdots + R_N \qquad \text{(series resistors)}$$

The current and the power output of the battery will be unchanged if the $N$ series resistors are replaced by the single resistor $R_{\text{eq}}$. The key idea in this analysis is that **resistors in series all have the same current**.

> **Note**
>
> Compare this idea to what you learned in Chapter 26 about capacitors in series. The end-to-end connections are the same, but the equivalent capacitance is *not* the sum of the individual capacitances.

Now we can answer the lightbulb question posed at the beginning of this section. Suppose the resistance of each lightbulb is $R$. The battery drives current $I_{\text{A}} = \mathcal{E}/R$ through bulb A. Bulbs B and C are in series, with an equivalent resistance $R_{\text{eq}} = 2R$, but the battery has the same emf $\mathcal{E}$. Thus the current through bulbs B and C is $I_{\text{B+C}} = \mathcal{E}/R_{\text{eq}} = \mathcal{E}/2R = \frac{1}{2} I_{\text{A}}$. Bulb B has only half the current of bulb A, so B is dimmer.

Many people predict that A and B should be equally bright. It's the same battery, so shouldn't it provide the same current to both circuits? No! A battery is a source of emf, *not* a source of current. In other words, the battery's emf is the same no matter how the battery is used. When you buy a 1.5 V battery you're buying a device that provides a specified amount of potential difference, not a specified amount of current. The battery does provide the current to the circuit, but the *amount* of current depends on the resistance of the load. Your 1.5 V battery causes 1 A to pass through a 1.5 Ω load but only 0.1 A to pass through a 15 Ω load. As

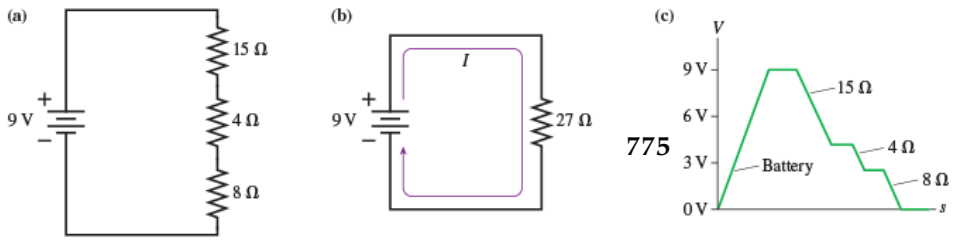
an analogy, think about a water faucet. The pressure in the water main underneath the street is a fixed and unvarying quantity set by the water company, but the amount of water coming out of a faucet depends on how far you open it. A faucet opened slightly has a "high resistance," so only a little water flows. A wide-open faucet has a "low resistance," and the water flow is large.

In summary, **a battery provides a fixed and unvarying emf (potential difference). It does *not* provide a fixed and unvarying current. The amount of current depends jointly on the battery's emf *and* the resistance of the circuit attached to the battery.**

### Example 28.4 A series resistor circuit

**a.** What is the current in the circuit of Figure 28.15a?

#### Figure 28.15




Analyzing a circuit with series resistors.

**b.** Draw a graph of potential versus position in the circuit, going cw from $V = 0$ V at the battery's negative terminal.

**MODEL** The three resistors are end to end, with no junctions between them, and thus are in series. Assume ideal connecting wires and an ideal battery.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The battery "acts" the same—it provides the same current at the same potential difference—if we replace the three series resistors by their equivalent resistance

$$R_{\text{eq}} = 15\ \Omega + 4\ \Omega + 8\ \Omega = 27\ \Omega$$

This is shown as an equivalent circuit in Figure 28.15b. Now we have a circuit with a single battery and a single resistor, for which we know the current to be

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{9\ \text{V}}{27\ \Omega} = 0.333\ \text{A}$$

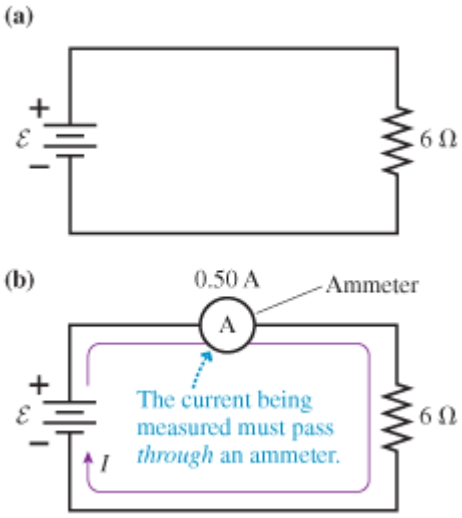
**b.** $I = 0.333\ \text{A}$ is the current in each of the three resistors in the original circuit. Thus the potential differences across the resistors are $\Delta V_{\text{res }1} = -IR_1 = -5.0\,\text{V}$, $\Delta V_{\text{res }2} = -IR_2 = -1.3\,\text{V}$, and $\Delta V_{\text{res }3} = -IR_3 = -2.7\,\text{V}$ for the 15 Ω, the 4 Ω, and the 8 Ω resistors. Figure 28.15c shows that the potential increases by 9 V due to the battery, then decreases by 9 V in three steps.

## Ammeters

A device that measures the current in a circuit element is called an **ammeter**. Because charge flows *through* circuit elements, an ammeter must be placed *in series* with the circuit element whose current is to be measured.

Figure 28.16a shows a simple one-resistor circuit with an unknown emf $\mathcal{E}$. We can measure the current in the circuit by inserting the ammeter as shown in Figure 28.16b. Notice that we have to *break the connection* between the battery and the resistor in order to insert the ammeter. Now the current in the resistor has to first pass through the ammeter.

## Figure 28.16



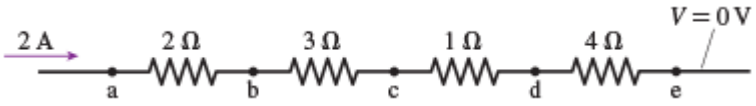

An ammeter measures the current in a circuit element.

Because the ammeter is now in series with the resistor, the total resistance seen by the battery is $R_{\text{eq}} = 6\ \Omega + R_{\text{ammeter}}$. In order that the ammeter measure the current without changing the current, the ammeter's resistance must, in this case, be $\ll 6\ \Omega$. Indeed, an ideal ammeter has $R_{\text{ammeter}} = 0\ \Omega$ and thus has no effect on the current. Real ammeters come very close to this ideal.

The ammeter in Figure 28.16b reads 0.50 A, meaning that the current through the 6 Ω resistor is $I = 0.50\ \text{A}$. Thus the resistor's potential difference is $\Delta V_{\text{R}} = IR = 3.0\ \text{V}$. If the ammeter is ideal, with no resistance and thus no potential difference across it, then, from Kirchhoff's loop law, the battery's emf is $\mathcal{E} = \Delta V_{\text{R}} = 3.0\ \text{V}$.

## Stop to Think 28.4

What are the current and the potential at points a to e?

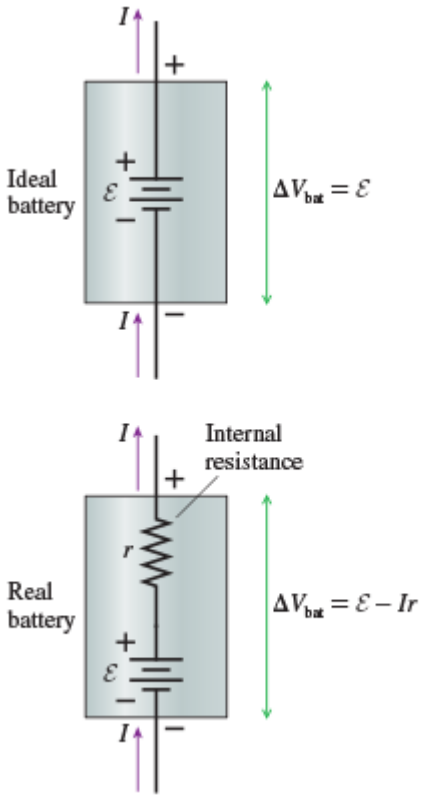


# 28.5 Real Batteries



Real batteries, like ideal batteries, use chemical reactions to separate charge, create a potential difference, and provide energy to the circuit. However, real batteries also provide a slight resistance to the charges on the charge escalator. They have what is called an **internal resistance**, which is symbolized by *r*. Figure 28.17 on the next page shows both an ideal and a real battery.

## Figure 28.17




An ideal battery and a real battery.

From our vantage point outside a battery, we cannot see $\mathcal{E}$ and $r$ separately. To the user, the battery provides a potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$ called the **terminal voltage**. $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$ for an ideal battery, but the

presence of the internal resistance affects $\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$. Suppose the current in the battery is $I$. As charges travel from the negative to the positive terminal, the potential increases by $\mathcal{E}$ but *decreases* by $\Delta V_{\text{int}} = -Ir$ due to the internal resistance. Thus the terminal voltage of the battery is

**(28.16)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E} - Ir \leq \mathcal{E}$$

Only when $I = 0$, meaning that the battery is not being used, is $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$.

Figure 28.18 shows a single resistor $R$ connected to the terminals of a battery having emf $\mathcal{E}$ and internal resistance $r$. Resistances $R$ and $r$ are in series, so we can replace them, for the purpose of circuit analysis, with a single equivalent resistor $R_{\text{eq}} = R + r$. Hence the current in the circuit is

**(28.17)**

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R + r}$$

If $r \ll R$, so that the internal resistance of the battery is negligible, then $I \approx \mathcal{E}/R$, exactly the result we found before. But the current decreases significantly as $r$ increases.

---

**Figure 28.18**

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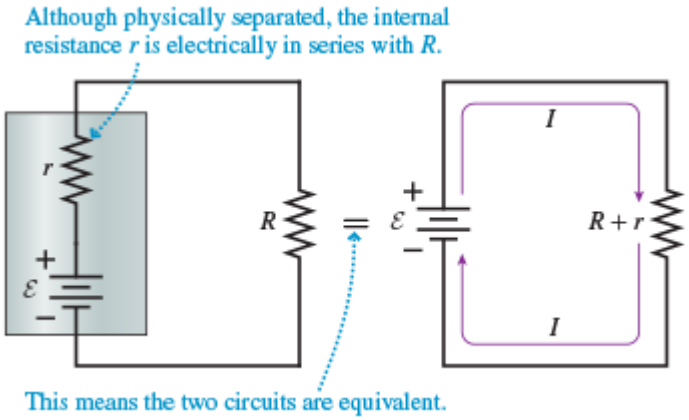



A single resistor connected to a real battery is in series with the battery's internal resistance, giving $R_{\text{eq}} = R + r$.

---

We can use Ohm's law to find that the potential difference across the load resistor $R$ is

**(28.18)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{R}} = IR = \frac{R}{R + r}\mathcal{E}$$

Similarly, the potential difference across the terminals of the battery is

**(28.19)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E} - Ir = \mathcal{E} - \frac{r}{R + r}\mathcal{E} = \frac{R}{R + r}\mathcal{E}$$

The potential difference across the resistor is equal to the potential difference between the *terminals* of the battery, where the resistor is attached, *not* equal to the battery's emf. Notice that $\overset{777}{\Delta V}_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$ only if $r = 0$ (an ideal battery with no internal resistance).

---

### Example 28.5 Lighting up a flashlight

A 6 Ω flashlight bulb is powered by a 3 V battery with an internal resistance of 1 Ω. What are the power dissipation of the bulb and

the terminal voltage of the battery?

---

**MODEL** Assume ideal connecting wires but not an ideal battery.

**VISUALIZE** The circuit diagram looks like Figure 28.18. $R$ is the resistance of the bulb's filament.

**SOLVE** Equation 28.17 gives us the current:

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R + r} = \frac{3\ \text{V}}{6\ \Omega + 1\ \Omega} = 0.43\ \text{A}$$

This is 15% less than the 0.5 A an ideal battery would supply. The potential difference across the resistor is $\Delta V_\text{R} = IR = 2.6\ \text{V}$, thus the power dissipation is

$$P_\text{R} = I\ \Delta V_\text{R} = 1.1\ \text{W}$$

The battery's terminal voltage is

$$\Delta V_\text{bat} = \frac{R}{R + r}\mathcal{E} = \frac{6\ \Omega}{6\ \Omega + 1\ \Omega}3\ \text{V} = 2.6\ \text{V}$$

**ASSESS** 1 Ω is a typical internal resistance for a flashlight battery. The internal resistance causes the battery's terminal voltage to be 0.4 V less than its emf in this circuit.

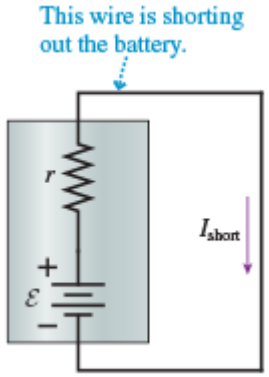
---

## A Short Circuit

In Figure 28.19 we've replaced the resistor with an ideal wire having $R_\text{wire} = 0\ \Omega$. When a connection of very low or zero resistance is made between two points in a circuit that are normally separated by a higher

resistance, we have what is called a **short circuit**. The wire in Figure 28.17 is *shorting out* the battery.

## Figure 28.19




The short-circuit current of a battery.

If the battery were ideal, shorting it with an ideal wire ($R = 0\ \Omega$) would cause the current to be $I = \mathcal{E}/0 = \infty$. The current, of course, cannot really become infinite. Instead, the battery's internal resistance $r$ becomes the only resistance in the circuit. If we use $R = 0\ \Omega$ in Equation 28.17, we find that the *short-circuit current* is

**(28.20)**

$$I_{\text{short}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{r}$$

A 3 V battery with 1 Ω internal resistance generates a short circuit current of 3 A. This is the *maximum possible current* that this battery can produce. Adding any external resistance $R$ will decrease the current to a value less than 3 A.

### Example 28.6 A short-circuited battery

What is the short-circuit current of a 12 V car battery with an internal resistance of 0.020 Ω? What happens to the power supplied by the battery?

**SOLVE** The short-circuit current is

$$I_{\text{short}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{r} = \frac{12\,\text{V}}{0.02\,\Omega} = 600\,\text{A}$$

Power is generated by chemical reactions in the battery and dissipated by the load resistance. But with a short-circuited battery, the load resistance is *inside* the battery! The "shorted" battery has to dissipate power $P = I^2 r = 7200$ W *internally*.

**ASSESS** This value is realistic. Car batteries are designed to drive the starter motor, which has a very small resistance and can draw a current of a few hundred amps. That is why the battery cables are so thick. A shorted car battery can produce an *enormous* amount of current. The normal response of a shorted car battery is to explode; it simply cannot dissipate this much power. Shorting a flashlight battery can make it rather hot, but your life is not in danger. Although the voltage of a car battery is relatively small, a car battery can be dangerous and should be treated with great respect.

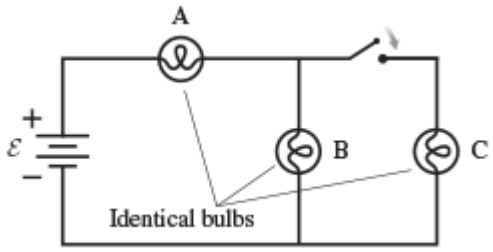
Most of the time a battery is used under conditions in which $r \ll R$ and the internal resistance is negligible. The ideal battery model is fully justified in that case. Thus we will assume that batteries are ideal *unless stated otherwise.* But keep in mind that batteries (and other sources of emf) do have an internal resistance, and this internal resistance limits the current of the battery.

# 28.6 Parallel Resistors



Figure 28.20 is another lightbulb puzzle. Initially the switch is open. The current is the same through bulbs A and B and they are equally bright. Bulb C is not glowing. What happens to the brightness of A and B when the switch is closed? And how does the brightness of C then compare to that of A and B? Think about this before going on.

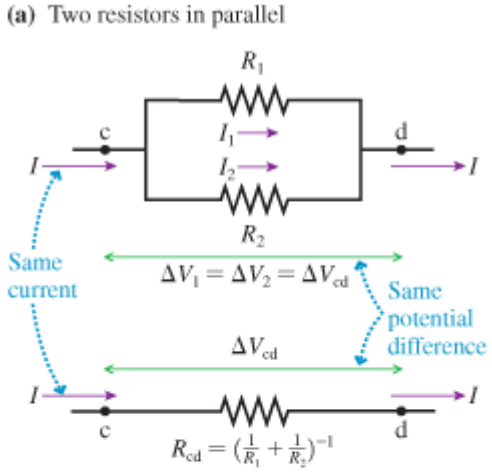
**Figure 28.20**




What happens to the brightness of the bulbs when the switch is closed?

Figure 28.21a on the next page shows two resistors aligned side by side with their ends connected at c and d. Resistors connected *at both ends* are called **parallel resistors** or, sometimes, resistors "in parallel." The left ends of both resistors are at the same potential $V_c$. Likewise, the right ends are at the same potential $V_d$. Thus the potential *differences* $\Delta V_1$ and $\Delta V_2$ are the *same* and are simply $\Delta V_{cd}$.

**Figure 28.21**




**Two identical resistors***

| | |
|---|---|
| In series | $R_{eq} = 2R$ |
| In parallel | $R_{eq} = \frac{R}{2}$ |

*$R_1 = R_2 = R$

Replacing two parallel resistors with an equivalent resistor.

Kirchhoff's junction law applies at the junctions. The input current $I$ splits into currents $I_1$ and $I_2$ at the left junction. On the right, the two currents are recombined into current $I$. According to the junction law,

**(28.21)**

$$I = I_1 + I_2$$

We can apply Ohm's law to each resistor, along with $\Delta V_1 = \Delta V_2 = \Delta V_{cd}$, to find that the current is

**(28.22)**

$$I = \frac{\Delta V_1}{R_1} + \frac{\Delta V_2}{R_2} = \frac{\Delta V_{cd}}{R_1} + \frac{\Delta V_{cd}}{R_2} = \Delta V_{cd}\left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}\right)$$

Suppose, as in Figure 28.21b, we replaced the two resistors with a single resistor having current $I$ and potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{cd}}$. This resistor is equivalent to the original two because the battery has to establish the same potential difference and provide the same current in either case. A second application of Ohm's law shows that the resistance between points c and d is

**(28.23)**

$$R_{\text{cd}} = \frac{\Delta V_{\text{cd}}}{I} = \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right)^{-1}$$

The single resistor $R_{\text{cd}}$ draws the same current as resistors $R_1$ and $R_2$, so, as far as the battery is concerned, resistor $R_{\text{cd}}$ is *equivalent* to the two resistors in parallel.

There is nothing special about having chosen two resistors to be in parallel. If we have $N$ resistors in parallel, the *equivalent resistance* is

**(28.24)**

$$R_{\text{eq}} = \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{R_N} \right)^{-1} \qquad \text{(parallel resistors)}$$

The behavior of the circuit will be unchanged if the $N$ parallel resistors are replaced by the single resistor $R_{\text{eq}}$. The key idea of this analysis is that **resistors in parallel all have the same potential difference**.

> **Note**
>
> Don't forget to take the inverse—the –1 exponent in Equation

28.24—after adding the inverses of all the resistances.

### Example 28.7 A parallel resistor circuit

**MODEL** The resistors are in parallel. Assume an ideal battery and ideal connecting wires.

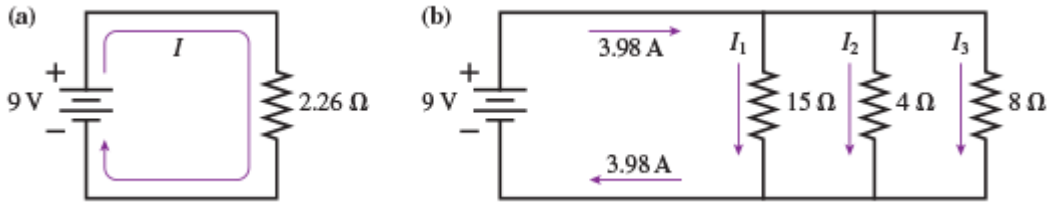
**SOLVE** The three parallel resistors can be replaced by a single equivalent resistor

$$R_{\text{eq}} = \left(\frac{1}{15\ \Omega} + \frac{1}{4\ \Omega} + \frac{1}{8\ \Omega}\right)^{-1} = (0.4417\ \Omega^{-1})^{-1} = 2.26\ \Omega$$

The equivalent circuit is shown in Figure 28.23a, from which we find the current to be

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{9\ \text{V}}{2.26\ \Omega} = 3.98\ \text{A}$$

**Figure 28.23**




The parallel resistors can be replaced by a single equivalent resistor.

The potential difference across $R_{\text{eq}}$ is $\Delta V_{\text{eq}} = \mathcal{E} = 9.0\ \text{V}$. Now we have to be careful. Current $I$ divides at the junction into the smaller currents $I_1$, $I_2$, and $I_3$ shown in Figure 28.23b. However, the division is *not* into three equal currents. According to Ohm's law, resistor $i$ has current $I_i = \Delta V_i / R_i$. Because the three resistors are

each connected to the battery by ideal wires, as is the equivalent resistor, their potential differences are equal:

$$\Delta V_1 = \Delta V_2 = \Delta V_3 = \Delta V_{\text{eq}} = 9.0\,\text{V}$$

Thus the currents are

$$I_1 = \frac{9\,\text{V}}{15\,\Omega} = 0.60\,\text{A} \qquad I_2 = \frac{9\,\text{V}}{4\,\Omega} = 2.25\,\text{A} \qquad I_3 = \frac{9\,\text{V}}{8\,\Omega} = 1.13\,\text{A}$$

**ASSESS** The *sum* of the three currents is 3.98 A, as required by Kirchhoff's junction law.

The result of Example 28.7 seems surprising. The equivalent of a parallel combination of 15 Ω, 4 Ω, and 8 Ω was found to be 2.26 Ω. How can the equivalent of a group of resistors be *less* than any single resistance in the group? Shouldn't more resistors imply more resistance? The answer is yes for resistors in series but not for resistors in parallel. Even though a resistor is an obstacle to the flow of charge, parallel resistors provide more pathways for charge to get through. Consequently, the equivalent of several resistors in parallel is always *less* than any single resistor in the group.

**Summary of series and parallel resistors**

| | $I$ | $\Delta V$ |
|---|---|---|
| Series | Same | Add |
| Parallel | Add | Same |

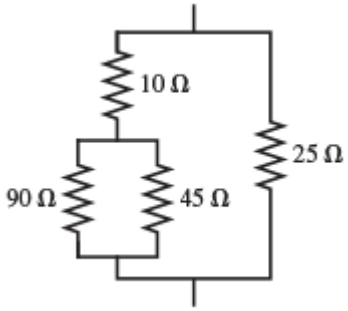
Complex combinations of resistors can often be reduced to a single equivalent resistance through a step-by-step application of the series and

parallel rules. The final example in this section illustrates this idea.

### Example 28.8 A combination of resistors

What is the equivalent resistance of the group of resistors shown in Figure 28.24?

**Figure 28.24**

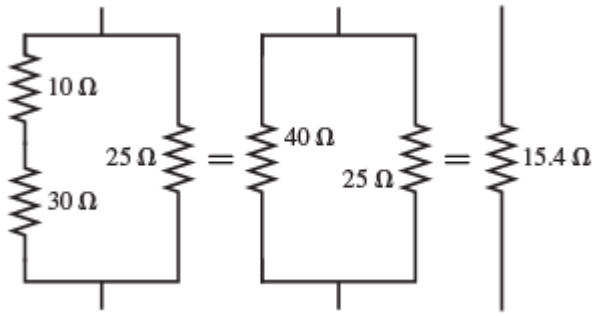



A combination of resistors.

**MODEL** This circuit contains both series and parallel resistors.

**SOLVE** Reduction to a single equivalent resistance is best done in a series of steps, with the circuit being redrawn after each step. The procedure is shown in Figure 28.25. Note that the 10 Ω and 25 Ω resistors are *not* in parallel. They are connected at their top ends but not at their bottom ends. Resistors must be connected to each other at *both* ends to be in parallel. Similarly, the 10 Ω and 45 Ω resistors are *not* in series because of the junction between them. If the original group of four resistors occurred within a larger circuit, they could be replaced with a single 15.4 Ω resistor without having any effect on the rest of the circuit.

**Figure 28.25**



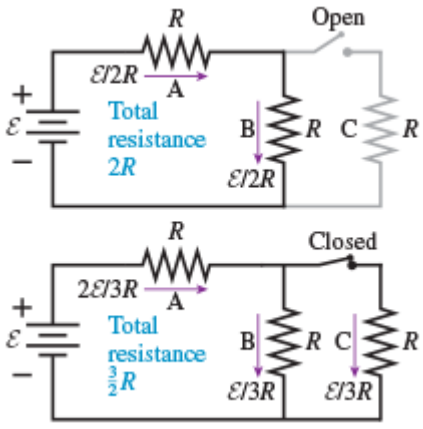

The combination is reduced to a single equivalent resistor.

To return to the lightbulb question that began this section, Figure 28.26 has redrawn the circuit with each bulb shown as a resistance $R$. Initially, before the switch is closed, bulbs A and B are in series with equivalent resistance $2R$. The current from the battery is

$$I_{\text{before}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{2R} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\mathcal{E}}{R}$$

This is the current in both bulbs.

## Figure 28.26




The lightbulbs of Figure 28.20 with the switch open and closed.

Closing the switch places bulbs B and C in parallel. The equivalent resistance of two identical resistors in parallel is $R_{\text{eq}} = \frac{1}{2}R$. This equivalent resistance of B and C is in series with bulb A; hence the total resistance of the circuit is $\frac{3}{2}R$ and the current leaving the battery is

$$I_{\text{after}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{3R/2} = \frac{2}{3}\frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} > I_{\text{before}}$$

Closing the switch *decreases* the circuit resistance and thus *increases* the current leaving the battery.

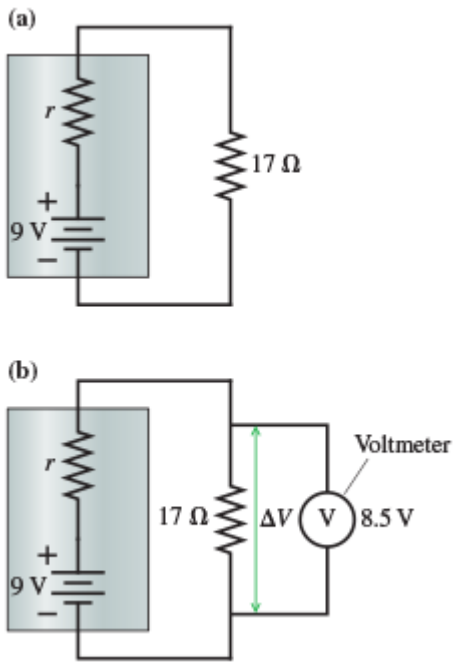
All the charge flows through A, so A *increases* in brightness when the switch is closed. The current $I_{\text{after}}$ then splits at the junction. Bulbs B and C have equal resistance, so the current splits equally. The current in B is $\frac{1}{3}(\mathcal{E}/R)$, which is *less* than $I_{\text{before}}$. Thus B *decreases* in brightness when the switch is closed. Bulb C has the same brightness as bulb B.

## Voltmeters

A device that measures the potential difference across a circuit element is called a **voltmeter**. Because potential difference is measured *across* a circuit element, from one side to the other, a voltmeter is placed in *parallel* with the circuit element whose potential difference is to be measured.

Figure 28.27a shows a simple circuit in which a 17 Ω resistor is connected across a 9 V battery with an unknown internal resistance. By connecting a voltmeter across the resistor, as shown in Figure 28.27b, we can measure the potential difference across the resistor. Unlike an ammeter, using a voltmeter does *not* require us to break the connections.

## Figure 28.27




A voltmeter measures the potential difference across an element.

Because the voltmeter is now in parallel with the resistor, the total resistance seen by the battery is $R_{\text{eq}} = (1/17\ \Omega + 1/R_{\text{voltmeter}})^{-1}$. In order that the voltmeter measure the voltage without changing the voltage, the voltmeter's resistance must, in this case, be $\gg 17\ \Omega$. Indeed, an *ideal voltmeter* has $R_{\text{voltmeter}} = \infty\ \Omega$, and thus has no effect on the voltage. Real voltmeters come very close to this ideal, and we will always assume them to be so.

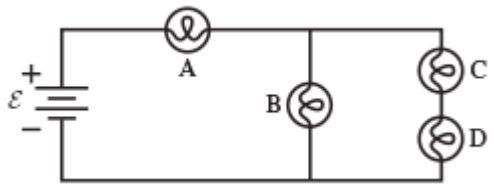
The voltmeter in Figure 28.27b reads 8.5 V. This is less than $\mathcal{E}$ because of the battery's internal resistance. Equation 28.18 found an expression for the resistor's potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{R}}$. That equation is easily solved for the internal resistance $r$:

$$r = \frac{\mathcal{E} - \Delta V_{\text{R}}}{\Delta V_{\text{R}}} R = \frac{0.5\ \text{V}}{8.5\ \text{V}} 17\,\Omega = 1.0\,\Omega$$

Here a voltmeter reading was the one piece of experimental data we needed in order to determine the battery's internal resistance.

## Stop to Think 28.5

Rank in order, from brightest to dimmest, the identical bulbs A to D.



# 28.7 Resistor Circuits 

We can use the information in this chapter to analyze a variety of more complex but more realistic circuits.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 28.1 Resistor circuits**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model wires as ideal and, where appropriate, batteries as ideal.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a circuit diagram. Label all known and unknown quantities.

**SOLVE** Base your mathematical analysis on Kirchhoff's laws and on the rules for series and parallel resistors.

- Step by step, reduce the circuit to the smallest possible number of equivalent resistors.
- Write Kirchhoff's loop law for each independent loop in the circuit.
- Determine the current through and the potential difference across the equivalent resistors.
- Rebuild the circuit, using the facts that the current is the same through all resistors in series and the potential difference is the same for all parallel resistors.

**ASSESS** Use two important checks as you rebuild the circuit.

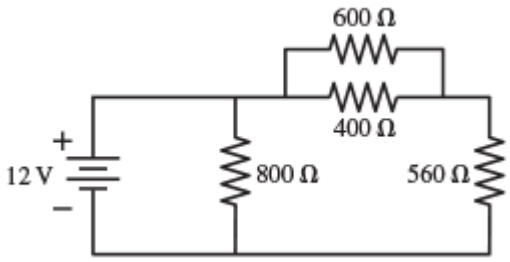
- Verify that the sum of the potential differences across series resistors matches $\Delta V$ for the equivalent resistor.
- Verify that the sum of the currents through parallel resistors matches $I$ for the equivalent resistor.

Workbook Exercise 26

**Example 28.9 Analyzing a complex circuit**

Find the current through and the potential difference across each of the four resistors in the circuit shown in Figure 28.28.

**Figure 28.28**




A complex resistor circuit.

**MODEL** Assume an ideal battery, with no internal resistance, and ideal connecting wires.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 28.28 shows the circuit diagram. We'll keep redrawing the diagram as we analyze the circuit.

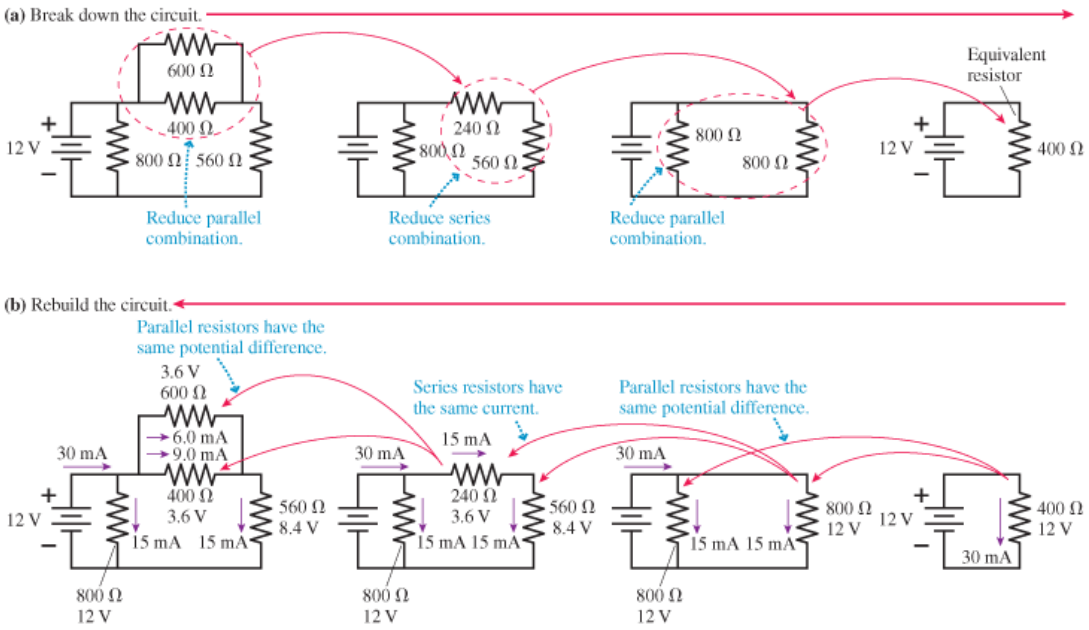
**SOLVE** First, we break the circuit down, step by step, into one with a single resistor. Figure 28.29a shows this done in three steps.

The final battery-and-resistor circuit is our basic circuit, with current

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} = \frac{12\ \text{V}}{400\ \Omega} = 0.030\ \text{A} = 30\ \text{mA}$$

The potential difference across the 400 Ω resistor is $\Delta V_{400} = \Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E} = 12\ \text{V}$.

## Figure 28.29




The step-by-step circuit analysis.

Second, we rebuild the circuit, step by step, finding the currents and potential differences at each step. Figure 28.29b repeats the steps of Figure 28.29a exactly, but in reverse order. The 400 Ω resistor came from two 800 Ω resistors in parallel. Because $\Delta V_{400} = 12\ \text{V}$, it must be true that each $\Delta V_{800} = 12\ \text{V}$. The current through each 800 Ω is then $I = \Delta V/R = 15\ \text{mA}$. The checkpoint is to note that $15\ \text{mA} + 15\ \text{mA} = 30\ \text{mA}$.

The right 800 Ω resistor was formed by 240 Ω and 560 Ω in series. Because $I_{800} = 15\ \text{mA}$, it must be true that $I_{240} = I_{560} = 15\ \text{mA}$.

The potential difference across each is $\Delta V = IR$, so $\Delta V_{240} = 3.6\,\text{V}$ and $\Delta V_{560} = 8.4\,\text{V}$. Here the checkpoint is to note that $3.6\,\text{V} + 8.4\,\text{V} = 12\,\text{V} = \Delta V_{800}$, so the potential differences add as they should.

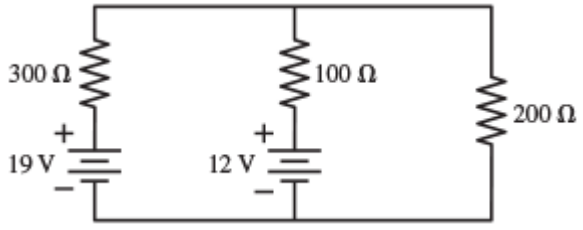
Finally, the 240 Ω resistor came from 600 Ω and 400 Ω in parallel, so they each have the same 3.6 V potential difference as their 240 Ω equivalent. The currents are $I_{600} = 6\,\text{mA}$, and $I_{400} = 9\,\text{mA}$. Note that $6\,\text{mA} + 9\,\text{mA} = 15\,\text{mA}$, which is our third checkpoint. We now know all currents and potential differences.

**ASSESS** We *checked our work* at each step of the rebuilding process by verifying that currents summed properly at junctions and that potential differences summed properly along a series of resistances. This "check as you go" procedure is extremely important. It provides you, the problem solver, with a built-in error finder that will immediately inform you if a mistake has been made.

### Example 28.10 Analyzing a two-loop circuit

Find the current through and the potential difference across the 100 Ω resistor in the circuit of Figure 28.30.

**Figure 28.30**



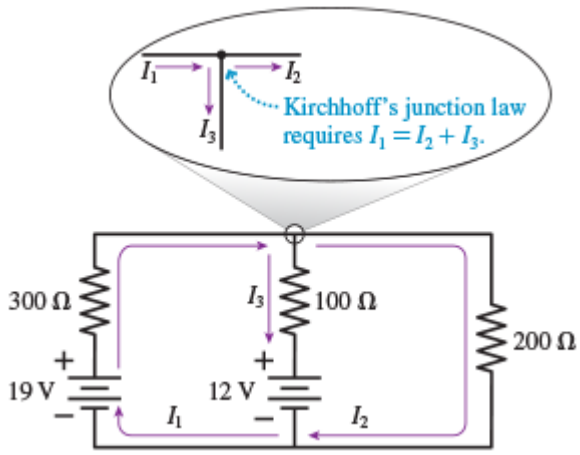

A two-loop circuit.

**MODEL** Assume ideal batteries and ideal connecting wires.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 28.30 shows the circuit diagram. None of the resistors are connected in series or in parallel, so this circuit cannot be reduced to a simpler circuit.

**SOLVE** Kirchhoff's loop law applies to *any* loop. To analyze a multi-loop problem, we need to write a loop-law equation for each loop. Figure 28.31 redraws the circuit and defines clockwise currents $I_1$ in the left loop and $I_2$ in the right loop. But what about the middle branch? Let's assign a downward current $I_3$ to the middle branch. If we apply Kirchhoff's junction law $\sum I_{\text{in}} = \sum I_{\text{out}}$ to the junction above the 100 Ω resistor, as shown in the blow-up of Figure 28.31, we see that $I_1 = I_2 + I_3$ and thus $I_3 = I_1 - I_2$. If $I_3$ ends up being a positive number, then the current in the middle branch really is downward. A negative $I_3$ will signify an upward current.

## Figure 28.31




Applying Kirchhoff's laws.

Kirchhoff's loop law for the left loop, going clockwise from the lower-left corner, is

$$\sum (\Delta V)_i = 19\,\text{V} - (300\,\Omega)\,I_1 - (100\,\Omega)\,I_3 - 12\,\text{V} = 0$$

We're traveling through the 100 Ω resistor in the direction of $I_3$, the "downhill" direction, so the potential decreases. The 12 V battery is traversed positive to negative, so there we have $\Delta V = -\mathcal{E} = -12\,\text{V}$. For the right loop, we're going to travel "uphill" through the 100 Ω resistor, opposite to $I_3$, and gain potential. Thus the loop law for the right loop is

$$\sum (\Delta V)_i = 12\,\text{V} + (100\,\Omega)\,I_3 - (200\,\Omega)\,I_2 = 0$$

If we substitute $I_3 = I_1 - I_2$ and then rearrange the terms, we find that the two independent loops have given us two simultaneous equations in the two unknowns $I_1$ and $I_2$

$$\begin{aligned} 400I_1 - 100I_2 &= 7 \\ -100I_1 + 300I_2 &= 12 \end{aligned}$$

We can eliminate $I_2$ by multiplying through the first equation by 3 and then adding the two equations. This gives $1100I_1 = 33$, from which $I_1 = 0.030\ \text{A} = 30\ \text{mA}$. Using this value in either of the two loop equations gives $I_2 = 0.050\ \text{A} = 50\ \text{mA}$. Because $I_2 > I_1$, the current through the 100 Ω resistor is $I_3 = I_1 - I_2 = -20\ \text{mA}$, or, because of the minus sign, 20 mA upward. The potential difference across the 100 Ω resistor is $\Delta V_{100\,\Omega} = I_3 R = 2.0\,\text{V}$, with the bottom end more positive.

**ASSESS** The three "legs" of the circuit are in parallel, so they must have the same potential difference across them. The left leg has $\Delta V = 19\,\text{V} - (0.030\,\text{A})\,(300\,\Omega) = 10\ \text{V}$, the middle leg has $\Delta V = 12\,\text{V} - (0.020\,\text{A})\,(100\,\Omega) = 10\ \text{V}$, and the right leg has $\Delta V = (0.050\,\text{A})\,(200\,\Omega) = 10\ \text{V}$. Consistency checks such as these

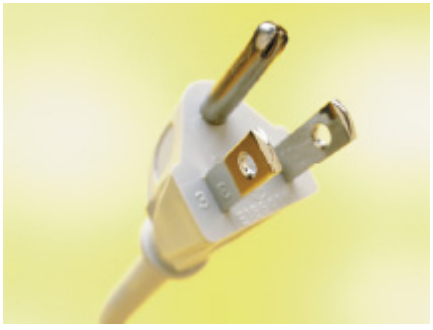
are very important. Had we made a numerical error in our circuit analysis, we would have caught it at this point.

# 28.8 Getting Grounded 783

People who work with electronics are often heard to say that something is "grounded." It always sounds quite serious, perhaps somewhat mysterious. What is it?

The circuit analysis procedures we have discussed so far deal only with potential *differences.* Although we are free to choose the zero point of potential anywhere that is convenient, our analysis of circuits has not revealed any need to establish a zero point. Potential differences are all we have needed.

Difficulties can begin to arise, however, if you want to connect two *different* circuits together. Perhaps you would like to connect your DVD to your television or your computer monitor to the computer itself. Incompatibilities can arise unless all the circuits to be connected have a *common* reference point for the potential.



The circular prong of a three-prong plug is a connection to ground.

---

You learned previously that the earth itself is a conductor. Suppose we have two circuits. If we connect *one* point of each circuit to the earth by an ideal wire, and we also agree to call the potential of the earth

$V_{\text{earth}} = 0$ V, then both circuits have a common reference point. But notice something very important: *one* wire connects the circuit to the earth, but there is not a second wire returning to the circuit. That is, the wire connecting the circuit to the earth is not part of a complete circuit, so there is *no current* in this wire! Because the wire is an equipotential, it gives one point in the circuit the same potential as the earth, but it does *not* in any way change how the circuit functions. A circuit connected to the earth in this way is said to be **grounded**, and the wire is called the *ground wire*.

Figure 28.32a shows a fairly simple circuit with a 10 V battery and two resistors in series. The symbol beneath the circuit is the *ground symbol*. It indicates that a wire has been connected between the negative battery terminal and the earth, but the presence of the ground wire does not affect the circuit's behavior. The total resistance is $8\ \Omega + 12\ \Omega = 20\ \Omega$, so the current in the loop is $I = (10\ \text{V}) / (20\ \Omega) = 0.50\ \text{A}$. The potential differences across the two resistors are found, using Ohm's law, to be $\Delta V_8 = 4\,\text{V}$ and $\Delta V_{12} = 6\,\text{V}$. These are the same values that we would find if the ground wire were *not* present. So what has grounding the circuit accomplished?

---

**Figure 28.32**

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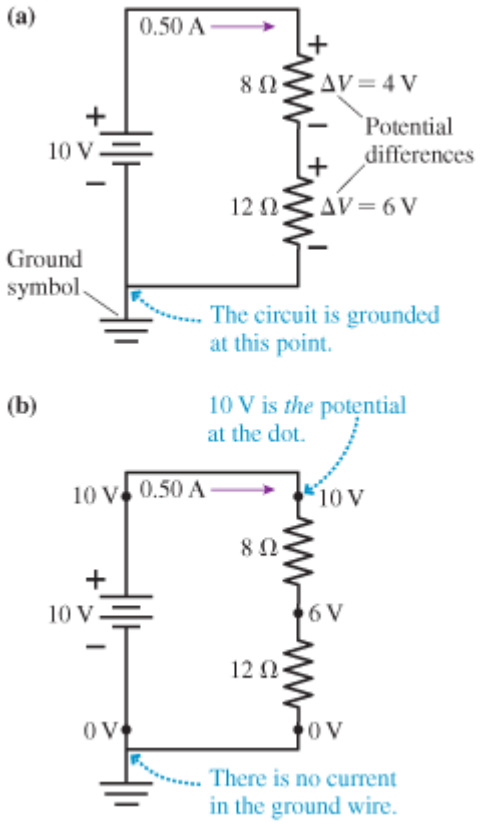



A circuit that is grounded at one point.

Figure 28.32b shows the actual potential at several points in the circuit. By definition, $V_{\text{earth}} = 0$ V. The negative battery terminal and the bottom of the 12 Ω resistor are connected by ideal wires to the earth, so *the* potential at these two points must also be zero. The positive terminal of the battery is 10 V more positive than the negative terminal, so $V_{\text{neg}} = 0$ V implies $V_{\text{pos}} = +10$ V. Similarly, the fact that the potential *decreases* by 6 V as charge flows through the 12 Ω resistor now implies that *the* potential at the junction of the resistors must be +6 V. The potential difference across the 8 Ω resistor is 4 V, so the top has to be at +10 V. This agrees with the potential at the positive battery terminal, as it must because these two points are connected by an ideal wire.

All that grounding the circuit does is allow us to have *specific values* for the potential at each point in the circuit. Now we can say "The voltage at

the resistor junction is 6 V," whereas before all we could say was "There is a 6 V potential difference across the 12 Ω resistor."

There is one important lesson from this: **Being grounded does not affect the circuit's behavior under normal conditions**. You cannot use "because it is grounded" to *explain* anything about a circuit's behavior.

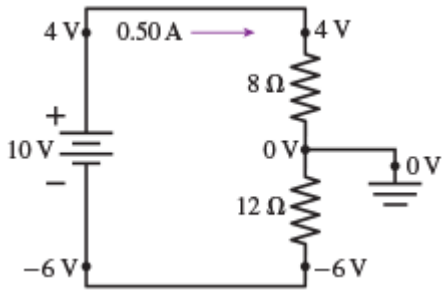
We added "under normal conditions" because there is one exception. Most circuits are enclosed in a case of some sort that is held away from the circuit with insulators. Sometimes a circuit breaks or malfunctions in such a way that the case comes into electrical contact with the circuit. If the circuit uses high voltage, or even ordinary 120 V household voltage, anyone touching the case could be injured or killed by electrocution. To prevent this, many appliances or electrical instruments have the case itself grounded. Grounding ensures that the potential of the case will always remain at 0 V and be safe. If a malfunction occurs that connects the case to the circuit, a large current will pass through the ground wire to the earth and cause a fuse to blow. This is the *only* time the ground wire would ever have a current, and it is *not* a normal operation of the circuit.

**Example 28.11 A grounded circuit**

Suppose the circuit of Figure 28.32 were grounded at the junction between the two resistors instead of at the bottom. Find the potential at each corner of the circuit.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 28.33 shows the new circuit. (It is customary to draw the ground symbol so that its "point" is always down.)

## Figure 28.33




Circuit of Figure 28.32 grounded at the point between the resistors.

**SOLVE** Changing the ground point does not affect the circuit's behavior. The current is still 0.50 A, and the potential differences across the two resistors are still 4 V and 6 V. All that has happened is that we have moved the $V = 0$ V reference point. Because the earth has $V_{\text{earth}} = 0$ V, the junction itself now has a potential of 0 V. The potential decreases by 4 V as charge flows through the 8 Ω resistor.

Because it *ends* at 0 V, the potential at the top of the 8 Ω resistor must be +4 V. Similarly, the potential decreases by 6 V through the 12 Ω resistor. Because it *starts* at 0 V, the bottom of the 12 Ω resistor must be –6 V. The negative battery terminal is at the same potential as the bottom of the 12 Ω resistor, because they are connected by a wire, so $V_{\text{neg}} = -6$ V. Finally, the potential increases by 10 V as the charge flows through the battery, so $V_{\text{pos}} = +4$ V, in agreement, as it should be, with the potential at the top of the 8 Ω resistor.

**ASSESS** A negative voltage means only that the potential at that point is less than the potential at some other point that we chose to call $V = 0$ V. Only potential *differences* are physically meaningful, and only potential differences enter into Ohm's law: $I = \Delta V/R$. The potential difference across the 12 Ω resistor in this example is 6

V, decreasing from top to bottom, regardless of which point we choose to call $V = 0$ V.

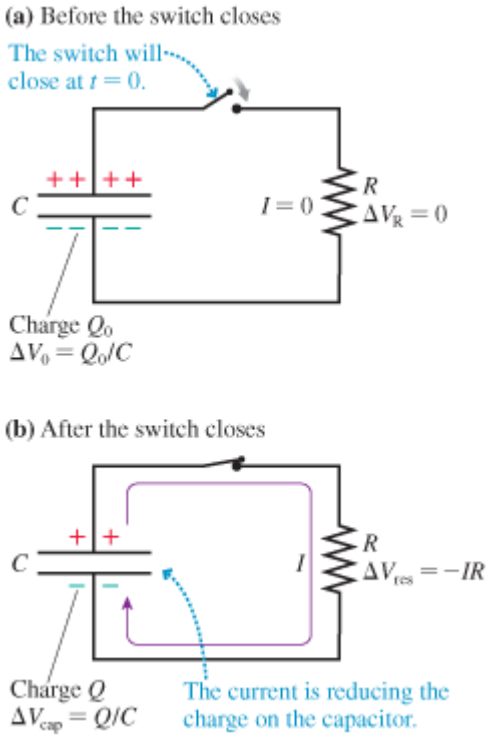
# 28.9 *RC* Circuits



A resistor circuit has a steady current. By adding a capacitor and a switch, we can make a circuit in which the current varies with time as the capacitor charges and discharges. Circuits with resistors and capacitors are called ***RC* circuits**. *RC* circuits are at the heart of timekeeping circuits in applications ranging from the intermittent windshield wipers on your car to computers and other digital electronics.

Figure 28.34a shows a charged capacitor, a switch, and a resistor. The capacitor has charge $Q_0$ and potential difference $\Delta V_0 = Q_0/C$. There is no current, so the potential difference across the resistor is zero. Then, at $t = 0$, the switch closes and the capacitor begins to discharge through the resistor.

## Figure 28.34



How long does the capacitor take to discharge? How does the current through the resistor vary as a function of time? To answer these questions, Figure 28.34b shows the circuit at some point in time after the switch was closed.

Kirchhoff's loop law is valid for any circuit, not just circuits with batteries. The loop law applied to the circuit of Figure 28.34b, going around the loop cw, is

**(28.25)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{cap}} + \Delta V_{\text{res}} = \frac{Q}{C} - IR = 0$$

$Q$ and $I$ in this equation are the *instantaneous* values of the capacitor charge and the resistor current.

The current $I$ is the rate at which charge flows through the resistor: $I = dq/dt$. But the charge flowing through the resistor is charge that was *removed* from the capacitor. That is, an infinitesimal charge $dq$ flows through the resistor when the capacitor charge *decreases* by $dQ$. Thus $dq = -dQ$, and the resistor current is related to the instantaneous capacitor charge by

**(28.26)**

$$I = -\frac{dQ}{dt}$$

Now $I$ is positive when $Q$ is decreasing, as we would expect. The reasoning that has led to Equation 28.26 is rather subtle but very important. You'll see the same reasoning later in other contexts.

The rear flasher on a bike helmet flashes on and off. The timing is controlled by an *RC* circuit.

---

If we substitute Equation 28.26 into Equation 28.25 and then divide by *R*, the loop law for the *RC* circuit becomes

**(28.27)**

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{Q}{RC} = 0$$

Equation 28.27 is a first-order differential equation for the capacitor charge $Q$, but one that we can solve by direct integration. First, we rearrange Equation 28.27 to get all the charge terms on one side of the equation:

$$\frac{dQ}{Q} = -\frac{1}{RC}dt$$

The product *RC* is a constant for any particular circuit.

The capacitor charge was $Q_0$ at $t = 0$ when the switch was closed. We want to integrate from these starting conditions to charge $Q$ at a later time *t*. That is,

**(28.28)**

$$\int_{Q_0}^{Q} \frac{dQ}{Q} = -\frac{1}{RC}\int_{0}^{t} dt$$

Both are well-known integrals, giving

$$\ln Q\Big|_{Q_0}^{Q} = \ln Q - \ln Q_0 = \ln\left(\frac{Q}{Q_0}\right) = -\frac{t}{RC}$$

We can solve for the capacitor charge $Q$ by taking the exponential of both sides, then multiplying by $Q_0$. Doing so gives

**(28.29)**

$$Q = Q_0 e^{-t/RC}$$

Notice that $Q = Q_0$ at $t = 0$, as expected.

The argument of an exponential function must be dimensionless, so the quantity $RC$ must have dimensions of time. It is useful to define the **time constant** $\tau$ to be

---

**(28.30)**

$$\tau = RC$$

We can then write Equation 28.29 as

**(28.31)**

$$Q = Q_0 e^{-t/\tau} \qquad \text{(capacitor discharging)}$$

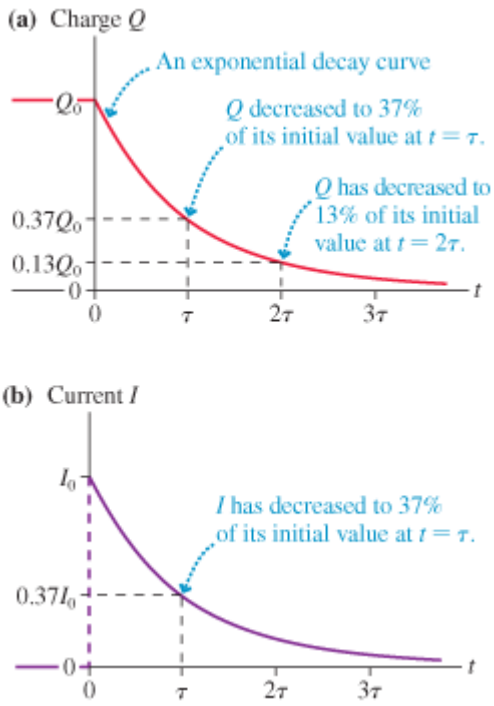
The capacitor voltage, directly proportional to the charge, also decays exponentially as

(28.32)

$$\Delta V_C = \Delta V_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

The meaning of Equation 28.31 is easier to understand if we portray it graphically. Figure 28.35a shows the capacitor charge as a function of time. The charge decays exponentially, starting from $Q_0$ at $t = 0$ and asymptotically approaching zero as $t \to \infty$. The time constant $\tau$ is the time at which the charge has decreased to $e^{-1}$ (about 37%) of its initial value. At time $t = 2\tau$, the charge has decreased to $e^{-2}$ (about 13%) of its initial value. A voltage graph would have the same shape.

## Figure 28.35




The decay curves of the capacitor charge and the resistor current.

> **Note**
>
> The *shape* of the graph of Q is always the same, regardless of the specific value of the time constant $\tau$.

We find the resistor current by using Equation 28.26:

(28.33)

$$I = -\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{Q_0}{\tau}e^{-t/\tau} = \frac{Q_0}{RC}e^{-t/\tau} = \frac{\Delta V_0}{R}e^{-t/\tau} = I_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

where $I_0 = \Delta V_0/R$ is the initial current, immediately after the switch closes. Figure 28.35b is a graph of the resistor current versus $t$. You can see that the current undergoes the same exponential decay, with the same time constant, as the capacitor charge.

> **Note**
>
> There's no specific time at which the capacitor has been discharged, because $Q$ approaches zero asymptotically, but the charge and current have dropped to less than 1% of their initial values at $t = 5\tau$. Thus $5\tau$ is a reasonable answer to the question "How long does it take to discharge a capacitor?"

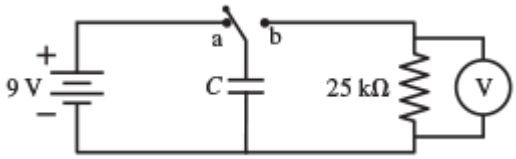


**Example 28.12 Measuring capacitance**

To determine the capacitance of an unmarked capacitor, you set up the circuit shown in Figure 28.36. After holding the switch in position a for several seconds, you suddenly flip it—at $t = 0$ s—to position b while monitoring the resistor voltage with a voltmeter. Your measurements are shown in the table. What is the capacitance? And what was the resistor current 5.0 s after the switch changed position?

| Time (s) | Voltage (V) |
|---|---|
| 0.0 | 9.0 |
| 2.0 | 5.4 |
| 4.0 | 2.7 |
| 6.0 | 1.6 |
| 8.0 | 1.0 |

## Figure 28.36




An *RC* circuit for measuring capacitance.

**MODEL** The battery charges the capacitor to 9.0 V. Then, when the switch is flipped to position b, the capacitor discharges through the 25,000 Ω resistor with time constant $\tau = RC$.

**SOLVE** With the switch in position b, the resistor is in parallel with the capacitor and both have the same potential difference $\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}} = \Delta V_{\mathrm{C}} = Q/C$ at all times. The capacitor charge decays exponentially as

$$Q = Q_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

Consequently, the resistor (and capacitor) voltage also decays exponentially:

$$\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}} = \frac{Q_0}{C} e^{-t/\tau} = \Delta V_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

where $\Delta V_0 = 9.0\,\mathrm{V}$ is the potential difference at the instant the switch closes. To analyze exponential decays, we take the natural logarithm of both sides. This gives

$$\ln(\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}}) = \ln(\Delta V_0) + \ln(e^{-t/\tau}) = \ln(\Delta V_0) - \frac{1}{\tau} t$$

This result tells us that a graph of $\ln(\Delta V_{\mathrm{R}})$ versus $t$—a *semi-log graph*—should be linear with $y$-intercept $\ln(\Delta V_0)$ and slope $-1/\tau$. If this

turns out to be true, we can determine $\tau$ and hence $C$ from an experimental measurement of the slope.

Figure 28.37 is a graph of $\ln(\Delta V_R)$ versus $t$. It is, indeed, linear with a negative slope. From the $y$-intercept of the best-fit line, we find $\Delta V_0 = e^{2.20} = 9.0\,\text{V}$, as expected. This gives us confidence in our analysis. Using the slope, we find

$$\tau = -\frac{1}{\text{slope}} = -\frac{1}{-0.28\ \text{s}^{-1}} = 3.6\ \text{s}$$

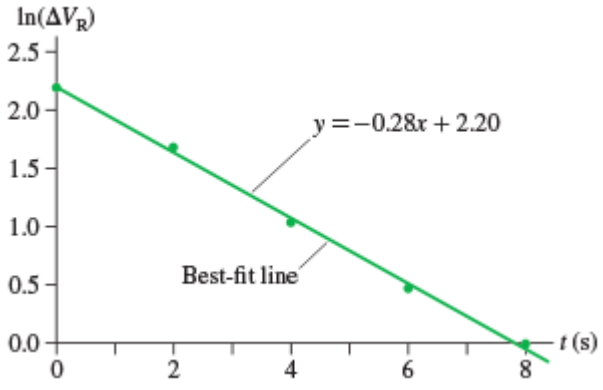
With this, we can calculate

$$C = \frac{\tau}{R} = \frac{3.6\ \text{s}}{25{,}000\ \Omega} = 1.4 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{F} = 140\ \mu\text{F}$$

The initial current is $I_0 = (9.0\ \text{V})\,/\,(25{,}000\ \Omega) = 360\ \mu\text{A}$. Current also decays exponentially with the same time constant, so the current after 5.0 s is

$$I = I_0 \text{e}^{-t/\tau} = (360\ \mu\text{A})\, e^{-(5.0\ \text{s})/(3.6\ \text{s})} = 90\ \mu\text{A}$$

**Figure 28.37**




A semi-log graph of the data.

**ASSESS** The time constant of an exponential decay can be estimated as the time required to decay to one-third of the initial

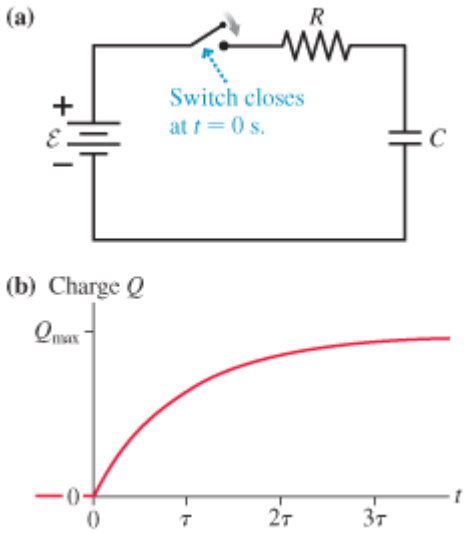
value. Looking at the data, we see that the voltage drops to one-third of the initial 9.0 V in just under 4 s. This is consistent with the more precise $\tau = 3.6$ s, so we have confidence in our results.

## Charging a Capacitor

Figure 28.38a shows a circuit that charges a capacitor. After the switch is closed, the battery's charge escalator moves charge from the bottom electrode of the capacitor to the top electrode. The resistor, by limiting the current, slows the process but doesn't stop it. The capacitor charges until $\Delta V_C = \mathcal{E}$; then the charging current ceases. The full charge of the capacitor is $Q_0 = C(\Delta V_C)_{max} = C\mathcal{E}$.



**Figure 28.38**




Charging a capacitor.

The analysis is much like that of discharging a capacitor. As a homework problem, you can show that the capacitor charge and the circuit current at time $t$ are

(28.34)

$$Q = Q_0(1 - e^{-t/\tau}) \qquad \text{(capacitor charging)}$$
$$I = I_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

where $I_0 = \mathcal{E}/R$ and, again, $\tau = RC$. The capacitor charge's "upside-down decay" to $Q_0$ is shown graphically in Figure 28.38b.

## Stop to Think 28.6

The time constant for the discharge of this capacitor is

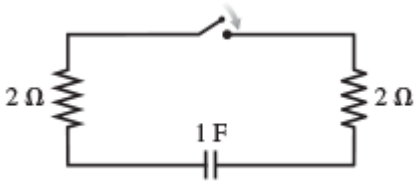
**a.** 5 s.

**b.** 4 s.

**c.** 2 s.

**d.** 1 s.

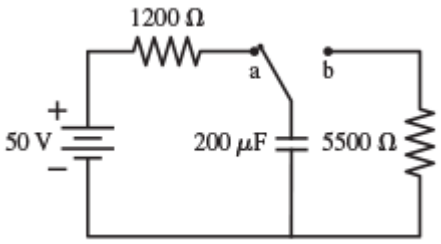
**e.** The capacitor doesn't discharge because the resistors cancel each other.




### Challenge Example 28.13 Energy dissipated during a capacitor discharge

The switch in Figure 28.39 has been in position a for a long time. It is suddenly switched to position b for 1.0 s, then back to a. How much energy is dissipated by the 5500 Ω resistor?

## Figure 28.39




Circuit of a switched capacitor.

**MODEL** With the switch in position a, the capacitor charges through the 1200 Ω resistor with time constant $\tau_{\text{charge}} = (1200\ \Omega)\,(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{F}) = 0.24\ \text{s}$. Because the switch has been in position a for a "long time," which we interpret as being much longer than 0.24 s, we will assume that the capacitor is fully charged to 50 V when the switch is changed to position b. The capacitor then discharges through the 5500 Ω resistor until the switch is returned to position a. Assume ideal wires.

**SOLVE** Let $t = 0\,\text{s}$ be the time when the switch is moved from a to b, initiating the discharge. The battery and 1200 Ω resistor are irrelevant during the discharge, so the circuit looks like that of Figure 28.34b. The time constant is $\tau = (5500\ \Omega)\,(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{F}) = \ 1.1\ \text{s}$, so the capacitor voltage decreases from 50 V at $t = 0\ \text{s}$ to

$$\Delta V_{\text{C}} = (50\,\text{V})\,e^{-(1.0\,\text{s})/(1.1\,\text{s})} = 20\,\text{V}$$

at $t = 1.0\ \text{s}$.

There are two ways to determine the energy dissipated in the resistor. We learned in Section 28.3 that a resistor dissipates energy at the rate $dE/dt = P_{\text{R}} = I^2R$. The current decays

exponentially as $I = I_0 \exp(-t/\tau)$, with $I_0 = \Delta V_0 / R = 9.09\,\text{mA}$. We can find the energy dissipated during a time $T$ by integrating:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta E &= \int_0^T I^2 R\,dt = {I_0}^2 R \int_0^T e^{-2t/\tau}\,dt = -\frac{1}{2}\tau {I_0}^2 R e^{-2t/\tau}\Big|_0^T \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}\tau {I_0}^2 R(1 - e^{-2T/\tau})\end{aligned}$$

The 2 in the exponent appears because we squared the expression for $I$. Evaluating for $T = 1.0$ s, we find

$$\Delta E = \tfrac{1}{2}\,(1.1\text{ s})\,(0.00909\text{ A})^2\,(5500\,\Omega)\,(1 - e^{-(2.0\text{ s})/(1.1\text{ s})}) = 0.21\text{ J}$$

Alternatively, we can use the known capacitor voltages at $t = 0$ s and $t = 1.0$ s and $U_\text{C} = \frac{1}{2}C(\Delta V_\text{C})^2$ to calculate the energy stored in the capacitor at these times:

$$\begin{aligned}U_\text{C}\,(t = 0.0\text{ s}) &= \tfrac{1}{2}\,(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\text{ F})\,(50\text{ V})^2 = 0.25\text{ J} \\ U_\text{C}\,(t = 1.0\text{ s}) &= \tfrac{1}{2}\,(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\text{ F})\,(20\text{ V})^2 = 0.04\text{ J}\end{aligned}$$

The capacitor has lost $\Delta E = 0.21$ J of energy, and this energy was dissipated by the current through the resistor.

**ASSESS** Not every problem can be solved in two ways, but doing so when it's possible gives us great confidence in our result.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 28 has been to learn the fundamental physical principles that govern electric circuits.

## General Strategy

### Solving Circuit Problems

**MODEL** Assume that wires and, where appropriate, batteries are ideal.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a circuit diagram. Label all quantities.

**SOLVE** Base the solution on Kirchhoff's laws.

- Reduce the circuit to the smallest possible number of equivalent resistors.
- Write one loop equation for each independent loop.
- Find the current and the potential difference.
- Rebuild the circuit to find $I$ and $\Delta V$ for each resistor.

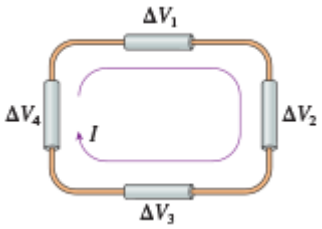
**ASSESS** Verify that

- The sum of potential differences across series resistors matches $\Delta V$ for the equivalent resistor.
- The sum of the currents through parallel resistors matches $I$ for the equivalent resistor.

### Kirchhoff's loop law

For a closed loop:

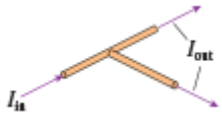
- Assign a direction to the current $I$.
- $\sum (\Delta V)_i = 0$




### Kirchhoff's junction law

For a junction:

- $\sum I_{\text{in}} = \sum I_{\text{out}}$



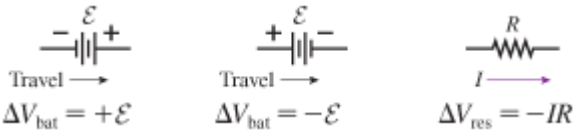

## Important Concepts

### Ohm's Law

A potential difference $\Delta V$ between the ends of a conductor with resistance $R$ creates a current

$$I = \frac{\Delta V}{R}$$

### Signs of $\Delta V$ for Kirchhoff's loop law



The **energy used by a circuit** is supplied by the emf $\mathcal{E}$ of the battery through the energy transformations

$$E_{\text{chem}} \to U \to K \to E_{\text{th}}$$

The battery *supplies* energy at the rate

$$P_{\text{bat}} = I\mathcal{E}$$

The resistors *dissipate* energy at the rate

$$P_{\text{R}} = I\Delta V_{\text{R}} = I^2 R = \frac{(\Delta V_{\text{R}})^2}{R}$$

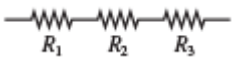
# Applications

## Equivalent resistance

Groups of resistors can often be reduced to one equivalent resistor.

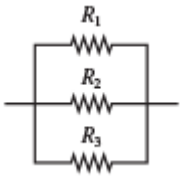
### Series resistors

$$R_{\text{eq}} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + \cdots$$



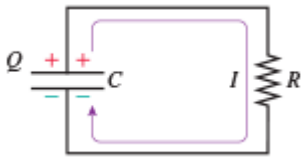

### Parallel resistors

$$R_{\text{eq}} = \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \cdots \right)^{-1}$$



### *RC* circuits

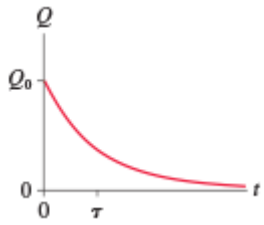
The charge on and current through a discharging capacitor are






$$\begin{aligned} Q &= Q_0 e^{-t/\tau} \\ I &= -\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{Q_0}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau} = I_0 e^{-t/\tau} \end{aligned}$$

where $\tau = RC$ is the **time constant**.




## Terms and Notation

circuit diagram

Kirchhoff's junction law

Kirchhoff's loop law

complete circuit

load

source

kilowatt hour, kWh

series resistors

equivalent resistance, $R_{eq}$

ammeter

internal resistance, $r$

terminal voltage, $\Delta V_{\text{bat}}$

short circuit

parallel resistors

voltmeter

grounded

*RC* circuit

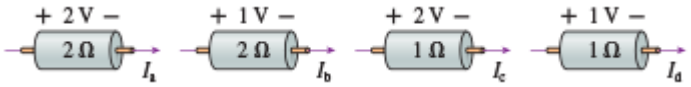
time constant, $\tau$

# Conceptual Questions



**1.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the currents $I_a$ to $I_d$ through the four resistors in Figure Q28.1.

**Figure Q28.1**

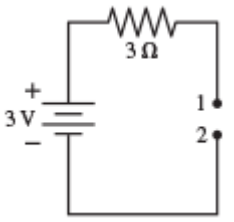



**2.** The tip of a flashlight bulb is touching the top of the 3 V battery in Figure Q28.2. Does the bulb light? Why or why not?

**Figure Q28.2**

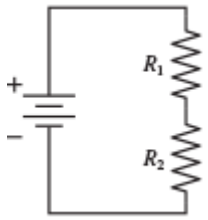
**3.** The wire is broken on the right side of the circuit in Figure Q28.3. What is the potential difference $V_1 - V_2$ between points 1 and 2? Explain.

**Figure Q28.3**



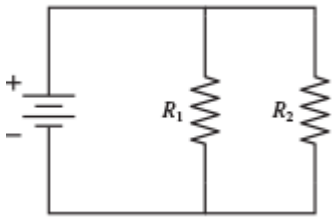
**4.** The circuit of Figure Q28.4 has two resistors, with $R_1 > R_2$. Which of the two resistors dissipates the larger amount of power? Explain.

**Figure Q28.4**



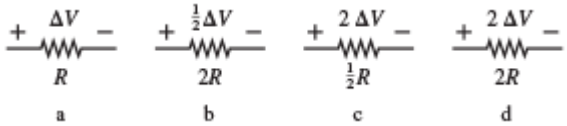

**5.** The circuit of Figure Q28.5 has two resistors, with $R_1 > R_2$. Which of the two resistors dissipates the larger amount of power? Explain.

**Figure Q28.5**



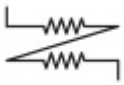

**6.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the powers $P_a$ to $P_d$ dissipated by the four resistors in Figure Q28.6.

**Figure Q28.6**



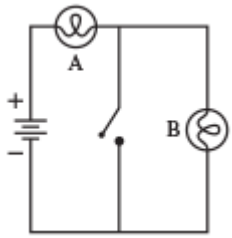

**7.** Are the two resistors in Figure Q28.7 in series or in parallel? Explain.

**Figure Q28.7**



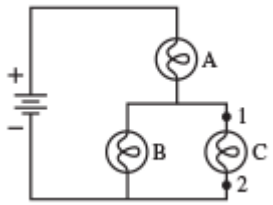
8. A battery with internal resistance $r$ is connected to a load resistance $R$. If $R$ is increased, does the terminal voltage of the battery increase, decrease, or stay the same? Explain.
9. Initially bulbs A and B in Figure Q28.9 are glowing. What happens to each bulb if the switch is closed? Does it get brighter, stay the same, get dimmer, or go out? Explain.

**Figure Q28.9**



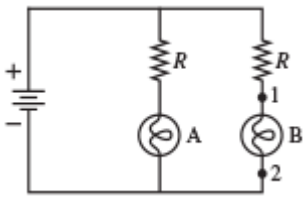

10. Bulbs A, B, and C in Figure Q28.10 are identical, and all are glowing.
    a. Rank in order, from most to least, the brightnesses of the three bulbs. Explain.
    b. Suppose a wire is connected between points 1 and 2. What happens to each bulb? Does it get brighter, stay the same, get dimmer, or go out? Explain.

**Figure Q28.10**



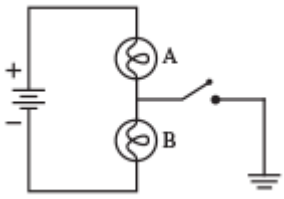

**11.** Bulbs A and B in Figure Q28.11 are identical, and both are glowing. Bulb B is removed from its socket. Does the potential difference $\Delta V_{12}$ between points 1 and 2 increase, stay the same, decrease, or become zero? Explain.

**Figure Q28.11**



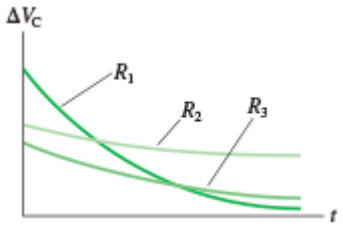

**12.** Bulbs A and B in Figure Q28.12 are identical, and both are glowing. What happens to each bulb when the switch is closed? Does its brightness increase, stay the same, decrease, or go out? Explain.

**Figure Q28.12**




**13.** Figure Q28.13 shows the voltage as a function of time of a capacitor as it is discharged (separately) through three different resistors. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the values of the resistances $R_1$ to $R_3$.

**Figure Q28.13**




# Exercises and Problems

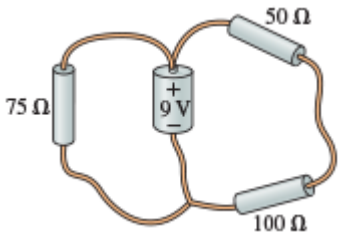
Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 28.1 Circuit Elements and Diagrams

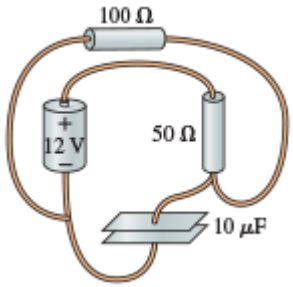
**1.** • Draw a circuit diagram for the circuit of Figure EX28.1.

**Figure EX28.1**




**2.** • Draw a circuit diagram for the circuit of Figure EX28.2.

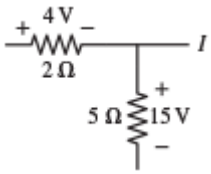
**Figure EX28.2**




## Section 28.2 Kirchhoff's Laws and the Basic Circuit

**3.** •• In Figure EX28.3, what is the magnitude of the current in the wire to the right of the junction? Does the charge in this wire flow to the right or to the left?

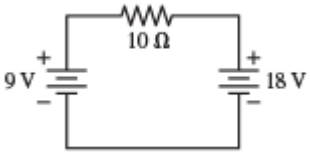
**Figure EX28.3**




**4.** •

**a.** What are the magnitude and direction of the current in the 10 Ω resistor in Figure EX28.4?

**Figure EX28.4**

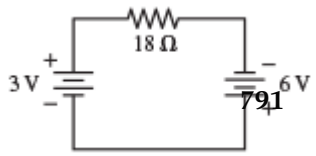



**b.** Draw a graph of the potential as a function of the distance traveled through the circuit, traveling cw from $V = 0$ V at the lower left corner.

**5.** •

**a.** What are the magnitude and direction of the current in the 18 Ω resistor in Figure EX28.5?

**Figure EX28.5**

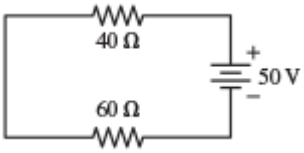





**b.** Draw a graph of the potential as a function of the distance traveled through the circuit, traveling cw from $V = 0$ V at the lower left corner.

**6.** • What is the magnitude of the potential difference across each resistor in Figure EX28.6?

**Figure EX28.6**

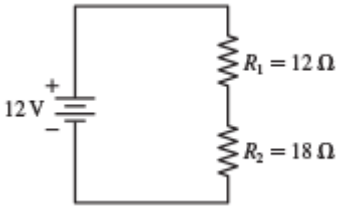



## Section 28.3 Energy and Power

**7.** • What is the resistance of a 1500 W (120 V) hair dryer? What is the current in the hair dryer when it is used?

**8.** • How much power is dissipated by each resistor in Figure EX28.8?

**Figure EX28.8**

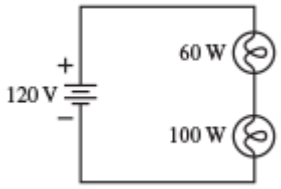


**9.** •• A 60 W lightbulb and a 100 W lightbulb are placed in the circuit shown in Figure EX28.9. Both bulbs are glowing.

**a.** Which bulb is brighter? Or are they equally bright?

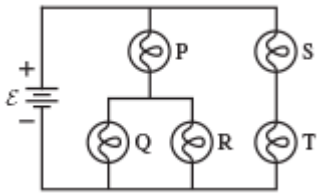
**b.** Calculate the power dissipated by each bulb.

**Figure EX28.9**




**10.** •• The five identical bulbs in Figure EX28.10 are all glowing. The battery is ideal. What is the order of brightness of the bulbs, from brightest to dimmest? Some may be equal.

**Figure EX28.10**




**A.** $P = S > Q = R = T$

**B.** $P = S = T > Q = R$

**C.** $P > S = T > Q = R$

**D.** $P > Q = R > S = T$

**11.** •• The five identical bulbs in Figure EX28.11 are all glowing. The battery is ideal. What is the order of brightness of the bulbs, from brightest to dimmest? Some may be equal.

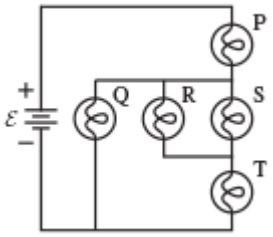
**A.** $P = T > Q = R = S$

**B.** $P > Q = R = S > T$

**C.** $P = T > Q > R = S$

**D.** $P > Q > T > R = S$

**Figure EX28.11**




**12.** • 1 kWh is how many joules?

**13.** •• A standard 100 W (120 V) lightbulb contains a 7.0-cm-long tungsten filament. The high-temperature resistivity of tungsten is $9.0 \times 10^{-7}\ \Omega\,\text{m}$. What is the diameter of the filament?

**14.** • A typical American family uses 1000 kWh of electricity a month.

**a.** What is the average current in the 120 V power line to the house?

**b.** On average, what is the resistance of a household?

**15.** • A waterbed heater uses 450 W of power. It is on 25% of the time, off 75%. What is the annual cost of electricity at a billing rate of \$0.12/kWh?

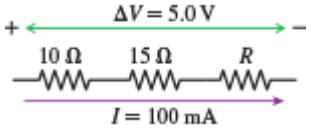
## Section 28.4 Series Resistors

## Section 28.5 Real Batteries

**16.** • What is the value of resistor *R* in Figure EX28.16?

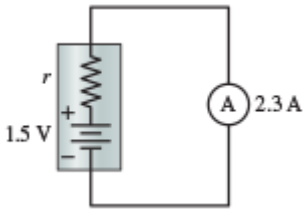


**Figure EX28.16**



**17.** • The battery in Figure EX28.17 is short-circuited by an ideal ammeter having zero resistance.

**Figure EX28.17**

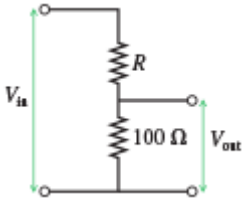



**a.** What is the battery's internal resistance?

**b.** How much power is dissipated inside the battery?

**18.** •• The circuit in Figure EX28.18 is called a *voltage divider*. What value of $R$ will make $V_{\text{out}} = V_{\text{in}}/10$?

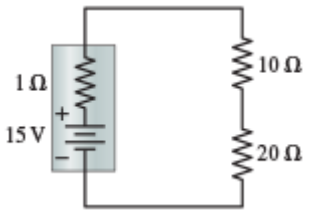
**Figure EX28.18**




**19.** •• The voltage across the terminals of a 9.0 V battery is 8.5 V when the battery is connected to a 20 Ω load. What is the battery's internal resistance?

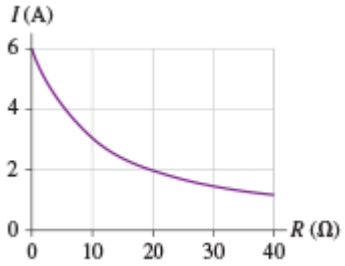
**20.** •• Compared to an ideal battery, by what percentage does the battery's internal resistance reduce the potential difference across the 20 Ω resistor in Figure EX28.20?

**Figure EX28.20**




**21.** • A variable resistor $R$ is connected across the terminals of a battery. Figure EX28.21 shows the current in the circuit as $R$ is varied. What are the emf and internal resistance of the battery?

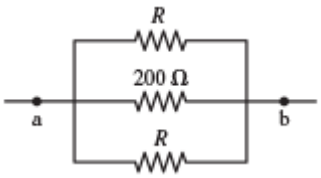
**Figure EX28.21**




## Section 28.6 Parallel Resistors

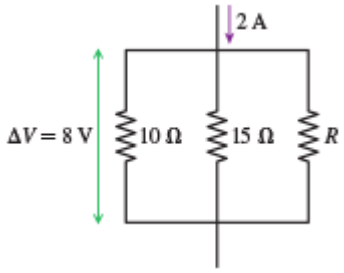
**22.** • Two of the three resistors in Figure EX28.22 are unknown but equal. The total resistance between points a and b is 75 Ω. What is the value of $R$?

**Figure EX28.22**




**23.** •• What is the value of resistor $R$ in Figure EX28.23?

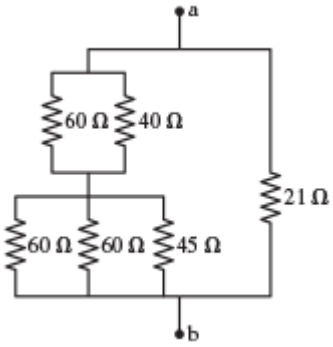
**Figure EX28.23**




**24.** • A metal wire of resistance $R$ is cut into two pieces of equal length. The two pieces are connected together side by side. What is the resistance of the two connected wires?

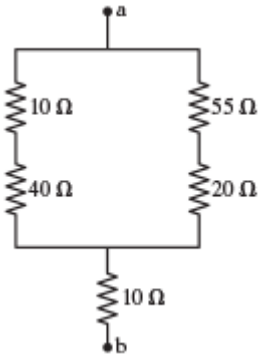
**25.** • What is the equivalent resistance between points a and b in Figure EX28.25?

**Figure EX28.25**



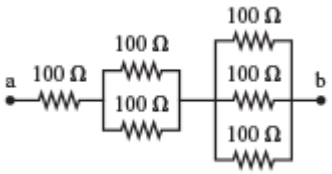

**26.** • What is the equivalent resistance between points a and b in Figure EX28.26?

**Figure EX28.26**



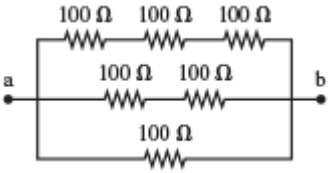
**27.** • What is the equivalent resistance between points a and b in Figure EX28.27?

**Figure EX28.27**



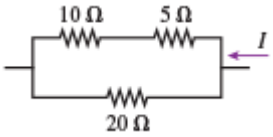

**28.** • What is the equivalent resistance between points a and b in Figure EX28.28?

**Figure EX28.28**




**29.** •• The 10 Ω resistor in Figure EX28.29 is dissipating 40 W of power. How much power are the other two resistors dissipating?

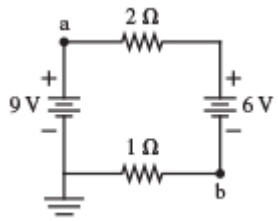
**Figure EX28.29**




## Section 28.8 Getting Grounded

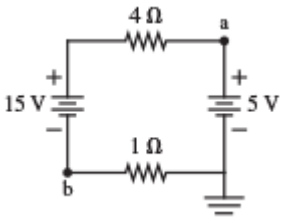
**30.** •• In Figure EX28.30, what is the value of the potential at points a and b?

**Figure EX28.30**




**31.** ••• In Figure EX28.31, what is the value of the potential at points a and b?

**Figure EX28.31**

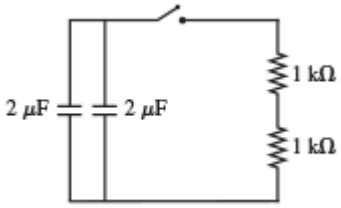



## Section 28.9 *RC* Circuits

**32.** • Show that the product *RC* has units of s.

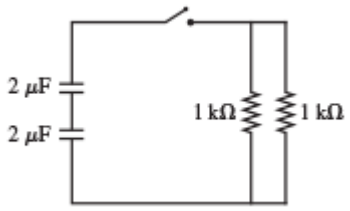
**33.** • What is the time constant for the discharge of the capacitors in Figure EX28.33?

**Figure EX28.33**




**34.** • What is the time constant for the discharge of the capacitors in Figure EX28.34?

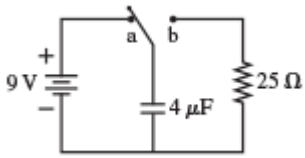
**Figure EX28.34**




**35.** •• A 10 $\mu$F capacitor initially charged to 20 $\mu$C is discharged through a 1.0 k$\Omega$ resistor. How long does it take to reduce the capacitor's charge to 10 $\mu$C?

**36.** • The switch in Figure EX28.36 has been in position a for a long time. It is changed to position b at $t = 0$ s. What are the charge $Q$ on the capacitor and the current $I$ through the resistor (a) immediately after the switch is closed? (b) at $t = 50$ $\mu$s? (c) at $t = 200$ $\mu$s?

**Figure EX28.36**




**37.** •• What value resistor will discharge a 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor to 10% of its initial charge in 2.0 ms?

**38.** •• A capacitor is discharged through a 100 $\Omega$ resistor. The discharge current decreases to 25% of its initial value in 2.5 ms. What is the value of the capacitor?

# Problems

**39.** •• It seems hard to justify spending $4.00 for a compact fluorescent lightbulb when an ordinary incandescent bulb costs 50¢. To see if this makes sense, compare a 60 W incandescent bulb lasting 1000 hours to a 15 W compact fluorescent bulb having a lifetime of 10,000 hours. Both bulbs produce the same amount of visible light and are interchangeable. If electricity costs $0.10/kWh, what is the total cost—purchase plus energy—to obtain 10,000 hours of light from each type of bulb? This is called the *life-cycle cost*.

**40.** •• A refrigerator has a 1000 W compressor, but the compressor runs only 20% of the time.

**a.** If electricity costs $0.10/kWh, what is the monthly (30 day) cost of running the refrigerator?

**b.** A more energy-efficient refrigerator with an 800 W compressor costs $100 more. If you buy the more expensive refrigerator, how many months will it take to recover your additional cost?

**41.** •• Two 75 W (120 V) lightbulbs are wired in series, then the combination is connected to a 120 V supply. How much power is dissipated by each bulb?

**42.** •• **BIO** An electric eel develops a 450 V potential difference between its head and tail. The eel can stun a fish or other prey by using this potential difference to drive a 0.80 A current pulse for 1.0 ms. What are (a) the energy delivered by this pulse and (b) the total charge that flows?

**43.** •• You have a 2.0 Ω resistor, a 3.0 Ω resistor, a 6.0 Ω resistor, and a 6.0 V battery. Draw a diagram of a circuit in which all three resistors are used and the battery delivers 9.0 W of power.

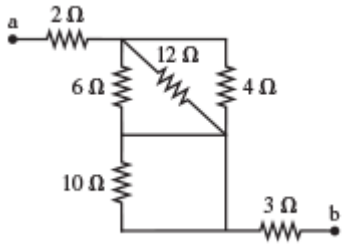
**44.** •• **CALC** A 2.0-m-long, 1.0-mm-diameter wire has a variable resistivity given by

$$\rho(x) = (2.5 \times 10^{-6}) \left[1 + \left(\frac{x}{1.0\ \text{m}}\right)^2\right]\ \Omega\text{m}$$

where $x$ is measured from one end of the wire. What is the current if this wire is connected to the terminals of a 9.0 V battery?

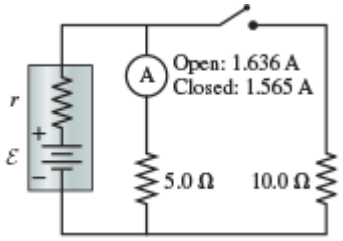
**45.** •• What is the equivalent resistance between points a and b in Figure P28.45?

**Figure P28.45**




**46.** •• What are the emf and internal resistance of the battery in Figure P28.46?

**Figure P28.46**

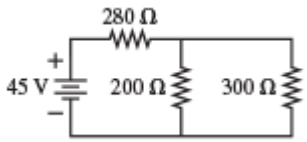



**47.** •• A string of holiday lights can be wired in series, but all the bulbs go out if one burns out because that breaks the circuit. Most lights today are wired in series, but each bulb has a

special fuse that short-circuits the bulb—making a connection around it—if it burns out, thus keeping the other lights on. Suppose a string of 50 lights is connected in this way and plugged into a 120 V outlet. By what factor does the power dissipated by each remaining bulb increase when the first bulb burns out?

**48.** ••• **INT** The circuit shown in Figure P28.48 is inside a 15-cm-diameter balloon filled with helium that is kept at a constant pressure of 1.2 atm. How long will it take the balloon's diameter to increase to 16 cm?

**Figure P28.48**




**49.** •• Suppose you have resistors 2.5 KΩ, 3.5 KΩ, and 4.5 KΩ and a 100 V power supply. What is the ratio of the total power delivered to the resistors if they are connected in parallel to the total power delivered if they are connected in series?

**50.** ••• A lightbulb is in series with a 2.0 Ω resistor. The lightbulb dissipates 10 W when this series circuit is connected to a 9.0 V battery. What is the current through the lightbulb? There are two possible answers; give both of them.[795]

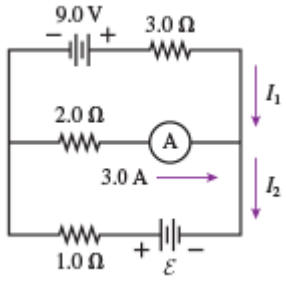
**51.** •• **CALC**

**a.** Load resistor $R$ is attached to a battery of emf $\mathcal{E}$ and internal resistance $r$. For what value of the resistance $R$, in terms of $\mathcal{E}$ and $r$, will the power dissipated by the load resistor be a maximum?

**b.** What is the maximum power that the load can dissipate if the battery has $\mathcal{E} = 9.0\ \text{V}$ and $r = 1.0\ \Omega$?

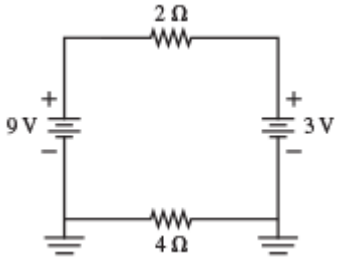
**52.** •• The ammeter in Figure P28.52 reads 3.0 A. Find $I_1$, $I_2$, and $\mathcal{E}$.

**Figure P28.52**




**53.** •• What is the current in the 2 Ω resistor in Figure P28.53?

**Figure P28.53**



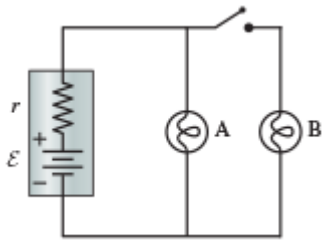

**54.** •• For an ideal battery ($r = 0\ \Omega$), closing the switch in Figure P28.54 does not affect the brightness of bulb A. In practice, bulb A dims *just a little* when the switch closes. To see why, assume that the 1.50 V battery has an internal resistance $r = 0.50\ \Omega$ and that the resistance of a glowing bulb is $R = 6.00\ \Omega$.

**a.** What is the current through bulb A when the switch is open?

**b.** What is the current through bulb A after the switch has closed?

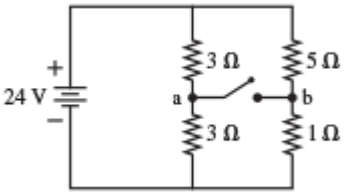
**c.** By what percentage does the current through A change when the switch is closed?

**Figure P28.54**



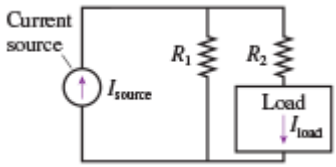

**55.** • What are the battery current $I_{bat}$ and the potential difference $V_a - V_b$ between points a and b when the switch in Figure P28.55 is (a) open and (b) closed?

**Figure P28.55**



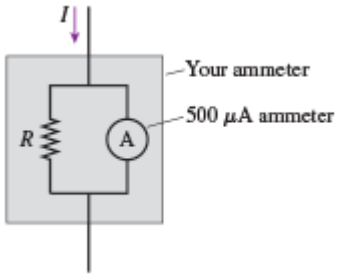

**56.** •• A battery is a voltage source, always providing the same potential difference regardless of the current. It is possible to make a *current source* that always provides the same current regardless of the potential difference. The circuit in Figure P28.56 is called a *current divider*. It sends a fraction of the source current to the load. Find an expression for $I_{load}$ in terms of $R_1$, $R_2$, and $I_{source}$. You can assume that the load's resistance is much less than $R_2$.

## Figure P28.56




**57.** •• A circuit you're building needs an ammeter that goes from 0 mA to a full-scale reading of 50 mA. Unfortunately, the only ammeter in the storeroom goes from 0 $\mu$A to a full-scale reading of only 500 $\mu$A. Fortunately, you've just finished a physics class, and you realize that you can make this ammeter work by putting a resistor in parallel with it, as shown in Figure P28.57. You've measured that the resistance of the ammeter is 50.0 Ω not the 0 Ω of an ideal ammeter.

## Figure P28.57

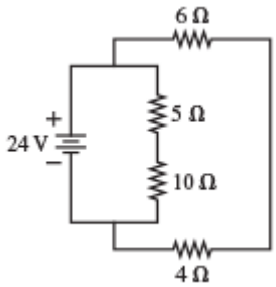



**a.** What value of $R$ must you use so that the meter will go to full scale when the current $I$ is 50 mA?

**b.** What is the effective resistance of your ammeter?

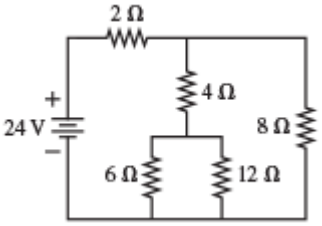
**58.** •• For the circuit shown in Figure P28.58, find the current through and the potential difference across each resistor. Place your results in a table for ease of reading.

## Figure P28.58



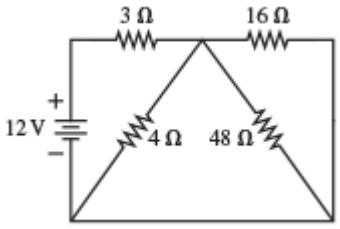

**59.** •• For the circuit shown in Figure P28.59, find the current through and the potential difference across each resistor. Place your results in a table for ease of reading.

**Figure P28.59**



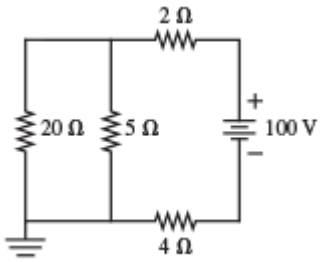

**60.** •• For the circuit shown in Figure P28.60, find the current through and the potential difference across each resistor. Place your results in a table for ease of reading.

**Figure P28.60**



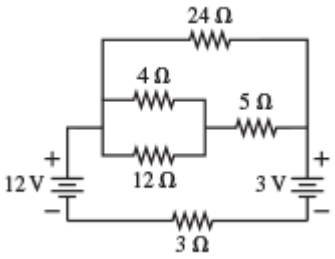

**61.** •• What is the current through the 20 Ω resistor in Figure P28.61?

**Figure P28.61**



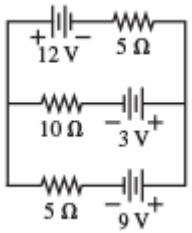

**62.** •• For the circuit shown in Figure P28.62, find the current through and the potential difference across each resistor. Place your results in a table for ease of reading.

**Figure P28.62**



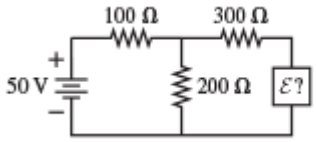

**63.** •• What is the current through the 10 Ω resistor in Figure P28.63? Is the current from left to right or right to left?

**Figure P28.63**




**64.** •• For what emf ℰ does the 200 Ω resistor in Figure P28.64 dissipate no power? Should the emf be oriented with its positive terminal at the top or at the bottom?

**Figure P28.64**




**65.** •• A 12 V car battery dies not so much because its voltage drops but because chemical reactions increase its internal resistance. A good battery connected with jumper cables can both start the engine and recharge the dead battery. Consider the automotive circuit of Figure P28.65.

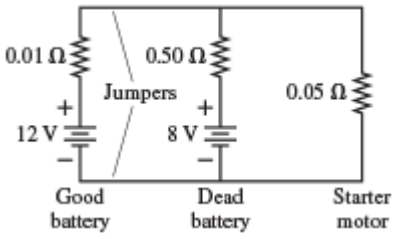
**a.** How much current could the good battery alone drive through the starter motor?

**b.** How much current is the dead battery alone able to drive through the starter motor?

**c.** With the jumper cables attached, how much current passes through the starter motor?

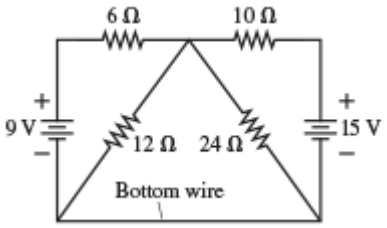
**d.** With the jumper cables attached, how much current passes through the dead battery, and in which direction?

**Figure P28.65**




**66.** •• How much current flows through the bottom wire in Figure P28.66, and in which direction?

**Figure P28.66**




**67.** •• The capacitor in an *RC* circuit is discharged with a time constant of 10 ms. At what time after the discharge begins are (a) the charge on the capacitor reduced to half its initial value and (b) the energy stored in the capacitor reduced to half its initial value?

**68.** •• A circuit you're using discharges a 20 $\mu$F capacitor through an unknown resistor. After charging the capacitor, you close a switch at $t = 0$ s and then monitor the resistor current with an ammeter. Your data are as follows:

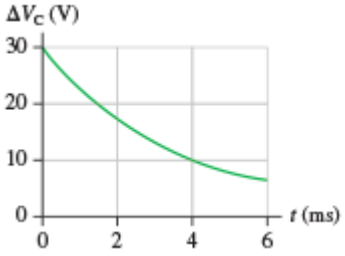
| Time (s) | Current ($\mu$A) |
|---|---|
| 0.5 | 890 |
| 1.0 | 640 |
| 1.5 | 440 |
| 2.0 | 270 |
| 2.5 | 200 |

Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine (a) the resistance and (b) the initial capacitor voltage.

**69.** •• **BIO** A 150 $\mu$F defibrillator capacitor is charged to 1500 V. When fired through a patient's chest, it loses 95% of its charge in 40 ms. What is the resistance of the patient's chest?

**70.** •• A 50 $\mu$F capacitor that had been charged to 30 V is discharged through a resistor. Figure P28.70 shows the capacitor voltage as a function of time. What is the value of the resistance?

**Figure P28.70**




**71.** •• A 0.25 $\mu$F capacitor is charged to 50 V. It is then connected in series with a 25 Ω resistor and a 100 Ω resistor and allowed to discharge completely. How much energy is dissipated by the 25 Ω resistor?

**72.** • A 70 $\mu$F capacitor is discharged through two parallel resistors, 15 kΩ and 25 kΩ. By what factor will the time constant of this circuit increase if the resistors are instead placed in series with each other?

**73.** •• **CALC** The capacitor in Figure P28.73 begins to charge after the switch closes at $t = 0$ s.

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**Figure P28.73**

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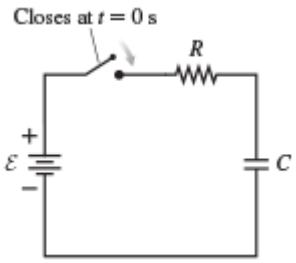



**a.** What is $\Delta V_C$ a very long time after the switch has closed?

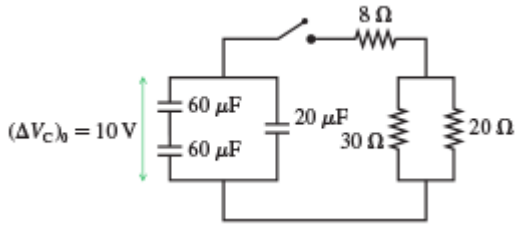
**b.** What is $Q_{max}$ in terms of $\mathcal{E}$, $R$, and $C$?

**c.** In this circuit, does $I = +dQ/dt$ or $-dQ/dt$? Explain.

**d.** Find an expression for the current $I$ at time $t$. Graph $I$ from $t = 0$ to $t = 5\tau$.

**74.** •• The capacitors in Figure P28.74 are charged and the switch closes at $t = 0$ s. At what time has the current in the 8 Ω resistor decayed to half the value it had immediately after the switch was closed?

**Figure P28.74**




**75.** •• The flash on a compact camera stores energy in a 120 $\mu$F capacitor that is charged to 220 V. When the flash is fired, the capacitor is quickly discharged through a lightbulb with 5.0 Ω of resistance.

**a.** Light from the flash is essentially finished after two time constants have elapsed. For how long does this flash illuminate the scene?

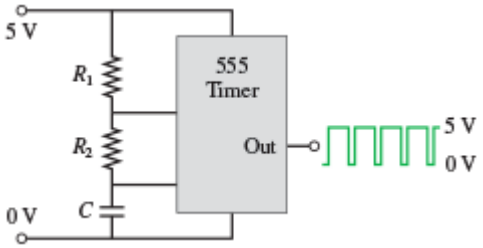
**b.** At what rate is the lightbulb dissipating energy 250 $\mu$s after the flash is fired?

**c.** What total energy is dissipated by the lightbulb?

**76.** •• **BIO** Large capacitors can hold a potentially dangerous charge long after a circuit has been turned off, so it is important to make sure they are discharged before you touch them. Suppose a 120 $\mu$F capacitor from a camera flash unit retains a voltage of 150 V when an unwary student removes it from the camera. If the student accidentally touches the two terminals with his hands, and if the resistance of his body between his hands is 1.8 kΩ, for how long will the current across his chest exceed the danger level of 50 mA?

77. •• Digital circuits require actions to take place at precise times, so they are controlled by a *clock* that generates a steady sequence of rectangular voltage pulses. One of the most widely used integrated circuits for creating clock pulses is called a 555 timer. Figure P28.77 shows how the timer's output pulses, oscillating between 0 V and 5 V, are controlled with two resistors and a capacitor. The circuit manufacturer tells users that $T_H$, the time the clock output spends in the high (5 V) state, is $T_H = (R_1 + R_2)\, C \times \ln 2$. Similarly, the time spent in the low (0 V) state is $T_L = R_2 C \times \ln 2$. You need to design a clock that will oscillate at 10 MHz and will spend 75% of each cycle in the high state. You will be using a 500 pF capacitor. What values do you need to specify for $R_1$ and $R_2$?

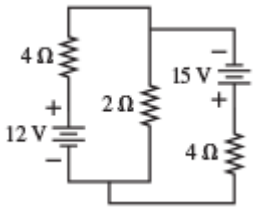
**Figure P28.77**




## Challenge Problems

78. ••• What power is dissipated by the 2 Ω resistor in Figure CP28.78?

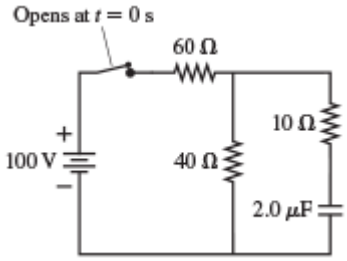
**Figure CP28.78**




**79.** ••• You've made the finals of the Science Olympics! As one of your tasks, you're given 1.0 g of aluminum and asked to make a wire, using all the aluminum, that will dissipate 7.5 W when connected to a 1.5 V battery. What length and diameter will you choose for your wire?

**80.** ••• The switch in Figure CP28.80 has been closed for a very long time.

**Figure CP28.80**




**a.** What is the charge on the capacitor?

**b.** The switch is opened at $t = 0$ s. At what time has the charge on the capacitor decreased to 10% of its initial value?

**81.** ••• **CALC** The capacitor in Figure 28.38a begins to charge after the switch closes at $t = 0$ s. Analyze this circuit and show that $Q = Q_{\max}(1 - e^{-t/\tau})$, where $Q_{\max} = C\mathcal{E}$.

**82.** ••• **CALC** The switch in Figure 28.38a closes at $t = 0$ s and, after a very long time, the capacitor is fully charged. Find expressions for (a) the total energy supplied by the battery as the capacitor is being charged, (b) total energy dissipated by

the resistor as the capacitor is being charged, and (c) the energy stored in the capacitor when it is fully charged. Your expressions will be in terms of $\mathcal{E}$, $R$, and $C$. (d) Do your results for parts a to c show that energy is conserved? Explain.

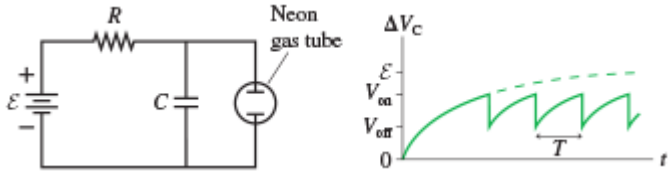
**83.** ••• An *oscillator circuit* is important to many applications. A simple oscillator circuit can be built by adding a neon gas tube to an $RC$ circuit, as shown in Figure CP28.83. Gas is normally a good insulator, and the resistance of the gas tube is essentially infinite when the light is off. This allows the capacitor to charge. When the capacitor voltage reaches a value $V_{\text{on}}$, the electric field inside the tube becomes strong enough to ionize the neon gas. Visually, the tube lights with an orange glow. Electrically, the ionization of the gas provides a very-low-resistance path through the tube. The capacitor very rapidly (we can think of it as instantaneously) discharges through the tube and the capacitor voltage drops. When the capacitor voltage has dropped to a value $V_{\text{off}}$, the electric field inside the tube becomes too weak to sustain the ionization and the neon light turns off. The capacitor then starts to charge again. The capacitor voltage oscillates between $V_{\text{off}}$, when it starts charging, and $V_{\text{on}}$, when the light comes on to discharge it.

**a.** Show that the oscillation period is

$$T = RC \ln\left(\frac{\mathcal{E} - V_{\text{off}}}{\mathcal{E} - V_{\text{on}}}\right)$$

**b.** A neon gas tube has $V_{\text{on}} = 80\ \text{V}$ and $V_{\text{off}} = 20\ \text{V}$. What resistor value should you choose to go with a 10 $\mu$F capacitor and a 90 V battery to make a 10 Hz oscillator?

**Figure CP28.83**


R
Neon
gas tube
+
ε
−
C
ΔV_C
ε
V_on
V_off
0
T
t

# Chapter 29
# The Magnetic Field

The aurora occurs when high-energy charged particles from the sun are steered into the upper atmosphere by the earth's magnetic field.

**In This Chapter**

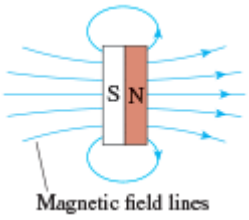
you will learn about magnetism and the magnetic field.

## What is magnetism?

Magnetism is an interaction between *moving* charges.

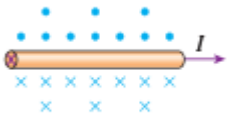
- Magnetic forces, similar to electric forces, are due to the action of magnetic fields.
- A magnetic field $\vec{B}$ is created by a moving charge.
- Magnetic interactions are understood in terms of magnetic poles: north and south.
- Magnetic poles never occur in isolation. All magnets are dipoles, with two poles.
- Practical magnetic fields are created by currents—collections of moving charges.

- Magnetic materials, such as iron, occur because electrons have an inherent magnetic dipole called electron spin.

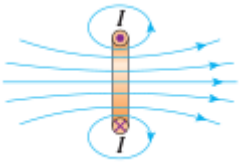



## What fields are especially important?

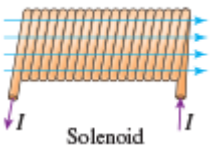
We will develop and use three important magnetic field models.




Long, straight wire




Current loop



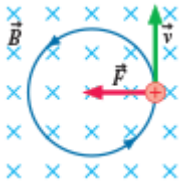

Solenoid

## How do charges respond to magnetic fields?

A charged particle *moving* in a magnetic field experiences a force perpendicular to both $\overrightarrow{B}$ and $\overrightarrow{v}$. The perpendicular force causes charged particles to move in circular orbits in a uniform magnetic field. This cyclotron motion has many important applications.

Looking Back Sections 8.2, 8.3 Circular motion

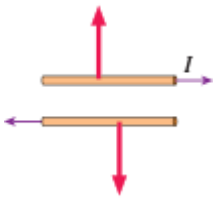
Looking Back Section 12.10 The cross product




## How do currents respond to magnetic fields?

Currents are moving charged particles, so:

- There's a force on a current-carrying wire in a magnetic field.
- Two parallel current-carrying wires attract or repel each other.
- There's a torque on a current loop in a magnetic field. This is how motors work.




## Why is magnetism important?

Magnetism is much more important than a way to hold a shopping list on the refrigerator door. Motors and generators are based on magnetic forces. Many forms of data storage, from hard disks to the stripe on your credit card, are magnetic. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is essential to modern medicine. Magnetic levitation trains are being built around the world. And the earth's magnetic field keeps the solar wind from

sterilizing the surface. There would be no life and no modern technology without magnetism.

# 29.1 Magnetism

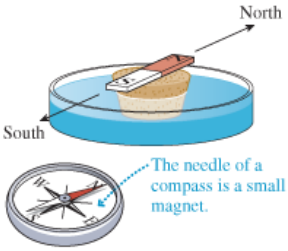


We began our investigation of electricity in Chapter 22 by looking at the results of simple experiments with charged rods. We'll do the same with magnetism.

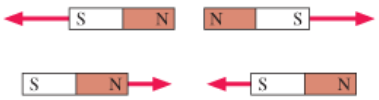
**Discovering magnetism**

**Experiment 1**

If a bar magnet is taped to a piece of cork and allowed to float in a dish of water, it always turns to align itself in an approximate north-south direction. The end of a magnet that points north is called the *north-seeking pole*, or simply the **north pole.** The other end is the **south pole.**



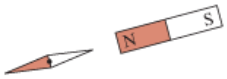

**Experiment 2**



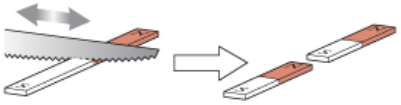

If the north pole of one magnet is brought near the north pole of another magnet, they repel each other. Two south poles also repel each other, but the north pole of one magnet exerts an attractive force on the south pole of another magnet.

**Experiment 3**

The north pole of a bar magnet attracts one end of a compass needle and repels the other. Apparently the compass needle itself is a little bar magnet with a north pole and a south pole.



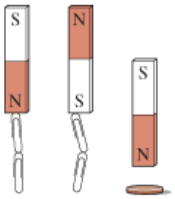

**Experiment 4**



Cutting a bar magnet in half produces two weaker but still complete magnets, each with a north pole and a south pole. No matter how small the magnets are cut, even down to microscopic sizes, each piece remains a complete magnet with two poles.

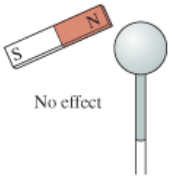
**Experiment 5**

Magnets can pick up some objects, such as paper clips, but not all. If an object is attracted to one end of a magnet, it is also attracted to the other end. Most materials, including copper (a penny), aluminum, glass, and plastic, experience no force from a magnet.




**Experiment 6**

A magnet does not affect an electroscope. A charged rod exerts a weak *attractive* force on *both* ends of a magnet. However, the force is the same as the force on a metal bar that isn't a magnet, so it is simply a polarization force like the ones we studied in Chapter 22. Other than polarization forces, charges have *no effects* on magnets.




What do these experiments tell us?

- First, magnetism is not the same as electricity. **Magnetic poles and electric charges share some similar behavior, but they are not the same.**
- Magnetism is a long-range force. Paper clips leap upward to a magnet.
- Magnets have two poles, called north and south poles, and thus are **magnetic dipoles**. Two like poles exert repulsive forces on each other; two opposite poles attract. The behavior is *analogous* to electric

charges, but, as noted, magnetic poles and electric charges are *not* the same. Unlike charges, isolated north or south poles do not exist.

- The poles of a bar magnet can be identified by using it as a compass. The poles of other magnets, such as flat refrigerator magnets, can be identified by testing them against a bar magnet. A pole that attracts a known north pole and repels a known south pole must be a south magnetic pole.
- Materials that are attracted to a magnet are called **magnetic materials**. The most common magnetic material is iron. Magnetic materials are attracted to *both* poles of a magnet. This attraction is analogous to how neutral objects are attracted to both positively and negatively charged rods by the polarization force. The difference is that *all* neutral objects are attracted to a charged rod whereas only a few materials are attracted to a magnet.

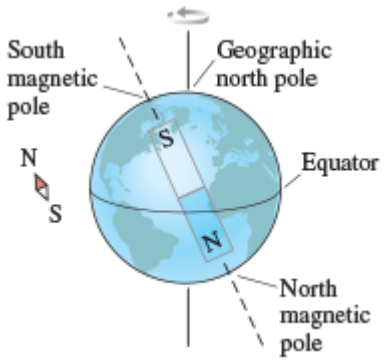


Our goal is to develop a theory of magnetism to explain these observations.

## Compasses and Geomagnetism

The north pole of a compass needle is attracted toward the geographic north pole of the earth. Apparently the earth itself is a large magnet, as shown in Figure 29.1. The reasons for the earth's magnetism are complex, but geophysicists think that the earth's magnetic poles arise from currents in its molten iron core. Two interesting facts about the earth's magnetic field are (1) that the magnetic poles are offset slightly from the geographic poles of the earth's rotation axis, and (2) that the geographic north pole is actually a *south* magnetic pole! You should be able to use what you have learned thus far to convince yourself that this is the case.

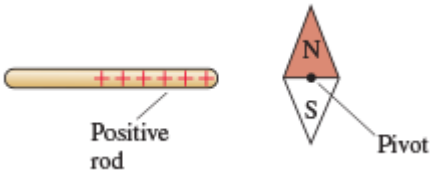
## Figure 29.1




The earth is a large magnet.

## Stop to Think 29.1

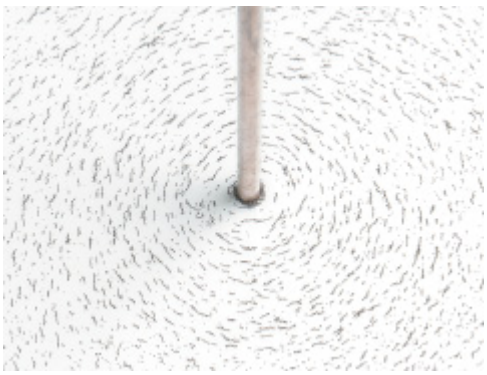
Does the compass needle rotate clockwise (cw), counterclockwise (ccw), or not at all?



# 29.2 The Discovery of the Magnetic Field



As electricity began to be seriously studied in the 18th century, some scientists speculated that there might be a connection between electricity and magnetism. Interestingly, the link between electricity and magnetism was discovered *in the midst of a classroom lecture demonstration* in 1819 by the Danish scientist Hans Christian Oersted. Oersted was using a battery —a fairly recent invention—to produce a large current in a wire. By chance, a compass was sitting next to the wire, and Oersted noticed that the current caused the compass needle to turn. In other words, the compass responded as if a magnet had been brought near.



Iron filings reveal the magnetic field around a current-carrying wire.

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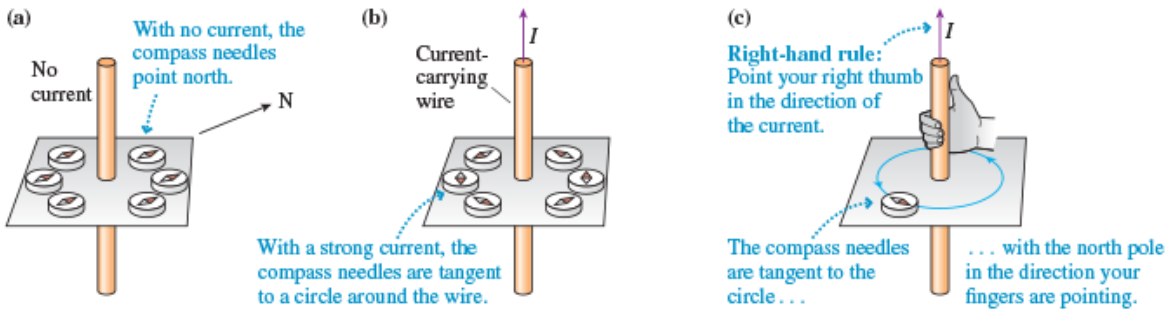
Oersted had long been interested in a possible connection between electricity and magnetism, so the significance of this serendipitous observation was immediately apparent to him. Oersted's discovery that **magnetism is caused by an electric current** is illustrated in Figure 29.2. Part c of the figure demonstrates an important **right-hand rule** that relates the orientation of the compass needles to the direction of the current.

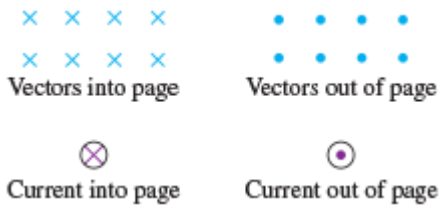
## Figure 29.2




Response of compass needles to a current in a straight wire.

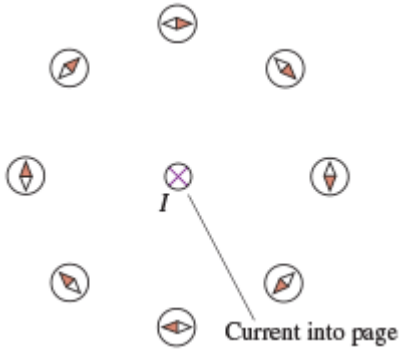
Magnetism is more demanding than electricity in requiring a three-dimensional perspective of the sort shown in Figure 29.2. But since two-dimensional figures are easier to draw, we will make as much use of them as we can. Consequently, we will often need to indicate field vectors or currents that are perpendicular to the page. Figure 29.3 shows the notation we will use. Figure 29.4 demonstrates this notation by showing the compasses around a current that is directed into the page. To use the right-hand rule, point your right thumb in the direction of the current (into the page). Your fingers will curl cw, and that is the direction in which the north poles of the compass needles point.

## Figure 29.3




The notation for vectors and currents perpendicular to the page.

## Figure 29.4




The orientation of the compasses is given by the right-hand rule.

## The Magnetic Field

We introduced the idea of a *field* as a way to understand the long-range electric force. Although this idea appeared rather far-fetched, it turned out to be very useful. We need a similar idea to understand the long-range force exerted by a current on a compass needle.

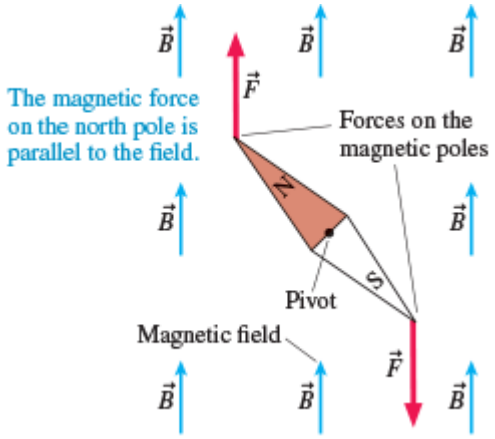
Let us define the **magnetic field** $\vec{B}$ as having the following properties:

1. A magnetic field is created at *all* points in space surrounding a current-carrying wire.
2. The magnetic field at each point is a vector. It has both a magnitude, which we call the *magnetic field strength* $B$, and a direction.
3. The magnetic field exerts forces on magnetic poles. The force on a north pole is parallel to $\vec{B}$; the force on a south pole is opposite $\vec{B}$.

Figure 29.5 shows a compass needle in a magnetic field. The field vectors are shown at several points, but keep in mind that the field is present at *all* points in space. A magnetic force is exerted on each of the two poles of the compass, parallel to $\vec{B}$ for the north pole and opposite

$\vec{B}$ for the south pole. This pair of opposite forces exerts a torque on the needle, rotating the needle until it is parallel to the magnetic field at that point.

## Figure 29.5



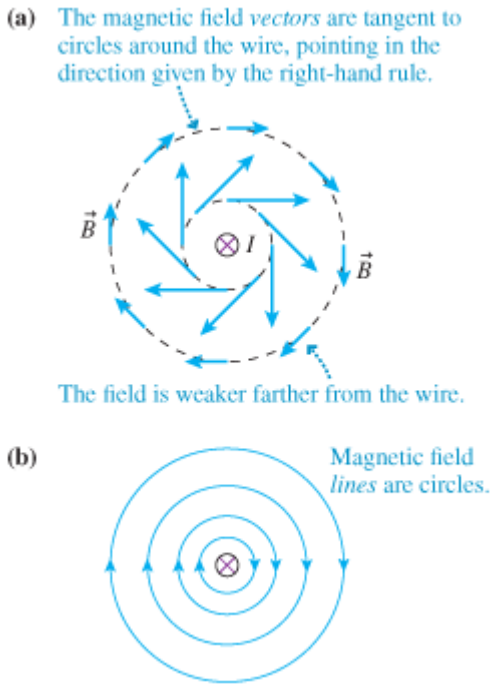

The magnetic field exerts forces on the poles of a compass.

Notice that the north pole of the compass needle, when it reaches the equilibrium position, is in the direction of the magnetic field. Thus a compass needle can be used as a probe of the magnetic field, just as a charge was a probe of the electric field. **Magnetic forces cause a compass needle to become aligned parallel to a magnetic field, with the north pole of the compass showing the direction of the magnetic field at that point.**

Look back at the compass alignments around the current-carrying wire in Figure 29.4. Because compass needles align with the magnetic field, the magnetic field at each point must be tangent to a circle around the wire. Figure 29.6a shows the magnetic field by drawing field vectors. Notice that the field is weaker (shorter vectors) at greater distances from the wire.



## Figure 29.6




The magnetic field around a current-carrying wire.

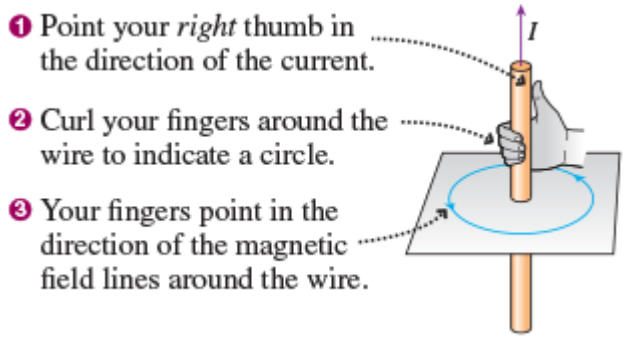
Another way to picture the field is with the use of **magnetic field lines**. These are imaginary lines drawn through a region of space so that

- A tangent to a field line is in the direction of the magnetic field, and
- The field lines are closer together where the magnetic field strength is larger.

Figure 29.6b shows the magnetic field lines around a current-carrying wire. Notice that magnetic field lines form loops, with no beginning or ending point. This is in contrast to electric field lines, which stop and start on charges.

TACTICS BOX 29.1 **Right-hand rule for fields**

**Mastering Physics**




Workbook Exercises 6, 7, 8

**Note**

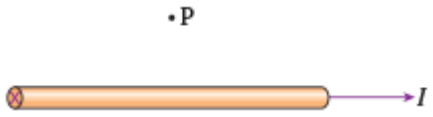
The magnetic field of a current-carrying wire is very different from the electric field of a charged wire. The electric field of a charged wire points radially outward (positive wire) or inward (negative wire).

## Two Kinds of Magnetism?

You might be concerned that we have introduced two kinds of magnetism. We opened this chapter discussing permanent magnets and their forces. Then, without warning, we switched to the magnetic forces caused by a current. It is not at all obvious that these forces are the same kind of magnetism as that exhibited by stationary chunks of metal called "magnets." Perhaps there are two different types of magnetic forces, one having to do with currents and the other being responsible for permanent magnets. One of the major goals for our study of magnetism is to see that these two quite different ways of producing magnetic effects are really just two different aspects of a *single* magnetic force.

## Stop to Think 29.2

The magnetic field at position P points




**a.** Up.

**b.** Down.

**c.** Into the page.

**d.** Out of the page.

# 29.3 The Source of the Magnetic Field: Moving Charges



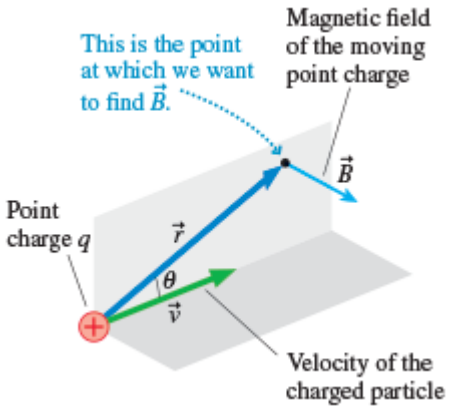
Figure 29.6 is a qualitative picture of the wire's magnetic field. Our first task is to turn that picture into a quantitative description. Because current in a wire generates a magnetic field, and a current is a collection of moving charges, our starting point is the idea that **moving charges are the source of the magnetic field**. Figure 29.7 shows a charged particle $q$ moving with velocity $\vec{v}$. The magnetic field of this moving charge is found to be

**(29.1)**

$$\vec{B}_{\text{point charge}} = \left( \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{qv \sin\theta}{r^2}, \text{ direction given by the right-hand rule} \right)$$

where $r$ is the distance from the charge and $\theta$ is the angle between $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{r}$.

## Figure 29.7




The magnetic field of a moving point charge.

Equation 29.1 is called the **Biot-Savart law** for a point charge (rhymes with *Leo* and *bazaar*), named for two French scientists whose investigations were motivated by Oersted's observations. It is analogous to Coulomb's law for the electric field of a point charge. Notice that the Biot-Savart law, like Coulomb's law, is an inverse-square law. However, the Biot-Savart law is somewhat more complex than Coulomb's law because the magnetic field depends on the angle $\theta$ between the charge's velocity and the line to the point where the field is evaluated.

> **Note**
>
> A moving charge has both a magnetic field *and* an electric field. What you know about electric fields has not changed.

The SI unit of magnetic field strength is the **tesla**, abbreviated as T. The tesla is defined as

$$1 \text{ tesla} = 1 \text{ T} \equiv 1 \text{ N/A m}$$

You will see later in the chapter that this definition is based on the magnetic force on a current-carrying wire. One tesla is quite a large field; most magnetic fields are a small fraction of a tesla. Table 29.1 lists a few magnetic field strengths.

**Table 29.1**

| Field source | Field strength (T) |
|---|---|
| Surface of the earth | $5 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Refrigerator magnet | $5 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| Laboratory magnet | 0.1 to 1 |
| Superconducting magnet | 10 |

Typical magnetic field strengths

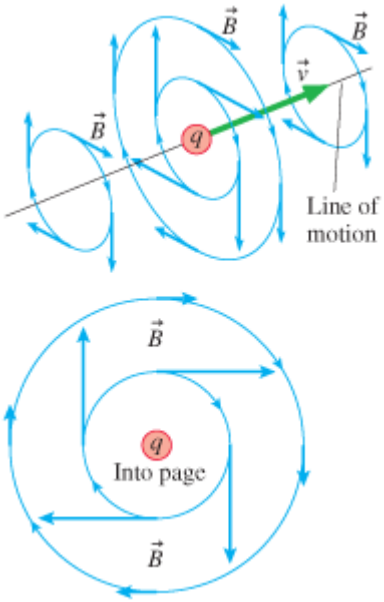
The constant $\mu_0$ in Equation 29.1 is called the **permeability constant**. Its value is

$$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7}\ \mathrm{T\,m/A} = 1.257 \times 10^{-6}\ \mathrm{T\,m/A}$$

This constant plays a role in magnetism similar to that of the permittivity constant $\epsilon_0$ in electricity.

The right-hand rule for finding the direction of $\vec{B}$ is similar to the rule used for a current-carrying wire: Point your right thumb in the direction of $\vec{v}$. The magnetic field vector $\vec{B}$ is perpendicular to the plane of $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{v}$, pointing in the direction in which your fingers curl. In other words, the $\vec{B}$ vectors are tangent to circles drawn about the charge's line of motion. Figure 29.8 shows a more complete view of the magnetic field of a moving positive charge. Notice that $\vec{B}$ is zero along the line of motion, where $\theta = 0^\circ$ or 180°, due to the sin $\theta$ term in Equation 29.1.

## Figure 29.8




Two views of the magnetic field of a moving positive charge.

> **Note**
>
> The vector arrows in Figure 29.8 would have the same lengths but be reversed in direction for a negative charge.

The requirement that a charge be moving to generate a magnetic field is explicit in Equation 29.1. If the speed $v$ of the particle is zero, the magnetic field (but not the electric field!) is zero. This helps to emphasize a fundamental distinction between electric and magnetic fields: **All charges create electric fields, but only *moving* charges create magnetic fields.**

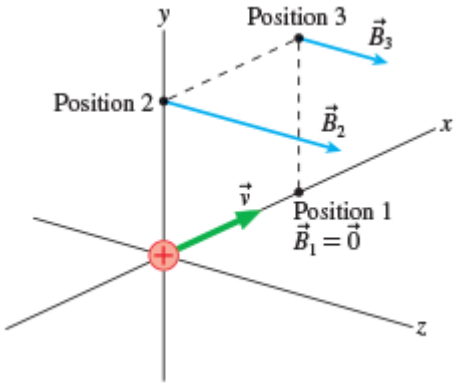
**Example 29.1 The magnetic field of a proton**

A proton moves with velocity $\vec{v} = 1.0 \times 10^7 \, \hat{\imath}$ m/s. As it passes the origin, what is the magnetic field at the $(x, y, z)$ positions (1 mm, 0 mm, 0 mm), (0 mm, 1 mm, 0 mm), and (1 mm, 1 mm, 0 mm)?

**MODEL** The magnetic field is that of a moving charged particle.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.9 shows the geometry. The first point is on the $x$-axis, directly in front of the proton, with $\theta_1 = 0^\circ$. The second point is on the $y$-axis, with $\theta_2 = 90^\circ$, and the third is in the $xy$-plane.

Figure 29.9




The magnetic field of Example 29.1.

**SOLVE** Position 1, which is along the line of motion, has $\theta_1 = 0^\circ$. Thus $\vec{B}_1 = \vec{0}$. Position 2 (at 0 mm, 1 mm, 0 mm) is at distance $r_2 = 1 \text{ mm} = 0.001 \text{ m}$. Equation 29.1, the Biot-Savart law, gives us the magnetic field strength at this point as

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{qv\sin\theta_2}{{r_2}^2} \\ &= \frac{4\pi \times 10^{-7}\,\text{T m/A}}{4\pi}\frac{(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{C})(1.0 \times 10^{7}\,\text{m/s})\sin 90^\circ}{(0.0010\,\text{m})^2} \\ &= 1.60 \times 10^{-13}\,\text{T} \end{aligned}$$

According to the right-hand rule, the field points in the positive $z$-direction. Thus

$$\vec{B}_2 = 1.60 \times 10^{-13}\,\hat{k}\,\text{T}$$

where $\hat{k}$ is the unit vector in the positive $z$-direction. The field at position 3, at (1 mm, 1 mm, 0 mm), also points in the $z$-direction, but it is weaker than at position 2 both because $r$ is larger *and* because $\theta$ is smaller. From geometry we know $r_3 = \sqrt{2}\ \text{mm} = 0.00141 \text{ m}$ and $\theta_3 = 45^\circ$. Another calculation using Equation 29.1 gives

$$\vec{B}_3 = 0.57 \times 10^{-13}\,\hat{k}\,\text{T}$$

**ASSESS** The magnetic field of a single moving charge is *very* small.

## Superposition

The Biot-Savart law is the starting point for generating all magnetic fields, just as our earlier expression for the electric field of a point charge was the starting point for generating all electric fields. Magnetic fields, like electric fields, have been found experimentally to obey the principle of superposition. If there are $n$ moving point charges, the net magnetic field is given by the vector sum

**(29.2)**

$$\vec{B}_{\text{total}} = \vec{B}_1 + \vec{B}_2 + \cdots + \vec{B}_n$$

where each individual $\vec{B}$ is calculated with Equation 29.1. The principle of superposition will be the basis for calculating the magnetic fields of several important current distributions.

## The Vector Cross Product

In Section 22.5, we found that the electric field of a point charge can be written

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

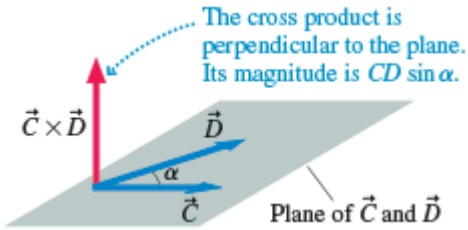
where $\hat{r}$ is a *unit vector* that points from the charge to the point at which we wish to calculate the field. Unit vector $\hat{r}$ expresses the idea "away from $q$."

The unit vector $\hat{r}$ also allows us to write the Biot-Savart law more concisely, but we'll need to use the form of vector multiplication called the *cross product*. To remind you, Figure 29.10 shows two vectors, $\vec{C}$ and $\vec{D}$, with angle $\alpha$ between them. The **cross product** of $\vec{C}$ and $\vec{D}$ is defined to be the vector

**(29.3)**

$$\vec{C} \times \vec{D} = (CD \sin \alpha, \text{direction given by the right-hand rule})$$

## Figure 29.10




The cross product $\vec{C} \times \vec{D}$ is a vector perpendicular to the plane of vectors $\vec{C}$ and $\vec{D}$.

The symbol × between the vectors is *required* to indicate a cross product.

> **Note**
>
> The cross product of two vectors and the right-hand rule used to determine the direction of the cross product were introduced in Section 12.10 to describe torque and angular momentum. A review is worthwhile.

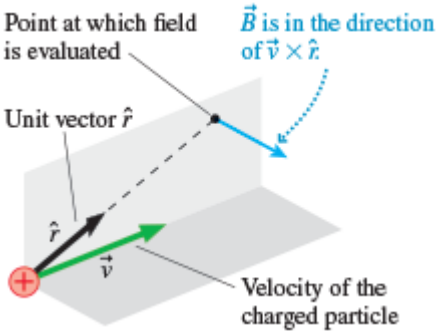
The Biot-Savart law, Equation 29.1, can be written in terms of the cross product as

(29.4)

$$\overrightarrow{B}_{\text{point charge}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q\overrightarrow{v}\times\hat{r}}{r^2} \qquad \text{(magnetic field of a point charge)}$$

where unit vector $\hat{r}$, shown in Figure 29.11, points from charge $q$ to the point at which we want to evaluate the field. This expression for the magnetic field $\overrightarrow{B}$ has magnitude $(\mu_0/4\pi)\,qv\sin\theta/r^2$ (because the magnitude of $\hat{r}$ is 1) and points in the correct direction (given by the right-hand rule), so it agrees completely with Equation 29.1.

## Figure 29.11

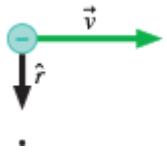



Unit vector $\hat{r}$ defines the direction from the moving charge to the point at which we evaluate the field.

### Example 29.2 The magnetic field direction of a moving electron

The electron in Figure 29.12 is moving to the right. What is the direction of the electron's magnetic field at the dot?

## Figure 29.12




A moving electron.

**VISUALIZE** Because the charge is negative, the magnetic field points *opposite* the direction of $\vec{v} \times \hat{r}$. Unit vector $\hat{r}$ points from the charge toward the dot. We can use the right-hand rule to find that $\vec{v} \times \hat{r}$ points *into* the page. Thus the electron's magnetic field at the dot points *out* of the page.

## Stop to Think 29.3

The positive charge is moving straight out of the page. What is the direction of the magnetic field at the dot?

**a.** Up

**b.** Down

**c.** Left

**d.** Right

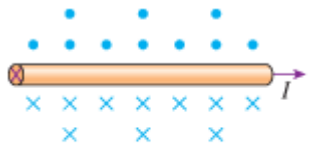
# 29.4 The Magnetic Field of a Current

Moving charges are the source of magnetic fields, but the magnetic fields of current-carrying wires—immense numbers of charges moving together—are much more important than the feeble magnetic fields of individual charges. Real current-carrying wires, with their twists and turns, have very complex fields. However, we can once again focus on the physics by using simplified models. It turns out that three common magnetic field models are the basis for understanding a wide variety of magnetic phenomena. We present them here together as a reference; the next few sections of this chapter will be devoted to justifying and explaining these results.

MODEL 29.1 **Three key magnetic fields**

**An infinite wire:**

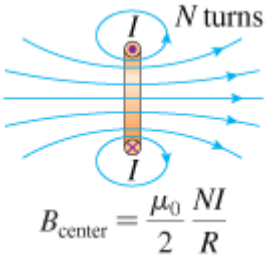
- Straight wires




$$B = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi}\frac{I}{r}$$

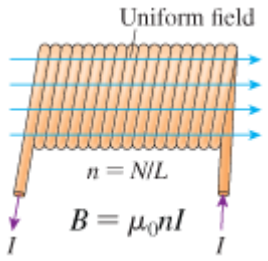
**A current loop:**

- Flat coils



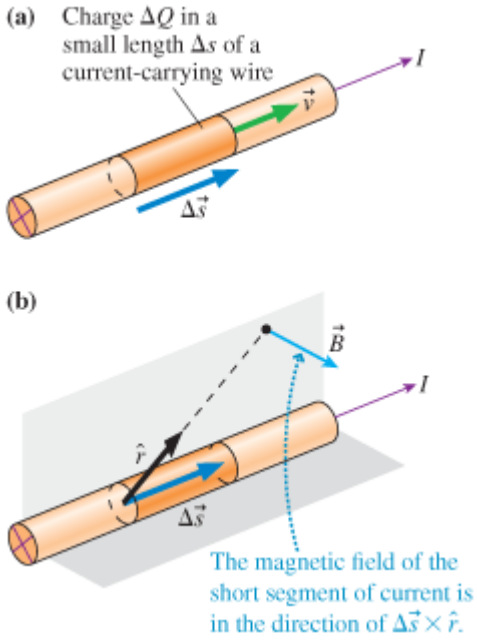

**A solenoid:**

- Helical coils




To begin, we need to write the Biot-Savart law in terms of current. Figure 29.13a shows a current-carrying wire. The wire as a whole is electrically neutral, but current $I$ represents the motion of positive charge carriers through the wire. Suppose the small amount of moving charge $\Delta Q$ spans the small length $\Delta s$. The charge has velocity $\vec{v} = \Delta\vec{s}/\Delta t$, where the vector $\Delta\vec{s}$, which is parallel to $\vec{v}$, is the charge's displacement vector. If $\Delta Q$ is small enough to treat as a point charge, the magnetic field it creates at a point in space is proportional to $(\Delta Q)\vec{v}$. We can write $(\Delta Q)\vec{v}$ in terms of the wire's current $I$ as

**Figure 29.13**




Relating the charge velocity $\vec{v}$ to the current $I$.

---

**(29.5)**

$$(\Delta Q)\,\vec{v} = \Delta Q \frac{\Delta \vec{s}}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}\Delta \vec{s} = I\,\Delta \vec{s}$$

where we used the definition of current, $I = \Delta Q/\Delta t$.

If we replace $q\vec{v}$ in the Biot-Savart law with $I\,\Delta \vec{s}$, we find that the magnetic field of a very short segment of wire carrying current $I$ is

---

**(29.6)**

$$\vec{B}_{\text{current segments}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{I\Delta \vec{s} \times \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

(magnetic field of a very short segment of current)

Equation 29.6 is still the Biot-Savart law, only now written in terms of current rather than the motion of an individual charge. Figure 29.13b

shows the direction of the current segment's magnetic field as determined by using the right-hand rule.

Equation 29.6 is the basis of a strategy for calculating the magnetic field of a current-carrying wire. You will recognize that it is the same basic strategy you learned for calculating the electric field of a continuous distribution of charge. The goal is to break a problem down into small steps that are individually manageable.

---

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 29.1 The magnetic field of a current**

---

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Model the wire as a simple shape.

**VISUALIZE** For the pictorial representation:

- Draw a picture, establish a coordinate system, and identify the point P at which you want to calculate the magnetic field.
- Divide the current-carrying wire into small segments for which you *already know* how to determine $\vec{B}$. This is usually, though not always, a division into very short segments of length $\Delta s$.
- Draw the magnetic field vector for one or two segments. This will help you identify distances and angles that need to be calculated.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is $\vec{B}_{\text{net}} = \sum \vec{B}_i$.

- Write an algebraic expression for *each* of the three components of $\vec{B}$ (unless you are sure one or more is zero) at point P. Let the $(x, y, z)$-coordinates of the point remain as variables.

- Express all angles and distances in terms of the coordinates.
- Let $\Delta s \rightarrow ds$ and the sum become an integral. Think carefully about the integration limits for this variable; they will depend on the boundaries of the wire and on the coordinate system you have chosen to use.

**ASSESS** Check that your result is consistent with any limits for which you know what the field should be.

The key idea here, as it was in Chapter 23, is that **integration is summation**. We need to add up the magnetic field contributions of a vast number of current segments, and we'll do that by letting the sum become an integral.

### Example 29.3 The magnetic field of a long, straight wire

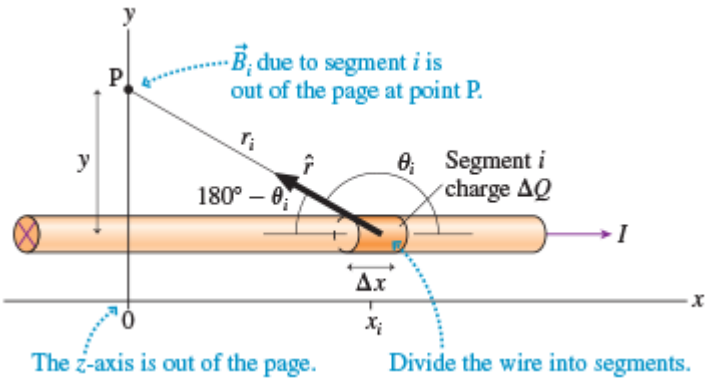
A long, straight wire carries current $I$ in the positive $x$-direction. Find the magnetic field at distance $r$ from the wire.

**MODEL** Model the wire as being infinitely long.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.14 illustrates the steps in the problem-solving strategy. We've chosen a coordinate system with point P on the $y$-axis. We've then divided the wire into small segments, labeled with index $i$, each containing a small amount $\Delta Q$ of *moving charge*. Unit vector $\hat{r}$ and angle $\theta_i$ are shown for segment $i$. You should use the right-hand rule to convince yourself that $\vec{B}_i$ points *out of the page*, in the positive $z$-direction. This is the direction no matter where segment $i$ happens to be along the $x$-axis.

Consequently, $B_x$ (the component of $\vec{B}$ parallel to the wire) and $B_y$ (the component of $\vec{B}$ straight away from the wire) are zero. The only component of $\vec{B}$ we need to evaluate is $B_z$ the component tangent to a circle around the wire.

**Figure 29.14**




Calculating the magnetic field of a long, straight wire carrying current $I$.

**SOLVE** We can use the Biot-Savart law to find the field $(B_i)_z$ of segment $i$. The cross product $\Delta \vec{s}_i \times \hat{r}$ has magnitude $(\Delta x)(1)\sin\theta_i$, hence

$$(B_i)_z = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{I\,\Delta x \sin\theta_i}{r_i^2} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{I\sin\theta_i}{r_i^2}\Delta x = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{I\sin\theta_i}{{x_i}^2 + y^2}\Delta x$$

where we wrote the distance $r_i$ in terms of $x_i$ and $y$. We also need to express $\theta_i$ in terms of $x_i$ and $y$. Because $\sin(180^\circ - \theta) = \sin\theta$, this is

$$\sin\theta_i = \sin(180^\circ - \theta_i) = \frac{y}{r_i} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{{x_i}^2 + y^2}}$$

With this expression for $\sin\theta_i$, the magnetic field of segment $i$ is

$$(B_i)_z = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{Iy}{\left({x_i}^2 + y^2\right)^{3/2}}\Delta x$$

Now we're ready to sum the magnetic fields of all the segments. The superposition is a vector sum, but in this case only the $z$-components are nonzero. Summing all the $(B_i)_z$ gives

$$B_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\mu_0 I y}{4\pi} \sum_i \frac{\Delta x}{(x_i^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} \rightarrow \frac{\mu_0 I y}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}}$$

Only at the very last step did we convert the sum to an integral. Then our model of the wire as being infinitely long sets the integration limits at $\pm\infty$. This is a standard integral that can be found in Appendix A or with integration software. Evaluation gives

$$B_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\mu_0 I y}{4\pi} \frac{x}{y^2(x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}}\bigg|_{-\infty}^{\infty} = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi}\frac{I}{y}$$

This is the magnitude of the field. The field direction is determined by using the right-hand rule.

The coordinate system was our choice, and there's nothing special about the $y$-axis. The symbol $y$ is simply the distance from the wire, which is better represented by $r$. With this change, the magnetic field is

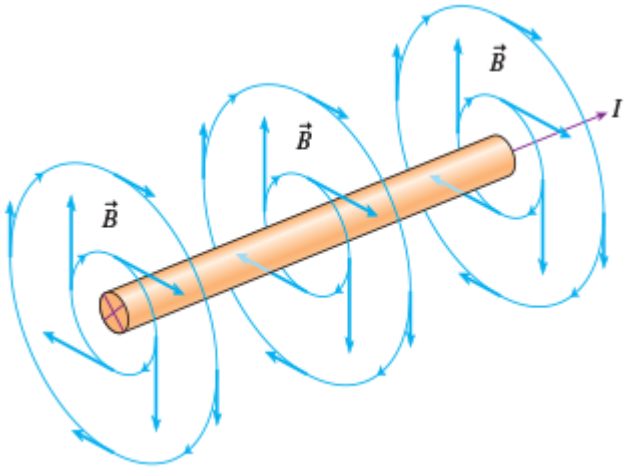
$$\vec{B}_{\text{wire}} = \left( \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi}\frac{I}{r}, \begin{array}{l}\text{tangent to a circle around the wire} \\ \text{in the right-hand direction}\end{array} \right)$$



**ASSESS** Figure 29.15 shows the magnetic field of a current-carrying wire. Compare this to Figure 29.2 and convince yourself that the direction shown agrees with the right-hand rule.

---

**Figure 29.15**




The magnetic field of a long, straight wire carrying current $I$.

The magnetic field of an infinite, straight wire was the first of our key magnetic field models. Example 29.3 has shown that the field has magnitude

**(29.7)**

$$B_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi}\frac{I}{r} \quad \text{(long, straight wire)}$$

The field direction, encircling the wire, is given by the right-hand rule.

**Example 29.4 The magnetic field strength near a heater wire**

A 1.0-m-long, 1.0-mm-diameter nichrome heater wire is connected to a 12 V battery. What is the magnetic field strength 1.0 cm away from the wire?

**MODEL** 1 cm is much less than the 1 m length of the wire, so model the wire as infinitely long.

**SOLVE** The current through the wire is $I = \Delta V_{\text{bat}}/R$, where the wire's resistance $R$ is

$$R = \frac{\rho L}{A} = \frac{\rho L}{\pi r^2} = 1.91\,\Omega$$

The nichrome resistivity $\rho = 1.50 \times 10^{-6}\ \Omega\,\text{m}$ was taken from Table 27.2. Thus the current is $I = (12\ \text{V})/(1.91\ \Omega) = 6.28\ \text{A}$. The magnetic field strength at distance $d = 1.0\ \text{cm} = 0.010\ \text{m}$ from the wire is

$$\begin{aligned} B_{\text{wire}} &= \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi}\frac{I}{d} = (2.0 \times 10^{-7}\,\text{T m/A})\frac{6.28\,\text{A}}{0.010\,\text{m}} \\ &= 1.3 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{T} \end{aligned}$$

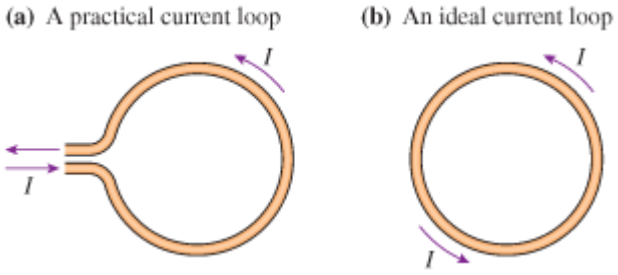
**ASSESS** The magnetic field of the wire is slightly more than twice the strength of the earth's magnetic field.

Motors, loudspeakers, metal detectors, and many other devices generate magnetic fields with *coils* of wire. The simplest coil is a single-turn circular loop of wire. A circular loop of wire with a circulating current is called a **current loop**.

### Example 29.5 The magnetic field of a current loop

Figure 29.16a shows a current loop, a circular loop of wire with radius $R$ that carries current $I$. Find the magnetic field of the current loop at distance $z$ on the axis of the loop.

## Figure 29.16

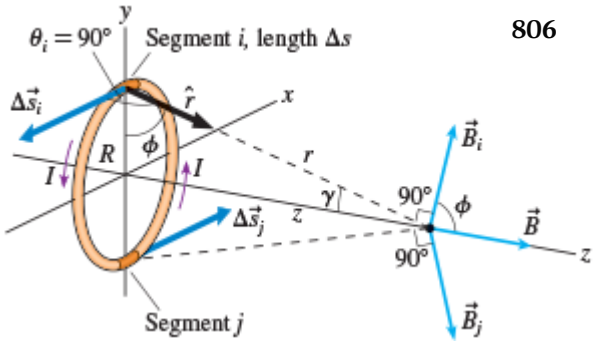



A current loop.

**MODEL** Real coils need wires to bring the current in and out, but we'll model the coil as a current moving around the full circle shown in Figure 29.16b.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.17 shows a loop for which we've assumed that the current is circulating ccw. We've chosen a coordinate system in which the loop lies at $z = 0$ in the $xy$-plane. Let segment $i$ be the segment at the top of the loop. Vector $\Delta \vec{s}_i$ is parallel to the $x$-axis and unit vector $\hat{r}$ is in the $yz$-plane, thus angle $\theta_i$, the angle between $\Delta \vec{s}_i$ and $\hat{r}$, is 90°.

## Figure 29.17




Calculating the magnetic field of a current loop.

The direction of $\vec{B}_i$, the magnetic field due to the current in segment $i$, is given by the cross product $\Delta\vec{s}_i \times \hat{r}$. $\vec{B}_i$ must be perpendicular to $\Delta\vec{s}_i$ *and* perpendicular to $\hat{r}$. You should convince yourself that $\vec{B}_i$ in Figure 29.17 points in the correct direction. Notice that the $y$-component of $\vec{B}_i$ is canceled by the $y$-component of magnetic field $\vec{B}_j$ due to the current segment at the bottom of the loop, 180°away. In fact, *every* current segment on the loop can be paired with a segment 180° away, on the opposite side of the loop, such that the $x$- and $y$-components of $\vec{B}$ cancel and the components of $\vec{B}$ parallel to the $z$-axis add. In other words, the symmetry of the loop requires the on-axis magnetic field to point along the $z$-axis. Knowing that we need to sum only the $z$-components will simplify our calculation.

**SOLVE** We can use the Biot-Savart law to find the $z$-component $(B_i)_z = B_i \cos\phi$ of the magnetic field of segment $i$. The cross product $\Delta\vec{s}_i \times \hat{r}$ has magnitude $(\Delta s)\,(1)\,\sin 90^\circ = \Delta s$, thus

$$(B_i)_z = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{I\,\Delta s}{r^2}\cos\phi = \frac{\mu_0\, I\cos\phi}{4\pi\,(z^2+R^2)}\Delta s$$

where we used $r = (z^2+R^2)^{1/2}$. You can see, because $\phi + \gamma = 90^\circ$, that angle $\phi$ is also the angle between $\hat{r}$ and the radius of the loop. Hence $\cos\phi = R/r$, and

$$(B_i)_z = \frac{\mu_0 IR}{4\pi(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}}\Delta s$$

The final step is to sum the magnetic fields due to all the segments:

$$B_{\text{loop}} = \sum_i (B_i)_z = \frac{\mu_0 IR}{4\pi(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}}\sum_i \Delta s$$

In this case, unlike the straight wire, none of the terms multiplying $\Delta s$ depends on the position of segment $i$, so all these terms can be factored out of the summation. We're left with a summation that adds up the lengths of all the small segments. But this is just the total length of the wire, which is the circumference $2\pi R$. Thus the on-axis magnetic field of a current loop is

$$B_{\text{loop}} = \frac{\mu_0 IR}{4\pi(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}}\,2\pi R = \frac{\mu_0}{2}\frac{IR^2}{(z^2+R^2)^{3/2}}$$

In practice, current often passes through a *coil* consisting of $N$ *turns* of wire. If the turns are all very close together, so that the magnetic field of each is essentially the same, then the magnetic field of a coil is $N$ times the magnetic field of a current loop. The magnetic field at the center ($z = 0$) of an $N$-turn coil, or $N$-turn current loop, is

**(29.8)**

$$B_{\text{coil center}} = \frac{\mu_0}{2}\frac{NI}{R} \qquad (N\text{-turn current loop})$$

This is the second of our key magnetic field models.

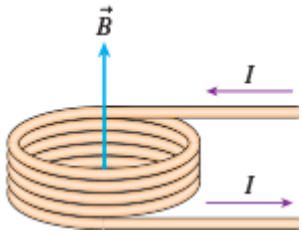
### Example 29.6 Matching the earth's magnetic field

What current is needed in a 5-turn, 10-cm-diameter coil to cancel the earth's magnetic field at the center of the coil?

**MODEL** One way to create a zero-field region of space is to generate a magnetic field equal to the earth's field but pointing in the opposite direction. The vector sum of the two fields is zero.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.18 shows a five-turn coil of wire. The magnetic field is five times that of a single current loop.

**Figure 29.18**




A coil of wire.

**SOLVE** The earth's magnetic field, from Table 29.1, is $5 \times 10^{-5}$ T. We can use Equation 29.8 to find that the current needed to generate a $5 \times 10^{-5}$ T field is

$$I = \frac{2RB}{\mu_0 N} = \frac{2(0.050\,\text{m})(5.0 \times 10^{-5}\,\text{T})}{5(4\pi \times 10^{-7}\,\text{T m/A})} = 0.80\,\text{A}$$

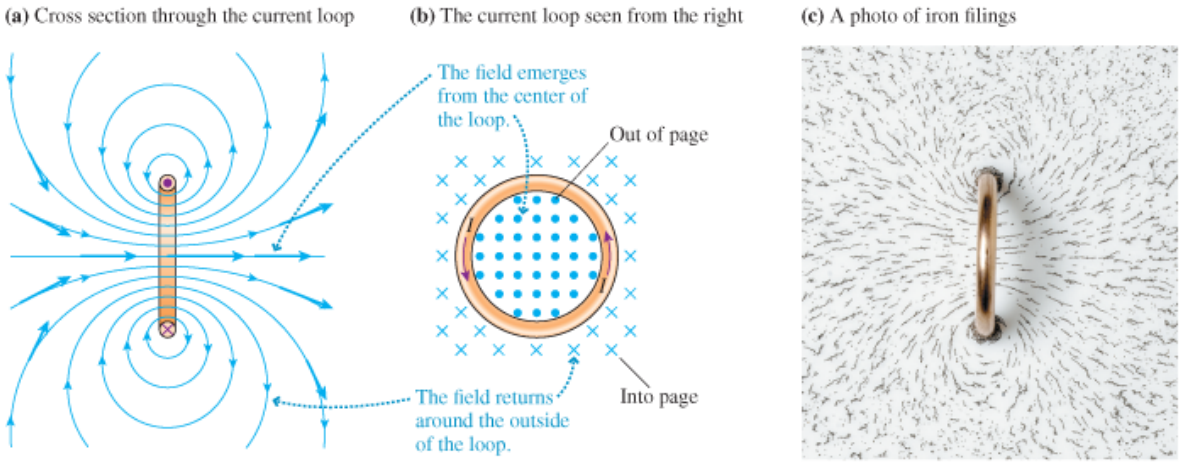
**ASSESS** A 0.80 A current is easily produced. Although there are better ways to cancel the earth's field than using a simple coil, this illustrates the idea.

# 29.5 Magnetic Dipoles



We were able to calculate the on-axis magnetic field of a current loop, but determining the field at off-axis points requires either numerical integrations or an experimental mapping of the field. Figure 29.19 shows the full magnetic field of a current loop. This is a field with *rotational symmetry*, so to picture the full three-dimensional field, imagine Figure 29.19a rotated about the axis of the loop. Figure 29.19b shows the magnetic field in the plane of the loop as seen from the right. There is a clear sense, seen in the photo of Figure 29.19c, that the magnetic field leaves the loop on one side, "flows" around the outside, then returns to the loop.

## Figure 29.19




The magnetic field of a current loop.

There are two versions of the right-hand rule that you can use to determine which way a loop's field points. Try these in Figure 29.19. Being able to quickly ascertain the field direction of a current loop is an important skill.

TACTICS BOX 29.2 **Finding the magnetic field direction of a current loop**

**Mastering Physics**

Use either of the following methods to find the magnetic field direction:

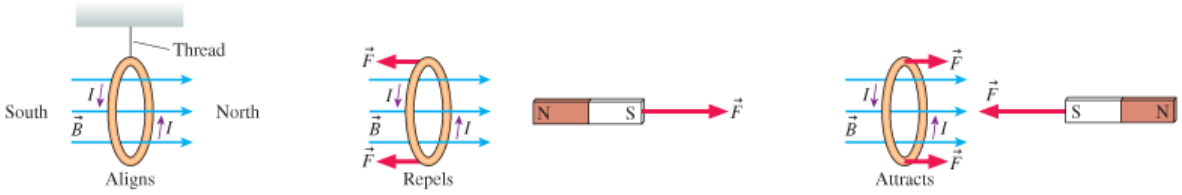
1. Point your right thumb in the direction of the current at any point on the loop and let your fingers curl through the center of the loop. Your fingers are then pointing in the direction in which $\vec{B}$ leaves the loop.
2. Curl the fingers of your right hand around the loop in the direction of the current. Your thumb is then pointing in the direction in which $\vec{B}$ leaves the loop.

Workbook Exercises 18, 19, 20

# A Current Loop Is a Magnetic Dipole

A current loop has two distinct sides. Bar magnets and flat refrigerator magnets also have two distinct sides or ends, so you might wonder if current loops are related to these permanent magnets. Consider the following experiments with a current loop. Notice that we're showing the magnetic field only in the plane of the loop.

**Investigating current loops**




A current loop hung by a thread aligns itself with the magnetic field pointing north.

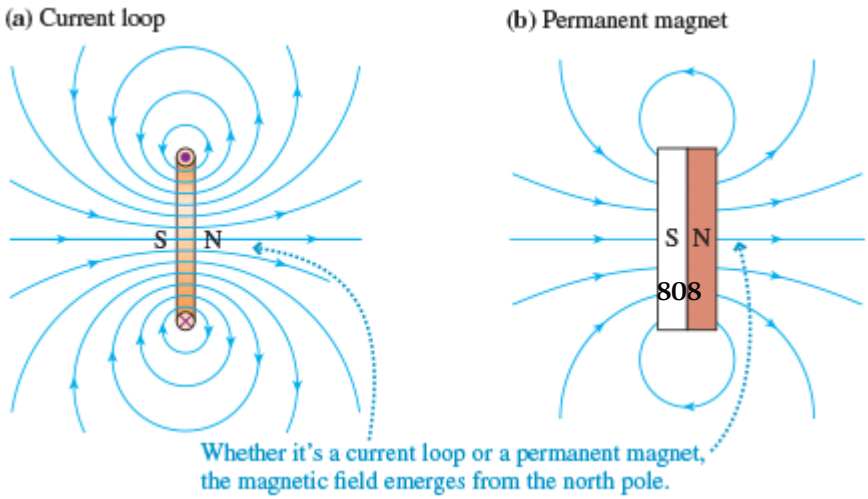
The north pole of a permanent magnet repels the side of a current loop from which the magnetic field is emerging.

The south pole of a permanent magnet attracts the side of a current loop from which the magnetic field is emerging.

These investigations show that **a current loop is a magnet**, just like a permanent magnet. A magnet created by a current in a coil of wire is called an **electromagnet**. An electromagnet picks up small pieces of iron, influences a compass needle, and acts in every way like a permanent magnet.

In fact, Figure 29.20 shows that a flat permanent magnet and a current loop generate the same magnetic field—the field of a magnetic dipole. For both, **you can identify the north pole as the face or end *from which* the magnetic field emerges**. The magnetic fields of both point *into* the south pole.

## Figure 29.20




A current loop has magnetic poles and generates the same magnetic field as a flat permanent magnet.

One of the goals of this chapter is to show that magnetic forces exerted by currents and magnetic forces exerted by permanent magnets are just two different aspects of a single magnetism. This connection between permanent magnets and current loops will turn out to be a big piece of the puzzle.

## The Magnetic Dipole Moment

The expression for the electric field of an electric dipole was considerably simplified when we considered the field at distances significantly larger than the size of the charge separation $s$. The on-axis field of an electric dipole when $z \gg s$ is

$$\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{2\vec{p}}{z^3}$$

where the electric dipole moment
$\vec{p} = (qs, \text{from negative to positive charge})$.

The on-axis magnetic field of a current loop is

$$B_{\text{loop}} = \frac{\mu_0}{2}\frac{IR^2}{\left(z^2+R^2\right)^{3/2}}$$

If $z$ is much larger than the diameter of the current loop, $z \gg R$, we can make the approximation $\left(z^2+R^2\right)^{3/2} \rightarrow z^3$. Then the loop's field is

**(29.9)**

$$B_{\text{loop}} \approx \frac{\mu_0}{2}\frac{IR^2}{z^3} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{2\left(\pi R^2\right)I}{z^3} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{2AI}{z^3}$$

where $A = \pi R^2$ is the area of the loop.

A more advanced treatment of current loops shows that, if $z$ is much larger than the size of the loop, Equation 29.9 is the on-axis magnetic field of a current loop of *any* shape, not just a circular loop. The shape of the loop affects the nearby field, but the distant field depends only on the current $I$ and the area $A$ enclosed within the loop. With this in mind, let's define the **magnetic dipole moment** $\vec{\mu}$ of a current loop enclosing area $A$ to be

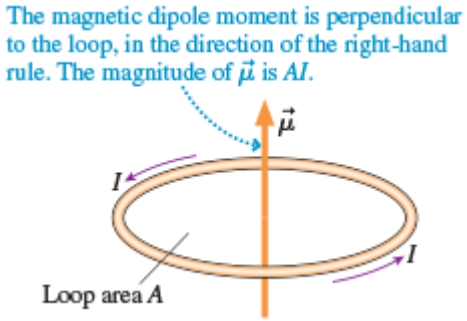
$$\vec{\mu} = (AI, \text{ from the south pole to the north pole})$$

The SI units of the magnetic dipole moment are A $m^2$.

> **Note**
>
> Don't confuse the magnetic dipole moment $\vec{\mu}$ with the constant $\mu_0$ in the Biot-Savart law.

The magnetic dipole moment, like the electric dipole moment, is a vector. It has the same direction as the on-axis magnetic field. Thus the right-hand rule for determining the direction of $\vec{B}$ also shows the direction of $\vec{\mu}$. Figure 29.21 shows the magnetic dipole moment of a circular current loop.

## Figure 29.21




The magnetic dipole moment of a circular current loop.

Because the on-axis magnetic field of a current loop points in the same direction as $\vec{\mu}$, we can combine Equation 29.9 and the definition of $\vec{\mu}$ to write the on-axis field of a magnetic dipole as



**(29.10)**

$$\vec{B}_{\text{dipole}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{2\vec{\mu}}{z^3} \quad \text{(on the axis of a magnatic dipole)}$$

If you compare $\vec{B}_{\text{dipole}}$ to $\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}}$, you can see that the magnetic field of a magnetic dipole is very similar to the electric field of an electric dipole.

A permanent magnet also has a magnetic dipole moment and its on-axis magnetic field is given by Equation 29.10 when $z$ is much larger than the size of the magnet. Equation 29.10 and laboratory measurements of the on-axis magnetic field can be used to determine a permanent magnet's dipole moment.

### Example 29.7 Measuring current in a superconducting loop

You'll learn in Chapter 30 that a current can be *induced* in a closed loop of wire. If the loop happens to be made of a superconducting material, with zero resistance, the induced current will—in principle—persist forever. The current cannot be measured with an ammeter because any real ammeter has resistance that will quickly stop the current. Instead, physicists measure the persistent current in a superconducting loop by measuring its magnetic field. What is the current in a 3.0-mm-diameter superconducting loop if the axial magnetic field is 9.0 $\mu$T at a distance of 2.5 cm?

**MODEL** The measurements are made far enough from the loop in comparison to its radius ($z \gg R$) that we can model the loop as a magnetic dipole rather than using the exact expression for the on-axis field of a current loop.

**SOLVE** The axial magnetic field strength of a dipole is

$$B = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{2\mu}{z^3} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{2\pi R^2 I}{z^3} = \frac{\mu_0 R^2 I}{2}\frac{1}{z^3}$$

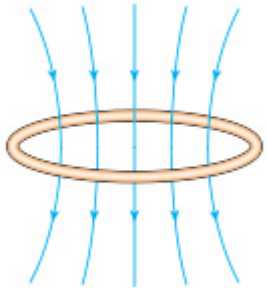
where we used $\mu = AI = \pi R^2 I$ for the magnetic dipole moment of a circular loop of radius $R$. Thus the current is

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \frac{2z^3 B}{\mu_0 R^2} = \frac{2(0.025\,\text{m})^3(9.0 \times 10^{-6}\,\text{T})}{(1.26 \times 10^{-6}\,\text{T m/A})(0.0015\,\text{m})^2} \\ &= 99\,\text{A} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This would be a very large current for ordinary wire. An important property of superconducting wires is their ability to carry current that would melt an ordinary wire.

## Stop to Think 29.4

What is the current direction in this loop? And which side of the loop is the north pole?



**a.** Current cw; north pole on top

**b.** Current cw; north pole on bottom

**c.** Current ccw; north pole on top

**d.** Current ccw; north pole on bottom

# 29.6 Ampère's Law and Solenoids



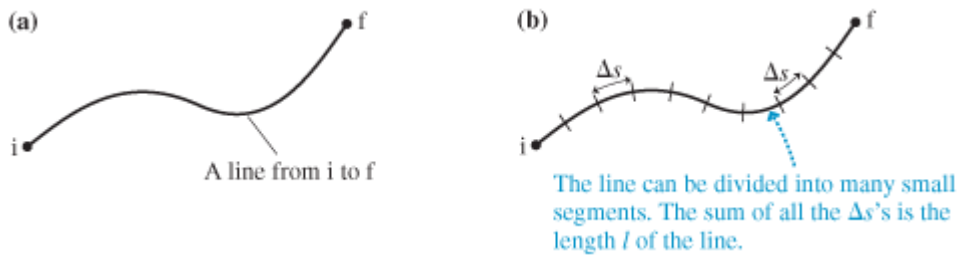
In principle, the Biot-Savart law can be used to calculate the magnetic field of any current distribution. In practice, the integrals are difficult to evaluate for anything other than very simple situations. We faced a similar situation for calculating electric fields, but we discovered an alternative method—Gauss's law—for calculating the electric field of charge distributions with a high degree of symmetry.

Likewise, there's an alternative method, called *Ampère's law*, for calculating the magnetic fields of current distributions with a high degree of symmetry. Whereas Gauss's law is written in terms of a surface integral, Ampère's law is based on the mathematical procedure called a *line integral*.

## Line Integrals

We've flirted with the idea of a line integral ever since introducing the concept of work in Chapter 9, but now we need to take a more serious look at what a line integral represents and how it is used. Figure 29.22a shows a curved line that goes from an initial point i to a final point f.

**Figure 29.22**




Integrating along a line from i to f.

Suppose, as shown in Figure 29.22b, we divide the line into many small segments of length $\Delta s$. The first segment is $\Delta s_1$, the second is $\Delta s_2$, and so on. The sum of all the $\Delta s$'s is the length $l$ of the line between i and f. We can write this mathematically as

**(29.11)**

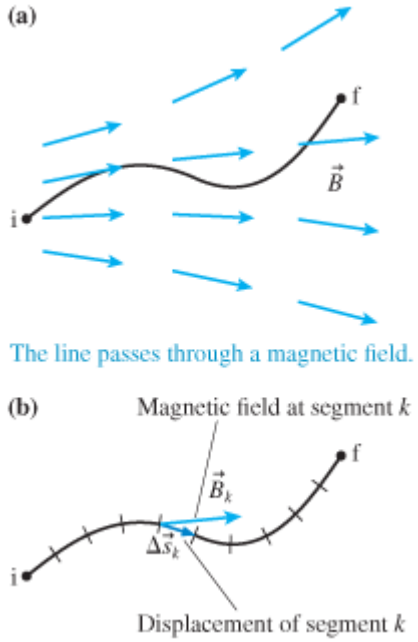
$$l = \sum_k \Delta s_k \rightarrow \int_{\text{i}}^{\text{f}} ds$$

where, in the last step, we let $\Delta s \rightarrow ds$ and the sum become an integral.

This integral is called a **line integral**. All we've done is to subdivide a line into infinitely many infinitesimal pieces, then add them up. This is exactly what you do in calculus when you evaluate an integral such as $\int x\, dx$. In fact, an integration along the $x$-axis *is* a line integral, one that happens to be along a straight line. Figure 29.22 differs only in that the line is curved. **The underlying idea in both cases is that an integral is just a fancy way of doing a sum.**

The line integral of Equation 29.11 is not terribly exciting. Figure 29.23a makes things more interesting by allowing the line to pass through a magnetic field. Figure 29.23b again divides the line into small segments, but this time $\Delta \vec{s}_k$ is the displacement vector of segment $k$. The magnetic field at this point in space is $\vec{B}_k$.

## Figure 29.23




Integrating $\vec{B}$ along a line from i to f.

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Suppose we were to evaluate the dot product $\vec{B}_k \cdot \Delta\vec{s}_k$ at each segment, then add the values of $\vec{B}_k \cdot \Delta\vec{s}_k$ due to every segment. Doing so, and again letting the sum become an integral, we have

$$\sum_k \vec{B}_k \cdot \Delta\vec{s}_k \to \int_{\text{i}}^{\text{f}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \text{the line integral of } \vec{B} \text{ from i to f}$$

Once again, the integral is just a shorthand way to say: Divide the line into lots of little pieces, evaluate $\vec{B}_k \cdot \Delta\vec{s}_k$ for each piece, then add them up.

Although this process of evaluating the integral could be difficult, the only line integrals we'll need to deal with fall into two simple cases. If the magnetic field is *everywhere perpendicular* to the line, then $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$ at every point along the line and the integral is zero. If the magnetic field is *everywhere tangent* to the line *and* has the same magnitude $B$ at every point, then $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = B\,ds$ at every point and

(29.12)

$$\int_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{f}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{f}} B\, ds = B \int_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{f}} ds = Bl$$



We used Equation 29.11 in the last step to integrate $ds$ along the line.

Tactics Box 29.3 summarizes these two situations.

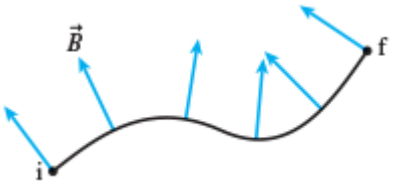
---

TACTICS BOX 29.3 **Evaluating line integrals**

**Mastering Physics**

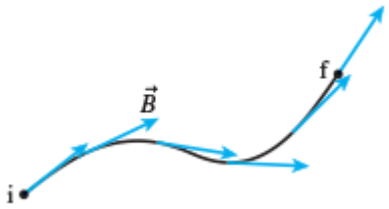
**1.** If $\vec{B}$ is everywhere perpendicular to a line, the line integral of $\vec{B}$ is

$$\int_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{f}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$




**2.** If $\vec{B}$ is everywhere tangent to a line of length $l$ *and* has the same magnitude $B$ at every point, then

$$\int_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{f}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = Bl$$

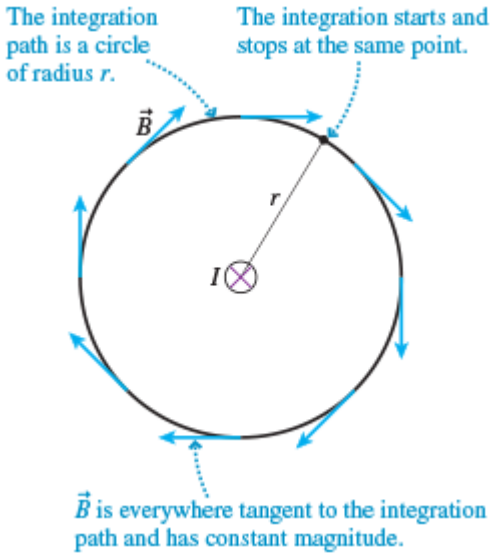



Workbook Exercises 23, 24

# Ampère's Law

Figure 29.24 shows a wire carrying current $I$ into the page and the magnetic field at distance $r$. The magnetic field of a current-carrying wire is everywhere tangent to a circle around the wire *and* has the same magnitude $\mu_0 I/2\pi r$ at all points on the circle. According to Tactics Box 29.3, these conditions allow us to easily evaluate the line integral of $\vec{B}$ along a circular path around the wire. Suppose we were to integrate the magnetic field *all the way around* the circle. That is, the initial point i of the integration path and the final point f will be the same point. This would be a line integral around a *closed curve*, which is denoted

**Figure 29.24**




Integrating the magnetic field around a wire.

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$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

The little circle on the integral sign indicates that the integration is performed around a closed curve. The notation has changed, but the meaning has not. 812

Because $\vec{B}$ is tangent to the circle *and* of constant magnitude at every point on the circle, we can use Option 2 from Tactics Box 29.3 to write

**(29.13)**

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = Bl = B(2\pi r)$$

where, in this case, the path length $l$ is the circumference $2\pi r$ of the circle. The magnetic field strength of a current-carrying wire is $B = \mu_0 I/2\pi r$, thus

**(29.14)**

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I$$

The interesting result is that the line integral of $\vec{B}$ around the current-carrying wire is independent of the radius of the circle. Any circle, from one touching the wire to one far away, would give the same result. The integral depends only on the amount of current passing *through* the circle that we integrated around.

This is reminiscent of Gauss's law. In our investigation of Gauss's law, we started with the observation that the electric flux $\Phi_e$ through a sphere surrounding a point charge depends only on the amount of charge inside, not on the radius of the sphere. After examining several cases, we concluded that the shape of the surface wasn't relevant. The electric flux through *any* closed surface enclosing total charge $Q_{in}$ turned out to be $\Phi_e = Q_{in}/\epsilon_0$.

Although we'll skip the details, the same type of reasoning that we used to prove Gauss's law shows that the result of Equation 29.14

- Is independent of the shape of the curve around the current.
- Is independent of where the current passes through the curve.
- Depends only on the total amount of current through the area enclosed by the integration path.

Thus whenever total current $I_{through}$ passes through an area bounded by a *closed curve*, the line integral of the magnetic field around the curve is

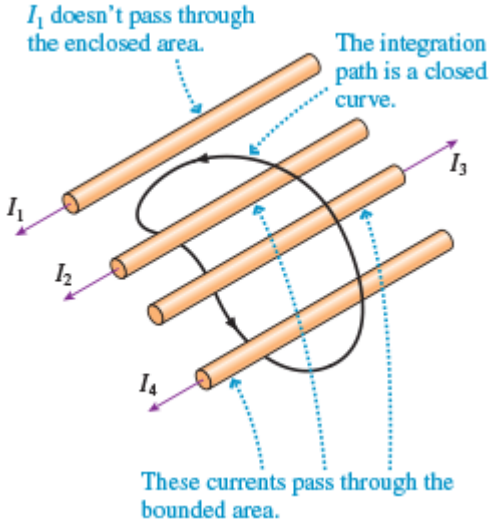
**(29.15)**

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{through}$$

This result for the magnetic field is known as **Ampère's law**.

To make practical use of Ampère's law, we need to determine which currents are positive and which are negative. The right-hand rule is once again the proper tool. If you curl your right fingers around the closed path in the direction in which you are going to integrate, then any current passing though the bounded area in the direction of your thumb is a positive current. Any current in the opposite direction is a negative current. In Figure 29.25, for example, currents $I_2$ and $I_4$ are positive, $I_3$ is negative. Thus $I_{\text{through}} = I_2 - I_3 + I_4$.

## Figure 29.25




Using Ampère's law.

> **Note**
>
> The integration path of Ampère's law is a mathematical curve through space. It does not have to match a physical surface or boundary, although it could if we want it to.

In one sense, Ampère's law doesn't tell us anything new. After all, we derived Ampère's law from the Biot-Savart law. But in another sense, Ampère's law is more important than the Biot-Savart law because it states

a very general property about magnetic fields. We will use Ampère's law to find the magnetic fields of some important current distributions that have a high degree of symmetry.

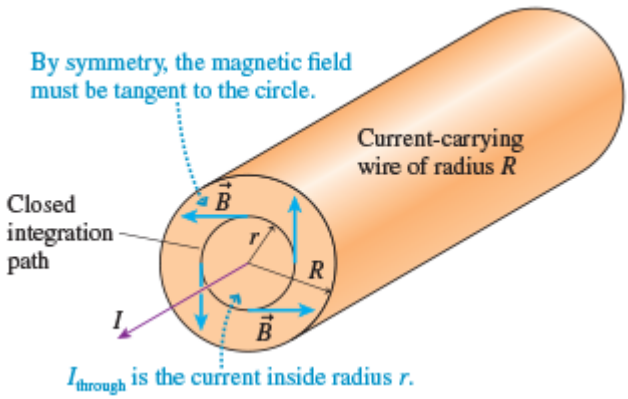
### Example 29.8 The magnetic field inside a current-carrying wire

A wire of radius $R$ carries current $I$. Find the magnetic field *inside* the wire at distance $r < R$ from the axis.

**MODEL** Assume the current density is uniform over the cross section of the wire.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.26 shows a cross section through the wire. The wire has cylindrical symmetry, with all the charges moving parallel to the wire, so the magnetic field *must* be tangent to circles that are concentric with the wire. We don't know how the strength of the magnetic field depends on the distance from the center—that's what we're going to find—but the symmetry of the situation dictates the *shape* of the magnetic field.

**Figure 29.26**




Using Ampère's law inside a current-carrying wire.

**SOLVE** To find the field strength at radius *r*, we draw a circle of radius *r*. The amount of current passing through this circle is

$$I_{\text{through}} = JA_{\text{circle}} = \pi r^2 J$$

where *J* is the current density. Our assumption of a uniform current density allows us to use the full current *I* passing through a wire of radius *R* to find that

$$J = \frac{I}{A} = \frac{I}{\pi R^2}$$

Thus the current through the circle of radius *r* is

$$I_{\text{through}} = \frac{r^2}{R^2} I$$

Let's integrate $\vec{B}$ around the circumference of this circle. According to Ampère's law,

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}} = \frac{\mu_0 r^2}{R^2} I$$

We know from the symmetry of the wire that $\vec{B}$ is everywhere tangent to the circle *and* has the same magnitude at all points on the circle. Consequently, the line integral of $\vec{B}$ around the circle can be evaluated using Option 2 of Tactics Box 29.3:

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = Bl = 2\pi r B$$

where $l = 2\pi r$ is the path length. If we substitute this expression into Ampère's law, we find that

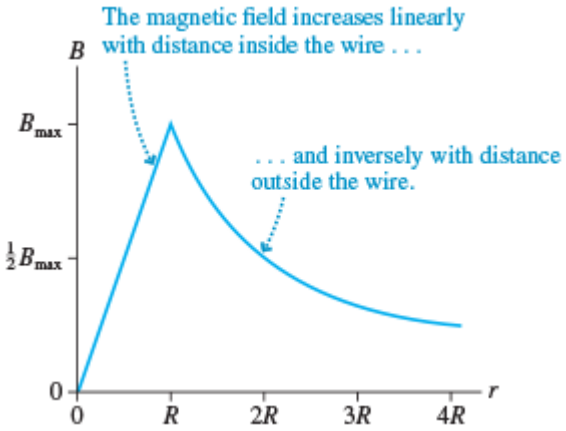
$$2\pi r B = \frac{\mu_0 r^2}{R^2} I$$

Solving for $B$, we find that the magnetic field strength at radius $r$ *inside* a current-carrying wire is

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi R^2} r$$

**ASSESS** The magnetic field *inside* a wire increases linearly with distance from the center until, at the surface of the wire, $B = \mu_0 I / 2\pi R$ matches our earlier solution for the magnetic field *outside* a current-carrying wire. This agreement at $r = R$ gives us confidence in our result. The magnetic field strength both inside and outside the wire is shown graphically in Figure 29.27.

**Figure 29.27**




Graphical representation of the magnetic field of a current-carrying wire.

## The Magnetic Field of a Solenoid

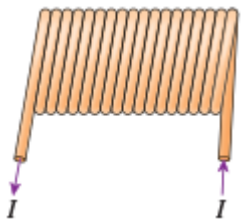
In our study of electricity, we made extensive use of the idea of a uniform electric field: a field that is the same at every point in space. We found that two closely spaced, parallel charged plates generate a uniform

electric field between them, and this was one reason we focused so much attention on the parallel-plate capacitor.

Similarly, there are many applications of magnetism for which we would like to generate a **uniform magnetic field**, a field having the same magnitude and the same direction at every point within some region of space. None of the sources we have looked at thus far produces a uniform magnetic field.

In practice, a uniform magnetic field is generated with a **solenoid**. A solenoid, shown in Figure 29.28, is a helical coil of wire with the same current $I$ passing through each loop in the coil. Solenoids may have hundreds or thousands of coils, often called *turns*, sometimes wrapped in several layers.

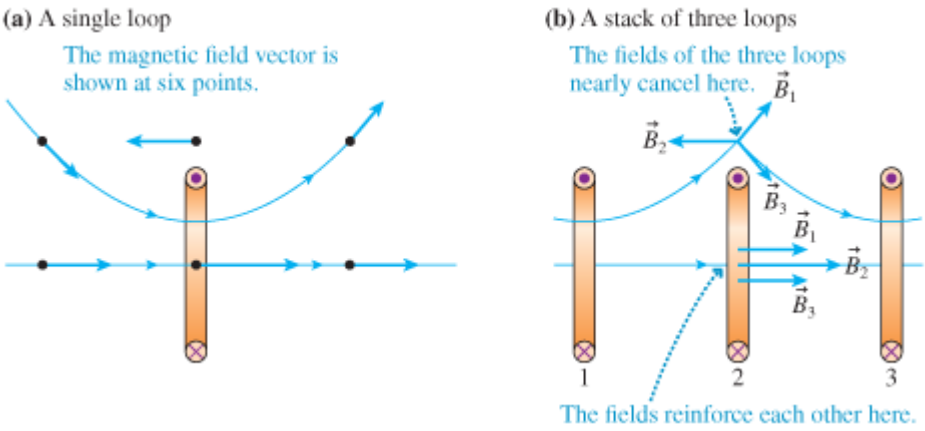
## Figure 29.28




A solenoid.

We can understand a solenoid by thinking of it as a stack of current loops. Figure 29.29a shows the magnetic field of a single current loop at three points on the axis and three points equally distant from the axis. The field directly above the loop is opposite in direction to the field inside the loop. Figure 29.29b then shows three parallel loops. We can use information from Figure 29.29b to draw the magnetic fields of each loop at the center of loop 2 and at a point above loop 2.

## Figure 29.29

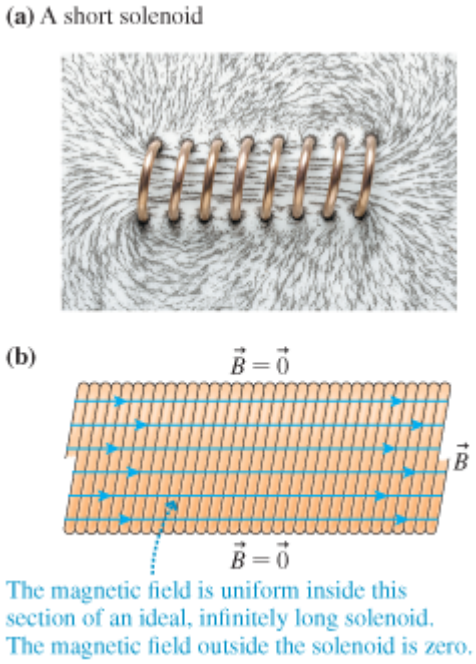



Using superposition to find the magnetic field of a stack of current loops.

The superposition of the three fields at the center of loop 2 produces a *stronger* field than that of loop 2 alone. But the superposition at the point above loop 2 produces a net magnetic field that is very much weaker than the field at the center of the loop. We've used only three current loops to illustrate the idea, but these tendencies are reinforced by including more loops. With many current loops along the same axis, **the field in the center is strong and roughly parallel to the axis, whereas the field outside the loops is very close to zero**.

Figure 29.30a is a photo of the magnetic field of a short solenoid. You can see that the magnetic field inside the coils is nearly uniform (i.e., the field lines are nearly parallel) and the field outside is much weaker. Our goal of producing a uniform magnetic field can be achieved by increasing the number of coils until we have an *ideal solenoid* that is infinitely long and in which the coils are as close together as possible. **As** Figure 29.30b **shows, the magnetic field inside an ideal solenoid is uniform and parallel to the axis; the magnetic field outside is zero**. No real solenoid is ideal, but a very uniform magnetic field can be produced near the center of a tightly wound solenoid whose length is much larger than its diameter.

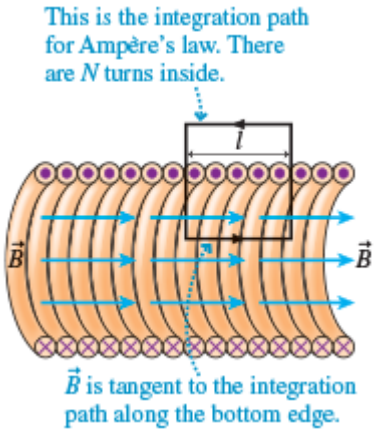
## Figure 29.30




The magnetic field of a solenoid.

We can use Ampère's law to calculate the field of an ideal solenoid. Figure 29.31 on the next page shows a cross section through an infinitely long solenoid. The integration path that we'll use is a rectangle of width $l$, enclosing $N$ turns of the solenoid coil. Because this is a mathematical curve, not a physical boundary, there's no difficulty with letting it protrude through the wall of the solenoid wherever we wish. The solenoid's magnetic field direction, given by the right-hand rule, is left to right, so we'll integrate around this path in the ccw direction.

## Figure 29.31




A closed path inside and outside an ideal solenoid.

---

Each of the $N$ wires enclosed by the integration path carries current $I$, so the total current passing through the rectangle is $I_{\text{through}} = NI$. Ampère's law is thus

**(29.16)**

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}} = \mu_0 NI$$

The line integral around this path is the sum of the line integrals along each side. Along the bottom, where $\vec{B}$ is parallel to $d\vec{s}$ and of constant value $B$, the integral is simply $Bl$. The integral along the top is zero because the magnetic field outside an ideal solenoid is zero.

The left and right sides sample the magnetic field both inside and outside the solenoid. The magnetic field outside is zero, and the interior magnetic field is everywhere *perpendicular* to the line of integration. Consequently, as we recognized in Option 1 of Tactics Box 29.3, the line integral is zero.

Only the integral along the bottom path is nonzero, leading to

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = BI = \mu_0 NI$$

Thus the strength of the uniform magnetic field inside a solenoid is

(29.17)

$$B_{\text{solenoid}} = \frac{\mu_0 NI}{l} = \mu_0 nI \qquad \text{(solenoid)}$$

where $n = N/l$ is the number of turns per unit length. Measurements that need a uniform magnetic field are often conducted inside a solenoid, which can be built quite large.

**Example 29.9 Generating an MRI magnetic field**

A 1.0-m-long MRI solenoid generates a 1.2 T magnetic field. To produce such a large field, the solenoid is wrapped with superconducting wire that can carry a 100 A current. How many turns of wire does the solenoid need?

**MODEL** Assume that the solenoid is ideal.

**SOLVE** Generating a magnetic field with a solenoid is a trade-off between current and turns of wire. A larger current requires fewer

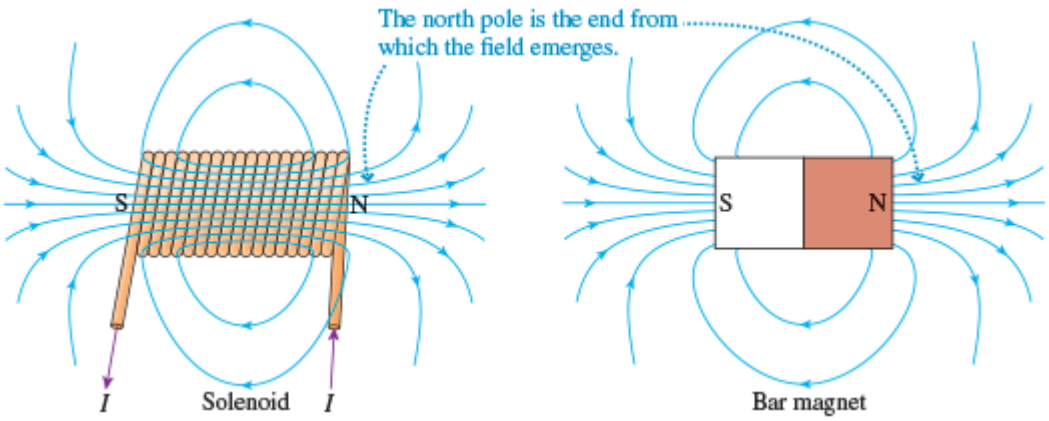
turns, but the resistance of ordinary wires causes them to overheat if the current is too large. For a superconducting wire that can carry 100 A with no resistance, we can use Equation 29.17 to find the required number of turns:

$$N = \frac{lB}{\mu_0 I} = \frac{(1.0\ \text{m})\,(1.2\ \text{T})}{(4\pi \times 10^{-7}\ \text{T m/A})\,(100\ \text{A})} = 9500\ \text{turns}$$

**ASSESS** The solenoid coil requires a large number of turns, but that's not surprising for generating a very strong field. If the wires are 1 mm in diameter, there would be 10 layers with approximately 1000 turns per layer.

The magnetic field of a finite-length solenoid is approximately uniform *inside* the solenoid and weak, but not zero, outside. As Figure 29.32 shows, the magnetic field outside the solenoid looks like that of a bar magnet. Thus **a solenoid is an electromagnet**, and you can use the right-hand rule to identify the north-pole end. A solenoid with many turns and a large current can be a very powerful magnet.

## Figure 29.32




The magnetic fields of a finite-length solenoid and of a bar magnet.

# 29.7 The Magnetic Force on a Moving Charge



It's time to switch our attention from how magnetic fields are generated to how magnetic fields exert forces and torques. Oersted discovered that a current passing through a wire causes a magnetic torque to be exerted on a nearby compass needle. Upon hearing of Oersted's discovery, André-Marie Ampère, for whom the SI unit of current is named, reasoned that the current was acting like a magnet and, if this were true, that two current-carrying wires should exert magnetic forces on each other.

To find out, Ampère set up two parallel wires that could carry large currents either in the same direction or in opposite (or "antiparallel") directions. Figure 29.33 shows the outcome of his experiment. Notice that, for currents, "likes" attract and "opposites" repel. This is the opposite of what would have happened had the wires been charged and thus exerting electric forces on each other. Ampère's experiment showed that **a magnetic field exerts a force on a current**.

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**Figure 29.33**

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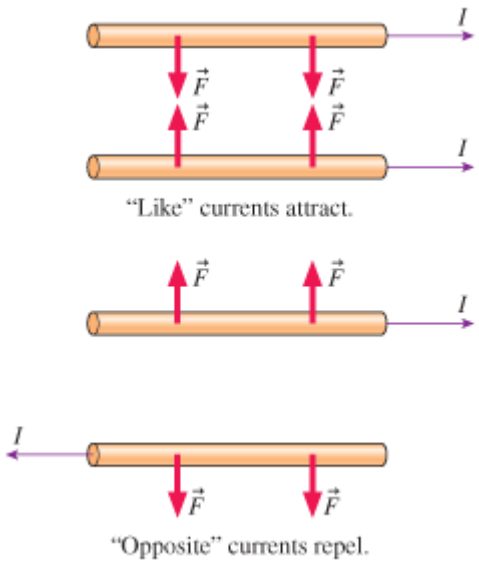
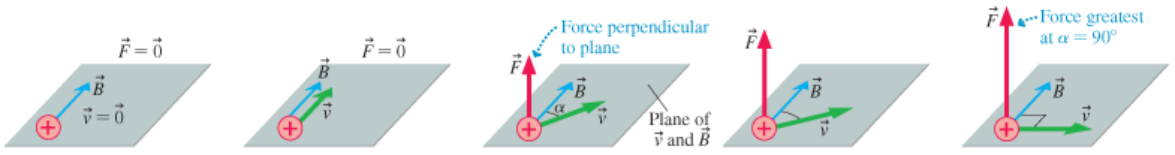



The forces between parallel current-carrying wires.

# Magnetic Force

Because a current consists of moving charges, Ampère's experiment implies that **a magnetic field exerts a force on a *moving* charge.** It turns out that the magnetic force is somewhat more complex than the electric force, depending not only on the charge's velocity but also on how the velocity vector is oriented relative to the magnetic field. Consider the following experiments:

**Investigating the magnetic force on a charged particle**




There is no magnetic force on a charged particle at rest.

There is no magnetic force on a charged particle moving *parallel* to a magnetic field.

As the angle $\alpha$ between the velocity and the magnetic field increases, the magnetic force also increases. The force is greatest when the angle is 90°. The magnetic force is always perpendicular to the plane containing $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{B}$.

Notice that the relationship among $\overrightarrow{v}$, $\overrightarrow{B}$, and $\overrightarrow{F}$ is exactly the same as the geometric relationship among vectors $\overrightarrow{C}$, $\overrightarrow{D}$, and $\overrightarrow{C} \times \overrightarrow{D}$. The

magnetic force on a charge $q$ as it moves through a magnetic field $\vec{B}$ with velocity $\vec{v}$ can be written

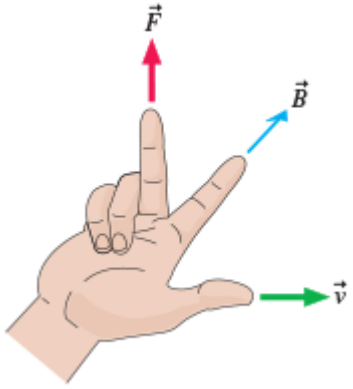
(29.18) 816

$$\vec{F}_{\text{on } q} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B} = (qvB \sin \alpha, \text{ direction of right-hand rule})$$

where $\alpha$ is the angle between $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{B}$.

The right-hand rule is that of the cross product, shown in Figure 29.34. Notice that **the magnetic force on a moving charged particle is perpendicular to both $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{B}$.**

## Figure 29.34




The right-hand rule for magnetic forces.

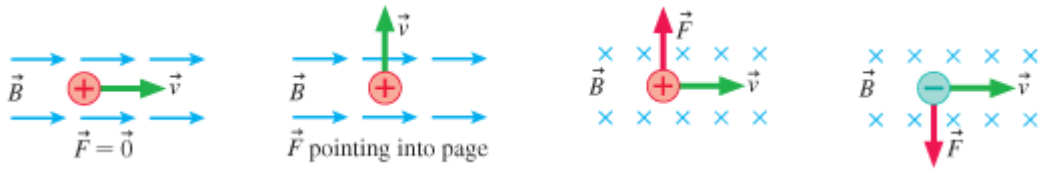
The magnetic force has several important properties:

- Only a *moving* charge experiences a magnetic force. There is no magnetic force on a charge at rest ($\vec{v} = \vec{0}$) in a magnetic field.

- There is no force on a charge moving parallel ($\alpha = 0°$) or antiparallel ($\alpha = 180°$) to a magnetic field.
- When there is a force, the force is perpendicular to *both* $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{B}$.
- The force on a negative charge is in the direction *opposite* to $\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$.
- For a charge moving perpendicular to $\vec{B}$ ($\alpha = 90°$), the magnitude of the magnetic force is $F = |q|\, vB$.

Figure 29.35 shows the relationship among $\vec{v}$, $\vec{B}$, and $\vec{F}$ for four moving charges. (The *source* of the magnetic field isn't shown, only the field itself.) You can see the inherent three-dimensionality of magnetism, with the force perpendicular to both $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{B}$. The magnetic force is very different from the electric force, which is parallel to the electric field.

**Figure 29.35**




Magnetic forces on moving charges.

**Example 29.10 The magnetic force on an electron**

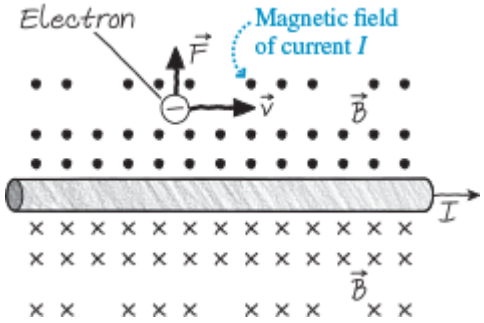
A long wire carries a 10 A current from left to right. An electron 1.0 cm above the wire is traveling to the right at a speed of $1.0 \times 10^7 \text{m/s}$. What are the magnitude and the direction of the magnetic force on the electron?

**MODEL** The magnetic field is that of a long, straight wire.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.36 shows the current and an electron moving to the right. The right-hand rule tells us that the wire's magnetic field above the wire is out of the page, so the electron is moving perpendicular to the field.



**Figure 29.36**




An electron moving parallel to a current-carrying wire.

**SOLVE** The electron charge is negative, thus the direction of the force is opposite the direction of $\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$. The right-hand rule shows that $\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$ points down, toward the wire, so $\vec{F}$ points up, away from the wire. The magnitude of the force is $|q|\,vB = evB$. The field is that of a long, straight wire:

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} = 2.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{T}$$

Thus the magnitude of the force on the electron is

$$\begin{aligned} F = evB &= (1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{C})(1.0 \times 10^{7}\,\text{m/s})(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{T}) \\ &= 3.2 \times 10^{-16}\,\text{N} \end{aligned}$$

The force on the electron is $\vec{F} = (3.2 \times 10^{-16}\,\text{N},\ \text{up})$.

**ASSESS** This force will cause the electron to curve away from the wire.

We can draw an interesting and important conclusion at this point. You have seen that the magnetic field is *created by* moving charges. Now you also see that magnetic forces are *exerted on* moving charges. Thus it appears that **magnetism is an interaction between moving charges**. Any two charges, whether moving or stationary, interact with each other through the electric field. In addition, two *moving* charges interact with each other through the magnetic field.

## Cyclotron Motion

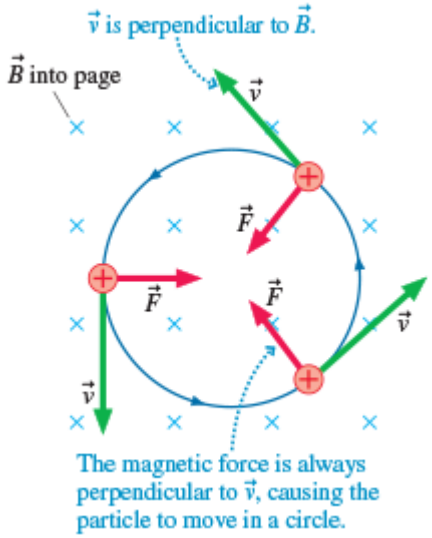
Many important applications of magnetism involve the motion of charged particles in a magnetic field. Older television picture tubes use magnetic fields to steer electrons through a vacuum from the electron gun to the screen. Microwave generators, which are used in applications ranging from ovens to radar, use a device called a *magnetron* in which electrons oscillate rapidly in a magnetic field.

You've just seen that there is no force on a charge that has velocity $\vec{v}$ parallel or antiparallel to a magnetic field. Consequently, **a magnetic field has no effect on a charge moving parallel or antiparallel to the field**. To understand the motion of charged particles in magnetic fields, we need to consider only motion *perpendicular* to the field.

Figure 29.37 shows a positive charge $q$ moving with a velocity $\vec{v}$ in a plane that is perpendicular to a *uniform* magnetic field $\vec{B}$. According to the right-hand rule, the magnetic force on this particle is *perpendicular* to the velocity $\vec{v}$. A force that is always perpendicular to $\vec{v}$ changes the *direction* of motion, by deflecting the particle sideways, but it cannot change the particle's speed. Thus **a particle moving perpendicular to a uniform magnetic field undergoes uniform circular motion at constant**

**speed**. This motion is called the **cyclotron motion** of a charged particle in a magnetic field.

## Figure 29.37




Cyclotron motion of a charged particle moving in a uniform magnetic field.

> **Note**
>
> A negative charge will orbit in the opposite direction from that shown in Figure 29.37 for a positive charge.



You've seen many analogies to cyclotron motion earlier in this text. For a mass moving in a circle at the end of a string, the tension force is always perpendicular to $\vec{v}$. For a satellite moving in a circular orbit, the gravitational force is always perpendicular to $\vec{v}$. Now, for a charged particle moving in a magnetic field, it is the magnetic force of strength $F = qvB$ that points toward the center of the circle and causes the particle to have a centripetal acceleration.

Newton's second law for circular motion, which you learned in Chapter 8, is

**(29.19)**

$$F = qvB = ma_r = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

Thus the radius of the cyclotron orbit is

**(29.20)**

$$r_{\text{cyc}} = \frac{mv}{qB}$$

The inverse dependence on $B$ indicates that the size of the orbit can be decreased by increasing the magnetic field strength.

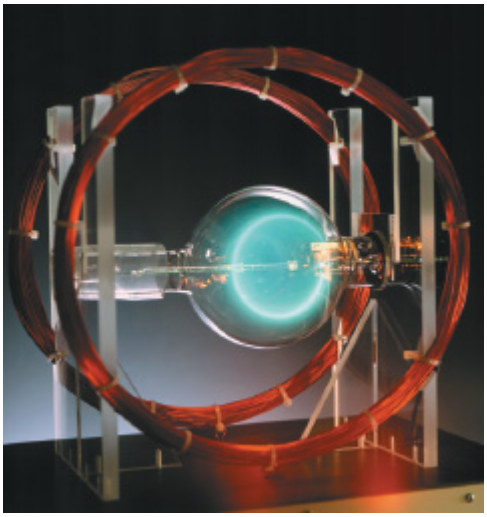
We can also determine the frequency of the cyclotron motion. Recall from your earlier study of circular motion that the frequency of revolution $f$ is related to the speed and radius by $f = v/2\pi r$. A rearrangement of Equation 29.20 gives the **cyclotron frequency:**

---

**(29.21)**

$$f_{\text{cyc}} = \frac{qB}{2\pi m}$$

where the ratio $q/m$ is the particle's *charge-to-mass ratio*. Notice that the cyclotron frequency depends on the charge-to-mass ratio and the magnetic field strength but *not* on the charge's speed.



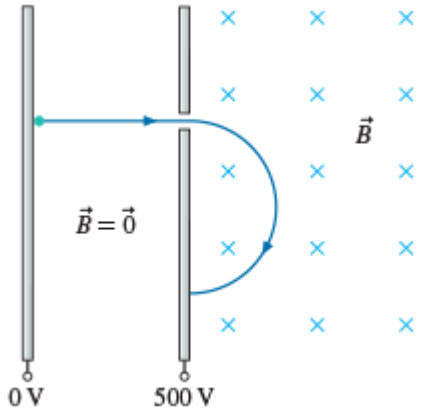
Electrons undergoing circular motion in a magnetic field. You can see the electrons' path because they collide with a low-density gas that then emits light.

### Example 29.11 The radius of cyclotron motion

In Figure 29.38, an electron is accelerated from rest through a potential difference of 500 V, then injected into a uniform magnetic field. Once in the magnetic field, it completes half a revolution in 2.0 ns. What is the radius of its orbit?



#### Figure 29.38




An electron is accelerated, then injected into a magnetic field.

**MODEL** Energy is conserved as the electron is accelerated by the potential difference. The electron then undergoes cyclotron motion in the magnetic field, although it completes only half a revolution before hitting the back of the acceleration electrode.

**SOLVE** The electron accelerates from rest ($v_\text{i} = 0\ \text{m/s}$) at $V_\text{i} = 0\ \text{V}$ to speed $v_\text{f}$ at $V_\text{f} = 500\ \text{V}$. We can use conservation of energy $K_\text{f} + qV_\text{f} = K_\text{i} + qV_\text{i}$ to find the speed $v_\text{f}$ with which it enters the magnetic field:

$$\begin{aligned}
\tfrac{1}{2}mv_\text{f}^2 + (-e)V_\text{f} &= 0 + 0 \\
v_\text{f} = \sqrt{\frac{2eV_\text{f}}{m}} &= \sqrt{\frac{2(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C})(500\ \text{V})}{9.11 \times 10^{-31}\ \text{kg}}} \\
&= 1.33 \times 10^7\ \text{m/s}
\end{aligned}$$

The cyclotron radius in the magnetic field is $r_\text{cyc} = mv/eB$, but we first need to determine the field strength. Were it not for the electrode, the electron would undergo circular motion with period $T = 4.0\ \text{ns}$. Hence the cyclotron frequency is $f = 1/T = 2.5 \times 10^8\ \text{Hz}$. We can use the cyclotron frequency to determine that the magnetic field strength is

$$\begin{aligned}
B = \frac{2\pi m f_\text{cyc}}{e} &= \frac{2\pi(9.11 \times 10^{-31}\ \text{kg})(2.50 \times 10^8\ \text{Hz})}{1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C}} \\
&= 8.94 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{T}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus the radius of the electron's orbit is

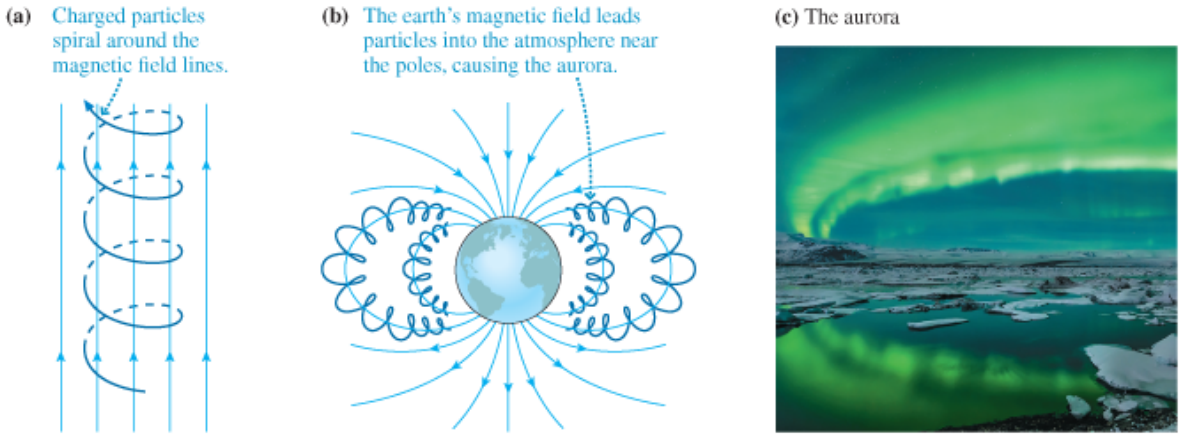
$$r_\text{cyc} = \frac{mv}{qB} = 8.5 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m} = 8.5\ \text{mm}$$

**ASSESS** A 17-mm-diameter orbit is similar to what is seen in the photo just before this example, so this seems to be a typical size for

electrons moving in modest magnetic fields.

Figure 29.39a shows a more general situation in which the charged particle's velocity $\vec{v}$ is neither parallel nor perpendicular to $\vec{B}$. The component of $\vec{v}$ parallel to $\vec{B}$ is not affected by the field, so the charged particle spirals around the magnetic field lines in a helical trajectory. The radius of the helix is determined by $\vec{v}_{\perp}$, the component of $\vec{v}$ perpendicular to $\vec{B}$.

## Figure 29.39




In general, charged particles spiral along helical trajectories around the magnetic field lines. This motion is responsible for the earth's aurora.

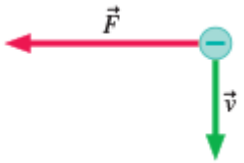
The motion of charged particles in a magnetic field is responsible for the earth's aurora. High-energy particles and radiation streaming out from the sun, called the *solar wind*, create ions and electrons as they strike molecules high in the atmosphere. Some of these charged particles become trapped in the earth's magnetic field, creating what is known as the *Van Allen radiation belt*.

As Figure 29.39b shows, the electrons spiral along the magnetic field lines until the field leads them into the atmosphere. The shape of the

earth's magnetic field is such that most electrons enter the atmosphere near the magnetic poles. There they collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms, exciting the atoms and causing them to emit auroral light, as seen in Figure 29.39c.

### Stop to Think 29.5

An electron moves perpendicular to a magnetic field. What is the direction of $\vec{B}$?




**a.** Left

**b.** Up

**c.** Into the page

**d.** Right

**e.** Down

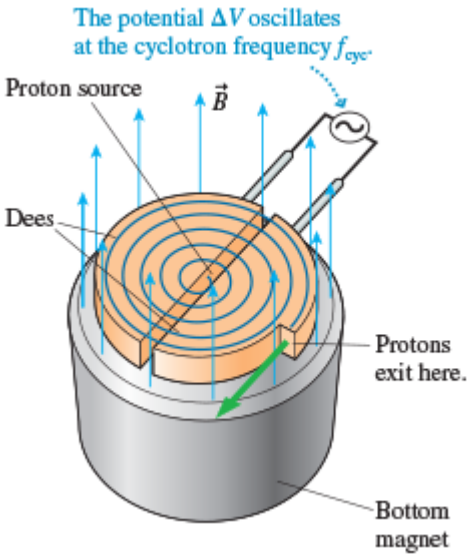
**f.** Out of the page

## The Cyclotron

Physicists studying the structure of the atomic nucleus and of elementary particles usually use a device called a *particle accelerator*. The first practical particle accelerator, invented in the 1930s, was the **cyclotron**. Cyclotrons remain important for many applications of nuclear physics, such as the creation of radioisotopes for medicine.

A cyclotron, shown in Figure 29.40, consists of an evacuated chamber within a large, uniform magnetic field. Inside the chamber are two hollow conductors shaped like the letter D and hence called "dees." The dees are made of copper, which doesn't affect the magnetic field; are open along the straight sides; and are separated by a small gap. A charged particle, typically a proton, is injected into the magnetic field from a source near the center of the cyclotron, and it begins to move in and out of the dees in a circular cyclotron orbit.

## Figure 29.40




A cyclotron.

The cyclotron operates by taking advantage of the fact that the cyclotron frequency $f_{cyc}$ of a charged particle is independent of the particle's speed. An *oscillating* potential difference $\Delta V$ is connected across the dees and adjusted until its frequency is exactly the cyclotron frequency. There is almost no electric field inside the dees (you learned in Chapter 24 that the electric field inside a hollow conductor is zero), but a strong electric field points from the positive to the negative dee in the gap between them.

Suppose the proton emerges into the gap from the positive dee. The electric field in the gap *accelerates* the proton across the gap into the negative dee, and it gains kinetic energy $e\,\Delta V$. A half cycle later, when it next emerges into the gap, the potential of the dees (whose potential difference is oscillating at $f_{\text{cyc}}$) will have changed sign. The proton will *again* be emerging from the positive dee and will *again* accelerate across the gap and gain kinetic energy $e\,\Delta V$.

This pattern will continue orbit after orbit. The proton's kinetic energy increases by $2e\,\Delta V$ every orbit, so after $N$ orbits its kinetic energy is $K = 2Ne\,\Delta V$ (assuming that its initial kinetic energy was near zero). The radius of its orbit increases as it speeds up; hence the proton follows the *spiral* path shown in Figure 29.40 until it finally reaches the outer edge of the dee. It is then directed out of the cyclotron and aimed at a target. Although $\Delta V$ is modest, usually a few hundred volts, the fact that the proton can undergo many thousands of orbits before reaching the outer edge allows it to acquire a very large kinetic energy.

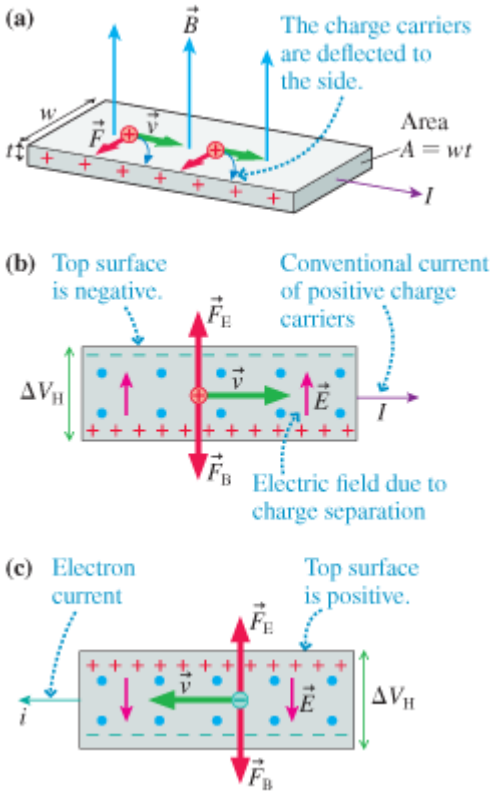
## The Hall Effect

A charged particle moving through a vacuum is deflected sideways, perpendicular to $\vec{v}$, by a magnetic field. In 1879, a graduate student named Edwin Hall showed that the same is true for the charges moving through a conductor as part of a current. This phenomenon—now called the **Hall effect**—is used to gain information about the charge carriers in a conductor. It is also the basis of a widely used technique for measuring magnetic field strengths.

Figure 29.41a shows a magnetic field perpendicular to a flat, current-carrying conductor. You learned in Chapter 27 that the charge carriers

move through a conductor at the drift speed $v_d$. Their motion is perpendicular to $\vec{B}$, so each charge carrier experiences a magnetic force $F_B = ev_dB$ perpendicular to both $\vec{B}$ and the current $I$. However, for the first time we have a situation in which it *does* matter whether the charge carriers are positive or negative.

## Figure 29.41




In a magnetic field, the charge carriers of a current are deflected to one side.

Figure 29.41b, with the field out of the page, shows that positive charge carriers moving in the direction of $I$ are pushed toward the bottom surface of the conductor. This creates an excess positive charge on the bottom surface and leaves an excess negative charge on the top. Figure 29.41c, where the electrons in an electron current $i$ move opposite the direction of $I$, shows that electrons would be pushed toward the bottom surface. (Be sure to use the right-hand rule and the sign of the electron charge to confirm the deflections shown in these figures.) Thus the sign

of the excess charge on the bottom surface is the same as the sign of the charge carriers. Experimentally, the bottom surface is negative when the conductor is a metal, and this is one more piece of evidence that the charge carriers in metals are electrons.

Electrons are deflected toward the bottom surface once the current starts flowing, but the process can't continue indefinitely. As excess charge accumulates on the top and bottom surfaces, it acts like the charge on the plates of a capacitor, creating a potential difference $\Delta V$ between the two surfaces and an electric field $E = \Delta V/w$ *inside* the conductor of width $w$. This electric field increases until the upward electric force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{E}}$ on the charge carriers exactly balances the downward magnetic force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{B}}$. Once the forces are balanced, a steady state is reached in which the charge carriers move in the direction of the current and no additional charge is deflected to the surface.

The steady-state condition, in which $F_{\mathrm{B}} = F_{\mathrm{E}}$, is

**(29.22)**

$$F_{\mathrm{B}} = ev_{\mathrm{d}}B = F_{\mathrm{E}} = eE = e\frac{\Delta V}{w}$$

Thus the steady-state potential difference between the two surfaces of the conductor, which is called the **Hall voltage** $\Delta V_{\mathrm{H}}$, is

**(29.23)**

$$\Delta V_{\mathrm{H}} = wv_{\mathrm{d}}B$$

You learned in Chapter 27 that the drift speed is related to the current density $J$ by $J = nev_{\mathrm{d}}$, where $n$ is the charge-carrier density (charge carriers per $\mathrm{m}^3$). Thus

**(29.24)**

$$v_{\mathrm{d}} = \frac{J}{ne} = \frac{I/A}{ne} = \frac{I}{wtne}$$

where $A = wt$ is the cross-section area of the conductor. If we use this expression for $v_{\mathrm{d}}$ in Equation 29.23, we find that the Hall voltage is

**(29.25)**

$$\Delta V_{\mathrm{H}} = \frac{IB}{tne}$$

The Hall voltage is very small for metals in laboratory-sized magnetic fields, typically in the microvolt range. Even so, measurements of the Hall voltage in a known magnetic field are used to determine the charge-carrier density $n$. Interestingly, the Hall voltage is larger for *poor* conductors that have smaller charge-carrier densities. A laboratory probe for measuring magnetic field strengths, called a *Hall probe*, measures $\Delta V_{\mathrm{H}}$ for a poor conductor whose charge-carrier density is known. The magnetic field is then determined from Equation 29.25.

**Example 29.12 Measuring the magnetic field**

A Hall probe consists of a strip of the metal bismuth that is 0.15 mm thick and 5.0 mm wide. Bismuth is a poor conductor with charge-carrier density $1.35 \times 10^{25}\ \mathrm{m}^{-3}$. The Hall voltage on the probe is 2.5 mV when the current through it is 1.5 A. What is the strength of the magnetic field, and what is the electric field strength inside the bismuth?

**VISUALIZE** The bismuth strip looks like Figure 29.41a. The thickness is $t = 1.5 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{m}$ and the width is $w = 5.0 \times 10^{-3}\,\text{m}$.

**SOLVE** Equation 29.25 gives the Hall voltage. We can rearrange the equation to find that the magnetic field is

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \frac{tne}{I}\Delta V_\text{H} \\ &= \frac{(1.5 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{m})(1.35 \times 10^{25}\,\text{m}^{-3})(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{C})}{1.5\,\text{A}}0.0025\,\text{V} \\ &= 0.54\,\text{T} \end{aligned}$$

The electric field created inside the bismuth by the excess charge on the surface is

$$E = \frac{\Delta V_\text{H}}{w} = \frac{0.0025\,\text{V}}{5.0 \times 10^{-3}\,\text{m}} = 0.50\,\text{V/m}$$

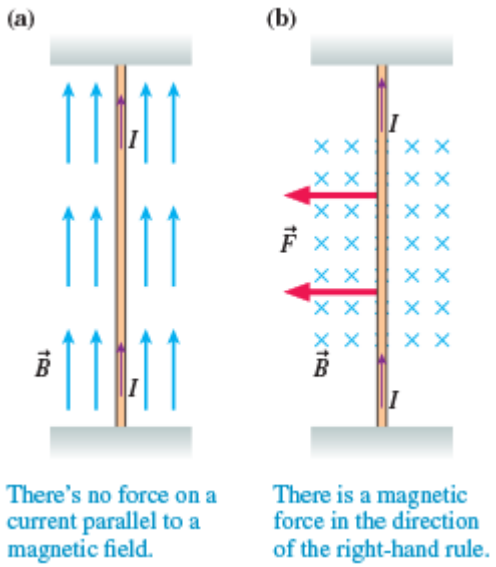
**ASSESS** 0.54 T is a fairly typical strength for a laboratory magnet.

# 29.8 Magnetic Forces on Current-Carrying Wires



Ampère's observation of magnetic forces between current-carrying wires motivated us to look at the magnetic forces on moving charges. We're now ready to apply that knowledge to Ampère's experiment. As a first step, let us find the force exerted by a uniform magnetic field on a long, straight wire carrying current $I$ through the field. As Figure 29.42a shows, there's *no* force on a current-carrying wire *parallel* to a magnetic field. This shouldn't be surprising; it follows from the fact that there is no force on a charged particle moving parallel to $\vec{B}$.

**Figure 29.42**



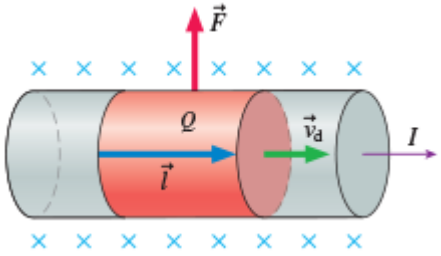

Magnetic force on a current-carrying wire.

Figure 29.42b shows a wire *perpendicular* to the magnetic field. By the right-hand rule, each charge in the current has a force of magnitude $qvB$ directed to the left. Consequently, the entire length of wire within the

magnetic field experiences a force to the left, perpendicular to both the current direction and the field direction.

A current is moving charge, and the magnetic force on a current-carrying wire is simply the net magnetic force on all the charge carriers in the wire. Figure 29.43 shows a wire carrying current $I$ and a segment of length $l$ in which the charge carriers—moving with drift velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{d}}$—have total charge $Q$. Because the magnetic force is proportional to $q$, the *net* force on all the charge carriers in the wire is the force on the net charge: $\vec{F} = Q\vec{v}_{\mathrm{d}} \times \vec{B}$. But we need to express this in terms of the current.

**Figure 29.43**




The force on a current is the force on the charge carriers.

By definition, the current $I$ is the amount of charge $Q$ divided by the time $t$ it takes the charge to flow through this segment: $I = Q/t$. The charge carriers have drift speed $v_{\mathrm{d}}$, so they move distance $l$ in $t = l/v_{\mathrm{d}}$. Combining these equations, we have

$$I = \frac{Qv_{\mathrm{d}}}{l}$$

and thus $Qv_{\mathrm{d}} = Il$. If we define vector $\vec{l}$ to point in the direction of $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{d}}$, the current direction, then $Q\vec{v}_{\mathrm{d}} = I\vec{l}$. Substituting $I\vec{l}$ for $Q\vec{v}_{\mathrm{d}}$ in the force equation, we find that the magnetic force on length $l$ of a current-carrying wire is

(29.26)

$$\vec{F}_{\text{wire}} = I\vec{l} \times \vec{B} = (IlB \sin \alpha, \text{direction of right-hand rule})$$

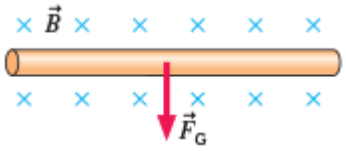
where $\alpha$ is the angle between $\vec{l}$ (the direction of the current) and $\vec{B}$. As an aside, you can see from Equation 29.26 that the magnetic field $B$ must have units of N/A m. This is why we defined $1\,\text{T} = 1\,\text{N/A m}$ in Section 29.3.

> **Note**
>
> The familiar right-hand rule applies to a current-carrying wire. Point your right thumb in the direction of the current (parallel to $\vec{l}$) and your index finger in the direction of $\vec{B}$. Your middle finger is then pointing in the direction of the force $\vec{F}$ on the wire.

**Example 29.13 Magnetic levitation**

The 0.10 T uniform magnetic field of Figure 29.44 is horizontal, parallel to the floor. A straight segment of 1.0-mm-diameter copper wire, also parallel to the floor, is perpendicular to the magnetic field. What current through the wire, and in which direction, will allow the wire to "float" in the magnetic field?

**Figure 29.44**



**MODEL** The wire will float in the magnetic field if the magnetic force on the wire points upward and has magnitude $mg$, allowing it to balance the downward gravitational force.

**SOLVE** We can use the right-hand rule to determine which current direction experiences an upward force. With $\vec{B}$ pointing away from us, the direction of the current needs to be from left to right. The forces will balance when

$$F = IlB = mg = \rho\left(\pi r^2 l\right) g$$

where $\rho = 8920\ \text{kg/m}^3$ is the density of copper. The length of the wire cancels, leading to

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \frac{\rho \pi r^2 g}{B} = \frac{(8920\ \text{kg/m}^3)\pi(0.00050\ \text{m})^2(9.80\ \text{m/s}^2)}{0.10\ \text{T}} \\ &= 0.69\ \text{A} \end{aligned}$$

A 0.69 A current from left to right will levitate the wire in the magnetic field.

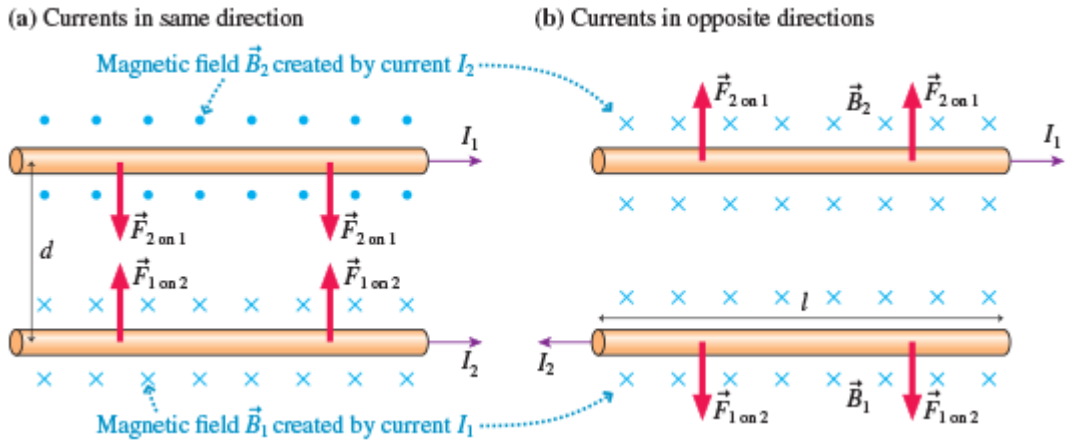
**ASSESS** A 0.69 A current is quite reasonable, but this idea is useful only if we can get the current into and out of this segment of wire. In practice, we could do so with wires that come in from below the page. These input and output wires would be parallel to $\vec{B}$ and not experience a magnetic force. Although this example is very simple, it is the basis for applications such as magnetic levitation trains.

# Force Between Two Parallel Wires

Now consider Ampère's experimental arrangement of two parallel wires of length $l$, distance $d$ apart. Figure 29.45a on the next page shows the currents $I_1$ and $I_2$ in the same direction; Figure 29.45b shows the currents in opposite directions. We will assume that the wires are sufficiently long to allow us to use the earlier result for the magnetic field of a long, straight wire: $B = \mu_0 I/2\pi r$.



## Figure 29.45




Magnetic forces between parallel current-carrying wires.

As Figure 29.45a shows, the current $I_2$ in the lower wire creates a magnetic field $\vec{B}_2$ at the position of the upper wire. $\vec{B}_2$ points out of the page, perpendicular to current $I_1$. **It is field $\vec{B}_2$, due to the lower wire, that exerts a magnetic force on the upper wire**. Using the right-hand rule, you can see that the force on the upper wire is downward, thus attracting it toward the lower wire. The field of the lower current is not a uniform field, but it is the *same* at all points along the upper wire because the two wires are parallel. Consequently, we can use the field of a long, straight wire, with $r = d$, to determine the magnetic force exerted by the lower wire on the upper wire:

(29.27)

$$F_{\text{parallel wires}} = I_1 l\, B_2 = I_1 l\, \frac{\mu_0 I_2}{2\pi d} = \frac{\mu_0 l\, I_1 I_2}{2\pi d}$$

As an exercise, you should convince yourself that the current in the upper wire exerts an upward-directed magnetic force on the lower wire with exactly the same magnitude. You should also convince yourself, using the right-hand rule, that the forces are repulsive and tend to push the wires apart if the two currents are in opposite directions.

Thus two parallel wires exert equal but opposite forces on each other, as required by Newton's third law. **Parallel wires carrying currents in the same direction attract each other; parallel wires carrying currents in opposite directions repel each other.**

### Example 29.14 A current balance

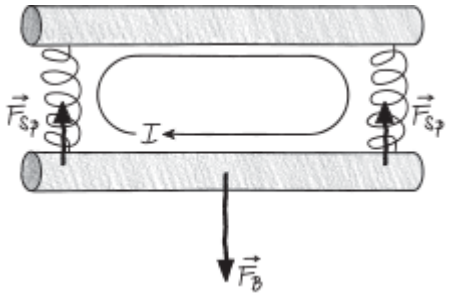
Two stiff, 50-cm-long, parallel wires are connected at the ends by metal springs. Each spring has an unstretched length of 5.0 cm and a spring constant of 0.025 N/m. The wires push each other apart when a current travels around the loop. How much current is required to stretch the springs to lengths of 6.0 cm?

**MODEL** Two parallel wires carrying currents in opposite directions exert repulsive magnetic forces on each other.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.46 shows the "circuit." The springs are conductors, allowing a current to travel around the loop. In

equilibrium, the repulsive magnetic forces between the wires are balanced by the restoring forces $F_{\text{Sp}} = k\,\Delta y$ of the springs.

**Figure 29.46**




The current-carrying wires of Example 29.14.

**SOLVE** Figure 29.46 shows the forces on the lower wire. The net force is zero, hence the magnetic force is $F_{\text{B}} = 2F_{\text{Sp}}$. The force between the wires is given by Equation 29.27 with $I_1 = I_2 = I$:

$$F_{\text{B}} = \frac{\mu_0 l I^2}{2\pi d} = 2F_{\text{Sp}} = 2k\,\Delta y$$

where $k$ is the spring constant and $\Delta y = 1.0$ cm is the amount by which each spring stretches. Solving for the current, we find

$$I = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi k d\,\Delta y}{\mu_0 l}} = 17\ \text{A}$$

**ASSESS** Devices in which a magnetic force balances a mechanical force are called *current balances.* They can be used to make very accurate current measurements.

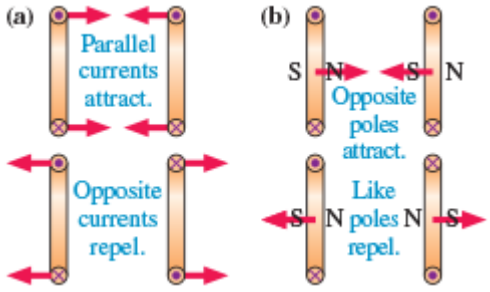
# 29.9 Forces and Torques on Current Loops



You have seen that a current loop is a magnetic dipole, much like a permanent magnet. We will now look at some important features of how current loops behave in magnetic fields. This discussion will be largely qualitative, but it will highlight some of the important properties of magnets and magnetic fields. We will use these ideas in the next section to make the connection between electromagnets and permanent magnets.

Figure 29.47a shows two current loops. Using what we just learned about the forces between parallel and antiparallel currents, you can see that **parallel current loops exert attractive magnetic forces on each other if the currents circulate in the same direction; they repel each other when the currents circulate in opposite directions**.

**Figure 29.47**




Two alternative but equivalent ways to view magnetic forces.

We can think of these forces in terms of magnetic poles. Recall that the north pole of a current loop is the side from which the magnetic field

emerges, which you can determine with the right-hand rule. Figure 29.47b shows the north and south magnetic poles of the current loops. When the currents circulate in the same direction, a north and a south pole face each other and exert attractive forces on each other. When the currents circulate in opposite directions, the two like poles repel each other.

Here, at last, we have a real connection to the behavior of magnets that opened our discussion of magnetism—namely, that like poles repel and opposite poles attract. Now we have an *explanation* for this behavior, at least for electromagnets. **Magnetic poles attract or repel because the moving charges in one current exert attractive or repulsive magnetic forces on the moving charges in the other current**. Our tour through interacting moving charges is finally starting to show some practical results!

Now let's consider what happens to a current loop in a magnetic field. Figure 29.48 shows a square current loop in a uniform magnetic field along the *z*-axis. As we've learned, the field exerts magnetic forces on the currents in each of the four sides of the loop. Their directions are given by the right-hand rule. Forces $\vec{F}_{\text{front}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{back}}$ are opposite to each other and cancel. Forces $\vec{F}_{\text{top}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{bottom}}$ also add to give no net force, but because $\vec{F}_{\text{top}}$ and $\vec{F}_{\text{bottom}}$ don't act along the same line they will *rotate* the loop by exerting a torque on it.

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**Figure 29.48**

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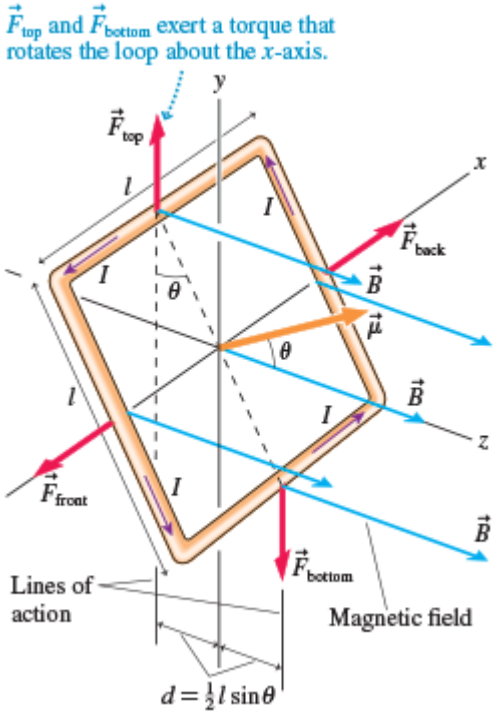



A uniform magnetic field exerts a torque on a current loop.

Recall that torque is the magnitude of the force $F$ multiplied by the moment arm $d$, the distance between the pivot point and the line of action. Both forces have the same moment arm $d = \frac{1}{2} l \sin\theta$, hence the torque on the loop—a torque exerted by the magnetic field—is

**(29.28)**

$$\tau = 2Fd = 2(IlB)\left(\tfrac{1}{2} l \sin\theta\right) = (Il^2)B\sin\theta = \mu B \sin\theta$$

where $\mu = Il^2 = IA$ is the loop's magnetic dipole moment.

Although we derived Equation 29.28 for a square loop, the result is valid for a current loop of any shape. Notice that Equation 29.28 looks like another example of a cross product. We earlier defined the magnetic dipole moment vector $\vec{\mu}$ to be a vector perpendicular to the current loop in a direction given by the right-hand rule. Figure 29.48 shows that $\theta$ is the angle between $\vec{B}$ and $\vec{\mu}$, hence the torque on a magnetic dipole is

(29.29)

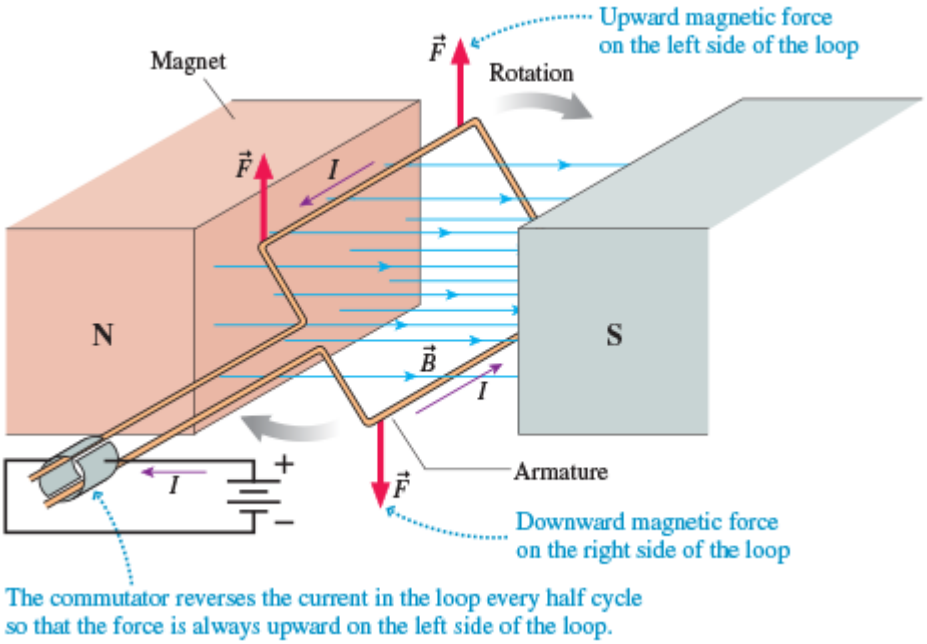
$$\vec{\tau} = \vec{\mu} \times \vec{B}$$

The torque is zero when the magnetic dipole moment $\vec{\mu}$ is aligned parallel or antiparallel to the magnetic field, and is maximum when $\vec{\mu}$ is perpendicular to the field. It is this magnetic torque that causes a compass needle—a magnetic moment—to rotate until it is aligned with the magnetic field.

## An Electric Motor

The torque on a current loop in a magnetic field is the basis for how an electric motor works. As Figure 29.49 on the next page shows, the *armature* of a motor is a coil of wire wound on an axle. When a current passes through the coil, the magnetic field exerts a torque on the armature and causes it to rotate. If the current were steady, the armature would oscillate back and forth around the equilibrium position until (assuming there's some friction or damping) it stopped with the plane of the coil perpendicular to the field. To keep the motor turning, a device called a *commutator* reverses the current direction in the coils every 180°. (Notice that the commutator is split, so the positive terminal of the battery sends current into whichever wire touches the right half of the commutator.) The current reversal prevents the armature from ever reaching an equilibrium position, so the magnetic torque keeps the motor spinning as long as there is a current.

**Figure 29.49**




A simple electric motor.

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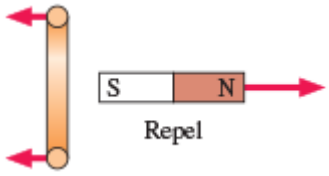
## Stop to Think 29.6

What is the current direction in the loop?

**a.** Out of the page at the top of the loop, into the page at the bottom

**b.** Out of the page at the bottom of the loop, into the page at the top



# 29.10 Magnetic Properties of Matter

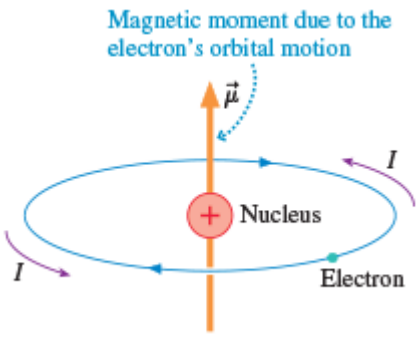


Our theory has focused mostly on the magnetic properties of currents, yet our everyday experience is mostly with permanent magnets. We have seen that current loops and solenoids have magnetic poles and exhibit behaviors like those of permanent magnets, but we still lack a specific connection between electromagnets and permanent magnets. The goal of this section is to complete our understanding by developing an atomic-level view of the magnetic properties of matter.

## Atomic Magnets

A plausible explanation for the magnetic properties of materials is the orbital motion of the atomic electrons. Figure 29.50 shows a simple, classical model of an atom in which a negative electron orbits a positive nucleus. In this picture of the atom, the electron's motion is that of a current loop! It is a microscopic current loop, to be sure, but a current loop nonetheless. Consequently, an orbiting electron acts as a tiny magnetic dipole, with a north pole and a south pole. You can think of the magnetic dipole as an atomic-size magnet.

**Figure 29.50**



However, the atoms of most elements contain many electrons. Unlike the solar system, where all of the planets orbit in the same direction, electron orbits are arranged to oppose each other: one electron moves counterclockwise for every electron that moves clockwise. Thus the magnetic moments of individual orbits tend to cancel each other and the *net* magnetic moment is either zero or very small.

The cancellation continues as the atoms are joined into molecules and the molecules into solids. When all is said and done, the net magnetic moment of any bulk matter due to the orbiting electrons is so small as to be negligible. There are various subtle magnetic effects that can be observed under laboratory conditions, but orbiting electrons cannot explain the very strong magnetic effects of a piece of iron.

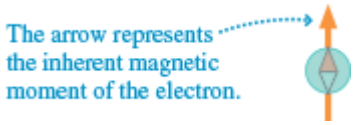
## The Electron Spin

The key to understanding atomic magnetism was the 1922 discovery that electrons have an *inherent magnetic moment*. Perhaps this shouldn't be surprising. An electron has a *mass*, which allows it to interact with gravitational fields, and a *charge*, which allows it to interact with electric fields. There's no reason an electron shouldn't also interact with magnetic fields, and to do so it comes with a magnetic moment.

An electron's inherent magnetic moment, shown in Figure 29.51, is often called the electron *spin* because, in a classical picture, a spinning ball of charge would have a magnetic moment. This classical picture is not a realistic portrayal of how the electron really behaves, but its inherent magnetic moment makes it seem *as if* the electron were

spinning. While it may not be spinning in a literal sense, an electron really is a microscopic magnet.

## Figure 29.51

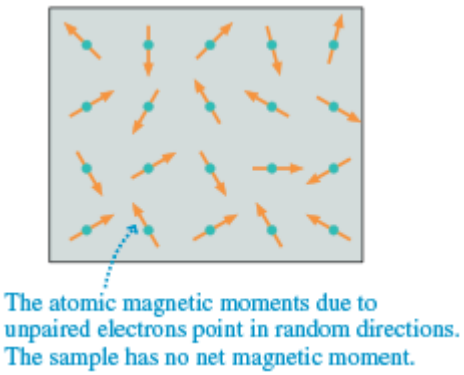



Magnetic moment of the electron.

We must appeal to the results of quantum physics to find out what happens in an atom with many electrons. The spin magnetic moments, like the orbital magnetic moments, tend to oppose each other as the electrons are placed into their shells, causing the net magnetic moment of a *filled* shell to be zero. However, atoms containing an odd number of electrons must have at least one valence electron with an unpaired spin. These atoms have a net magnetic moment due to the electron's spin.

But atoms with magnetic moments don't necessarily form a solid with magnetic properties. For most elements, the magnetic moments of the atoms are randomly arranged when the atoms join together to form a solid. As Figure 29.52 shows, this random arrangement produces a solid whose net magnetic moment is very close to zero. This agrees with our common experience that most materials are not magnetic.

## Figure 29.52



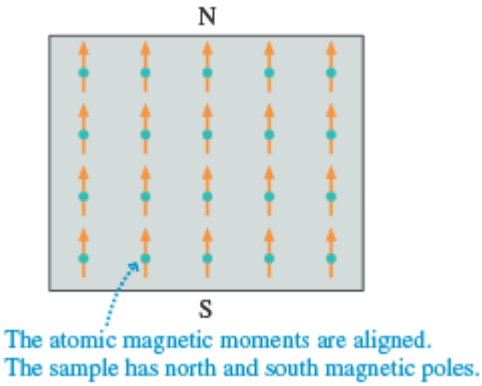

The random magnetic moments of the atoms in a typical solid.

## Ferromagnetism

It happens that in iron, and a few other substances, the spins interact with each other in such a way that atomic magnetic moments tend to all line up in the *same* direction, as shown in Figure 29.53. Materials that behave in this fashion are called **ferromagnetic**, with the prefix *ferro* meaning "iron-like."



### Figure 29.53

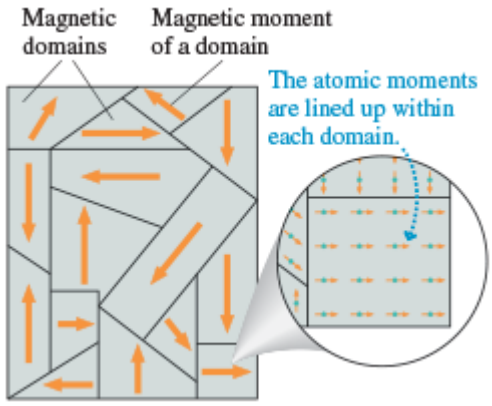



In a ferromagnetic material, the atomic magnetic moments are aligned.

In ferromagnetic materials, the individual magnetic moments add together to create a *macroscopic* magnetic dipole. The material has a north and a south magnetic pole, generates a magnetic field, and aligns parallel to an external magnetic field. In other words, it is a magnet!

Although iron is a magnetic material, a typical piece of iron is not a strong permanent magnet. You need not worry that a steel nail, which is mostly iron and is easily lifted with a magnet, will leap from your hands and pin itself against the hammer because of its own magnetism. It turns out, as shown in Figure 29.54 on the next page, that a piece of iron is divided into small regions, typically less than 100 $\mu$m in size, called **magnetic domains**. The magnetic moments of all the iron atoms within each domain are perfectly aligned, so each individual domain, like Figure 29.53, is a strong magnet.

### Figure 29.54




Magnetic domains in a ferromagnetic material. The net magnetic dipole is nearly zero.

However, the various magnetic domains that form a larger solid, such as you might hold in your hand, are randomly arranged. Their magnetic dipoles largely cancel, much like the cancellation that occurs on the atomic scale for nonferromagnetic substances, so the solid as a whole has only a small magnetic moment. That is why the nail is not a strong permanent magnet.

## Induced Magnetic Dipoles

If a ferromagnetic substance is subjected to an *external* magnetic field, the external field exerts a torque on the magnetic dipole of each domain. The torque causes many of the domains to rotate and become aligned with the external field, just as a compass needle aligns with a magnetic field, although internal forces between the domains generally prevent the alignment from being perfect. In addition, atomic-level forces between the spins can cause the *domain boundaries* to move. Domains that are aligned along the external field become larger at the expense of domains that are opposed to the field. These changes in the size and orientation of the domains cause the material to develop a *net magnetic dipole* that is aligned with the external field. This magnetic dipole has been *induced* by the external field, so it is called an **induced magnetic dipole**.

> **Note**
>
> The induced magnetic dipole is analogous to the polarization forces and induced electric dipoles that you studied in Chapter 23.

Figure 29.55 shows a ferromagnetic material near the end of a solenoid. The magnetic moments of the domains align with the solenoid's field, creating an induced magnetic dipole whose south pole faces the solenoid's north pole. Consequently, the magnetic force between the poles pulls the ferromagnetic object to the electromagnet.



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**Figure 29.55**

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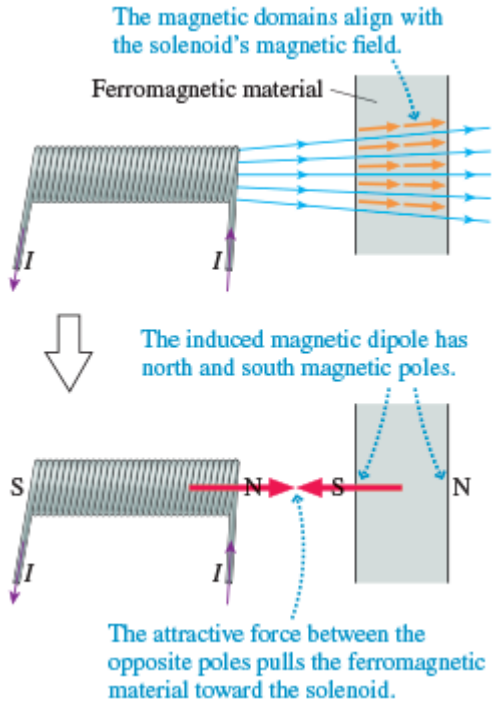



The magnetic field of the solenoid creates an induced magnetic dipole in the iron.

---

The fact that a magnet attracts and picks up ferromagnetic objects was one of the basic observations about magnetism with which we started the chapter. Now we have an *explanation* of how it works, based on three ideas:

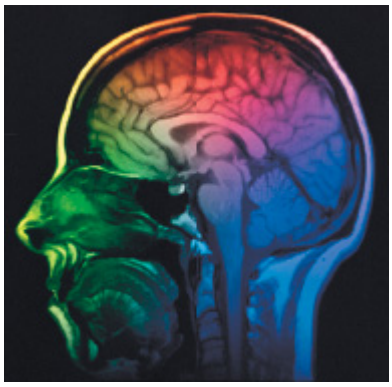
1. Electrons are microscopic magnets due to their spin.
2. A ferromagnetic material in which the spins are aligned is organized into magnetic domains.
3. The individual domains align with an external magnetic field to produce an induced magnetic dipole moment for the entire object.

The object's magnetic dipole may not return to zero when the external field is removed because some domains remain "frozen" in the alignment they had in the external field. Thus a ferromagnetic object that has been in an external field may be left with a net magnetic dipole moment after the field is removed. In other words, the object has become a **permanent**

**magnet**. A permanent magnet is simply a ferromagnetic material in which a majority of the magnetic domains are aligned with each other to produce a net magnetic dipole moment.

Whether or not a ferromagnetic material can be made into a permanent magnet depends on the internal crystalline structure of the material. *Steel* is an alloy of iron with other elements. An alloy of mostly iron with the right percentages of chromium and nickel produces *stainless steel*, which has virtually no magnetic properties at all because its particular crystalline structure is not conducive to the formation of domains. A very different steel alloy called Alnico V is made with 51% iron, 24% cobalt, 14% nickel, 8% aluminum, and 3% copper. It has extremely prominent magnetic properties and is used to make high-quality permanent magnets.

So we've come full circle. One of our initial observations about magnetism was that a permanent magnet can exert forces on some materials but not others. The *theory* of magnetism that we then proceeded to develop was about the interactions between moving charges. What moving charges had to do with permanent magnets was not obvious. But finally, by considering magnetic effects at the atomic level, we found that properties of permanent magnets and magnetic materials can be traced to the interactions of vast numbers of electron spins.

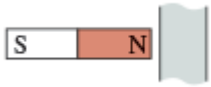


Magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, uses the magnetic properties of atoms as a noninvasive probe of the human body.

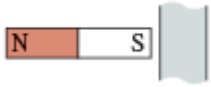
## Stop to Think 29.7

Which magnet or magnets induced this magnetic dipole?

**a.**

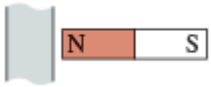



**b.**




**c.**

**d.**

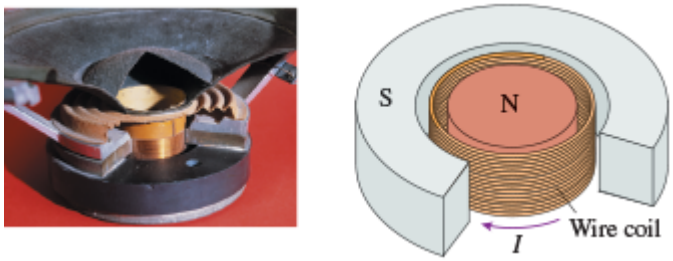



### Challenge Example 29.15 Designing a loudspeaker

A loudspeaker consists of a paper cone wrapped at the bottom with several turns of fine wire. As Figure 29.56 shows, this coil sits in a narrow gap between the poles of a circular magnet. To produce sound, the amplifier drives a current through the coil. The magnetic field then exerts a force on this current, pushing the cone and thus

pushing the air to create a sound wave. An ideal speaker would experience only forces from the magnetic field, thus responding only to the current from the amplifier. Real speakers are balanced so as to come close to this ideal unless driven very hard.

### Figure 29.56



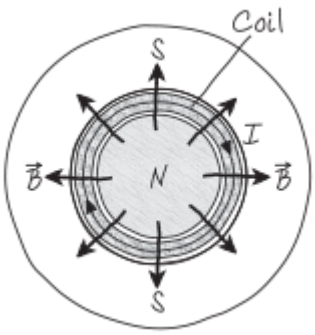

The coil and magnet of a loudspeaker.

Consider a 5.5 g loudspeaker cone with a 5.0-cm-diameter, 20-turn coil having a resistance of 8.0 Ω. There is a 0.18 T field in the gap between the poles. These values are typical of the loudspeakers found in car stereo systems. What is the oscillation amplitude of this speaker if driven by a 100 Hz oscillatory voltage from the amplifier with a peak value of 12 V?

**MODEL** Model the loudspeaker as ideal, responding only to magnetic forces. These forces cause the cone to accelerate. We'll use kinematics to relate the acceleration to the displacement.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 29.57 shows the coil in the gap between the magnet poles. Magnetic fields go from north to south poles, so the field is radially outward. Consequently, the field at all points is perpendicular to the circular current. According to the right-hand rule, the magnetic force on the current is into or out of the page, depending on whether the current is counterclockwise or clockwise, respectively.

## Figure 29.57




The magnetic field in the gap, from north to south, is perpendicular to the current.

**SOLVE** We can write the output voltage of the amplifier as $\Delta V = V_0 \cos \omega t$, where $V_0 = 12$ V is the peak voltage and $\omega = 2\pi f = 628$ rad/s is the angular frequency at 100 Hz. The voltage drives current

$$I = \frac{\Delta V}{R} = \frac{V_0 \cos \omega t}{R}$$

through the coil, where R is the coil's resistance. This causes the oscillating in-and-out force that drives the speaker cone back and forth. Even though the coil isn't a straight wire, the fact that the magnetic field is everywhere perpendicular to the current means that we can calculate the magnetic force as $F = IlB$ where $l$ is the total length of the wire in the coil. The circumference of the coil is $\pi\,(0.050\text{ m}) = 0.157$ m so 20 turns gives $l = 3.1$ m. The cone responds to the force by accelerating with $a = F/m$. Combining these pieces, we find the cone's acceleration is

$$a = \frac{IlB}{m} = \frac{V_0 lB \cos \omega t}{mR} = a_{\max} \cos \omega t$$

It is straightforward to evaluate $a_{\max} = 152\text{ m/s}^2$.

From kinematics, $a = dv/dt$ and $v = dx/dt$. We need to integrate twice to find the displacement. First,

$$v = \int a\,dt = a_{\max} \int \cos\,\omega t\,dt = \frac{a_{\max}}{\omega}\,\sin\,\omega t$$

The integration constant is zero because we know, from simple harmonic motion, that the average velocity is zero. Integrating again, we get

$$x = \int v\,dt = \frac{a_{\max}}{\omega} \int \sin\,\omega t\,dt = -\frac{a_{\max}}{\omega^2}\cos\,\omega t$$

where the integration constant is again zero if we assume the oscillation takes place around the origin. The minus sign tells us that the displacement and acceleration are out of phase. The *amplitude* of the oscillation, which we seek, is

$$A = \frac{a_{\max}}{\omega^2} = \frac{152\ \text{m/s}^2}{(628\ \text{rad/s})^2} = 3.8 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m} = 0.38\ \text{mm}$$

**ASSESS** If you've ever placed your hand on a loudspeaker cone, you know that you can feel a slight vibration. An amplitude of 0.38 mm is consistent with this observation. The fact that the amplitude increases with the inverse square of the frequency explains why you can sometimes *see* the cone vibrating with an amplitude of several millimeters for low-frequency bass notes.

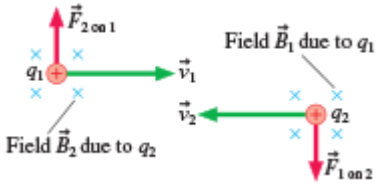
# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 29 has been to learn about magnetism and the magnetic field.

## General Principles

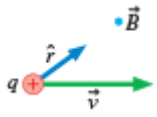
At its most fundamental level, **magnetism** is an interaction between moving charges. The magnetic field of one moving charge exerts a force on another moving charge.




### Magnetic Fields

The **Biot-Savart law** for a moving point charge

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q\vec{v} \times \hat{r}}{r^2}$$




#### Magnetic field of a current

**MODEL** Model wires as simple shapes.

**VISUALIZE** Divide the wire into short segments.

**SOLVE** Use superposition:

- Find the field of each segment $\Delta s$.
- Find $\vec{B}$ by summing the fields of all $\Delta s$, usually as an integral.

An alternative method for fields with a high degree of symmetry is **Ampère's law**:

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}}$$

where $I_{\text{through}}$ is the current through the area bounded by the integration path.

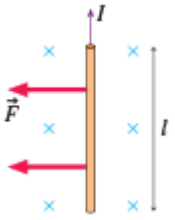
## Magnetic Forces

The magnetic force on a moving charge is

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

The force is perpendicular to $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{B}$.

The magnetic force on a current-carrying wire is

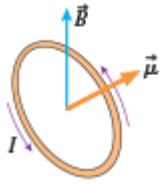


$$\overrightarrow{F} = I\overrightarrow{l} \times \overrightarrow{B}$$

$\overrightarrow{F} = \overrightarrow{0}$ for a charge or current moving parallel to $\overrightarrow{B}$.

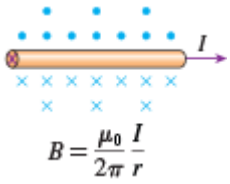
The magnetic torque on a magnetic dipole is

$$\overrightarrow{\tau} = \overrightarrow{\mu} \times \overrightarrow{B}$$

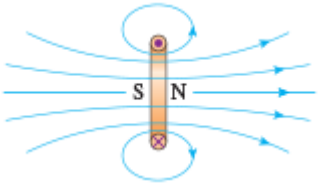



# Applications

**Wire**

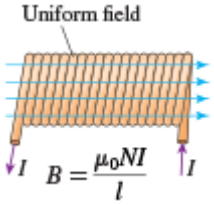



**Loop**

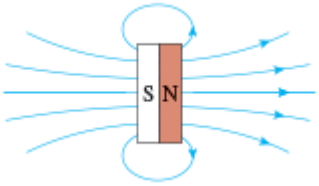



$$B_{\text{center}} = \frac{\mu_0}{2}\frac{NI}{R}$$

**Solenoid**




**Flat magnet**

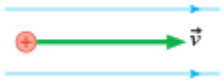



## Right-hand rule

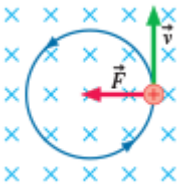
Point your right thumb in the direction of $I$. Your fingers curl in the direction of $\overrightarrow{B}$. For a dipole, $\overrightarrow{B}$ emerges from the side that is the north pole.

## Charged-particle motion

No force if $\overrightarrow{v}$ is parallel to $\overrightarrow{B}$



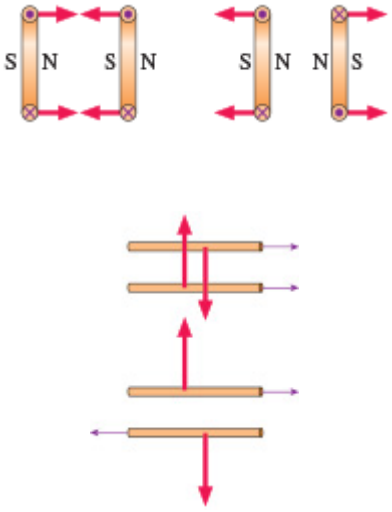

Circular motion at the cyclotron frequency $f_{\text{cyc}} = qB/2\pi m$ if $\overrightarrow{v}$ is perpendicular to $\overrightarrow{B}$




## Parallel wires and current loops

Parallel currents attract.

Opposite currents repel.




## Terms and Notation



north pole

south pole

magnetic dipole

magnetic material

right-hand rule

magnetic field, $\vec{B}$

magnetic field lines

Biot-Savart law

tesla, T

permeability constant, $\mu_0$

cross product

current loop

electromagnet

magnetic dipole moment, $\vec{\mu}$

line integral

Ampère's law

uniform magnetic field

solenoid

cyclotron motion

cyclotron frequency, $f_{\text{cyc}}$

cyclotron

Hall effect

Hall voltage, $\Delta V_{\text{H}}$

ferromagnetic

magnetic domain

induced magnetic dipole

permanent magnet

# Conceptual Questions

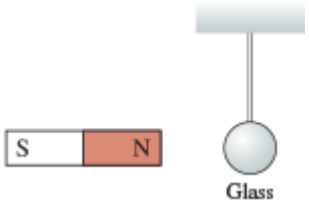


**1.** The lightweight glass sphere in Figure Q29.1 hangs by a thread. The north pole of a bar magnet is brought near the sphere.

**a.** Suppose the sphere is electrically neutral. Is it attracted to, repelled by, or not affected by the magnet? Explain.

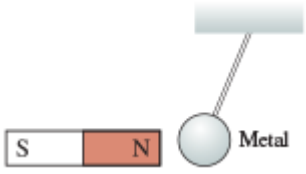
**b.** Answer the same question if the sphere is positively charged.

**Figure Q29.1**




**2.** The metal sphere in Figure Q29.2 hangs by a thread. When the north pole of a magnet is brought near, the sphere is strongly attracted to the magnet. Then the magnet is reversed and its south pole is brought near the sphere. How does the sphere respond? Explain.

**Figure Q29.2**

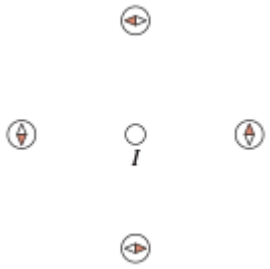



**3.** You have two electrically neutral metal cylinders that exert strong attractive forces on each other. You have no other metal objects.

Can you determine if *both* of the cylinders are magnets, or if one is a magnet and the other is just a piece of iron? If so, how? If not, why not?

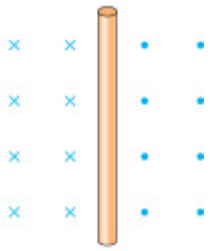
**4.** What is the current direction in the wire of Figure Q29.4? Explain.

**Figure Q29.4**




**5.** What is the current direction in the wire of Figure Q29.5? Explain.

**Figure Q29.5**

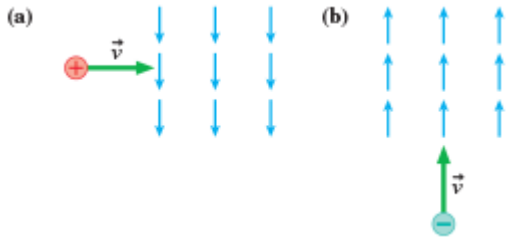


**6.** What is the *initial* direction of deflection for the charged particles entering the magnetic fields shown in Figure Q29.6?

**Figure Q29.6**

7. What is the *initial* direction of deflection for the charged particles entering the magnetic fields shown in Figure Q29.7?

**Figure Q29.7**




8. Determine the magnetic field direction that causes the charged particles shown in Figure Q29.8 to experience the indicated magnetic force.

**Figure Q29.8**

9. Determine the magnetic field direction that causes the charged particles shown in Figure Q29.9 to experience the indicated magnetic force.

**Figure Q29.9**

10. You have a horizontal cathode-ray tube (CRT) for which the controls have been adjusted such that the electron beam *should* make a single spot of light exactly in the center of the screen. You observe, however, that the spot is deflected to the right. It is

possible that the CRT is broken. But as a clever scientist, you realize that your laboratory might be in either an electric or a magnetic field. Assuming that you do not have a compass, any magnets, or any charged rods, how can you use the CRT itself to determine whether the CRT is broken, is in an electric field, or is in a magnetic field? You cannot remove the CRT from the room.

**11.** The south pole of a bar magnet is brought toward the current loop of Figure Q29.11. Does the bar magnet attract, repel, or have no effect on the loop? Explain.

**Figure Q29.11**

**12.** Give a step-by-step explanation, using both words and pictures, of how a permanent magnet can pick up a piece of nonmagnetized iron.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

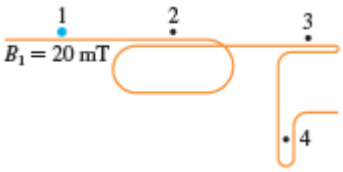
## Exercises

### Section 29.3 The Source of the Magnetic Field: Moving Charges

**1.** • What is the magnetic field strength at points 2 to 4 in Figure EX29.1? Assume that the wires overlap closely at 2 and 3, that

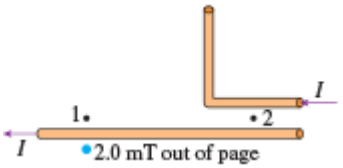
each point is the same distance from nearby wires, and that all other wires are too far away to contribute to the field.

**Figure EX29.1**




**2.** • Points 1 and 2 in Figure EX29.2 are the same distance from the wires as the point where $B = 2.0\,\text{mT}$. What are the strength and direction of $\vec{B}$ at points 1 and 2?

**Figure EX29.2**

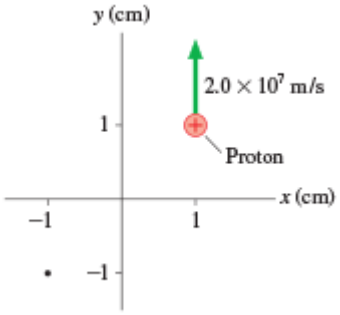



**3.** • A proton moves along the $x$-axis with $v_x = 1.0 \times 10^7$ m/s. As it passes the origin, what are the strength and direction of the magnetic field at the $(x, y, z)$ positions (a) (1 cm, 0 cm, 0 cm), (b) (0 cm, 1 cm, 0 cm), and (c) (0 cm, –2 cm, 0 cm)?

**4.** •• An electron moves along the $z$-axis with $v_z = 2.0 \times 10^7$ m/s. As it passes the origin, what are the strength and direction of the magnetic field at the $(x, y, z)$ positions (a) (1 cm, 0 cm, 0 cm), (b) (0 cm, 0 cm, 1 cm), and (c) (0 cm, 1 cm, 1 cm)?

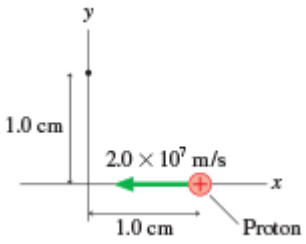
**5.** •• What is the magnetic field at the position of the dot in Figure EX29.5? Give your answer as a vector.

**Figure EX29.5**




**6.** •• What is the magnetic field at the position of the dot in Figure EX29.6? Give your answer as a vector.

**Figure EX29.6**




## Section 29.4 The Magnetic Field of a Current

**7.** • What currents are needed to generate the magnetic field strengths of Table 29.1 at a point 1.0 cm from a long, straight wire?

**8.** •• The element niobium, which is a metal, is a superconductor (i.e., no electrical resistance) at temperatures below 9 K. However, the superconductivity is destroyed if the magnetic field at the surface of the metal reaches or exceeds 0.10 T. What is the maximum current in a straight, 3.0-mm-diameter superconducting niobium wire?

**9.** • **BIO** Although the evidence is weak, there has been concern in recent years over possible health effects from the magnetic fields generated by electric transmission lines. A typical high-

voltage transmission line is 20 m above the ground and carries a 200 A current at a potential of 110 kV.

**a.** What is the magnetic field strength on the ground directly under such a transmission line?

**b.** What percentage is this of the earth's magnetic field of 50 $\mu$T?

**10.** • **BIO** A biophysics experiment uses a very sensitive magnetic field probe to determine the current associated with a nerve impulse traveling along an axon. If the peak field strength 1.0 mm from an axon is 8.0 pT, what is the peak current carried by the axon?

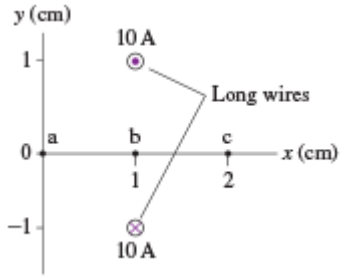
**11.** •• The magnetic field at the center of a 1.0-cm-diameter loop is 2.5 mT.

**a.** What is the current in the loop?

**b.** A long straight wire carries the same current you found in part a. At what distance from the wire is the magnetic field 2.5 mT?

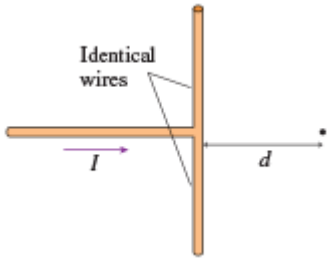
**12.** •• What are the magnetic fields at points a to c in Figure EX29.12? Give your answers as vectors.

**Figure EX29.12**



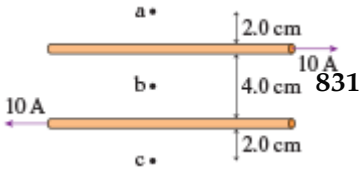

**13.** • A wire carries current $I$ into the junction shown in Figure EX29.13. What is the magnetic field at the dot?

**Figure EX29.13**




**14.** •• What are the magnetic field strength and direction at points a to c in Figure EX29.14?

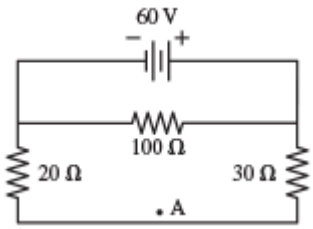
**Figure EX29.14**






**15.** •• **INT** Point A in Figure EX29.15 is 2.0 mm from the wire. What is the magnetic field strength at point A? You can assume that the wire is very long and that all other wires are too far away to contribute to the magnetic field.

**Figure EX29.15**




## Section 29.5 Magnetic Dipoles

**16.** •• The on-axis magnetic field strength 10 cm from a small bar magnet is 5.0 $\mu$T.

**a.** What is the bar magnet's magnetic dipole moment?

**b.** What is the on-axis field strength 15 cm from the magnet?

**17.** •• A 100 A current circulates around a 2.0-mm-diameter superconducting ring.

**a.** What is the ring's magnetic dipole moment?

**b.** What is the on-axis magnetic field strength 5.0 cm from the ring?

**18.** ••• A small, square loop carries a 25 A current. The on-axis magnetic field strength 50 cm from the loop is 7.5 nT. What is the edge length of the square?

**19.** •• The earth's magnetic dipole moment is $8.0 \times 10^{22}\ \text{A}\,\text{m}^2$.

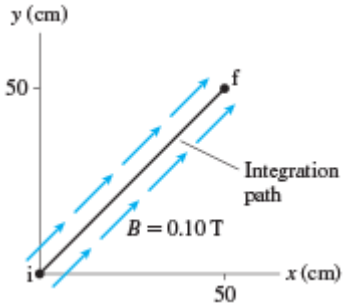
**a.** What is the magnetic field strength on the surface of the earth at the earth's north magnetic pole? How does this compare to the value in Table 29.1? You can assume that the current loop is deep inside the earth.

**b.** Astronauts discover an earth-size planet without a magnetic field. To create a magnetic field at the north pole with the same strength as earth's, they propose running a current through a wire around the equator. What size current would be needed?

## Section 29.6 Ampère's Law and Solenoids

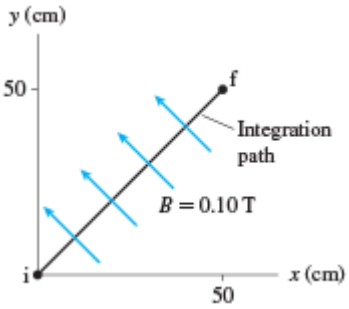
**20.** •• What is the line integral of $\vec{B}$ between points i and f in Figure EX29.20?

**Figure EX29.20**



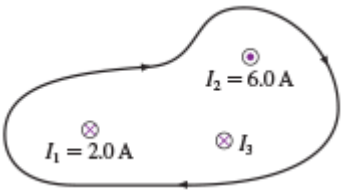

**21.** •• What is the line integral of $\vec{B}$ between points i and f in Figure EX29.21?

**Figure EX29.21**



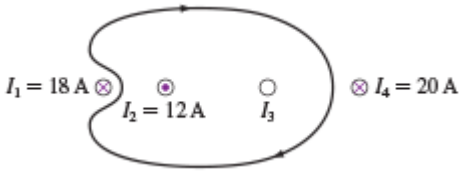

**22.** •• The value of the line integral of $\vec{B}$ around the closed path in Figure EX29.22 is $3.77 \times 10^{-6}$ T m. What is $I_3$?

**Figure EX29.22**



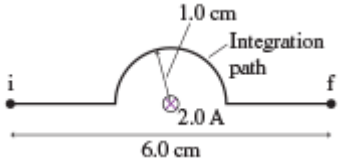

**23.** • The value of the line integral of $\vec{B}$ around the closed path in Figure EX29.23 is $1.38 \times 10^{-5}$ T m. What are the direction (in or out of the page) and magnitude of $I_3$?

**Figure EX29.23**




**24.** •• What is the line integral of $\vec{B}$ between points i and f in Figure EX29.24?

**Figure EX29.24**

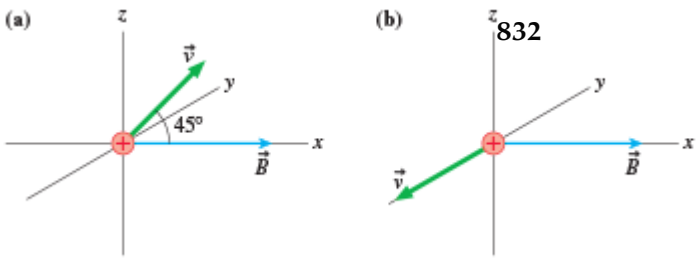



**25.** •• **BIO** Magnetic resonance imaging needs a magnetic field strength of 1.5 T. The solenoid is 1.8 m long and 75 cm in diameter. It is tightly wound with a single layer of 2.0-mm-diameter superconducting wire. What size current is needed?

## Section 29.7 The Magnetic Force on a Moving Charge

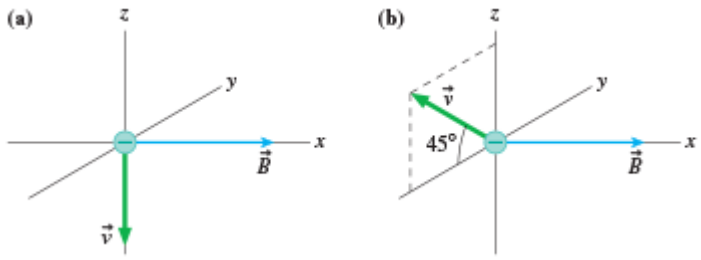
**26.** •• A proton moves in the magnetic field $\vec{B} = 0.50\,\hat{i}$ T with a speed of $1.0 \times 10^7$ m/s in the directions shown in Figure EX29.26. For each, what is magnetic force $\vec{F}$ on the proton? Give your answers in component form.

**Figure EX29.26**



**27.** •• An electron moves in the magnetic field $\vec{B} = 0.50\,\hat{i}$ T with a speed of $1.0 \times 10^7$ m/s in the directions shown in Figure EX29.27. For each, what is magnetic force $\vec{F}$ on the electron? Give your answers in component form.

**Figure EX29.27**




**28.** • Radio astronomers detect electromagnetic radiation at 45 MHz from an interstellar gas cloud. They suspect this radiation is emitted by electrons spiraling in a magnetic field. What is the magnetic field strength inside the gas cloud?

**29.** •• To five significant figures, what are the cyclotron frequencies in a 3.0000 T magnetic field of the ions (a) $O_2^+$, (b) $N_2^+$, and (c) $CO^+$? The atomic masses are shown in the table; the mass of the missing electron is less than 0.001 u and is not relevant at this level of precision. Although $N_2^+$ and $CO^+$ both have a nominal molecular mass of 28, they are easily distinguished by virtue of their slightly different cyclotron frequencies. Use the following constants:
$1\text{ u} = 1.6605 \times 10^{-27}\text{ kg},\ e = 1.6022 \times 10^{-19}\text{ C}.$

| Atomic masses | |
|---|---|
| $^{12}C$ | 12.000 |
| $^{14}N$ | 14.003 |
| $^{16}O$ | 15.995 |

**30.** •• For your senior project, you would like to build a cyclotron that will accelerate protons to 10% of the speed of light. The largest vacuum chamber you can find is 50 cm in diameter. What magnetic field strength will you need?

**31.** •• The microwaves in a microwave oven are produced in a special tube called a *magnetron*. The electrons orbit the magnetic field at 2.4 GHz, and as they do so they emit 2.4 GHz electromagnetic waves.

**a.** What is the magnetic field strength?

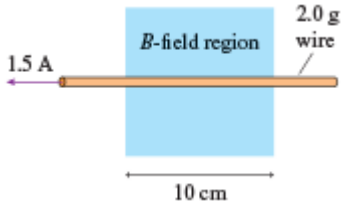
**b.** If the maximum diameter of the electron orbit before the electron hits the wall of the tube is 2.5 cm, what is the maximum electron kinetic energy?

**32.** • The Hall voltage across a conductor in a 55 mT magnetic field is 1.9 $\mu$V. When used with the same current in a different magnetic field, the voltage across the conductor is 2.8 $\mu$V. What is the strength of the second field?

## Section 29.8 Magnetic Forces on Current-Carrying Wires

**33.** • **INT** What magnetic field strength and direction will levitate the 2.0 g wire in Figure EX29.33?

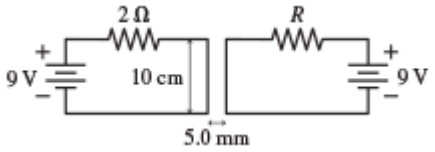
**Figure EX29.33**




**34.** •• **INT** The two 10-cm-long parallel wires in Figure EX29.34 are separated by 5.0 mm. For what value of the resistor $R$ will

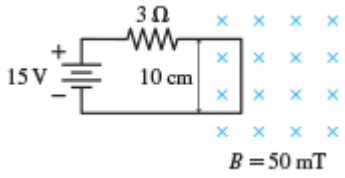
the force between the two wires be $5.4 \times 10^{-5}$ N?

**Figure EX29.34**



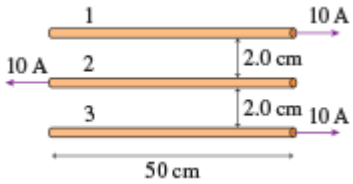

**35.** • **INT** The right edge of the circuit in Figure EX29.35 extends into a 50 mT uniform magnetic field. What are the magnitude and direction of the net force on the circuit?

**Figure EX29.35**




**36.** • What is the net force (magnitude and direction) on each wire in Figure EX29.36?

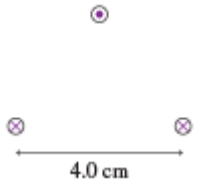
**Figure EX29.36**




**37.** •• **INT** Figure EX29.37 is a cross section through three long wires with linear mass density 50 g/m. They each carry equal currents in the directions shown. The lower two wires are 4.0 cm apart and are attached to a table. What current $I$ will allow

the upper wire to "float" so as to form an equilateral triangle with the lower wires?

**Figure EX29.37**




## Section 29.9 Forces and Torques on Current Loops

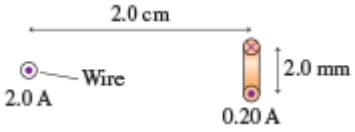
**38.** •• A square current loop 5.0 cm on each side carries a 500 mA current. The loop is in a 1.2 T uniform magnetic field. The axis of the loop, perpendicular to the plane of the loop, is 30° away from the field direction. What is the magnitude of the torque on the current loop?

**39.** • A small bar magnet experiences a 0.020 N m torque when the axis of the magnet is at 45° to a 0.10 T magnetic field. What is the magnitude of its magnetic dipole moment?

**40.** ••

**a.** What is the magnitude of the torque on the current loop in Figure EX29.40?

**Figure EX29.40**




**b.** What is the loop's equilibrium orientation?

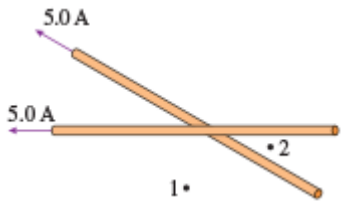
# Problems

**41.** •• A long wire carrying a 5.0 A current perpendicular to the $xy$-plane intersects the $x$-axis at $x = -2.0\,\text{cm}$. A second, parallel wire carrying a 3.0 A current intersects the $x$-axis at $x = +2.0\,\text{cm}$. At what point or points on the $x$-axis is the magnetic field zero if (a) the two currents are in the same direction and (b) the two currents are in opposite directions?

**42.** •• The two insulated wires in Figure P29.42 cross at a 30° angle but do not make electrical contact. Each wire carries a 5.0 A current. Points 1 and 2 are each 4.0 cm from the intersection and equally distant from both wires. What are the magnitude and direction of the magnetic fields at points 1 and 2?

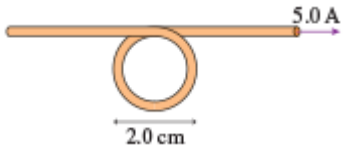


**Figure P29.42**




**43.** •• What are the strength and direction of the magnetic field at the center of the loop in Figure P29.43?

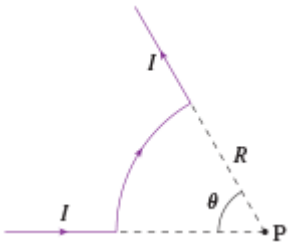
**Figure P29.43**




**44.** •• At what distance on the axis of a current loop is the magnetic field half the strength of the field at the center of the loop? Give your answer as a multiple of $R$.

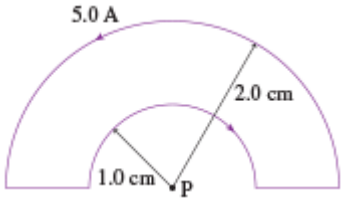
**45.** •• Find an expression for the magnetic field strength at the center (point P) of the circular arc in Figure P29.45.

## Figure P29.45




**46.** •• What are the strength and direction of the magnetic field at point P in Figure P29.46?

## Figure P29.46




**47.** •• **INT** A scientist measuring the resistivity of a new metal alloy left her ammeter in another lab, but she does have a magnetic field probe. So she creates a 6.5-m-long, 2.0-mm-diameter wire of the material, connects it to a 1.5 V battery, and measures a 3.0 mT magnetic field 1.0 mm from the surface of the wire. What is the material's resistivity?

**48.** •• **INT** A 2.5-m-long, 2.0-mm-diameter aluminum wire has a potential difference of 1.5 V between its ends. Consider an electron halfway between the center of the wire and the surface that is moving parallel to the wire at the drift speed. What is the ratio of the electric force on the electron to the magnetic force on the electron?

**49.** •• Your employer asks you to build a 20-cm-long solenoid with an interior field of 5.0 mT. The specifications call for a single layer of wire, wound with the coils as close together as

possible. You have two spools of wire available. Wire with a #18 gauge has a diameter of 1.02 mm and has a maximum current rating of 6 A. Wire with a #26 gauge is 0.41 mm in diameter and can carry up to 1 A. Which wire should you use, and what current will you need?

**50.** •• The magnetic field strength at the north pole of a 2.0-cm-diameter, 8-cm-long Alnico magnet is 0.10 T. To produce the same field with a solenoid of the same size, carrying a current of 2.0 A, how many turns of wire would you need?

**51.** •• The earth's magnetic field, with a magnetic dipole moment of $8.0 \times 10^{22}\ \text{A m}^2$, is generated by currents within the molten iron of the earth's outer core. Suppose we model the core current as a 3000-km-diameter current loop made from a 1000-km-diameter "wire." The loop diameter is measured from the centers of this very fat wire.

**a.** What is the current in the current loop?

**b.** What is the current density $J$ in the current loop?

**c.** To decide whether this is a large or a small current density, compare it to the current density of a 1.0 A current in a 1.0-mm-diameter wire.

**52.** ••• **BIO** Weak magnetic fields can be measured at the surface of the brain. Although the currents causing these fields are quite complicated, we can estimate their size by modeling them as a current loop around the equator of a 16-cm-diameter (the width of a typical head) sphere. What current is needed to produce a 3.0 pT field—the strength measured for one subject—at the pole of this sphere?

**53.** •• **BIO** The heart produces a weak magnetic field that can be used to diagnose certain heart problems. It is a dipole field produced by a current loop in the outer layers of the heart.

**a.** It is estimated that the field at the center of the heart is 90 pT. What current must circulate around an 8.0-cm-diameter loop, about the size of a human heart, to produce this field?

**b.** What is the magnitude of the heart's magnetic dipole moment?

**54.** •• What is the magnetic field strength at the center of the semicircle in Figure P29.54?

**Figure P29.54**

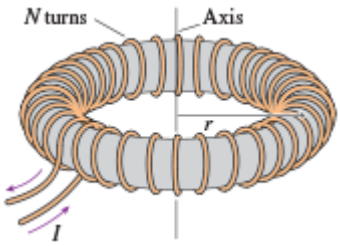
**55.** •• The *toroid* of Figure P29.55 is a coil of wire wrapped around a doughnut-shaped ring (a *torus*). Toroidal magnetic fields are used to confine fusion plasmas.

**a.** From symmetry, what must be the *shape* of the magnetic field in this toroid? Explain.

**b.** Consider a toroid with $N$ closely spaced turns carrying current $I$. Use Ampère's law to find an expression for the magnetic field strength at a point inside the torus at distance $r$ from the axis.

**c.** Is a toroidal magnetic field a uniform field? Explain.

**Figure P29.55**

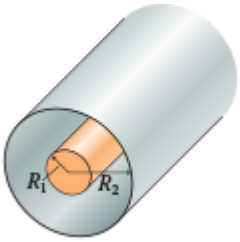


**56.** •• The coaxial cable shown in Figure P29.56 consists of a solid inner conductor of radius $R_1$ surrounded by a hollow, very thin outer conductor of radius $R_2$. The two carry equal currents $I$, but in *opposite* directions. The current density is uniformly distributed over each conductor.

**a.** Find expressions for three magnetic fields: within the inner conductor, in the space between the conductors, and outside the outer conductor.

**b.** Draw a graph of $B$ versus $r$ from ~~834~~ 0 to $r = 2R_2$ if $R_1 = \frac{1}{3}R_2$.

**Figure P29.56**

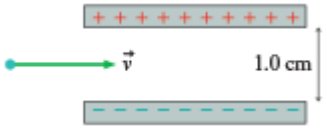



**57.** •• A long, hollow wire has inner radius $R_1$ and outer radius $R_2$. The wire carries current $I$ uniformly distributed across the area of the wire. Use Ampère's law to find an expression for the magnetic field strength in the three regions $0 < r < R_1$, $R_1 < r < R_2$, and $R_2 < r$.

**58.** •• A proton moving in a uniform magnetic field with $\vec{v}_1 = 1.00 \times 10^6\ \hat{\imath}$ m/s experiences force $\vec{F}_1 = 1.20 \times 10^{-16}\ \hat{k}$ N. A second proton with $\vec{v}_2 = 2.00 \times 10^6\ \hat{\jmath}$ m/s experiences $\vec{F}_2 = -4.16 \times 10^{-16}\ \hat{k}$ N in the same field. What is $\vec{B}$? Give your answer as a magnitude and an angle measured ccw from the +$x$-axis.

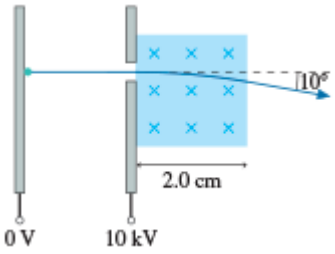
**59.** •• **INT** An electron travels with speed $1.0 \times 10^7$ m/s between the two parallel charged plates shown in Figure P29.59. The plates are separated by 1.0 cm and are charged by a 200 V battery. What magnetic field strength and direction will allow the electron to pass between the plates without being deflected?

**Figure P29.59**



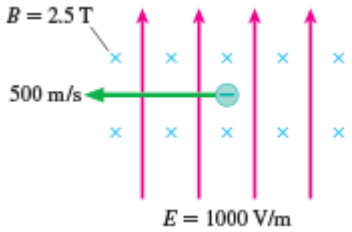

**60.** •• **INT** An electron in a cathode-ray tube is accelerated through a potential difference of 10 kV, then passes through the 2.0-cm-wide region of uniform magnetic field in Figure P29.60. What field strength will deflect the electron by 10°?

**Figure P29.60**




**61.** •• An antiproton (same properties as a proton except that $q = -e$) is moving in the combined electric and magnetic fields of Figure P29.61. What are the magnitude and direction of the antiproton's acceleration at this instant?

**Figure P29.61**




**62.** ••

**a.** A 65-cm-diameter cyclotron uses a 500 V oscillating potential difference between the dees. What is the maximum kinetic energy of a proton if the magnetic field strength is 0.75 T?

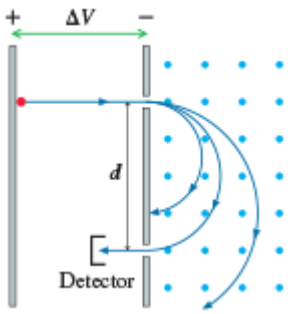
**b.** How many revolutions does the proton make before leaving the cyclotron?

**63.** •• An antiproton is identical to a proton except it has the opposite charge, $-e$. To study antiprotons, they must be confined in an ultrahigh vacuum because they will annihilate—producing gamma rays—if they come into contact with the protons of ordinary matter. One way of confining antiprotons is to keep them in a magnetic field. Suppose that antiprotons are created with a speed of $1.5 \times 10^4$ m/s and then trapped in a 2.0 mT magnetic field. What minimum diameter must the vacuum chamber have to allow these antiprotons to circulate without touching the walls?

**64.** •• **INT** Figure P29.64 shows a *mass spectrometer,* an analytical instrument used to identify the various molecules in a sample by measuring their charge-to-mass ratio $q/m$. The sample is ionized, the positive ions are accelerated (starting from rest) through a potential difference $\Delta V$, and they then enter a region of uniform magnetic field. The field bends the ions into circular trajectories, but after just half a circle they either strike the wall or pass through a small opening to a detector. As the

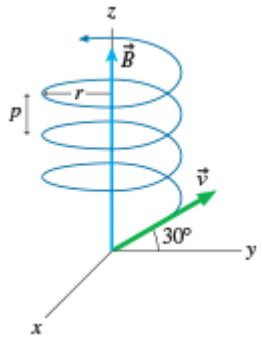
accelerating voltage is slowly increased, different ions reach the detector and are measured. Consider a mass spectrometer with a 200.00 mT magnetic field and an 8.0000 cm spacing between the entrance and exit holes. To five significant figures, what accelerating potential differences $\Delta V$ are required to detect the ions (a) $O_2^+$, (b) $N_2^+$, and (c) $CO^+$? See Exercise 29 for atomic masses; the mass of the missing electron is less than 0.001 u and is not relevant at this level of precision. Although $N_2^+$ and $CO^+$ both have a nominal molecular mass of 28, they are easily distinguished by virtue of their slightly different accelerating voltages. Use the following constants: $1\ \text{u} = 1.6605 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg},\ e = 1.6022 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C}$.

**Figure P29.64**




**65.** •• The uniform 30 mT magnetic field in Figure P29.65 points in the positive $z$-direction. An electron enters the region of magnetic field with a speed of $5.0 \times 10^6$ m/s and at an angle of 30° above the $xy$-plane. Find the radius $r$ and the pitch $p$ of the electron's spiral trajectory.

**Figure P29.65**




**66.** •• Particle accelerators, such as the Large Hadron Collider, use magnetic fields to steer charged particles around a ring. Consider a proton ring with 36 identical bending magnets connected by straight segments. The protons move along a 1.0-m-long circular arc as they pass through each magnet. What magnetic field strength is needed in each magnet to steer protons around the ring with a speed of $2.5 \times 10^7$ m/s? Assume that the field is uniform inside the magnet, zero outside.

**67.** •• A particle of charge $q$ and mass $m$ moves in the uniform fields $\vec{E} = E_0\hat{k}$ and $\vec{B} = B_0\hat{k}$. At $t = 0$, the particle has velocity $\vec{v}_0 = v_0\hat{\imath}$. What is the particle's speed at a later time $t$?

**68.** •• A Hall-effect probe to measure magnetic field strengths needs to be calibrated in a known magnetic field. Although it is not easy to do, magnetic fields can be precisely measured by measuring the cyclotron frequency of protons. A testing laboratory adjusts a magnetic field until the proton's cyclotron frequency is 10.0 MHz. At this field strength, the Hall voltage on the probe is 0.543 mV when the current through the probe is 0.150 mA. Later, when an unknown magnetic field is measured, the Hall voltage at the same current is 1.735 mV. What is the strength of this magnetic field?

**69.** ••• **CALC** It is shown in more advanced courses that charged particles in circular orbits radiate electromagnetic waves, called

*cyclotron radiation*. As a result, a particle undergoing cyclotron motion with speed $v$ is actually losing kinetic energy at the rate

$$\frac{dK}{dt} = -\left(\frac{\mu_0 q^4}{6\pi c m^2}\right) B^2 v^2$$

How long does it take (a) an electron and (b) a proton to radiate away half its energy while spiraling in a 2.0 T magnetic field?

**70.** ••• **CALC** A proton in a cyclotron gains $\Delta K = 2e\,\Delta V$ of kinetic energy per revolution, where $\Delta V$ is the potential between the dees. Although the energy gain comes in small pulses, the proton makes so many revolutions that it is reasonable to model the energy as increasing at the constant rate $P = dK/dt = \Delta K/T$, where $T$ is the period of the cyclotron motion. This is *power* input because it is a rate of increase of energy.

**a.** Find an expression for $r(t)$, the radius of a proton's orbit in a cyclotron, in terms of $m$, $e$, $B$, $P$, and $t$. Assume that $r = 0$ at $t = 0$.
**Hint:** Start by finding an expression for the proton's kinetic energy in terms of $r$.

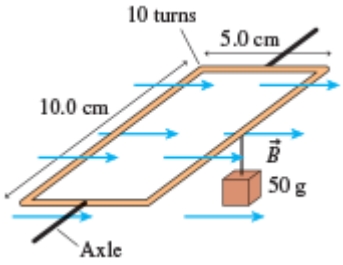
**b.** A relatively small cyclotron is 2.0 m in diameter, uses a 0.55 T magnetic field, and has a 400 V potential difference between the dees. What is the power input to a proton, in W?

**c.** How long does it take a proton to spiral from the center out to the edge?

**71.** •• **INT** The 10-turn loop of wire shown in Figure P29.71 lies in a horizontal plane, parallel to a uniform horizontal magnetic field, and carries a 2.0 A current. The loop is free to rotate

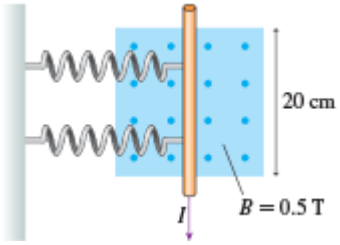
about a nonmagnetic axle through the center. A 50 g mass hangs from one edge of the loop. What magnetic field strength will prevent the loop from rotating about the axle?

**Figure P29.71**



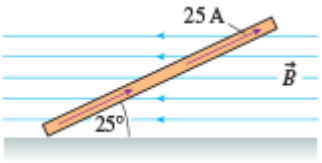

**72.** •• **INT** The two springs in Figure P29.72 each have a spring constant of 10 N/m. They are compressed by 1.0 cm when a current passes through the wire. How big is the current?

**Figure P29.72**




**73.** •• Figure P29.73 is an edge view of a 2.0 kg square loop, 2.5 m on each side, with its lower edge resting on a frictionless, horizontal surface. A 25 A current is flowing around the loop in the direction shown. What is the strength of a uniform, horizontal magnetic field for which the loop is in static equilibrium at the angle shown?

**Figure P29.73**




**74.** •• **INT** Magnetic fields are sometimes measured by balancing magnetic forces against known mechanical forces. Your task is to measure the strength of a horizontal magnetic field using a 12-cm-long rigid metal rod that hangs from two nonmagnetic springs, one at each end, with spring constants 1.3 N/m. You first position the rod to be level and perpendicular to the field, whose direction you determined with a compass. You then connect the ends of the rod to wires that run parallel to the field and thus experience no forces. Finally, you measure the downward deflection of the rod, stretching the springs, as you pass current through it. Your data are as follows:

| Current (A) | Deflection (mm) |
|---|---|
| 1.0 | 4 |
| 2.0 | 9 |
| 3.0 | 12 |
| 4.0 | 15 |
| 5.0 | 21 |

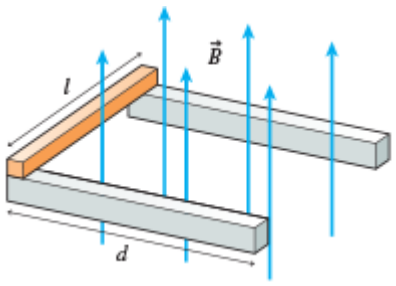
Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine the magnetic field strength.

**75.** •• **INT** A conducting bar of length $l$ and mass $m$ rests at the left end of the two frictionless rails of length $d$ in Figure P29.75. A uniform magnetic field of strength $B$ points upward.

**a.** In which direction, into or out of the page, will a current through the conducting bar cause the bar to experience a force to the right?

**b.** Find an expression for the bar's speed as it leaves the rails at the right end.

Figure P29.75

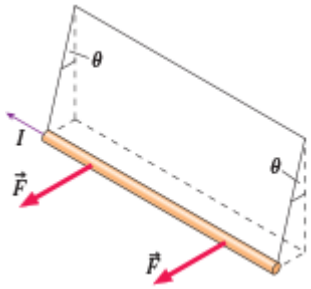



**76.** •• **INT**

**a.** In Figure P29.76, a long, straight, current-carrying wire of linear mass density $\mu$ is suspended by threads. A magnetic field perpendicular to the wire exerts a horizontal force that deflects the wire to an equilibrium angle $\theta$. Find an expression for the strength and direction of the magnetic field $\vec{B}$.

**b.** What $\vec{B}$ deflects a 55 g/m wire to a 12° angle when the current is 10 A?

Figure P29.76




**77.** ••• **INT CALC** A wire along the $x$-axis carries current $I$ in the negative $x$-direction through the magnetic field

$$\vec{B} = \begin{cases} B_0 \dfrac{x}{l}\hat{k} & 0 \le x \le l \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

**a.** Draw a graph of $B$ versus $x$ over the interval $-\frac{3}{2}l < x < \frac{3}{2}l$.

**b.** Find an expression for the net force $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ on the wire.

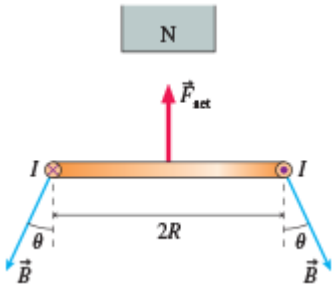
**c.** Find an expression for the net torque on the wire about the point $x = 0$.

**78.** •• A *nonuniform* magnetic field exerts a net force on a current loop of radius $R$. Figure P29.78 shows a magnetic field that is diverging from the end of a bar magnet. The magnetic field at the position of the current loop makes an angle $\theta$ with respect to the vertical.

**a.** Find an expression for the net magnetic force on the current.

**b.** Calculate the force if $R = 2.0\,\text{cm}$, $I = 0.50\ \text{A}$, $B = 200\ \text{mT}$, and $\theta = 20^\circ$.

**Figure P29.78**




# Challenge Problems

**79.** ••• You have a 1.0-m-long copper wire. You want to make an $N$-turn current loop that generates a 1.0 mT magnetic field at the center when the current is 1.0 A. You must use the entire wire. What will be the diameter of your coil?

**80.** ••• **CALC**

**a.** Derive an expression for the magnetic field strength at distance $d$ from the center of a straight wire of finite length $l$ that carries current $I$.

**b.** Determine the field strength at the center of a current-carrying *square* loop having sides of length $2R$.

**c.** Compare your answer to part b to the field at the center of a *circular* loop of diameter $2R$. Do so by computing the ratio $B_{\text{square}}/B_{\text{circle}}$.

**81.** ••• **CALC** A flat, circular disk of radius $R$ is uniformly charged with total charge $Q$. The disk spins at angular velocity $\omega$ about an axis through its center. What is the magnetic field strength at the center of the disk?

**82.** ••• **CALC** A long, straight conducting wire of radius $R$ has a nonuniform current density $J = J_0 r/R$, where $J_0$ is a constant. The wire carries total current $I$.

**a.** Find an expression for $J_0$ in terms of $I$ and $R$.

**b.** Find an expression for the magnetic field strength inside the wire at radius $r$.

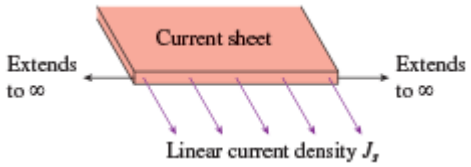
**c.** At the boundary, $r = R$, does your solution match the known field outside a long, straight current-carrying wire?

**83.** ••• An infinitely wide flat sheet of charge flows out of the page in Figure CP29.83. The current per unit width along the sheet (amps per meter) is given by the linear current density $J_s$.

**a.** What is the *shape* of the magnetic field? To answer this question, you may find it helpful to approximate the current sheet as many parallel, closely spaced current-carrying wires. Give your answer as a picture showing magnetic field vectors.

**b.** Find the magnetic field strength at distance $d$ above or below the current sheet.

## Figure CP29.83



# Chapter 30
# Electromagnetic Induction

Electromagnetic induction is the physics that underlies many modern technologies, from the generation of electricity to data storage.

**In This Chapter**

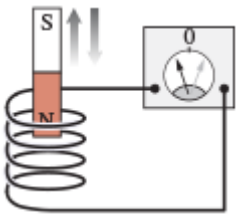
you will learn what electromagnetic induction is and how it is used.

## What is an induced current?

A magnetic field can create a current in a loop of wire, *but only if the amount of field through the loop is changing*.

- This is called an induced current.
- The process is called **electromagnetic induction**.

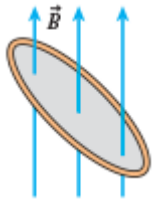
Looking Back Chapter 29 Magnetic fields



## What is magnetic flux?

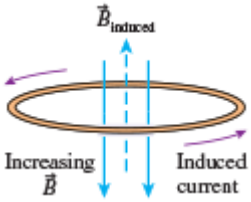
A key idea will be the amount of magnetic field passing through a loop or coil. This is called magnetic flux. Magnetic flux depends on the strength of the magnetic field, the area of the loop, and the angle between them.

Looking Back Section 24.3 Electric flux




## What is Lenz's law?

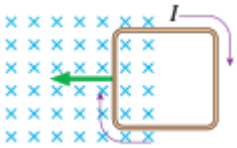
Lenz's law says that a current is induced in a closed loop if and only if the magnetic flux through the loop is changing. Simply having a flux does nothing; the flux has to change. You'll learn how to use Lenz's law to determine the direction of an induced current around a loop.




## What is Faraday's law?

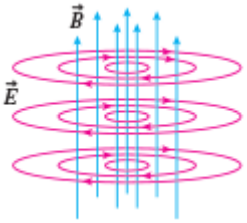
Faraday's law is the most important law connecting electric and magnetic fields, laying the groundwork for electromagnetic waves. Just as a battery has an emf that drives current, a loop of wire has an induced emf determined by the rate of change of magnetic flux through the loop.

Looking Back Section 26.4 Sources of potential




## What is an induced field?

At its most fundamental level, Faraday's law tells us that a changing magnetic field creates an induced electric field. This is an entirely new way to create an electric field, independent of charges. It is the induced electric field that drives the induced current around a conducting loop.




## How is electromagnetic induction used?

Electromagnetic induction is one of the most important applications of electricity and magnetism. Generators use electromagnetic induction to turn the mechanical energy of a spinning turbine into electric energy. Inductors are important circuit elements that rely on electromagnetic induction. All forms of telecommunication are based on electromagnetic induction. And, not least, electromagnetic induction is the basis for light and other electromagnetic waves.

# 30.1 Induced Currents

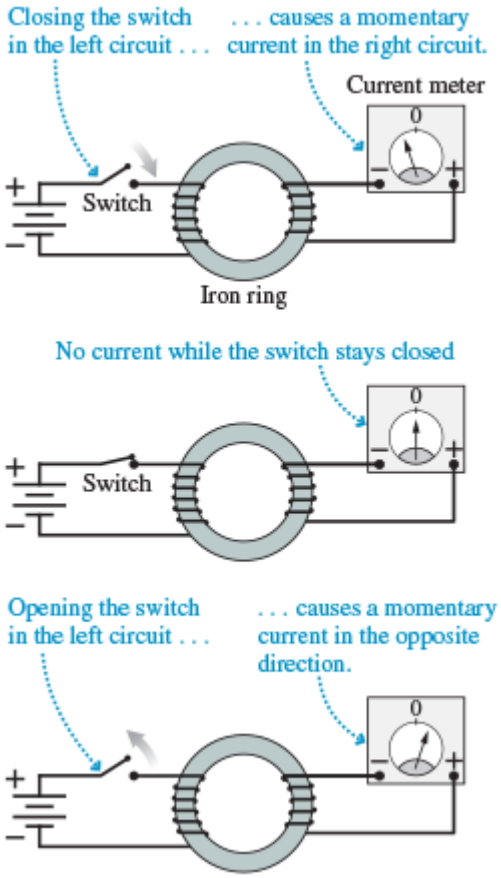


Oersted's 1820 discovery that a current creates a magnetic field generated enormous excitement. One question scientists hoped to answer was whether the converse of Oersted's discovery was true: that is, can a magnet be used to create a current?

The breakthrough came in 1831 when the American science teacher Joseph Henry and the English scientist Michael Faraday each discovered the process we now call *electromagnetic induction*. Faraday—whom you met in Chapter 22 as the inventor of the concept of a *field*—was the first to publish his findings, so today we study Faraday's law rather than Henry's law.

Faraday's 1831 discovery, like Oersted's, was a happy combination of an unplanned event and a mind that was ready to recognize its significance. Faraday was experimenting with two coils of wire wrapped around an iron ring, as shown in Figure 30.1. He had hoped that the magnetic field generated in the coil on the left would induce a magnetic field in the iron, and that the magnetic field in the iron might then somehow create a current in the circuit on the right.

**Figure 30.1**




Faraday's discovery.

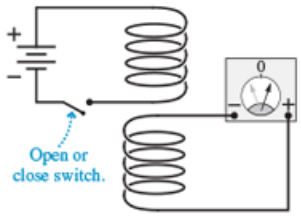
Like all his previous attempts, this technique failed to generate a current. But Faraday happened to notice that the needle of the current meter jumped ever so slightly at the instant he closed the switch in the circuit on the left. After the switch was closed, the needle immediately returned to zero. The needle again jumped when he later opened the switch, but this time in the opposite direction. Faraday recognized that the motion of the needle indicated a current in the circuit on the right, but a momentary current only during the brief interval when the current on the left was starting or stopping.

Faraday's observations, coupled with his mental picture of field lines, led him to suggest that a current is generated only if the magnetic field through the coil is *changing*. This explains why all the previous attempts

to generate a current with static magnetic fields had been unsuccessful. Faraday set out to test this hypothesis.

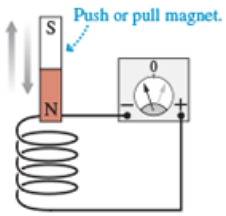
**Faraday investigates electromagnetic induction**

Faraday placed one coil directly above the other, without the iron ring. There was no current in the lower circuit while the switch was in the closed position, but a momentary current appeared whenever the switch was opened or closed.



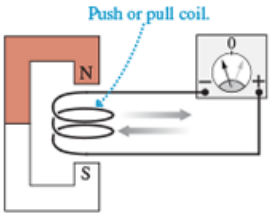

Opening or closing the switch creates a momentary current.

He pushed a bar magnet into a coil of wire. This action caused a momentary deflection of the current-meter needle, although *holding* the magnet inside the coil had no effect. A quick withdrawal of the magnet deflected the needle in the other direction.




Pushing the magnet into the coil or pulling it out creates a momentary current.

Must the magnet move? Faraday created a momentary current by rapidly pulling a coil of wire out of a magnetic field. Pushing the coil *into* the magnet caused the needle to deflect in the opposite direction.




Pushing the coil into the magnet or pulling it out creates a momentary current.

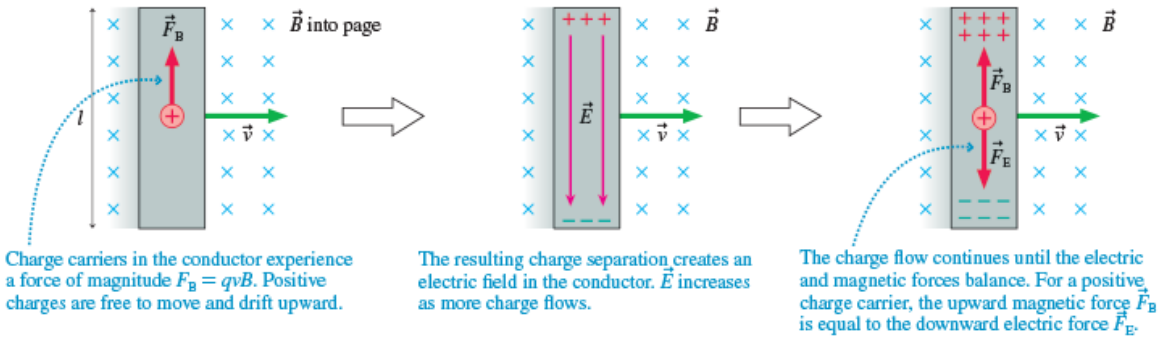
**Faraday found that there is a current in a coil of wire if and only if the magnetic field passing through the coil is *changing*.** This is an informal statement of what we'll soon call *Faraday's law*. The current in a circuit due to a changing magnetic field is called an **induced current**. An induced current is not caused by a battery; it is a completely new way to generate a current.

# 30.2 Motional emf



We'll start our investigation of electromagnetic induction by looking at situations in which the magnetic field is fixed while the circuit moves or changes. Consider a conductor of length $l$ that moves with velocity $\vec{v}$ through a perpendicular uniform magnetic field $\vec{B}$, as shown in Figure 30.2. The charge carriers inside the wire—assumed to be positive—also move with velocity $\vec{v}$, so they each experience a magnetic force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{B}} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$ of strength $F_{\mathrm{B}} = qvB$. This force causes the charge carriers to move, separating the positive and negative charges. The separated charges then create an electric field inside the conductor.

## Figure 30.2




The magnetic force on the charge carriers in a moving conductor creates an electric field inside the conductor.

The charge carriers continue to separate until the electric force $F_{\mathrm{E}} = qE$ exactly balances the magnetic force $F_{\mathrm{B}} = qvB$, creating an equilibrium situation. This balance happens when the electric field strength is

**(30.1)**

$$E = vB$$

In other words, **the magnetic force on the charge carriers in a moving conductor creates an electric field $\boldsymbol{E = vB}$ inside the conductor.**

The electric field, in turn, creates an electric potential difference between the two ends of the moving conductor. Figure 30.3a defines a coordinate system in which $\vec{E} = -vB\hat{j}$. Using the connection between the electric field and the electric potential,

**(30.2)**

$$\Delta V = V_{\text{top}} - V_{\text{bottom}} = -\int_0^l E_y dy = -\int_0^l (-vB)\, dy = vlB$$

Thus **the motion of the wire through a magnetic field *induces* a potential difference *vlB* between the ends of the conductor.** The potential difference depends on the strength of the magnetic field and on the wire's speed through the field.

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## Figure 30.3

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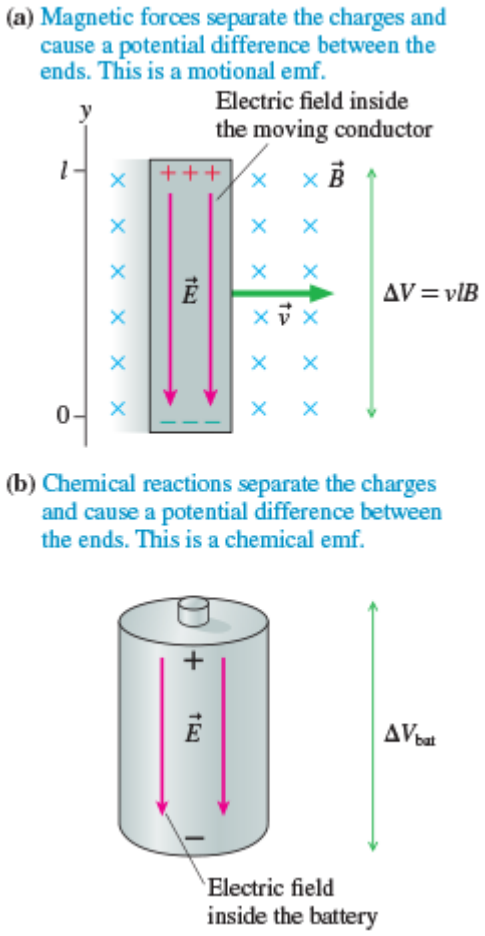



Generating an emf.

There's an important analogy between this potential difference and the potential difference of a battery. Figure 30.3b reminds you that a battery uses a nonelectric force—the charge escalator—to separate positive and negative charges. The emf $\varepsilon$ of the battery was defined as the work performed per charge ($W/q$) to separate the charges. An isolated battery, with no current, has a potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{bat}} = \mathcal{E}$. We could refer to a battery, where the charges are separated by chemical reactions, as a source of *chemical emf*.

The moving conductor develops a potential difference because of the work done by magnetic forces to separate the charges. You can think of the moving conductor as a "battery" that stays charged only as long as it keeps moving but "runs down" if it stops. The emf of the conductor is due to its motion, rather than to chemical reactions inside, so we can define

the **motional emf** of a conductor moving with velocity $\vec{v}$ perpendicular to a magnetic field $\vec{B}$ to be

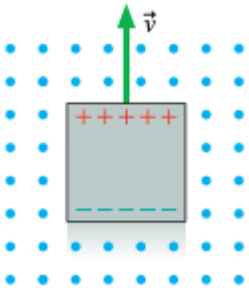
**(30.3)**

$$\mathcal{E} = vlB$$

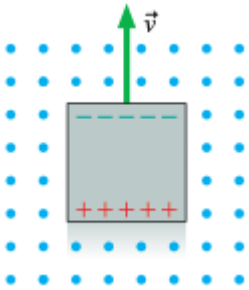
## Stop to Think 30.1

A square conductor moves through a uniform magnetic field. Which of the figures shows the correct charge distribution on the conductor?

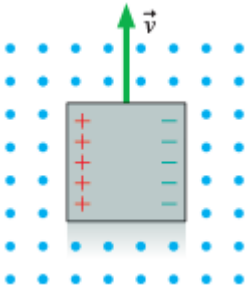
**a.**



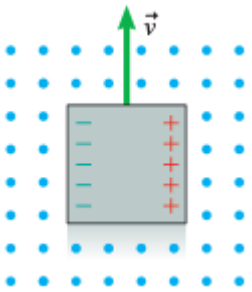

**b.**




**c.**



**d.**






### Example 30.1 Measuring the earth's magnetic field

It is known that the earth's magnetic field over northern Canada points straight down. The crew of a Boeing 747 aircraft flying at 260 m/s over northern Canada finds a 0.95 V potential difference between the wing tips. The wing span of a Boeing 747 is 65 m. What is the magnetic field strength there?

**MODEL** The wing is a conductor moving through a magnetic field, so there is a motional emf.

**SOLVE** The magnetic field is perpendicular to the velocity, so we can use Equation 30.3 to find

$$B = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{vL} = \frac{0.95\ \text{V}}{(260\ \text{m/s})(65\ \text{m})} = 5.6 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{T}$$

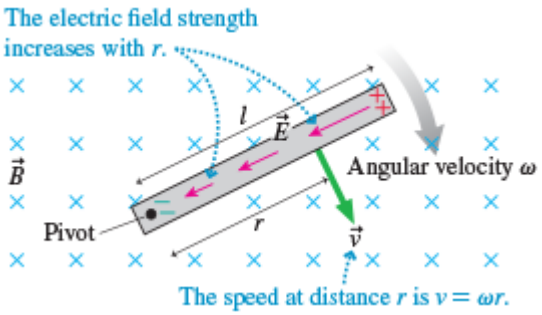
**ASSESS** Chapter 29 noted that the earth's magnetic field is roughly $5 \times 10^{-5}$ T. The field is somewhat stronger than this near the magnetic poles, somewhat weaker near the equator.

### Example 30.2 Potential difference along a rotating bar

A metal bar of length $l$ rotates with angular velocity $\omega$ about a pivot at one end of the bar. A uniform magnetic field $\vec{B}$ is perpendicular to the plane of rotation. What is the potential difference between the ends of the bar?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 30.4 is a pictorial representation of the bar. The magnetic forces on the charge carriers will cause the outer end to be positive with respect to the pivot.

**Figure 30.4**




Pictorial representation of a metal bar rotating in a magnetic field.

**SOLVE** Even though the bar is rotating, rather than moving in a straight line, the velocity of each charge carrier is perpendicular to $\vec{B}$. Consequently, the electric field created inside the bar is exactly that given in Equation 30.1, $E = vB$. But $v$, the speed of the charge carrier, now depends on its distance from the pivot. Recall that in rotational motion the tangential speed at radius $r$ from the center of rotation is $v = \omega r$. Thus the electric field at distance $r$ from the pivot is $E = \omega r B$. The electric field increases in strength as you move outward along the bar.

The electric field $\vec{E}$ points toward the pivot, so its radial component is $E_r = -\omega r B$. If we integrate outward from the center,

the potential difference between the ends of the bar is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V &= V_{\text{tip}} - V_{\text{pivot}} = -\int_0^l E_r\, dr \\ &= -\int_0^l (-\omega r B)\, dr = \omega B \int_0^l r\, dr = \tfrac{1}{2}\omega l^2 B\end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** $\frac{1}{2}\omega l$ is the speed at the midpoint of the bar. Thus $\Delta V$ is $v_{\text{mid}} lB$, which seems reasonable.

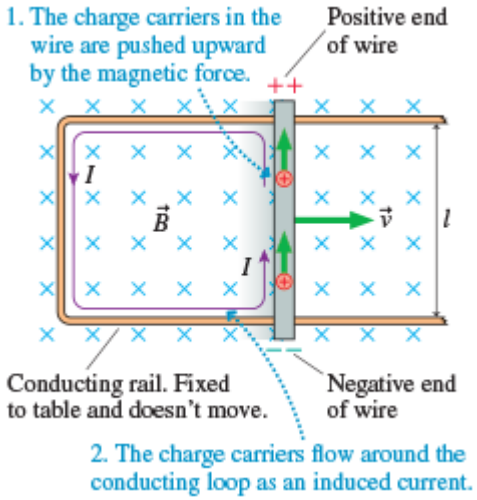
# Induced Current in a Circuit



The moving conductor of Figure 30.2 had an emf, but it couldn't sustain a current because the charges had nowhere to go. It's like a battery that is disconnected from a circuit. We can change this by including the moving conductor in a circuit.

Figure 30.5 shows a conducting wire sliding with speed $v$ along a U-shaped conducting rail. We'll assume that the rail is attached to a table and cannot move. The wire and the rail together form a closed conducting loop—a circuit.

**Figure 30.5**




A current is induced in the circuit as the wire moves through a magnetic field.

---

Suppose a magnetic field $\vec{B}$ is perpendicular to the plane of the circuit. Charges in the moving wire will be pushed to the ends of the wire by the magnetic force, just as they were in Figure 30.2, but now the charges can continue to flow around the circuit. That is, the moving wire acts like a battery in a circuit.

The current in the circuit is an *induced current*. In this example, the induced current is counterclockwise (ccw). If the total resistance of the circuit is *R*, the induced current is given by Ohm's law as

**(30.4)**

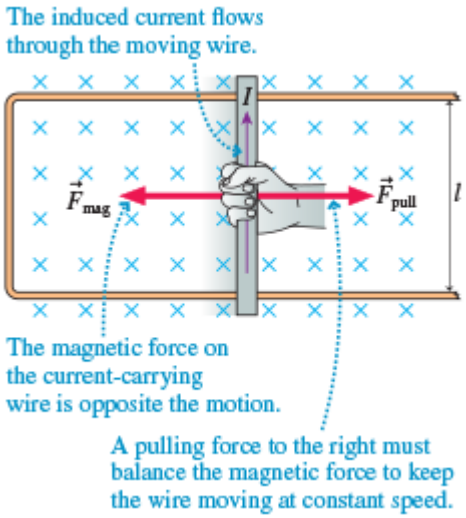
$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} = \frac{vlB}{R}$$

In this situation, the induced current is due to magnetic forces on moving charges.

We've assumed that the wire is moving along the rail at constant speed. It turns out that we must apply a continuous pulling force $\vec{F}_{\text{pull}}$ to make this happen. Figure 30.6 shows why. The moving wire, which now carries induced current *I*, is in a magnetic field. You learned in Chapter

29 that a magnetic field exerts a force on a current-carrying wire. According to the right-hand rule, the magnetic force $\vec{F}_{\text{mag}}$ on the moving wire points to the left. This "magnetic drag" will cause the wire to slow down and stop *unless* we exert an equal but opposite pulling force $\vec{F}_{\text{pull}}$ to keep the wire moving.

## Figure 30.6




A pulling force is needed to move the wire to the right.

The magnitude of the magnetic force on a current-carrying wire was found in Chapter 29 to be $F_{\text{mag}} = IlB$. Using that result, along with Equation 30.4 for the induced current, we find that the force required to pull the wire with a constant speed $v$ is

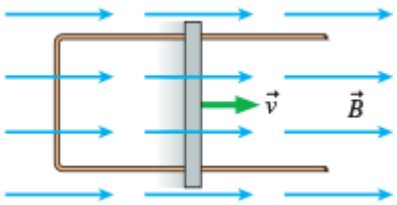
**(30.5)**

$$F_{\text{pull}} = F_{\text{mag}} = IlB = \left(\frac{vlB}{R}\right) lB = \frac{vl^2B^2}{R}$$

## Stop to Think 30.2

Is there an induced current in this circuit? If so, what is its direction?

**842**




## Energy Considerations

The environment must do work on the wire to pull it. What happens to the energy transferred to the wire by this work? Is energy conserved as the wire moves along the rail? It will be easier to answer this question if we think about power rather than work. Power is the *rate* at which work is done on the wire. You learned in Chapter 9 that the power exerted by a force pushing or pulling an object with velocity $v$ is $P = Fv$. The power provided to the circuit by pulling on the wire is

**(30.6)**

$$P_{\text{input}} = F_{\text{pull}}v = \frac{v^2 l^2 B^2}{R}$$

This is the rate at which energy is added to the circuit by the pulling force.

But the circuit also dissipates energy by transforming electric energy into the thermal energy of the wires and components, heating them up. The power dissipated by current $I$ as it passes through resistance $R$ is $P = I^2R$. Equation 30.4 for the induced current $I$ gives us the power dissipated by the circuit of Figure 30.5:

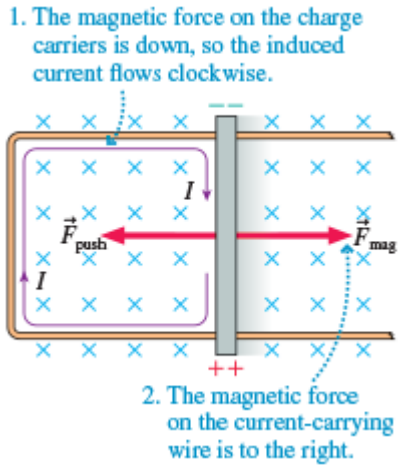
(30.7)

$$P_{\text{dissipated}} = I^2 R = \frac{v^2 l^2 B^2}{R}$$

You can see that Equations 30.6 and 30.7 are identical. **The rate at which work is done on the circuit exactly balances the rate at which energy is dissipated.** Thus *energy is conserved.*

If you have to *pull* on the wire to get it to move to the right, you might think that it would spring back to the left on its own. Figure 30.7 shows the same circuit with the wire moving to the left. In this case, you must *push* the wire to the left to keep it moving. The magnetic force is always opposite to the wire's direction of motion.

## Figure 30.7




A pushing force is needed to move the wire to the left.

In both Figure 30.6, where the wire is pulled, and Figure 30.7, where it is pushed, a mechanical force is used to create a current. In other words, we have a conversion of *mechanical* energy to *electric* energy. A device that converts mechanical energy to electric energy is called a **generator.** The slide-wire circuits of Figures 30.6 and 30.7 are simple

examples of a generator. We will look at more practical examples of generators later in the chapter.

We can summarize our analysis as follows:

1. Pulling or pushing the wire through the magnetic field at speed $v$ creates a motional emf $\mathcal{E}$ in the wire and induces a current $I = \mathcal{E}/R$ in the circuit.
2. To keep the wire moving at constant speed, a pulling or pushing force must balance the magnetic force on the wire. This force does work on the circuit.
3. The work done by the pulling or pushing force exactly balances the energy dissipated by the current as it passes through the resistance of the circuit.

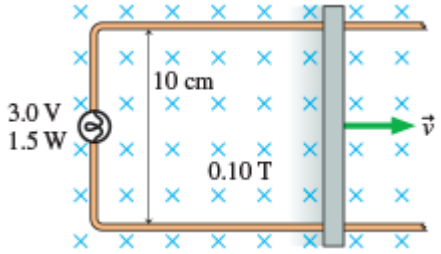
### Example 30.3 Lighting a bulb

Figure 30.8 shows a circuit consisting of a flashlight bulb, rated 3.0 V/1.5 W, and ideal wires with no resistance. The right wire of the circuit, which is 10 cm long, is pulled at constant speed $v$ through a perpendicular magnetic field of strength 0.10 T.

**a.** What speed must the wire have to light the bulb to full brightness?

**b.** What force is needed to keep the wire moving?

### Figure 30.8




Circuit of Example 30.3.

**MODEL** Treat the moving wire as a source of motional emf.

**VISUALIZE** The magnetic force on the charge carriers, $\vec{F}_{\text{B}} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$, causes a counterclockwise (ccw) induced current.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The bulb's rating of 3.0 V/1.5 W means that at full brightness it will dissipate 1.5 W at a potential difference of 3.0 V. Because the power is related to the voltage and current by $P = I\Delta V$, the current causing full brightness is

$$I = \frac{P}{\Delta V} = \frac{1.5\ \text{W}}{3.0\ \text{V}} = 0.50\ \text{A}$$

The bulb's resistance—the total resistance of the circuit—is

$$R = \frac{\Delta V}{I} = \frac{3.0\ \text{V}}{0.50\ \text{A}} = 6.0\ \Omega$$

Equation 30.4 gives the speed needed to induce this current:

$$v = \frac{IR}{lB} = \frac{(0.50\ \text{A})\,(6.0\ \Omega)}{(0.10\ \text{m})\,(0.10\ \text{T})} = 300\ \text{m/s}$$

You can confirm from Equation 30.6 that the input power at this speed is 1.5 W.

**b.** From Equation 30.5, the pulling force must be

$$F_{\text{pull}} = \frac{vl^2B^2}{R} = 5.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{N}$$

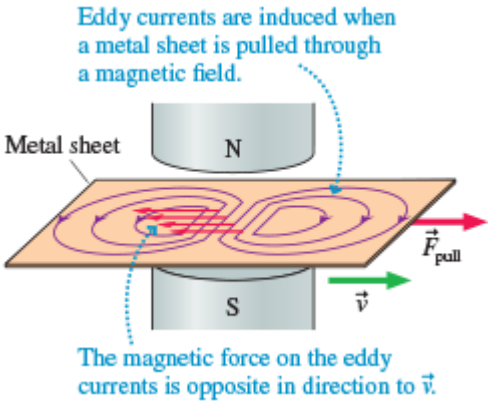
You can also obtain this result from $F_{\text{pull}} = P/v$.

**ASSESS** Example 30.1 showed that high speeds are needed to produce significant potential difference. Thus 300 m/s is not surprising. The pulling force is not very large, but even a small force can deliver large amounts of power $P = Fv$ when $v$ is large.

## Eddy Currents

These ideas have interesting implications. Consider pulling a *sheet* of metal through a magnetic field, as shown in Figure 30.9a. The metal, we will assume, is not a magnetic material, so it experiences no magnetic force if it is at rest. The charge carriers in the metal experience a magnetic force as the sheet is dragged between the pole tips of the magnet. A current is induced, just as in the loop of wire, but here the currents do not have wires to define their path. As a consequence, two "whirlpools" of current begin to circulate in the metal. These spread-out current whirlpools in a solid metal are called **eddy currents.**

**Figure 30.9**




Eddy currents.

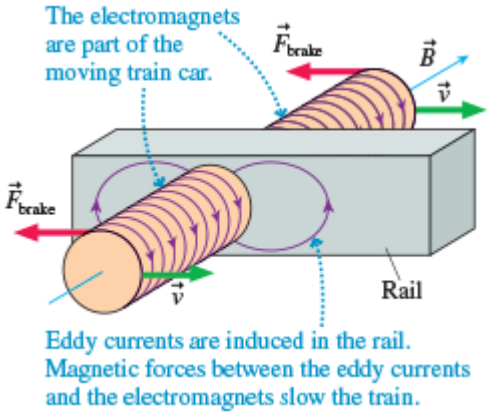
As the eddy current passes between the pole tips, it experiences a magnetic force to the left—a retarding force. Thus **an external force is required to pull a metal through a magnetic field.** If the pulling force ceases, the retarding magnetic force quickly causes the metal to decelerate until it stops. Similarly, a force is required to push a sheet of metal *into* a magnetic field.

Eddy currents are often undesirable. The power dissipation of eddy currents can cause unwanted heating, and the magnetic forces on eddy currents mean that extra energy must be expended to move metals in magnetic fields. But eddy currents also have important useful applications. A good example is magnetic braking.

The moving train car has an electromagnet that straddles the rail, as shown in Figure 30.10. During normal travel, there is no current through the electromagnet and no magnetic field. To stop the car, a current is switched into the electromagnet. The current creates a strong magnetic field that passes *through* the rail, and the motion of the rail relative to the magnet induces eddy currents in the rail. The magnetic force between the electromagnet and the eddy currents acts as a braking force on the magnet and, thus, on the car. Magnetic braking systems are

very efficient, and they have the added advantage that they heat the rail rather than the brakes.

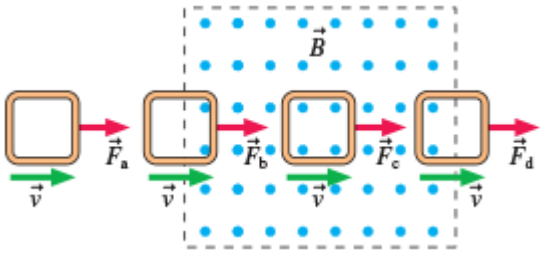
## Figure 30.10




Magnetic braking system.

## Stop to Think 30.3

A square loop of copper wire is pulled through a region of magnetic field. Rank in order, from strongest to weakest, the pulling forces $\vec{F}_a$, $\vec{F}_b$, $\vec{F}_c$, and $\vec{F}_d$ that must be applied to keep the loop moving at constant speed.



# 30.3 Magnetic Flux



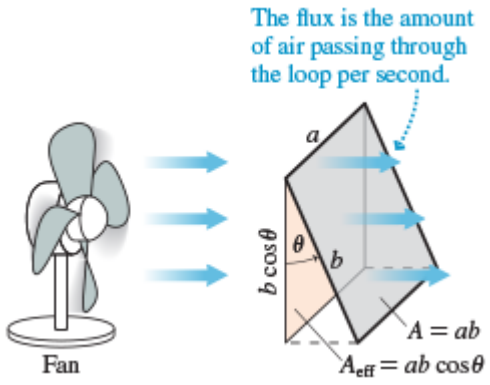
Faraday found that a current is induced when the amount of magnetic field passing through a coil or a loop of wire changes. And that's exactly what happens as the slide wire moves down the rail in Figure 30.5! As the circuit expands, more magnetic field passes through. It's time to define more clearly what we mean by "the amount of field passing through a loop."

Imagine holding a rectangular loop in front of the fan shown in Figure 30.11. The amount of air flowing *through* the loop—the flux—depends on the angle of the loop. The flow is maximum if the loop is perpendicular to the flow, zero if the loop is rotated to be parallel to the flow. In general, the amount of air flowing through is proportional to the *effective area* of the loop (i.e., the area facing the fan):

**(30.8)**

$$A_{\text{eff}} = ab\cos\theta = A\cos\theta$$

## Figure 30.11



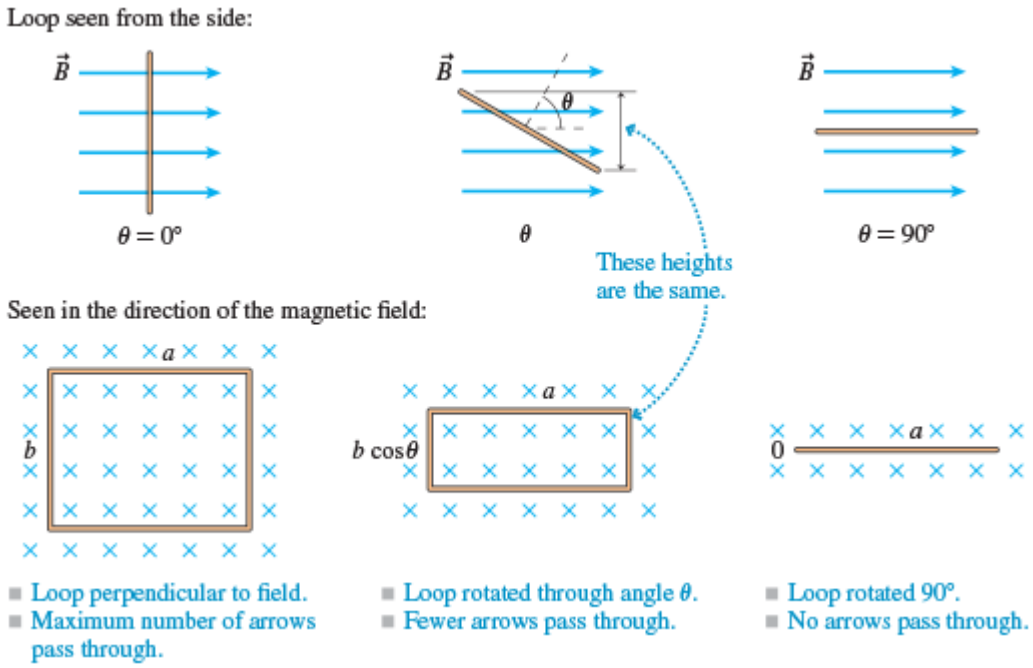

The amount of air flowing through a loop depends on the effective area of the loop.

where $A = ab$ is the area of the loop and $\theta$ is the tilt angle of the loop. A loop perpendicular to the flow, with $\theta = 0^\circ$, has $A_{\text{eff}} = A$, the full area of the loop.

We can apply this idea to a magnetic field passing through a loop. Figure 30.12 shows a loop of area $A = ab$ in a uniform magnetic field. Think of the field vectors, seen here from behind, as if they were arrows shot into the page. The density of arrows (arrows per $\text{m}^2$) is proportional to the strength $B$ of the magnetic field; a stronger field would be represented by arrows packed closer together. The number of arrows passing through a loop of wire depends on two factors:

1. The density of arrows, which is proportional to $B$, and
2. The effective area $A_{\text{eff}} = A\cos\theta$ of the loop.

## Figure 30.12




Magnetic field through a loop that is tilted at various angles.

The angle $\theta$ is the angle between the magnetic field and the axis of the loop. The maximum number of arrows passes through the loop when it is perpendicular to the magnetic field ($\theta = 0^\circ$). No arrows pass through the loop if it is tilted 90°.

With this in mind, let's define the **magnetic flux $\Phi_m$** as

**(30.9)**

$$\Phi_m = A_{\text{eff}} B = AB\cos\theta$$

The magnetic flux measures the amount of magnetic field passing through a loop of area $A$ if the loop is tilted at angle $\theta$ from the field. The SI unit of magnetic flux is the **weber.** From Equation 30.9 you can see that

$$1 \text{ weber} = 1 \text{ Wb} = 1 \text{ T m}^2$$

Equation 30.9 is reminiscent of the vector dot product: $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\theta$. With that in mind, let's define an **area vector** $\vec{A}$ to be a vector *perpendicular* to the loop, with magnitude equal to the area $A$ of the loop. Vector $\vec{A}$ has units of m². Figure 30.13a shows the area vector $\vec{A}$ for a circular loop of area $A$.

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**Figure 30.13**

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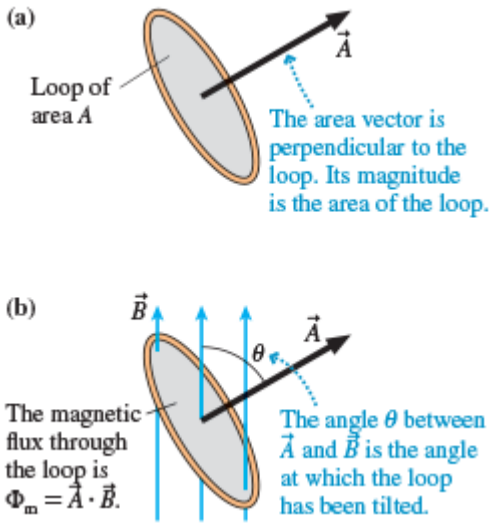



Magnetic flux can be defined in terms of an area vector $\vec{A}$.

Figure 30.13b shows a magnetic field passing through a loop. The angle between vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ is the same angle used in Equations 30.8 and 30.9 to define the effective area and the magnetic flux. So Equation 30.9 really is a dot product, and we can define the magnetic flux more concisely as



**(30.10)**

$$\Phi_m = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$$

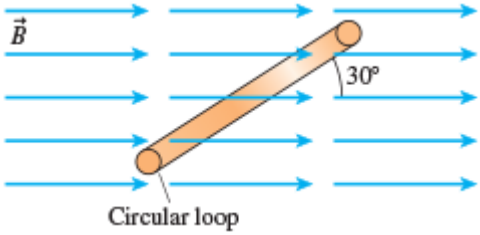
Writing the flux as a dot product helps make clear how angle $\theta$ is defined: $\theta$ is the angle between the magnetic field and the axis of the loop.

### Example 30.4 A circular loop in a magnetic field

Figure 30.14 is an edge view of a 10-cm-diameter circular loop in a uniform 0.050 T magnetic field. What is the magnetic flux through

the loop?

**Figure 30.14**




A circular loop in a magnetic field.

**SOLVE** Angle $\theta$ is the angle between the loop's area vector $\vec{A}$, which is perpendicular to the plane of the loop, and the magnetic field $\vec{B}$. In this case, $\theta = 60^\circ$, not the 30° angle shown in the figure. Vector $\vec{A}$ has magnitude $A = \pi r^2 = 7.85 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m}^2$. Thus the magnetic flux is

$$\Phi_\text{m} = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\theta = 2.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{Wb}$$

# Magnetic Flux in a Nonuniform Field

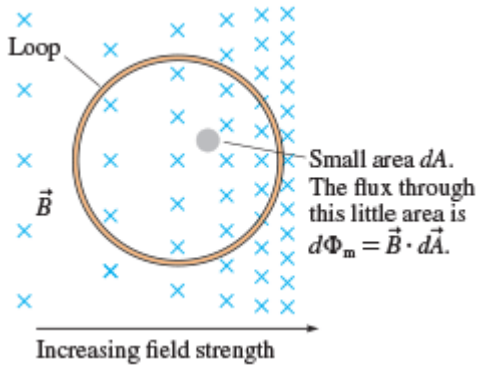
Equation 30.10 for the magnetic flux assumes that the field is uniform over the area of the loop. We can calculate the flux in a nonuniform field, one where the field strength changes from one edge of the loop to the other, but we'll need to use calculus.

Figure 30.15 shows a loop in a nonuniform magnetic field. Imagine dividing the loop into many small pieces of area $dA$. The infinitesimal flux $d\Phi_\text{m}$ through one such area, where the magnetic field is $\vec{B}$, is

(30.11)

$$d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

## Figure 30.15




A loop in a nonuniform magnetic field.

The total magnetic flux through the loop is the sum of the fluxes through each of the small areas. We find that sum by integrating. Thus the total magnetic flux through the loop is

(30.12)

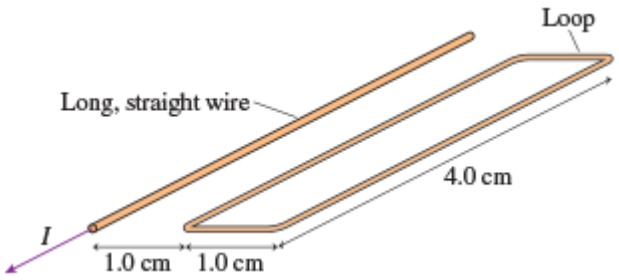
$$\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = \int_{\text{area of loop}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Equation 30.12 is a more general definition of magnetic flux. It may look rather formidable, so we'll illustrate its use with an example.

### Example 30.5 Magnetic flux from the current in a long straight wire

The $1.0\ \mathrm{cm} \times 4.0\ \mathrm{cm}$ rectangular loop of Figure 30.16 is 1.0 cm away from a long, straight wire. The wire carries a current of 1.0 A. What is the magnetic flux through the loop?

## Figure 30.16



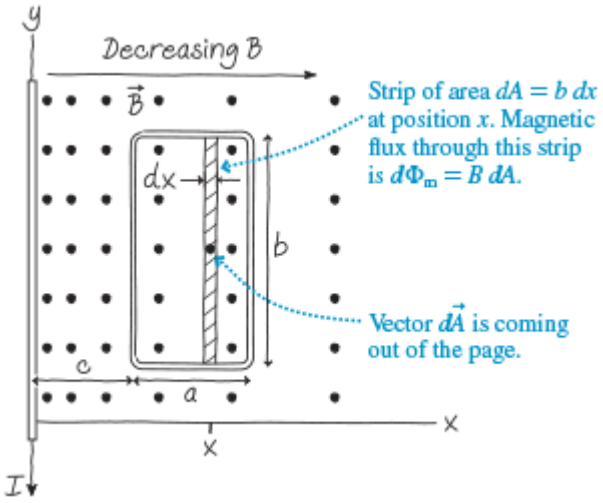

A loop next to a current-carrying wire.

**MODEL** Model the wire as if it were infinitely long. The magnetic field strength of a wire decreases with distance from the wire, so the field is *not* uniform over the area of the loop.



**VISUALIZE** Using the right-hand rule, we see that the field, as it circles the wire, is perpendicular to the plane of the loop. Figure 30.17 redraws the loop with the field coming out of the page and establishes a coordinate system.

## Figure 30.17




Calculating the magnetic flux through the loop.

**SOLVE** Let the loop have dimensions $a$ and $b$, as shown, with the near edge at distance $c$ from the wire. The magnetic field varies with distance $x$ from the wire, but the field is constant along a line parallel to the wire. This suggests dividing the loop into many narrow rectangular strips of length $b$ and width $dx$, each forming a small area $dA = b\,dx$. The magnetic field has the same strength at all points within this small area. One such strip is shown in the figure at position $x$.

The area vector $d\vec{A}$ is perpendicular to the strip (coming out of the page), which makes it parallel to $\vec{B}$ ($\theta = 0^\circ$). Thus the infinitesimal flux through this little area is

$$d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = \vec{B}.d\vec{A} = B\,dA = B\,(b\,dx) = \frac{\mu_0 I b}{2\pi x}dx$$

where, from Chapter 29, we've used $B = \mu_0 I/2\pi x$ as the magnetic field at distance $x$ from a long, straight wire. Integrating "over the area of the loop" means to integrate from the near edge of the loop at $x = c$ to the far edge at $x = c + a$. Thus

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = \frac{\mu_0 I b}{2\pi}\int_c^{c+a}\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{\mu_0 I b}{2\pi}\,\ln x\Big|_c^{c+a} = \frac{\mu_0 I b}{2\pi}\ln\left(\frac{c+a}{c}\right)$$

Evaluating for $a = c = 0.010\,\mathrm{m}$, $b = 0.040\,\mathrm{m}$, and $I = 1.0\,\mathrm{A}$ gives

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = 5.5 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{Wb}$$

**ASSESS** The flux measures how much of the wire's magnetic field passes through the loop, but we had to integrate, rather than simply using Equation 30.10, because the field is stronger at the near edge of the loop than at the far edge.

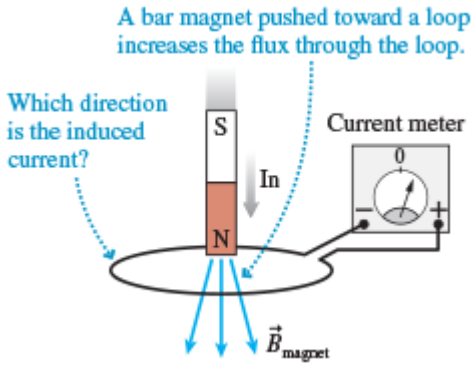
# 30.4 Lenz's Law



We started out by looking at a situation in which a moving wire caused a loop to expand in a magnetic field. This is one way to change the magnetic flux through the loop. But Faraday found that a current can be induced by any change in the magnetic flux, no matter how it's accomplished.

For example, a momentary current is induced in the loop of Figure 30.18 as the bar magnet is pushed toward the loop, increasing the flux through the loop. Pulling the magnet back out of the loop causes the current meter to deflect in the opposite direction. The conducting wires aren't moving, so this is not a motional emf. Nonetheless, the induced current is very real.

**Figure 30.18**




Pushing a bar magnet toward the loop induces a current.

The German physicist Heinrich Lenz began to study electromagnetic induction after learning of Faraday's discovery. Three years later, in 1834, Lenz announced a rule for determining the direction of the induced current. We now call his rule **Lenz's law**, and it can be stated as follows:

### Lenz's law

There is an induced current in a closed, conducting loop if and only if the magnetic flux through the loop is changing. The direction of the induced current is such that the induced magnetic field opposes the *change* in the flux.

Lenz's law is rather subtle, and it takes some practice to see how to apply it.

> **Note**
>
> One difficulty with Lenz's law is the term *flux*. In everyday language, the word *flux* already implies that something is changing. Think of the phrase, "The situation is in flux." Not so in physics, where *flux*, the root of the word *flow*, means "passes through." A steady magnetic field through a loop creates a steady, *un*changing magnetic flux.

Lenz's law tells us to look for situations where the flux is *changing*. This can happen in three ways.

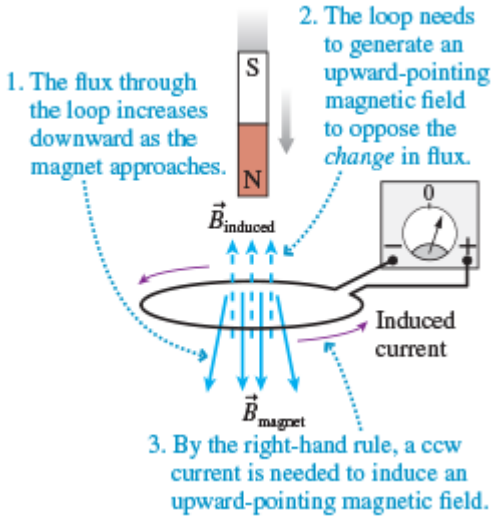
1. The magnetic field through the loop changes (increases or decreases),
2. The loop changes in area or angle, or
3. The loop moves into or out of a magnetic field.

Lenz's law depends on the idea that an induced current generates its own magnetic field $\vec{B}_{\text{included}}$. This is the *induced magnetic field* of Lenz's

law.You learned in Chapter 29 how to use the right-hand rule to determine the direction of this induced magnetic field.

In Figure 30.18, pushing the bar magnet toward the loop causes the magnetic flux to *increase* in the downward direction. To oppose the *change* in flux, which is what Lenz's law requires, the loop itself needs to generate the *upward*-pointing magnetic field of Figure 30.19. The induced magnetic field at the center of the loop will point upward if the current is ccw. Thus pushing the north end of a bar magnet toward the loop induces a ccw current around the loop. The induced current ceases as soon as the magnet stops moving.

## Figure 30.19

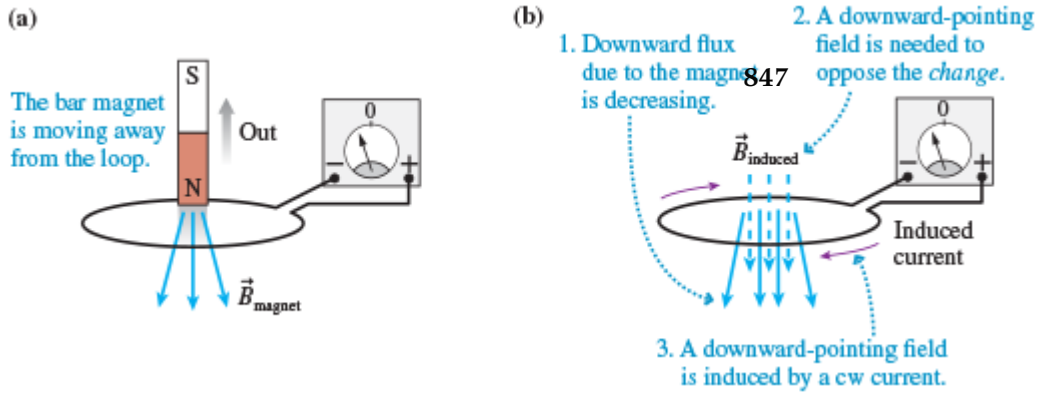



The induced current is ccw.

Now suppose the bar magnet is pulled back away from the loop, as shown in Figure 30.20a. There is a downward magnetic flux through the loop, but the flux *decreases* as the magnet moves away. According to Lenz's law, the induced magnetic field of the loop *opposes this decrease*. To do so, the induced field needs to point in the *downward* direction, as shown in Figure 30.20b. Thus as the magnet is withdrawn, the induced

current is clockwise (cw), opposite to the induced current of Figure 30.19.

## Figure 30.20




Pulling the magnet away induces a cw current.

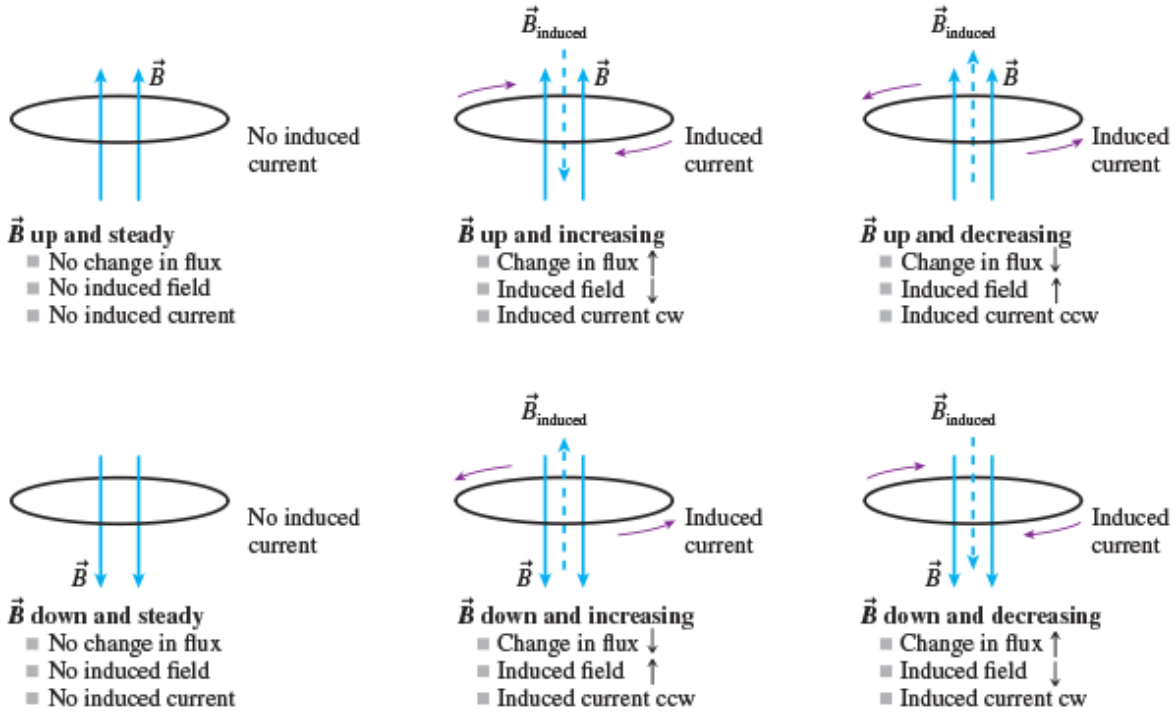


> **Note**
>
> Notice that the magnetic field of the bar magnet is pointing downward in both Figures 30.19 and 30.20. It is not the *flux* due to the magnet that the induced current opposes, but the *change* in the flux. This is a subtle but critical distinction. If the induced current opposed the flux itself, the current in both Figures 30.19 and 30.20 would be ccw to generate an upward magnetic field. But that's not what happens. When the field of the magnet points down and is increasing, the induced current opposes the increase by generating an upward field. When the field of the magnet points down but is decreasing, the induced current opposes the decrease by generating a downward field.

# Using Lenz's Law

Figure 30.21 shows six basic situations. The magnetic field can point either up or down through the loop. For each, the flux can either increase, hold steady, or decrease in strength. These observations form the basis for a set of rules about using Lenz's law.

## Figure 30.21




The induced current for six different situations.

TACTICS BOX 30.1 **Using Lenz's law**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Determine the direction of the applied magnetic field.** The field must pass through the loop.
2. **Determine how the flux is changing.** Is it increasing, decreasing, or staying the same?
3. **Determine the direction of an induced magnetic field that will oppose the *change* in the flux.**

- Increasing flux: the induced magnetic field points opposite the applied magnetic field.
- Decreasing flux: the induced magnetic field points in the same direction as the applied magnetic field.
- Steady flux: there is no induced magnetic field.

4. **Determine the direction of the induced current.** Use the right-hand rule to determine the current direction in the loop that generates the induced magnetic field you found in step 3.



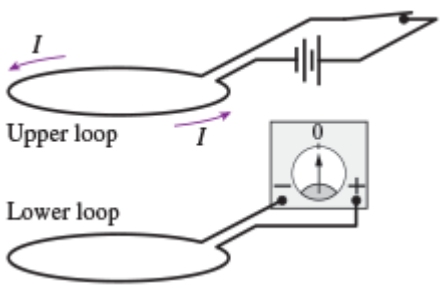
Workbook Exercises 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Let's look at two examples.

### Example 30.6 Lenz's law 1

Figure 30.22 shows two loops, one above the other. The upper loop has a battery and a switch that has been closed for a long time. How does the lower loop respond when the switch is opened in the upper loop?

### Figure 30.22

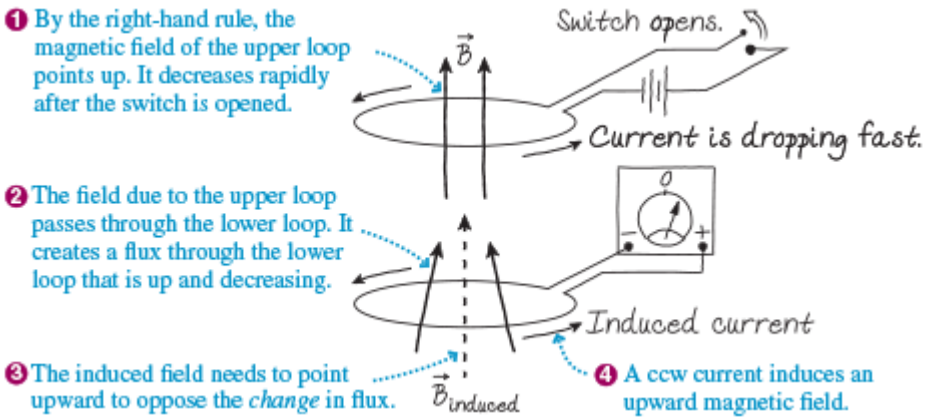



The two loops of Example 30.6.

**MODEL** We'll use the right-hand rule to find the magnetic fields of current loops.

**SOLVE** Figure 30.23 shows the four steps of using Lenz's law. Opening the switch induces a ccw current in the lower loop. This is a momentary current, lasting only until the magnetic field of the upper loop drops to zero.

**Figure 30.23**



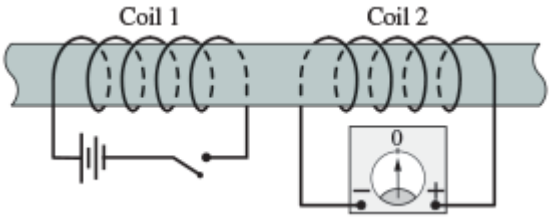

Applying Lenz's law.

**ASSESS** The conclusion is consistent with Figure 30.21.

## Example 30.7 Lenz's law 2

Figure 30.24 shows two coils wrapped side by side on a cylinder. When the switch for coil 1 is closed, does the induced current in coil 2 pass from right to left or from left to right through the current meter?

**Figure 30.24**



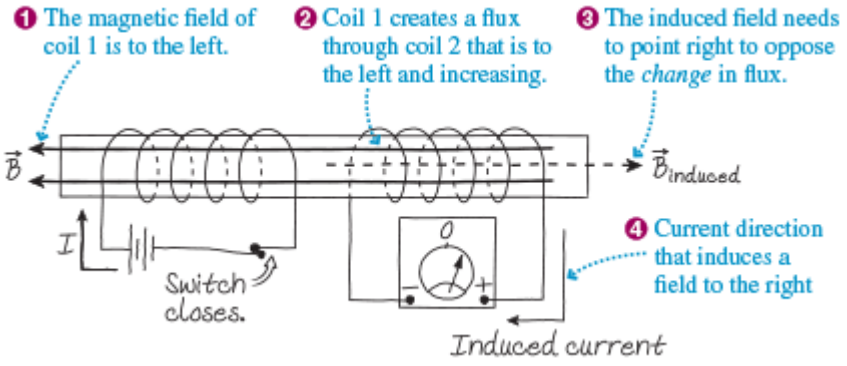

The two solenoids of Example 30.7.

**MODEL** We'll use the right-hand rule to find the magnetic field of a coil.

**VISUALIZE** It is very important to look at the *direction* in which a coil is wound around the cylinder. Notice that the two coils in Figure 30.24 are wound in opposite directions.

**SOLVE** Figure 30.25 shows the four steps of using Lenz's law. Closing the switch induces a current that passes from right to left through the current meter. The induced current is only momentary. It lasts only until the field from coil 1 reaches full strength and is no longer changing.

## Figure 30.25

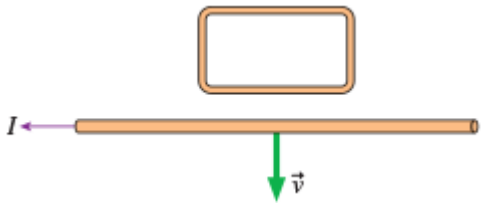



Applying Lenz's law.

**ASSESS** The conclusion is consistent with Figure 30.21.

## Stop to Think 30.4

A current-carrying wire is pulled away from a conducting loop in the direction shown. As the wire is moving, is there a cw current around the loop, a ccw current, or no current?



# 30.5 Faraday's Law



Charges don't start moving spontaneously. A current requires an emf to provide the energy. We started our analysis of induced currents with circuits in which a *motional emf* can be understood in terms of magnetic forces on moving charges. But we've also seen that a current can be induced by changing the magnetic field through a stationary circuit, a circuit in which there is no motion. There *must* be an emf in this circuit, even though the mechanism for this emf is not yet clear.

The emf associated with a changing magnetic flux, regardless of what causes the change, is called an **induced emf ℰ**. Then, if there is a complete circuit having resistance $R$, a current

**(30.13)**

$$I_{\text{induced}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R}$$

is established in the wire as a *consequence* of the induced emf. The direction of the current is given by Lenz's law. The last piece of information we need is the size of the induced emf $\epsilon$.

The research of Faraday and others eventually led to the discovery of the basic law of electromagnetic induction, which we now call **Faraday's law**. It states:

---

Faraday's law

An emf $\mathcal{E}$ is induced around a closed loop if the magnetic flux through the loop changes. The magnitude of the emf is

**(30.14)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \left| \frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}}}{dt} \right|$$

and the direction of the emf is such as to drive an induced current in the direction given by Lenz's law.

In other words, the induced emf is the *rate of change* of the magnetic flux through the loop.

As a corollary to Faraday's law, an $N$-turn coil of wire in a changing magnetic field acts like $N$ batteries in series. The induced emf of each of the coils adds, so the induced emf of the entire coil is

**(30.15)**

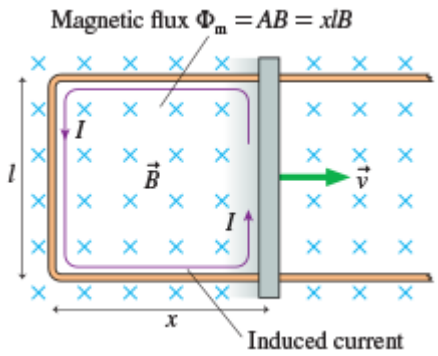
$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{coil}} = N \left| \frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{per\ coil}}}{dt} \right| \quad (\text{Faraday's law for an } N\text{-turn coil})$$

As a first example of using Faraday's law, return to the situation of Figure 30.5, where a wire moves through a magnetic field by sliding on a U-shaped conducting rail. Figure 30.26 shows the circuit again. The magnetic field $\vec{B}$ is perpendicular to the plane of the conducting loop, so $\theta = 0^\circ$ and the magnetic flux is $\Phi = AB$, where $A$ is the area of the loop. If the slide wire is distance $x$ from the end, the area is $A = xl$ and the flux at that instant of time is

**(30.16)**

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = AB = xlB$$

## Figure 30.26




The magnetic flux through the loop increases as the slide wire moves.

The flux through the loop increases as the wire moves. According to Faraday's law, the induced emf is

**(30.17)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \left| \frac{d\Phi_m}{dt} \right| = \frac{d}{dt}(xlB) = \frac{dx}{dt} lB = vlB$$

where the wire's velocity is $v = dx/dt$. We can now use Equation 30.13 to find that the induced current is

**(30.18)**

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} = \frac{vlB}{R}$$

The flux is increasing into the loop, so the induced magnetic field opposes this increase by pointing out of the loop. This requires a ccw induced current in the loop. Faraday's law leads us to the conclusion that the loop will have a ccw induced current $I = vlB/R$. This is exactly the conclusion we reached in Section 30.2, where we analyzed the situation from the perspective of magnetic forces on moving charge carriers. Faraday's law confirms what we already knew but, at least in this case, doesn't seem to offer anything new.

# Using Faraday's Law

Most electromagnetic induction problems can be solved with a four-step strategy.

### PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 30.1 Electromagnetic induction

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Make simplifying assumptions about wires and magnetic fields.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a picture or a circuit diagram. Use Lenz's law to determine the direction of the induced current.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on Faraday's law

$$\mathcal{E} = \left| \frac{d\Phi_m}{dt} \right|$$

For an $N$-turn coil, multiply by $N$. The size of the induced current is $I = \mathcal{E}/R$.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.

Workbook Exercise 18

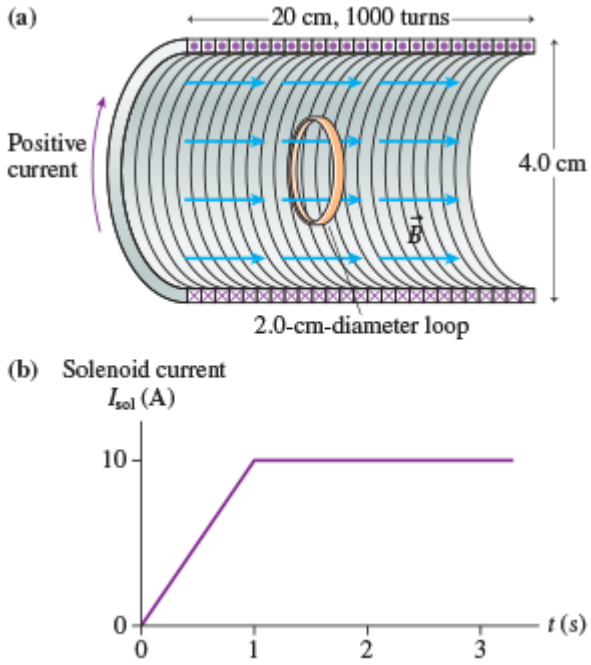
### Example 30.8 Electromagnetic induction in a solenoid

A 2.0-cm-diameter loop of wire with a resistance of 0.010 Ω is placed in the center of the solenoid seen in Figure 30.27a on the

next page. The solenoid is 4.0 cm in diameter, 20 cm long, and wrapped with 1000 turns of wire. Figure 30.27b shows the current through the solenoid as a function of time as the solenoid is "powered up." A positive current is defined to be cw when seen from the left. Find the current in the loop as a function of time and show the result as a graph.



## Figure 30.27




A loop inside a solenoid.

**MODEL** The solenoid's length is much greater than its diameter, so the field near the center should be nearly uniform.

**VISUALIZE** The magnetic field of the solenoid creates a magnetic flux through the loop of wire. The solenoid current is always positive, meaning that it is cw as seen from the left. Consequently, from the right-hand rule, the magnetic field inside the solenoid always points to the right. During the first second, while the solenoid current is increasing, the flux through the loop is to the

right and increasing. To oppose the *change* in the flux, the loop's induced magnetic field must point to the left. Thus, again using the right-hand rule, the induced current must flow ccw as seen from the left. This is a *negative* current. There's no *change* in the flux for $t > 1\text{ s}$, so the induced current is zero.

**SOLVE** Now we're ready to use Faraday's law to find the magnitude of the current. Because the field is uniform inside the solenoid and perpendicular to the loop ($\theta = 0^\circ$), the flux is $\Phi_\text{m} = AB$, where $A = \pi r^2 = 3.14 \times 10^{-4}\text{ m}^2$ is the area of the loop (*not* the area of the solenoid). The field of a long solenoid of length $l$ was found in Chapter 29 to be

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 N I_\text{sol}}{l}$$

The flux when the solenoid current is $I_\text{sol}$ is thus

$$\Phi_\text{m} = \frac{\mu_0 A N I_\text{sol}}{l}$$

The changing flux creates an induced emf $\mathcal{E}$ that is given by Faraday's law:

$$\mathcal{E} = \left|\frac{d\Phi_\text{m}}{dt}\right| = \frac{\mu_0 A N}{l}\left|\frac{dI_\text{sol}}{dt}\right| = 2.0 \times 10^{-6}\left|\frac{dI_\text{sol}}{dt}\right|$$

From the slope of the graph, we find

$$\left|\frac{dI_\text{sol}}{dt}\right| = \begin{cases} 10\text{ A/s} & 0.0\text{ s} < t < 1.0\text{ s} \\ 0 & 1.0\text{ s} < t < 3.0\text{ s} \end{cases}$$

Thus the induced emf is

$$\mathcal{E} = \begin{cases} 2.0 \times 10^{-5}\text{ V} & 0.0\text{ s} < t < 1.0\text{ s} \\ 0\text{ V} & 1.0\text{ s} < t < 3.0\text{ s} \end{cases}$$

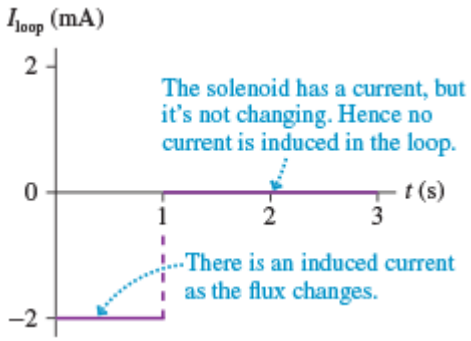
Finally, the current induced in the loop is

$$I_{\text{loop}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} = \begin{cases} -2.0\ \text{mA} & 0.0\ \text{s} < t < 1.0\ \text{s} \\ 0\ \text{mA} & 1.0\ \text{s} < t < 3.0\ \text{s} \end{cases}$$

where the negative sign comes from Lenz's law. This result is shown in Figure 30.28.



**Figure 30.28**

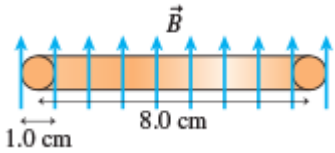



The induced current in the loop.

### Example 30.9 Current induced by an MRI machine

The body is a conductor, so rapid magnetic field changes in an MRI machine can induce currents in the body. To estimate the size of these currents, and any biological hazard they might impose, consider the "loop" of muscle tissue shown in Figure 30.29. This might be muscle circling the bone of your arm or thigh. Although muscle is not a great conductor—its resistivity is 1.5 Ω m—we can consider it to be a conducting loop with a rather high resistance. Suppose the magnetic field along the axis of the loop drops from 1.6 T to 0 T in 0.30 s, which is about the largest possible rate of change for an MRI solenoid. What current will be induced?

## Figure 30.29




Edge view of a loop of muscle tissue in a magnetic field.

**MODEL** Model the muscle as a conducting loop. Assume that $B$ decreases linearly with time.

**SOLVE** The magnetic field is parallel to the axis of the loop, with $\theta = 0^\circ$, so the magnetic flux through the loop is $\Phi_m = AB = \pi r^2 B$. The flux changes with time because $B$ changes. According to Faraday's law, the magnitude of the induced emf is

$$\mathcal{E} = \left| \frac{d\Phi_m}{dt} \right| = \pi r^2 \left| \frac{dB}{dt} \right|$$

The rate at which the magnetic field changes is

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = \frac{\Delta B}{\Delta t} = \frac{-1.60\,\text{T}}{0.30\,\text{s}} = -5.3\,\text{T/s}$$

$dB/dt$ is negative because the field is decreasing, but all we need for Faraday's law is the absolute value. Thus

$$\mathcal{E} = \pi r^2 \left| \frac{dB}{dt} \right| = \pi (0.040\,\text{m})^2 \, (5.3\,\text{T/s}) = 0.027\,\text{V}$$

To find the current, we need to know the resistance of the loop. Recall, from Chapter 27, that a conductor with resistivity $\rho$, length $L$, and cross-section area $A$ has resistance $R = \rho L / A$. The length is the circumference of the loop, calculated to be $L = 0.25$ m, and we can use the 1.0 cm diameter of the "wire" to find

$A = 7.9 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{m}^2$. With these values, we can compute $R = 4700\ \Omega$. As a result, the induced current is

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} = \frac{0.027\ \text{V}}{4700\ \Omega} = 5.7 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{A} = 5.7\ \mu\text{A}$$

**ASSESS** This is a very small current. Power—the rate of energy dissipation in the muscle—is

$$P = I^2R = \left(5.7 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{A}\right)^2 (4700\ \Omega) = 1.5 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{W}$$

The current is far too small to notice, and the tiny energy dissipation will certainly not heat the tissue.

## What Does Faraday's Law Tell Us?

The induced current in the slide-wire circuit of Figure 30.26 can be understood as a motional emf due to magnetic forces on moving charges. We had not anticipated this kind of current in Chapter 29, but it takes no new laws of physics to understand it. The induced currents in Examples 30.8 and 30.9 are different. We cannot explain these induced currents on the basis of previous laws or principles. This is new physics.

Faraday recognized that all induced currents are associated with a changing magnetic flux. There are two fundamentally different ways to change the magnetic flux through a conducting loop:

1. The loop can expand, contract, or rotate, creating a motional emf.
2. The magnetic field can change.

We can see both of these if we write Faraday's law as

**(30.19)**

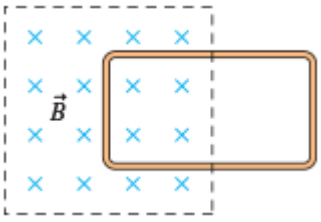
$$\mathcal{E} = \left|\frac{d\Phi_m}{dt}\right| = \left|\vec{B} \cdot \frac{d\vec{A}}{dt} + \vec{A} \cdot \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt}\right|$$

The first term on the right side represents a motional emf. The magnetic flux changes because the loop itself is changing. This term includes not only situations like the slide-wire circuit, where the area $A$ changes, but also loops that rotate in a magnetic field. The physical area of a rotating loop does not change, but the area *vector* $\vec{A}$ does. The loop's motion causes magnetic forces on the charge carriers in the loop.

The second term on the right side is the new physics in Faraday's law. It says that an emf can also be created simply by changing a magnetic field, even if nothing is moving. This was the case in Examples 30.8 and 30.9. Faraday's law tells us that the induced emf is simply the rate of change of the magnetic flux through the loop, *regardless* of what causes the flux to change.

## Stop to Think 30.5

A conducting loop is halfway into a magnetic field. Suppose the magnetic field begins to increase rapidly in strength. What happens to the loop?



**a.** The loop is pushed upward, toward the top of the page.

**b.** The loop is pushed downward, toward the bottom of the page.

**c.** The loop is pulled to the left, into the magnetic field.

**d.** The loop is pushed to the right, out of the magnetic field.

**e.** The tension in the wires increases but the loop does not move.

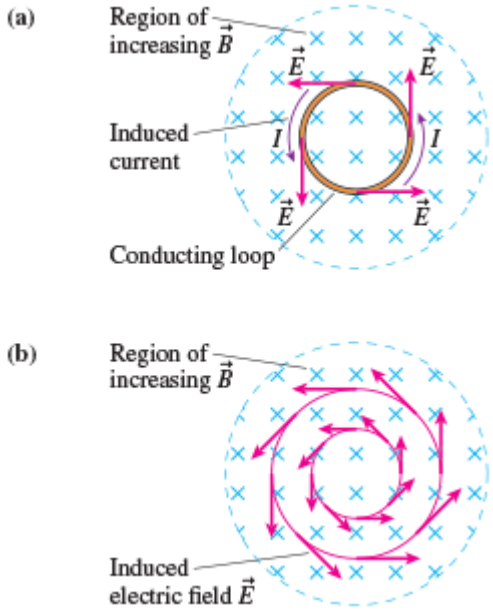
# 30.6 Induced Fields



Faraday's law is a tool for calculating the strength of an induced current, but one important piece of the puzzle is still missing. What *causes* the current? That is, what *force* pushes the charges around the loop against the resistive forces of the metal? The agents that exert forces on charges are electric fields and magnetic fields. Magnetic forces are responsible for motional emfs, but magnetic forces cannot explain the current induced in a *stationary* loop by a changing magnetic field.

Figure 30.30a shows a conducting loop in an increasing magnetic field. According to Lenz's law, there is an induced current in the ccw direction. Something has to act on the charge carriers to make them move, so we infer that there must be an *electric* field tangent to the loop at all points. This electric field is *caused* by the changing magnetic field and is called an **induced electric field.** The induced electric field is the mechanism that creates a current inside a stationary loop when there's a changing magnetic field.

**Figure 30.30**




An induced electric field creates a current in the loop.

---

The conducting loop isn't necessary. The space in which the magnetic field is changing is filled with the pinwheel pattern of induced electric fields shown in Figure 30.30b. Charges will move if a conducting path is present, but the induced electric field is there as a direct consequence of the changing magnetic field.

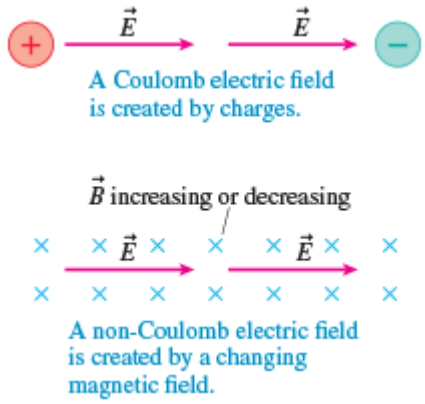
But this is a rather peculiar electric field. All the electric fields we have examined until now have been created by charges. Electric field vectors pointed away from positive charges and toward negative charges. An electric field created by charges is called a **Coulomb electric field.** The induced electric field of Figure 30.30b is caused not by charges but by a changing magnetic field. It is called a **non-Coulomb electric field.**

So it appears that there are two different ways to create an electric field:

1. A Coulomb electric field is created by positive and negative charges.
2. A non-Coulomb electric field is created by a changing magnetic field.

Both exert a force $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$ on a charge, and both create a current in a conductor. However, the origins of the fields are very different. Figure 30.31 is a quick summary of the two ways to create an electric field.

**Figure 30.31**




Two ways to create an electric field.

We first introduced the idea of a field as a way of thinking about how two charges exert long-range forces on each other through the emptiness of space. The field may have seemed like a useful pictorial representation of charge interactions, but we had little evidence that fields are *real*, that they actually exist. Now we do. The electric field has shown up in a completely different context, independent of charges, as the explanation of the very real existence of induced currents.

**The electric field is not just a pictorial representation; it is real.**

## Calculating the Induced Field

The induced electric field is peculiar in another way: It is nonconservative. Recall that a force is conservative if it does no net work on a particle moving around a closed path. "Uphills" are balanced by "downhills." We can associate a potential energy with a conservative

force, hence we have gravitational potential energy for the conservative gravitational force and electric potential energy for the conservative electric force of charges (a Coulomb electric field).

But a charge moving around a closed path in the induced electric field of Figure 30.30 is always being pushed *in the same direction* by the electric force $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$. There's never any negative work to balance the positive work, so the net work done in going around a closed path is not zero. Because it's nonconservative, we cannot associate an electric potential with an induced electric field. Only the Coulomb field of charges has an electric potential.

However, we can associate the induced field with the emf of Faraday's law. The emf was defined as the work required per unit charge to separate the charge. That is,

**(30.20)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{W}{q}$$

In batteries, a familiar source of emf, this work is done by chemical forces. But the emf that appears in Faraday's law arises when work is done by the force of an induced electric field.

If a charge $q$ moves through a small displacement $d\vec{s}$, the small amount of work done by the electric field is $dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = q\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$. The emf of Faraday's law is an emf around a *closed curve* through which the magnetic flux $\Phi_m$ is changing. The work done by the induced electric field as charge $q$ moves around a closed curve is

**(30.21)**

$$W_{\text{closed curve}} = q \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{\text{s}}$$

where the integration symbol with the circle is the same as the one we used in Ampère's law to indicate an integral around a closed curve. If we use this work in Equation 30.20, we find that the emf around a closed loop is

**(30.22)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{W_{\text{closed curve}}}{q} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{\text{s}}$$

If we restrict ourselves to situations such as Figure 30.30 where the loop is perpendicular to the magnetic field and only the field is changing, we can write Faraday's law as $\mathcal{E} = |d\Phi_{\text{m}}/dt| = A\,|dB/dt|$. Consequently

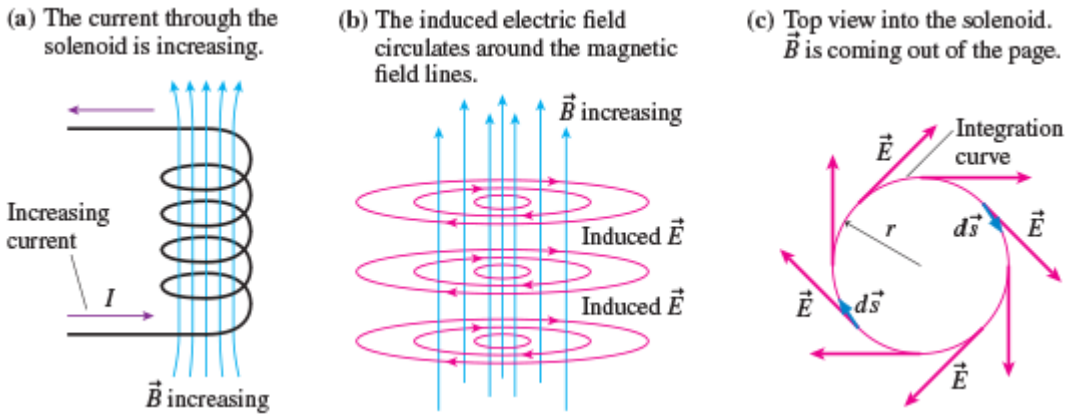
**(30.23)**

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{\text{s}} = A\left|\frac{dB}{dt}\right|$$

Equation 30.23 is an alternative statement of Faraday's law that relates the induced electric field to the changing magnetic field.

The solenoid in Figure 30.32a provides a good example of the connection between $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$. If there were a conducting loop inside the solenoid, we could use Lenz's law to determine that the direction of the induced current would be clockwise. But Faraday's law, in the form of Equation 30.23, tells us that **an induced electric field is present whether there's a conducting loop or not.** The electric field is induced simply due to the fact that $\vec{B}$ is changing.

## Figure 30.32




The induced electric field circulates around the changing magnetic field inside a solenoid.

The shape and direction of the induced electric field have to be such that it *could* drive a current around a conducting loop, if one were present, and it has to be consistent with the cylindrical symmetry of the solenoid. The only possible choice, shown in Figure 30.32b, is an electric field that circulates clockwise around the magnetic field lines.

> **Note**
>
> Circular electric field lines violate the Chapter 23 rule that electric field lines have to start and stop on charges. However, that rule applied only to Coulomb fields created by source charges. An induced electric field is a non-Coulomb field created not by source charges but by a changing magnetic field. Without source charges, induced electric field lines *must* form closed loops.

To use Faraday's law, choose a *clockwise* circle of radius $r$ as the closed curve for evaluating the integral. Figure 30.32c shows that the electric field vectors are everywhere tangent to the curve, so the line integral of $\vec{E}$ is

(30.24)

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = El = 2\pi r E$$

where $l = 2\pi r$ is the length of the closed curve. This is exactly like the integrals we did for Ampère's law in Chapter 29.

If we stay inside the solenoid ($r < R$), the flux passes through area $A = \pi r^2$ and Equation 30.24 becomes

(30.25)

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 2\pi r E = A\left|\frac{dB}{dt}\right| = \pi r^2 \left|\frac{dB}{dt}\right|$$

Thus the strength of the induced electric field inside the solenoid is

(30.26)

$$E_{\text{inside}} = \frac{r}{2}\left|\frac{dB}{dt}\right|$$

This result shows very directly that the induced electric field is created by a *changing* magnetic field. A constant $\vec{B}$, with $dB/dt = 0$, would give $E = 0$.

**Example 30.10 An induced electric field**

A 4.0-cm-diameter solenoid is wound with 2000 turns per meter. The current through the solenoid oscillates at 60 Hz with an amplitude of 2.0 A. What is the maximum strength of the induced electric field inside the solenoid?

**MODEL** Assume that the magnetic field inside the solenoid is uniform.

**VISUALIZE** The electric field lines are concentric circles around the magnetic field lines, as was shown in Figure 30.32b. They reverse direction twice every period as the current oscillates.



**SOLVE** You learned in Chapter 29 that the magnetic field strength inside a solenoid with $n$ turns per meter is $B = \mu_0 nI$. In this case, the current through the solenoid is $I = I_0 \sin \omega t$, where $I_0 = 2.0\,\text{A}$ is the peak current and $\omega = 2\pi(60\,\text{Hz}) = 377\,\text{rad/s}$. Thus the induced electric field strength at radius $r$ is

$$E = \frac{r}{2}\left|\frac{dB}{dt}\right| = \frac{r}{2}\frac{d}{dt}(\mu_0 nI_0 \sin\,\omega t) = \tfrac{1}{2}\mu_0 nr\omega I_0 \cos\,\omega t$$

The field strength is maximum at maximum radius ($r = R$) *and* at the instant when $\cos\,\omega t = 1$. That is,

$$E_{\text{max}} = \tfrac{1}{2}\mu_0 nR\omega I_0 = 0.019\,\text{V/m}$$

**ASSESS** This field strength, although not large, is similar to the field strength that the emf of a battery creates in a wire. Hence this induced electric field can drive a substantial induced current through a conducting loop *if* a loop is present. But the induced electric field exists inside the solenoid whether or not there is a conducting loop.

Occasionally it is useful to have a version of Faraday's law without the absolute value signs. The essence of Lenz's law is that the emf $\mathcal{E}$ opposes

the *change* in $\Phi_m$. Mathematically, this means that $\mathcal{E}$ must be opposite in sign to $dB/dt$. Consequently, we can write Faraday's law as

**(30.27)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{d\Phi_m}{dt}$$

For practical applications, it's always easier to calculate just the magnitude of the emf with Faraday's law and to use Lenz's law to find the direction of the emf or the induced current. However, the mathematically rigorous version of Faraday's law in Equation 30.27 will prove to be useful when we combine it with other equations, in Chapter 31, to predict the existence of electromagnetic waves.

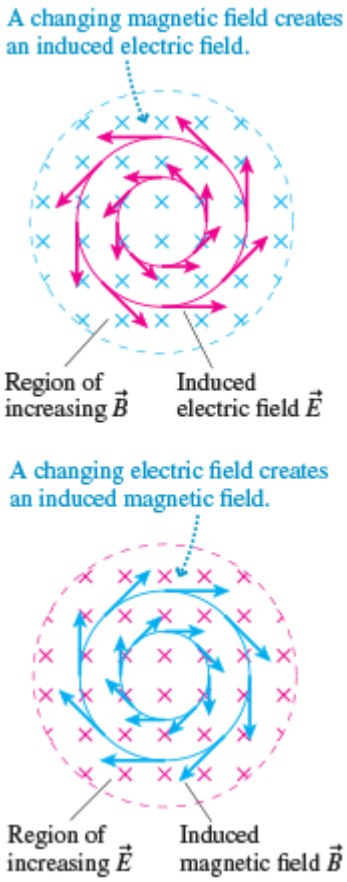
## Maxwell's Theory of Electromagnetic Waves

In 1855, less than two years after receiving his undergraduate degree, the Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell presented a paper titled "On Faraday's Lines of Force." In this paper, he began to sketch out how Faraday's pictorial ideas about fields could be given a rigorous mathematical basis. Maxwell was troubled by a certain lack of symmetry. Faraday had found that a changing magnetic field creates an induced electric field, a non-Coulomb electric field not tied to charges. But what, Maxwell began to wonder, about a changing *electric* field?

To complete the symmetry, Maxwell proposed that a changing electric field creates an **induced magnetic field**, a new kind of magnetic field not tied to the existence of currents. Figure 30.33 shows a region of space where the *electric* field is increasing. This region of space, according to

Maxwell, is filled with a pinwheel pattern of induced magnetic fields. The induced magnetic field looks like the induced electric field, with $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ interchanged, except that—for technical reasons explored in the next chapter—the induced $\vec{B}$ points the opposite way from the induced $\vec{E}$. Although there was no experimental evidence that induced magnetic fields existed, Maxwell went ahead and included them in his electromagnetic field theory. This was an inspired hunch, soon to be vindicated.

## Figure 30.33



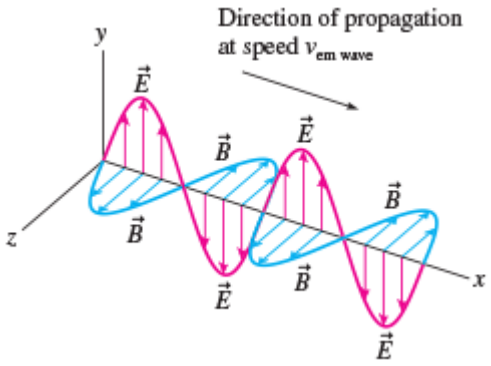

Maxwell hypothesized the existence of induced magnetic fields.

Maxwell soon realized that it might be possible to establish self-sustaining electric and magnetic fields that would be entirely independent of any charges or currents. That is, a changing electric field

$\vec{E}$ creates a magnetic field $\vec{B}$, which then changes in just the right way to recreate the electric field, which then changes in just the right way to again recreate the magnetic field, and so on. The fields are continually recreated through electromagnetic induction without any reliance on charges or currents.

Maxwell was able to predict that electric and magnetic fields would be able to sustain themselves, free from charges and currents, if they took the form of an **electromagnetic wave.** The wave would have to have a very specific geometry, shown in Figure 30.34, in which $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ are perpendicular to each other as well as perpendicular to the direction of travel. That is, an electromagnetic wave would be a *transverse* wave.

## Figure 30.34




A self-sustaining electromagnetic wave.

Furthermore, Maxwell's theory predicted that the wave would travel with speed

$$v_{\text{em wave}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}}$$

where $\epsilon_0$ is the permittivity constant from Coulomb's law and $\mu_0$ is the permeability constant from the law of Biot and Savart. Maxwell computed

that an electromagnetic wave, if it existed, would travel with speed $v_{\text{em wave}} = 3.00 \times 10^8\ \text{m/s}$.

We don't know Maxwell's immediate reaction, but it must have been both shock and excitement. His predicted speed for electromagnetic waves, a prediction that came directly from his theory, was none other than the speed of light! This agreement could be just a coincidence, but Maxwell didn't think so. Making a bold leap of imagination, Maxwell concluded that **light is an electromagnetic wave.**

It took 25 more years for Maxwell's predictions to be tested. In 1886, the German physicist Heinrich Hertz discovered how to generate and transmit radio waves. Two years later, in 1888, he was able to show that radio waves travel at the speed of light. Maxwell, unfortunately, did not live to see his triumph. He had died in 1879, at the age of 48.

# 30.7 Induced Currents: Three Applications



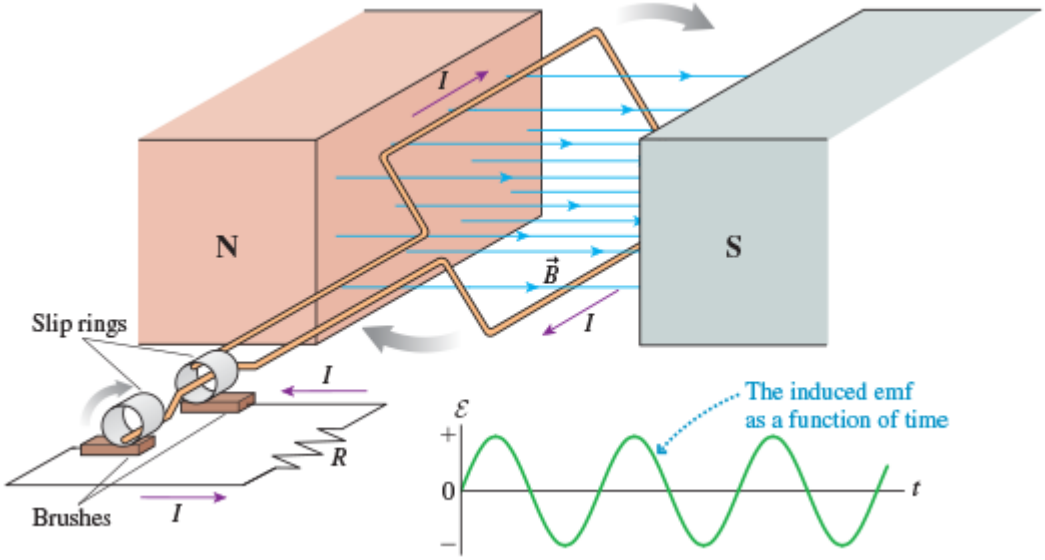
There are many applications of Faraday's law and induced currents in modern technology. In this section we will look at three: generators, transformers, and metal detectors.

## Generators

A generator is a device that transforms mechanical energy into electric energy. Figure 30.35 on the next page shows a generator in which a coil of wire, perhaps spun by a windmill, rotates in a magnetic field. Both the field and the area of the loop are constant, but the magnetic flux through the loop changes continuously as the loop rotates. The induced current is removed from the rotating loop by *brushes* that press up against rotating *slip rings*.

A generator inside a hydroelectric dam uses electromagnetic induction to convert the mechanical energy of a spinning turbine into electric energy.

**Figure 30.35**




An alternating-current generator.

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The flux through the coil is

**(30.28)**

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\theta = AB\cos\omega t$$

where $\omega$ is the angular frequency ($\omega = 2\pi f$) with which the coil rotates. The induced emf is given by Faraday's law,

**(30.29)**

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{coil}} = -N\frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}}}{dt} = -ABN\frac{d}{dt}(\cos\ \omega t) = \omega ABN\sin\ \omega t$$

where $N$ is the number of turns on the coil. Here it's best to use the signed version of Faraday's law to see how $\mathcal{E}_{\text{coil}}$ alternates between positive and negative.

Because the emf alternates in sign, the current through resistor $R$ alternates back and forth in direction. Hence the generator of Figure 30.35 is an alternating-current generator, producing what we call an *AC voltage*.

**Example 30.11 An AC generator**

A coil with area 2.0 $m^2$ rotates in a 0.010 T magnetic field at a frequency of 60 Hz. How many turns are needed to generate a peak voltage of 160 V?

**SOLVE** The coil's maximum voltage is found from Equation 30.29:

$$\mathcal{E}_{max} = \omega ABN = 2\pi fABN$$

The number of turns needed to generate $\mathcal{E}_{max} = 160\,\text{V}$ is

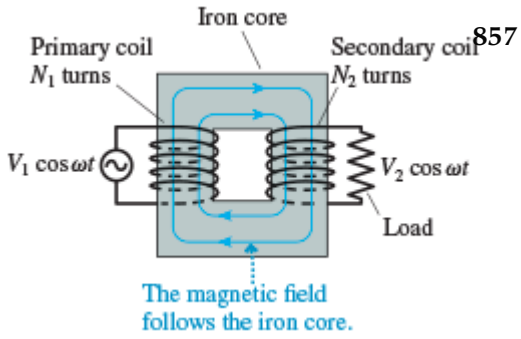
$$N = \frac{\mathcal{E}_{max}}{2\pi fAB} = \frac{160\,\text{V}}{2\pi\,(60\,\text{Hz})\,(2.0\,\text{m}^2)\,(0.010\,\text{T})} = 21\,\text{turns}$$

**ASSESS** A 0.010 T field is modest, so you can see that generating large voltages is not difficult with large (2 $m^2$) coils. Commercial generators use water flowing through a dam, rotating windmill blades, or turbines spun by expanding steam to rotate the generator coils. Work is required to rotate the coil, just as work was required to pull the slide wire in Section 30.2, because the magnetic field exerts retarding forces on the currents in the coil. Thus a generator is a device that turns motion (mechanical energy) into a current (electric energy). A generator is the opposite of a motor, which turns a current into motion.

## Transformers

Figure 30.36 shows two coils wrapped on an iron core. The left coil is called the **primary coil.** It has $N_1$ turns and is driven by an oscillating voltage $V_1 \cos \omega t$. The magnetic field of the primary follows the iron core and passes through the right coil, which has $N_2$ turns and is called the **secondary coil.** The alternating current through the primary coil causes an oscillating magnetic flux through the secondary coil and, hence, an induced emf. The induced emf of the secondary coil is delivered to the load as the oscillating voltage $V_2 \cos \omega t$.

## Figure 30.36




A transformer.

The changing magnetic field inside the iron core is inversely proportional to the number of turns on the primary coil: $B \propto 1/N_1$. (This relation is a consequence of the coil's inductance, an idea discussed in the next section.) According to Faraday's law, the emf induced in the secondary coil is directly proportional to its number of turns: $\mathcal{E}_{\text{sec}} \propto N_2$. Combining these two proportionalities, the secondary voltage of an ideal transformer is related to the primary voltage by

**(30.30)**

$$V_2 = \frac{N_2}{N_1} V_1$$

Depending on the ratio $N_2/N_1$ the voltage $V_2$ across the load can be *transformed* to a higher or a lower voltage than $V_1$. Consequently, this device is called a **transformer.** Transformers are widely used in the commercial generation and transmission of electricity. A *step-up transformer*, with $N_2 \gg N_1$, boosts the voltage of a generator up to several hundred thousand volts. Delivering power with smaller currents at higher voltages reduces losses due to the resistance of the wires. High-voltage transmission lines carry electric power to urban areas, where *step-down transformers* $(N_2 \ll N_1)$ lower the voltage to 120 V.

Transformers are essential for transporting electric energy from the power plant to cities and homes.

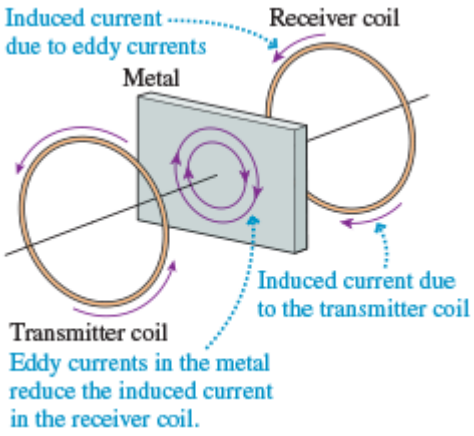
## Metal Detectors

Metal detectors, such as those used in airports for security, seem fairly mysterious. How can they detect the presence of *any* metal—not just magnetic materials such as iron—but not detect plastic or other materials? Metal detectors work because of induced currents.

A metal detector, shown in Figure 30.37, consists of two coils: a *transmitter coil* and a *receiver coil*. A high-frequency alternating current in the transmitter coil generates an alternating magnetic field along the axis. This magnetic field creates a changing flux through the receiver coil and

causes an alternating induced current. The transmitter and receiver are similar to a transformer.

## Figure 30.37




A metal detector.

Suppose a piece of metal is placed between the transmitter and the receiver. The alternating magnetic field through the metal induces eddy currents in a plane parallel to the transmitter and receiver coils. The receiver coil then responds to the *superposition* of the transmitter's magnetic field and the magnetic field of the eddy currents. Because the eddy currents attempt to prevent the flux from changing, in accordance with Lenz's law, the net field at the receiver *decreases* when a piece of metal is inserted between the coils. Electronic circuits detect the current decrease in the receiver coil and set off an alarm. Eddy currents can't flow in an insulator, so this device detects only metals.

# 30.8 Inductors



Capacitors are useful circuit elements because they store potential energy $U_C$ in the electric field. Similarly, a coil of wire can be a useful circuit element because it stores energy in the magnetic field. In circuits, a coil is called an **inductor** because, as you'll see, the potential difference across an inductor is an *induced* emf. An *ideal inductor* is one for which the wire forming the coil has no electric resistance. The circuit symbol for an inductor is .

We define the **inductance** $L$ of a coil to be its flux-to-current ratio:

**(30.31)**

$$L = \frac{\Phi_m}{I}$$

Strictly speaking, this is called *self-inductance* because the flux we're considering is the magnetic flux the solenoid creates in itself when there is a current. The SI unit of inductance is the **henry**, named in honor of Joseph Henry, defined as

$$1\,\text{henry} = 1\,\text{H} \equiv 1\,\text{Wb/A} = 1\,\text{T}\,\text{m}^2/\text{A}$$

Practical inductances are typically millihenries (mH) or microhenries ($\mu$H)

It's not hard to find the inductance of a solenoid. In Chapter 29 we found that the magnetic field inside an ideal solenoid having $N$ turns and length $l$ is

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 N I}{l}$$

The magnetic flux through one turn of the coil is $\Phi_{\text{per turn}} = AB$, where $A$ is the cross-section area of the solenoid. The total magnetic flux through all $N$ turns is

**(30.32)**

$$\Phi_{\text{m}} = N\Phi_{\text{per turn}} = \frac{\mu_0 N^2 A}{l} I$$

Thus the inductance of the solenoid, using the definition of Equation 30.31, is

**(30.33)**

$$L_{\text{solenoid}} = \frac{\Phi_{\text{m}}}{I} = \frac{\mu_0 N^2 A}{l}$$

The inductance of a solenoid depends only on its geometry, not at all on the current. You may recall that the capacitance of two parallel plates depends only on their geometry, not at all on their potential difference.

**Example 30.12 The length of an inductor**

An inductor is made by tightly wrapping 0.30-mm-diameter wire around a 4.0-mm-diameter cylinder. What length cylinder has an inductance of 10 $\mu$H?

**SOLVE** The cross-section area of the solenoid is $A = \pi r^2$. If the wire diameter is $d$, the number of turns of wire on a cylinder of length $l$ is $N = l/d$. Thus the inductance is

$$L = \frac{\mu_0 N^2 A}{l} = \frac{\mu_0 (l/d)^2 \pi r^2}{l} = \frac{\mu_0 \pi r^2 l}{d^2}$$

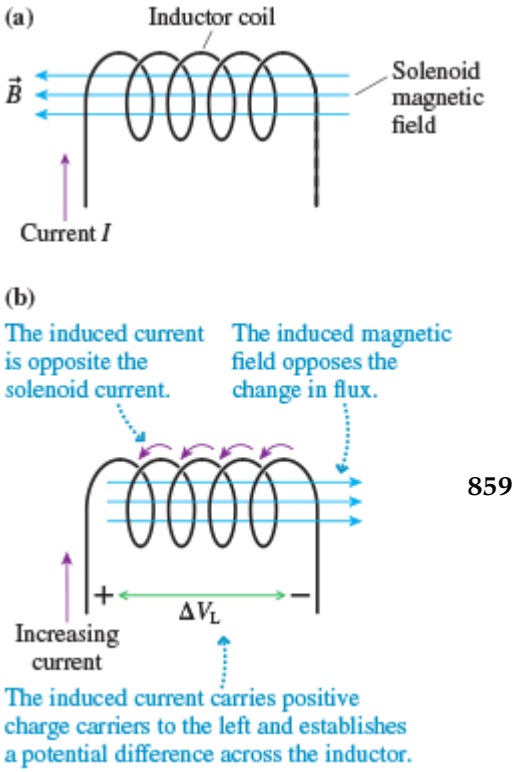
The length needed to give inductance $L = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{H}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} l &= \frac{d^2 L}{\mu_0 \pi r^2} = \frac{(0.00030\,\text{m})^2 (1.0 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{H})}{(4\pi \times 10^{-7}\ \text{T m/A}) \pi (0.0020\,\text{m})^2} \\ &= 0.057\,\text{m} = 5.7\,\text{cm} \end{aligned}$$

## The Potential Difference Across an Inductor

An inductor is not very interesting when the current through it is steady. If the inductor is ideal, with $R = 0\,\Omega$, the potential difference due to a steady current is zero. **Inductors become important circuit elements when currents are changing.** Figure 30.38a shows a steady current into the left side of an inductor. The solenoid's magnetic field passes through the coils of the solenoid, establishing a flux.

**Figure 30.38**






Increasing the current through an inductor.

In Figure 30.38b, the current into the solenoid is increasing. This creates an increasing flux to the left. According to Lenz's law, an induced current in the coils will oppose this increase by creating an induced magnetic field pointing to the right. This requires the induced current to be *opposite* the current into the solenoid. This induced current will carry positive charge carriers to the left until a potential difference is established across the solenoid.

You saw a similar situation in Section 30.2. The induced current in a conductor moving through a magnetic field carried positive charge carriers to the top of the wire and established a potential difference across the conductor. The induced current in the moving wire was due to magnetic forces on the moving charges. Now, in Figure 30.38b, the induced current is due to the non-Coulomb electric field induced by the changing magnetic field. Nonetheless, the outcome is the same: a potential difference across the conductor.

We can use Faraday's law to find the potential difference. The emf induced in a coil is

**(30.34)**

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{coil}} = N\left|\frac{d\Phi_{\text{per turn}}}{dt}\right| = \left|\frac{d\Phi_{\text{m}}}{dt}\right|$$

where $\Phi_{\text{m}} = N\Phi_{\text{per turn}}$ is the total flux through all the coils. The inductance was defined such that $\Phi_{\text{m}} = LI$, so Equation 30.34 becomes

**(30.35)**

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{coil}} = L\left|\frac{dI}{dt}\right|$$

The induced emf is directly proportional to the *rate of change* of current through the coil. We'll consider the appropriate sign in a moment, but Equation 30.35 gives us the size of the potential difference that is developed across a coil as the current through the coil changes. Note that $\mathcal{E}_{\text{coil}} = 0$ for a steady, unchanging current.

Figure 30.39 shows the same inductor, but now the current (still *in* to the left side) is decreasing. To oppose the decrease in flux, the induced current is in the *same* direction as the input current. The induced current carries charge to the right and establishes a potential difference opposite that in Figure 30.38b.

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**Figure 30.39**

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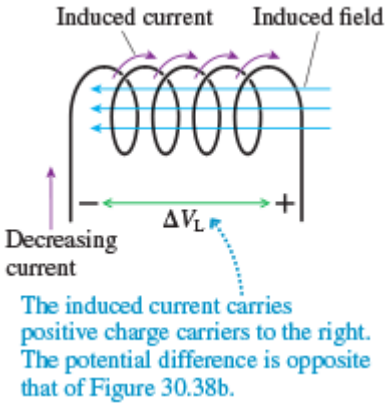



Decreasing the current through an inductor.

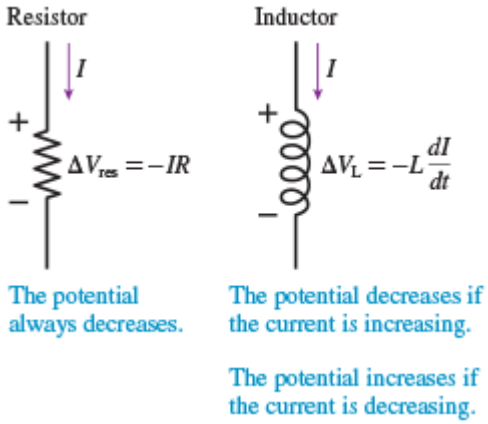
**Note**

Notice that the induced current does not oppose the current through the inductor, which is from left to right in both Figures 30.38 and 30.39. Instead, in accordance with Lenz's law, the induced current opposes the *change* in the current in the solenoid. The practical result is that it is hard to change the current through an inductor. Any effort to increase or decrease the current is met with opposition in the form of an opposing induced current. You can think of the current in an inductor as having inertia, trying to continue what it was doing without change.



Before we can use inductors in a circuit we need to establish a rule about signs that is consistent with our earlier circuit analysis. Figure 30.40 first shows current $I$ passing through a resistor. You learned in Chapter 28 that the potential difference across a resistor is $\Delta V_{\text{res}} = -\Delta V_{\text{R}} = -IR$, where the minus sign indicates that the potential *decreases* in the direction of the current.

**Figure 30.40**




The potential difference across a resistor and an inductor.

We'll use the same convention for an inductor. The potential difference across an inductor, *measured along the direction of the current*, is

**(30.36)**

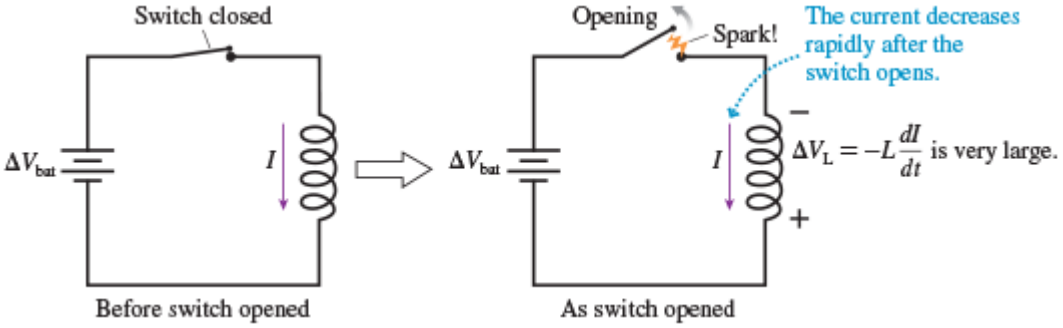
$$\Delta V_{\mathrm{L}} = -L\frac{dI}{dt}$$

If the current is increasing $(dI/dt > 0)$, the input side of the inductor is more positive than the output side and the potential decreases in the direction of the current $(\Delta V_{\mathrm{L}} < 0)$. This was the situation in Figure 30.38b. If the current is decreasing $(dI/dt < 0)$, the input side is more negative and the potential increases in the direction of the current $(\Delta V_{\mathrm{L}} > 0)$. This was the situation in Figure 30.39.

The potential difference across an inductor can be very large if the current changes very abruptly (large $dI/dt$). Figure 30.41 shows an inductor connected across a battery. There is a large current through the inductor, limited only by the internal resistance of the battery. Suppose the switch is suddenly opened. A very large induced voltage is created across the inductor as the current rapidly drops to zero. This potential

difference (plus $\Delta V_{bat}$) appears across the gap of the switch as it is opened. A large potential difference across a small gap often creates a spark.

## Figure 30.41




Creating sparks.

Indeed, this is exactly how the spark plugs in your car work. The car's generator sends a current through the *coil*, which is a big inductor. When a switch is suddenly opened, breaking the current, the induced voltage, typically a few thousand volts, appears across the terminals of the spark plug, creating the spark that ignites the gasoline. Older cars use a *distributor* to open and close an actual switch; more recent cars have *electronic ignition* in which the mechanical switch has been replaced by a transistor.

### Example 30.13 Large voltage across an inductor

A 1.0 A current passes through a 10 mH inductor coil. What potential difference is induced across the coil if the current drops to zero in 5.0 $\mu$s?

**MODEL** Assume this is an ideal inductor, with $R = 0\ \Omega$, and that the current decrease is linear with time.

**SOLVE** The rate of current decrease is

$$\frac{dI}{dt} \approx \frac{\Delta I}{\Delta t} = \frac{-1.0\ \text{A}}{5.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{s}} = -2.0 \times 10^5\ \text{A/s}$$

The induced voltage is

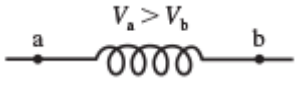
$$\Delta V_\text{L} = -L\frac{dI}{dt} \approx -\left(0.010\,\text{H}\right)\left(-2.0 \times 10^5\ \text{A/s}\right) = 2000\,\text{V}$$

**ASSESS** Inductors may be physically small, but they can pack a punch if you try to change the current through them too quickly.

## Stop to Think 30.6

The potential at a is higher than the potential at b. Which of the following statements about the inductor current $I$ could be true?

**a.** $I$ is from a to b and steady.
**b.** $I$ is from a to b and increasing.
**c.** $I$ is from a to b and decreasing.
**d.** $I$ is from b to a and steady.
**e.** $I$ is from b to a and increasing.
**f.** $I$ is from b to a and decreasing.



# Energy in Inductors and Magnetic Fields

Recall that electric power is $P_{\text{elec}} = I\Delta V$. As current passes through an inductor, for which $\Delta V_{\text{L}} = -L\,(dI/dt)$, the electric power is

**(30.37)**

$$P_{\text{elec}} = I\Delta V_{\text{L}} = -LI\frac{dI}{dt}$$

$P_{\text{elec}}$ is negative because a circuit with an increasing current is *losing* electric energy. That energy is being transferred to the inductor, which is *storing* energy $U_{\text{L}}$ at the rate

**(30.38)**

$$\frac{dU_{\text{L}}}{dt} = +LI\,\frac{dI}{dt}$$

where we've noted that power is the rate of change of energy.

We can find the total energy stored in an inductor by integrating Equation 30.38 from $I = 0$, where $U_{\text{L}} = 0$, to a final current $I$. Doing so gives

---

**(30.39)**

$$U_{\text{L}} = L\int_0^I I\,dI = \tfrac{1}{2}LI^2$$

The potential energy stored in an inductor depends on the square of the current through it. Notice the analogy with the energy $U_{\text{C}} = \tfrac{1}{2}C(\Delta V)^2$ stored in a capacitor.

In working with circuits we say that the energy is "stored in the inductor." Strictly speaking, the energy is stored in the inductor's magnetic field, analogous to how a capacitor stores energy in the electric field. We can use the inductance of a solenoid, Equation 30.33, to relate the inductor's energy to the magnetic field strength:

**(30.40)**

$$U_{\mathrm{L}} = \tfrac{1}{2} L I^2 = \frac{\mu_0 N^2 A}{2l} I^2 = \frac{1}{2\mu_0} Al \left( \frac{\mu_0 NI}{l} \right)^2$$

We made the last rearrangement in Equation 30.40 because $\mu_0 NI/l$ is the magnetic field inside the solenoid. Thus

**(30.41)**

$$U_{\mathrm{L}} = \frac{1}{2\mu_0} AlB^2$$

But *Al* is the volume inside the solenoid. Dividing by *Al*, the magnetic field *energy density* inside the solenoid (energy per $\mathrm{m}^3$) is

**(30.42)**

$$u_{\mathrm{B}} = \frac{1}{2\mu_0} B^2$$

**Energy in electric and magnetic fields**

| Electric fields | Magnetic fields |
|---|---|
| A capacitor stores energy $U_{\mathrm{C}} = \frac{1}{2} C(\Delta V)^2$ | An inductor stores energy $U_{\mathrm{L}} = \frac{1}{2} LI^2$ |
| Energy density in the field is $u_{\mathrm{E}} = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} E^2$ | Energy density in the field is $u_{\mathrm{B}} = \frac{1}{2\mu_0} B^2$ |

We've derived this expression for energy density based on the properties of a solenoid, but it turns out to be the correct expression for the energy density anywhere there's a magnetic field. Compare this to the energy density of an electric field $u_{\mathrm{E}} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 E^2$ that we found in Chapter 26.

**Example 30.14 Energy stored in an inductor**

The 10 $\mu$H inductor of Example 30.12 was 5.7 cm long and 4.0 mm in diameter. Suppose it carries a 100 mA current. What are the energy stored in the inductor, the magnetic energy density, and the magnetic field strength?

**SOLVE** The stored energy is

$$U_{\mathrm{L}} = \frac{1}{2}LI^2 = \frac{1}{2}\left(1.0 \times 10^{-5}\ \mathrm{H}\right)\left(0.10\ \mathrm{A}\right)^2 = 5.0 \times 10^{-8}\ \mathrm{J}$$

The solenoid volume is $\left(\pi r^2\right) l = 7.16 \times 10^{-7}\ \mathrm{m}^3$. Using this gives the energy density of the magnetic field:

$$u_{\mathrm{B}} = \frac{5.0 \times 10^{-8}\ \mathrm{J}}{7.16 \times 10^{-7}\ \mathrm{m}^3} = 0.070\ \mathrm{J/m}^3$$

From Equation 30.42, the magnetic field with this energy density is

$$B = \sqrt{2\mu_0 u_{\mathrm{B}}} = 4.2 \times 10^{-4}\ \mathrm{T}$$

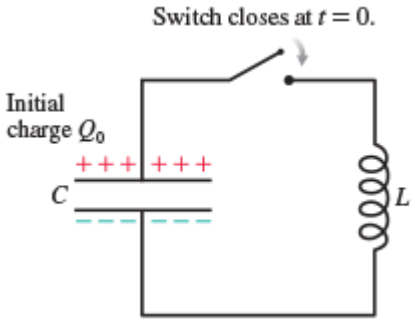
# 30.9 *LC* Circuits



Telecommunication—radios, televisions, cell phones—is based on electromagnetic signals that *oscillate* at a well-defined frequency. These oscillations are generated and detected by a simple circuit consisting of an inductor and a capacitor. This is called an ***LC* circuit**. In this section we will learn why an *LC* circuit oscillates and determine the oscillation frequency.

Figure 30.42 shows a capacitor with initial charge $Q_0$, an inductor, and a switch. The switch has been open for a long time, so there is no current in the circuit. Then, at $t = 0$, the switch is closed. How does the circuit respond? Let's think it through qualitatively before getting into the mathematics.

**Figure 30.42**

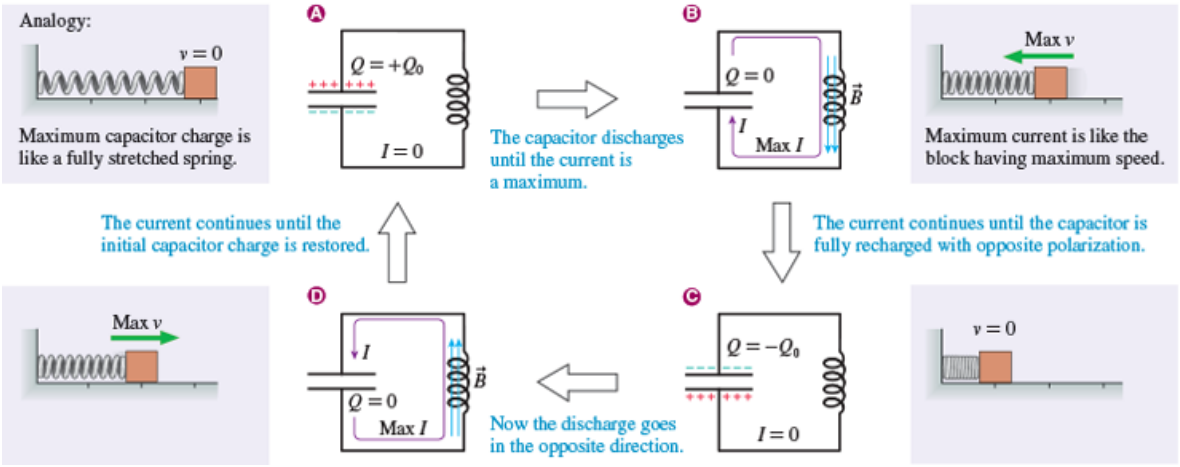



An *LC* circuit.

As Figure 30.43 shows, the inductor provides a conducting path for discharging the capacitor. However, the discharge current has to pass through the inductor, and, as we've seen, an inductor resists changes in

current. Consequently, the current doesn't stop when the capacitor charge reaches zero.

## Figure 30.43




The capacitor charge oscillates much like a block attached to a spring.

A block attached to a stretched spring is a useful mechanical analogy. Closing the switch to discharge the capacitor is like releasing the block. The block doesn't stop when it reaches the origin; its inertia keeps it going until the spring is fully compressed. Likewise, the current continues until it has recharged the capacitor with the opposite polarization. This process repeats over and over, charging the capacitor first one way, then the other. That is, the charge and current *oscillate*.

A cell phone is actually a very sophisticated two-way radio that communicates with the nearest base station via high-frequency radio waves—roughly 1000 MHz. As in any radio or communications device, the transmission frequency is established by the oscillating current in an *LC* circuit.

The goal of our circuit analysis will be to find expressions showing how the capacitor charge $Q$ and the inductor current $I$ change with time. As always, our starting point for circuit analysis is Kirchhoff's voltage law, which says that all the potential differences around a closed loop must sum to zero. Choosing a cw direction for $I$, Kirchhoff's law is

**(30.43)**

$$\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}} + \Delta V_{\mathrm{L}} = 0$$

The potential difference across a capacitor is $\Delta V_{\mathrm{C}} = Q/C$, and we found the potential difference across an inductor in Equation 30.36. Using these, Kirchhoff's law becomes

**(30.44)**

$$\frac{Q}{C} - L\frac{dI}{dt} = 0$$

Equation 30.44 has two unknowns, $Q$ and $I$. We can eliminate one of the unknowns by finding another relation between $Q$ and $I$. Current is the rate at which charge moves, $I = dq/dt$, but the charge flowing through the inductor is charge that was *removed* from the capacitor. That is, an infinitesimal charge $dq$ flows through the inductor when the capacitor charge changes by $dQ = -dq$. Thus the current through the inductor is related to the charge on the capacitor by

**(30.45)**

$$I = -\frac{dQ}{dt}$$

Now $I$ is positive when $Q$ is decreasing, as we would expect. This is a subtle but important step in the reasoning.

Equations 30.44 and 30.45 are two equations in two unknowns. To solve them, we'll first take the time derivative of Equation 30.45:

**(30.46)**

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}\left(-\frac{dQ}{dt}\right) = -\frac{d^2Q}{dt^2}$$

We can substitute this result into Equation 30.44:

**(30.47)**

$$\frac{Q}{C} + L\frac{d^2Q}{dt^2} = 0$$

Now we have an equation for the capacitor charge $Q$.

Equation 30.47 is a second-order differential equation for $Q$. Fortunately, it is an equation we've seen before and already know how to solve. To see this, we rewrite Equation 30.47 as



**(30.48)**

$$\frac{d^2Q}{dt^2} = -\frac{1}{LC}Q$$

Recall, from Chapter 15, that the equation of motion for an undamped mass on a spring is

**(30.49)**

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -\frac{k}{m}x$$

Equation 30.48 is *exactly the same equation*, with $x$ replaced by $Q$ and $k/m$ replaced by $1/LC$. This should be no surprise because we've already

seen that a mass on a spring is a mechanical analog of the *LC* circuit.

We know the solution to Equation 30.49. It is simple harmonic motion $x(t) = x_0 \cos \omega t$ with angular frequency $\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$. Thus the solution to Equation 30.48 must be

**(30.50)**

$$Q(t) = Q_0 \cos \omega t$$

where $Q_0$ is the initial charge, at $t = 0$, and the angular frequency is

**(30.51)**

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC}}$$

The charge on the upper plate of the capacitor oscillates back and forth between $+Q_0$ and $-Q_0$ (the opposite polarization) with period $T = 2\pi/\omega$.

As the capacitor charge oscillates, so does the current through the inductor. Using Equation 30.45 gives the current through the inductor:

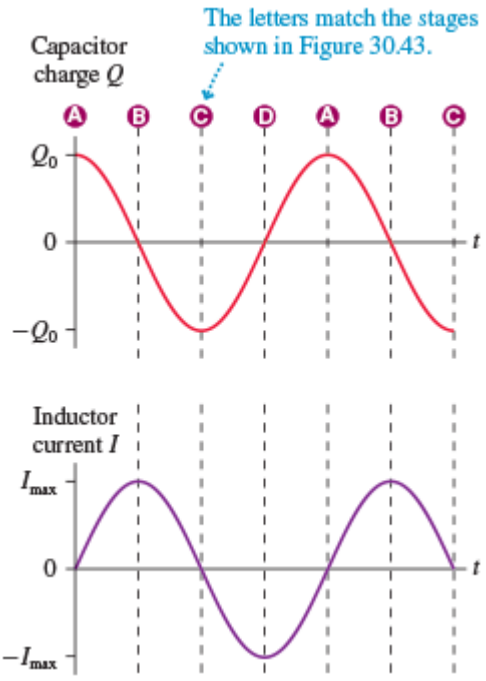
**(30.52)**

$$I = -\frac{dQ}{dt} = \omega Q_0 \sin \omega t = I_{\max} \sin \omega t$$

where $I_{\max} = \omega Q_0$ is the maximum current.

An *LC* circuit is an *electric oscillator*, oscillating at frequency $f = \omega/2\pi$. Figure 30.44 shows graphs of the capacitor charge $Q$ and the inductor current $I$ as functions of time. Notice that $Q$ and $I$ are 90° out of phase. The current is zero when the capacitor is fully charged, as expected, and the charge is zero when the current is maximum.

## Figure 30.44




The oscillations of an *LC* circuit.

### Example 30.15 An AM radio oscillator

You have a 1.0 mH inductor. What capacitor should you choose to make an oscillator with a frequency of 920 kHz? (This frequency is near the center of the AM radio band.)

**SOLVE** The angular frequency is $\omega = 2\pi f = 5.78 \times 10^6$ rad/s. Using Equation 30.51 for $\omega$ gives the required capacitor:

$$C = \frac{1}{\omega^2 L} = 3.0 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{F} = 30\ \text{pF}$$

An *LC* circuit, like a mass on a spring, wants to respond only at its natural oscillation frequency $\omega = 1/\sqrt{LC}$. In Chapter 15 we defined a strong

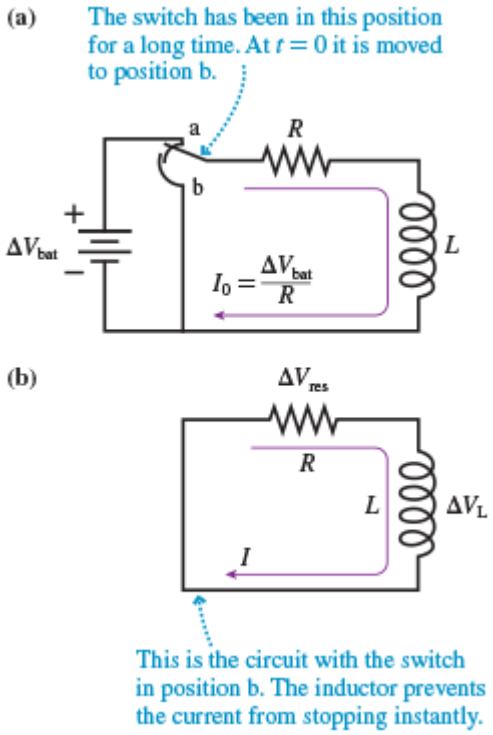
response at the natural frequency as a *resonance*, and resonance is the basis for all telecommunications. The input circuit in radios, televisions, and cell phones is an *LC* circuit driven by the signal picked up by the antenna. This signal is the superposition of hundreds of sinusoidal waves at different frequencies, one from each transmitter in the area, but the circuit responds only to the *one* signal that matches the circuit's natural frequency. That particular signal generates a large-amplitude current that can be further amplified and decoded to become the output that you hear.

# 30.10 *LR* Circuits



A circuit consisting of an inductor, a resistor, and (perhaps) a battery is called an ***LR* circuit**. Figure 30.45a is an example of an *LR* circuit. We'll assume that the switch has been in position a for such a long time that the current is steady and unchanging. There's no potential difference across the inductor, because $dI/dt = 0$, so it simply acts like a piece of wire. The current flowing around the circuit is determined entirely by the battery and the resistor: $I_0 = \Delta V_{\text{bat}}/R$.

## Figure 30.45




An *LR* circuit.

What happens if, at $t = 0$, the switch is suddenly moved to position b? With the battery no longer in the circuit, you might expect the current to stop immediately. But the inductor won't let that happen. The current

will continue for some period of time as the inductor's magnetic field drops to zero. In essence, the energy stored in the inductor allows it to act like a battery for a short period of time. Our goal is to determine how the current decays after the switch is moved.

> **Note**
>
> It's important not to open switches in inductor circuits because they'll spark, as Figure 30.41 showed. The unusual switch in Figure 30.45 is designed to make the new contact just before breaking the old one.

Figure 30.45b shows the circuit after the switch is changed. Our starting point, once again, is Kirchhoff's voltage law. The potential differences around a closed loop must sum to zero. For this circuit, Kirchhoff's law is

**(30.53)**

$$\Delta V_{\text{res}} + \Delta V_{\text{L}} = 0$$

The potential differences in the direction of the current are $\Delta V_{\text{res}} = -IR$ for the resistor and $\Delta V_{\text{L}} = -L\,(dI/dt)$ for the inductor. Substituting these into Equation 30.53 gives

**(30.54)**

$$-RI - L\frac{dI}{dt} = 0$$

We're going to need to integrate to find the current $I$ as a function of time. Before doing so, we rearrange Equation 30.54 to get all the current terms on one side of the equation and all the time terms on the other:

**(30.55)**

$$\frac{dI}{I} = -\frac{R}{L}dt = -\frac{dt}{(L/R)}$$

We know that the current at $t = 0$, when the switch was moved, was $I_0$. We want to integrate from these starting conditions to current $I$ at the unspecified time $t$. That is,

**(30.56)**

$$\int_{I_0}^{I} \frac{dI}{I} = -\frac{1}{(L/R)} \int_0^t dt$$

Both are common integrals, giving

**(30.57)**

$$\ln I \Big|_{I_0}^{I} = \ln I - \ln I_0 = \ln\left(\frac{I}{I_0}\right) = -\frac{t}{(L/R)}$$

We can solve for the current $I$ by taking the exponential of both sides, then multiplying by $I_0$. Doing so gives $I$, the current as a function of time:

**(30.58)**

$$I = I_0 e^{-t/(L/R)}$$

Notice that $I = I_0$ at $t = 0$, as expected.

The argument of the exponential function must be dimensionless, so $L/R$ must have dimensions of time. If we define the **time constant** $\tau$ of the $LR$ circuit to be

**(30.59)**

$$\tau = \frac{L}{R}$$

then we can write Equation 30.58 as

**(30.60)**

$$I = I_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

The time constant is the time at which the current has decreased to $e^{-1}$ (about 37%) of its initial value. We can see this by computing the current at the time $t = \tau$:



**(30.61)**

$$I \text{ (at } t = \tau) = I_0 e^{-\tau/\tau} = e^{-1} I_0 = 0.37 I_0$$

Thus the time constant for an *LR* circuit functions in exactly the same way as the time constant for the *RC* circuit we analyzed in Chapter 29. At time $t = 2\tau$, the current has decreased to $e^{-2} I_0$, or about 13% of its initial value.

The current is graphed in Figure 30.46. You can see that the current decays exponentially. The *shape* of the graph is always the same, regardless of the specific value of the time constant $\tau$.

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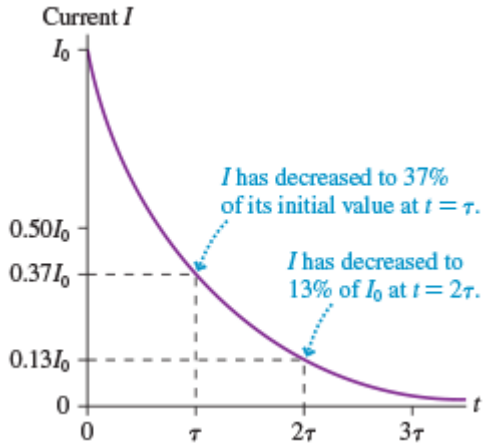
## Figure 30.46




The current decay in an *LR* circuit.

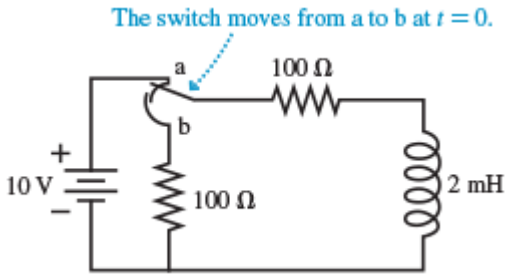
### Example 30.16 Exponential decay in an *LR* circuit

The switch in Figure 30.47 has been in position a for a long time. It is changed to position b at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** What is the current in the circuit at $t = 5.0\ \mu$s?

**b.** At what time has the current decayed to 1% of its initial value?

#### Figure 30.47




The *LR* circuit of Example 30.16.

**MODEL** This is an *LR* circuit. We'll assume ideal wires and an ideal inductor.

**VISUALIZE** The two resistors will be in series after the switch is thrown.

**SOLVE** Before the switch is thrown, while $\Delta V_{\text{L}} = 0$, the current is $I_0 = (10\ \text{V}) / (100\ \Omega) = 0.10\ \text{A} = 100\ \text{mA}$. This will be the initial current after the switch is thrown because the current through an inductor can't change instantaneously. The circuit resistance after the switch is thrown is $R = 200\ \Omega$, so the time constant is

$$\tau = \frac{L}{R} = \frac{2.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{H}}{200\ \Omega} = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{s} = 10\ \mu\text{s}$$

**a.** The current at $t = 5.0\ \mu\text{s}$ is

$$I = I_0\, e^{-t/\tau} = (100\ \text{mA})\, e^{-(5.0\,\mu\text{s})/(10\,\mu\text{s})} = 61\ \text{mA}$$

**b.** To find the time at which a particular current is reached we need to go back to Equation 30.57 and solve for $t$:

$$t = -\frac{L}{R}\ln\left(\frac{I}{I_0}\right) = -\tau \ln\left(\frac{I}{I_0}\right)$$

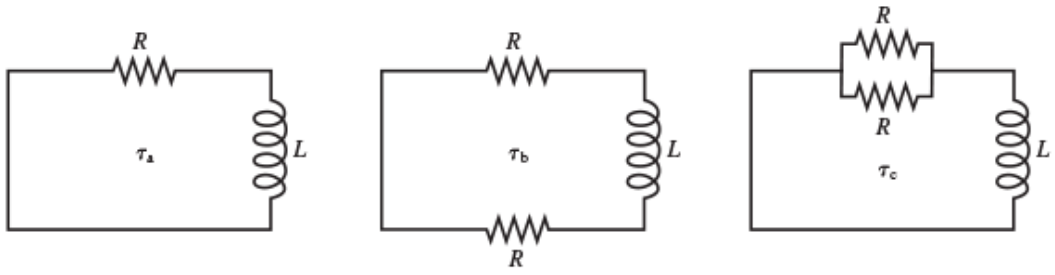
The time at which the current has decayed to 1 mA (1% of $I_0$) is

$$t = -\,(10\ \mu\text{s})\ \ln\left(\frac{1\ \text{mA}}{100\ \text{mA}}\right) = 46\ \mu\text{s}$$

**ASSESS** For all practical purposes, the current has decayed away in $\approx$50 $\mu$s. The inductance in this circuit is not large, so a short decay time is not surprising.

## Stop to Think 30.7

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the time constants $\tau_a$, $\tau_b$, and $\tau_c$ of these three circuits.



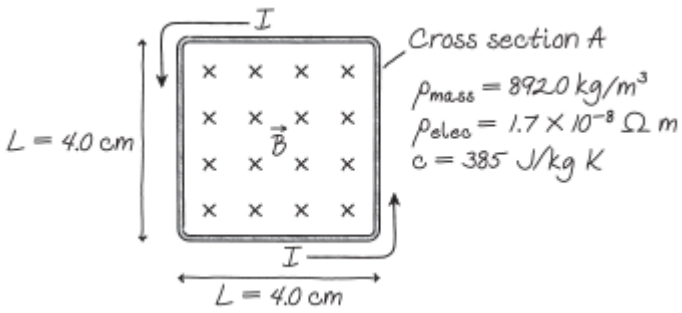

### Challenge Example 30.17 Induction heating

*Induction heating* uses induced currents to heat metal objects to high temperatures for applications such as surface hardening, brazing, or even melting. To illustrate the idea, consider a copper wire formed into a 4.0 cm × 4.0 cm square loop and placed in a magnetic field—perpendicular to the plane of the loop—that oscillates with 0.010 T amplitude at a frequency of 1000 Hz. What is the wire's initial temperature rise, in °C/min?

**MODEL** The changing magnetic flux through the loop will induce a current that, because of the wire's resistance, will heat the wire. Eventually, when the wire gets hot, heat loss through radiation and/or convection will limit the temperature rise, but initially we can consider the temperature change due only to the heating by the current. Assume that the wire's diameter is much less than the 4.0 cm width of the loop.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 30.48 shows the copper loop in the magnetic field. The wire's cross-section area $A$ is unknown, but our assumption of a thin wire means that the loop has a well-defined area $L^2$. Values of copper's resistivity, density, and specific heat were taken from tables inside the back cover of the book. We've used subscripts to distinguish between mass density $\rho_{\text{mass}}$ and resistivity $\rho_{\text{elec}}$, a potentially confusing duplication of symbols.

## Figure 30.48




A copper wire being heated by induction.

**SOLVE** Power dissipation by a current, $P = I^2R$, heats the wire. As long as heat losses are negligible, we can use the heating rate and the wire's specific heat $c$ to calculate the rate of temperature change. Our first task is to find the induced current. According to Faraday's law,

$$\mathrm{I} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R} = -\frac{1}{R}\frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}}}{dt} = -\frac{L^2}{R}\frac{dB}{dt}$$

where $R$ is the loop's resistance and $\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = L^2B$ is the magnetic flux through a loop of area $L^2$. The oscillating magnetic field can be written $B = B_0 \cos \omega t$, with $B_0 = 0.010\ \mathrm{T}$ and $\omega = 2\pi \times 1000\ \mathrm{Hz} = 6280\ \mathrm{rad/s}$. Thus

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = -\omega B_0 \sin \omega t$$

from which we find that the induced current oscillates as

$$I = \frac{\omega B_0 L^2}{R} \sin \omega t$$

As the current oscillates, the power dissipation in the wire is

$$P = I^2 R = \frac{\omega^2 {B_0}^2 L^4}{R} \sin^2 \omega t$$

The power dissipation also oscillates, but very rapidly in comparison to a temperature rise that we expect to occur over seconds or minutes. Consequently, we are justified in replacing the oscillating $P$ with its *average* value $P_{\text{avg}}$. Recall that the time average of the function $\sin^2 \omega t$ is $\frac{1}{2}$, a result that can be proven by integration or justified by noticing that a graph of $\sin^2 \omega t$ oscillates symmetrically between 0 and 1. Thus the average power dissipation in the wire is

$$P_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\omega^2 {B_0}^2 L^4}{2R}$$

Recall that power is the *rate* of energy transfer. In this case, the power dissipated in the wire is the wire's heating rate: $dQ/dt = P_{\text{avg}}$, where here $Q$ is heat, not charge. Using $Q = mc\,\Delta T$, from thermodynamics, we can write

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = mc\,\frac{dT}{dt} = P_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\omega^2 {B_0}^2 L^4}{2R}$$

To complete the calculation, we need the mass and resistance of the wire. The wire's total length is $4L$, and its cross-section area is $A$. Thus

$$m = \rho_{\text{mass}} V = 4 \rho_{\text{mass}} L A$$

$$R = \frac{\rho_{\text{elec}}\,(4L)}{A} = \frac{4\rho_{\text{elec}}L}{A}$$

Substituting these into the heating equation, we have

$$4\rho_{\text{mass}}LAc\,\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{\omega^2 {B_0}^2 L^3 A}{8\rho_{\text{elec}}}$$

Interestingly, the wire's cross-section area cancels. The wire's temperature initially increases at the rate

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{\omega^2 {B_0}^2 L^2}{32\rho_{\text{elec}}\rho_{\text{mass}}c}$$

All the terms on the right-hand side are known. Evaluating, we find

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = 3.3\ \text{K/s} = 200^\circ\text{C/min}$$

**ASSESS** This is a rapid but realistic temperature rise for a small object, although the rate of increase will slow as the object begins losing heat to the environment through radiation and/or convection. Induction heating can increase an object's temperature by several hundred degrees in a few minutes.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 30 has been to learn what electromagnetic induction is and how it is used.

## General Principles

### Lenz's Law

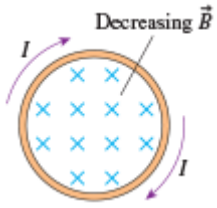
There is an induced current in a closed conducting loop if and only if the magnetic flux through the loop is changing. The direction of the induced current is such that the induced magnetic field opposes the *change* in the flux.

### Faraday's Law

An emf is induced around a closed loop if the magnetic flux through the loop changes.

$$\text{Magnitude}: \quad \mathcal{E} = \left| \frac{d\Phi_m}{dt} \right|$$

Direction: As given by Lenz's law




## Using Electromagnetic Induction

**MODEL** Make simplifying assumptions.

**VISUALIZE** Use Lenz's law to determine the direction of the **induced current.**

**SOLVE** The **induced emf** is

$$\mathcal{E} = \left| \frac{d\Phi_m}{dt} \right|$$

Multiply by $N$ for an $N$-turn coil.

The size of the induced current is $I = \mathcal{E}/R$.

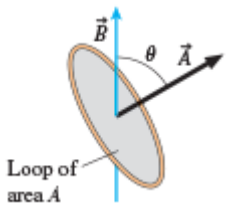
**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?

# Important Concepts

## Magnetic flux

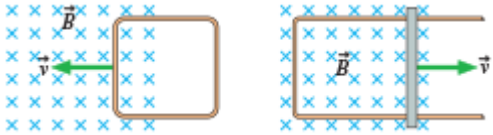
Magnetic flux measures the amount of magnetic field passing through a surface.

$$\Phi_m = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB\cos\theta$$

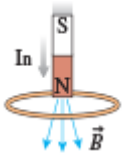



## Three ways to change the flux

1. A loop moves into or out of a magnetic field.



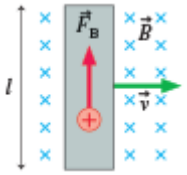

2. The loop changes area or rotates.
3. The magnetic field through the loop increases or decreases.




## Two ways to create an induced current

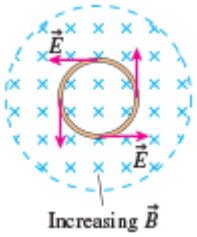
1. A **motional emf** is due to magnetic forces on moving charge carriers.

$$\mathcal{E} = vlB$$




2. An **induced electric field** is due to a changing magnetic field.

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{d\Phi_m}{dt}$$



# Applications

## Inductors

Solenoid inductance $L_{\text{solenoid}} = \dfrac{\mu_0 N^2 A}{l}$

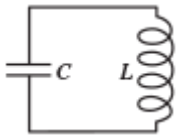
Potential difference $\Delta V_{\text{L}} = -L\dfrac{dI}{dt}$

Energy stored $U_{\text{L}} = \frac{1}{2}LI^2$

Magnetic energy density $u_{\text{B}} = \dfrac{1}{2\mu_0}B^2$

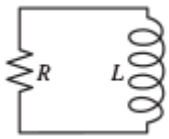
## *LC* circuit

Oscillates at $\omega = \sqrt{\dfrac{1}{LC}}$




## *LR* circuit

Exponential change with $\tau = \dfrac{L}{R}$




# Terms and Notation

electromagnetic induction

induced current

motional emf

generator

eddy current

magnetic flux, $\Phi_m$

weber, Wb

area vector, $\vec{A}$

Lenz's law

induced emf, $\mathcal{E}$

Faraday's law

induced electric field

Coulomb electric field

non-Coulomb electric field

induced magnetic field

electromagnetic wave

primary coil

secondary coil

transformer

inductor

inductance, $L$

henry, H

*LC* circuit

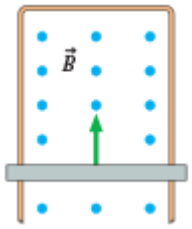
*LR* circuit

time constant, $\tau$

# Conceptual Questions 

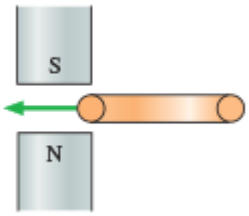
**1.** What is the direction of the induced current in Figure Q30.1?

**Figure Q30.1**



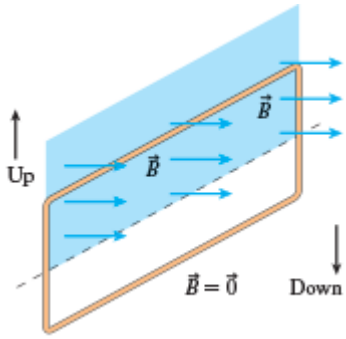

**2.** You want to insert a loop of copper wire between the two permanent magnets in Figure Q30.2. Is there an attractive magnetic force that tends to *pull* the loop in, like a magnet pulls on a paper clip? Or do you need to *push* the loop in against a repulsive force? Explain.

**Figure Q30.2**




**3.** A vertical, rectangular loop of copper wire is half in and half out of the horizontal magnetic field in Figure Q30.3. (The field is zero beneath the dashed line.) The loop is released and starts to fall. Is there a net magnetic force on the loop? If so, in which direction? Explain.

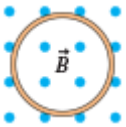
## Figure Q30.3




**4.** Does the loop of wire in Figure Q30.4 have a clockwise current, a counterclockwise current, or no current under the following circumstances? Explain.

- **a.** The magnetic field points out of the page and is increasing.
- **b.** The magnetic field points out of the page and is constant.
- **c.** The magnetic field points out of the page and is decreasing.

## Figure Q30.4




**5.** The two loops of wire in Figure Q30.5 are stacked one above the other. Does the upper loop have a clockwise current, a counterclockwise current, or no current at the following times? Explain.

- **a.** Before the switch is closed.
- **b.** Immediately after the switch is closed.
- **c.** Long after the switch is closed.
- **d.** Immediately after the switch is reopened.

**Figure Q30.5**

**6.** Figure Q30.6 shows a bar magnet being pushed toward a conducting loop from below, along the axis of the loop.

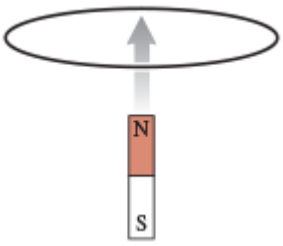
**a.** What is the current direction in the loop? Explain.

**b.** Is there a magnetic force on the loop? If so, in which direction? Explain.

**Hint:** A current loop is a magnetic dipole.

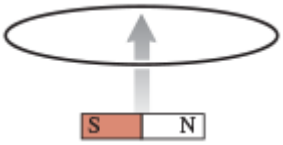
**c.** Is there a force on the magnet? If so, in which direction?

**Figure Q30.6**




**7.** A bar magnet is pushed toward a loop of wire as shown in Figure Q30.7. Is there a current in the loop? If so, in which direction? If not, why not?

**Figure Q30.7**




**8.** Figure Q30.8 shows a bar magnet, a coil of wire, and a current meter. Is the current through the meter right to left, left to right,

or zero for the following circumstances? Explain.

**a.** The magnet is inserted into the coil.

**b.** The magnet is held at rest inside the coil.

**c.** The magnet is withdrawn from the left side of the coil.

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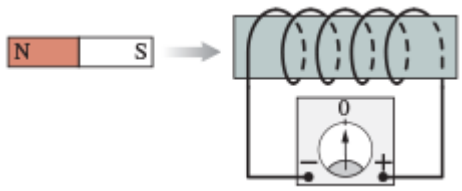
**Figure Q30.8**




**9.** Is the magnetic field strength in Figure Q30.9 increasing, decreasing, or steady? Explain.

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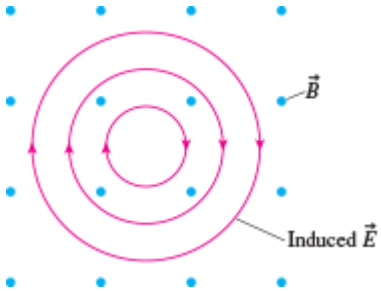
**Figure Q30.9**




**10.** An inductor with a 2.0 A current stores energy. At what current will the stored energy be twice as large?

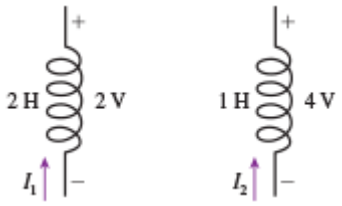
**11.**

**a.** Can you tell which of the inductors in Figure Q30.11 has the larger current through it? If so, which one? Explain.

**b.** Can you tell through which inductor the current is changing more rapidly? If so, which one? Explain.

**c.** If the current enters the inductor from the bottom, can you tell if the current is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same? If so, which? Explain.

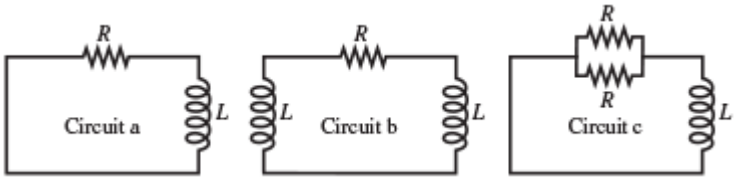
## Figure Q30.11




**12.** An *LC* circuit oscillates at a frequency of 2000 Hz. What will the frequency be if the inductance is quadrupled?

**13.** Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the three time constants $\tau_a$ to $\tau_c$ for the three circuits in Figure Q30.13. Explain.

## Figure Q30.13

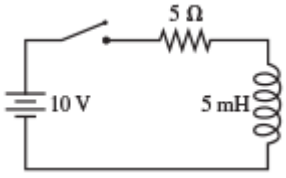



**14.** For the circuit of Figure Q30.14:

**a.** What is the battery current immediately after the switch closes? Explain.

**b.** What is the battery current after the switch has been closed a long time? Explain.

## Figure Q30.14



# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

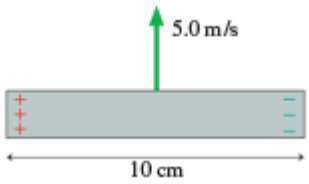
## Exercises

### Section 30.2 Motional emf

**1.** • The earth's magnetic field strength is $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$ T. How fast would you have to drive your car to create a 1.0 V motional emf along your 1.0-m-tall radio antenna? Assume that the motion of the antenna is perpendicular to $\vec{B}$.

**2.** • A potential difference of 0.050 V is developed across the 10-cm-long wire of Figure EX30.2 as it moves through a magnetic field perpendicular to the page. What are the strength and direction (in or out) of the magnetic field?

**Figure EX30.2**




**3.** • **INT** A 10-cm-long wire is pulled along a U-shaped conducting rail in a perpendicular magnetic field. The total resistance of the wire and rail is 0.20 Ω. Pulling the wire at a steady speed of 4.0 m/s causes 4.0 W of power to be dissipated in the circuit.

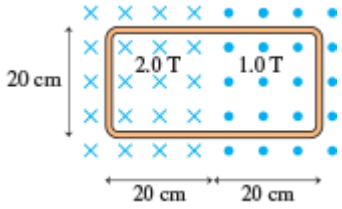
**a.** How big is the pulling force?

**b.** What is the strength of the magnetic field?

## Section 30.3 Magnetic Flux

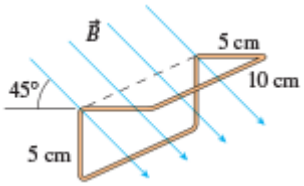
**4.** •• What is the magnetic flux through the loop shown in Figure EX30.4?

**Figure EX30.4**




**5.** •• Figure EX30.5 shows a $10\,\text{cm} \times 10\,\text{cm}$ square bent at a 90° angle. A uniform 0.050 T magnetic field points downward at a 45° angle. What is the magnetic flux through the loop?

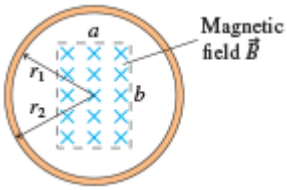
**Figure EX30.5**




**6.** •• An equilateral triangle 8.0 cm on a side is in a 5.0 mT uniform magnetic field. The magnetic flux through the triangle is 6.0 $\mu$Wb. What is the angle between the magnetic field and an axis perpendicular to the plane of the triangle?

**7.** • What is the magnetic flux through the loop shown in Figure EX30.7?

**Figure EX30.7**





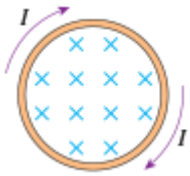

**8.** •• Figure EX30.8 shows a 2.0-cm-diameter solenoid passing through the center of a 6.0-cm-diameter loop. The magnetic field inside the solenoid is 0.20 T. What is the magnetic flux through the loop when it is perpendicular to the solenoid and when it is tilted at a 60° angle?

**Figure EX30.8**

## Section 30.4 Lenz's Law

**9.** • There is a cw induced current in the conducting loop shown in Figure EX30.9. Is the magnetic field inside the loop increasing in strength, decreasing in strength, or steady?

**Figure EX30.9**

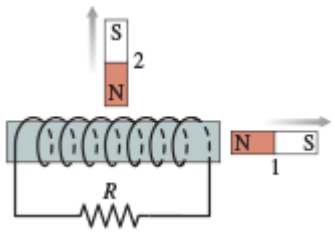



**10.** • A solenoid is wound as shown in Figure EX30.10.

**a.** Is there an induced current as magnet 1 is moved away from the solenoid? If so, what is the current direction through resistor *R*?

**b.** Is there an induced current as magnet 2 is moved away from the solenoid? If so, what is the current direction through resistor *R*?

**Figure EX30.10**

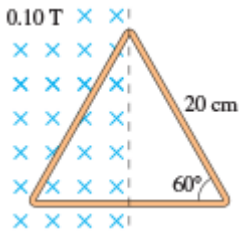



**11.** • The metal equilateral triangle in Figure EX30.11, 20 cm on each side, is halfway into a 0.10 T magnetic field.

**a.** What is the magnetic flux through the triangle?

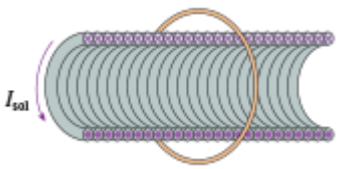
**b.** If the magnetic field strength decreases, what is the direction of the induced current in the triangle?

**Figure EX30.11**




**12.** •• The current in the solenoid of Figure EX30.12 is increasing. The solenoid is surrounded by a conducting loop. Is there a current in the loop? If so, is the loop current cw or ccw?

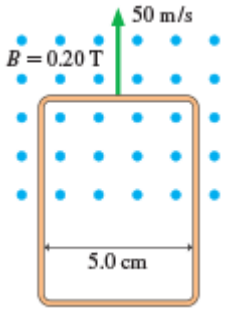
**Figure EX30.12**



## Section 30.5 Faraday's Law

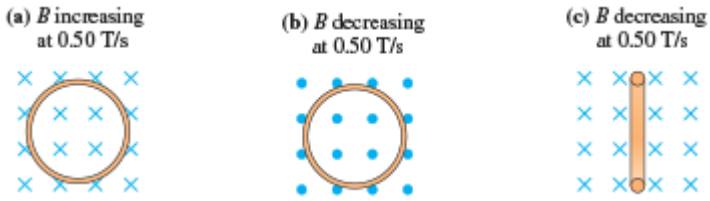
**13.** • The loop in Figure EX30.13 is being pushed into the 0.20 T magnetic field at 50 m/s. The resistance of the loop is 0.10 Ω. What are the direction and the magnitude of the current in the loop?

**Figure EX30.13**



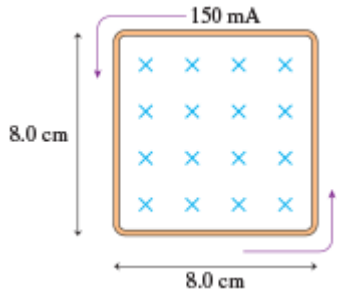

**14.** • Figure EX30.14 shows a 10-cm-diameter loop in three different magnetic fields. The loop's resistance is 0.20 Ω. For each, what are the size and direction of the induced current?

**Figure EX30.14**




**15.** • The resistance of the loop in Figure EX30.15 is 0.20 Ω. Is the magnetic field strength increasing or decreasing? At what rate (T/s)?

**Figure EX30.15**




**16.** •• A 1000-turn coil of wire 1.0 cm in diameter is in a magnetic field that increases from 0.10 T to 0.30 T in 10 ms. The axis of the coil is parallel to the field. What is the emf of the coil?

**17.** •• **CALC** A 5.0-cm-diameter coil has 20 turns and a resistance of 0.50 Ω. A magnetic field perpendicular to the coil is $B = 0.020t + 0.010t^2$, where $B$ is in tesla and $t$ is in seconds.

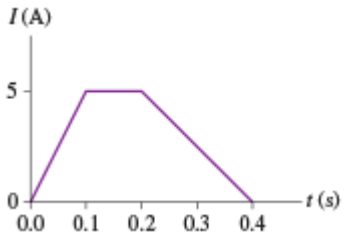
**a.** Find an expression for the induced current $I(t)$ as a function of time.

**b.** Evaluate $I$ at $t = 5$ s and $t = 10$ s.

## Section 30.6 Induced Fields

**18.** •• Figure EX30.18 shows the current as a function of time through a 20-cm-long, 4.0-cm-diameter solenoid with 400 turns. Draw a graph of the induced electric field strength as a function of time at a point 1.0 cm from the axis of the solenoid.

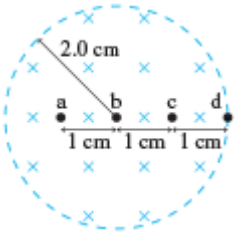
**Figure EX30.18**




**19.** •• **INT** The magnetic field in Figure EX30.19 is decreasing at the rate 0.10 T/s. What is the acceleration (magnitude and

direction) of a proton initially at rest at points a to d?

**Figure EX30.19**






**20.** •• The magnetic field inside a 5.0-cm-diameter solenoid is 2.0 T and decreasing at 4.0 T/s. What is the electric field strength inside the solenoid at a point (a) on the axis and (b) 2.0 cm from the axis?

**21.** •• Scientists studying an anomalous magnetic field find that it is inducing a circular electric field in a plane perpendicular to the magnetic field. The electric field strength 1.5 m from the center of the circle is 4.0 mV/m. At what rate is the magnetic field changing?

## Section 30.7 Induced Currents: Three Applications

**22.** • Electricity is distributed from electrical substations to neighborhoods at 15,000 V. This is a 60 Hz oscillating (AC) voltage. Neighborhood transformers, seen on utility poles, step this voltage down to the 120 V that is delivered to your house.

**a.** How many turns does the primary coil on the transformer have if the secondary coil has 100 turns?

**b.** No energy is lost in an ideal transformer, so the output power $P_{out}$ from the secondary coil equals the input power $P_{in}$ to the primary coil. Suppose a neighborhood

transformer delivers 250 A at 120 V. What is the current in the 15,000 V line from the substation?

**23.** • The charger for your electronic devices is a transformer. Suppose a 60 Hz outlet voltage of 120 V needs to be reduced to a device voltage of 3.0 V. The side of the transformer attached to the electronic device has 60 turns of wire. How many turns are on the side that plugs into the outlet?

## Section 30.8 Inductors

**24.** • The maximum allowable potential difference across a 200 mH inductor is 400 V. You need to raise the current through the inductor from 1.0 A to 3.0 A. What is the minimum time you should allow for changing the current?

**25.** • What is the potential difference across a 10 mH inductor if the current through the inductor drops from 150 mA to 50 mA in 10 $\mu$s? What is the direction of this potential difference? That is, does the potential increase or decrease along the direction of the current?

**26.** •• A 100 mH inductor whose windings have a resistance of 4.0 Ω is connected across a 12 V battery having an internal resistance of 2.0 Ω. How much energy is stored in the inductor?

**27.** •• How much energy is stored in a 3.0-cm-diameter, 12-cm-long solenoid that has 200 turns of wire and carries a current of 0.80 A?

**28.** • **BIO** MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is a medical technique that produces detailed "pictures" of the interior of the body. The patient is placed into a solenoid that is 40 cm in diameter and 1.0 m long. A 100 A current creates a 5.0 T magnetic field inside the solenoid. To carry such a large

current, the solenoid wires are cooled with liquid helium until they become superconducting (no electric resistance).

**a.** How much magnetic energy is stored in the solenoid? Assume that the magnetic field is uniform within the solenoid and quickly drops to zero outside the solenoid.

**b.** How many turns of wire does the solenoid have?

## Section 30.9 *LC* Circuits

**29.** •• An FM radio station broadcasts at a frequency of 100 MHz. What inductance should be paired with a 10 pF capacitor to build a receiver circuit for this station?

**30.** •• A 2.0 mH inductor is connected in parallel with a variable capacitor. The capacitor can be varied from 100 pF to 200 pF. What is the range of oscillation frequencies for this circuit?

**31.** •• **BIO** An MRI machine needs to detect signals that oscillate at very high frequencies. It does so with an *LC* circuit containing a 15 mH coil. To what value should the capacitance be set to detect a 450 MHz signal?

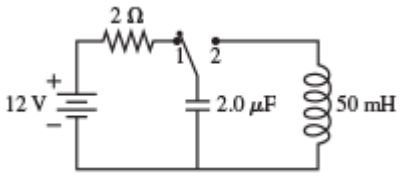
**32.** •• An *LC* circuit has a 10 mH inductor. The current has its maximum value of 0.60 A at $t = 0$ s. A short time later the capacitor reaches its maximum potential difference of 60 V. What is the value of the capacitance?

**33.** •• The switch in Figure EX30.33 has been in position 1 for a long time. It is changed to position 2 at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** What is the maximum current through the inductor?

**b.** What is the first time at which the current is maximum?

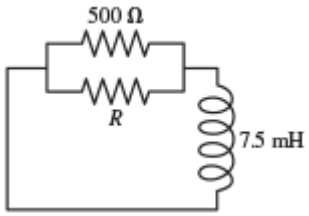
**Figure EX30.33**




## Section 30.10 *LR* Circuits

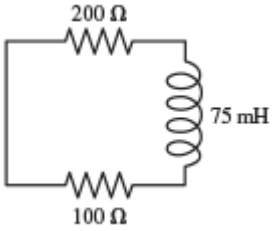
**34.** • What value of resistor $R$ gives the circuit in Figure EX30.34 a time constant of 25 $\mu$s?

**Figure EX30.34**




**35.** •• At $t = 0$ s, the current in the circuit in Figure EX30.35 is $I_0$. At what time is the current $\frac{1}{2}I_0$?

**Figure EX30.35**



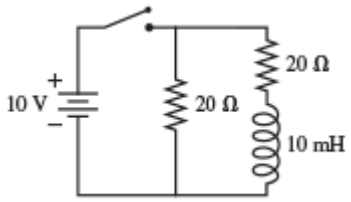



**36.** • The switch in Figure EX30.36 has been open for a long time. It is closed at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** What is the current through the battery immediately after the switch is closed?

**b.** What is the current through the battery after the switch has been closed a long time?

**Figure EX30.36**




# Problems

**37.** •• **CALC** A 20 cm × 20 cm square loop has a resistance of 0.10 Ω. A magnetic field perpendicular to the loop is $B = 4t - 2t^2$, where *B* is in tesla and *t* is in seconds. What is the current in the loop at $t = 0.0$ s, $t = 1.0$ s, and $t = 2.0$ s?

**38.** •• A 100-turn, 2.0-cm-diameter coil is at rest with its axis vertical. A uniform magnetic field 60° away from vertical increases from 0.50 T to 1.50 T in 0.60 s. What is the induced emf in the coil?

**39.** •• A 100-turn, 8.0-cm-diameter coil is made of 0.50-mm-diameter copper wire. A magnetic field is parallel to the axis of the coil. At what rate must *B* increase to induce a 2.0 A current in the coil?

**40.** •• **CALC** A circular loop made from a flexible, conducting wire is shrinking. Its radius as a function of time is $r = r_0\, e^{-\beta t}$. The loop is perpendicular to a steady, uniform magnetic field *B*. Find an expression for the induced emf in the loop at time *t*.

**41.** •• **CALC** A 10 cm × 10 cm square loop lies in the *xy*-plane. The magnetic field in this region of space is $\vec{B} = \left(0.30t\ \hat{i} + 0.50t^2\ \hat{k}\right)$ T, where *t* is in s. What is the emf induced in the loop at (a) $t = 0.5$ s and (b) $t = 1.0$ s?

**42.** •• **CALC** A spherical balloon with a volume of 2.5 L is in a 45 mT uniform, vertical magnetic field. A horizontal elastic but conducting wire with 2.5 Ω resistance circles the balloon at its equator. Suddenly the balloon starts expanding at 0.75 L/s. What is the current in the wire 2.0 s later?

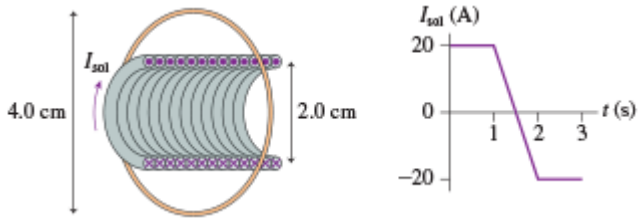
**43.** ••• **INT CALC** A 3.0-cm-diameter, 10-turn coil of wire, located at $z = 0$ in the $xy$-plane, carries a current of 2.5 A. A 2.0-mm-diameter conducting loop with $2.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \Omega$ resistance is also in the $xy$-plane at the center of the coil. At $t = 0$ s, the loop begins to move along the $z$-axis with a constant speed of 75 m/s. What is the induced current in the conducting loop at $t = 200\ \mu$s? The diameter of the conducting loop is much smaller than that of the coil, so you can assume that the magnetic field through the loop is everywhere the on-axis field of the coil.

**44.** ••• **CALC** A 20 cm × 20 cm square loop of wire lies in the $xy$-plane with its bottom edge on the $x$-axis. The resistance of the loop is 0.50 Ω. A magnetic field parallel to the $z$-axis is given by $B = 0.80y^2t$, where $B$ is in tesla, $y$ in meters, and $t$ in seconds. What is the size of the induced current in the loop at $t = 0.50$ s?

**45.** ••• A 2.0 cm × 2.0 cm square loop of wire with resistance 0.010 Ω has one edge parallel to a long straight wire. The near edge of the loop is 1.0 cm from the wire. The current in the wire is increasing at the rate of 100 A/s. What is the current in the loop?

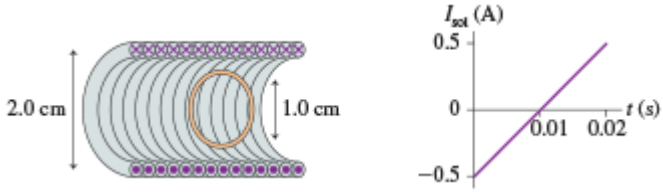
**46.** •• Figure P30.46 shows a 4.0-cm-diameter loop with resistance 0.10 Ω around a 2.0-cm-diameter solenoid. The solenoid is 10 cm long, has 100 turns, and carries the current shown in the graph. A positive current is cw when seen from the left. Find the current in the loop at (a) $t = 0.5$ s, (b) $t = 1.5$ s, and (c) $t = 2.5$ s.

## Figure P30.46



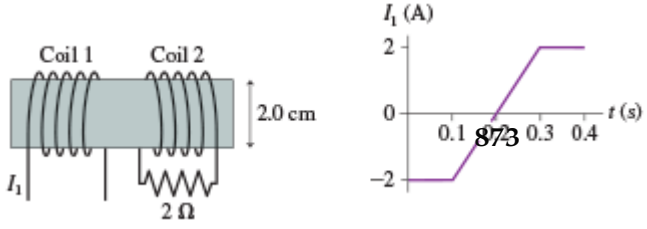

**47.** ••• Figure P30.47 shows a 1.0-cm-diameter loop with $R = 0.50\ \Omega$ inside a 2.0-cm-diameter solenoid. The solenoid is 8.0 cm long, has 120 turns, and carries the current shown in the graph. A positive current is cw when seen from the left. Determine the current in the loop at $t = 0.010$ s.

## Figure P30.47




**48.** •• Figure P30.48 shows two 20-turn coils tightly wrapped on the same 2.0-cm-diameter cylinder with 1.0-mm-diameter wire. The current through coil 1 is shown in the graph. Determine the current in coil 2 at (a) $t = 0.05$ s and (b) $t = 0.25$ s. A positive current is into the page at the top of a loop. Assume that the magnetic field of coil 1 passes entirely through coil 2.

## Figure P30.48



**49.** •• **CALC** An electric generator has an 18-cm-diameter, 120-turn coil that rotates at 60 Hz in a uniform magnetic field that is perpendicular to the rotation axis. What magnetic field strength is needed to generate a peak voltage of 170 V?

**50.** •• **CALC** A 40-turn, 4.0-cm-diameter coil with $R = 0.40\ \Omega$ surrounds a 3.0-cm-diameter solenoid. The solenoid is 20 cm long and has 200 turns. The 60 Hz current through the solenoid is $I = I_0 \sin(2\pi ft)$. What is $I_0$ if the maximum induced current in the coil is 0.20 A?

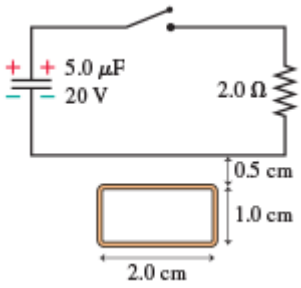
**51.** ••• A small, 2.0-mm-diameter circular loop with $R = 0.020\ \Omega$ is at the center of a large 100-mm-diameter circular loop. Both loops lie in the same plane. The current in the outer loop changes from +1.0 A to –1.0 A in 0.10 s. What is the induced current in the inner loop?

**52.** •• A rectangular metal loop with 0.050 Ω resistance is placed next to one wire of the *RC* circuit shown in Figure P30.52. The capacitor is charged to 20 V with the polarity shown, then the switch is closed at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** What is the direction of current in the loop for $t > 0$ s?

**b.** What is the current in the loop at $t = 5.0\ \mu$s? Assume that only the circuit wire next to the loop is close enough to produce a significant magnetic field.

**Figure P30.52**

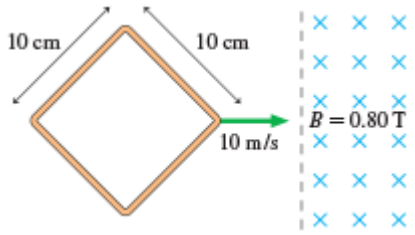


**53.** •• **CALC** The square loop shown in Figure P30.53 moves into a 0.80 T magnetic field at a constant speed of 10 m/s. The loop has a resistance of 0.10 Ω, and it enters the field at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** Find the induced current in the loop as a function of time. Give your answer as a graph of $I$ versus $t$ from $t = 0$ s to $t = 0.020$ s.

**b.** What is the maximum current? What is the position of the loop when the current is maximum?

**Figure P30.53**



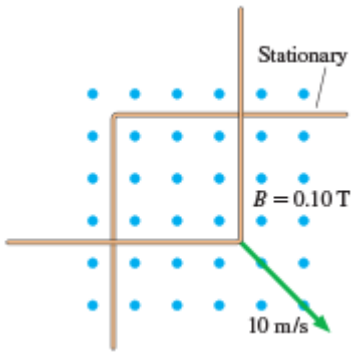

**54.** •• **CALC** The L-shaped conductor in Figure P30.54 moves at 10 m/s across and touches a stationary L-shaped conductor in a 0.10 T magnetic field. The two vertices overlap, so that the enclosed area is zero, at $t = 0$ s. The conductor has a resistance of 0.010 ohms *per meter*.

**a.** What is the direction of the induced current?

**b.** Find expressions for the induced emf and the induced current as functions of time.

**c.** Evaluate $\mathcal{E}$ and $I$ at $t = 0.10$ s.

**Figure P30.54**




**55.** •• **INT** A 20-cm-long, zero-resistance slide wire moves outward, on zero-resistance rails, at a steady speed of 10 m/s in a 0.10 T magnetic field. (See Figure 30.26.) On the opposite side, a 1.0 Ω carbon resistor completes the circuit by connecting the two rails. The mass of the resistor is 50 mg.

**a.** What is the induced current in the circuit?

**b.** How much force is needed to pull the wire at this speed?

**c.** If the wire is pulled for 10 s, what is the temperature increase of the carbon? The specific heat of carbon is 710 J/kg K.

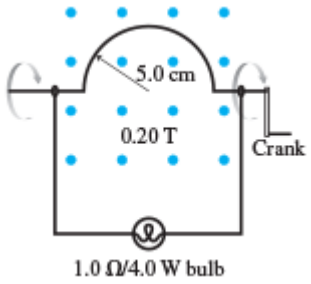
**56.** •• **CALC** Your camping buddy has an idea for a light to go inside your tent. He happens to have a powerful (and heavy!) horseshoe magnet that he bought at a surplus store. This magnet creates a 0.20 T field between two pole tips 10 cm apart. His idea is to build the hand-cranked generator shown in Figure P30.56. He thinks you can make enough current to fully light a 1.0 Ω lightbulb rated at 4.0 W. That's not super bright, but it should be plenty of light for routine activities in the tent.

**a.** Find an expression for the induced current as a function of time if you turn the crank at frequency *f*.

Assume that the semicircle is at its highest point at $t = 0$ s.

**b.** With what frequency will you have to turn the crank for the maximum current to fully light the bulb? Is this feasible?

**Figure P30.56**




**57.** • The 10-cm-wide, zero-resistance slide wire shown in Figure P30.57 is pushed toward the 2.0 Ω resistor at a steady speed of 0.50 m/s. The magnetic field strength is 0.50 T.

**a.** How big is the pushing force?

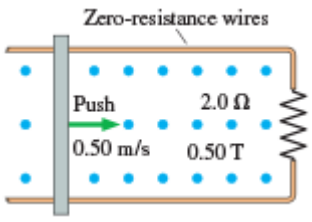
**b.** How much power does the pushing force supply to the wire?

**c.** What are the direction and magnitude of the induced current?

**d.** How much power is dissipated in the resistor?



**Figure P30.57**

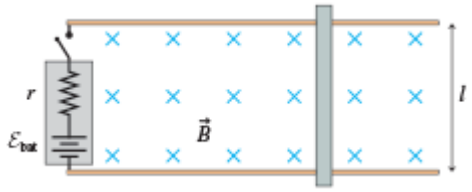


**58.** •• **INT** You've decided to make the magnetic projectile launcher shown in Figure P30.58 for your science project. An aluminum bar of length $l$ slides along metal rails through a magnetic field $B$. The switch closes at $t = 0$ s, while the bar is at rest, and a battery of emf $\mathcal{E}_{bat}$ starts a current flowing around the loop. The battery has internal resistance $r$. The resistances of the rails and the bar are effectively zero.

**a.** Show that the bar reaches a terminal speed $v_{term}$, and find an expression for $v_{term}$.

**b.** Evaluate $v_{term}$ for $\mathcal{E}_{bat} = 1.0$ V, $r = 0.10\ \Omega$, $l = 6.0$ cm, and $B = 0.50$ T.

**Figure P30.58**

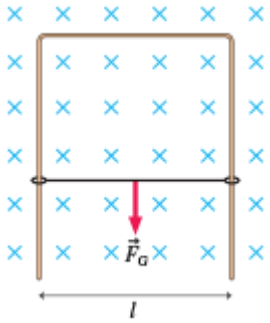



**59.** •• **INT** Figure P30.59 shows a U-shaped conducting rail that is oriented vertically in a horizontal magnetic field. The rail has no electric resistance and does not move. A slide wire with mass $m$ and resistance $R$ can slide up and down without friction while maintaining electrical contact with the rail. The slide wire is released from rest.

**a.** Show that the slide wire reaches a terminal speed $v_{term}$, and find an expression for $v_{term}$.

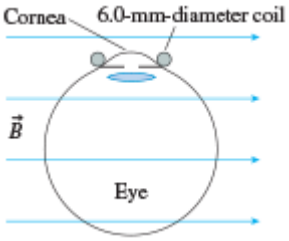
**b.** Determine the value of $v_{term}$ if $l = 20$ cm, $m = 10$ g, $R = 0.10\ \Omega$, and $B = 0.50$ T.

**Figure P30.59**




**60.** ••• **BIO** Experiments to study vision often need to track the movements of a subject's eye. One way of doing so is to have the subject sit in a magnetic field while wearing special contact lenses with a coil of very fine wire circling the edge. A current is induced in the coil each time the subject rotates his eye. Consider the experiment of Figure P30.60 in which a 20-turn, 6.0-mm-diameter coil of wire circles the subject's cornea while a 1.0 T magnetic field is directed as shown. The subject begins by looking straight ahead. What emf is induced in the coil if the subject shifts his gaze by 5° in 0.20 s?

**Figure P30.60**




**61.** •• **INT CALC** A 10-turn coil of wire having a diameter of 1.0 cm and a resistance of 0.20 Ω is in a 1.0 mT magnetic field, with the coil oriented for maximum flux. The coil is connected to an uncharged 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor rather than to a current meter. The coil is quickly pulled out of the magnetic field. Afterward, what is the voltage across the capacitor?

**Hint:** Use $I = dq/dt$ to relate the *net* change of flux to the amount of charge that flows to the capacitor.

**62.** ••• **INT** The magnetic field at one place on the earth's surface is 55 $\mu$T in strength and tilted 60° down from horizontal. A 200-turn coil having a diameter of 4.0 cm and a resistance of 2.0 Ω is connected to a 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor rather than to a current meter. The coil is held in a horizontal plane and the capacitor is discharged. Then the coil is quickly rotated 180° so that the side that had been facing up is now facing down. Afterward, what is the voltage across the capacitor? See the Hint in Problem 61.

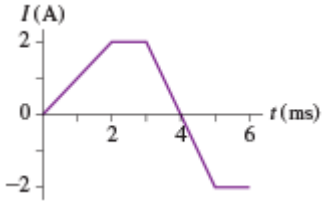
**63.** •• **CALC** Equation 30.26 is an expression for the induced electric field inside a solenoid ($r < R$). Find an expression for the induced electric field outside a solenoid ($r > R$) in which the magnetic field is changing at the rate $dB/dt$.

**64.** •• A solenoid inductor has an emf of 0.20 V when the current through it changes at the rate 10.0 A/s. A steady current of 0.10 A produces a flux of 5.0 $\mu$Wb per turn. How many turns does the inductor have?

**65.** •• **BIO** One possible concern with MRI (see Exercise 28) is turning the magnetic field on or off too quickly. Bodily fluids are conductors, and a changing magnetic field could cause electric currents to flow through the patient. Suppose a typical patient has a maximum cross-section area of 0.060 $m^2$. What is the smallest time interval in which a 5.0 T magnetic field can be turned on or off if the induced emf around the patient's body must be kept to less than 0.10 V?

**66.** •• Figure P30.66 shows the current through a 10 mH inductor. Draw a graph showing the potential difference $\Delta V_L$ across the inductor for these 6 ms.

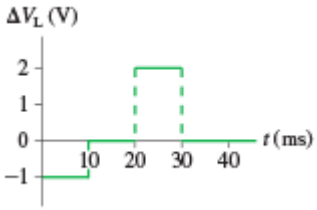
## Figure P30.66




**67.** •• Figure P30.67 shows the potential difference across a 50 mH inductor. The current through the inductor at $t = 0$ s is 0.20 A. Draw a graph showing the current through the inductor from $t = 0$ s to $t = 40$ ms.



## Figure P30.67




**68.** •• A 3.6 mH inductor with negligible resistance has a 1.0 A current through it. The current starts to increase at $t = 0$ s, creating a constant 5.0 mV voltage across the inductor. How much charge passes through the inductor between $t = 0$ s and $t = 5.0$ s?

**69.** •• **CALC** The current through inductance $L$ is given by $I = I_0 \sin \omega t$.

**a.** Find an expression for the potential difference $\Delta V_L$ across the inductor.

**b.** The maximum voltage across the inductor is 0.20 V when $L = 50\ \mu$H and $f = 500$ kHz. What is $I_0$?

**70.** •• **CALC** The current through inductance $L$ is given by $I = I_0 e^{-t/\tau}$.

**a.** Find an expression for the potential difference $\Delta V_L$ across the inductor.

**b.** Evaluate $\Delta V_L$ at $t = 0$, 1.0, and 3.0 ms if $L = 20$ mH, $I_0 = 50$ mA, and $\tau = 1.0$ ms.

**71.** •• An *LC* circuit is built with a 20 mH inductor and an 8.0 pF capacitor. The capacitor voltage has its maximum value of 25 V at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** How long is it until the capacitor is first fully discharged?

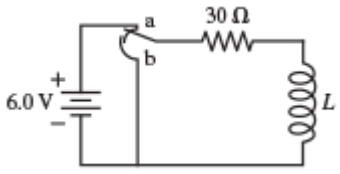
**b.** What is the inductor current at that time?

**72.** •• An electric oscillator is made with a 0.10 $\mu$F capacitor and a 1.0 mH inductor. The capacitor is initially charged to 5.0 V. What is the maximum current through the inductor as the circuit oscillates?

**73.** •• For your final exam in electronics, you're asked to build an *LC* circuit that oscillates at 10 kHz. In addition, the maximum current must be 0.10 A and the maximum energy stored in the capacitor must be $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ J. What values of inductance and capacitance must you use?

**74.** •• The inductor in Figure P30.74 is a 9.0-cm-long, 2.0-cm-diameter solenoid wrapped with 300 turns. What is the current in the circuit 10 $\mu$s after the switch is moved from a to b?

**Figure P30.74**



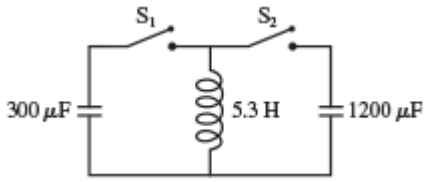

**75.** •• The 300 $\mu$F capacitor in Figure P30.75 is initially charged to 100 V, the 1200 $\mu$F capacitor is uncharged, and the switches

are both open.

**a.** What is the maximum voltage to which you can charge the 1200 $\mu$F capacitor by the proper closing and opening of the two switches?

**b.** How would you do it? Describe the sequence in which you would close and open switches and the times at which you would do so. The first switch is closed at $t = 0$ s.

**Figure P30.75**



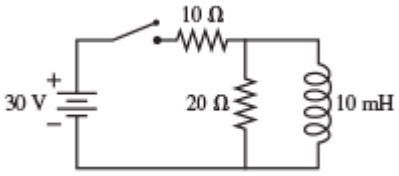

**76.** •• The switch in Figure P30.76 has been open for a long time. It is closed at $t = 0$ s. What is the current through the 20 Ω resistor

**a.** Immediately after the switch is closed?

**b.** After the switch has been closed a long time?

**c.** Immediately after the switch is reopened?

**Figure P30.76**



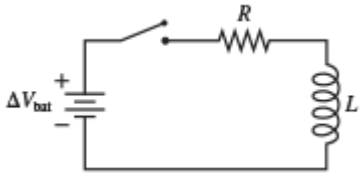

**77.** •• The switch in Figure P30.77 has been open for a long time. It is closed at $t = 0$ s.

**a.** After the switch has been closed for a long time, what is the current in the circuit? Call this current $I_0$.

**b.** Find an expression for the current $I$ as a function of time. Write your expression in terms of $I_0$, $R$, and $L$.

**c.** Sketch a current-versus-time graph from $t = 0$ s until the current is no longer changing.

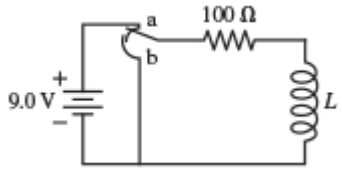
**Figure P30.77**




**78.** •• To determine the inductance of an unmarked inductor, you set up the circuit shown in Figure P30.78. After moving the switch from a to b at $t = 0$ s, you monitor the resistor voltage with an oscilloscope. Your data are shown in the table:

| Time ($\mu$s) | Voltage (V) |
|---|---|
| 0 | 9.0 |
| 10 | 6.7 |
| 20 | 4.6 |
| 30 | 3.2 |
| 40 | 2.5 |

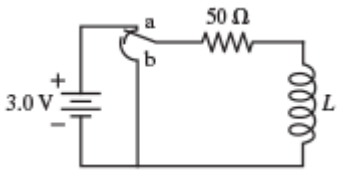
**Figure P30.78**




Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine the inductance.

**79.** ••• 5.0 $\mu$s after the switch of Figure P30.79 is moved from a to b, the magnetic energy stored in the inductor has decreased by half. What is the value of the inductance $L$?

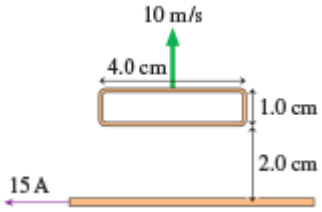
**Figure P30.79**




## Challenge Problems

**80.** ••• **CALC** The rectangular loop in Figure CP30.80 has 0.020 Ω resistance. What is the induced current in the loop at this instant?

**Figure CP30.80**

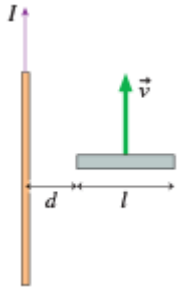



**81.** ••• In recent years it has been possible to buy a 1.0 F capacitor. This is an enormously large amount of capacitance. Suppose you want to build a 1.0 Hz oscillator with a 1.0 F capacitor. You have a spool of 0.25-mm-diameter wire and a 4.0-cm-diameter plastic cylinder. How long must your inductor be if you wrap it with 2 layers of closely spaced turns?

**82.** ••• **CALC** The metal wire in Figure CP30.82 moves with speed $v$ parallel to a straight wire that is carrying current $I$. The

distance between the two wires is $d$. Find an expression for the potential difference between the two ends of the moving wire.

**Figure CP30.82**




**83.** ••• **CALC** Let's look at the details of eddy-current braking. A square loop, length $l$ on each side, is shot with velocity $v_0$ into a uniform magnetic field $B$. The field is perpendicular to the plane of the loop. The loop has mass $m$ and resistance $R$, and it enters the field at $t = 0$ s. Assume that the loop is moving to the right along the $x$-axis and that the field begins at $x = 0$ m.

**a.** Find an expression for the loop's velocity as a function of time as it enters the magnetic field. You can ignore gravity, and you can assume that the back edge of the loop has not entered the field.

**b.** Calculate and draw a graph of $v$ over the interval $0\text{ s} \leq t \leq 0.04\text{ s}$ for the case that $v_0 = 10\text{ m/s}$, $l = 10\text{ cm}$, $m = 1.0\text{ g}$, $R = 0.0010\ \Omega$, and $B = 0.10\text{ T}$. The back edge of the loop does not reach the field during this time interval.

**84.** ••• **CALC** An $8.0\text{ cm} \times 8.0\text{ cm}$ square loop is halfway into a magnetic field perpendicular to the plane of the loop. The loop's mass is 10 g and its resistance is 0.010 Ω. A switch is closed at $t = 0$ s, causing the magnetic field to increase from 0 to 1.0 T in 0.010 s.

**a.** What is the induced current in the square loop?

**b.** With what speed is the loop "kicked" away from the magnetic field?

**Hint:** What is the impulse on the loop?

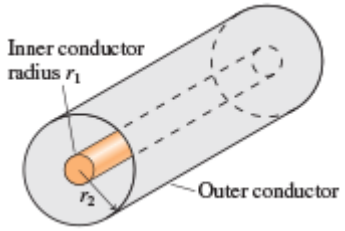
**85.** ••• **CALC** A 2.0-cm-diameter solenoid is wrapped with 1000 turns per meter. 0.50 cm from the axis, the strength of an induced electric field is $5.0 \times 10^{-4}$ V/m. What is the rate $dI/dt$ with which the current through the solenoid is changing?

**86.** ••• **CALC** High-frequency signals are often transmitted along a *coaxial cable*, such as the one shown in Figure CP30.86. For example, the cable TV hookup coming into your home is a coaxial cable. The signal is carried on a wire of radius $r_1$ while the outer conductor of radius $r_2$ is grounded. A soft, flexible insulating material fills the space between them, and an insulating plastic coating goes around the outside.

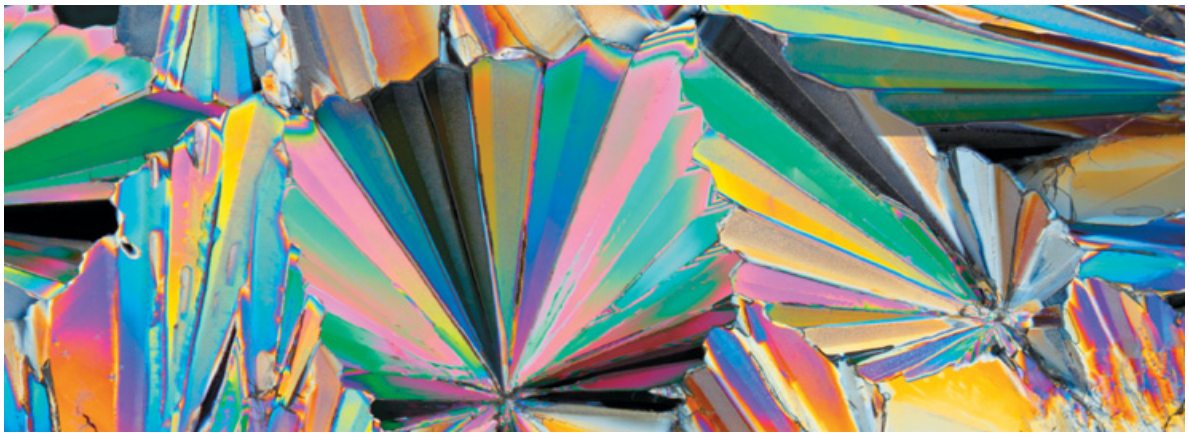
**a.** Find an expression for the inductance per meter of a coaxial cable. To do so, consider the flux through a rectangle of length $l$ that spans the gap between the inner and outer conductors.

**b.** Evaluate the inductance per meter of a cable having $r_1 = 0.50$ mm and $r_2 = 3.0$ mm.

**Figure CP30.86**



# Chapter 31
# Electromagnetic Fields and Waves



Sugar crystals seen in polarized light. The crystals rotate the plane of polarization, and the different colors represent portions of the crystals of different thicknesses.

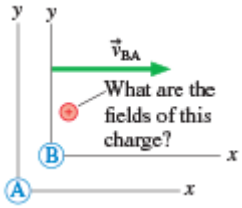
**In This Chapter**

you will study the properties of electromagnetic fields and waves.

## How do fields transform?

Whether the field at a point is electric or magnetic depends, surprisingly, on your motion relative to the charges and currents. You'll learn how to transform the fields measured in one reference frame to a second reference frame moving relative to the first.

Looking Back Section 4.3 Relative motion



## What is Maxwell's theory of electromagnetism?

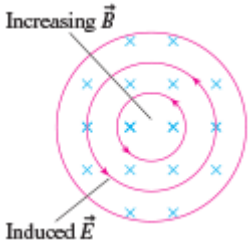
Electricity and magnetism can be summarized in four equations for the fields, called Maxwell's equations, and one equation that tells us how charges respond to fields.

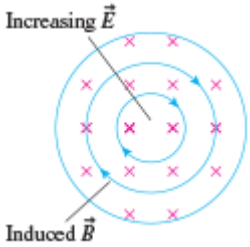
- Gauss's law: Charges create electric fields.
- Gauss's law for magnetism: There are no isolated magnetic poles.
- Faraday's law: Electric fields can also be created by changing magnetic fields.
- Ampère-Maxwell law: Magnetic fields can be created either by currents or by changing magnetic fields.

Looking Back Section 24.4 Gauss's law

Looking Back Section 29.6 Ampère's law

Looking Back Section 30.5 Faraday's law



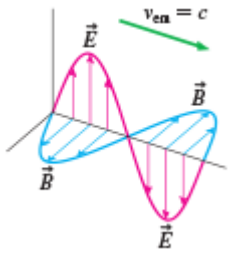




## What are electromagnetic waves?

Maxwell's equations predict the existence of self-sustaining oscillations of the electric and magnetic fields—electromagnetic waves—that travel through space without the presence of charges or currents.

- In a vacuum, all electromagnetic waves—from radio waves to x rays—travel with the *same speed* $v_{\text{em}} = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0} = c$, the speed of light.
- The fields $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ are perpendicular to each other and to the direction of travel.
- Electromagnetic waves are launched by an oscillating dipole, called an antenna.
- Electromagnetic waves transfer energy.
- Electromagnetic waves also transfer momentum and exert radiation pressure.

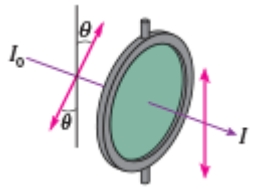
Looking Back Section 16.4 The wave equation




## What is polarization?

An electromagnetic wave is polarized if the electric field always oscillates in the same plane—the plane of polarization. Polarizers both create and analyze polarized light. You will learn to calculate the intensity of light transmitted through a polarizer and will see that light is completely blocked by crossed

polarizers. Polarization is used in many types of modern optical instrumentation.

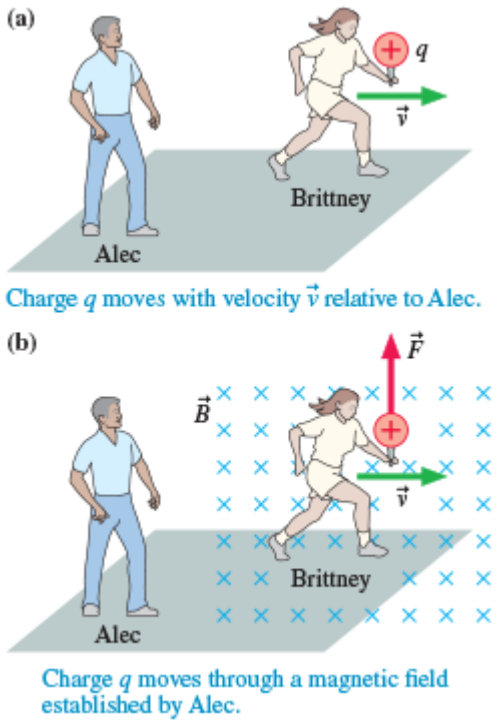


# 31.1 $E$ or $B$? It Depends on Your Perspective



Our story thus far has been that charges create electric fields and that moving charges, or currents, create magnetic fields. But consider Figure 31.1a, where Brittney, carrying charge $q$, runs past Alec with velocity $\vec{v}$. Alec sees a moving charge, and he knows that this charge creates a magnetic field. But from Brittney's perspective, the charge is at rest. Stationary charges don't create magnetic fields, so Brittney claims that the magnetic field is zero. Is there, or is there not, a magnetic field?

**Figure 31.1**




Brittney carries a charge past Alec.

Or what about the situation in Figure 31.1b? Now Brittney is carrying the charge through a magnetic field that Alec has created. Alec sees a charge moving in a magnetic field, so he knows there's a force $\vec{F} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$ on the charge. But for Brittney the charge is still at rest. Stationary charges don't experience magnetic forces, so Brittney claims that $\vec{F} = \vec{0}$.

Now, we may be a bit uncertain about magnetic fields, but surely there can be no disagreement over forces. After all, forces cause observable and measurable effects, so Alec and Brittney should be able to agree on whether or not the charge experiences a force. Further, if Brittney runs with constant velocity, then both Alec and Brittney are in *inertial reference frames*. You learned in Chapter 4 that these are the reference frames in which Newton's laws are valid, so we can't say that there's anything abnormal or unusual about Alec's and Brittney's observations.

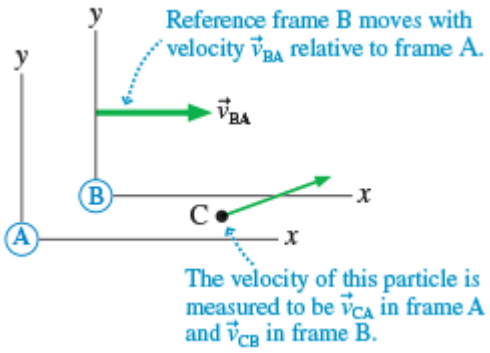
This paradox has arisen because magnetic fields and forces depend on velocity, but we haven't looked at the issue of velocity *with respect to what* or velocity *as measured by whom*. The resolution of this paradox will lead us to the conclusion that $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ are not, as we've been assuming, separate and independent entities. They are closely intertwined.

## Reference Frames

We introduced reference frames and relative motion in Chapter 4. To remind you, Figure 31.2 shows two reference frames labeled A and B. You can think of these as the reference frames in which Alec and Brittney, respectively, are at rest. Frame B moves with velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{BA}}$ with respect to frame A. That is, an observer (Alec) at rest in A sees the origin of B (Brittney) go past with velocity $\vec{v}_{\text{BA}}$. Of course, Brittney would say

that Alec has velocity $\vec{v}_{AB} = -\vec{v}_{BA}$ relative to her reference frame. We will stipulate that both reference frames are inertial reference frames, so $\vec{v}_{BA}$ is constant.

## Figure 31.2




Reference frames A and B.

Figure 31.2 also shows a particle C. Experimenters in frame A measure the motion of the particle and find that its velocity *relative to frame A* is $\vec{v}_{CA}$. At the same instant, experimenters in B find that the particle's velocity *relative to frame B* is $\vec{v}_{CB}$. In Chapter 4, we found that $\vec{v}_{CA}$ and $\vec{v}_{CB}$ are related by

**(31.1)**

$$\vec{v}_{CA} = \vec{v}_{CB} + \vec{v}_{BA}$$

Equation 31.1, the *Galilean transformation of velocity*, tells us that the velocity of the particle relative to reference frame A is its velocity relative to frame B plus (vector addition!) the velocity of frame B relative to frame A.



Suppose the particle in Figure 31.2 is accelerating. How does its acceleration $\vec{a}_{CA}$, as measured in frame A, compare to the acceleration

$\vec{a}_{\mathrm{CB}}$ measured in frame B? We can answer this question by taking the time derivative of Equation 31.1:

$$\frac{d\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}}{dt} = \frac{d\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CB}}}{dt} + \frac{d\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}}}{dt}$$

The derivatives of $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$ and $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CB}}$ are the particle's accelerations $\vec{a}_{\mathrm{CA}}$ and $\vec{a}_{\mathrm{CB}}$ in frames A and B, respectively. But $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}}$ is a *constant* velocity, so $d\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}}/dt = \vec{0}$. Thus the Galilean transformation of acceleration is simply

**(31.2)**

$$\vec{a}_{\mathrm{CA}} = \vec{a}_{\mathrm{CB}}$$

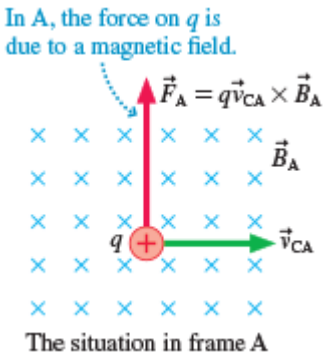
Brittney and Alec may measure different positions and velocities for a particle, but they *agree* on its acceleration. And if they agree on its acceleration, they must, by using Newton's second law, agree on the force acting on the particle. That is, **experimenters in all inertial reference frames agree about the force acting on a particle**.

## The Transformation of Electric and Magnetic Fields

Imagine that Alec has measured the electric field $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$ and the magnetic field $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$ in reference frame A. Our investigations thus far give us no reason to think that Brittney's measurements of the fields will differ from Alec's. After all, it seems like the fields are just "there," waiting to be measured.

To find out if this is true, Alec establishes a region of space with a uniform magnetic field $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$ but no electric field $\left(\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} = \vec{0}\right)$. Then, as shown in Figure 31.3, he shoots a positive charge $q$ through the magnetic field. At an instant when $q$ is moving horizontally with velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$, Alec observes that the particle experiences force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{A}} = q\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$. The direction of the force is straight up.

## Figure 31.3




A charged particle moves through a magnetic field in reference frame A and experiences a magnetic force.

Suppose that Brittney, in frame B, runs alongside the charge with the same velocity: $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$. To her, in frame B, the charge is at rest. Nonetheless, because both experimenters must agree about forces, Brittney *must* observe the same upward force on the charge that Alec observed. But there is *no* magnetic force on a stationary charge, so how can this be?

Because Brittney sees a stationary charge being acted on by an upward force, her only possible conclusion is that there is an upward-pointing *electric field*. After all, the electric field was initially defined in terms of the force experienced by a stationary charge. If the electric field in frame B is $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$, then the force on the charge is $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{B}} = q\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$. But we know that

$\vec{F}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{F}_{\mathrm{A}}$, and Alec has already measured $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{A}} = q\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} = q\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$. Thus we're led to the conclusion that

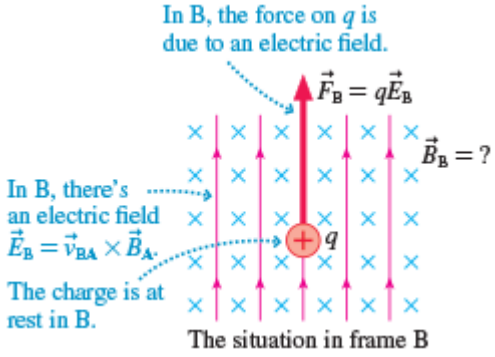
(31.3) 879

$$\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$$

As Brittney runs past Alec, she finds that at least part of Alec's magnetic field has become an electric field! **Whether a field is seen as "electric" or "magnetic" depends on the motion of the reference frame relative to the sources of the field.**

Figure 31.4 shows the situation from Brittney's perspective. There is a force on charge $q$, the same force that Alec measured in Figure 31.3, but Brittney attributes this force to an electric field rather than a magnetic field. (Brittney needs a moving charge to measure magnetic forces, so we'll need a different experiment to see whether or not there's a magnetic field in frame B.)

## Figure 31.4



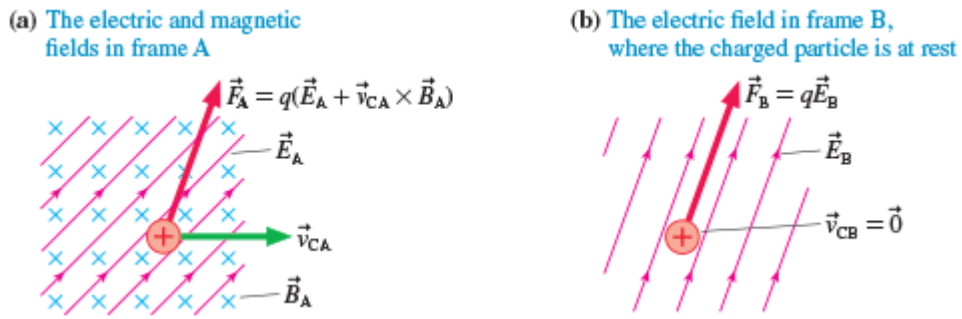

In frame B, the charge experiences an electric force.

More generally, suppose that an experimenter in reference frame A creates both an electric field $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$ and a magnetic field $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$. A charge moving in A with velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$ experiences the force $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{A}} = q\left(\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} + \vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}\right)$ shown in Figure 31.5a. The charge is at rest in a reference frame B that moves with velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$ so the force in B can be due only to an electric field: $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{B}} = q\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$. Equating the forces, because experimenters in all inertial reference frames agree about forces, we find that

**(31.4)**

$$\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} + \vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$$

## Figure 31.5




A charge in reference frame A experiences electric and magnetic forces. The charge experiences the same force in frame B, but it is due only to an electric field.

Equation 31.4 transforms the electric and magnetic fields measured in reference frame A into the electric field measured in a frame B that moves relative to A with velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}}$. Figure 31.5b shows the outcome. Although we used a charge as a probe to find Equation 31.4, the equation is strictly about fields in different reference frames; it makes no mention of charges.

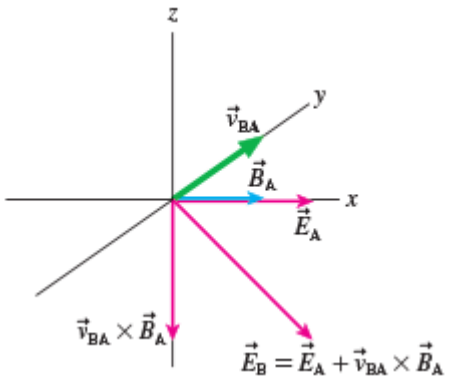
### Example 31.1 Transforming the electric field

A laboratory experimenter has created the parallel electric and magnetic fields $\vec{E} = 10{,}000\hat{\imath}$ V/m and $\vec{B} = 0.10\hat{\imath}$ T. A proton is shot into these fields with velocity $\vec{v} = 1.0 \times 10^5\,\hat{j}$ m/s. What is the electric field in the proton's reference frame?

**MODEL** Let the laboratory be reference frame A and a frame moving with the proton be reference frame B. The relative velocity is $\vec{v}_{\rm BA} = 1.0 \times 10^5\,\hat{j}$ m/s.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 31.6 shows the geometry. The laboratory fields, now labeled A, are parallel to the $x$-axis while $\vec{v}_{\rm BA}$ is in the $y$-direction. Thus $\vec{v}_{\rm BA} \times \vec{B}_{\rm A}$ points in the negative $z$-direction.

**Figure 31.6**




Finding electric field $\vec{E}_{\rm B}$.

**SOLVE** $\vec{v}_{\rm BA}$ and $\vec{B}_{\rm A}$ are perpendicular, so the magnitude of $\vec{v}_{\rm BA} \times \vec{B}_{\rm A}$ is $\left(1.0 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}\right)(0.10\text{T})\,(\sin 90^\circ) = 10{,}000\text{V/m}$. Thus the electric field in frame B, the proton's frame, is

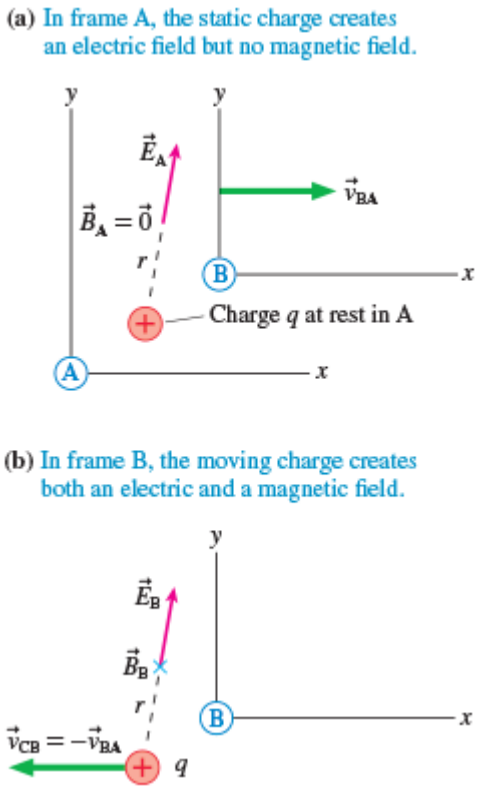
$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E}_{\rm B} &= \vec{E}_{\rm A} + \vec{v}_{\rm BA} \times \vec{B}_{\rm A} = (10{,}000\ \hat{\imath} - 10{,}000\ \hat{k})\ \text{V/m} \\ &= (14{,}000\ \text{V/m},\ 45^\circ\ \text{below the } x\text{-axis})\end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The force on the proton is the same in both reference frames. But in the proton's reference frame that force is due entirely to an electric field tilted 45° below the $x$-axis.

To find a transformation equation for the magnetic field, Figure 31.7a shows charge $q$ at rest in reference frame A. Alec measures the fields of a stationary point charge:

$$\vec{E}_{\text{A}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r} \qquad \vec{B}_{\text{A}} = \vec{0}$$

## Figure 31.7




A charge at rest in frame A is moving in frame B.

What are the fields at this point in space as measured by Brittney in frame B? We can use Equation 31.4 to find $\vec{E}_{\text{B}}$. Because $\vec{B}_{\text{A}} = \vec{0}$, the electric field in frame B is

(31.5)

$$\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

In other words, **Coulomb's law is still valid in a frame in which the point charge is moving.**

But Brittney also measures a magnetic field $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}}$, because, as seen in Figure 31.7b, charge $q$ is moving in reference frame B. The magnetic field of a moving point charge is given by the Biot-Savart law:

(31.6)

$$\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q}{r^2}\,\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CB}} \times \hat{r} = -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q}{r^2}\,\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \hat{r}$$

where we used the fact that the charge's velocity in frame B is $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CB}} = -\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}}$.

It will be useful to rewrite Equation 31.6 as

$$\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q}{r^2}\,\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \hat{r} = -\epsilon_0\mu_0\,\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r}\right)$$

The expression in parentheses is simply $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$, the electric field in frame A, so we have

(31.7)

$$\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = -\epsilon_0\mu_0\,\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$$

Thus we find the remarkable idea that **the Biot-Savart law for the magnetic field of a moving point charge is nothing other than the**

**Coulomb electric field of a stationary point charge transformed into a moving reference frame.**

We will assert without proof that if the experimenters in frame A create a magnetic field $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$ in addition to the electric field $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$, then the magnetic field $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}}$ is

(31.8) 881

$$\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} - \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$$

This is a general transformation matching Equation 31.4 for the electric field $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$.

Notice something interesting. The constant $\mu_0$ has units of T m/A; those of $\epsilon_0$ are $\mathrm{C^2/Nm^2}$. By definition, $1\ \mathrm{T} = 1\ \mathrm{N/A\,m}$ and $1\ \mathrm{A} = 1\ \mathrm{C/s}$. Consequently, the units of $\epsilon_0\mu_0$ turn out to be $\mathrm{s^2/m^2}$. In other words, the quantity $1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}$, with units of m/s, is a speed. But what speed? The constants are well known from measurements of static electric and magnetic fields, so we can compute

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(8.85\times10^{-12}\ \mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2}\right)\left(1.26\times10^{-6}\ \mathrm{T\,m/A}\right)}} = 3.00\times10^{8}\ \mathrm{m/s}$$

Of all the possible values you might get from evaluating $1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}$, what are the chances it would turn out to be *c*, the speed of light? It is not a random coincidence. In Section 31.5 we'll show that electric and magnetic fields can exist as a *traveling wave*, and that the wave speed is predicted by the theory to be none other than

(31.9)

$$v_{\text{em}} = c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}}$$

For now, we'll go ahead and write $\epsilon_0 \mu_0 = 1/c^2$. With this, our **Galilean field transformation equations** are

---

(31.10)

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E}_{\text{B}} &= \vec{E}_{\text{A}} + \vec{v}_{\text{BA}} \times \vec{B}_{\text{A}} \\ \vec{B}_{\text{B}} &= \vec{B}_{\text{A}} - \frac{1}{c^2}\vec{v}_{\text{BA}} \times \vec{E}_{\text{A}}\end{aligned}$$

where $\vec{v}_{\text{BA}}$ is the velocity of reference frame B relative to frame A and where, to reiterate, the fields are measured *at the same point in space* by experimenters *at rest* in each reference frame.

> **Note**
>
> We'll see shortly that these equations are valid only if $v_{\text{BA}} \ll c$.

We can no longer believe that electric and magnetic fields have a separate, independent existence. Changing from one reference frame to another mixes and rearranges the fields. Different experimenters watching an event will agree on the outcome, such as the deflection of a charged particle, but they will ascribe it to different combinations of fields. Our conclusion is that **there is a single electromagnetic field that presents different faces, in terms of $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$, to different viewers.**

---

**Example 31.2 Two views of a magnet**

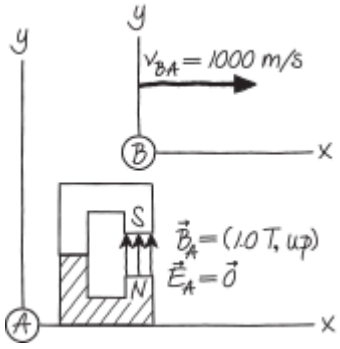
The 1.0 T field of a large laboratory magnet points straight up. A rocket flies past the laboratory, parallel to the ground, at 1000 m/s. What are the fields between the magnet's pole tips as measured—very quickly!—by scientists on the rocket?

**MODEL** Let the laboratory be reference frame A and a frame moving with the rocket be reference frame B.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 31.8 shows the magnet and establishes the coordinate systems. The relative velocity is $\vec{v}_{\rm BA} = 1000\ \hat{\imath}\ \rm m/s$.

**Figure 31.8**






The rocket and the magnet.

**SOLVE** The fields in the laboratory reference frame are $\vec{E}_{\rm A} = \vec{0}$ and $\vec{B}_{\rm A} = 1.0\ \hat{j}\ \rm T$. Transforming the fields to the rocket's reference frame gives first, for the electric field,

$$\vec{E}_{\rm B} = \vec{E}_{\rm A} + \vec{v}_{\rm BA} \times \vec{B}_{\rm A} = \vec{v}_{\rm BA} \times \vec{B}_{\rm A}$$

From the right-hand rule, $\vec{v}_{\rm BA} \times \vec{B}_{\rm A}$ is out of the page, in the $z$-direction. $\vec{v}_{\rm BA}$ and $\vec{B}_{\rm A}$ are perpendicular, so

$$\vec{E}_{\rm B} = v_{\rm BA} B_{\rm A}\ \hat{k} = 1000\ \hat{k}\ \rm V/m$$

Similarly, for the magnetic field,

$$\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} - \frac{1}{c^2}\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} = \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} = 1.0\,\hat{j}\,\mathrm{T}$$

Thus the rocket scientists measure

$$\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} = 1000\,\hat{k}\,\mathrm{V/m} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = 1.0\,\hat{j}\,\mathrm{T}$$

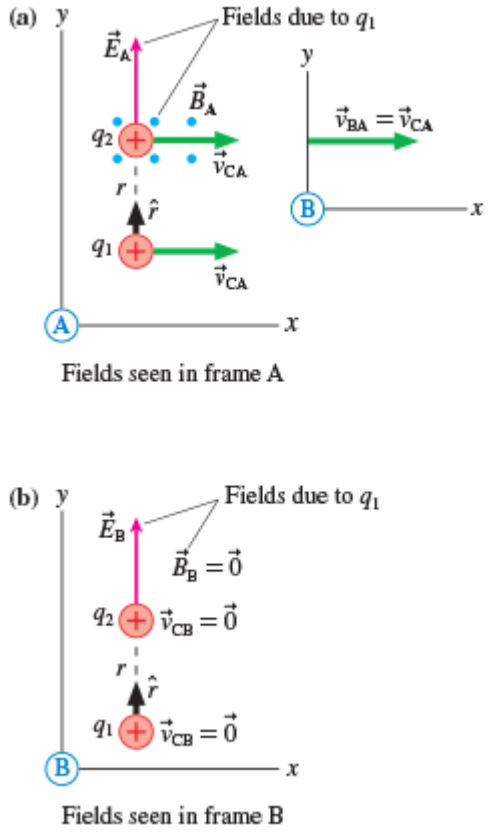
## Almost Relativity

Figure 31.9a shows two positive charges moving side by side through frame A with velocity $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$. Charge $q_1$ creates an electric field and a magnetic field at the position of charge $q_2$. These are

$$\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r^2}\hat{j} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q_1 v_{\mathrm{CA}}}{r^2}\hat{k}$$

where $r$ is the distance between the charges, and we've used $\hat{r} = \hat{j}$ and $\vec{v} \times \hat{r} = v\hat{k}$.

**Figure 31.9**




Two charges moving parallel to each other.

---

How are the fields seen in frame B, which moves with $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}}$ and in which the charges are at rest? From the field transformation equations,

**(31.11)**

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} &= \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} - \frac{1}{c^2}\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q_1 v_{\mathrm{CA}}}{r^2}\hat{k} - \frac{1}{c^2}\left(v_{\mathrm{CA}}\,\hat{\imath} \times \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r^2}\hat{\jmath}\right) \\ &= \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q_1 v_{\mathrm{CA}}}{r^2}\left(1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon_0\mu_0 c^2}\right)\hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

where we used $\hat{\imath} \times \hat{\jmath} = \hat{k}$. But $\epsilon_0\mu_0 = 1/c^2$, so the term in parentheses is zero and thus $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{0}$. This result was expected because $q_1$ is at rest in frame B and shouldn't create a magnetic field.

The transformation of the electric field is similar:

(31.12)

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} &= \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} + \vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r^2}\hat{j} + v_{\mathrm{BA}}\,\hat{\imath} \times \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q_1 v_{\mathrm{CA}}}{r^2}\hat{k} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r^2}\left(1 - \epsilon_0\mu_0 v_{\mathrm{BA}}^2\right)\hat{j} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r^2}\left(1 - \frac{v_{\mathrm{BA}}^2}{c^2}\right)\hat{j}\end{aligned}$$

where we used $\hat{\imath} \times \hat{k} = -\hat{j}$, $\vec{v}_{\mathrm{CA}} = \vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}}$, and $\epsilon_0\mu_0 = 1/c^2$. Figure 31.9b shows the charges and fields in frame B.

But now we have a problem. In frame B where the two charges are at rest and separated by distance $r$, the electric field due to charge $q_1$ should be simply

$$\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{r^2}\hat{j}$$

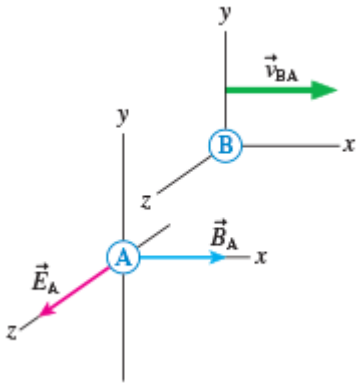
The field transformation equations have given a "wrong" result for the electric field $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$.

It turns out that the field transformations of Equations 31.10, which are based on Galilean relativity, aren't quite right. We would need Einstein's relativity—a topic that we'll take up in Chapter 36—to give the correct transformations. However, the Galilean field transformations in Equations 31.10 are equivalent to the relativistically correct transformations when $v \ll c$, in which case $v^2/c^2 \ll 1$. You can see that the two expressions for $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$ do, in fact, agree if $v_{\mathrm{BA}}^2/c^2$ can be neglected.

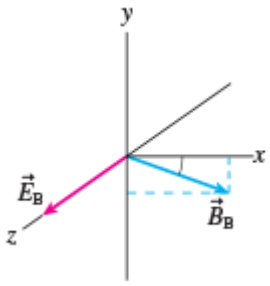
Thus our use of the field transformation equations has an additional rule: Set $v^2/c^2$ to zero. This is an acceptable rule for speeds $v < 10^7$ m/s. Even with this limitation, our investigation has provided us with a deeper understanding of electric and magnetic fields.

## Stop to Think 31.1

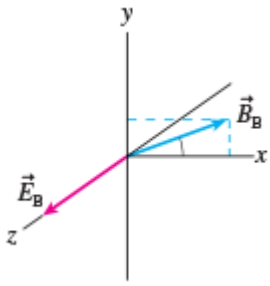
The first diagram shows electric and magnetic fields in reference frame A. Which diagram shows the fields in frame B?



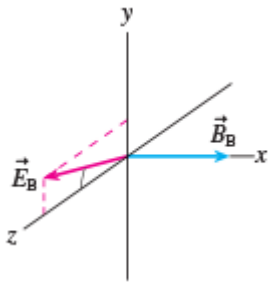

**a.**



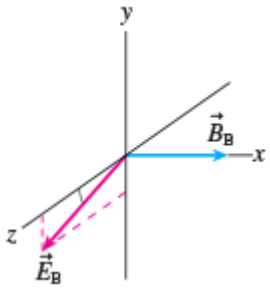

**b.**




**c.**



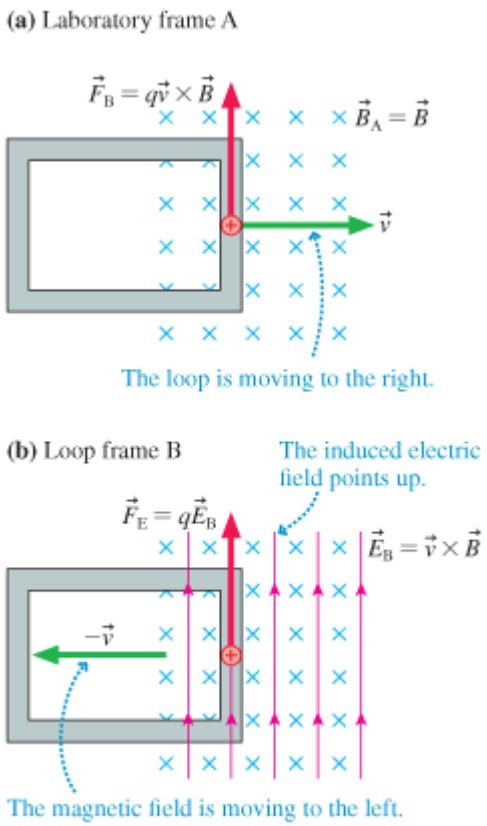
**d.**




## Faraday's Law Revisited

The transformation of electric and magnetic fields gives us new insight into Faraday's law. Figure 31.10a shows a reference frame A in which a conducting loop is moving with velocity $\vec{v}$ into a magnetic field. You learned in Chapter 30 that the magnetic field exerts a magnetic force $\vec{F}_B = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B} = (qvB, \text{ upward})$ on the charges in the leading edge of the wire, creating an emf $\mathcal{E} = vLB$ and an induced current in the loop. We called this a *motional emf*.

**Figure 31.10**




A motional emf as seen in two different reference frames.

---

How do things appear to an experimenter who is in frame B that moves with the loop at velocity $\vec{v}_{BA} = \vec{v}$ and for whom the loop is at rest? We have learned the important lesson that experimenters in different inertial reference frames agree about the outcome of any experiment; hence an experimenter in frame B agrees that there is an induced current in the loop. But the charges are at rest in frame B so there cannot be any magnetic force on them. How is the emf established in frame B?

We can use the field transformations to determine that the fields in frame B are

**(31.13)**

$$\vec{E}_B = \vec{E}_A + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}_A = \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$
$$\vec{B}_B = \vec{B}_A - \frac{1}{c^2}\vec{v} \times \vec{E}_A = \vec{B}$$

where we used the fact that $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} = \vec{0}$ in frame A.

An experimenter in the loop's frame sees not only a magnetic field but also the electric field $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$ shown in Figure 31.10b. The magnetic field exerts no force on the charges, because they're at rest in this frame, but the electric field does. The force on charge $q$ is $\vec{F}_{\mathrm{E}} = q\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B} = (qvB, \text{ upward})$. This is the same force as was measured in the laboratory frame, so it will cause the same emf and the same current. The outcome is identical, as we knew it had to be, but the experimenter in B attributes the emf to an electric field whereas the experimenter in A attributes it to a magnetic field.

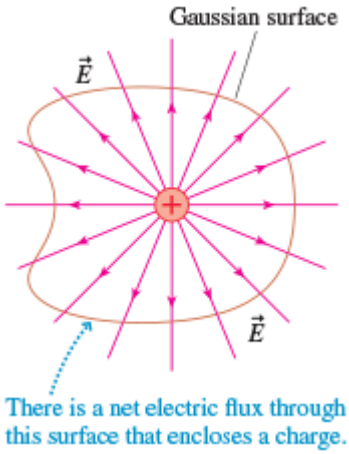
Field $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}}$ is, in fact, the *induced electric field* of Faraday's law. Faraday's law, fundamentally, is a statement that **a changing magnetic field creates an electric field.** But only in frame B, the frame of the loop, is the magnetic field changing. Thus the induced electric field is seen in the loop's frame but not in the laboratory frame.

# 31.2 The Field Laws Thus Far



Let's remind ourselves where we are in terms of discovering laws about the electromagnetic field. Gauss's law, which you studied in Chapter 24, states a very general property of the electric field. It says that charges create electric fields in such a way that the electric flux of the field is the same through *any* closed surface surrounding the charges. Figure 31.11 illustrates this idea by showing the field lines passing through a Gaussian surface enclosing a charge.

**Figure 31.11**




A Gaussian surface enclosing a charge.

The mathematical statement of Gauss's law for the electric field says that for any *closed* surface enclosing total charge $Q_{\text{in}}$, the net electric flux through the surface is

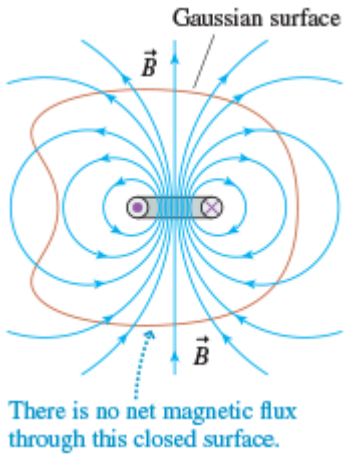
**(31.14)**

$$(\Phi_e)_{\text{closed surface}} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

The circle on the integral sign indicates that the integration is over a closed surface. Gauss's law is the first of what will turn out to be four *field equations*.

There's an analogous equation for magnetic fields, an equation we implied in Chapter 29—where we noted that isolated north or south poles do not exist—but didn't explicitly write it down. Figure 31.12 shows a Gaussian surface around a magnetic dipole. Magnetic field lines form continuous curves, without starting or stopping, so every field line leaving the surface at some point must reenter it at another. Consequently, the net magnetic flux over a *closed* surface is zero.

## Figure 31.12




There is no net flux through a Gaussian surface around a magnetic dipole.

We've shown only one surface and one magnetic field, but this conclusion turns out to be a general property of magnetic fields. Because every north pole is accompanied by a south pole, we can't enclose a "net pole" within a surface. Thus Gauss's law for magnetic fields is

**(31.15)**

$$(\Phi_m)_{\text{closed surface}} = \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0$$

Equation 31.14 is the mathematical statement that Coulomb electric field lines start and stop on charges. Equation 31.15 is the mathematical statement that magnetic field lines form closed loops; they don't start or stop (i.e., there are no isolated magnetic poles). These two versions of Gauss's law are important statements about what types of fields can and cannot exist. They will become two of Maxwell's equations.

The third field law we've established is Faraday's law:

**(31.16)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}}}{dt}$$

where the line integral of $\vec{E}$ is around the closed curve that bounds the surface through which the magnetic flux $\Phi_{\mathrm{m}}$ is calculated. Equation 31.16 is the mathematical statement that an electric field can also be created by a changing magnetic field. The correct use of Faraday's law requires a convention for determining when fluxes are positive and negative. The sign convention will be given in the next section, where we discuss the fourth and last field equation—an analogous equation for magnetic fields.

# 31.3 The Displacement Current



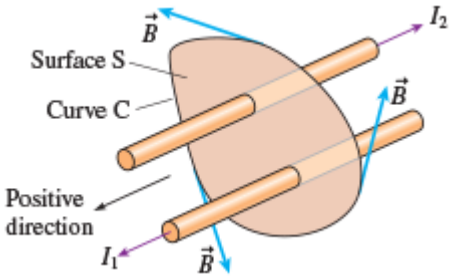
We introduced Ampère's law in Chapter 29 as an alternative to the Biot-Savart law for calculating the magnetic field of a current. Whenever total current $I_{\text{through}}$ passes through an area bounded by a closed curve, the line integral of the magnetic field around the curve is

**(31.17)**

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}}$$

Figure 31.13 illustrates the geometry of Ampère's law. The sign of each current can be determined by using Tactics Box 31.1. In this case, $I_{\text{through}} = I_1 - I_2$.

## Figure 31.13




Ampère's law relates the line integral of $\vec{B}$ around curve *C* to the current passing through surface *S*.

TACTICS BOX 31.1 **Determining the signs of flux and current**

**Mastering Physics**

1. For a surface S bounded by a closed curve C, choose either the clockwise (cw) or counterclockwise (ccw) direction around C.
2. Curl the fingers of your *right* hand around the curve in the chosen direction, with your thumb perpendicular to the surface. Your thumb defines the positive direction.
    - A flux $\Phi$ through the surface is positive if the field is in the same direction as your thumb, negative if the field is in the opposite direction.
    - A current through the surface in the direction of your thumb is positive, in the direction opposite your thumb is negative.

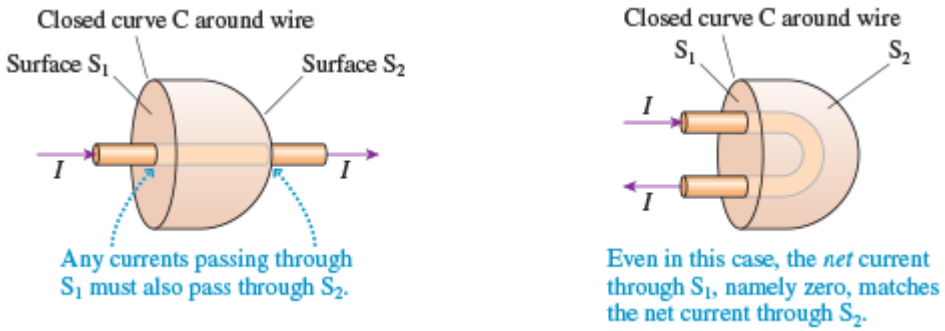
Workbook Exercises 4, 5, 6

Ampère's law is the formal statement that **currents create magnetic fields.** Although Ampère's law can be used to calculate magnetic fields in situations with a high degree of symmetry, it is more important as a statement about what types of magnetic field can and cannot exist.

## Something Is Missing

Nothing restricts the bounded surface of Ampère's law to being flat. It's not hard to see that any current passing through surface $S_1$ in Figure 31.14 must also pass through the curved surface $S_2$. To interpret Ampère's law properly, we have to say that the current $I_{\text{through}}$ is the net current passing through *any* surface S that is bounded by curve C.

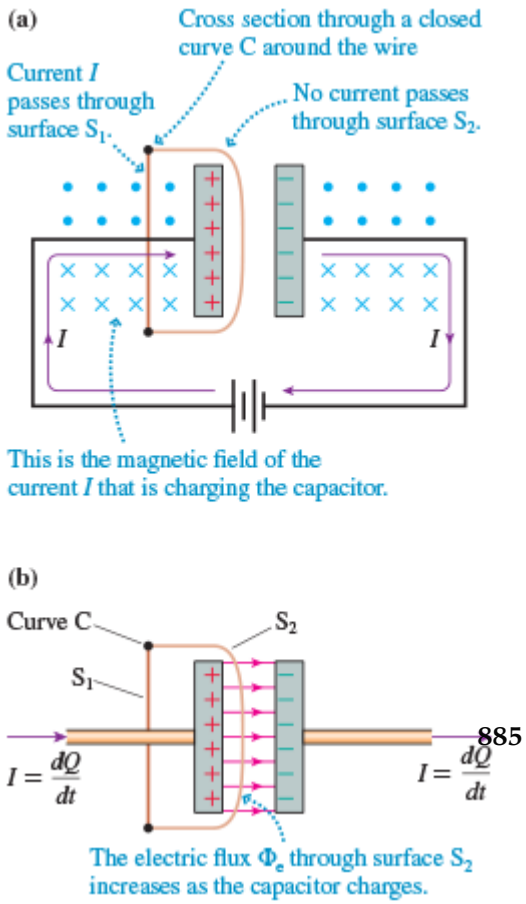
**Figure 31.14**




The *net* current passing through the flat surface $S_1$ also passes through the curved surface $S_2$.

But this leads to an interesting puzzle. Figure 31.15a shows a capacitor being charged. Current $I$, from the left, brings positive charge to the left capacitor plate. The same current carries charges away from the right capacitor plate, leaving the right plate negatively charged. This is a perfectly ordinary current in a conducting wire, and you can use the right-hand rule to verify that its magnetic field is as shown.

**Figure 31.15**




There is no current through surface $S_2$ as the capacitor charges, but there is a changing electric flux.

---

Curve C is a closed curve encircling the wire on the left. The current passes through surface $S_1$, a flat surface across C, and we could use Ampère's law to find that the magnetic field is that of a straight wire. But what happens if we try to use surface $S_2$ to determine $I_{\text{through}}$? Ampère's law says that we can consider *any* surface bounded by curve C, and surface $S_2$ certainly qualifies. But *no* current passes through $S_2$. Charges are brought to the left plate of the capacitor and charges are removed from the right plate, but *no* charge moves across the gap between the plates. Surface $S_1$ has $I_{\text{through}} = I$, but surface $S_2$ has $I_{\text{through}} = 0$. Another dilemma!

It would appear that Ampère's law is either wrong or incomplete. Maxwell was the first to recognize the seriousness of this problem. He

noted that there may be no current passing through $S_2$, but, as Figure 31.15b shows, there is an electric flux $\Phi_e$ through $S_2$ due to the electric field inside the capacitor. Furthermore, this flux is *changing* with time as the capacitor charges and the electric field strength grows. Faraday had discovered the significance of a changing magnetic flux, but no one had considered a changing electric flux.

The current $I$ passes through $S_1$, so Ampère's law applied to $S_1$ gives

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}} = \mu_0 I$$

We believe this result because it gives the correct magnetic field for a current-carrying wire. Now the line integral depends only on the magnetic field at points on curve C, so its value won't change if we choose a different surface S to evaluate the current. The problem is with the right side of Ampère's law, which would incorrectly give zero if applied to surface $S_2$. We need to modify the right side of Ampère's law to recognize that an electric flux rather than a current passes through $S_2$.

The electric flux between two capacitor plates of surface area $A$ is

$$\Phi_e = EA$$

The capacitor's electric field is $E = Q/\epsilon_0 A$; hence the flux is actually independent of the plate size:

**(31.18)**

$$\Phi_e = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A} A = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}$$

The *rate* at which the electric flux is changing is

(31.19)

$$\frac{d\Phi_e}{dt} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0}\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{I}{\epsilon_0}$$

where we used $I = dQ/dt$. The flux is changing with time at a rate directly proportional to the charging current $I$.

Equation 31.19 suggests that the quantity $\epsilon_0 (d\Phi_e/dt)$ is in some sense "equivalent" to current $I$. Maxwell called the quantity

(31.20)

$$I_{disp} = \epsilon_0 \frac{d\Phi_e}{dt}$$

the **displacement current.** He had started with a fluid-like model of electric and magnetic fields, and the displacement current was analogous to the displacement of a fluid. The fluid model has since been abandoned, but the name lives on despite the fact that nothing is actually being displaced.

Maxwell hypothesized that the displacement current was the "missing" piece of Ampère's law, so he modified Ampère's law to read



(31.21)

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 (I_{through} + I_{disp}) = \mu_0 \left( I_{through} + \epsilon_0 \frac{d\Phi_e}{dt} \right)$$

Equation 31.21 is now known as the Ampère-Maxwell law. When applied to Figure 31.15b, the Ampère-Maxwell law gives

$$\mathrm{S}_1: \quad \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 \left( I_{\text{through}} + \epsilon_0 \frac{d\Phi_\mathrm{e}}{dt} \right) = \mu_0 \left( I + 0 \right) = \mu_0 I$$

$$\mathrm{S}_2: \quad \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 \left( I_{\text{through}} + \epsilon_0 \frac{d\Phi_\mathrm{e}}{dt} \right) = \mu_0 \left( 0 + I \right) = \mu_0 I$$

where, for surface $\mathrm{S}_2$, we used Equation 31.19 for $d\Phi_\mathrm{e}/dt$. Surfaces $\mathrm{S}_1$ and $\mathrm{S}_2$ now both give the same result for the line integral of $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s}$ around the closed curve C.

> **Note**
>
> The displacement current $I_{\text{disp}}$ between the capacitor plates is numerically equal to the current $I$ in the wires to and from the capacitor, so in some sense it allows "current" to be continuous all the way through the capacitor. Nonetheless, the displacement current is *not* a flow of charge. The displacement current is equivalent to a real current in that it creates the same magnetic field, but it does so with a changing electric flux rather than a flow of charge.

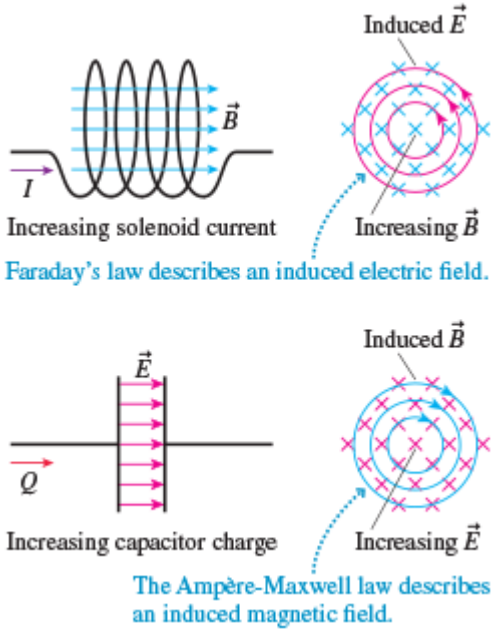
## The Induced Magnetic Field

Ordinary Coulomb electric fields are created by charges, but a second way to create an electric field is by having a changing magnetic field. That's Faraday's law. Ordinary magnetic fields are created by currents, but now we see that a second way to create a magnetic field is by having a changing electric field. Just as the electric field created by a changing $\vec{B}$ is called an induced electric field, the magnetic field created by a changing $\vec{E}$ is called an *induced magnetic field*.

Figure 31.16 shows the close analogy between induced electric fields, governed by Faraday's law, and induced magnetic fields, governed by the

second term in the Ampère-Maxwell law. An increasing solenoid current causes an increasing magnetic field. The changing magnetic field, in turn, induces a circular electric field. The negative sign in Faraday's law dictates that the induced electric field direction is ccw when seen looking along the magnetic field direction.

## Figure 31.16




The close analogy between an induced electric field and an induced magnetic field.

An increasing capacitor charge causes an increasing electric field. The changing electric field, in turn, induces a circular magnetic field. But the sign of the Ampère-Maxwell law is positive, the opposite of the sign of Faraday's law, so the induced magnetic field direction is cw when you're looking along the electric field direction.

### Example 31.3 The fields inside a charging capacitor

A 2.0-cm-diameter parallel-plate capacitor with a 1.0 mm spacing is being charged at the rate 0.50 C/s. What is the magnetic field

strength inside the capacitor at a point 0.50 cm from the axis?

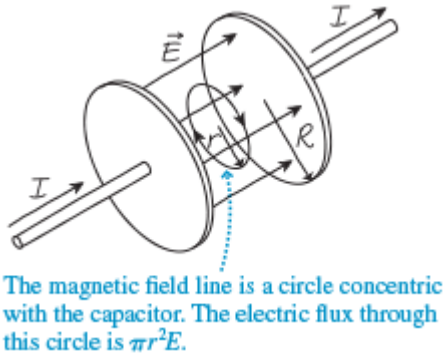
---

**MODEL** The electric field inside a parallel-plate capacitor is uniform. As the capacitor is charged, the changing electric field induces a magnetic field.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 31.17 shows the fields. The induced magnetic field lines are circles concentric with the capacitor.

---

## Figure 31.17




The magnetic field strength is found by integrating around a closed curve of radius $r$.

---

**SOLVE** The electric field of a parallel-plate capacitor is $E = Q/\epsilon_0 A = Q/\epsilon_0 \pi R^2$. The electric flux through the circle of radius $r$ (not the full flux of the capacitor) is

$$\Phi_e = \pi r^2 E = \pi r^2 \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 \pi R^2} = \frac{r^2}{R^2}\frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}$$

Thus the Ampère-Maxwell law is

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{d\Phi_e}{dt} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{r^2}{R^2}\frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}\right) = \mu_0 \frac{r^2}{R^2}\frac{dQ}{dt}$$

The magnetic field is everywhere tangent to the circle of radius $r$, so the integral of $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s}$ around the circle is simply $BL = 2\pi rB$. With this value for the line integral, the Ampère-Maxwell law becomes

$$2\pi rB = \mu_0 \frac{r^2}{R^2} \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

and thus

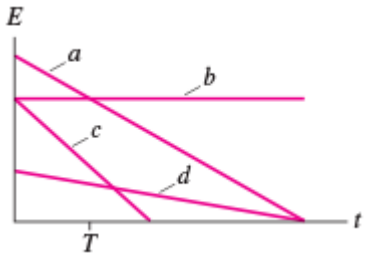
$$\begin{aligned} B &= \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi} \frac{r}{R^2} \frac{dQ}{dt} = (2.0 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{T m/A}) \frac{0.0050\ \text{m}}{(0.010\ \text{m})^2} (0.50\ \text{C/s}) \\ &= 5.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{T} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** Charging a capacitor at 0.5 C/s requires a 0.5 A charging current. We've seen many previous examples in which a current-carrying wire with $I \approx 1$ A generates a nearby magnetic field of a few microtesla, so the result seems reasonable.

If a changing magnetic field can induce an electric field and a changing electric field can induce a magnetic field, what happens when both fields change simultaneously? That is the question that Maxwell was finally able to answer after he modified Ampère's law to include the displacement current, and it is the subject to which we turn next.

## Stop to Think 31.2

The electric field in four identical capacitors is shown as a function of time. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the magnetic field strength at the outer edge of the capacitor at time $T$.


E
a
b
c
d
t
T

# 31.4 Maxwell's Equations [887]

James Clerk Maxwell was a young, mathematically brilliant Scottish physicist. In 1855, barely 24 years old, he presented a paper to the Cambridge Philosophical Society entitled "On Faraday's Lines of Force." It had been 30 years and more since the major discoveries of Oersted, Ampère, Faraday, and others, but electromagnetism remained a loose collection of facts and "rules of thumb" without a consistent theory to link these ideas together.

Maxwell's goal was to synthesize this body of knowledge and to form a *theory* of electromagnetic fields. The critical step along the way was his recognition of the need to include a displacement-current term in Ampère's law.

Maxwell's theory of electromagnetism is embodied in four equations that we today call **Maxwell's equations.** These are

---

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0} \qquad \text{Gauss's law}$$

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0 \qquad \text{Gauss's law for magnetism}$$

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{d\Phi_{\text{m}}}{dt} \qquad \text{Faraday's law}$$

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}} + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{d\Phi_{\text{e}}}{dt} \qquad \text{Ampère-Maxwell law}$$

Maxwell's claim is that these four equations are a *complete* description of electric and magnetic fields. They tell us how fields are created by charges and currents, and also how fields can be induced by the changing of other fields. We need one more equation for completeness, an equation that tells us how matter responds to electromagnetic fields. The general force equation

---

$$\vec{F} = q(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}) \qquad \text{(Lorentz force law)}$$

is known as the *Lorentz force law*. **Maxwell's equations for the fields, together with the Lorentz force law to tell us how matter responds to the fields, form the complete theory of electromagnetism.**

Maxwell's equations bring us to the pinnacle of classical physics. When combined with Newton's three laws of motion, his law of gravity, and the first and second laws of thermodynamics, we have all of classical physics —a total of just 11 equations.

| Classical physics |
| --- |
| Newton's first law |
| Newton's second law |
| Newton's third law |
| Newton's law of gravity |
| Gauss's law |
| Gauss's law for magnetism |
| Faraday's law |
| Ampère-Maxwell law |
| Lorentz force law |
| First law of thermodynamics |
| Second law of thermodynamics |

While some physicists might quibble over whether all 11 are truly fundamental, the important point is not the exact number but how few equations we need to describe the overwhelming majority of our experience of the physical world. It seems as if we could have written them all on page 1 of this book and been finished, but it doesn't work that way. Each of these equations is the synthesis of a tremendous number of physical phenomena and conceptual developments. To know physics isn't just to know the equations, but to know what the equations *mean* and how they're used. That's why it's taken us so many chapters and so much effort to get to this point. Each equation is a shorthand way to summarize a book's worth of information!

Let's summarize the physical meaning of the five electromagnetic equations:

---

- **Gauss's law:** Charged particles create an electric field.
- **Faraday's law:** An electric field can also be created by a changing magnetic field.
- **Gauss's law for magnetism:** There are no isolated magnetic poles.
- **Ampère-Maxwell law, first half:** Currents create a magnetic field.

- **Ampère-Maxwell law, second half:** A magnetic field can also be created by a changing electric field.
- **Lorentz force law, first half:** An electric force is exerted on a charged particle in an electric field.
- **Lorentz force law, second half:** A magnetic force is exerted on a charge moving in a magnetic field.

These are the *fundamental ideas* of electromagnetism. Other important ideas, such as Ohm's law, Kirchhoff's laws, and Lenz's law, despite their practical importance, are not fundamental ideas. They can be derived from Maxwell's equations, sometimes with the addition of empirically based concepts such as resistance.

It's true that Maxwell's equations are mathematically more complex than Newton's laws and that their solution, for many problems of practical interest, requires advanced mathematics. Fortunately, we have the mathematical tools to get just far enough into Maxwell's equations to discover their most startling and revolutionary implication—the prediction of electromagnetic waves.

# 31.5 Advanced Topic: Electromagnetic Waves



> **Note**
>
> This optional section goes through the mathematics of showing that Maxwell's equations predict electromagnetic waves. The key results of this section are summarized at the beginning of Section 31.6, so this section may be omitted with no loss of continuity.

Maxwell developed his four equations as a mathematical summary of what was known about electricity and magnetism in the mid-19th century: the properties of *static* electric and magnetic fields plus Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction. Maxwell introduced the idea of *displacement current*—that a changing electric flux creates a magnetic field—on purely theoretical grounds; there was no experimental evidence at the time. But this new concept was the key to Maxwell's success because it soon allowed him to make the remarkable and totally unexpected prediction of **electromagnetic waves**—self-sustaining oscillations of the electric and magnetic fields that propagate through space without the need for charges or currents.

Large radar installations like this one are used to track rockets and missiles.

Our goals in this section are to show that Maxwell's equations lead to a *wave equation* for the electric and magnetic fields and to discover that all electromagnetic waves, regardless of frequency, travel through vacuum at the same speed, a speed we now call the *speed of light*. A completely general derivation of the wave equation is too mathematically advanced for this textbook, so we will make a small number of assumptions—but assumptions that will seem quite reasonable after our study of induced fields.

To begin, we will assume that electric and magnetic fields can exist independently of charges and currents in a *source-free* region of space. This is a very important assumption because it makes the statement that **fields are real entities;** they're not just cute pictures that tell us about charges and currents. The source-free Maxwell's equations, with no charges or currents, are

**(31.22)**

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0 \qquad \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}}}{dt}$$
$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0 \qquad \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{e}}}{dt}$$

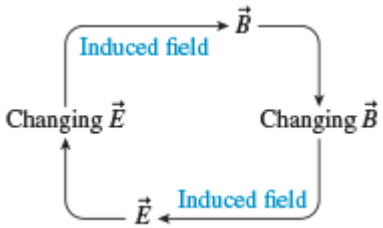
Any electromagnetic wave traveling in empty space must be consistent with these equations.

## The Structure of Electromagnetic Waves

Faraday discovered that a changing magnetic field creates an induced electric field, and Maxwell's postulated displacement current says that a

changing electric field creates an induced magnetic field. The idea behind electromagnetic waves, illustrated in Figure 31.18, is that the fields can exist in a self-sustaining mode *if* a changing magnetic field creates an electric field that, in turn, happens to change in just the right way to recreate the original magnetic field. Notice that it has to be an *electromagnetic* wave, with changing electric *and* magnetic fields. A purely electric or purely magnetic wave cannot exist.

## Figure 31.18



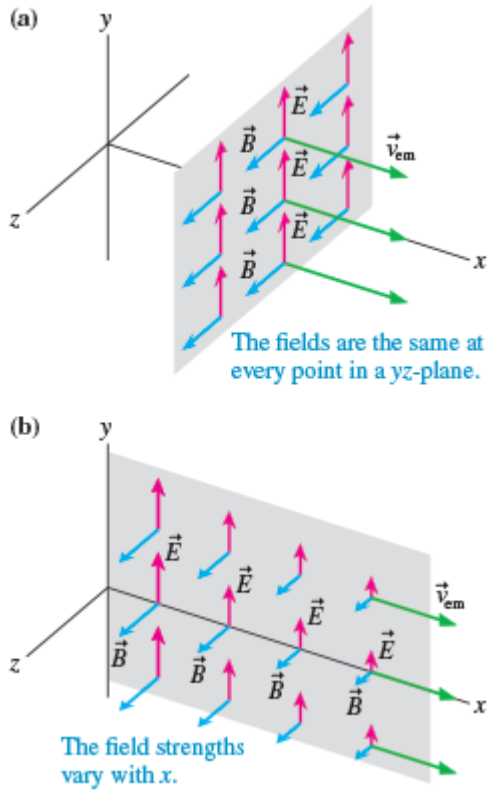

Induced fields can be self-sustaining.

You saw in Section 30.6 that an induced electric field, which can drive an induced current around a conducting loop, is *perpendicular* to the changing magnetic field. And earlier in this chapter, when we introduced the displacement current, the induced magnetic field in a charging capacitor was *perpendicular* to the changing electric field. Thus we'll make the assumption that $\vec{E}$ **and** $\vec{B}$ **are perpendicular to each other** in an electromagnetic wave. Furthermore—we'll justify this shortly—$\vec{E}$ **and** $\vec{B}$ **are each perpendicular to the direction of travel.** Thus an electromagnetic wave is a *transverse wave*, analogous to a wave on a string, rather than a sound-like longitudinal wave.

We will also assume, to keep the mathematics as simple as possible, that an electromagnetic wave can travel as a *plane wave*, which you will recall from Chapter 16 is a wave for which the fields are same *everywhere* in a plane perpendicular to the direction of travel. Figure 31.19a shows an

electromagnetic plane wave propagating at speed $v_{em}$ along the $x$-axis. $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ are perpendicular to each other, as we've assumed, *and* to the direction of travel. We've defined the $y$- and $z$-axes to be, respectively, parallel to $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$. Notice how the fields are the same at every point in a $yz$-plane slicing the $x$-axis.

## Figure 31.19

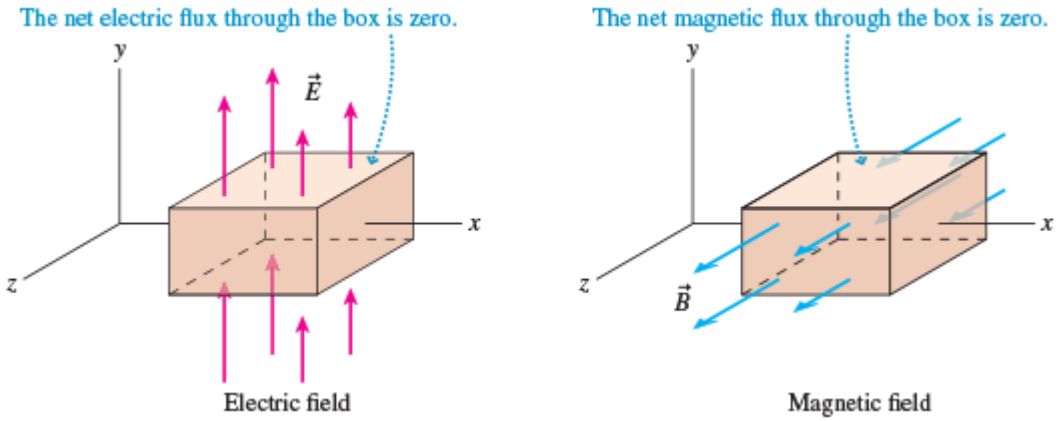



An electromagnetic plane wave.

Because a wave is a traveling disturbance, Figure 31.19b shows that the fields—at one instant of time—*do* change along the $x$-axis. These changing fields are the disturbance that is moving down the $x$-axis at speed $v_{em}$, so $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ of a plane wave are functions of the two variables $x$ and $t$. We're not assuming that the wave has any particular shape—the shape of the wave is what we want to predict from Maxwell's equations—simply that it's a transverse wave moving along the $x$-axis.

Now that we know something about the structure of the wave, we can start to check its consistency with Maxwell's equations. Figure 31.20 shows an imaginary box, a Gaussian surface, centered on the $x$-axis. Both electric and magnetic field vectors exist at each point in space, but the figure shows them separately for clarity. $\vec{E}$ oscillates along the $y$-axis, so all electric field lines enter and leave the box through the top and bottom surfaces; no electric field lines pass through the sides of the box.

## Figure 31.20




A closed surface can be used to check Gauss's law for the electric and magnetic fields.

Because this is a plane wave, the magnitude of each electric field vector entering the bottom of the box is exactly matched by an electric field vector leaving the top. The electric flux through the top of the box is equal in magnitude but opposite in sign to the flux through the bottom, and the flux through the sides is zero. Thus the *net* electric flux is $\Phi_e = 0$. There is no charge inside the box, because there are no sources in this region of space, so we also have $Q_{in} = 0$. Hence the electric field of a plane wave is consistent with the first of the source-free Maxwell's equations, Gauss's law.

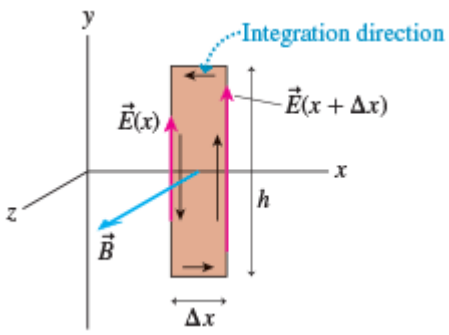
The exact same argument applies to the magnetic field. The net magnetic flux is $\Phi_m = 0$; thus the magnetic field is consistent with the second of Maxwell's equations.

Suppose that $\vec{E}$ or $\vec{B}$ had a component along the $x$-axis, the direction of travel. The fields *change* along the $x$-axis—that's what a traveling wave is—so it would not be possible for the flux through the right face to exactly cancel the flux through the left face at every instant of time. An $x$-component of either field would violate Gauss's law by creating a net flux when there are no enclosed sources. Thus our claim that an electromagnetic wave must be a transverse wave, with the fields perpendicular to the direction of travel, is a requirement of Gauss's law.

## Faraday's Law

Gauss's law tells us that an electromagnetic wave has to be a transverse wave. What does Faraday's law have to say? Faraday's law is concerned with the changing magnetic flux through a closed curve, so let's apply Faraday's law to the narrow rectangle in the $xy$-plane shown in Figure 31.21. We'll assume that $\Delta x$ is so small that $\vec{B}$ is essentially constant over the width of the rectangle.

**Figure 31.21**




Applying Faraday's law.

The magnetic field $\vec{B}$ is perpendicular to the rectangle, so the magnetic flux is $\Phi_{\mathrm{m}} = B_z A_{\text{rectangle}} = B_z h\,\Delta x$. As the wave moves, the flux *changes* at the rate

**(31.23)**

$$\frac{d\Phi_{\mathrm{m}}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(B_z h\,\Delta x) = \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t} h\,\Delta x$$

The ordinary derivative $dB_z/dt$, which is the full rate of change of $B$ from all possible causes, becomes a partial derivative $\partial B_z/\partial t$ in this situation because the change in magnetic flux is due entirely to the change of $B_z$ with time and not at all to the spatial variation of $B_z$.

According to our sign convention, we need to go around the rectangle in a counterclockwise direction to make the flux positive. Thus we must also use a counterclockwise direction to evaluate the line integral:

**(31.24)**

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_{\text{right}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} + \int_{\text{top}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} + \int_{\text{left}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} + \int_{\text{bottom}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

The electric field $\vec{E}$ points in the $y$-direction; hence $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$ at all points on the top and bottom edges and these two integrals are zero.

Along the left edge of the loop, at position $x$, $\vec{E}$ has the same value at every point. Figure 31.21 shows that the direction of $\vec{E}$ is *opposite* to $d\vec{s}$; thus $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -E_y(x)\,ds$. On the right edge of the loop, at position $x + \Delta x$, $\vec{E}$ is *parallel* to $d\vec{s}$, and $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = E_y(x + \Delta x)\,ds$. Thus the line integral of $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$ around the rectangle is

(31.25)

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -E_y(x)\,h + E_y(x+\Delta x)\,h = [E_y(x+\Delta x) - E_y(x)]\,h$$

> **Note**
>
> $E_y(x)$ indicates that $E_y$ is a function of the position $x$. It is *not* $E_y$ multiplied by $x$.

You learned in calculus that the derivative of the function $f(x)$ is

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0}\left[\frac{f(x+\Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}\right]$$

We've assumed that $\Delta x$ is very small. If we now let the width of the rectangle go to zero, $\Delta x \to 0$, Equation 31.25 becomes

(31.26)

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} h\,\Delta x$$

We've used a partial derivative because $E_y$ is a function of both position $x$ and time $t$.

Now, using Equations 31.23 and 31.26, we can write Faraday's law as

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} h\,\Delta x = -\frac{d\Phi_m}{dt} = \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t} h\,\Delta x$$

The area $h\,\Delta x$ of the rectangle cancels, and we're left with

(31.27)

$$\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t}$$

Equation 31.27, which compares the rate at which $E_y$ varies with position to the rate at which $B_z$ varies with time, is a *required condition* that an electromagnetic wave must satisfy to be consistent with Maxwell's equations.

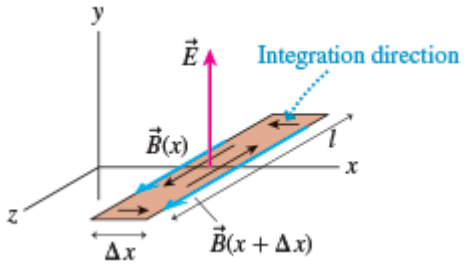
## The Ampère-Maxwell Law

We have only one equation to go, but this one will now be easier. The Ampère-Maxwell law is concerned with the changing electric flux through a closed curve. Figure 31.22 shows a very narrow rectangle in the *xz*-plane. The electric field is perpendicular to this rectangle; hence the electric flux through it is $\Phi_e = E_y A_{\text{rectangle}} = E_y l \Delta x$. This flux is changing at the rate

**(31.28)**

$$\frac{d\Phi_e}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(E_y l \Delta x) = \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t} l \Delta x$$

**Figure 31.22**




Applying the Ampère-Maxwell law.

The line integral of $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s}$ around this closed rectangle is calculated just like the line integral of $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$ in Figure 31.21. $\vec{B}$ is perpendicular to $d\vec{s}$ on the narrow ends, so $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$. The field at *all* points on the left edge is $\vec{B}(x)$, and this field is parallel to $d\vec{s}$ to make

$\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = B_z(x)\,ds$. Similarly, $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = -B_z(x + \Delta x)\,ds$ at all points on the right edge, where $\vec{B}$ is opposite to $d\vec{s}$. Thus, if we let $\Delta x \to 0$,

**(31.29)**

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = B_z(x)\,l - B_z(x + \Delta x)l = -[B_z(x + \Delta x) - B_z(x)]l = -\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} l \Delta x$$



Equations 31.28 and 31.29 can now be used in the Ampère-Maxwell law:

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} l \Delta x = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{d\Phi_e}{dt} = \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t} l \Delta x$$

The area of the rectangle cancels, and we're left with

**(31.30)**

$$\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} = -\epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t}$$

Equation 31.30 is a second required condition that the fields must satisfy.

## The Wave Equation

In Section 16.4, during our study of traveling waves, we derived the *wave equation*:

**(31.31)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial t^2} = v^2 \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial x^2}$$

There we learned that any physical system that obeys this equation for some type of displacement $D$ can have traveling waves that propagate along the $x$-axis with speed $v$.

If we start with Equation 31.27, the Faraday's law requirement for any electromagnetic wave, we can take the second derivative with respect to $x$ to find

**(31.32)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{\partial^2 B_z}{\partial x\,\partial t}$$

You've learned in calculus that the order of differentiation doesn't matter, so $\partial^2 B_z/\partial x\,\partial t = \partial^2 B_z/\partial t\,\partial x$. And from Equation 31.30,

**(31.33)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 B_z}{\partial t\,\partial x} = -\epsilon_0\mu_0\frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial t^2}$$

Substituting Equation 31.33 into Equation 31.32 and taking the constants to the other side, we have

---

**(31.34)**

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial t^2} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0\mu_0}\frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{(the wave equation for electromagnetic waves)}$$

Equation 31.34 is the wave equation! And it's easy to show, by taking second derivatives of $B_z$ rather than $E_y$, that the magnetic field $B_z$ obeys exactly the same wave equation.

As we anticipated, Maxwell's equations have led to a prediction of electromagnetic waves. Referring to the general wave equation, Equation 31.31, we see that an electromagnetic wave must travel (in vacuum) with speed

**(31.35)**

$$v_{\text{em}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}}$$

The constants $\epsilon_0$ and $\mu_0$ are known from electrostatics and magnetostatics, where they determined the size of $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ due to point charges. Thus we can calculate

---

**(31.36)**

$$v_{\text{em}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}} = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s} = c$$

This is a remarkable conclusion. Coulomb's law and the Biot-Savart law, in which $\epsilon_0$ and $\mu_0$ first appeared, have nothing to do with waves. Yet Maxwell's theory of electromagnetism ends up predicting that electric and magnetic fields can form a self-sustaining electromagnetic wave *if* that wave travels with speed $v_{\text{em}} = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}$. No other speed will satisfy Maxwell's equations.

Laboratory measurements had already determined that light travels at $3.0 \times 10^8$ m/s, so Maxwell was entirely justified in concluding that light is an electromagnetic wave. Furthermore, we've made no assumption about the frequency of the wave, so apparently electromagnetic waves of any

frequency, from radio waves to x rays, travel (in vacuum) with speed $c$, the speed of light.

## Connecting $E$ and $B$

The electric and magnetic fields of an electromagnetic wave both oscillate, but not independently of each other. The two field strengths are related. $E_y$ and $B_z$ both satisfy the same wave equation, so the traveling waves—just like a wave on a string—are

**(31.37)**

$$E_y = E_0 \sin(kx - \omega t) = E_0 \sin\left[2\pi\left(\frac{x}{\lambda} - ft\right)\right]$$
$$B_z = B_0 \sin(kx - \omega t) = B_0 \sin\left[2\pi\left(\frac{x}{\lambda} - ft\right)\right]$$

where $E_0$ and $B_0$ are the amplitudes of the electric and magnetic portions of the wave and, as for any sinusoidal wave, $k = 2\pi/\lambda$, $\omega = 2\pi f$, and $\lambda f = v = c$. These waves have to satisfy Equation 31.27; thus

**(31.38)**

$$\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} = \frac{2\pi E_0}{\lambda}\cos\left[2\pi\left(\frac{x}{\lambda} - ft\right)\right] = -\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t} = 2\pi f B_0 \cos\left[2\pi\left(\frac{x}{\lambda} - ft\right)\right]$$

Equation 31.38 is true only if $E_0 = \lambda f B_0 = cB_0$. And since the electric and magnetic fields oscillate together, this relationship between their amplitudes has to hold true at any point on the wave. Thus $\boldsymbol{E = cB}$ **at any point on the wave**.

### Stop to Think 31.3

An electromagnetic wave is propagating in the positive $x$-direction. At this instant of time, what is the direction of $\overrightarrow{E}$ at the center of the rectangle?

**a.** In the positive $x$-direction

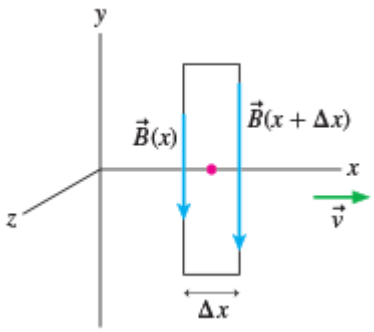
**b.** In the negative $x$-direction

**c.** In the positive $y$-direction

**d.** In the negative $y$-direction

**e.** In the positive $z$-direction

**f.** In the negative $z$-direction



# 31.6 Properties of Electromagnetic Waves

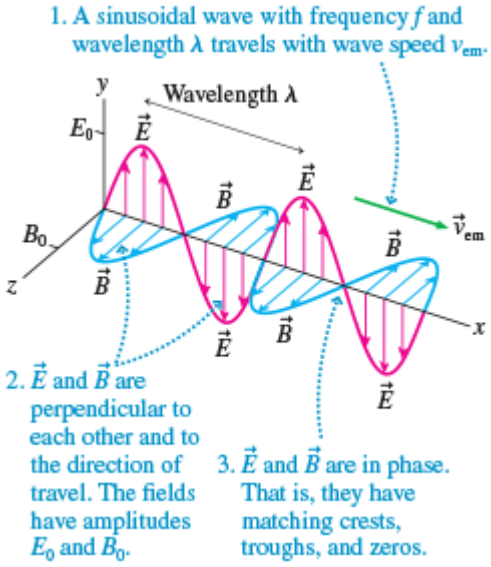
It had been known since the early 19th century, from experiments with interference and diffraction, that light is a wave, but no one understood what was "waving." Faraday speculated that light was somehow connected to electricity and magnetism, but Maxwell was the first to understand not only that light is an electromagnetic wave but also that electromagnetic waves can exist at any frequency, not just the frequencies of visible light.

In the previous section, we used Maxwell's equations to discover that:

1. Maxwell's equations predict the existence of sinusoidal electromagnetic waves that travel through empty space independent of any charges or currents.
2. The waves are transverse waves, with $\overrightarrow{E}$ and $\overrightarrow{B}$ perpendicular to the direction of propagation $\overrightarrow{v}_{\text{em}}$.
3. $\overrightarrow{E}$ and $\overrightarrow{B}$ are perpendicular to each other in a manner such that $\overrightarrow{E} \times \overrightarrow{B}$ is in the direction of $\overrightarrow{v}_{\text{em}}$.
4. All electromagnetic waves, regardless of frequency or wavelength, travel in vacuum at speed $v_{\text{em}} = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0} = c$, the speed of light.
5. The field strengths are related by $E = cB$ at every point on the wave.

Figure 31.23 illustrates many of these characteristics of electromagnetic waves. It's a useful picture, and one that you'll see in any textbook, but a picture that can be very misleading if you don't think about it carefully. First and foremost, $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ are *not* spatial vectors. That is, they don't stretch spatially in the $y$- or $z$-direction for a certain distance. Instead, these vectors are showing the field strengths and directions along a single line, the $x$-axis. An $\vec{E}$ vector pointing in the $y$-direction is saying, "At this point on the $x$-axis, where the tail is, this is the direction and strength of the electric field." Nothing is "reaching" to a point in space above the $x$-axis.

## Figure 31.23




A sinusoidal electromagnetic wave.

Second, we're assuming this is a *plane wave*, which, you'll recall, is a wave for which the fields are the same *everywhere* in any plane perpendicular to $\vec{v}_{\text{em}}$. Figure 31.23 shows the fields only along one line. But whatever the fields are doing at a point on the $x$-axis, they are doing the same thing everywhere in the $yz$-plane that slices the $x$-axis at that point. With this in mind, let's explore some other properties of electromagnetic waves.

# Energy and Intensity

Waves transfer energy. Ocean waves erode beaches, sound waves set your eardrums vibrating, and light from the sun warms the earth. The energy flow of an electromagnetic wave is described by the **Poynting vector** $\vec{S}$, defined as

**(31.39)**

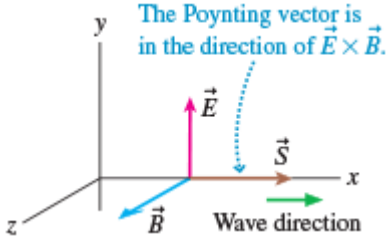
$$\vec{S} \equiv \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{E} \times \vec{B}$$

The Poynting vector, shown in Figure 31.24, has two important properties:

1. The Poynting vector points in the direction in which an electromagnetic wave is traveling. You can see this by looking back at Figure 31.23.
2. It is straightforward to show that the units of $S$ are W/m$^2$, or power (joules per second) per unit area. Thus the magnitude $S$ of the Poynting vector measures the rate of energy transfer per unit area of the wave.

## Figure 31.24






The Poynting vector.

Because $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ of an electromagnetic wave are perpendicular to each other, and $E = cB$, the magnitude of the Poynting vector is

$$S = \frac{EB}{\mu_0} = \frac{E^2}{c\mu_0} = c\epsilon_0 E^2$$

The Poynting vector is a function of time, oscillating from zero to $S_{\text{max}} = {E_0}^2/c\mu_0$ and back to zero twice during each period of the wave's oscillation. That is, the energy flow in an electromagnetic wave is not smooth. It "pulses" as the electric and magnetic fields oscillate in intensity. We're unaware of this pulsing because the electromagnetic waves that we can sense—light waves—have such high frequencies.

Of more interest is the *average* energy transfer, averaged over one cycle of oscillation, which is the wave's **intensity** $I$. In our earlier study of waves, we defined the intensity of a wave to be $I = P/A$, where $P$ is the power (energy transferred per second) of a wave that impinges on area $A$. Because $E = E_0 \sin\left[2\pi\left(x/\lambda - ft\right)\right]$, and the average over one period of $\sin^2\left[2\pi\left(x/\lambda - ft\right)\right]$ is $\frac{1}{2}$, the intensity of an electromagnetic wave is

---

**(31.40)**

$$I = \frac{P}{A} = S_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{2c\mu_0}{E_0}^2 = \frac{c\epsilon_0}{2}{E_0}^2$$

Equation 31.40 relates the intensity of an electromagnetic wave, a quantity that is easily measured, to the amplitude $E_0$ of the wave's electric field.

The intensity of a plane wave, with constant electric field amplitude $E_0$, would not change with distance. But a plane wave is an idealization; there are no true plane waves in nature. You learned in Chapter 16 that, to conserve energy, the intensity of a wave far from its source decreases with the inverse square of the distance. If a source with power $P_{\text{source}}$ emits electromagnetic waves *uniformly* in all directions, the electromagnetic wave intensity at distance $r$ from the source is

**(31.41)**

$$I = \frac{P_{\text{source}}}{4\pi r^2}$$

Equation 31.41 simply expresses the recognition that the energy of the wave is spread over a sphere of surface area $4\pi r^2$.

### Example 31.4 Fields of a cell phone

A digital cell phone broadcasts a 0.60 W signal at a frequency of 1.9 GHz. What are the amplitudes of the electric and magnetic fields at a distance of 10 cm, about the distance to the center of the user's brain?

**MODEL** Treat the cell phone as a point source of electromagnetic waves.

**SOLVE** The intensity of a 0.60 W point source at a distance of 10 cm is

$$I = \frac{P_{\text{source}}}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{0.60\ \text{W}}{4\pi(0.10\ \text{m})^2} = 4.78\ \text{W/m}^2$$

We can find the electric field amplitude from the intensity:

$$E_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2I}{c\epsilon_0}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(4.78\ \text{W/m}^2)}{(3.00\times10^8\ \text{m/s})(8.85\times10^{-12}\ \text{C}^2/\text{N m}^2)}} = 60\ \text{V/m}$$

The amplitudes of the electric and magnetic fields are related by the speed of light. This allows us to compute

$$B_0 = \frac{E_0}{c} = 2.0\times10^{-7}\ \text{T}$$

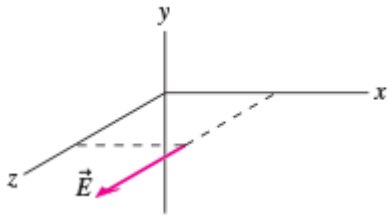
**ASSESS** The electric field amplitude is modest; the magnetic field amplitude is very small. This implies that the interaction of electromagnetic waves with matter is mostly due to the electric field.



## Stop to Think 31.4

An electromagnetic wave is traveling in the positive $y$-direction. The electric field at one instant of time is shown at one position. The magnetic field at this position points

**a.** In the positive $x$-direction.
**b.** In the negative $x$-direction.
**c.** In the positive $y$-direction.
**d.** In the negative $y$-direction.
**e.** Toward the origin.
**f.** Away from the origin.



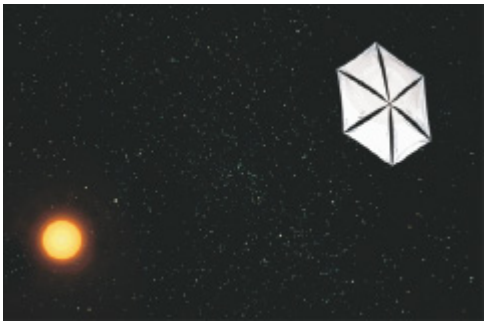

## Radiation Pressure

Electromagnetic waves transfer not only energy but also momentum. An object gains momentum when it absorbs electromagnetic waves, much as a ball at rest gains momentum when struck by a ball in motion.

Suppose we shine a beam of light on an object that completely absorbs the light energy. If the object absorbs energy during a time interval $\Delta t$, its momentum changes by

$$\Delta p = \frac{\text{energy absorbed}}{c}$$

This is a consequence of Maxwell's theory, which we'll state without proof.



Artist's conception of a future spacecraft powered by radiation pressure from the sun.

The momentum change implies that the light is exerting a force on the object. Newton's second law, in terms of momentum, is $F = \Delta p/\Delta t$. The radiation force due to the beam of light is

$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t} = \frac{(\text{energy absorbed})/\Delta t}{c} = \frac{P}{c}$$

where $P$ is the power (joules per second) of the light.

It's more interesting to consider the force exerted on an object per unit area, which is called the **radiation pressure** $p_{\text{rad}}$. The radiation pressure on an object that absorbs all the light is

**(31.42)**

$$p_{\text{rad}} = \frac{F}{A} = \frac{P/A}{c} = \frac{I}{c}$$

where $I$ is the intensity of the light wave. The subscript on $p_{\text{rad}}$ is important in this context to distinguish the radiation pressure from the momentum $p$.

### Example 31.5 Solar sailing

A low-cost way of sending spacecraft to other planets would be to use the radiation pressure on a solar sail. The intensity of the sun's electromagnetic radiation at distances near the earth's orbit is about 1300 W/m$^2$. What size sail would be needed to accelerate a 10,000 kg spacecraft toward Mars at 0.010 m/s$^2$?



**MODEL** Assume that the solar sail is perfectly absorbing.

**SOLVE** The force that will create a 0.010 m/s$^2$ acceleration is $F = ma = 100$ N. We can use Equation 31.42 to find the sail area that, by absorbing light, will receive a 100 N force from the sun:

$$A = \frac{cF}{I} = \frac{\left(3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}\right)(100 \text{ N})}{1300 \text{ W/m}^2} = 2.3 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^2$$

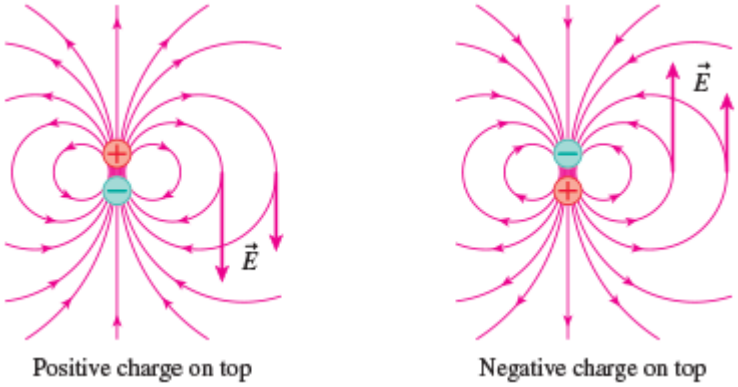
**ASSESS** If the sail is a square, it would need to be 4.8 km $\times$ 4.8 km, or roughly 3 mi $\times$ 3 mi. This is large, but not entirely out of the question with thin films that can be unrolled in space. But how will the crew return from Mars?

## Antennas

We've seen that an electromagnetic wave is self-sustaining, independent of charges or currents. However, charges and currents are needed at the *source* of an electromagnetic wave. We'll take a brief look at how an electromagnetic wave is generated by an antenna.

Figure 31.25 is the electric field of an electric dipole. If the dipole is vertical, the electric field $\vec{E}$ at points along a horizontal line is also vertical. Reversing the dipole, by switching the charges, reverses $\vec{E}$. If the charges were to oscillate back and forth, switching position at frequency *f*, then $\vec{E}$ would oscillate in a vertical plane. The changing $\vec{E}$ would then create an induced magnetic field $\vec{B}$, which could then create an $\vec{E}$, which could then create a $\vec{B}$, ..., and an electromagnetic wave at frequency *f* would radiate out into space.

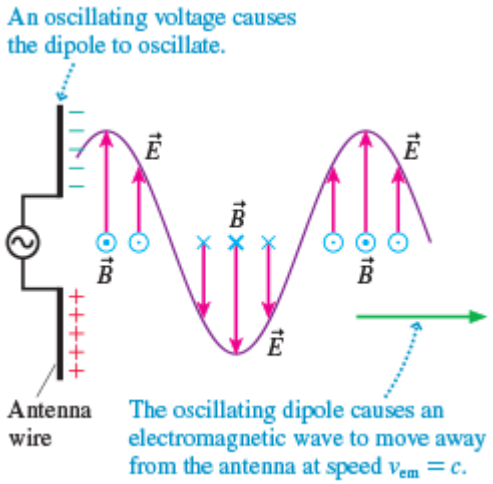
**Figure 31.25**




An electric dipole creates an electric field that reverses direction if the dipole charges are switched.

This is exactly what an **antenna** does. Figure 31.26 shows two metal wires attached to the terminals of an oscillating voltage source. The figure shows an instant when the top wire is negative and the bottom is positive, but these will reverse in half a cycle. The wire is basically an oscillating dipole, and it creates an oscillating electric field. The oscillating $\vec{E}$ induces an oscillating $\vec{B}$, and they take off as an electromagnetic wave at speed $v_{\text{em}} = c$. The wave does need oscillating charges as a *wave source*, but once created it is self-sustaining and independent of the source. The antenna might be destroyed, but the wave could travel billions of light years across the universe, bearing the legacy of James Clerk Maxwell.

## Figure 31.26



## Stop to Think 31.5

The amplitude of the oscillating electric field at your cell phone is 4.0 $\mu$V/m when you are 10 km east of the broadcast antenna. What is the electric field amplitude when you are 20 km east of the antenna?

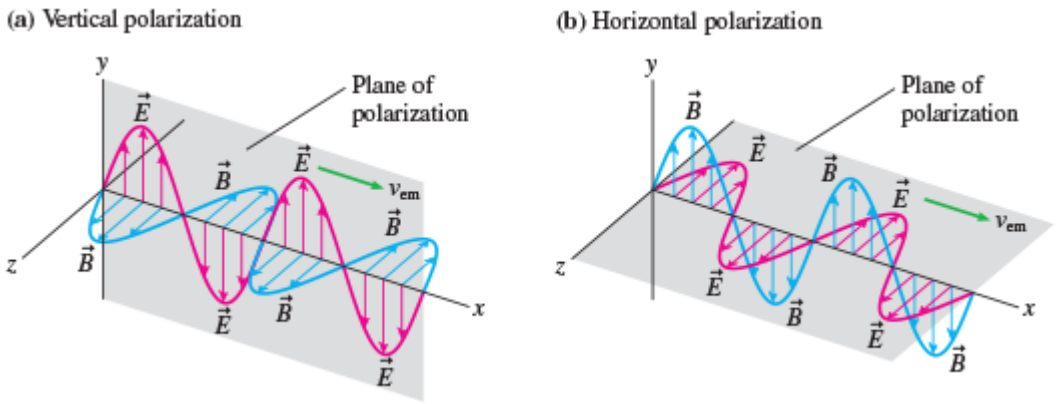
**a.** 1.0 $\mu$V/m
**b.** 2.0 $\mu$V/m
**c.** 4.0 $\mu$V/m
**d.** There's not enough information to tell.

# 31.7 Polarization



The plane of the electric field vector $\vec{E}$ and the Poynting vector $\vec{S}$ (the direction of propagation) is called the **plane of polarization** of an electromagnetic wave. Figure 31.27 shows two electromagnetic waves moving along the $x$-axis. The electric field in Figure 31.27a oscillates vertically, so we would say that this wave is *vertically polarized*. Similarly the wave in Figure 31.27b is *horizontally polarized*. Other polarizations are possible, such as a wave polarized 30° away from horizontal.

## Figure 31.27




The plane of polarization is the plane in which the electric field vector oscillates.

> **Note**
>
> This use of the term "polarization" is completely independent of the idea of *charge polarization* that you learned about in Chapter 22.

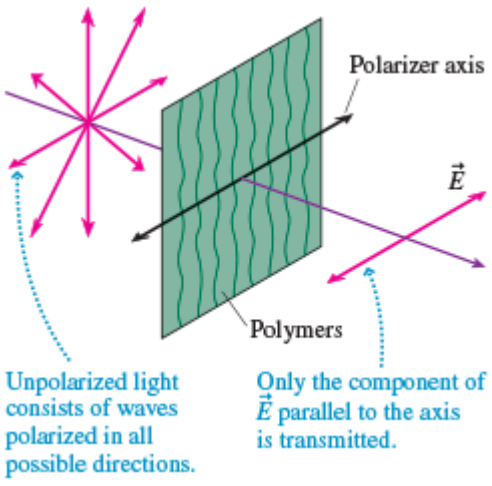
Some wave sources, such as lasers and radio antennas, emit *polarized* electromagnetic waves with a well-defined plane of polarization. By contrast, most natural sources of electromagnetic radiation are

unpolarized, emitting waves whose electric fields oscillate randomly with all possible orientations.

A few natural sources are *partially polarized,* meaning that one direction of polarization is more prominent than others. The light of the sky at right angles to the sun is partially polarized because of how the sun's light scatters from air molecules to create skylight. Bees and other insects make use of this partial polarization to navigate. Light reflected from a flat, horizontal surface, such as a road or the surface of a lake, has a predominantly horizontal polarization. This is the rationale for using polarizing sunglasses.

The most common way of artificially generating polarized visible light is to send unpolarized light through a *polarizing filter*. The first widely used polarizing filter was invented by Edwin Land in 1928, while he was still an undergraduate student. He developed an improved version, called Polaroid, in 1938. Polaroid, as shown in Figure 31.28, is a plastic sheet containing very long organic molecules known as polymers. The sheets are formed in such a way that the polymers are all aligned to form a grid, rather like the metal bars in a barbecue grill. The sheet is then chemically treated to make the polymer molecules somewhat conducting.

## Figure 31.28



A polarizing filter.

As a light wave travels through Polaroid, the component of the electric field oscillating parallel to the polymer grid drives the conduction electrons up and down the molecules. The electrons absorb energy from the light wave, so the parallel component of $\overrightarrow{E}$ is absorbed in the filter. But the conduction electrons can't oscillate perpendicular to the molecules, so the component of $\overrightarrow{E}$ perpendicular to the polymer grid passes through without absorption. Thus the light wave emerging from a polarizing filter is polarized perpendicular to the polymer grid. The direction of the transmitted polarization is called the *polarizer axis*.

## Malus's Law

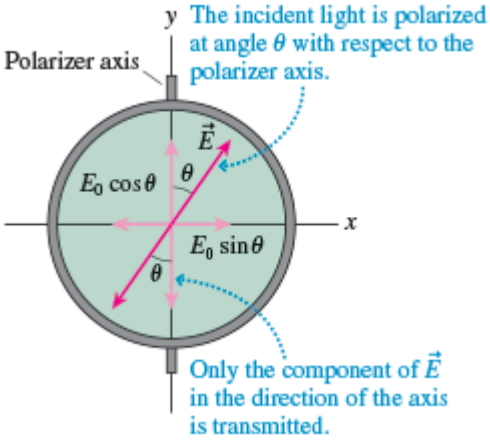
Suppose a *polarized* light wave of intensity $I_0$ approaches a polarizing filter. What is the intensity of the light that passes through the filter? Figure 31.29 shows that an oscillating electric field can be decomposed into components parallel and perpendicular to the polarizer axis. If we call the polarizer axis the $y$-axis, then the incident electric field is

**(31.43)**

$$\overrightarrow{E}_{\text{incident}} = E_{\perp}\hat{\imath} + E_{\parallel}\hat{\jmath} = E_0 \sin\theta\hat{\imath} + E_0 \cos\theta\hat{\jmath}$$

where $\theta$ is the angle between the incident plane of polarization and the polarizer axis.

**Figure 31.29**




An incident electric field can be decomposed into components parallel and perpendicular to a polarizer axis.



If the polarizer is ideal, meaning that light polarized parallel to the axis is 100% transmitted and light perpendicular to the axis is 100% blocked, then the electric field of the light transmitted by the filter is

**(31.44)**

$$\overrightarrow{E}_{\text{transmitted}} = E_{\parallel}\hat{j} = E_0 \cos\theta \hat{j}$$

Because the intensity depends on the square of the electric field amplitude, you can see that the transmitted intensity is related to the incident intensity by

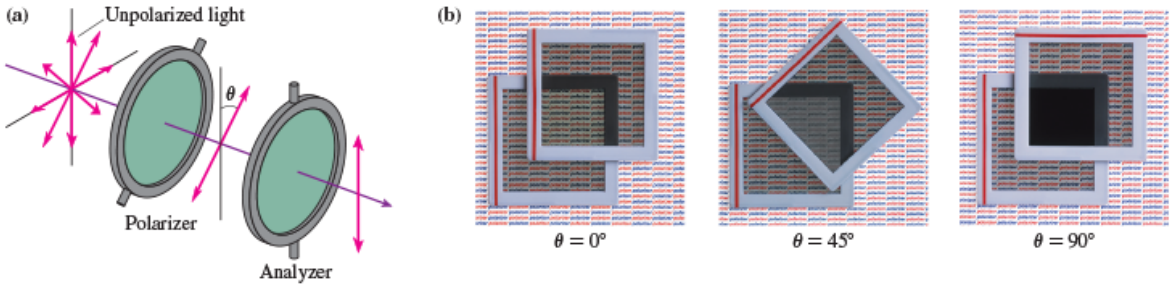
**(31.45)**

$$I_{\text{transmitted}} = I_0 \cos^2\theta \qquad \text{(incident light polarized)}$$

This result, which was discovered experimentally in 1809, is called **Malus's law.**

Figure 31.30a shows that Malus's law can be demonstrated with two polarizing filters. The first, called the *polarizer*, is used to produce polarized light of intensity $I_0$. The second, called the *analyzer*, is rotated by angle $\theta$ relative to the polarizer. As the photographs of Figure 31.30b show, the transmission of the analyzer is (ideally) 100% when $\theta = 0^\circ$ and steadily decreases to zero when $\theta = 90^\circ$. Two polarizing filters with perpendicular axes, called *crossed polarizers*, block all the light.

## Figure 31.30




The intensity of the transmitted light depends on the angle between the polarizing filters.

Suppose the light incident on a polarizing filter is *unpolarized*, as is the light incident from the left on the polarizer in Figure 31.30a. The electric field of unpolarized light varies randomly through all possible values of $\theta$. Because the *average* value of $\cos^2\theta$ is $\frac{1}{2}$, the intensity transmitted by a polarizing filter is

**(31.46)**

$$I_{\text{transmitted}} = \frac{1}{2} I_0 \qquad \text{(incident light unpolarized)}$$

In other words, a polarizing filter passes 50% of unpolarized light and blocks 50%.

In polarizing sunglasses, the polymer grid is aligned horizontally (when the glasses are in the normal orientation) so that the glasses transmit vertically polarized light. Most natural light is unpolarized, so the glasses reduce the light intensity by 50%. But *glare*—the reflection of the sun and the skylight from roads and other horizontal surfaces—has a strong horizontal polarization. This light is almost completely blocked by the Polaroid, so the sunglasses "cut glare" without affecting the main scene you wish to see.

You can test whether your sunglasses are polarized by holding them in front of you and rotating them as you look at the glare reflecting from a horizontal surface. Polarizing sunglasses substantially reduce the glare when the glasses are "normal" but not when the glasses are 90° from normal. (You can also test them against a pair of sunglasses known to be polarizing by seeing if all light is blocked when the lenses of the two pairs are crossed.)

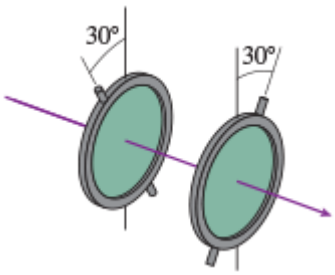
The vertical polarizer blocks the horizontally polarized glare from the surface of the water.

---

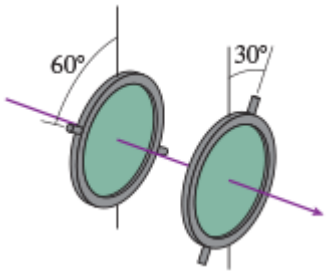
## Stop to Think 31.6

Unpolarized light of equal intensity is incident on four pairs of polarizing filters. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the intensities $I_a$ to $I_d$ transmitted through the second polarizer of each pair.

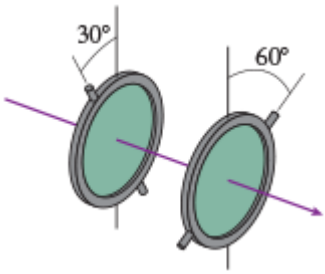
**a.**



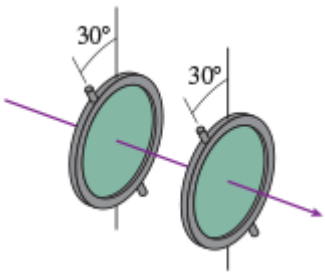

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**




## Challenge Example 31.6 Light propulsion

Future space rockets might propel themselves by firing laser beams, rather than exhaust gases, out the back. The acceleration would be small, but it could continue for months or years in the vacuum of space. Consider a 1200 kg unmanned space probe powered by a 15 MW laser. After one year, how far will it have traveled and how fast will it be going?

---

**MODEL** Assume the laser efficiency is so high that it can be powered for a year with a negligible mass of fuel.

**SOLVE** Light waves transfer not only energy but also momentum, which is how they exert a radiation-pressure force. We found that the radiation force of a light beam of power $P$ is

$$F = \frac{P}{c}$$

From Newton's third law, the emitted light waves must exert an equal-but-opposite reaction force on the source of the light. In this case, the emitted light exerts a force of this magnitude on the space probe to which the laser is attached. This reaction force causes the probe to accelerate at

$$\begin{aligned} a = \frac{F}{m} = \frac{P}{mc} &= \frac{15 \times 10^6 \text{ W}}{(1200 \text{ kg})(3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})} \\ &= 4.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m/s}^2 \end{aligned}$$

As expected, the acceleration is extremely small. But one year is a large amount of time: $\Delta t = 3.15 \times 10^7$ s. After one year of acceleration,

$$v = a\,\Delta t = 1300\ \mathrm{m/s}$$
$$d = \tfrac{1}{2} a(\Delta t)^2 = 2.1 \times 10^{10}\ \mathrm{m}$$

The space probe will have traveled $2.1 \times 10^{10}$ m and will be going 1300 m/s.

**ASSESS** Even after a year, the speed is not exceptionally fast—only about 2900 mph. But the probe will have traveled a substantial distance, about 25% of the distance to Mars.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 31 has been to study the properties of electromagnetic fields and waves.

## General Principles

### Maxwell's Equations

These equations govern electromagnetic fields:

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0} \qquad \text{Gauss's law}$$

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0 \qquad \text{Gauss's law for magnetism}$$

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{d\Phi_{\text{m}}}{dt} \qquad \text{Faraday's law}$$

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}} + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{d\Phi_{\text{e}}}{dt} \qquad \textit{Ampère-Maxwell law}$$

Maxwell's equations tell us that:

An electric field can be created by

- Charged particles
- A changing magnetic field

A magnetic field can be created by

- A current
- A changing electric field

### Lorentz Force

This force law governs the interaction of charged particles with electromagnetic fields:

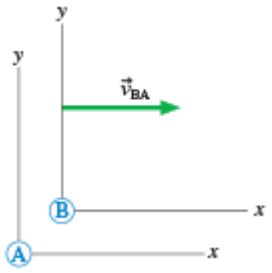
$$\vec{F} = q\left(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}\right)$$

- An electric field exerts a force on any charged particle.
- A magnetic field exerts a force on a moving charged particle.

## Field Transformations

Fields measured in reference frame A to be $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $\vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$ are found in frame B to be

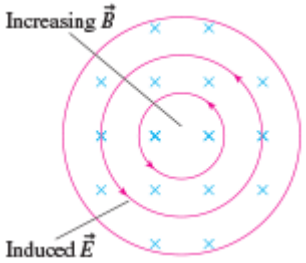
$$\vec{E}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}} + \vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}}$$
$$\vec{B}_{\mathrm{B}} = \vec{B}_{\mathrm{A}} - \frac{1}{c^2}\vec{v}_{\mathrm{BA}} \times \vec{E}_{\mathrm{A}}$$



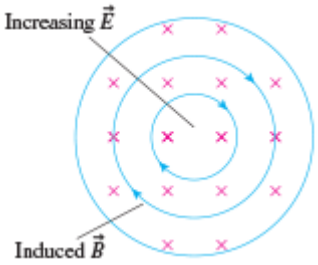

# Important Concepts

### Induced fields

An induced electric field is created by a changing magnetic field.




An induced magnetic field is created by a changing electric field.

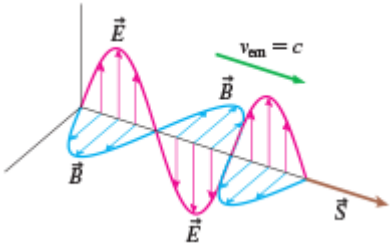



These fields can exist independently of charges and currents.

An **electromagnetic wave** is a self-sustaining electromagnetic field.

- An em wave is a transverse wave with $\overrightarrow{E}$, $\overrightarrow{B}$, and $\overrightarrow{v}_{\text{em}}$ mutually perpendicular.
- An em wave propagates with speed $v_{\text{em}} = c = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}$.
- The electric and magnetic field strengths are related by $E = cB$.
- The **Poynting vector** $\overrightarrow{S} = \left(\overrightarrow{E} \times \overrightarrow{B}\right)/\mu_0$ is the energy transfer in the direction of travel.
- The wave **intensity** is $I = P/A = (1/2c\mu_0)\, {E_0}^2 = (c\epsilon_0/2)\, {E_0}^2$.





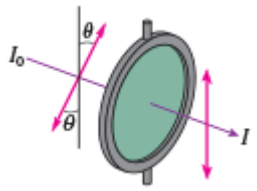
# Applications

## Polarization

The electric field and the Poynting vector define the **plane of polarization.** The intensity of polarized light transmitted through a polarizing filter is given by Malus's law:

$$I = I_0 \cos^2 \theta$$

where $\theta$ is the angle between the electric field and the polarizer axis.




# Terms and Notation

Galilean field transformation equations

displacement current

Maxwell's equations

electromagnetic wave

Poynting vector, $\vec{S}$

intensity, $I$

radiation pressure, $p_{\text{rad}}$

antenna

plane of polarization

Malus's law

# Conceptual Questions

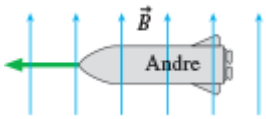


**1.** Andre is flying his spaceship to the left through the laboratory magnetic field of Figure Q31.1.

**a.** Does Andre see a magnetic field? If so, in which direction does it point?

**b.** Does Andre see an electric field? If so, in which direction does it point?

**Figure Q31.1**

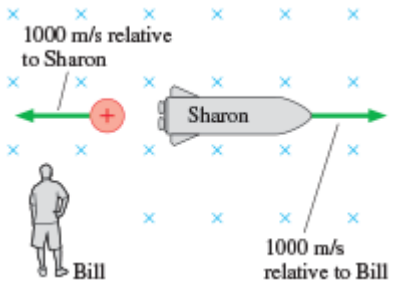



**2.** Sharon drives her rocket through the magnetic field of Figure Q31.2 traveling to the right at a speed of 1000 m/s as measured by Bill. As she passes Bill, she shoots a positive charge backward at a speed of 1000 m/s relative to her.

**a.** According to Bill, what kind of force or forces act on the charge? In which directions? Explain.

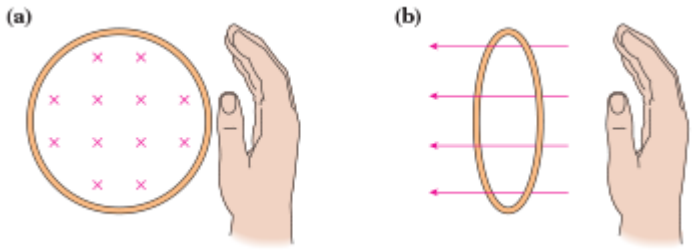
**b.** According to Sharon, what kind of force or forces act on the charge? In which directions? Explain.

**Figure Q31.2**



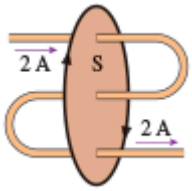
**3.** If you curl the fingers of your right hand as shown, are the electric fluxes in Figure Q31.3 positive or negative?

### Figure Q31.3



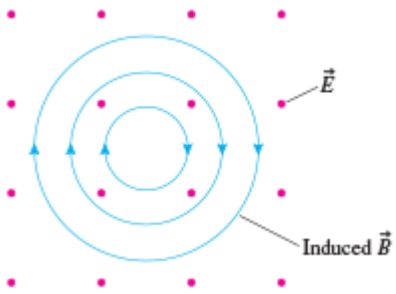

**4.** What is the current through surface S in Figure Q31.4 if you curl your right fingers in the direction of the arrow?

### Figure Q31.4



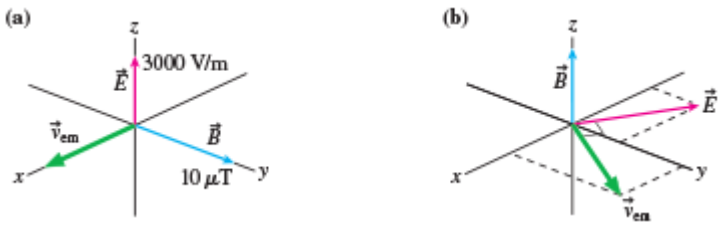

**5.** Is the electric field strength in Figure Q31.5 increasing, decreasing, or not changing? Explain.

### Figure Q31.5




**6.** Do the situations in Figure Q31.6 represent possible electromagnetic waves? If not, why not?

## Figure Q31.6




**7.** In what directions are the electromagnetic waves traveling in Figure Q31.7 ?

## Figure Q31.7

**8.** The intensity of an electromagnetic wave is 10 $W/m^2$. What will the intensity be if:

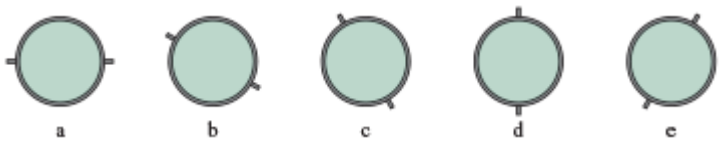
- **a.** The amplitude of the electric field is doubled?
- **b.** The amplitude of the magnetic field is doubled?
- **c.** The amplitudes of both the electric and the magnetic fields are doubled?
- **d.** The frequency is doubled?

**9.** Older televisions used a *loop antenna* like the one in Figure Q31.9. How does this antenna work?

## Figure Q31.9

**10.** A vertically polarized electromagnetic wave passes through the five polarizers in Figure Q31.10. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the transmitted intensities $I_a$ to $I_e$.

**Figure Q31.10**




# Exercises and Problems

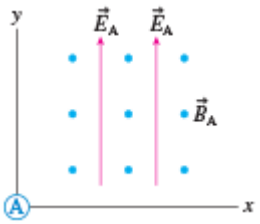
Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 31.1 *E* or *B*? It Depends on Your Perspective

**1.** • Figure EX31.1 shows the electric and magnetic field in frame A. A rocket in frame B travels parallel to one of the axes of the A coordinate system. Along which axis must the rocket travel, and in which direction, in order for the rocket scientists to measure (a) $B_B > B_A$, (b) $B_B = B_A$, and (c) $B_B < B_A$ ?

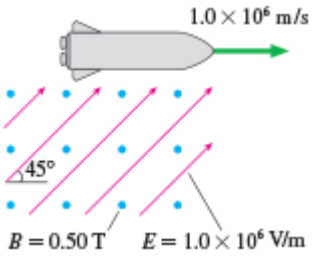
**Figure EX31.1**



**2.** •• A rocket cruises past a laboratory at $1.00 \times 10^6$ m/s in the positive $x$-direction just as a proton is launched with velocity (in the laboratory frame) $\vec{v} = \left(1.41 \times 10^6 \hat{\imath} + 1.41 \times 10^6 \hat{\jmath}\right)$ m/s. What are the proton's speed and its angle from the $y$-axis in (a) the laboratory frame and (b) the rocket frame?

**3.** •• Laboratory scientists have created the electric and magnetic fields shown in Figure EX31.3. These fields are also seen by scientists who zoom past in a rocket traveling in the $x$-direction at $1.0 \times 10^6$ m/s. According to the rocket scientists, what angle does the electric field make with the axis of the rocket?

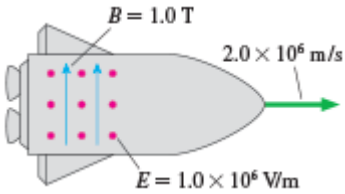
**Figure EX31.3**




**4.** •• Scientists in the laboratory create a uniform electric field $\vec{E} = 1.0 \times 10^6 \hat{k}$ V/m in a region of space where $\vec{B} = \vec{0}$. What are the fields in the reference frame of a rocket traveling in the positive $x$-direction at $1.0 \times 10^6$ m/s ?

**5.** •• A rocket zooms past the earth at $v = 2.0 \times 10^6$ m/s. Scientists on the rocket have created the electric and magnetic fields shown in Figure EX31.5. What are the fields measured by an earthbound scientist?

**Figure EX31.5**

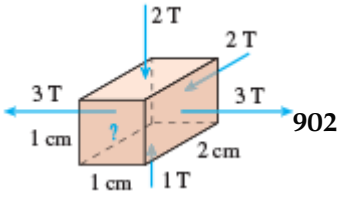



## Section 31.2 The Field Laws Thus Far

## Section 31.3 The Displacement Current

**6.** •• The magnetic field is uniform over each face of the box shown in Figure EX31.6. What are the magnetic field strength and direction on the front surface?

**Figure EX31.6**




**7.** • Show that the quantity $\epsilon_0(d\Phi_e/dt)$ has units of current.

**8.** •• Show that the displacement current inside a parallel-plate capacitor can be written $C(dV_C/dt)$.

**9.** • What capacitance, in $\mu$F, has its potential difference increasing at $1.0 \times 10^6$ V/s when the displacement current in the capacitor is 1.0 A?

**10.** •• A 5.0-cm-diameter parallel-plate capacitor has a 0.50 mm gap. What is the displacement current in the capacitor if the potential difference across the capacitor is increasing at 500,000 V/s?

**11.** ••• A 10-cm-diameter parallel-plate capacitor has a 1.0 mm spacing. The electric field between the plates is increasing at the rate $1.0 \times 10^6$ V/m s. What is the magnetic field strength

(a) on the axis, (b) 3.0 cm from the axis, and (c) 7.0 cm from the axis?

## Section 31.5 Electromagnetic Waves

**12.** • What is the magnetic field amplitude of an electromagnetic wave whose electric field amplitude is 10 V/m?

**13.** • What is the electric field amplitude of an electromagnetic wave whose magnetic field amplitude is 2.0 mT?

**14.** • The magnetic field of an electromagnetic wave in a vacuum is $B_z = (3.00\ \mu T)\ \sin\left[\left(1.00 \times 10^7\right) x - \omega t\right]$, where $x$ is in m and $t$ is in s. What are the wave's (a) wavelength, (b) frequency, and (c) electric field amplitude?

**15.** • The electric field of an electromagnetic wave in a vacuum is $E_y = (20.0\ \text{V/m})\ \cos\left[\left(6.28 \times 10^8\right) x - \omega t\right]$, where $x$ is in m and $t$ is in s. What are the wave's (a) wavelength, (b) frequency, and (c) magnetic field amplitude?

## Section 31.6 Properties of Electromagnetic Waves

**16.** •

**a.** What is the magnetic field amplitude of an electromagnetic wave whose electric field amplitude is 100 V/m?

**b.** What is the intensity of the wave?

**17.** • A radio wave is traveling in the negative $y$-direction. What is the direction of $\vec{E}$ at a point where $\vec{B}$ is in the positive $x$-direction?

**18.** •• A radio receiver can detect signals with electric field amplitudes as small as 300 $\mu$ V/m. What is the intensity of the smallest detectable signal?

**19.** •• A helium-neon laser emits a 1.0-mm-diameter laser beam with a power of 1.0 mW. What are the amplitudes of the electric and magnetic fields of the light wave?

**20.** •• A radio antenna broadcasts a 1.0 MHz radio wave with 25 kW of power. Assume that the radiation is emitted uniformly in all directions.

**a.** What is the wave's intensity 30 km from the antenna?

**b.** What is the electric field amplitude at this distance?

**21.** •• A 200 MW laser pulse is focused with a lens to a diameter of 2.0 $\mu$m.

**a.** What is the laser beam's electric field amplitude at the focal point?

**b.** What is the ratio of the laser beam's electric field to the electric field that keeps the electron bound to the proton of a hydrogen atom? The radius of the electron orbit is 0.053 nm.

**22.** • A 1000 W carbon-dioxide laser emits light with a wavelength of 10 $\mu$m into a 3.0-mm-diameter laser beam. What force does the laser beam exert on a completely absorbing target?

**23.** •• At what distance from a 10 W point source of electromagnetic waves is the magnetic field amplitude 1.0 $\mu$T?

## Section 31.7 Polarization

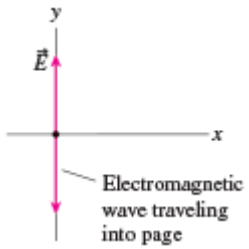
**24.** •• Only 25% of the intensity of a polarized light wave passes through a polarizing filter. What is the angle between the electric field and the axis of the filter?

**25.** • Figure EX31.25 shows a vertically polarized radio wave of frequency $1.0 \times 10^6$ Hz traveling into the page. The maximum electric field strength is 1000 V/m. What are

**a.** The maximum magnetic field strength?

**b.** The magnetic field strength and direction at a point where $\vec{E} = (500\ \text{V/m},\ \text{down})$ ?

**Figure EX31.25**



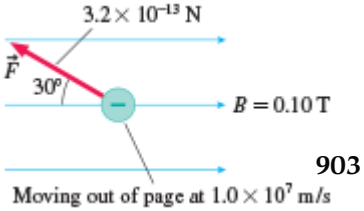

**26.** •• Unpolarized light with intensity 350 W/m$^2$ passes first through a polarizing filter with its axis vertical, then through a second polarizing filter. It emerges from the second filter with intensity 131 W/m$^2$. What is the angle from vertical of the axis of the second polarizing filter?

**27.** •• A 200 mW vertically polarized laser beam passes through a polarizing filter whose axis is 35° from horizontal. What is the power of the laser beam as it emerges from the filter?

# Problems

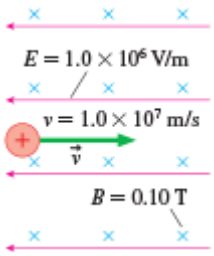
**28.** •• What are the electric field strength and direction at the position of the electron in Figure P31.28 ?

**Figure P31.28**



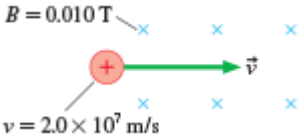
**29.** •• What is the force (magnitude and direction) on the proton in Figure P31.29? Give the direction as an angle cw or ccw from vertical.

**Figure P31.29**




**30.** • What electric field strength and direction will allow the proton in Figure P31.30 to pass through this region of space without being deflected?

**Figure P31.30**



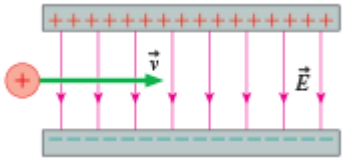

**31.** • A proton is fired with a speed of $1.0 \times 10^6$ m/s through the parallel-plate capacitor shown in Figure P31.31. The capacitor's electric field is $\vec{E} = (1.0 \times 10^5 \text{ V/m, down})$.

**a.** What magnetic field $\vec{B}$, both strength and direction, must be applied to allow the proton to pass through the capacitor with no change in speed or direction?

**b.** Find the electric and magnetic fields in the proton's reference frame.

**c.** How does an experimenter in the proton's frame explain that the proton experiences no force as the charged plates fly by?

**Figure P31.31**




**32.** ••• An electron travels with $\vec{v} = 5.0 \times 10^6 \hat{\imath}$ m/s through a point in space where $\vec{E} = \left(2.0 \times 10^5 \hat{\imath} - 2.0 \times 10^5 \hat{\jmath}\right)$ V/m and $\vec{B} = -0.10\hat{k}$ T. What is the force on the electron?

**33.** •• **INT** In Figure P31.33, a circular loop of radius $r$ travels with speed $v$ along a charged wire having linear charge density $\lambda$. The wire is at rest in the laboratory frame, and it passes through the center of the loop.

**a.** What are $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ at a point on the loop as measured by a scientist in the laboratory? Include both strength and direction.

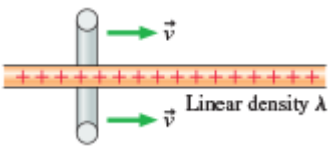
**b.** What are the fields $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ at a point on the loop as measured by a scientist in the frame of the loop?

**c.** Show that an experimenter in the loop's frame sees a current $I = \lambda v$ passing through the center of the loop.

**d.** What electric and magnetic fields would an experimenter in the loop's frame calculate at distance $r$ from the current of part c?

**e.** Show that your fields of parts b and d are the same.

**Figure P31.33**



**34.** •• **INT** The magnetic field inside a 4.0-cm-diameter superconducting solenoid varies sinusoidally between 8.0 T and 12.0 T at a frequency of 10 Hz.

**a.** What is the maximum electric field strength at a point 1.5 cm from the solenoid axis?

**b.** What is the value of $B$ at the instant $E$ reaches its maximum value?

**35.** •• **INT** A simple series circuit consists of a 150 Ω resistor, a 25 V battery, a switch, and a 2.5 pF parallel-plate capacitor (initially uncharged) with plates 5.0 mm apart. The switch is closed at $t = 0\,\text{s}$.

**a.** After the switch is closed, find the maximum electric flux and the maximum displacement current through the capacitor.

**b.** Find the electric flux and the displacement current at $t = 0.50\,\text{ns}$.

**36.** •• A wire with conductivity $\sigma$ carries current $I$. The current is increasing at the rate $dI/dt$.

**a.** Show that there is a displacement current in the wire equal to $(\epsilon_0/\sigma)(dI/dt)$.

**b.** Evaluate the displacement current for a copper wire in which the current is increasing at $1.0 \times 10^6\ \text{A/s}$.

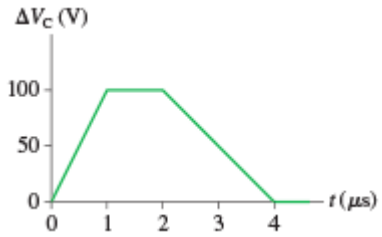
**37.** ••• A 10 A current is charging a 1.0-cm-diameter parallel-plate capacitor.

**a.** What is the magnetic field strength at a point 2.0 mm radially from the center of the wire leading to the capacitor?

**b.** What is the magnetic field strength at a point 2.0 mm radially from the center of the capacitor?

**38.** •• Figure P31.38 shows the voltage across a 0.10 $\mu$F capacitor. Draw a graph showing the displacement current through the capacitor as a function of time.

**Figure P31.38**




**39.** •• Figure P31.39 shows the electric field inside a cylinder of radius $R = 3.0\,\text{mm}$. The field strength is increasing with time as $E = 1.0 \times 10^8 t^2\ \text{V/m}$, where $t$ is in s. The electric field outside the cylinder is always zero, and the field inside the cylinder was zero for $t < 0$.



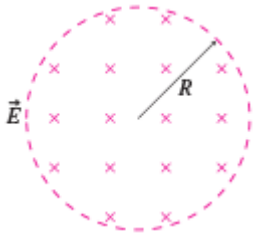
**a.** Find an expression for the electric flux $\Phi_e$ through the entire cylinder as a function of time.

**b.** Draw a picture showing the magnetic field lines inside and outside the cylinder. Be sure to include arrowheads showing the field's direction.

**c.** Find an expression for the magnetic field strength as a function of time at a distance $r < R$ from the center. Evaluate the magnetic field strength at $r = 2.0\,\text{mm}$, $t = 2.0\,\text{s}$.

**d.** Find an expression for the magnetic field strength as a function of time at a distance $r > R$ from the center. Evaluate the magnetic field strength at $r = 4.0\,\text{mm}$, $t = 2.0\,\text{s}$.

**Figure P31.39**




**40.** •• A long, thin superconducting wire carrying a 15 A current passes through the center of a thin, 2.0-cm-diameter ring. A uniform electric field of increasing strength also passes through the ring, parallel to the wire. The magnetic field through the ring is zero.

**a.** At what rate is the electric field strength increasing?

**b.** Is the electric field in the direction of the current or opposite to the current?

**41.** •• A 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor is discharged, starting at $t = 0\,\text{s}$. The displacement current through the plates is $I_{\text{disp}} = (10\ \text{A})\exp(-t/2.0\ \mu\text{s})$. What was the capacitor's initial voltage $(\Delta V_C)_0$?

**42.** ••• At one instant, the electric and magnetic fields at one point of an electromagnetic wave are

$$\vec{E} = \left(200\hat{\imath} + 300\ \hat{j} - 50\ \hat{k}\right)\ \text{V/m and}$$

$$\vec{B} = B_0\left(7.3\hat{\imath} - 7.3\ \hat{j} + a\hat{k}\right)\ \mu\text{T}.$$

**a.** What are the values of $a$ and $B_0$?

**b.** What is the Poynting vector at this time and position?

**43.** ••

**a.** Show that $u_E$ and $u_B$, the energy densities of the electric and magnetic fields, are equal to each other in an electromagnetic wave. In other words, show that the wave's energy is divided equally between the electric field and the magnetic field.

**b.** What is the total energy density in an electromagnetic wave of intensity 1000 $W/m^2$?

**44.** • The intensity of sunlight reaching the earth is 1360 $W/m^2$.

**a.** What is the power output of the sun?

**b.** What is the intensity of sunlight reaching Mars?

**45.** •• Assume that a 7.0-cm-diameter, 100 W lightbulb radiates all its energy as a single wavelength of visible light. Estimate the electric and magnetic field strengths at the surface of the bulb.

**46.** •• The electric field of a 450 MHz radio wave has a maximum rate of change of $4.5 \times 10^{11}\ (\mathrm{V/m})/\mathrm{s}$. What is the wave's magnetic field amplitude?

**47.** • When the Voyager 2 spacecraft passed Neptune in 1989, it was $4.5 \times 10^9$ km from the earth. Its radio transmitter, with which it sent back data and images, broadcast with a mere 21 W of power. Assuming that the transmitter broadcast equally in all directions,

**a.** What signal intensity was received on the earth?

**b.** What electric field amplitude was detected?

The received signal was somewhat stronger than your result because the spacecraft used a directional antenna, but not by much.

**48.** •• In reading the instruction manual that came with your garage-door opener, you see that the transmitter unit in your car produces a 250 mW, 350 MHz signal and that the receiver unit is supposed to respond to a radio wave at this frequency if the electric field amplitude exceeds 0.10 V/m. You wonder if this is really true. To find out, you put fresh batteries in the transmitter and start walking away from your garage while opening and closing the door. Your garage door finally fails to

respond when you're 42 m away. What is the electric field amplitude at the receiver when it first fails?

**49.** •• The maximum electric field strength in air is 3.0 MV/m. Stronger electric fields ionize the air and create a spark. What is the maximum power that can be delivered by a 1.0-cm-diameter laser beam propagating through air?

**50.** ••• **BIO** A LASIK vision-correction system uses a laser that emits 10-ns-long pulses of light, each with 2.5 mJ of energy. The laser beam is focused to a 0.85-mm-diameter circle on the cornea. What is the electric field amplitude of the light wave at the cornea?

**51.** •• The intensity of sunlight reaching the earth is 1360 $W/m^2$. Assuming all the sunlight is absorbed, what is the radiation-pressure force on the earth? Give your answer (a) in newtons and (b) as a fraction of the sun's gravitational force on the earth.

**52.** •• **INT BIO** For radio and microwaves, the depth of penetration into the human body is proportional to $\lambda^{1/2}$. If 27 MHz radio waves penetrate to a depth of 14 cm, how far do 2.4 GHz microwaves penetrate?

**53.** •• A laser beam shines straight up onto a flat, black foil of mass $m$.

**a.** Find an expression for the laser power $P$ needed to levitate the foil.

**b.** Evaluate $P$ for a foil with a mass of 25 $\mu g$.

**54.** •• For a science project, you would like to horizontally suspend an 8.5 by 11 inch sheet of black paper in a vertical beam of light whose dimensions exactly match the paper. If the mass of the sheet is 1.0 g, what light intensity will you need?

**55.** •• **INT** You've recently read about a chemical laser that generates a 20-cm-diameter, 25 MW laser beam. One day, after physics class, you start to wonder if you could use the radiation pressure from this laser beam to launch small payloads into orbit. To see if this might be feasible, you do a quick calculation of the acceleration of a 20-cm-diameter, 100 kg, perfectly absorbing block. What speed would such a block have if pushed *horizontally* 100 m along a frictionless track by such a laser?

**56.** •• Unpolarized light of intensity $I_0$ is incident on three polarizing filters. The axis of the first is vertical, that of the second is 45° from vertical, and that of the third is horizontal. What light intensity emerges from the third filter?

**57.** •• Unpolarized light of intensity $I_0$ is incident on two polarizing filters. The transmitted light intensity is $I_0/10$. What is the angle between the axes of the two filters?

**58.** •• Unpolarized light of intensity $I_0$ is incident on a stack of 7 polarizing filters, each with its axis rotated 15° cw with respect to the previous filter. What light intensity emerges from the last filter?

## Challenge Problems

**59.** ••• A cube of water 10 cm on a side is placed in a microwave beam having $E_0 = 11\,\text{kV/m}$. The microwaves illuminate one face of the cube, and the water absorbs 80% of the incident energy. How long will it take to raise the water temperature by 50°C? Assume that the water has no heat loss during this time.

**60.** ••• An 80 kg astronaut has gone outside his space capsule to do some repair work. Unfortunately, he forgot to lock his safety

tether in place, and he has drifted 5.0 m away from the capsule. Fortunately, he has a 1000 W portable laser with fresh batteries that will operate it for 1.0 h. His only chance is to accelerate himself toward the space capsule by firing the laser in the opposite direction. He has a 10-h supply of oxygen. How long will it take him to reach safety?

**61.** ••• An electron travels with $\overrightarrow{v} = 5.0 \times 10^6\,\hat{\imath}$ m/s through a point in space where $\overrightarrow{B} = 0.10\,\hat{\jmath}$ T. The force on the electron at this point is $\overrightarrow{F} = \left(9.6 \times 10^{-14}\hat{\imath} - 9.6 \times 10^{-14}\hat{k}\right)$ N. What is the electric field?

**62.** ••• The radar system at an airport broadcasts 11 GHz microwaves with 150 kW of power. An approaching airplane with a 31 m$^2$ cross section is 30 km away. Assume that the radar broadcasts uniformly in all directions and that the airplane scatters microwaves uniformly in all directions. What is the electric field strength of the microwave signal received back at the airport 200 $\mu$s later?

**63.** ••• Large quantities of dust should have been left behind after the creation of the solar system. Larger dust particles, comparable in size to soot and sand grains, are common. They create shooting stars when they collide with the earth's atmosphere. But very small dust particles are conspicuously absent. Astronomers believe that the very small dust particles have been blown out of the solar system by the sun. By comparing the forces on dust particles, determine the diameter of the smallest dust particles that can remain in the solar system over long periods of time. Assume that the dust particles are spherical, black, and have a density of 2000 kg/m$^3$. The sun emits electromagnetic radiation with power $3.9 \times 10^{26}$ W.

**64.** ••• **CALC** Consider current $I$ passing through a resistor of radius $r$, length $L$, and resistance $R$.

**a.** Determine the electric and magnetic fields at the surface of the resistor. Assume that the electric field is uniform throughout, including at the surface.

**b.** Determine the strength and direction of the Poynting vector at the surface of the resistor.

**c.** Show that the flux of the Poynting vector (i.e., the integral of $\vec{S} \cdot d\vec{A}$) over the surface of the resistor is $I^2R$. Then give an interpretation of this result.

# Chapter 32
# AC Circuits

Transmission lines carry alternating current at voltages as high as 500,000 V.

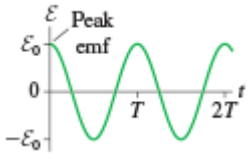
**In This Chapter**

you will learn about and analyze AC circuits.

## What is an AC circuit?

The circuits of Chapter 28, with a steady current in one direction, are called DC circuits—*direct current*. A circuit with an oscillating emf is called an AC circuit, for *alternating current*. The wires that transport electricity across the country—the grid—use alternating current.

Looking Back Chapter 28 Circuits



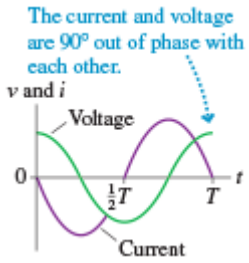

## How do circuit elements act in an AC circuit?

Resistors in an AC circuit act as they do in a DC circuit. But you'll learn that capacitors and inductors are more useful in AC circuits than in DC circuits.

- The voltage across and the current through a capacitor or inductor are 90° out of phase. One is peaking when the other is zero, and vice versa.
- The peak voltage *V* and peak current *I* have an Ohm's-law-like relationship $V = IX$, where *X*, which depends on frequency, is called the reactance.
- Unlike resistors, capacitors and inductors do not dissipate energy.

Looking Back Section 26.5 Capacitors

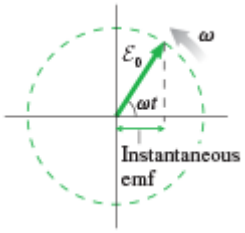
Looking Back Section 30.8 Inductorss




## What is a phasor?

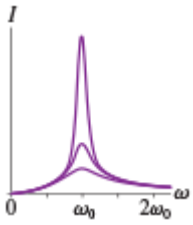
AC voltages oscillate sinusoidally, so the mathematics of AC circuits is that of SHM. You'll learn a new way to represent oscillating quantities—as a rotating vector called a phasor. The instantaneous value of a phasor quantity is its horizontal projection.

Looking Back Chapter 15 Simple harmonic motion and resonance




## What is an *RLC* circuit?

A circuit with a resistor, inductor, and capacitor in series is called an *RLC* circuit. An *RLC* circuit has a resonance—a large current over a narrow range of frequencies—that allows it to be tuned to a specific frequency. As a result, *RLC* circuits are very important in communications.




## Why are AC circuits important?

AC circuits are the backbone of our technological society. Generators automatically produce an oscillating emf, AC power is easily transported over large distances, and transformers allow engineers to shift the AC voltage up or down. The circuits of radio, television, and cell phones are also AC circuits because they work with oscillating voltages and currents—at much higher frequencies than the grid, but the physical principles are the same.

# 32.1 AC Sources and Phasors



One of the examples of Faraday's law cited in Chapter 30 was an electric generator. A turbine, which might be powered by expanding steam or falling water, causes a coil of wire to rotate in a magnetic field. As the coil spins, the emf and the induced current oscillate sinusoidally. The emf is alternately positive and negative, causing the charges to flow in one direction and then, a half cycle later, in the other. The oscillation frequency of the *grid* in North and South America is $f = 60$ Hz, whereas most of the rest of the world uses a 50 Hz oscillation.

The generator's peak emf—the peak voltage—is a fixed, unvarying quantity, so it might seem logical to call a generator an *alternating-voltage source*. Nonetheless, circuits powered by a sinusoidal emf are called **AC circuits,** where AC stands for *alternating current*. By contrast, the steady-current circuits you studied in Chapter 28 are called **DC circuits,** for *direct current*.

AC circuits are not limited to the use of 50 Hz or 60 Hz power-line voltages. Audio, radio, television, and telecommunication equipment all make extensive use of AC circuits, with frequencies ranging from approximately $10^2$ Hz in audio circuits to approximately $10^9$ Hz in cell phones. These devices use *electrical oscillators* rather than generators to produce a sinusoidal emf, but the basic principles of circuit analysis are the same.

You can think of an AC generator or oscillator as a battery whose output voltage undergoes sinusoidal oscillations. The instantaneous emf of an

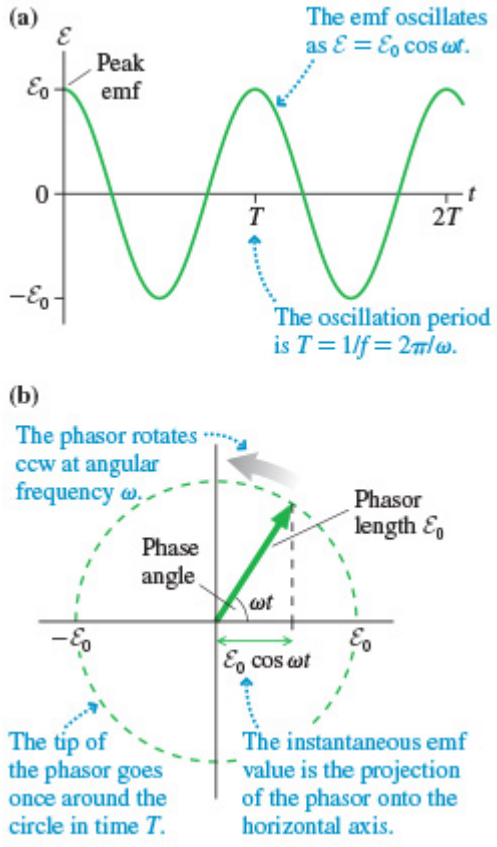
AC generator or oscillator, shown graphically in Figure 32.1a, can be written

**(32.1)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$$

where $\mathcal{E}_0$ is the peak or maximum emf and $\omega = 2\pi f$ is the angular frequency in radians per second. Recall that the units of emf are volts. As you can imagine, the mathematics of AC circuit analysis are going to be very similar to the mathematics of simple harmonic motion.

## Figure 32.1



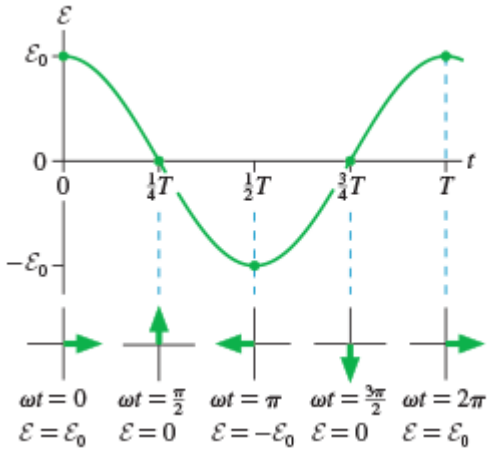

An oscillating emf can be represented as a graph or as a phasor diagram.

An alternative way to represent the emf and other oscillatory quantities is with the *phasor diagram* of Figure 32.1b. A **phasor** is a vector that

rotates *counterclockwise* (ccw) around the origin at angular frequency $\omega$ The length or magnitude of the phasor is the maximum value of the quantity. For example, the length of an emf phasor is $\mathcal{E}_0$. The angle $\omega t$ is the *phase angle*, an idea you learned about in Chapter 15, where we made a connection between circular motion and simple harmonic motion.

The quantity's instantaneous value, the value you would measure at time $t$, is the projection of the phasor onto the horizontal axis. This is also analogous to the connection between circular motion and simple harmonic motion. Figure 32.2 helps you visualize the phasor rotation by showing how the phasor corresponds to the more familiar graph at several specific points in the cycle.

**Figure 32.2**




The correspondence between a phasor and points on a graph.



## Stop to Think 32.1

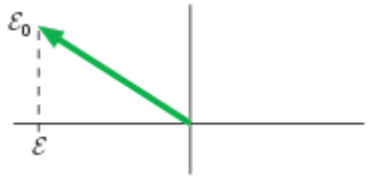
The magnitude of the instantaneous value of the emf represented by this phasor is

**a.** Increasing.

**b.** Decreasing.

**c.** Constant.

**d.** It's not possible to tell without knowing $t$.




## Resistor Circuits

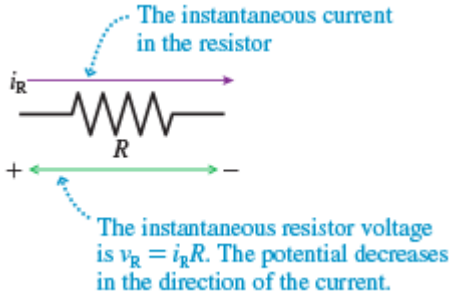
In Chapter 28 you learned to analyze a circuit in terms of the current $I$, voltage $V$, and potential difference $\Delta V$. Now, because the current and voltage are oscillating, we will use lowercase $i$ to represent the *instantaneous* current through a circuit element and $v$ for the circuit element's *instantaneous* voltage.

Figure 32.3 shows the instantaneous current $i_R$ through a resistor $R$. The potential difference across the resistor, which we call the *resistor voltage* $v_R$, is given by Ohm's law:

**(32.2)**

$$v_R = i_R R$$

**Figure 32.3**



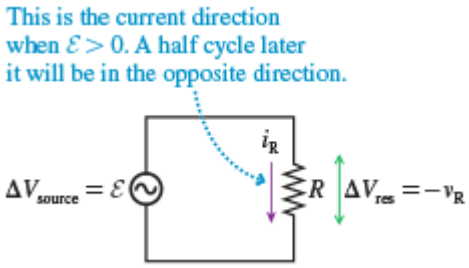

Instantaneous current $i_R$ through a resistor.

Figure 32.4 shows a resistor $R$ connected across an AC emf $\mathcal{E}$. Notice that the circuit symbol for an AC generator is . We can analyze this circuit in exactly the same way we analyzed a DC resistor circuit. Kirchhoff's loop law says that the sum of all the potential differences around a closed path is zero:

**(32.3)**

$$\sum \Delta V = \Delta V_{\text{source}} + \Delta V_{\text{res}} = \mathcal{E} - v_R = 0$$

## Figure 32.4




An AC resistor circuit.

The minus sign appears, just as it did in the equation for a DC circuit, because the potential *decreases* when we travel through a resistor in the direction of the current. We find from the loop law that $v_R = \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$. This isn't surprising because the resistor is connected directly across the terminals of the emf.

The resistor voltage in an AC circuit can be written

**(32.4)**

$$v_{\mathrm{R}} = V_{\mathrm{R}} \cos \omega \mathrm{t}$$

where $V_{\mathrm{R}}$ is the peak or maximum voltage. You can see that $V_{\mathrm{R}} = \mathcal{E}_0$ in the single-resistor circuit of Figure 32.4. Thus the current through the resistor is

**(32.5)**

$$i_{\mathrm{R}} = \frac{v_{\mathrm{R}}}{R} = \frac{V_{\mathrm{R}} \cos \omega t}{R} = I_{\mathrm{R}} \cos \omega t$$

where $I_{\mathrm{R}} = V_{\mathrm{R}}/R$ is the peak current.

> **Note**
>
> Ohm's law applies to both the instantaneous *and* peak currents and voltages of a resistor.

The resistor's instantaneous current and voltage are in phase, both oscillating as $\cos \omega t$. Figure 32.5 shows the voltage and the current simultaneously on a graph and as a phasor diagram. The fact that the current phasor is shorter than the voltage phasor has no significance. Current and voltage are measured in different units, so you can't compare the length of one to the length of the other. Showing the two different quantities on a single graph—a tactic that can be misleading if you're not careful—illustrates that they oscillate in phase and that their phasors rotate together at the same angle and frequency.

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**Figure 32.5**

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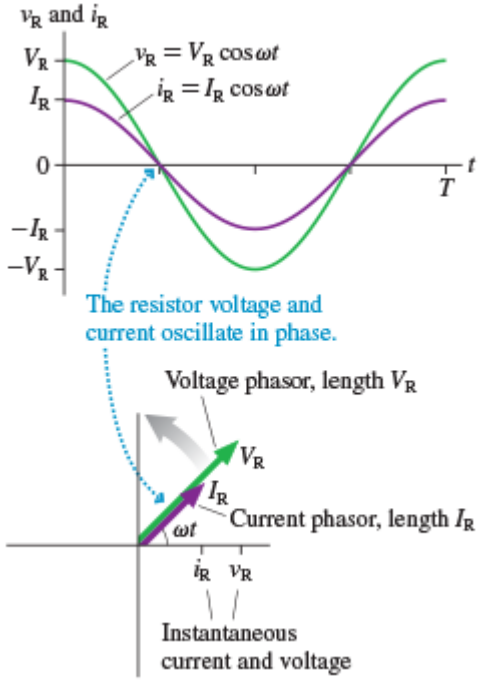
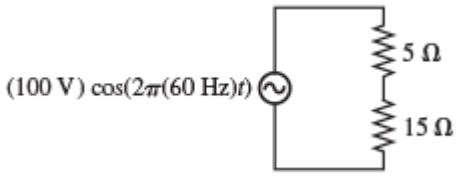



Graph and phasor diagrams of the resistor current and voltage.

## Example 32.1 Finding resistor voltages

In the circuit of Figure 32.6, what are (a) the peak voltage across each resistor and (b) the instantaneous resistor voltages at $t = 20$ ms?

### Figure 32.6




An AC resistor circuit.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 32.6 shows the circuit diagram. The two resistors are in series.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The equivalent resistance of the two series resistors is $R_{\text{eq}} = 5\Omega + 15\Omega = 20\Omega$. The instantaneous current through the equivalent resistance is

$$\begin{aligned} i_{\text{R}} &= \frac{v_{\text{R}}}{R_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t}{R_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{(100\ \text{V}) \cos\left(2\pi\,(60\ \text{Hz})\,t\right)}{20\ \Omega} \\ &= (5.0\ \text{A}) \cos\left(2\pi\,(60\ \text{Hz})\,t\right) \end{aligned}$$

The peak current is $I_{\text{R}} = 5.0\ \text{A}$, and this is also the peak current through the two resistors that form the 20 Ω equivalent resistance. Hence the peak voltage across each resistor is

$$V_{\text{R}} = I_{\text{R}} R = \begin{cases} 25\ \text{V} & 5\ \Omega \text{ resistor} \\ 75\ \text{V} & 15\ \Omega \text{ resistor} \end{cases}$$

**b.** The instantaneous current at $t = 0.020$ s is

$$i_{\text{R}} = (5.0\ \text{A})\ \cos\ (2\ \pi\ (60\ \text{Hz})\ \ (0.020\ \text{s})) = 1.55\ \text{A}$$

The resistor voltages at this time are

$$v_{\text{R}} = i_{\text{R}} R = \begin{cases} 7.7\ \text{V} & 5\ \Omega \text{ resistor} \\ 23.2\ \text{V} & 15\ \Omega \text{ resistor} \end{cases}$$

**ASSESS** The sum of the instantaneous voltages, 30.9 V, is what you would find by calculating $\mathcal{E}$ at $t = 20$ ms. This self-consistency gives us confidence in the answer.

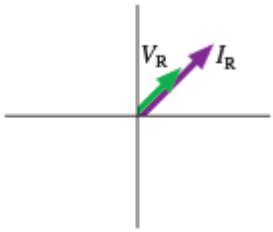
## Stop to Think 32.2

The resistor whose voltage and current phasors are shown here has resistance $R$

**a.** $> 1\ \Omega$

**b.** $< 1\ \Omega$

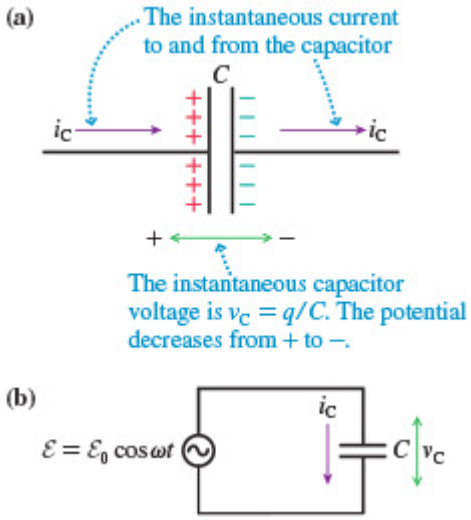
**c.** It's not possible to tell.



# 32.2 Capacitor Circuits 

Figure 32.7a shows current $i_C$ charging a capacitor with capacitance $C$. The instantaneous capacitor voltage is $v_C = q/C$ where $\pm q$ is the charge on the two capacitor plates at this instant. It is useful to compare Figure 32.7a to Figure 32.3 for a resistor.

## Figure 32.7




An AC capacitor circuit.

Figure 32.7b, where capacitance $C$ is connected across an AC source of emf $\mathcal{E}$, is the most basic capacitor circuit. The capacitor is in parallel with the source, so the capacitor voltage equals the emf: $v_C = \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$. It will be useful to write

**(32.6)**

$$v_C = V_C \cos \omega t$$

where $V_C$ is the peak or maximum voltage across the capacitor. You can see that $V_C = \mathcal{E}_0$ in this single-capacitor circuit.

To find the current to and from the capacitor, we first write the charge

**(32.7)**

$$q = Cv_C = CV_C \cos \omega t$$

The current is the *rate* at which charge flows through the wires, $i_C = dq/dt$, thus

**(32.8)**

$$i_C = \frac{dq}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(CV_C \cos \omega t) = -\omega CV_C \sin \omega t$$

We can most easily see the relationship between the capacitor voltage and current if we use the trigonometric identity $-\sin(x) = \cos(x + \pi/2)$ to write

**(32.9)**

$$i_C = \omega CV_C \cos\left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

In contrast to a resistor, a capacitor's current and voltage are *not* in phase. In Figure 32.8a, a graph of the instantaneous voltage $v_C$ and current $i_C$, you can see that the current peaks one-quarter of a period *before* the voltage peaks. The phase angle of the current phasor on the phasor diagram of Figure 32.8b is $\pi/2$ rad—a quarter of a circle—larger than the phase angle of the voltage phasor.

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**Figure 32.8**

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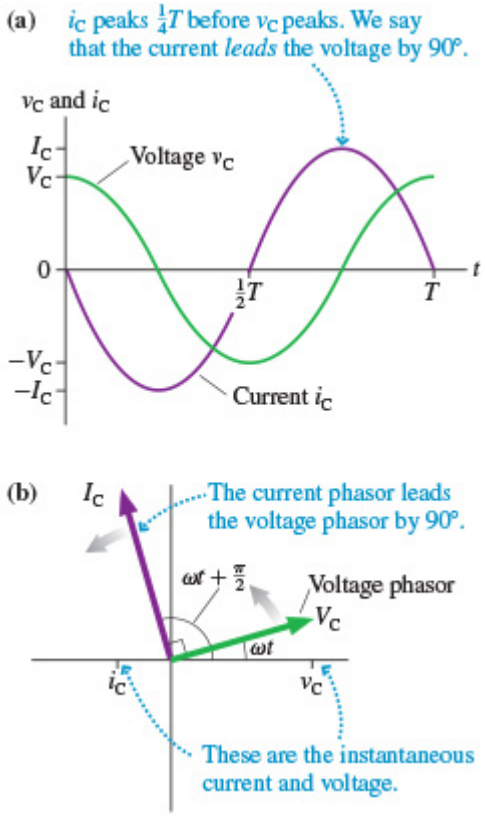


Graph and phasor diagrams of the capacitor current and voltage.

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We can summarize this finding:

> The AC current of a capacitor *leads* the capacitor voltage by $\pi/2$ rad, or 90°.

The current reaches its peak value $I_C$ at the instant the capacitor is fully discharged and $v_C = 0$. The current is zero at the instant the capacitor is fully charged.

A simple harmonic oscillator provides a mechanical analogy of the 90° phase difference between current and voltage. You learned in Chapter 15 that the position and velocity of a simple harmonic oscillator are

$$x = A\cos\omega t$$

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt} = -\omega A\sin\omega t = -v_{\max}\sin\omega t = v_{\max}\cos\left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

You can see that the velocity of an oscillator leads the position by 90° in the same way that the capacitor current leads the voltage.

## Capacitive Reactance

We can use Equation 32.9 to see that the peak current to and from a capacitor is $I_C = \omega C V_C$. This relationship between the peak voltage and peak current looks much like Ohm's law for a resistor if we define the **capacitive reactance** $X_C$ to be

**(32.10)**

$$X_C \equiv \frac{1}{\omega C}$$

With this definition,

---

**(32.11)**

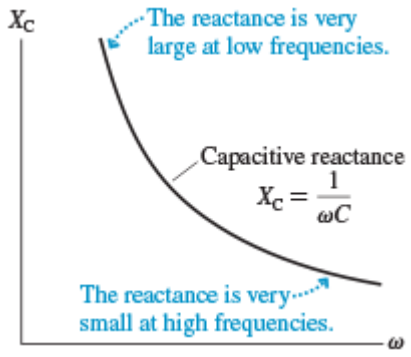
$$I_C = \frac{V_C}{X_C} \quad \text{or} \quad V_C = I_C X_C$$

The units of reactance, like those of resistance, are ohms.

> **Note**
>
> Reactance relates the *peak* voltage $V_C$ and current $I_C$. But reactance differs from resistance in that it does *not* relate the instantaneous capacitor voltage and current because they are out of phase. That is, $v_C \neq i_C X_C$.

A resistor's resistance $R$ is independent of the emf frequency. In contrast, as Figure 32.9 shows, a capacitor's reactance $X_C$ depends inversely on the frequency. The reactance becomes very large at low frequencies (i.e., the capacitor is a large impediment to current). This makes sense because $\omega = 0$ would be a nonoscillating DC circuit, and we know that a steady DC current cannot pass through a capacitor. The reactance decreases as the frequency increases until, at very high frequencies, $X_C \approx 0$ and the capacitor begins to act like an ideal wire. This result has important consequences for how capacitors are used in many circuits.

## Figure 32.9




The capacitive reactance as a function of frequency.

### Example 32.2 Capacitive reactance

What is the capacitive reactance of a 0.10 $\mu$F capacitor at 100 Hz (an audio frequency) and at 100 MHz (an FM-radio frequency)?



**SOLVE** At 100 Hz,

$$X_C(\text{at } 100 \text{ Hz}) = \frac{1}{\omega C} = \frac{1}{2\pi(100 \text{ Hz})\,(1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ F})} = 16{,}000\Omega$$

Increasing the frequency by a factor of $10^6$ decreases $X_C$ by a factor of $10^6$, giving

$$X_C(\text{at } 100 \text{ MHz}) = 0.016\Omega$$

**ASSESS** A capacitor with a substantial reactance at audio frequencies has virtually no reactance at FM-radio frequencies.

**Example 32.3 Capacitor current**

A 10 $\mu$F capacitor is connected to a 1000 Hz oscillator with a peak emf of 5.0 V. What is the peak current to the capacitor?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 32.7b showed the circuit diagram. It is a simple one-capacitor circuit.

**SOLVE** The capacitive reactance at $\omega = 2\pi f = 6280 \text{ rad/s}$ is

$$X_C = \frac{1}{\omega C} = \frac{1}{(6280 \text{ rad/s})\,(10 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F})} = 16\Omega$$

The peak voltage across the capacitor is $V_C = \mathcal{E}_0 = 5.0$ V; hence the peak current is

$$I_C = \frac{V_C}{X_C} = \frac{5.0 \text{ V}}{16\Omega} = 0.31 \text{ A}$$

**ASSESS** Using reactance is just like using Ohm's law, but don't forget it applies to only the *peak* current and voltage, not the instantaneous values.

## Stop to Think 32.3

What is the capacitive reactance of "no capacitor," just a continuous wire?

**a.** 0

**b.** $\infty$

**c.** Undefined

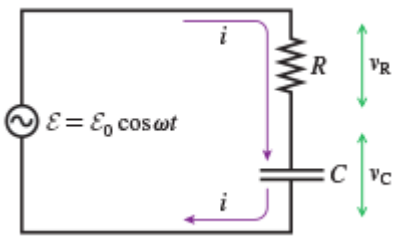
# 32.3 *RC* Filter Circuits



You learned in Chapter 28 that a resistance $R$ causes a capacitor to be charged or discharged with time constant $\tau = RC$. We called this an *RC* circuit. Now that we've looked at resistors and capacitors individually, let's explore what happens if an *RC* circuit is driven continuously by an alternating current source.

Figure 32.10 shows a circuit in which a resistor $R$ and capacitor $C$ are in series with an emf $\mathcal{E}$ oscillating at angular frequency $\omega$. Before launching into a formal analysis, let's try to understand qualitatively how this circuit will respond as the frequency is varied. If the frequency is very low, the capacitive reactance will be very large, and thus the peak current $I_C$ will be very small. The peak current through the resistor is the same as the peak current to and from the capacitor (just as in DC circuits, conservation of charge requires $I_R = I_C$); hence we expect the resistor's peak voltage $V_R = I_R R$ to be very small at very low frequencies.

**Figure 32.10**




An *RC* circuit driven by an AC source.

On the other hand, suppose the frequency is very high. Then the capacitive reactance approaches zero and the peak current, determined

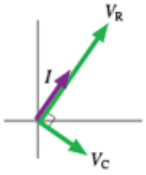
by the resistance alone, will be $I_{\mathrm{R}} = \mathcal{E}_0/R$. The resistor's peak voltage $V_{\mathrm{R}} = IR$ will approach the peak source voltage $\mathcal{E}_0$ at very high frequencies.

This reasoning leads us to expect that $V_{\mathrm{R}}$ will *increase* steadily from 0 to $\mathcal{E}_0$ as $\omega$ is increased from 0 to very high frequencies. Kirchhoff's loop law has to be obeyed, so the capacitor voltage $V_{\mathrm{C}}$ will *decrease* from $\mathcal{E}_0$ to 0 during the same change of frequency. A quantitative analysis will show us how this behavior can be used as a *filter*.

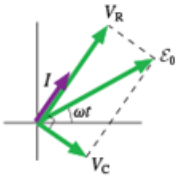
The goal of a quantitative analysis is to determine the peak current $I$ and the two peak voltages $V_{\mathrm{R}}$ and $V_{\mathrm{C}}$ as functions of the emf amplitude $\mathcal{E}_0$ and frequency $\omega$. Our analytic procedure is based on the fact that the instantaneous current $i$ is the same for two circuit elements in series.

**Using phasors to analyze an *RC* circuit**

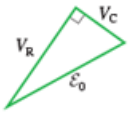
Begin by drawing a current phasor of length $I$. This is the starting point because the series circuit elements have the same current $i$. The angle at which the phasor is drawn is not relevant.




The current and voltage of a resistor are in phase, so draw a resistor voltage phasor of length $V_R$ parallel to the current phasor $I$. The capacitor current leads the capacitor voltage by 90°, so draw a capacitor voltage phasor of length $V_C$ that is 90° behind [i.e., clockwise (cw) from] the current phasor.




The series resistor and capacitor are in parallel with the emf, so their *instantaneous* voltages satisfy $v_R + v_C = \mathcal{E}$. This is a *vector* addition of phasors, so draw the emf phasor as the vector sum of the two voltage phasors. The emf is $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$, hence the emf phasor is at angle $\omega t$.




The length of the emf phasor, $\mathcal{E}_0$, is the hypotenuse of a right triangle formed by the resistor and capacitor phasors. Thus $\mathcal{E}_0^2 = V_R^2 + V_C^2$.

The relationship $\mathcal{E}_0{}^2 = V_{\mathrm{R}}{}^2 + V_{\mathrm{C}}{}^2$ is based on the peak values, not the instantaneous values, because the peak values are the lengths of the sides of the right triangle. The peak voltages are related to the peak current $I$ via $V_{\mathrm{R}} = IR$ and $V_{\mathrm{C}} = IX_{\mathrm{C}}$, thus

**(32.12)**

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}_0^2 &= V_{\mathrm{R}}^2 + V_{\mathrm{C}}^2 = (IR)^2 + (IX_{\mathrm{C}})^2 = \left(R^2 + X_{\mathrm{C}}^2\right) I^2 \\ &= \left(R^2 + 1/\omega^2 C^2\right) I^2\end{aligned}$$

Consequently, the peak current in the *RC* circuit is

**(32.13)**

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\sqrt{R^2 + X_{\mathrm{C}}^2}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\sqrt{R^2 + 1/\omega^2 C^2}}$$

Knowing $I$ gives us the two peak voltages:

**(32.14)**

$$\begin{aligned}V_{\mathrm{R}} &= IR = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 R}{\sqrt{R^2 + X_{\mathrm{C}}^2}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 R}{\sqrt{R^2 + 1/\omega^2 C^2}} \\ V_{\mathrm{C}} &= IX_{\mathrm{C}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 X_{\mathrm{C}}}{\sqrt{R^2 + X_{\mathrm{C}}^2}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 / \omega C}{\sqrt{R^2 + 1/\omega^2 C^2}}\end{aligned}$$

## Frequency Dependence

Our goal was to see how the peak current and voltages vary as functions of the frequency $\omega$. Equations 32.13 and 32.14 are rather complex and best interpreted by looking at graphs. Figure 32.11 is a graph of $V_{\mathrm{R}}$ and $V_{\mathrm{C}}$ versus $\omega$.



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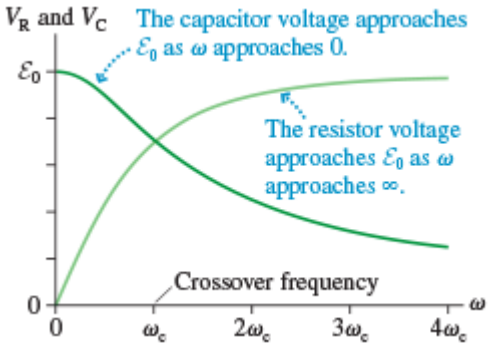
**Figure 32.11**




Graph of the resistor and capacitor peak voltages as functions of the emf angular frequency $\omega$

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You can see that our qualitative predictions have been borne out. That is, $V_R$ increases from 0 to $\mathcal{E}_0$ as $\omega$ is increased, while $V_C$ decreases from $\mathcal{E}_0$ to 0. The explanation for this behavior is that the capacitive reactance $X_C$ decreases as $\omega$ increases. For low frequencies, where $X_C \gg R$, the circuit is primarily capacitive. For high frequencies, where $X_C \ll R$, the circuit is primarily resistive.

The frequency at which $V_R = V_C$ is called the **crossover frequency** $\omega_c$. The *crossover* frequency is easily found by setting the two expressions in Equations 32.14 equal to each other. The denominators are the same and cancel, as does $\mathcal{E}_0$, leading to

**(32.15)**

$$\omega_c = \frac{1}{RC}$$

In practice, $f_c = \omega_c/2\pi$ is also called the crossover frequency.

We'll leave it as a homework problem to show that $V_R = V_C = \mathcal{E}_0/\sqrt{2}$ when $\omega = \omega_c$. This may seem surprising. After all, shouldn't $V_R$ and $V_C$ add up to $\mathcal{E}_0$?

No! $V_R$ and $V_C$ are the *peak values* of oscillating voltages, not the instantaneous values. The instantaneous values do, indeed, satisfy $v_R + v_C = \mathcal{E}$ at all instants of time. But the resistor and capacitor voltages are out of phase with each other, as the phasor diagram shows, so the two circuit elements don't reach their peak values at the same time. The peak values are related by ${\mathcal{E}_0}^2 = {V_R}^2 + {V_C}^2$, and you can see that $V_R = V_C = \mathcal{E}_0/\sqrt{2}$ satisfies this equation.

> **Note**
>
> It's very important in AC circuit analysis to make a clear distinction between instantaneous values and peak values of voltages and currents. Relationships that are true for one set of values may not be true for the other.

## Filters

Figure 32.12a is the circuit we've just analyzed; the only difference is that the capacitor voltage $v_C$ is now identified as the *output voltage* $v_{out}$. This is a voltage you might measure or, perhaps, send to an amplifier for use elsewhere in an electronic instrument. You can see from the capacitor voltage graph in Figure 32.11 that the peak output voltage is $V_{out} \approx \mathcal{E}_0$ if $\omega \ll \omega_c$, but $V_{out} \approx 0$ if $\omega \gg \omega_c$. In other words,

- If the frequency of an input signal is well below the crossover frequency, the input signal is transmitted with little loss to the output.
- If the frequency of an input signal is well above the crossover frequency, the input signal is strongly attenuated and the output is very nearly zero.

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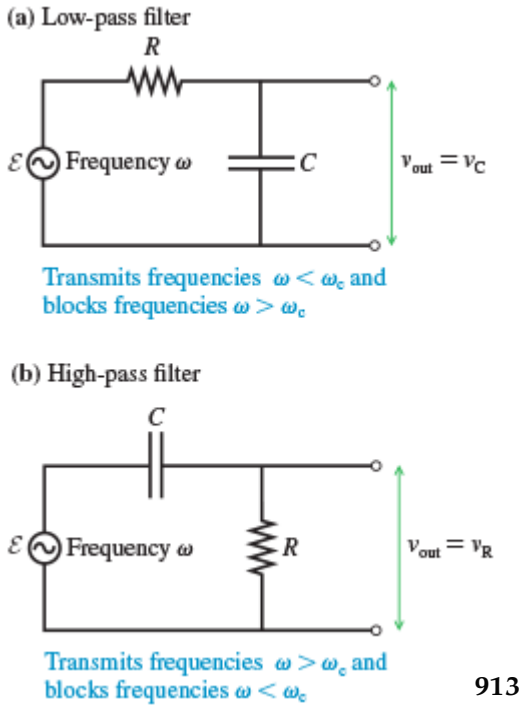
**Figure 32.12**






Low-pass and high-pass filter circuits.

This circuit is called a **low-pass filter.**

The circuit of Figure 32.12b, which instead uses the resistor voltage $v_R$ for the output $v_{out,}$ is a **high-pass filter.** The output is $V_{out} \approx 0$ if $\omega \ll \omega_c$, but $V_{out} \approx \mathcal{E}_0$ if $\omega \gg \omega_c$. That is, an input signal whose frequency is well above the crossover frequency is transmitted without loss to the output.

Filter circuits are widely used in electronics. For example, a high-pass filter designed to have $f_c = 100$ Hz would pass the audio frequencies associated with speech ($f > 200$ Hz) while blocking 60 Hz "noise" that can be picked up from power lines. Similarly, the high-frequency hiss from old vinyl records can be attenuated with a low-pass filter, allowing the lower-frequency audio signal to pass.

A simple *RC* filter suffers from the fact that the crossover region where $V_R \approx V_C$ is fairly broad. More sophisticated filters have a sharper

transition from off ($V_{out} \approx 0$) to on ($V_{out} \approx \mathcal{E}_0$), but they're based on the same principles as the *RC* filter analyzed here.

### Example 32.4 Designing a filter

For a science project, you've built a radio to listen to AM radio broadcasts at frequencies near 1 MHz. The basic circuit is an antenna, which produces a very small oscillating voltage when it absorbs the energy of an electromagnetic wave, and an amplifier. Unfortunately, your neighbor's short-wave radio broadcast at 10 MHz interferes with your reception. Having just finished physics, you decide to solve this problem by placing a filter between the antenna and the amplifier. You happen to have a 500 pF capacitor. What frequency should you select as the filter's crossover frequency? What value of resistance will you need to build this filter?

**MODEL** You need a low-pass filter to block signals at 10 MHz while passing the lower-frequency AM signal at 1 MHz.

**VISUALIZE** The circuit will look like the low-pass filter in Figure 32.12a. The oscillating voltage generated by the antenna will be the emf, and $v_{out}$ will be sent to the amplifier.

**SOLVE** You might think that a crossover frequency near 5 MHz, about halfway between 1 MHz and 10 MHz, would work best. But 5 MHz is a factor of 5 higher than 1 MHz while only a factor of 2 less than 10 MHz. A crossover frequency the *same factor* above 1 MHz as it is below 10 MHz will give the best results. In practice,

choosing $f_c = 3$ MHz would be sufficient. You can then use Equation 32.15 to select the proper resistor value:

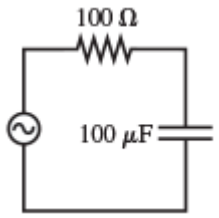
$$\begin{aligned} R &= \frac{1}{\omega_c C} = \frac{1}{2\pi\left(3 \times 10^6 \text{ Hz}\right)\left(500 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F}\right)} \\ &= 106\Omega \approx 100\Omega \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** Rounding to 100 Ω is appropriate because the crossover frequency was determined to only one significant figure. Such "sloppy design" is adequate when the two frequencies you need to distinguish are well separated.

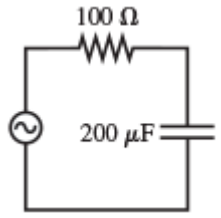
## Stop to Think 32.4

Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the crossover frequencies $(\omega_c)_a$ to $(\omega_c)_d$ of these four circuits.

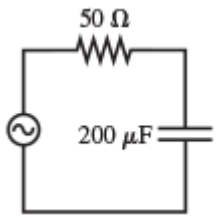
**a.**



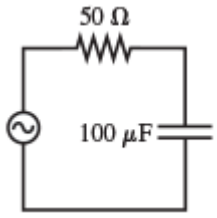

**b.**




**c.**



**d.**



# 32.4 Inductor Circuits

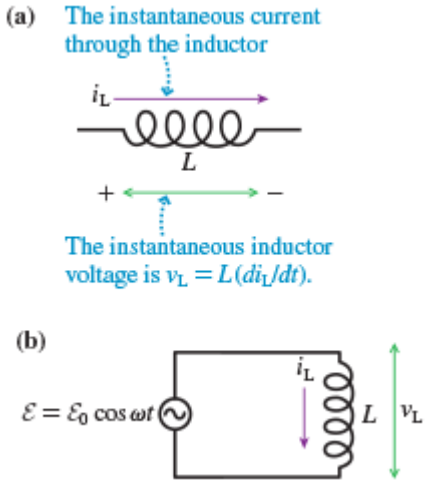


Figure 32.13a shows the instantaneous current $i_L$ through an inductor. If the current is changing, the instantaneous inductor voltage is

**(32.16)**

$$v_L = L\frac{di_L}{dt}$$

## Figure 32.13




Using an inductor in an AC circuit.

You learned in Chapter 30 that the potential decreases in the direction of the current if the current is increasing $(di_L/dt > 0)$ and increases if the current is decreasing $(di_L/dt < 0)$.

Figure 32.13b is the simplest inductor circuit. The inductor $L$ is connected across the AC source, so the inductor voltage equals the emf: $v_L = \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$. We can write

**(32.17)**

$$v_{\mathrm{L}} = V_{\mathrm{L}} \cos \omega t$$

where $V_{\mathrm{L}}$ is the peak or maximum voltage across the inductor. You can see that $V_{\mathrm{L}} = \mathcal{E}_0$ in this single-inductor circuit.

We can find the inductor current $i_{\mathrm{L}}$ by integrating Equation 32.17. First, we use Equation 32.17 to write Equation 32.16 as

**(32.18)**

$$di_{\mathrm{L}} = \frac{v_{\mathrm{L}}}{L} dt = \frac{V_{\mathrm{L}}}{L} \cos \omega t \, \mathrm{dt}$$

Integrating gives

**(32.19)**

$$\begin{aligned} i_{\mathrm{L}} &= \frac{V_{\mathrm{L}}}{L} \int \cos \omega t \, dt = \frac{V_{\mathrm{L}}}{\omega L} \sin \omega t = \frac{V_{\mathrm{L}}}{\omega L} \cos \left( \omega t - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \\ &= I_{\mathrm{L}} \cos \left( \omega t - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where $I_{\mathrm{L}} = V_{\mathrm{L}} / \omega L$ is the peak or maximum inductor current.

> **Note**
>
> Mathematically, Equation 32.19 could have an integration constant $i_0$. An integration constant would represent a constant DC current through the inductor, but there is no DC source of potential in an AC circuit. Hence, on physical grounds, we set $i_0 = 0$ for an AC circuit.

We define the **inductive reactance,** analogous to the capacitive reactance, to be

**(32.20)**

$$X_{\mathrm{L}} \equiv \omega L$$

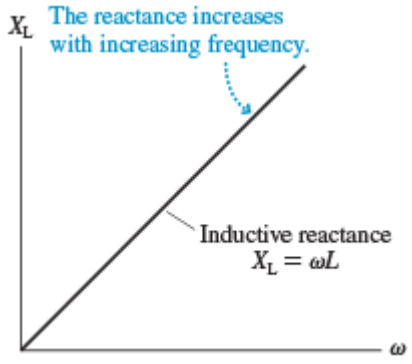
Then the peak current $I_L = V_L/\omega L$ and the peak voltage are related by

(32.21)

$$I_L = \frac{V_L}{X_L} \quad \text{or} \quad V_L = I_L X_L$$

Figure 32.14 shows that the inductive reactance increases as the frequency increases. This makes sense. Faraday's law tells us that the induced voltage across a coil increases as the time rate of change of $\vec{B}$ increases, and $\vec{B}$ is directly proportional to the inductor current. For a given peak current $I_L$, $\vec{B}$ changes more rapidly at higher frequencies than at lower frequencies, and thus $V_L$ is larger at higher frequencies than at lower frequencies.

## Figure 32.14



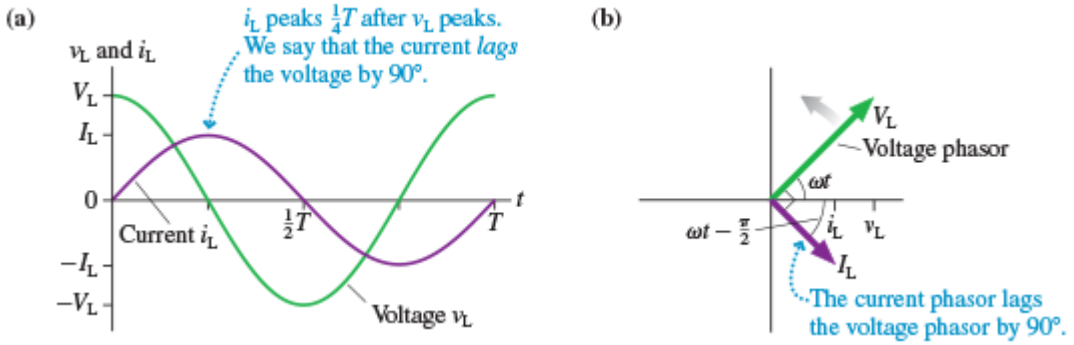

The inductive reactance as a function of frequency.

Figure 32.15a is a graph of the inductor voltage and current. You can see that the current peaks one-quarter of a period *after* the voltage peaks. The angle of the current phasor on the phasor diagram of Figure 32.15b

is $\pi/2$ rad less than the angle of the voltage phasor. We can summarize this finding:

> The AC current through an inductor *lags* the inductor voltage by $\pi/2$ rad, or 90°.

## Figure 32.15




Graph and phasor diagrams of the inductor current and voltage.

### Example 32.5 Current and voltage of an inductor

A 25 $\mu$H inductor is used in a circuit that oscillates at 100 kHz. The current through the inductor reaches a peak value of 20 mA at $t = 5.0\ \mu s$. What is the peak inductor voltage, and when, closest to $t = 5.0\ \mu s$, does it occur?

**MODEL** The inductor current lags the voltage by 90°, or, equivalently, the voltage reaches its peak value one-quarter period *before* the current.

**VISUALIZE** The circuit looks like Figure 32.15b.

**SOLVE** The inductive reactance at $f = 100$ kHz is

$$X_L = \omega L = 2\pi \left(1.0 \times 10^5 \text{ Hz}\right)\left(25 \times 10^{-6} \text{ H}\right) = 16\ \Omega$$

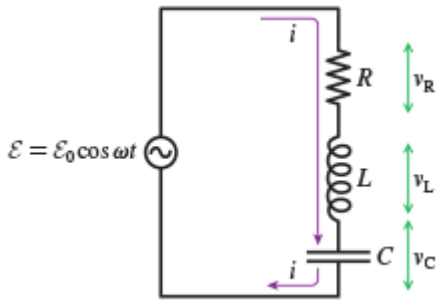
Thus the peak voltage is $V_\mathrm{L} = I_\mathrm{L} X_\mathrm{L} = (20\ \mathrm{mA})\,(16\ \Omega) = 320\ \mathrm{mV}$. The voltage peak occurs one-quarter period before the current peaks, and we know that the current peaks at $t = 5.0\ \mu\mathrm{s}$. The period of a 100 kHz oscillation is 10.0 $\mu s$, so the voltage peaks at

$$t = 5.0\ \mu\mathrm{s}\ - \frac{10.0\ \mu\mathrm{s}}{4} = 2.5\ \mu\mathrm{s}$$

# 32.5 The Series *RLC* Circuit

The circuit of Figure 32.16, where a resistor, inductor, and capacitor are in series, is called a **series *RLC* circuit**. The series *RLC* circuit has many important applications because, as you will see, it exhibits resonance behavior.

**Figure 32.16**



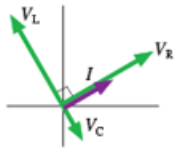

A series *RLC* circuit.

The analysis, which is very similar to our analysis of the *RC* circuit in Section 32.3, will be based on a phasor diagram. Notice that the three circuit elements are in series with each other and, together, are in parallel with the emf. We can draw two conclusions that form the basis of our analysis:

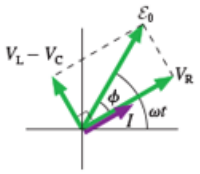
1. The instantaneous current of all three elements is the same: $i = i_R = i_L = i_C$.
2. The sum of the instantaneous voltages matches the emf: $\mathcal{E} = v_R + v_L + v_C$.

**Using phasors to analyze an *RLC* circuit**

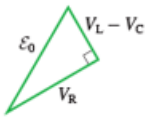
Begin by drawing a current phasor of length $I$. This is the starting point because the series circuit elements have the same current $i$.




The current and voltage of a resistor are in phase, so draw a resistor voltage phasor parallel to the current phasor $I$. The capacitor current leads the capacitor voltage by 90°, so draw a capacitor voltage phasor that is 90° behind the current phasor. The inductor current *lags* the voltage by 90°, so draw an inductor voltage phasor 90° ahead of the current phasor.




The instantaneous voltages satisfy $\mathcal{E} = v_R + v_L + v_C$. In terms of phasors, this is a *vector* addition. We can do the addition in two steps. Because the capacitor and inductor phasors are in opposite directions, their vector sum has length $V_L - V_C$. Adding the resistor phasor, at right angles, then gives the emf phasor $\mathcal{E}$ at angle $\omega t$.




The length $\mathcal{E}_0$ of the emf phasor is the hypotenuse of a right triangle. Thus $\mathcal{E}_0^2 = V_R^2 + (V_L - V_C)^2$

If $V_L > V_C$, which we've assumed, then the instantaneous current $i$ lags the emf by a phase angle $\phi$. We can write the current, in terms of $\phi$, as

**(32.22)**

$$i = I\cos(\omega t - \phi)$$

Of course, there's no guarantee that $V_L$ will be larger than $V_C$. If the opposite is true, $V_L < V_C$, the emf phasor is on the other side of the current phasor. Our analysis is still valid if we consider $\phi$ to be negative when $i$ is ccw from $\mathcal{E}$. Thus $\phi$ can be anywhere between –90° and +90°.

Now we can continue much as we did with the *RC* circuit. Based on the right triangle, $\mathcal{E}_0^2$ is

**(32.23)**

$$\mathcal{E}_0^2 = V_R^2 + (V_L - V_C)^2 = \left[R^2 + (X_L - X_C)^2\right] I^2$$

where we wrote each of the peak voltages in terms of the peak current $I$ and a resistance or a reactance. Consequently, the peak current in the *RLC* circuit is

**(32.24)**

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\sqrt{R^2 + (X_\mathrm{L} - X_\mathrm{C})^2}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\sqrt{R^2 + (\omega L - 1/\omega C)^2}}$$

The three peak voltages are then found from $V_\mathrm{R} = IR$, $V_\mathrm{L} = IX_\mathrm{L}$, and $V_\mathrm{C} = IX_\mathrm{C}$.

# Impedance

The denominator of Equation 32.24 is called the **impedance** $Z$ of the circuit:

**(32.25)**

$$Z = \sqrt{R^2 + (X_\mathrm{L} - X_\mathrm{C})^2}$$

Impedance, like resistance and reactance, is measured in ohms. The circuit's peak current can be written in terms of the source emf and the circuit impedance as



**(32.26)**

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{Z}$$

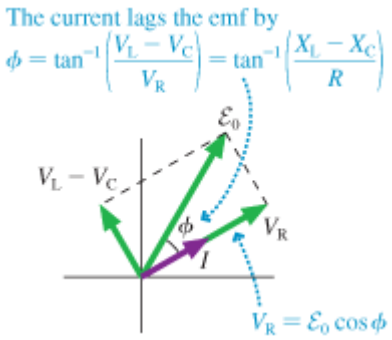
Equation 32.26 is a compact way to write $I$, but it doesn't add anything new to Equation 32.24.

# Phase Angle

It is often useful to know the phase angle $\phi$ between the emf and the current. You can see from Figure 32.17 that

$$\tan\phi = \frac{V_\mathrm{L} - V_\mathrm{C}}{V_\mathrm{R}} = \frac{(X_\mathrm{L} - X_\mathrm{C})I}{RI}$$

## Figure 32.17




The current is not in phase with the emf.

The current $I$ cancels, and we're left with

**(32.27)**

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{X_\mathrm{L} - X_\mathrm{C}}{R}\right)$$

We can check that Equation 32.27 agrees with our analyses of single-element circuits. A resistor-only circuit has $X_\mathrm{L} = X_\mathrm{C} = 0$ and thus $\phi = \tan^{-1}(0) = 0$ rad. In other words, as we discovered previously, the emf and current are in phase. An AC inductor circuit has $R = X_\mathrm{C} = 0$ and thus $\phi = \tan^{-1}(\infty) = \pi/2$ rad, agreeing with our earlier finding that the inductor current lags the voltage by 90°.

Other relationships can be found from the phasor diagram and written in terms of the phase angle. For example, we can write the peak resistor voltage as

**(32.28)**

$$V_{\mathrm{R}} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos\phi$$

Notice that the resistor voltage oscillates in phase with the emf only if $\phi = 0$ rad.

## Resonance

Suppose we vary the emf frequency $\omega$ while keeping everything else constant. There is very little current at very low frequencies because the capacitive reactance $X_{\mathrm{C}} = 1/\omega C$ (and thus Z) is very large. Similarly, there is very little current at very high frequencies because the inductive reactance $X_{\mathrm{L}} = \omega L$ becomes very large.

If $I$ approaches zero at very low and very high frequencies, there should be some intermediate frequency where $I$ is a maximum. Indeed, you can see from Equation 32.24 that the denominator will be a minimum, making $I$ a maximum, when $X_{\mathrm{L}} = X_{\mathrm{C}}$, or

**(32.29)**

$$\omega L = \frac{1}{\omega C}$$

The frequency $\omega_0$ that satisfies Equation 32.29 is called the **resonance frequency:**

**(32.30)**

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$



This is the frequency for *maximum current* in the series *RLC* circuit. The maximum current

**(32.31)**

$$I_{\max} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{R}$$

is that of a purely resistive circuit because the impedance is $Z = R$ at resonance.

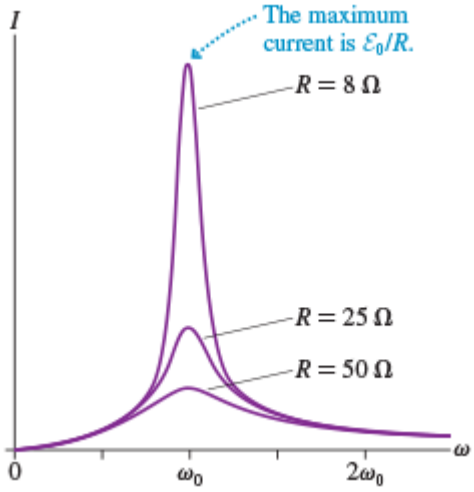
You'll recognize $\omega_0$ as the oscillation frequency of the *LC* circuit we analyzed in Chapter 30. The current in an ideal *LC* circuit oscillates forever as energy is transferred back and forth between the capacitor and the inductor. This is analogous to an ideal, frictionless simple harmonic oscillator in which the energy is transformed back and forth between kinetic and potential.

Adding a resistor to the circuit is like adding damping to a mechanical oscillator. The emf is then a sinusoidal driving force, and the series *RLC* circuit is directly analogous to the driven, damped oscillator that you studied in Chapter 15. A mechanical oscillator exhibits *resonance* by having a large-amplitude response when the driving frequency matches the system's natural frequency. Equation 32.30 is the natural frequency of the series *RLC* circuit, the frequency at which the current would like to

oscillate. Consequently, the circuit has a large current response when the oscillating emf matches this frequency.

Figure 32.18 shows the peak current $I$ of a series $RLC$ circuit as the emf frequency $\omega$ is varied. Notice how the current increases until reaching a maximum at frequency $\omega_0$ then decreases. This is the hallmark of a resonance.

## Figure 32.18



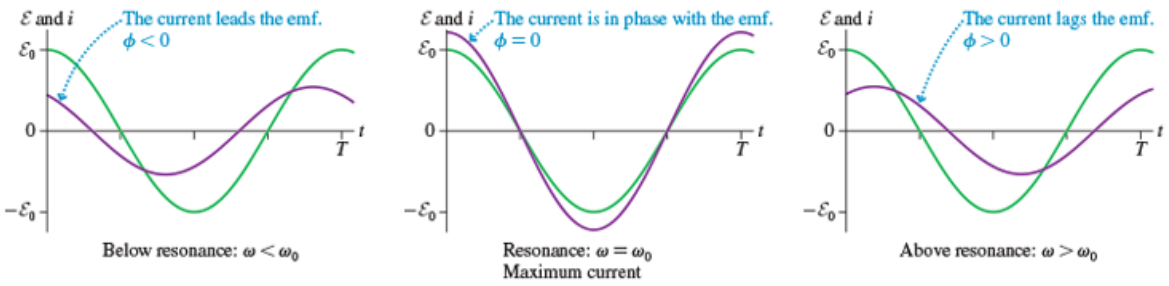

A graph of the current $I$ versus emf frequency for a series $RLC$ circuit.

As $R$ decreases, causing the damping to decrease, the maximum current becomes larger and the curve in Figure 32.18 becomes narrower. You saw exactly the same behavior for a driven mechanical oscillator. The emf frequency must be very close to $\omega_0$ in order for a lightly damped system to respond, but the response at resonance is very large.

For a different perspective, Figure 32.19 graphs the instantaneous emf $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$ and current $i = I \cos\ (\omega t\ - \phi)$ for frequencies below, at, and above $\omega_0$. The current and the emf are in phase at resonance $(\phi = 0\ \text{rad})$ because the capacitor and inductor essentially cancel each other to give a purely resistive circuit. Away from resonance, the current decreases *and*

begins to get out of phase with the emf. You can see, from Equation 32.27, that the phase angle $\phi$ is negative when $X_L < X_C$ (i.e., the frequency is below resonance) and positive when $X_L > X_C$ (the frequency is above resonance).

## Figure 32.19




Graphs of the emf ℰ and the current $i$ at frequencies below, at, and above the resonance frequency $\omega_0$.

Resonance circuits are widely used in radio, television, and communication equipment because of their ability to respond to one particular frequency (or very narrow range of frequencies) while suppressing others. The selectivity of a resonance circuit improves as the resistance decreases, but the inherent resistance of the wires and the inductor coil keeps $R$ from being 0 Ω.

### Example 32.6 Designing a radio receiver

An AM radio antenna picks up a 1000 kHz signal with a peak voltage of 5.0 mV. The tuning circuit consists of a 60 $\mu$H inductor in series with a variable capacitor. The inductor coil has a resistance of 0.25 Ω, and the resistance of the rest of the circuit is negligible.

**a.** To what value should the capacitor be tuned to listen to this radio station?

**b.** What is the peak current through the circuit at resonance?

**c.** A stronger station at 1050 kHz produces a 10 mV antenna signal. What is the current at this frequency when the radio is tuned to 1000 kHz?

---

**MODEL** The inductor's 0.25 Ω resistance can be modeled as a resistance in series with the inductance, hence we have a series *RLC* circuit. The antenna signal at $\omega = 2\pi \times 1000$ kHz is the emf.

**VISUALIZE** The circuit looks like Figure 32.16.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The capacitor needs to be tuned to where it and the inductor are resonant at $\omega_0 = 2\pi \times 1000$ kHz. The appropriate value is

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \frac{1}{L{\omega_0}^2} = \frac{1}{(60 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{H})\,(6.28 \times 10^{6}\ \text{rad/s})^2} \\ &= 4.2 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{F} = 420\ \text{pF} \end{aligned}$$

**b.** $X_\text{L} = X_\text{C}$ at resonance, so the peak current is

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{R} = \frac{5.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{V}}{0.25\Omega} = 0.020\ \text{A} = 20\ \text{mA}$$

**c.** The 1050 kHz signal is "off resonance," so we need to compute $X_\text{L} = \omega L = 396\Omega$ and $X_\text{C} = 1/\omega C = 361\Omega$ at $\omega = 2\pi \times 1050$ kHz. The peak voltage of this signal is $\mathcal{E}_0 = 10$ mV. With these values, Equation 32.24 for the peak current is

$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\sqrt{R^2 + (X_\mathrm{L} - X_\mathrm{C})^2}} = 0.28\ \mathrm{mA}$$

**ASSESS** These are realistic values for the input stage of an AM radio. You can see that the signal from the 1050 kHz station is strongly suppressed when the radio is tuned to 1000 kHz.

## Stop to Think 32.5

A series *RLC* circuit has $V_\mathrm{C} = 5.0\ \mathrm{V}$, $V_\mathrm{R} = 7.0\ \mathrm{V}$, and $V_\mathrm{L} = 9.0\ \mathrm{V}$. Is the frequency above, below, or equal to the resonance frequency?

# 32.6 Power in AC Circuits[919]

A primary role of the emf is to supply energy. Some circuit devices, such as motors and lightbulbs, use the energy to perform useful tasks. Other circuit devices dissipate the energy as an increased thermal energy in the components and the surrounding air. Chapter 28 examined the topic of power in DC circuits. Now we can perform a similar analysis for AC circuits.

The emf supplies energy to a circuit at the rate

**(32.32)**

$$p_{\text{source}} = i\mathcal{E}$$

where $i$ and $\mathcal{E}$ are the instantaneous current from and potential difference across the emf. We've used a lowercase $p$ to indicate that this is the instantaneous power. We need to look at the power losses in individual circuit elements.

## Resistors

A resistor dissipates energy at the rate

**(32.33)**

$$p_{\text{R}} = i_{\text{R}}\, v_{\text{R}} = {i_{\text{R}}}^2\, R$$

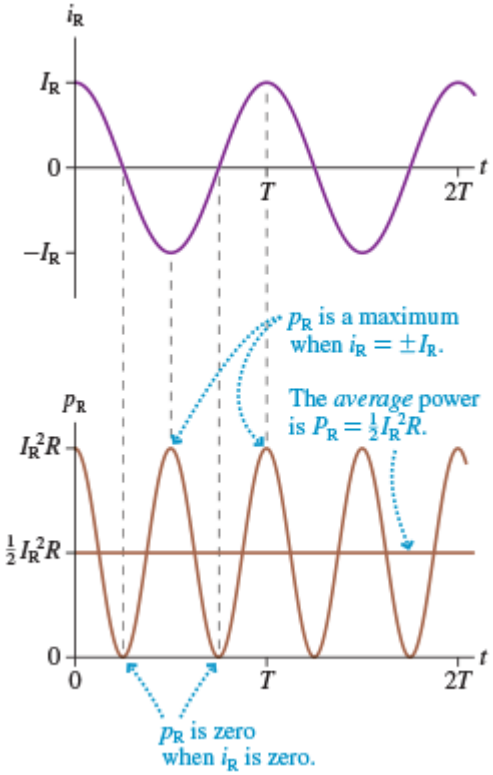
We can use $i_{\text{R}} = I_{\text{R}}\, \cos \omega t$ to write the resistor's instantaneous power loss as

(32.34)

$$p_{\mathrm{R}} = {i_{\mathrm{R}}}^2 R = {i_{\mathrm{R}}}^2 R \cos^2 \omega t$$

Figure 32.20 shows the instantaneous power graphically. You can see that, because the cosine is squared, the power oscillates twice during every cycle of the emf. The energy dissipation peaks both when $i_{\mathrm{R}} = I_{\mathrm{R}}$ and when $i_{\mathrm{R}} = -I_{\mathrm{R}}$.

## Figure 32.20




The instantaneous power loss in a resistor.

In practice, we're more interested in the *average power* than in the instantaneous power. The **average power** $P$ is the total energy dissipated per second. We can find $P_{\mathrm{R}}$ for a resistor by using the identity $\cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos 2x)$ to write

$$P_{\mathrm{R}} = {I_{\mathrm{R}}}^2 R \cos^2 \omega t = {I_{\mathrm{R}}}^2 R \left[\tfrac{1}{2}(1 + \cos 2\omega t)\right] = \tfrac{1}{2}{I_{\mathrm{R}}}^2 R + \tfrac{1}{2}{I_{\mathrm{R}}}^2 R \cos 2\omega t$$

The cos $2\omega t$ term oscillates positive and negative twice during each cycle of the emf. Its average, over one cycle, is zero. Thus the average power loss in a resistor is

---

**(32.35)**

$$P_{\text{R}} = \tfrac{1}{2} {I_{\text{R}}}^2 R \qquad \text{(average power loss in a resistor)}$$

It is useful to write Equation 32.25 as

**(32.36)**

$$P_{\text{R}} = \left( \frac{I_{\text{R}}}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 R = (I_{\text{rms}})^2 R$$

where the quantity

**(32.37)**

$$I_{\text{rms}} = \frac{I_{\text{R}}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

is called the **root-mean-square current,** or rms current, $I_{\text{rms}}$. Technically, an rms quantity is the square root of the average, or mean, of the quantity squared. For a sinusoidal oscillation, the rms value turns out to be the peak value divided by $\sqrt{2}$.

The rms current allows us to compare Equation 32.36 directly to the energy dissipated by a resistor in a DC circuit: $P = I^2 R$. You can see that the average power loss of a resistor in an AC circuit with $I_{\text{rms}} = 1\ \text{A}$ is the same as in a DC circuit with $I = 1\ \text{A}$. **As far as power is concerned, an rms current is equivalent to an equal DC current.**

Similarly, we can define the root-mean-square voltage and emf:

**(32.38)**

$$V_{\text{rms}} = \frac{V_{\text{R}}}{\sqrt{2}} \qquad \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\sqrt{2}}$$

The resistor's average power loss in terms of the rms quantities is

---

**(32.39)**

$$P_{\text{R}} = (I_{\text{rms}})^2 R = \frac{(V_{\text{rms}})^2}{R} = I_{\text{rms}}\, V_{\text{rms}}$$

and the average power supplied by the emf is

---

**(32.40)**

$$P_{\text{source}} = I_{\text{rms}}\, \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}}$$

The single-resistor circuit that we analyzed in Section 32.1 had $V_{\text{R}} = \mathcal{E}$ or, equivalently, $V_{\text{rms}} = \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}}$. You can see from Equations 32.39 and 32.40 that the power loss in the resistor exactly matches the power supplied by the emf. This must be the case in order to conserve energy.

The power rating on a lightbulb is its average power at $V_{\text{rms}} = 120\ \text{V}$.

**Note**

Voltmeters, ammeters, and other AC measuring instruments are calibrated to give the rms value. An AC voltmeter would show that the "line voltage" of an electrical outlet in the United States is 120 V. This is $\mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}}$. The peak voltage $\mathcal{E}_0$ is larger by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$, or $\mathcal{E}_0 = 170\ \text{V}$. The power-line voltage is sometimes specified as "$120\ \text{V}/60\ \text{Hz}$," showing the rms voltage and the frequency.

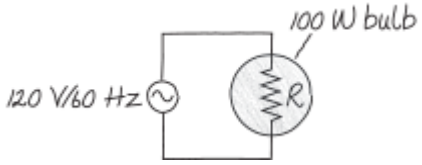
**Example 32.7 Lighting a bulb**

A 100 W incandescent lightbulb is plugged into a $120\ \text{V}/60\ \text{Hz}$ outlet. What is the resistance of the bulb's filament? What is the peak current through the bulb?

**MODEL** The filament in a lightbulb acts as a resistor.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 32.21 is a simple one-resistor circuit.

**Figure 32.21**




An AC circuit with a lightbulb as a resistor.

**SOLVE** A bulb labeled 100 W is designed to dissipate an average 100 W at $V_{\text{rms}} = 120$ V. We can use Equation 32.39 to find

$$R = \frac{(V_{\text{rms}})^2}{P_{\text{R}}} = \frac{(120\ \text{V})^2}{100\ \text{W}} = 144\Omega$$

The rms current is then found from

$$I_{\text{rms}} = \frac{P_{\text{R}}}{V_{\text{rms}}} = \frac{100\ \text{W}}{120\ \text{V}} = 0.833\ \text{A}$$

The peak current is $I_{\text{R}} = \sqrt{2} I_{\text{rms}} = 1.18$ A.

**ASSESS** Calculations with rms values are just like the calculations for DC circuits.

## Capacitors and Inductors

In Section 32.2, we found that the instantaneous current to a capacitor is $i_{\text{C}} = -\omega C V_{\text{C}}\ \sin \omega t$. Thus the instantaneous energy dissipation in a capacitor is

**(32.41)**

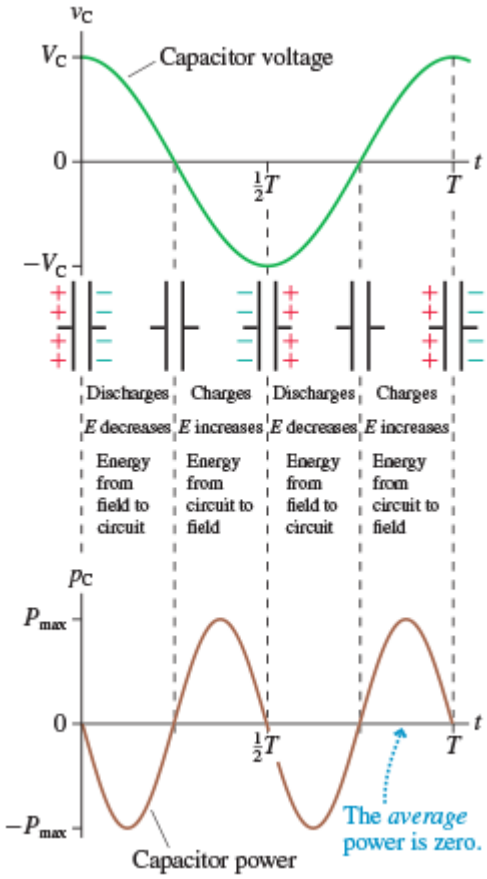
$$p_{\text{C}} = v_{\text{C}} i_{\text{C}} = (V_{\text{C}} \cos \omega t)\ (-\omega C V_{\text{C}} \sin \omega t) = -\tfrac{1}{2} \omega C {V_{\text{C}}}^2\ \sin\ 2\omega t$$



where we used $\sin\ (2x) = 2\ \sin\ (x) \cos(x)$.

Figure 32.22 on the next page shows Equation 32.41 graphically. Energy is transferred into the capacitor (positive power) as it is charged, but, instead of being dissipated, as it would be by a resistor, the energy is stored as potential energy in the capacitor's electric field. Then, as the capacitor discharges, this energy is given back to the circuit. Power is the rate at which energy is *removed* from the circuit, hence $p$ is negative as the capacitor transfers energy back into the circuit.

## Figure 32.22




Energy flows into and out of a capacitor as it is charged and discharged.

Using a mechanical analogy, a capacitor is like an ideal, frictionless simple harmonic oscillator. Kinetic and potential energy are constantly being exchanged, but there is no dissipation because none of the energy is transformed into thermal energy. The important conclusion is that **a capacitor's average power loss is zero:** $P_C = 0$.

The same is true of an inductor. An inductor alternately stores energy in the magnetic field, as the current is increasing, then transfers energy back to the circuit as the current decreases. The instantaneous power oscillates between positive and negative, but **an inductor's average power loss is zero: $P_{\mathrm{L}} = 0$.**

> **Note**
>
> We're assuming ideal capacitors and inductors. Real capacitors and inductors inevitably have a small amount of resistance and dissipate a small amount of energy. However, their energy dissipation is negligible compared to that of the resistors in most practical circuits.

## The Power Factor

In an *RLC* circuit, energy is supplied by the emf and dissipated by the resistor. But an *RLC* circuit is unlike a purely resistive circuit in that the current is not in phase with the potential difference of the emf.

We found in Equation 32.22 that the instantaneous current in an *RLC* circuit is $i = I\cos\ (\omega t\ - \phi)$, where $\phi$ is the angle by which the current lags the emf. Thus the instantaneous power supplied by the emf is

**(32.42)**

$$P_{\text{source}} = i\mathcal{E} = (I\cos\ (\omega t\ - \phi))\ (\mathcal{E}_0\ \cos\omega t) = I\mathcal{E}_0\ \cos\omega t\cos\ (\omega t\ - \phi)$$

We can use the expression $\cos(x\ - y) = \cos\ (x)\cos\ (y)\ + \sin\ (x)\sin\ (y)$ to write the power as

**(32.43)**

$$P_{\text{source}} = (I\mathcal{E}_0\cos\phi)\cos^2\ \omega t + (I\mathcal{E}_0\sin\phi)\ \sin\omega t\cos\omega t$$

In our analysis of the power loss in a resistor and a capacitor, we found that the average of $\cos^2 \omega t$ is $\frac{1}{2}$ and the average of $\sin \omega t \cos \omega t$ is zero. Thus we can immediately write that the *average* power supplied by the emf is

---

**(32.44)**

$$P_{\text{source}} = \frac{1}{2} I \mathcal{E}_0 \cos\phi = I_{\text{rms}} \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}} \cos\phi$$

The rms values, you will recall, are $I/\sqrt{2}$ and $\mathcal{E}_0/\sqrt{2}$.

The term *cosϕ*, called the **power factor**, arises because the current and the emf in a series *RLC* circuit are not in phase. Because the current and the emf aren't pushing and pulling together, the source delivers less energy to the circuit.

We'll leave it as a homework problem for you to show that the peak current in an *RLC* circuit can be written $I = I_{\text{max}} \cos\phi$, where $I_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{E}_0/R$ was given in Equation 32.31. In other words, the current term in Equation 32.44 is a function of the power factor. Consequently, the average power is

**(32.45)**

$$P_{\text{source}} = P_{\text{max}} \cos^2\phi$$

where $P_{\text{max}} = \frac{1}{2} I_{\text{max}} \mathcal{E}_0$ is the *maximum* power the source can deliver to the circuit.

The source delivers maximum power only when $\cos\phi = 1$. This is the case when $X_{\mathrm{L}} - X_{\mathrm{C}} = 0$, requiring either a purely resistive circuit or an *RLC* circuit operating at the resonance frequency $\omega_0$. The average power loss is zero for a purely capacitive or purely inductive load with, respectively, $\phi = -90^\circ$ or $\phi = +90^\circ$, as found above.

Industrial motors use a significant fraction of the electric energy generated in the United States.

---

Motors of various types, especially large industrial motors, use a significant fraction of the electric energy generated in industrialized nations. Motors operate most efficiently, doing the maximum work per second, when the power factor is as close to 1 as possible. But motors are inductive devices, due to their electromagnet coils, and if too many motors are attached to the electric grid, the power factor is pulled away from 1. To compensate, the electric company places large capacitors throughout the transmission system. The capacitors dissipate no energy, but they allow the electric system to deliver energy more efficiently by keeping the power factor close to 1.

Finally, we found in Equation 32.28 that the resistor's peak voltage in an *RLC* circuit is related to the emf peak voltage by $V_{\mathrm{R}} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos\phi$ or, dividing both sides by $\sqrt{2}$, $V_{\mathrm{rms}} = \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{rms}} \cos\phi$. We can use this result to write the energy loss in the resistor as

**(32.46)**

$$P_{\mathrm{R}} = I_{\mathrm{rms}}\, V_{\mathrm{rms}} = I_{\mathrm{rms}}\, \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{rms}}\, \cos\phi$$

But this expression is $P_{\text{source}}$, as we found in Equation 32.44. Thus we see that the energy supplied to an *RLC* circuit by the emf is ultimately dissipated by the resistor.

## Stop to Think 32.6

The emf and the current in a series *RLC* circuit oscillate as shown. Which of the following (perhaps more than one) would increase the rate at which energy is supplied to the circuit?

**a.** Increase $\mathcal{E}_0$

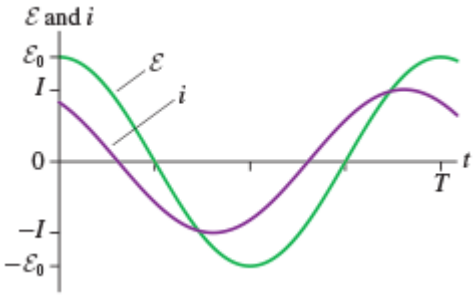
**b.** Increase $L$

**c.** Increase $C$

**d.** Decrease $\mathcal{E}_0$

**e.** Decrease $L$

**f.** Decrease $C$




### Challenge Example 32.8 Power in an *RLC* circuit

An audio amplifier drives a series *RLC* circuit consisting of an 8.0 Ω loudspeaker, a 160 $\mu$F capacitor, and a 1.5 mH inductor. The amplifier output is 15.0 V rms at 500 Hz.

**a.** What power is delivered to the speaker?

**b.** What maximum power could the amplifier deliver, and how would the capacitor have to be changed for this to happen?

---

**MODEL** The emf and voltage of an *RLC* circuit are not in phase, and that affects the power delivered to the circuit. All the power is dissipated by the circuit's resistance, which in this case is the loudspeaker.

**VISUALIZE** The circuit looks like Figure 32.16.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The emf delivers power $P_{\text{source}} = I_{\text{rms}}\, \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}} \cos\phi$, where $\phi$ is the phase angle between the emf and the current. The rms current is $I_{\text{rms}} = \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}}/Z$, where Z is the impedance. To calculate Z, we need the reactances of the capacitor and inductor, and these, in turn, depend on the frequency. At 500 Hz, the angular frequency is $\omega = 2\pi\ (500\ \text{Hz}) = 3140\ \text{rad/s}$. With this, we can find

$$X_{\text{C}} = \frac{1}{\omega C} = \frac{1}{(3140\ \text{rad/s})(160 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{F})} = 1.99\Omega$$
$$X_{\text{L}} = \omega L = (3140\ \text{rad/s})\ (0.0015\ \text{H}) = 4.71\Omega$$

Now we can calculate the impedance:

$$Z = \sqrt{R^2 + (X_\mathrm{L} - \ X_\mathrm{C})^2} = 8.45\Omega$$

and thus

$$I_\mathrm{rms} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_\mathrm{rms}}{Z} = \frac{15.0\ \mathrm{V}}{8.45\Omega} = 1.78\ \mathrm{A}$$

Lastly, we need the phase angle between the emf and the current:

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{X_\mathrm{L} - \ X_\mathrm{C}}{R}\right) = 18.8^\circ$$

The power factor is $\cos(18.8^\circ) = 0.947$, and thus the power delivered by the emf is

$$P_\mathrm{source} = I_\mathrm{rms}\ \mathcal{E}_\mathrm{rms}\ \cos\phi = (1.78\ \mathrm{A})\ (15.0\ \mathrm{V})\ (0.947) = 25\ \mathrm{W}$$

**b.** Maximum power is delivered when the current is in phase with the emf, making the power factor 1.00. This occurs when $X_\mathrm{C} = X_\mathrm{L}$, making the impedance $Z = R = 8.0\Omega$ and the current $I_\mathrm{rms} = \mathcal{E}_\mathrm{rms}/R = 1.88\ \mathrm{A}$. Then

$$P_\mathrm{source} = I_\mathrm{rms}\ \mathcal{E}_\mathrm{rms}\ \cos\phi = (1.88\ \mathrm{A})\ (15.0\ \mathrm{V})\ (1.00) = 28\ \mathrm{W}$$

To deliver maximum power, we need to change the capacitance to make $X_\mathrm{C} = X_\mathrm{L} = 4.71\Omega$. The required capacitance is

$$C = \frac{1}{(3140\ \mathrm{rad/s})\ (4.71\Omega)} = 68\ \mu\mathrm{F}$$

So delivering maximum power requires lowering the capacitance from 160 $\mu$F to 68 $\mu$F.

**ASSESS** Changing the capacitor not only increases the power factor, it also increases the current. Both contribute to the higher power.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 32 has been to learn about and analyze AC circuits.

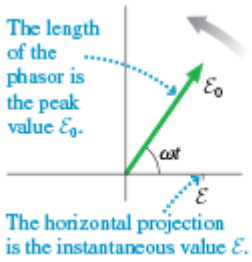
## Important Concepts

**AC circuits** are driven by an emf

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$$

that oscillates with angular frequency $\omega = 2\pi f$.

**Phasors** can be used to represent the oscillating emf, current, and voltage.




## Basic circuit elements

| Element | $i$ and $v$ | Resistance/ reactance | $I$ and $V$ | Power |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resistor | In phase | $R$ is fixed | $V = IR$ | $I_{\text{rms}} V_{\text{rms}}$ |
| Capacitor | $i$ leads $v$ by 90° | $X_C = 1/\omega C$ | $V = IX_C$ | 0 |
| Inductor | $i$ lags $v$ by 90° | $X_L = \omega L$ | $V = IX_L$ | 0 |

For many purposes, especially calculating power, the **root-mean-square** (rms) quantities

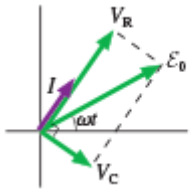
$$V_{\text{rms}} = V/\sqrt{2} \qquad I_{\text{rms}} = I/\sqrt{2} \qquad \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}} = \mathcal{E}_0/\sqrt{2}$$

are equivalent to the corresponding DC quantities.

# Key Skills

## Using phasor diagrams

- Start with a phasor ($v$ or $i$) common to two or more circuit elements.
- The sum of instantaneous quantities is vector addition.
- Use the Pythagorean theorem to relate peak quantities.




For an *RC* circuit, shown here,

$$v_{\text{R}} + v_{\text{C}} = \mathcal{E}$$
$$V_{\text{R}}{}^2 + V_{\text{C}}{}^2 = \mathcal{E}_0{}^2$$

## Instantaneous and peak quantities

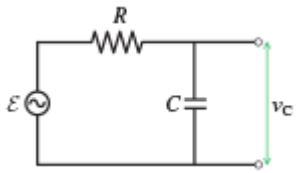
The instantaneous quantities $v$ and $i$ vary sinusoidally. The peak quantities $V$ and $I$ are the maximum values of $v$ and $i$. For capacitors and inductors, the peak quantities are related by $V = IX$, where $X$ is the reactance, but this relationship does *not* apply to $v$ and $i$.

**Kirchhoff's loop law** says that the sum of the potential differences around a loop is zero.

**Charge conservation** says that circuit elements in series all have the same instantaneous current $i$ and the same peak current $I$.

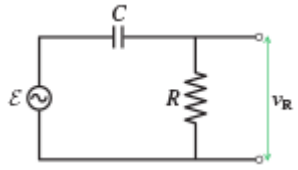
# Applications

## *RC* filter circuits




$$v_\mathrm{C} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 X_\mathrm{C}}{\sqrt{R^2 + {X_\mathrm{C}}^2}}$$
$$v_\mathrm{C} \to \mathcal{E}_0 \text{ as } \omega \to 0$$

A **low-pass filter** transmits low frequencies and blocks high frequencies.

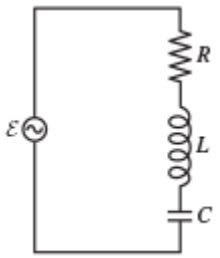



$$v_\mathrm{R} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 R}{\sqrt{R^2 + {X_\mathrm{C}}^2}}$$
$$v_\mathrm{R} \to \mathcal{E}_0 \text{ as } \omega \to \infty$$



A **high-pass filter** transmits high frequencies and blocks low frequencies.

## Series *RLC* circuits




$I = \mathcal{E}_0 / Z$ where $Z$ is the **impedance**

$$Z = \sqrt{R^2 + (X_\mathrm{L} - X_\mathrm{C})^2}$$
$$V_\mathrm{R} = IR \qquad V_\mathrm{L} = IX_\mathrm{L} \qquad V_\mathrm{C} = IX_\mathrm{C}$$

When $\omega = \omega_0 = 1/\sqrt{LC}$ (the **resonance frequency**), the current in the circuit is a maximum $I_\mathrm{max} = \mathcal{E}_0 / R$.

In general, the current $i$ lags behind $\mathcal{E}$ by the **phase angle** $\phi = \tan^{-1}\left( \left( X_\mathrm{L} - X_\mathrm{C} \right) / R \right)$.

The power supplied by the emf is $P_\mathrm{source} = I_\mathrm{rms} \mathcal{E}_\mathrm{rms} \cos\phi$, where $\cos\phi$ is called the **power factor.**

The power lost in the resistor is $P_\mathrm{R} = I_\mathrm{rms} V_\mathrm{rms} = \left( I_\mathrm{rms} \right)^2 R$.

# Terms and Notation

AC circuit

DC circuit

phasor

capacitive reactance, $X_\mathrm{C}$

crossover frequency, $\omega_\mathrm{c}$

low-pass filter

high-pass filter

inductive reactance, $X_\mathrm{L}$

series *RLC* circuit

impedance, $Z$

resonance frequency, $\omega_0$

average power, $P$

root-mean-square current, $I_{\text{rms}}$

power factor, $\cos \phi$

# Conceptual Questions

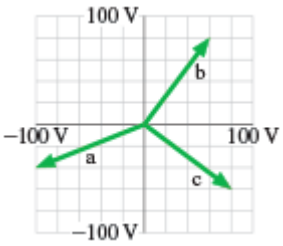


**1.** Figure Q32.1 shows emf phasors a, b, and c.

**a.** For each, what is the instantaneous value of the emf?

**b.** At this instant, is the magnitude of each emf increasing, decreasing, or holding constant?

**Figure Q32.1**




**2.** A resistor is connected across an oscillating emf. The peak current through the resistor is 2.0 A. What is the peak current if:

**a.** The resistance $R$ is doubled?

**b.** The peak emf $\mathcal{E}_0$ is doubled?

**c.** The frequency $\omega$ is doubled?

**3.** A capacitor is connected across an oscillating emf. The peak current through the capacitor is 2.0 A. What is the peak current if:

**a.** The capacitance $C$ is doubled?

**b.** The peak emf $\mathcal{E}_0$ is doubled?

**c.** The frequency $\omega$ is doubled?

**4.** A low-pass $RC$ filter has a crossover frequency $f_c = 200$ Hz. What is $f_c$ if:

**a.** The resistance $R$ is doubled?

**b.** The capacitance $C$ is doubled?

**c.** The peak emf $\mathcal{E}_0$ is doubled?

**5.** An inductor is connected across an oscillating emf. The peak current through the inductor is 2.0 A. What is the peak current if:

**a.** The inductance $L$ is doubled?

**b.** The peak emf $\mathcal{E}_0$ is doubled?

**c.** The frequency $\omega$ is doubled?

**6.** The resonance frequency of a series *RLC* circuit is 1000 Hz. What is the resonance frequency if:

**a.** The resistance $R$ is doubled?

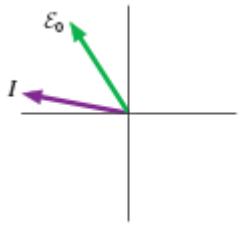
**b.** The inductance $L$ is doubled?

**c.** The capacitance $C$ is doubled?

**d.** The peak emf $\mathcal{E}_0$ is doubled?

**7.** In the series *RLC* circuit represented by the phasors of Figure Q32.7, is the emf frequency less than, equal to, or greater than the resonance frequency $\omega_0$? Explain.

**Figure Q32.7**




**8.** The resonance frequency of a series *RLC* circuit is less than the emf frequency. Does the current lead or lag the emf? Explain.

**9.** The current in a series *RLC* circuit lags the emf by 20°. You cannot change the emf. What two different things could you do to the circuit that would increase the power delivered to the circuit by the emf?

**10.** The average power dissipated by a resistor is 4.0 W. What is $P_R$ if:

**a.** The resistance $R$ is doubled while $\mathcal{E}_0$ is held fixed?

**b.** The peak emf $\mathcal{E}_0$ is doubled while $R$ is held fixed?

**c.** Both are doubled simultaneously?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

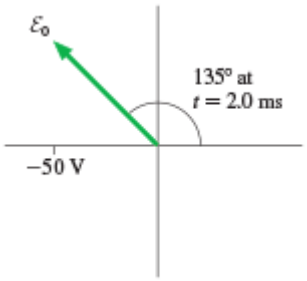
### Section 32.1 AC Sources and Phasors

**1.** •• The emf phasor in Figure EX32.1 is shown at $t = 2.0$ ms.

**a.** What is the angular frequency $\omega$? Assume this is the first rotation.

**b.** What is the peak value of the emf?

**Figure EX32.1**

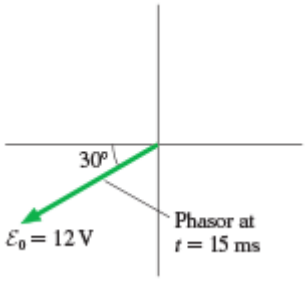



**2.** •• The emf phasor in Figure EX32.2 is shown at $t = 15$ ms.

**a.** What is the angular frequency $\omega$? Assume this is the first rotation.

**b.** What is the instantaneous value of the emf?

**Figure EX32.2**




**3.** • A 110 Hz source of emf has a peak voltage of 50 V. Draw the emf phasor at $t = 3.0$ ms.

**4.** •• Draw the phasor for the emf $\mathcal{E} = (170\text{ V})\cos((2\pi \times 60\text{ Hz})\,t)$ at $t = 60$ ms.

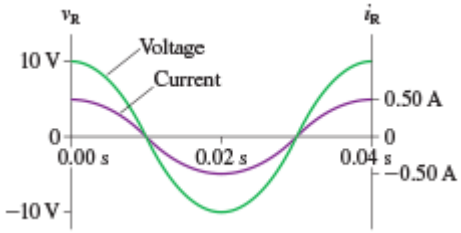
**5.** •• Figure EX32.5 shows voltage and current graphs for a resistor.

**a.** What is the emf frequency $f$?

**b.** What is the value of the resistance $R$?

**c.** Draw the resistor's voltage and current phasors at $t = 15$ ms.

**Figure EX32.5**




**6.** • A 200 Ω resistor is connected to an AC source with $\mathcal{E}_0 = 10$ V. What is the peak current through the resistor if the emf frequency is (a) 100 Hz? (b) 100 kHz?

## Section 32.2 Capacitor Circuits

**7.** • The peak current to and from a capacitor is 10 mA. What is the peak current if

**a.** The emf frequency is doubled?

**b.** The emf peak voltage is doubled (at the original frequency)?

**8.** • A 0.30 $\mu$F capacitor is connected across an AC generator that produces a peak voltage of 10 V. What is the peak current to and from the capacitor if the emf frequency is (a) 100 Hz? (b) 100 kHz?

**9.** •• Figure EX32.9 shows voltage and current graphs for a capacitor.

**a.** What is the emf frequency $f$ ?

**b.** What is the value of the capacitance $C$?

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**Figure EX32.9**

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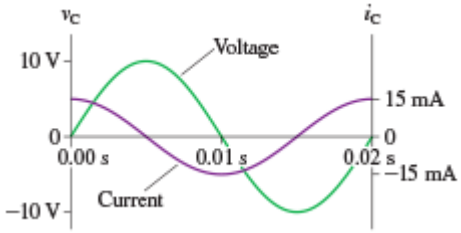



**10.** • A 20 nF capacitor is connected across an AC generator that produces a peak voltage of 5.0 V.

**a.** At what frequency $f$ is the peak current 50 mA?

**b.** What is the instantaneous value of the emf at the instant when $i_C = I_C$?

**11.** • A capacitor is connected to a 15 kHz oscillator. The peak current is 65 mA when the rms voltage is 6.0 V. What is the value of the capacitance $C$?

**12.** • A capacitor has a peak current of 330 $\mu$A when the peak voltage at 250 kHz is 2.2 V.

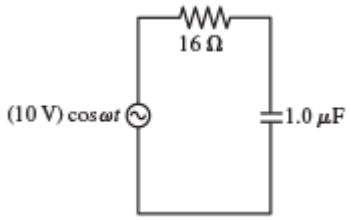
**a.** What is the capacitance?

**b.** If the peak voltage is held constant, what is the peak current at 500 kHz?

**13.** ••

**a.** Evaluate $V_C$ in Figure EX32.13 at emf frequencies 1, 3, 10, 30, and 100 kHz.

**Figure EX32.13**



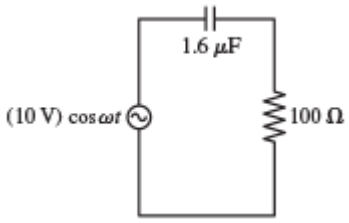

**b.** Graph $V_C$ versus frequency. Draw a smooth curve through your five points.

**14.** ••

**a.** Evaluate $V_R$ in Figure EX32.14 at emf frequencies 100, 300, 1000, 3000, and 10,000 Hz.

**b.** Graph $V_R$ versus frequency. Draw a smooth curve through your five points.

**Figure EX32.14**




## Section 32.3 *RC* Filter Circuits

**15.** •• A high-pass *RC* filter is connected to an AC source with a peak voltage of 10.0 V. The peak capacitor voltage is 6.0 V.

What is the resistor voltage?

**16.** •• A high-pass *RC* filter with a crossover frequency of 1000 Hz uses a 100 Ω resistor. What is the value of the capacitor?

**17.** •• A low-pass *RC* filter with a crossover frequency of 1000 Hz uses a 100 Ω resistor. What is the value of the capacitor?

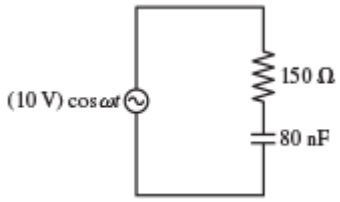
**18.** •• A low-pass filter consists of a 100 $\mu$F capacitor in series with a 159 Ω resistor. The circuit is driven by an AC source with a peak voltage of 5.00 V.

**a.** What is the crossover frequency $f_c$?

**b.** What is $V_C$ when $f = \frac{1}{2} f_c$, $f_c$, and $2f_c$ ?

**19.** •• What are $V_R$ and $V_C$ if the emf frequency in Figure EX32.19 is 10 kHz?

**Figure EX32.19**




**20.** •• A high-pass filter consists of a 1.59 $\mu$F capacitor in series with a 100 Ω resistor. The circuit is driven by an AC source with a peak voltage of 5.00 V.

**a.** What is the crossover frequency $f_c$?

**b.** What is $V_R$ when $f = \frac{1}{2} f_c$, $f_c$, and $2f_c$ ?

**21.** •• An electric circuit, whether it's a simple lightbulb or a complex amplifier, has two input terminals that are connected to the two output terminals of the voltage source. The impedance between the two input terminals (often a function of frequency) is the circuit's *input impedance*. Most circuits are designed to have a large input impedance. To see why, suppose

you need to amplify the output of a high-pass filter that is constructed with a 1.2 kΩ resistor and a 15 $\mu$F capacitor. The amplifier you've chosen has a purely resistive input impedance. For a 60 Hz signal, what is the ratio $V_{\text{R load}}/V_{\text{R no load}}$ of the filter's peak voltage output with (load) and without (no load) the amplifier connected if the amplifier's input impedance is (a) 1.5 kΩ and (b) 150 kΩ?

## Section 32.4 Inductor Circuits

**22.** • A 20 mH inductor is connected across an AC generator that produces a peak voltage of 10 V. What is the peak current through the inductor if the emf frequency is (a) 100 Hz? (b) 100 kHz?

**23.** • The peak current through an inductor is 10 mA. What is the peak current if

**a.** The emf frequency is doubled?

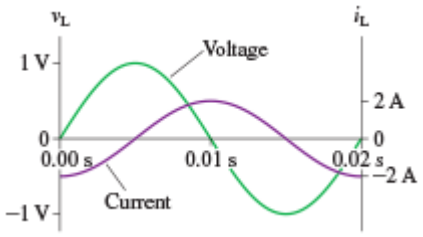
**b.** The emf peak voltage is doubled (at the original frequency)?

**24.** •• Figure EX32.24 shows voltage and current graphs for an inductor.

**a.** What is the emf frequency $f$?

**b.** What is the value of the inductance $L$?

**Figure EX32.24**



**25.** •• An inductor is connected to a 15 kHz oscillator. The peak current is 65 mA when the rms voltage is 6.0 V. What is the value of the inductance $L$?

**26.** •• An inductor has a peak current of 330 $\mu$A when the peak voltage at 45 MHz is 2.2 V.

**a.** What is the inductance?

**b.** If the peak voltage is held constant, what is the peak current at 90 MHz?

## Section 32.5 The Series *RLC* Circuit

**27.** • A series *RLC* circuit has a 200 kHz resonance frequency. What is the resonance frequency if the capacitor value is doubled and, at the same time, the inductor value is halved?

**28.** • A series *RLC* circuit has a 200 kHz resonance frequency. What is the resonance frequency if

**a.** The resistor value is doubled?

**b.** The capacitor value is doubled?

**29.** •• What capacitor in series with a 100 Ω resistor and a 20 mH inductor will give a resonance frequency of 1000 Hz?

**30.** •• A series *RLC* circuit consists of a 50 Ω resistor, a 3.3 mH inductor, and a 480 nF capacitor. It is connected to an oscillator with a peak voltage of 5.0 V. Determine the impedance, the peak current, and the phase angle at frequencies (a) 3000 Hz, (b) 4000 Hz, and (c) 5000 Hz.

**31.** •• At what frequency $f$ do a 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor and a 1.0 $\mu$H inductor have the same reactance? What is the value of the reactance at this frequency?

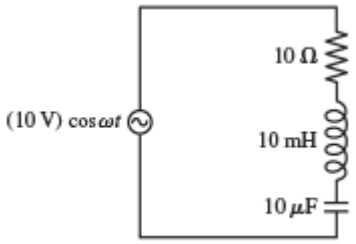
**32.** • For the circuit of Figure EX32.32, 

**a.** What is the resonance frequency, in both rad/s and Hz?

**b.** Find $V_R$ and $V_L$ at resonance.

**c.** How can $V_L$ be larger than $\mathcal{E}_0$? Explain.

**Figure EX32.32**



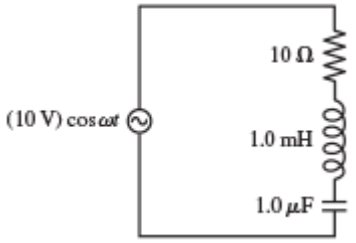

**33.** • For the circuit of Figure EX32.33, 

**a.** What is the resonance frequency, in both rad/s and Hz?

**b.** Find $V_R$ and $V_C$ at resonance.

**c.** How can $V_C$ be larger than $\mathcal{E}_0$? Explain.

**Figure EX32.33**




## Section 32.6 Power in AC Circuits

**34.** • The heating element of a hair drier dissipates 1500 W when connected to a 120 V/60 Hz power line. What is its resistance?

**35.** •• A resistor dissipates 2.0 W when the rms voltage of the emf is 10.0 V. At what rms voltage will the resistor dissipate 10.0 W?

**36.** • For what absolute value of the phase angle does a source deliver 75% of the maximum possible power to an *RLC* circuit?

**37.** • The motor of an electric drill draws a 3.5 A rms current at the power-line voltage of 120 V rms. What is the motor's power if the current lags the voltage by 20°?

**38.** •• A series *RLC* circuit attached to a $120\,\mathrm{V}/60\,\mathrm{Hz}$ power line draws a 2.4 A rms current with a power factor of 0.87. What is the value of the resistor?

**39.** •• A series *RLC* circuit with a 100 Ω resistor dissipates 80 W when attached to a $120\,\mathrm{V}/60\,\mathrm{Hz}$ power line. What is the power factor?



# Problems

**40.** ••

**a.** For an *RC* circuit, find an expression for the angular frequency at which $V_\mathrm{R} = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{E}_0$.

**b.** What is $V_\mathrm{C}$ at this frequency?

**41.** ••

**a.** For an *RC* circuit, find an expression for the angular frequency at which $V_\mathrm{C} = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{E}_0$.

**b.** What is $V_\mathrm{R}$ at this frequency?

**42.** •• For an *RC* filter circuit, show that $V_\mathrm{R} = V_\mathrm{C} = \mathcal{E}_0/\sqrt{2}$ at $\omega = \omega_\mathrm{c}$.

**43.** •• **INT** A series *RC* circuit is built with a 12 kΩ resistor and a parallel-plate capacitor with 15-cm-diameter electrodes. A 12 V, 36 kHz source drives a peak current of 0.65 mA through the circuit. What is the spacing between the capacitor plates?

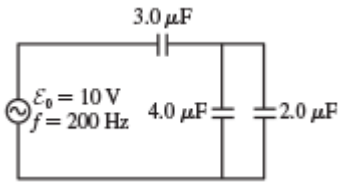
**44.** •• Show that Equation 32.27 for the phase angle $\phi$ of a series *RLC* circuit gives the correct result for a capacitor-only circuit.

**45.** •• **INT**

**a.** What is the peak current supplied by the emf in Figure P32.45?

**b.** What is the peak voltage across the 3.0 $\mu$F capacitor?

**Figure P32.45**




**46.** •• **INT** You have a resistor and a capacitor of unknown values. First, you charge the capacitor and discharge it through the resistor. By monitoring the capacitor voltage on an oscilloscope, you see that the voltage decays to half its initial value in 2.5 ms. You then use the resistor and capacitor to make a low-pass filter. What is the crossover frequency $f_c$?

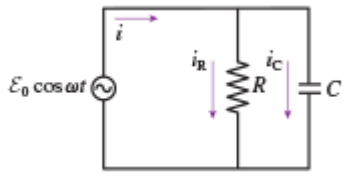
**47.** •• Figure P32.47 shows a parallel *RC* circuit.

**a.** Use a phasor-diagram analysis to find expressions for the peak currents $I_R$ and $I_C$.

**Hint:** What do the resistor and capacitor have in common? Use that as the initial phasor.

**b.** Complete the phasor analysis by finding an expression for the peak emf current $I$.

**Figure P32.47**




**48.** •• The small transformers that power many consumer products produce a 12.0 V rms, 60 Hz emf. Design a circuit using

resistors and capacitors that uses the transformer voltage as an input and produces a 6.0 V rms output that leads the input voltage by 45°.

**49.** •• Use a phasor diagram to analyze the *RL* circuit of Figure P32.49. In particular,

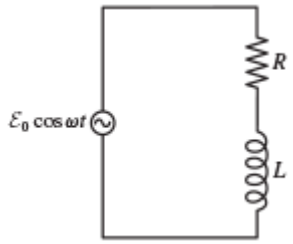
**a.** Find expressions for $I$, $V_R$, and $V_L$.

**b.** What is $V_R$ in the limits $\omega \to 0$ and $\omega \to \infty$?

**c.** If the output is taken from the resistor, is this a low-pass or a high-pass filter? Explain.

**d.** Find an expression for the crossover frequency $\omega_c$.

**Figure P32.49**




**50.** •• **INT** A series *RL* circuit is built with a 110 Ω resistor and a 5.0-cm-long, 1.0-cm-diameter solenoid with 800 turns of wire. What is the peak magnetic flux through the solenoid if the circuit is driven by a 12 V, 5.0 kHz source?

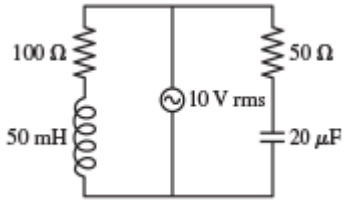
**51.** ••• A series *RLC* circuit consists of a 75 Ω resistor, a 0.12 H inductor, and a 30 $\mu$F capacitor. It is attached to a 120 V/60 Hz power line. What are (a) the peak current $I$, (b) the phase angle $\phi$, and (c) the average power loss?

**52.** •• A series *RLC* circuit consists of a 25 Ω resistor, a 0.10 H inductor, and a 100 $\mu$F capacitor. It draws a 2.5 A rms current when attached to a 60 Hz source. What are (a) the emf $\mathcal{E}_{rms}$, (b) the phase angle $\phi$, and (c) the average power loss?

**53.** •• **INT** A series *RLC* circuit consists of a 550 Ω resistor, a 2.1 mH inductor, and a 550 nF capacitor. It is connected to a 50 V rms oscillating voltage source with an adjustable frequency. An oscillating magnetic field is observed at a point 2.5 mm from the center of one of the circuit wires, which is long and straight. What is the maximum magnetic field amplitude that can be generated?

**54.** •• In Figure P32.54, what is the current supplied by the emf when (a) the frequency is very small and (b) the frequency is very large?

**Figure P32.54**




**55.** •• The current lags the emf by 30° in a series *RLC* circuit with $\mathcal{E}_0 = 10$ V and $R = 50\ \Omega$. What is the peak current through the circuit?

**56.** •• A series *RLC* circuit consists of a 50 Ω resistor, a 3.3 mH inductor, and a 480 nF capacitor. It is connected to a 5.0 kHz oscillator with a peak voltage of 5.0 V. What is the instantaneous current $i$ when

**a.** $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0$?

**b.** $\mathcal{E} = 0$ V and is decreasing?

**57.** •• A series *RLC* circuit consists of a 50 Ω resistor, a 3.3 mH inductor, and a 480 nF capacitor. It is connected to a 3.0 kHz oscillator with a peak voltage of 5.0 V. What is the instantaneous emf $\mathcal{E}$ when

**a.** $i = I$?

**b.** $i = 0$ A and is decreasing?

**c.** $i = -I$? 

**58.** •• Show that the power factor of a series *RLC* circuit is $\cos\phi = R/Z$.

**59.** •• For a series *RLC* circuit, show that

**a.** The peak current can be written $I = I_{\max}\cos\phi$.

**b.** The average power can be written $P_{\text{source}} = P_{\max}\cos^2\phi$.

**60.** •• The tuning circuit in an FM radio receiver is a series *RLC* circuit with a 0.200 $\mu$H inductor.

**a.** The receiver is tuned to a station at 104.3 MHz. What is the value of the capacitor in the tuning circuit?

**b.** FM radio stations are assigned frequencies every 0.2 MHz, but two nearby stations cannot use adjacent frequencies. What is the maximum resistance the tuning circuit can have if the peak current at a frequency of 103.9 MHz, the closest frequency that can be used by a nearby station, is to be no more than 0.10% of the peak current at 104.3 MHz? The radio is still tuned to 104.3 MHz, and you can assume the two stations have equal strength.

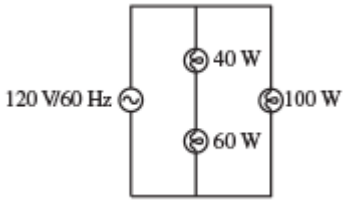
**61.** •• A television channel is assigned the frequency range from 54 MHz to 60 MHz. A series *RLC* tuning circuit in a TV receiver resonates in the middle of this frequency range. The circuit uses a 16 pF capacitor.

**a.** What is the value of the inductor?

**b.** In order to function properly, the current throughout the frequency range must be at least 50% of the current at the resonance frequency. What is the minimum possible value of the circuit's resistance?

**62.** •• **INT** Lightbulbs labeled 40 W, 60 W, and 100 W are connected to a 120 V/60 Hz power line as shown in Figure P32.62. What is the rate at which energy is dissipated in each bulb?

**Figure P32.62**




**63.** •• **INT** A generator consists of a 12-cm by 16-cm rectangular loop with 500 turns of wire spinning at 60 Hz in a 25 mT uniform magnetic field. The generator output is connected to a series *RC* circuit consisting of a 120 Ω resistor and a 35 $\mu$F capacitor. What is the average power delivered to the circuit?

**64.** •• Commercial electricity is generated and transmitted as *three-phase electricity*. Instead of a single emf, three separate wires carry currents for the emfs $\mathcal{E}_1 = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos\omega t$, $\mathcal{E}_2 = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos(\omega t + 120^\circ)$, and $\mathcal{E}_3 = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos(\omega t - 120^\circ)$ over three parallel wires, each of which supplies one-third of the power. This is why the long-distance transmission lines you see in the countryside have three wires. Suppose the transmission lines into a city supply a total of 450 MW of electric power, a realistic value.

**a.** What would be the current in each wire if the transmission voltage were $\mathcal{E}_0 = 120$ V rms?

**b.** In fact, transformers are used to step the transmission-line voltage up to 500 kV rms. What is the current in each wire?

**c.** Big transformers are expensive. Why does the electric company use step-up transformers?

**65.** •• You're the operator of a 15,000 V rms, 60 Hz electrical substation. When you get to work one day, you see that the station is delivering 6.0 MW of power with a power factor of 0.90.

**a.** What is the rms current leaving the station?

**b.** How much series capacitance should you add to bring the power factor up to 1.0?

**c.** How much power will the station then be delivering?

**66.** •• Commercial electricity is generated and transmitted as *three-phase electricity*. Instead of a single emf $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$, three separate wires carry currents for the emfs $\mathcal{E}_1 = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos \omega t$, $\mathcal{E}_2 = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos(\omega t + 120^\circ)$, and $\mathcal{E}_3 = \mathcal{E}_0 \cos(\omega t - 120^\circ)$. This is why the long-distance transmission lines you see in the countryside have three parallel wires, as do many distribution lines within a city.

**a.** Draw a phasor diagram showing phasors for all three phases of a three-phase emf.

**b.** Show that the sum of the three phases is zero, producing what is referred to as *neutral*. In *single-phase* electricity, provided by the familiar $120\,\mathrm{V}/60\,\mathrm{Hz}$ electric outlets in your home, one side of the outlet is neutral, as established at a nearby electrical substation. The other, called the *hot side*, is one of the three phases. (The round opening is connected to ground.)

**c.** Show that the potential difference between any two of the phases has the rms value $\sqrt{3}\mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}}$, where $\mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}}$ is the familiar single-phase rms voltage. Evaluate this potential difference for $\mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}} = 120\ \text{V}$. Some high-power

home appliances, especially electric clothes dryers and hot-water heaters, are designed to operate between two of the phases rather than between one phase and neutral. Heavy-duty industrial motors are designed to operate from all three phases, but full three-phase power is rare in residential or office use.

**67.** •• A motor attached to a 120 V/60 Hz power line draws an 8.0 A current. Its average energy dissipation is 800 W.

**a.** What is the power factor?

**b.** What is the rms resistor voltage?

**c.** What is the motor's resistance?

**d.** How much series capacitance needs to be added to increase the power factor to 1.0?

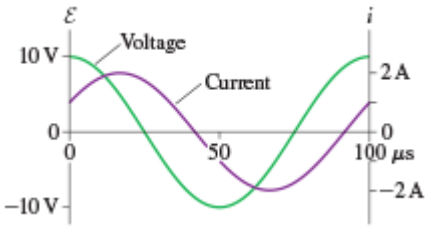
## Challenge Problems

**68.** ••• Figure CP32.68 shows voltage and current graphs for a series *RLC* circuit.

**a.** What is the resistance *R*?

**b.** If $L = 200\ \mu\text{H}$, what is the resonance frequency in Hz?

**Figure CP32.68**




**69.** •••

**a.** Show that the average power loss in a series *RLC* circuit is

$$P_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\omega^2 (\mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}})^2 R}{\omega^2 R^2 + L^2 (\omega^2 - {\omega_0}^2)^2}$$

**b.** Prove that the energy dissipation is a maximum at $\omega = \omega_0$.

**70.** •••

**a.** Show that the peak inductor voltage in a series *RLC* circuit is maximum at frequency

$$\omega_{\text{L}} = \left( \frac{1}{{\omega_0}^2} - \frac{1}{2} R^2 C^2 \right)^{-1/2}$$

**b.** A series *RLC* circuit with $\mathcal{E}_0 = 10.0$ V consists of a 1.0 Ω resistor, a 1.0 $\mu$H inductor, and a 1.0 $\mu$F capacitor. What is $V_{\text{L}}$ at $\omega = \omega_0$ and at $\omega = \omega_{\text{L}}$?

**71.** ••• The telecommunication circuit shown in Figure CP32.71 has a parallel inductor and capacitor in series with a resistor.

**a.** Use a phasor diagram to show that the peak current through the resistor is

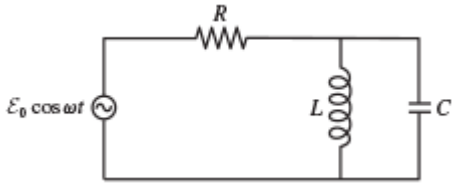
$$I = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\sqrt{R^2 + \left( \frac{1}{X_{\text{L}}} - \frac{1}{X_{\text{C}}} \right)^{-2}}}$$

**Hint:** Start with the inductor phasor $v_{\text{L}}$.

**b.** What is $I$ in the limits $\omega \to 0$ and $\omega \to \infty$?

**c.** What is the resonance frequency $\omega_0$? What is $I$ at this frequency?

**Figure CP32.71**




**72.** ••• Consider the parallel *RLC* circuit shown in Figure CP32.72.

**a.** Show that the current drawn from the emf is

$$I = \mathcal{E}_0 \sqrt{\frac{1}{R^2} + \left(\frac{1}{\omega L} - \omega C\right)^2}$$

**Hint:** Start with a phasor that is common to all three circuit elements.

**b.** What is $I$ in the limits $\omega \to 0$ and $\omega \to \infty$?

**c.** Find the frequency for which $I$ is a minimum.

**d.** Sketch a graph of $I$ versus $\omega$.

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**Figure CP32.72**

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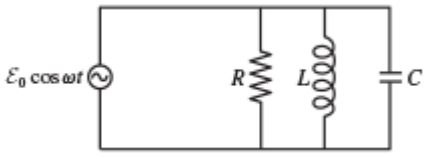


# Knowledge Structure Part VI: Electricity and Magnetism

## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part VI?

- **Charge,** like mass, is a fundamental property of matter. There are two kinds of charge: positive and negative.
- Charges interact via the **electric field:**
  - Source charges create an electric field.
  - A charge in the field experiences an electric force.
- Moving charges (currents) interact with other moving charges via **magnetic fields** and forces.
- Fields are also created when other fields change:
  - A changing magnetic field induces an electric field.
  - A changing electric field induces a magnetic field.

## Laws: What laws of physics govern electricity and magnetism?

**Maxwell's equations** are the formal statements of the laws of electricity and magnetism, but most problem solving is based on simpler versions of these equations:

**Coulomb's law**

$$\vec{E}_{\text{point charge}} = \frac{1}{4\pi \in_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

**Biot-Savart law**

$$\overrightarrow{B}_{\text{point charge}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{q\overrightarrow{v} \times \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

**Lorentz force law**

$$\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{on } q} = q\overrightarrow{E} + q\overrightarrow{v} \times \overrightarrow{B}$$

**Faraday's law**

$$\mathcal{E} = \left|d\Phi_{\text{m}} / dt\right| \qquad I_{\text{induced}} = \mathcal{E} / R \,\text{in the direction of Lenz's law}$$

**Gauss's law**

$$\oint \overrightarrow{E} \cdot d\overrightarrow{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\in_0}$$

**Ampère's law**

$$\oint \overrightarrow{B} \cdot d\overrightarrow{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{through}}$$

# Models: What are the most important models of electricity and magnetism?

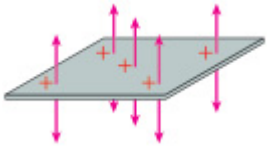
## Charge model

- Two types of charge: positive and negative.
  - Like charges repel, opposite charges attract.
  - Charge is conserved but can be transferred.
- Two types of materials: conductors and insulators.
- Neutral objects (no net charge) can be polarized.

## Electric field model

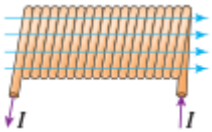
- Charges interact via the electric field.
  - Source charges create an electric field.
  - Charge $q$ experiences $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{on } q} = q\overrightarrow{E}$.

- Important electric field models
  - Point charge
  - Charged sphere
  - Long charged wire
  - Charged plane



## Magnetic field models

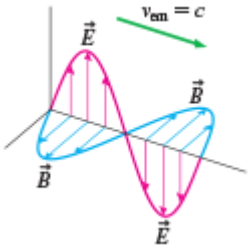
- Moving charges and currents interact via the magnetic field.
  - Current creates a magnetic field.
  - Charge $q$ experiences $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{on } q} = q\overrightarrow{v} \times \overrightarrow{B}$.
  - Current $I$ experiences $\overrightarrow{F}_{\text{on } I} = I\overrightarrow{l} \times \overrightarrow{B}$.
- Important magnetic field models



- Straight, current-carrying wire
- Current loop
- Solenoid

### Electromagnetic waves

- An **electromagnetic wave** is a self-sustaining electromagnetic field.
  - $\overrightarrow{E}$ and $\overrightarrow{B}$ are perpendicular to $\overrightarrow{v}$.
  - Wave speed $v_{\text{cm}} = 1 / \sqrt{\varepsilon_0 \mu_0} = c$.



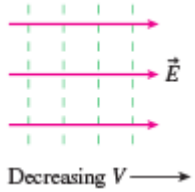

## Tools: What are the most important tools introduced in Part VI?

### Electric potential and potential energy

- Electric interactions can also be described by an **electric potential:**

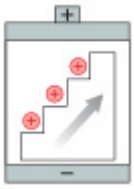
$$v_{\text{point charge}} = q / 4\pi\varepsilon_0 r$$

  - A charge $q$ in a potential has potential energy $U = qV$.
  - Mechanical energy is conserved.
- Field and potential energy are closely related.
  - The field is perpendicular to equipotential surfaces.
  - The field points “downhill” toward lower potential.




## Circuits

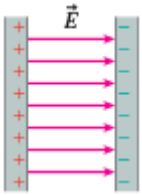
- Batteries are sources of emf.
- **Current** is the rate of flow of charge: $I = dQ/dt$.



- Circuit elements:
  - Capacitors: $Q = C\Delta V$
  - Resistors: $I = \Delta V/R$ (Ohm's law)
  - Capacitors and resistors can be combined in series or in parallel.
- **Kirchhoff's laws:**
  - Loop law: The sum of potential differences around a loop is zero.
  - Junction law: The sum of currents at a junction is zero.

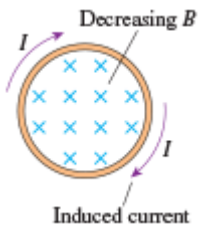
## Uniform fields

- A parallel-plate capacitor creates a uniform electric field.
- A solenoid creates a uniform magnetic field.



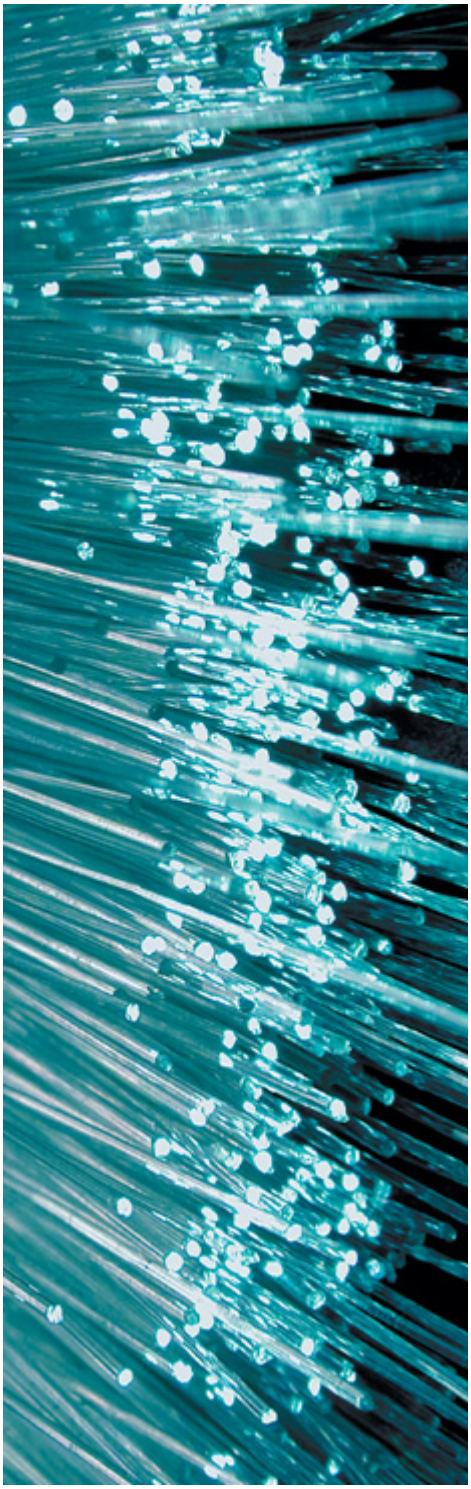

## Induced currents

- **Lenz's law:** An induced electric current flows in the direction such that the induced magnetic field opposes the *change* in the magnetic flux.



# Part VII: Optics





These optical fibers—thin, flexible threads of glass that channel laser light much like water flowing through a pipe—are what make high-speed internet a reality.

# Overview

## The Story of Light

Optics is the area of physics concerned with the properties and applications of light, including how light interacts with matter. But what is light? This is an ancient question with no simple answer. Rather than an all-encompassing theory of light, we will develop three different *models* of light, each of which describes and explains the behavior of light within a certain range of physical situations.

The *wave model* is based on the well-known fact that light is a wave—specifically, an electromagnetic wave. This model builds on what you learned about waves in Part IV of this text. Light waves, like any wave, are diffuse, spread out through space, and exhibit superposition and interference. The wave model of light has many important applications, including

- Precision measurements.
- Optical coatings on lenses, sensors, and windows.
- Optical computing.

> **Note**
> Although light is an electromagnetic wave, your understanding of these chapters depends on nothing more than the "waviness" of light. You can begin these chapters either before or after your study of electricity and magnetism in Part VI. The electromagnetic aspects of light waves are discussed in Chapter 31.

Another well-known fact—that light travels in straight lines—is the basis for the *ray model*. The ray model will allow us to understand

- Image formation with lenses and mirrors.
- Optical fibers.
- Optical instruments ranging from cameras to telescopes.

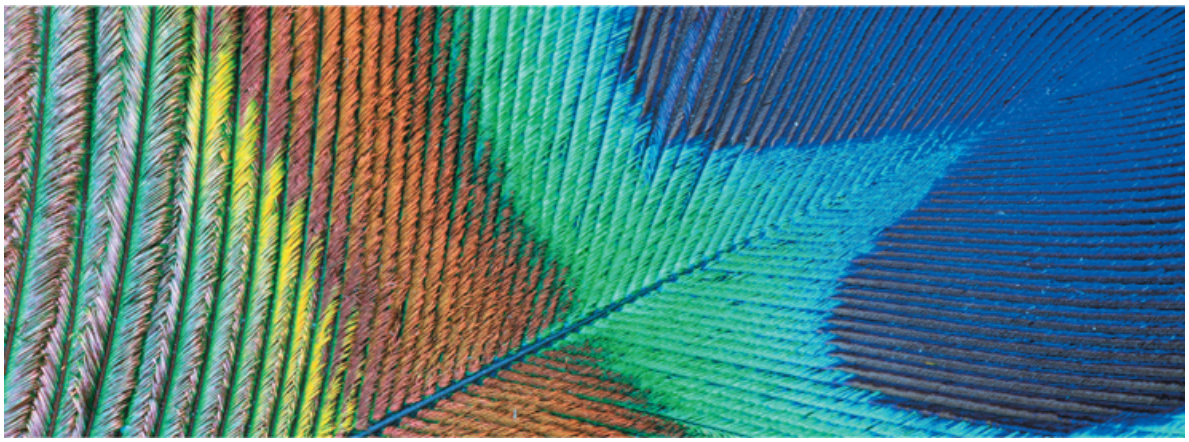
One of the most amazing optical instruments is your eye. We'll investigate optics of the eye and learn how glasses or contact lenses can correct some defects of vision.

The *photon model*, part of quantum physics, is mentioned here for completeness but won't be developed until Part VIII of this text. In the quantum world, light consists of tiny packets of energy—photons—that have both wave-like and particle-like properties. Photons will help us understand how atoms emit and absorb light.

For the most part, these three models are mutually exclusive; hence we'll pay close attention to establishing guidelines for when each model is valid.

# Chapter 33
# Wave Optics





The vivid colors of this peacock feather—which change as you see it from different angles—are not due to pigments. Instead, the colors are due to the interference of light waves.

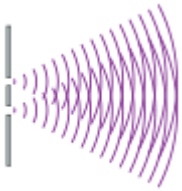
**In This Chapter**

you will learn about and apply the wave model of light.

## What is light?

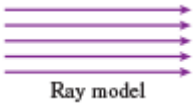
You will learn that light has aspects of both waves and particles. We will introduce three models of light.

- The wave model of light—the subject of this chapter—describes how light waves spread out and how the superposition of multiple light waves causes interference.



Wave model

- The ray model of light, in which light travels in straight lines, will explain how mirrors and lenses work. It is the subject of Chapter 34.



Ray model

- The photon model of light, which will be discussed in Part VIII, is an important part of quantum physics.

Photon model

One of our tasks will be to learn when each model is appropriate.

Looking Back Sections 16.5, 16.7, 16.8 Light waves, wave fronts, phase, and intensity

## What is diffraction?

Diffraction is the ability of a wave to spread out after passing through a small hole or going around a corner. The diffraction of light indicates that light is a wave. One interesting finding will be that a *smaller* hole causes *more* spreading.

## Does light exhibit interference?

Yes. You previously studied the thin-film interference of light reflecting from two surfaces. In this chapter we will examine the

interference fringes that are seen after light passes through two narrow, closely spaced slits in an opaque screen.

Looking Back Section 17.7 Interference

Double-slit interference

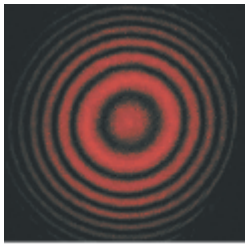
## What is a diffraction grating?

A diffraction grating is a periodic array of closely spaced slits or grooves. Different wavelengths are sent in different directions when light passes through a diffraction grating. Two similar wavelengths can be distinguished because the fringes of each are very narrow and precisely located.

Diffraction-grating fringes

## How is interference used?

Diffraction gratings are the basis of spectroscopy, a tool for analyzing the composition of materials by the wavelengths they emit. Interferometers make precise measurements, ranging from the vibrations of wings to the movements of continents, with the controlled use of interference. And interference plays a key role in optical computers.



Interferometer fringes

# 33.1 Models of Light

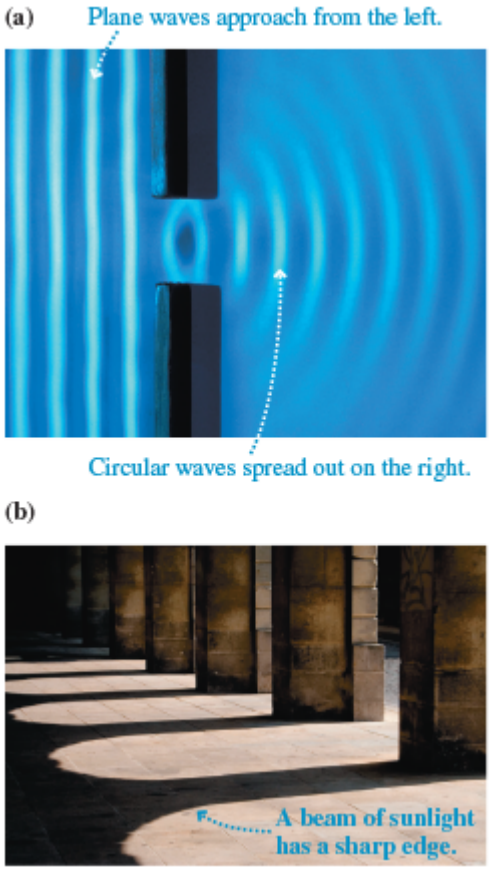


The study of light is called **optics.** But what is light? The first Greek scientists did not make a distinction between light and vision. Light, to them, was inseparable from seeing. But gradually there arose a view that light actually "exists," that light is some sort of physical entity that is present regardless of whether or not someone is looking. But if light is a physical entity, what is it?

Newton, in addition to his pioneering work in mathematics and mechanics in the 1660s, investigated the nature of light. Newton knew that a water wave, after passing through an opening, *spreads out* to fill the space behind the opening. You can see this in Figure 33.1a, where plane waves, approaching from the left, spread out in circular arcs after passing through a hole in a barrier. This inexorable spreading of waves is the phenomenon called **diffraction.** Diffraction is a sure sign that whatever is passing through the hole is a wave.

In contrast, Figure 33.1b shows that sunlight makes sharp-edged shadows. We don't see the light spreading out in circular arcs after passing through an opening. This behavior is what you would expect if light consists of noninteracting particles traveling in straight lines. Some particles would pass through the openings to make bright areas on the floor, others would be blocked and cause the well-defined shadow. This reasoning led Newton to the conclusion that light consists of very small, light, fast particles that he called *corpuscles*.

**Figure 33.1**




Water waves spread out behind a small hole in a barrier, but light passing through an archway makes a sharp-edged shadow.

---

The situation changed dramatically in 1801, when the English scientist Thomas Young announced that he had produced *interference* of light. Young's experiment, which we will analyze in the next section, quickly settled the debate in favor of a wave theory of light because interference is a distinctly wave-like phenomenon. But if light is a wave, what is waving? It was ultimately established that light is an *electromagnetic wave*, an oscillation of the electromagnetic field requiring no material medium in which to travel.

But this satisfying conclusion was soon undermined by new discoveries at the start of the 20th century. Albert Einstein's introduction of the concept of the *photon*—a wave having certain particle-like characteristics —marked the end of *classical physics* and the beginning of a new era

called *quantum physics*. Equally important, Einstein's theory marked yet another shift in our age-old effort to understand light.

> **Note**
>
> Optics, as we will study it, was developed before it was known that light is an electromagnetic wave. This chapter requires an understanding of waves, from Chapters 16 and 17, but does not require a knowledge of electromagnetic fields. Thus you can study Part VII either before or after your study of electricity and magnetism in Part VI. Light polarization, the one aspect of optics that does require some familiarity with electromagnetic waves, is covered in Chapter 31.



## Three Views

Light is a real physical entity, but the nature of light is elusive. Light is the chameleon of the physical world. Under some circumstances, light acts like particles traveling in straight lines. But change the circumstances, and light shows the same kinds of wave-like behavior as sound waves or water waves. Change the circumstances yet again, and light exhibits behavior that is neither wave-like nor particle-like but has characteristics of both.

Rather than an all-encompassing "theory of light," it will be better to develop three **models of light.** Each model successfully explains the behavior of light within a certain domain—that is, within a certain range of physical situations. Our task will be twofold:

1. To develop clear and distinct models of light.
2. To learn the conditions and circumstances for which each model is valid.

We'll begin with a brief summary of all three models.

**Three models of light**

**The Wave Model**

The wave model of light is responsible for the well-known "fact" that light is a *wave*. Indeed, under many circumstances light exhibits the same behavior as sound or water waves. Lasers and electro-optical devices are best described by the wave model of light. Some aspects of the wave model were introduced in Chapters 16 and 17, and it is the primary focus of this chapter.

**The Ray Model**

An equally well-known "fact" is that light travels in straight lines. These straight-line paths are called *light rays*. The properties of prisms, mirrors, and lenses are best understood in terms of light rays. Unfortunately, it's difficult to reconcile "light travels in straight lines" with "light is a wave." For the most part, waves and rays are mutually exclusive models of light. One of our important tasks will be to learn when each model is appropriate. Ray optics is the subject of Chapters 34 and 35.

**The Photon Model**

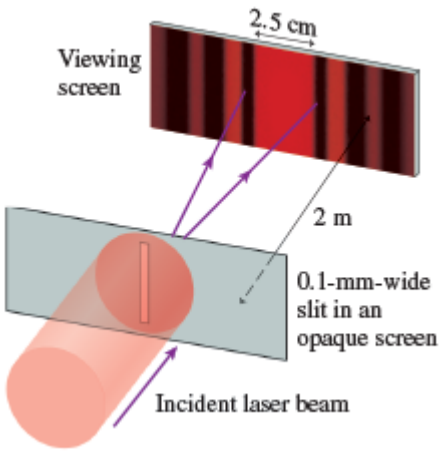
Modern technology is increasingly reliant on quantum physics. In the quantum world, light behaves like neither a wave nor a particle. Instead, light consists of *photons* that have both wave-like and particle-like properties. Much of the quantum theory of light is beyond the scope of this textbook, but we will take a peek at some of the important ideas in Part VIII.

# 33.2 The Interference of Light



Newton might have reached a different conclusion about the nature of light had he seen the experiment depicted in Figure 33.2. Here light of a single wavelength (or color) passes through a narrow slit that is only 0.1 mm wide, about twice the width of a human hair. The image shows how the light appears on a viewing screen 2 m behind the slit. If light travels in straight lines, as Newton thought, we should see a narrow strip of light, about 0.1 mm wide, with dark shadows on either side. Instead, we see a band of light extending over about 2.5 cm, a distance much wider than the aperture, with dimmer patches of light extending even farther on either side.

## Figure 33.2




Light, just like a water wave, does spread out behind an opening *if* the opening is sufficiently narrow.

If you compare Figure 33.2 to the water wave of Figure 33.1a, you see that *the light is spreading out* behind the opening. The light is exhibiting diffraction, the sure sign of waviness. We will look at diffraction in more detail later in the chapter. For now, we merely need the *observation* that

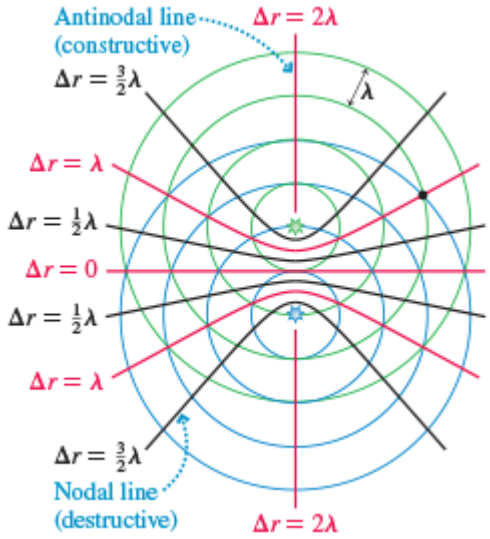
light does, indeed, spread out behind an opening that is sufficiently narrow. Light is acting as a wave, so we should—as Thomas Young did—be able to observe the interference of light waves.

## A Brief Review of Interference

Waves obey the *principle of superposition*: If two waves overlap, their displacements add—whether it's the displacement of air molecules in a sound wave or the electric field in a light wave. You learned in Section 17.5, 17.6, 17.7 that *Constructive interference* occurs when the crests of two waves overlap, adding to produce a wave with a larger amplitude and thus a greater intensity. Conversely, the overlap of the crest of one wave with the trough of another wave produces a wave with reduced amplitude (perhaps even zero) and thus a lesser intensity. This is *destructive interference*.

Figure 33.3 shows two in-phase sources of sinusoidal waves. The circular rings, you will recall, are the *wave crests*, and they are spaced one wavelength $\lambda$ apart. Although Figure 33.3 is a snapshot, frozen in time, you should envision both sets of rings propagating outward at the wave speed as the sources oscillate.

**Figure 33.3**




Constructive and destructive interference occur along antinodal and nodal lines.

---

We can measure distances simply by counting rings. For example, you can see that the dot on the right side is exactly three wavelengths from the top source and exactly four wavelengths from the bottom source, making $r_1 = 3\lambda$ and $r_2 = 4\lambda$. At this point, the *path-length difference* is $\Delta r = r_2 - r_1 = \lambda$. **Points where $\Delta r$ is an integer number of wavelengths are points of constructive interference.** The waves may have traveled difference distances, but crests align with crests and troughs align with troughs to produce a wave with a larger amplitude.

If the path-length difference is a half-integer number of wavelengths, then the crest of one wave will arrive with the trough of the other. Thus **points where $\Delta r$ is a half-integer number of wavelengths are points of destructive interference.** Mathematically, the conditions for interference are:

**(33.1)**

$$\text{Constructive interference:} \quad \Delta r = m\lambda$$

$$\text{Destructive interference:} \quad \Delta r = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$$

Destructive interference is *perfect destructive interference*, with zero intensity, only if both waves have exactly the same amplitude.



The set of all points for which $\Delta r = m\lambda$ is called an *antinodal line*. Maximum constructive interference is happening at every point along this line. If these are sound waves, you will hear maximum loudness by standing on an antinodal line. If these are light waves, you will see maximum brightness everywhere an antinodal line touches a viewing screen.

Similarly, maximum destructive interference occurs along *nodal lines*—analogous to the *nodes* of a one-dimensional standing wave. If these are light waves, a viewing screen will be dark everywhere it intersects a nodal line.

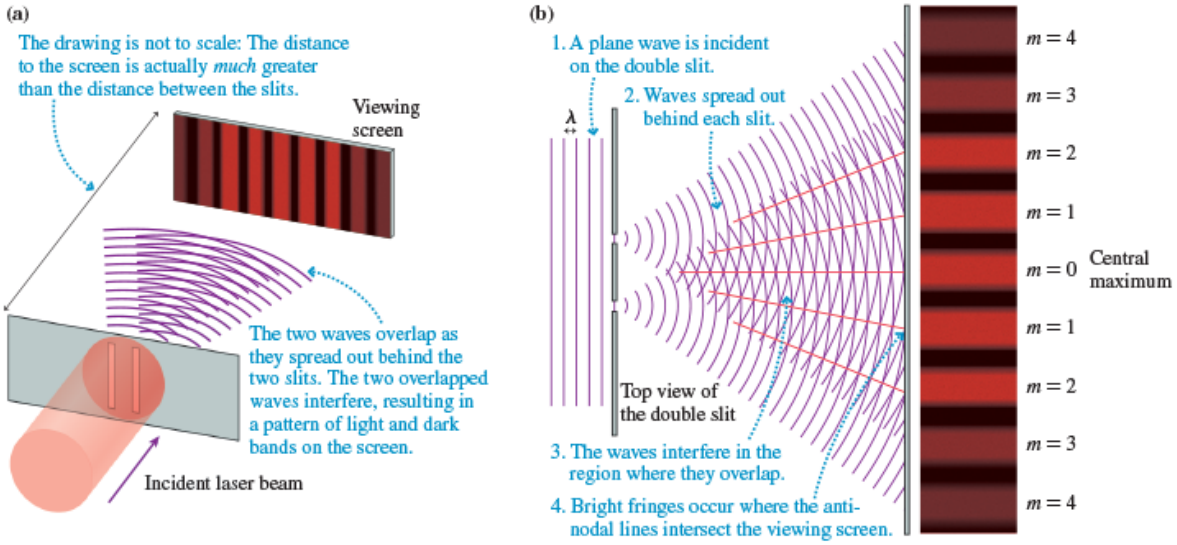
## Young's Double-Slit Experiment

Let's now see how these ideas about interference apply to light waves. Figure 33.4a shows an experiment in which a laser beam is aimed at an opaque screen containing two long, narrow slits that are very close together. This pair of slits is called a **double slit,** and in a typical experiment they are ≈ 0.1 mm wide and spaced ≈ 0.5 mm apart. We will assume that the laser beam illuminates both slits equally and that any light passing through the slits impinges on a viewing screen. This is the essence of Young's experiment of 1801, although he used sunlight rather than a laser.

What should we expect to see on the screen? Figure 33.4b is a view from above the experiment, looking down on the top ends of the slits and the top edge of the viewing screen. Because the slits are very narrow, **light spreads out behind each slit** exactly as it did in Figure 33.2. These

two spreading waves overlap and interfere with each other, just as if they were sound waves emitted by two loudspeakers. Notice how the antinodal lines of constructive interference are just like those in Figure 33.3.

## Figure 33.4




A double-slit interference experiment.

The image in Figure 33.4b shows how the screen looks. As expected, the light is intense at points where an antinodal line intersects the screen. There is no light at all at points where a nodal line intersects the screen. These alternating bright and dark bands of light, due to constructive and destructive interference, are called **interference fringes.** The fringes are numbered $m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots$, going outward from the center. The brightest fringe, at the midpoint of the viewing screen, with $m = 0$, is called the **central maximum.**

### Stop to Think 33.1

Suppose the viewing screen in Figure 33.4 is moved closer to the double slit. What happens to the interference fringes?

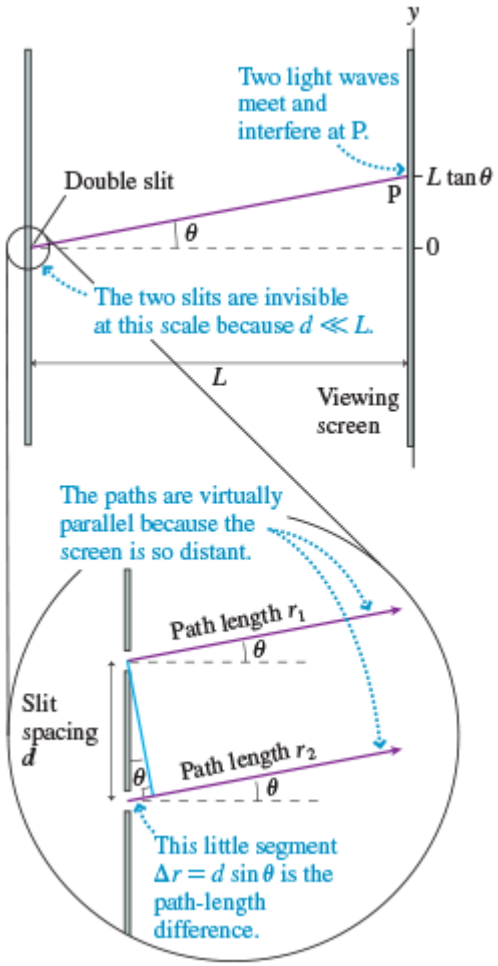
**a.** They get brighter but otherwise do not change.
**b.** They get brighter and closer together.
**c.** They get brighter and farther apart.
**d.** They get out of focus.
**e.** They fade out and disappear.



## Analyzing Double-Slit Interference

Figure 33.4 showed qualitatively how interference is produced behind a double slit by the overlap of the light waves spreading out behind each slit. Now let's analyze the experiment more carefully. Figure 33.5 shows a double-slit experiment in which the spacing between the two slits is $d$ and the distance to the viewing screen is $L$. We will assume that $L$ is *very* much larger than $d$. Consequently, we don't see the individual slits in the upper part of Figure 33.5.

**Figure 33.5**




Geometry of the double-slit experiment.

Let P be a point on the screen at angle $\theta$. Our goal is to determine whether the interference at P is constructive, destructive, or in between. The insert to Figure 33.5 shows the individual slits and the paths from these slits to point P. Because P is so far away on this scale, the two paths are virtually parallel, both at angle $\theta$. Both slits are illuminated by the *same* wave front from the laser; hence the slits act as sources of identical, in-phase waves $\left(\Delta\phi_0 = 0\right)$. Thus the interference at point P is constructive, producing a bright fringe, if $\Delta r = m\lambda$ at that point.

The midpoint on the viewing screen at $y = 0$ is equally distant from both slits ($\Delta r = 0$) and thus is a point of constructive interference. This is the bright fringe identified as the central maximum in Figure 33.4b. The path-length difference increases as you move away from the center of the

screen, and the $m = 1$ fringes occur at the points where $\Delta r = 1\lambda$—that is, where one wave has traveled exactly one wavelength farther than the other. In general, **the $m$th bright fringe occurs where the wave from one slit travels $m$ wavelengths farther than the wave from the other slit and thus $\Delta r = m\lambda$.**

You can see from the magnified portion of Figure 33.5 that the wave from the lower slit travels an extra distance

**(33.2)**

$$\Delta r = d\sin\theta$$



If we use this in Equation 33.1, we find that bright fringes (constructive interference) occur at angles $\theta_m$ such that

**(33.3)**

$$\Delta r = d\sin\theta_m = m\lambda \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

We added the subscript $m$ to denote that $\theta_m$ is the angle of the $m$th bright fringe, starting with $m = 0$ at the center.

In practice, the angle $\theta$ in a double-slit experiment is very small (< 1°). We can use the small-angle approximation $\sin\theta \approx \theta$, where $\theta$ must be in radians, to write Equation 33.3 as

---

**(33.4)**

$$\theta_m = m\frac{\lambda}{d} \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots \qquad \text{(angles of bright fringes)}$$

This gives the angular positions *in radians* of the bright fringes in the interference pattern.

## Positions of the Fringes

It's usually easier to measure distances rather than angles, so we can also specify point P by its position on a $y$-axis with the origin directly across from the midpoint between the slits. You can see from Figure 33.5 that

**(33.5)**

$$y = L\tan\theta$$

Using the small-angle approximation once again, this time in the form $\tan\theta \approx \theta$, we can substitute $\theta_m$ from Equation 33.4 for $\tan\theta_m$ in Equation 33.5 to find that the $m$th bright fringe occurs at position

---

**(33.6)**

$$y_m = \frac{m\lambda L}{d} \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots \qquad \text{(positions of bright fringes)}$$

The interference pattern is symmetrical, so there is an $m$th bright fringe at the same distance on both sides of the center. You can see this in Figure 33.4b. As we've noted, **the $m = 1$ fringes occur at points on the screen where the light from one slit travels exactly one wavelength farther than the light from the other slit.**

> **Note**
>
> Equations 33.4 and 33.6 do *not* apply to the interference of

> sound waves from two loudspeakers. The approximations we've used (small angles, $L \gg d$) are usually not valid for the much longer wavelengths of sound waves.

Equation 33.6 predicts that **the interference pattern is a series of equally spaced bright lines** on the screen, exactly as shown in Figure 33.4b. How do we know the fringes are equally spaced? The **fringe spacing** between the $m$ fringe and the $m + 1$ fringe is

**(33.7)**

$$\Delta y = y_{m+1} - y_m = \frac{(m+1)\lambda L}{d} - \frac{m\lambda L}{d} = \frac{\lambda L}{d}$$

Because $\Delta y$ is independent of $m$, *any* two adjacent bright fringes have the same spacing.

The dark fringes in the image are bands of destructive interference. They occur at positions where the path-length difference of the waves is a half-integer number of wavelengths:

**(33.8)**



$$\Delta r = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \qquad \text{(destructive interference)}$$

We can use Equation 33.2 for $\Delta r$ and the small-angle approximation to find that the dark fringes are located at positions

**(33.9)**

$$y'_m = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\lambda L}{d} \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \qquad \text{(positions of dark fringes)}$$

We have used $y'_m$ with a prime, to distinguish the location of the $m$th minimum from the $m$th maximum at $y_m$. You can see from Equation 33.9 that **the dark fringes are located exactly halfway between the bright fringes.**

As a quick example, suppose that light from a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\text{ nm}$) illuminates two slits spaced 0.40 mm apart and that a viewing screen is 2.0 m behind the slits. The $m = 2$ bright fringe is located at position

$$y_2 = \frac{2\lambda L}{d} = \frac{2\left(633\times10^{-9}\text{ m}\right)(2.0\text{ m})}{4.0\times10^{-4}\text{ m}} = 6.3\text{ mm}$$

Similarly, the $m = 2$ dark fringe is found at $y'_2 = \left(2+\frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda L/d = 7.9\text{ mm}$. Because the fringes are counted outward from the center, the $m = 2$ bright fringe occurs *before* the $m = 2$ dark fringe.

**Example 33.1 Measuring the wavelength of light**

A double-slit interference pattern is observed on a screen 1.0 m behind two slits spaced 0.30 mm apart. Ten bright fringes span a distance of 1.7 cm. What is the wavelength of the light?

**MODEL** It is not always obvious which fringe is the central maximum. Slight imperfections in the slits can make the interference fringe pattern less than ideal. However, you do not need to identify the $m = 0$ fringe because you can make use of the fact that the fringe spacing $\Delta y$ is uniform. Ten bright fringes have *nine* spaces between them (not ten—be careful!).

**VISUALIZE** The interference pattern looks like the image of Figure 33.4b.

**SOLVE** The fringe spacing is

$$\Delta y = \frac{1.7\text{ cm}}{9} = 1.89 \times 10^{-3}\text{ m}$$

Using this fringe spacing in Equation 33.7, we find that the wavelength is

$$\lambda = \frac{d}{L}\Delta y = 5.7 \times 10^{-7}\text{ m} = 570\text{ nm}$$

**It is customary to express the wavelengths of visible light in nanometers. Be sure to do this as you solve problems.**

**ASSESS** Young's double-slit experiment not only demonstrated that light is a wave, it provided a means for measuring the wavelength. You learned in Chapter 16 that the wavelengths of visible light span the range 400–700 nm. These lengths are smaller than we can easily comprehend. A wavelength of 570 nm, which is in the middle of the visible spectrum, is only about 1% of the diameter of a human hair.

## Stop to Think 33.2

Light of wavelength $\lambda_1$ illuminates a double slit, and interference fringes are observed on a screen behind the slits. When the wavelength is changed to $\lambda_2$, the fringes get closer together. Is $\lambda_2$ larger or smaller than $\lambda_1$?

# Intensity of the Double-Slit Interference Pattern

Equations 33.6 and 33.9 locate the positions of maximum and zero intensity. To complete our analysis we need to calculate the light *intensity* at every point on the screen. In Chapter 17, where interference was introduced, you learned that the net amplitude $E$ of two superimposed waves is

**(33.10)**

$$E = \left|2e\cos\left(\frac{\Delta\phi}{2}\right)\right|$$

where, for light waves, $e$ is the electric field amplitude of each individual wave. Because the sources (i.e., the two slits) are in phase, the phase difference $\Delta\phi$ at the point where the two waves are combined is due only to the path-length difference: $\Delta\phi = 2\pi(\Delta r/\lambda)$. Using Equation 33.2 for $\Delta r$, along with the small-angle approximation and Equation 33.5 for $y$, we find the phase difference at position $y$ on the screen to be

**(33.11)**

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta r}{\lambda} = 2\pi\frac{d\sin\theta}{\lambda} \approx 2\pi\frac{d\tan\theta}{\lambda} = \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda L}y$$

Substituting Equation 33.11 into Equation 33.10, we find the wave amplitude at position $y$ to be

**(33.12)**

$$E = \left|2e\cos\left(\frac{\pi d}{\lambda L}y\right)\right|$$

The light *intensity*, which is what we see, is proportional to the square of the amplitude. The intensity of a single slit, with amplitude $e$, is $I_1 = Ce^2$, where $C$ is a proportionality constant. For the double slit, the intensity at position $y$ on the screen is

**(33.13)**

$$I = CE^2 = 4Ce^2\cos^2\left(\frac{\pi d}{\lambda L}y\right)$$

Replacing $Ce^2$ with $I_1$, we see that the intensity of an *ideal* double-slit interference pattern at position $y$ is

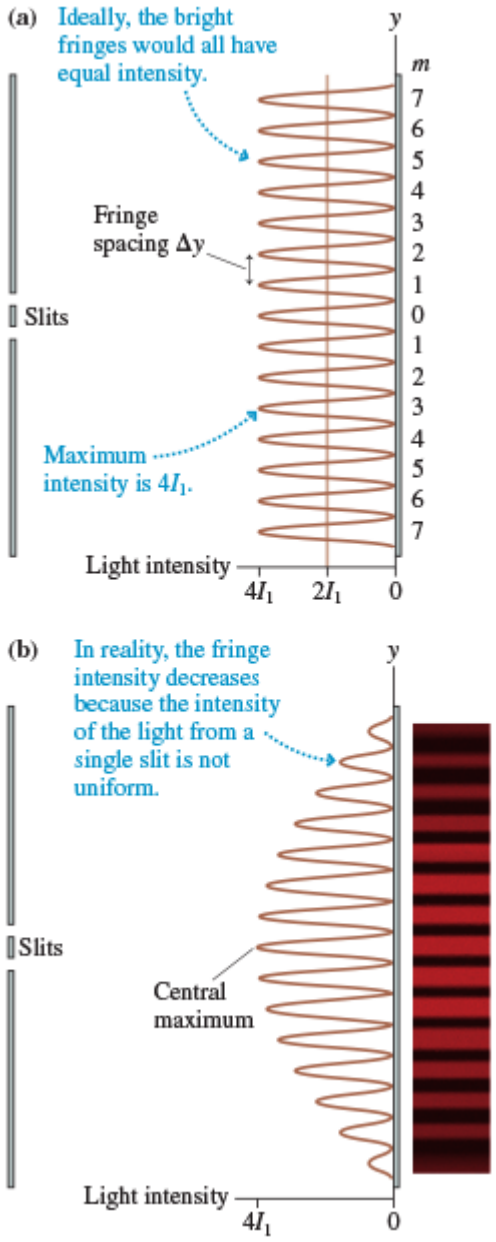
**(33.14)**

$$I_{\text{double}} = 4I_1\cos^2\left(\frac{\pi d}{\lambda L}y\right)$$

We've said "ideal" because we've assumed that $e$, the electric field amplitude of each wave, is constant across the screen.

Figure 33.6a is a graph of the ideal double-slit intensity versus position $y$. Notice the unusual orientation of the graph, with the intensity increasing toward the *left* so that the $y$-axis can match the experimental layout. You can see that the intensity oscillates between dark fringes $\left(I_{\text{double}} = 0\right)$ and bright fringes $\left(I_{\text{double}} = 4I_1\right)$. The maxima occur at points where $y_m = m\lambda L/d$. This is what we found earlier for the positions of the bright fringes, so Equation 33.14 is consistent with our initial analysis.

**Figure 33.6**




Intensity of the interference fringes in a double-slit experiment.

One curious feature is that the light intensity at the maxima is $I = 4I_1$, four times the intensity of the light from each slit alone. You might think that two slits would make the light twice as intense as one slit, but interference leads to a different result. Mathematically, two slits make the *amplitude* twice as big at points of constructive interference ($E = 2e$), so the intensity increases by a factor of $2^2 = 4$. Physically, this is conservation of energy. The line labeled $2I_1$ in Figure 33.6a is the uniform intensity that two slits would produce *if* the waves did not interfere. Interference does

not change the amount of light energy coming through the two slits, but it does redistribute the light energy on the viewing screen. You can see that the *average* intensity of the oscillating curve is $2I_1$, but the intensity of the bright fringes gets pushed up from $2I_1$ to $4I_1$ in order for the intensity of the dark fringes to drop from $2I_1$ to 0.

Equation 33.14 predicts that, ideally, all interference fringes are equally bright, but you saw in Figure 33.4b that the fringes decrease in brightness as you move away from the center. The erroneous prediction stems from our assumption that the amplitude $e$ of the wave from each slit is constant across the screen. A more detailed calculation, which we will do in Section 33.5, must consider the varying intensity of the light that has diffracted through each of the slits. We'll find that Equation 33.14 is still correct if $I_1$ slowly decreases as $y$ increases.

Figure 33.6b summarizes this analysis by graphing the light intensity (Equation 33.14) with $I_1$ slowly decreasing as $y$ increases. Comparing this graph to the image, you can see that the wave model of light has provided an excellent description of Young's double-slit interference experiment.

# 33.3 The Diffraction Grating



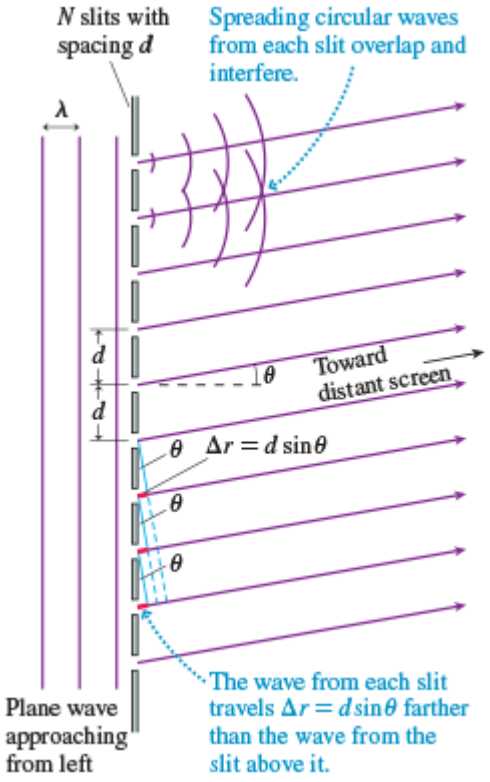
Suppose we were to replace the double slit with an opaque screen that has $N$ closely spaced slits. When illuminated from one side, each of these slits becomes the source of a light wave that diffracts, or spreads out, behind the slit. Such a multi-slit device is called a **diffraction grating.** The light intensity pattern on a screen behind a diffraction grating is due to the interference of $N$ overlapped waves.

> **Note**
>
> The terms "interference" and "diffraction" have historical roots that predate our modern understanding of wave optics, and thus their use can be confusing. Physically, both arise from the superposition of overlapped waves. *Interference* usually describes a superposition of waves coming from distinct sources—as in double-slit interference. *Diffraction* usually describes how the superposition of different portions of a single wave front causes light to bend or spread after encountering an obstacle, such as a narrow slit. Diffraction is important in a diffraction grating because light does spread out behind each slit, but the intensity pattern seen behind a diffraction grating results from the interference of light waves coming from each of the slits. It might more logically be called an *interference grating*, but it's not. Don't let the name confuse you.

Figure 33.7 shows a diffraction grating in which $N$ slits are equally spaced a distance $d$ apart. This is a top view of the grating, as we look down on the experiment, and the slits extend above and below the page.

Only 10 slits are shown here, but a practical grating will have hundreds or even thousands of slits. Suppose a plane wave of wavelength $\lambda$ approaches from the left. The crest of a plane wave arrives *simultaneously* at each of the slits, causing the wave emerging from each slit to be in phase with the wave emerging from every other slit. Each of these emerging waves spreads out, just like the light wave in Figure 33.2, and after a short distance they all overlap with each other and interfere.

## Figure 33.7




Top view of a diffraction grating with $N = 10$ slits.

We want to know how the interference pattern will appear on a screen behind the grating. The light wave at the screen is the superposition of $N$ waves, from $N$ slits, as they spread and overlap. As we did with the double slit, we'll assume that the distance $L$ to the screen is very large in comparison with the slit spacing $d$; hence the path followed by the light from one slit to a point on the screen is *very nearly* parallel to the path

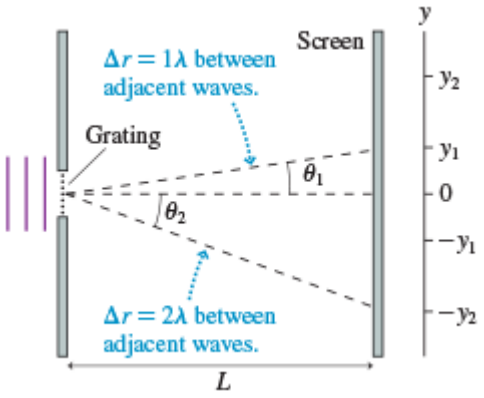
followed by the light from neighboring slits. The paths cannot be perfectly parallel, of course, or they would never meet to interfere, but the slight deviation from perfect parallelism is too small to notice. You can see in Figure 33.7 that the wave from one slit travels distance $\Delta r = d \sin \theta$ more than the wave from the slit above it and $\Delta r = d \sin \theta$ less than the wave below it. This is the same reasoning we used in Figure 33.5 to analyze the double-slit experiment.

Figure 33.7 is a magnified view of the slits. Figure 33.8 steps back to where we can see the viewing screen. If the angle $\theta$ is such that $\Delta r = d \sin \theta = m\lambda$, where $m$ is an integer, then the light wave arriving at the screen from one slit will be *exactly in phase* with the light waves arriving from the two slits next to it. But each of those waves is in phase with waves from the slits next to them, and so on until we reach the end of the grating. In other words, **$N$ light waves, from $N$ different slits, will *all* be in phase with each other when they arrive at a point on the screen at angle $\theta_m$ such that**

**(33.15)**

$$d \sin \theta_m = m\lambda \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

## Figure 33.8




Angles of constructive interference.

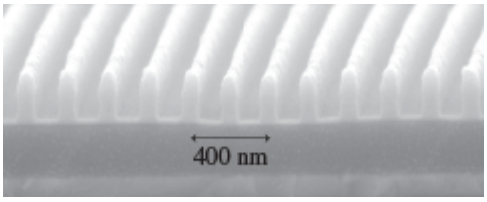
The screen will have bright constructive-interference fringes at the values of $\theta_m$ given by Equation 33.15. We say that the light is "diffracted at angle $\theta_m$."

Because it's usually easier to measure distances rather than angles, the position $y_m$ of the $m$th maximum is

**(33.16)**

$$y_m = L \tan \theta_m \qquad \text{(positions of bright fringes)}$$

The integer $m$ is called the **order** of the diffraction. For example, light diffracted at $\theta_2$ would be the second-order diffraction. Practical gratings, with very small values for $d$, display only a few orders. Because $d$ is usually very small, it is customary to characterize a grating by the number of *lines per millimeter*. Here "line" is synonymous with "slit," so the number of lines per millimeter is simply the inverse of the slit spacing $d$ in millimeters.




A microscopic side-on look at a diffraction grating.

> **Note**
>
> The condition for constructive interference in a grating of *N* slits is identical to Equation 33.4 for just two slits. Equation 33.15 is simply the requirement that the path-length difference between adjacent slits, be they two or *N*, is $m\lambda$. But unlike the angles in double-slit interference, the angles of constructive interference from a diffraction grating are generally *not* small angles. The reason is that the slit spacing *d* in a diffraction grating is so small that $\lambda/d$ is not a small number. Thus you *cannot* use the small-angle approximation to simplify Equations 33.15 and 33.16.

The wave amplitude at the points of constructive interference is $Ne$ because $N$ waves of amplitude $e$ combine in phase. Because the intensity depends on the square of the amplitude, the intensities of the bright fringes of a diffraction grating are

**(33.17)**

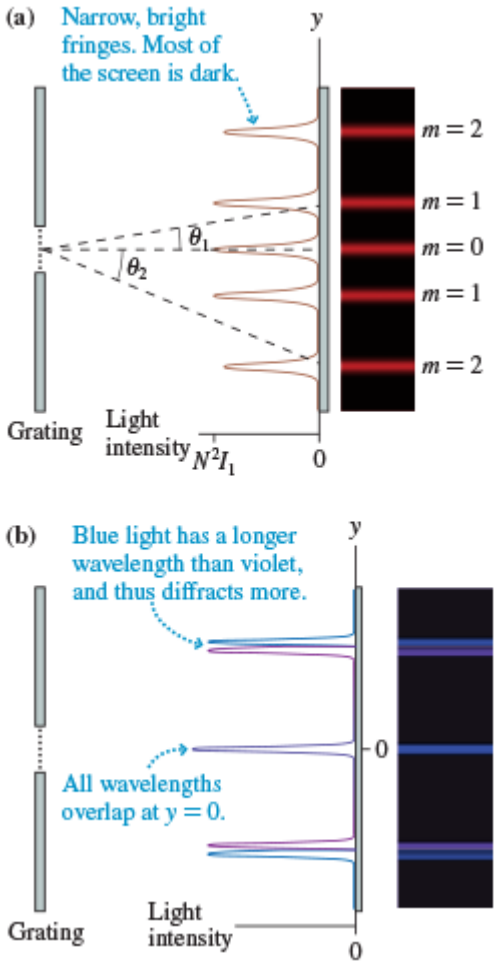
$$I_{\text{max}} = N^2 I_1$$

where, as before, $I_1$ is the intensity of the wave from a single slit. You can see that the fringe intensities increase rapidly as the number of slits increases.

Not only do the fringes get brighter as *N* increases, they also get narrower. This is again a matter of conservation of energy. If the light

waves did not interfere, the intensity from $N$ slits would be $NI_1$. Interference increases the intensity of the bright fringes by an extra factor of $N$, so to conserve energy the width of the bright fringes must be proportional to $1/N$. For a realistic diffraction grating, with $N > 100$, the interference pattern consists of a small number of *very* bright and *very* narrow fringes while most of the screen remains dark. Figure 33.9a shows the interference pattern behind a diffraction grating both graphically and with a simulation of the viewing screen. A comparison with Figure 33.6b shows that the bright fringes of a diffraction grating are much sharper and more distinct than the fringes of a double slit.

## Figure 33.9




The interference pattern behind a diffraction grating.

Because the bright fringes are so distinct, diffraction gratings are used for measuring the wavelengths of light. Suppose the incident light consists of two slightly different wavelengths. Each wavelength will be diffracted at a slightly different angle and, if $N$ is sufficiently large, we'll see two distinct fringes on the screen. Figure 33.9b illustrates this idea. By contrast, the bright fringes in a double-slit experiment are too broad to distinguish the fringes of one wavelength from those of the other.

**Example 33.2 Measuring wavelengths emitted by sodium atoms**

Light from a sodium lamp passes through a diffraction grating having 1000 slits per millimeter. The interference pattern is viewed on a screen 1.000 m behind the grating. Two bright yellow fringes are visible 72.88 cm and 73.00 cm from the central maximum. What are the wavelengths of these two fringes?

**VISUALIZE** This is the situation shown in Figure 33.9b. The two fringes are very close together, so we expect the wavelengths to be only slightly different. No other yellow fringes are mentioned, so we will assume these two fringes are the first-order diffraction $(m = 1)$.

**SOLVE** The distance $y_m$ of a bright fringe from the central maximum is related to the diffraction angle by $y_m = L \tan \theta_m$. Thus the diffraction angles of these two fringes are

$$\theta_1 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y_1}{L}\right) = \begin{cases} 36.08^\circ & \text{fringe at } 72.88\text{ cm} \\ 36.13^\circ & \text{fringe at } 73.00\text{ cm} \end{cases}$$

These angles must satisfy the interference condition $d \sin \theta_1 = \lambda$, so the wavelengths are $\lambda = d \sin \theta_1$. What is $d$? If a 1 mm length of the

grating has 1000 slits, then the spacing from one slit to the next must be 1/1000 mm, or $d = 1.000 \times 10^{-6}$ m. Thus the wavelengths creating the two bright fringes are

$$\lambda = d \sin \theta_1 = \begin{cases} 589.0\,\text{nm} & \text{fringe at } 72.88\,\text{cm} \\ 589.6\,\text{nm} & \text{fringe at } 73.00\,\text{cm} \end{cases}$$

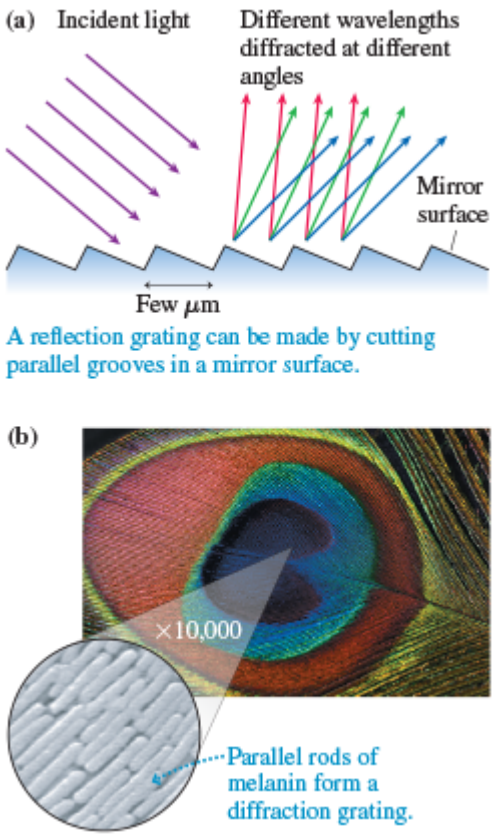
**ASSESS** We had data accurate to four significant figures, and all four were necessary to distinguish the two wavelengths.

The science of measuring the wavelengths of atomic and molecular emissions is called **spectroscopy.** The two sodium wavelengths in this example are called the *sodium doublet,* a name given to two closely spaced wavelengths emitted by the atoms of one element. This doublet is an identifying characteristic of sodium. Because no other element emits these two wavelengths, the doublet can be used to identify the presence of sodium in a sample of unknown composition, even if sodium is only a very minor constituent. This procedure is called *spectral analysis.*

## Reflection Gratings

We have analyzed what is called a *transmission grating,* with many parallel slits. In practice, most diffraction gratings are manufactured as *reflection gratings.* The simplest reflection grating, shown in Figure 33.10a, is a mirror with hundreds or thousands of narrow, parallel grooves cut into the surface. The grooves divide the surface into many parallel reflective stripes, each of which, when illuminated, becomes the source of a spreading wave. Thus an incident light wave is divided into $N$ overlapped waves. The interference pattern is exactly the same as the interference pattern of light transmitted through $N$ parallel slits.

## Figure 33.10




Reflection gratings.

Naturally occurring reflection gratings are responsible for some forms of color in nature. As the micrograph of Figure 33.10b shows, a peacock feather consists of nearly parallel rods of melanin. These act as a reflection grating and create the ever-changing, multicolored hues of iridescence as the angle between the grating and your eye changes. The iridescence of some insects is due to diffraction from parallel microscopic ridges on the shell.

The rainbow of colors reflected from the surface of a DVD is a similar display of interference. The surface of a DVD is smooth plastic with a mirror-like reflective coating in which millions of microscopic holes, each about 1 $\mu$m in diameter, encode digital information. From an optical perspective, the array of holes in a shiny surface is a two-dimensional

version of the reflection grating shown in Figure 33.10a. Reflection gratings can be manufactured at very low cost simply by stamping holes or grooves into a reflective surface, and these are widely sold as toys and novelty items. Rainbows of color are seen as each wavelength of white light is diffracted at a unique angle.

## Stop to Think 33.3

White light passes through a diffraction grating and forms rainbow patterns on a screen behind the grating. For each rainbow,

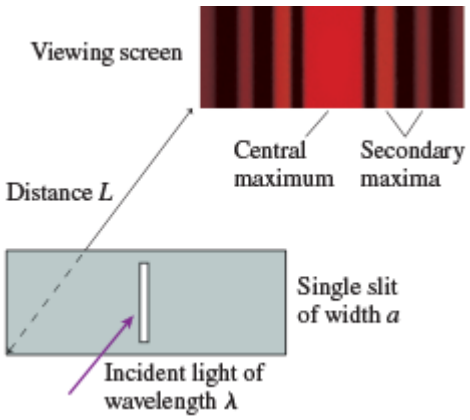
**a.** The red side is on the right, the violet side on the left.
**b.** The red side is on the left, the violet side on the right.
**c.** The red side is closest to the center of the screen, the violet side is farthest from the center.
**d.** The red side is farthest from the center of the screen, the violet side is closest to the center.

# 33.4 Single-Slit Diffraction[941]

We opened this chapter with a photograph (Figure 33.1a) of a water wave passing through a hole in a barrier, then spreading out on the other side. You then saw an image (Figure 33.2) showing that light, after passing through a very narrow slit, also spreads out on the other side. This is called *diffraction*.

Figure 33.11 shows the experimental arrangement for observing the diffraction of light through a narrow slit of width $a$. Diffraction through a tall, narrow slit is known as **single-slit diffraction.** A viewing screen is placed distance $L$ behind the slit, and we will assume that $L \gg a$. The light pattern on the viewing screen consists of a *central maximum* flanked by a series of weaker **secondary maxima** and dark fringes. Notice that the central maximum is significantly broader than the secondary maxima. It is also significantly brighter than the secondary maxima, although that is hard to tell here because this image has been overexposed to make the secondary maxima show up better.

**Figure 33.11**




A single-slit diffraction experiment.

# Huygens' Principle

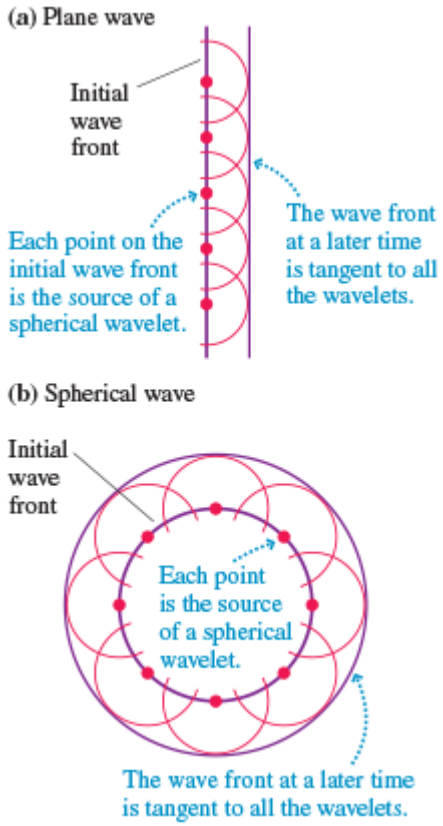
Our analysis of the superposition of waves from distinct sources, such as two loudspeakers or the two slits in a double-slit experiment, has tacitly assumed that the sources are *point sources*, with no measurable extent. To understand diffraction, we need to think about the propagation of an *extended* wave front. This is a problem first considered by the Dutch scientist Christiaan Huygens, a contemporary of Newton.

Huygens lived before a mathematical theory of waves had been developed, so he developed a geometrical model of wave propagation. His idea, which we now call **Huygens' principle,** has two steps:

1. Each point on a wave front is the source of a spherical *wavelet* that spreads out at the wave speed.
2. At a later time, the shape of the wave front is the line tangent to all the wavelets.

Figure 33.12 illustrates Huygens' principle for a plane wave and a spherical wave. As you can see, the line tangent to the wavelets of a plane wave is a plane that has propagated to the right. The line tangent to the wavelets of a spherical wave is a larger sphere.

**Figure 33.12**



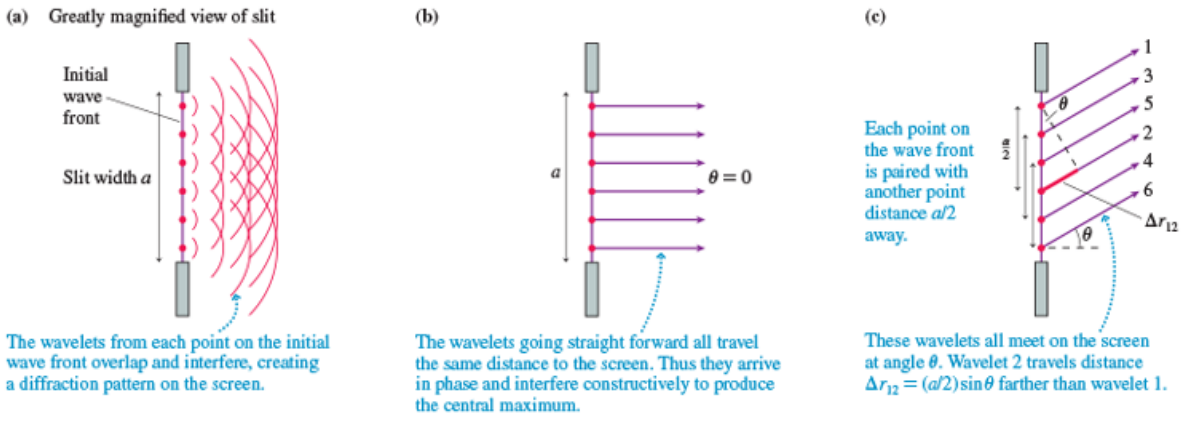

Huygens' principle applied to the propagation of plane waves and spherical waves.

Huygens' principle is a visual device, not a theory of waves. Nonetheless, the full mathematical theory of waves, as it developed in the 19th century, justifies Huygens' basic idea, although it is beyond the scope of this textbook to prove it.

## Analyzing Single-Slit Diffraction

Figure 33.13a shows a wave front passing through a narrow slit of width $a$. According to Huygens' principle, each point on the wave front can be thought of as the source of a spherical wavelet. These wavelets overlap and interfere, producing the diffraction pattern seen on the viewing screen. The full mathematical analysis, using *every* point on the wave front, is a fairly difficult problem in calculus. We'll be satisfied with a geometrical analysis based on just a few wavelets.

## Figure 33.13




Each point on the wave front is a source of spherical wavelets. The superposition of these wavelets produces the diffraction pattern on the screen.

Figure 33.13b shows the paths of several wavelets that travel straight ahead to the central point on the screen. (The screen is *very* far to the right in this magnified view of the slit.) The paths are very nearly parallel to each other, thus all the wavelets travel the same distance and arrive at the screen *in phase* with each other. The *constructive interference* between these wavelets produces the central maximum of the diffraction pattern at $\theta = 0$.

The situation is different at points away from the center. Wavelets 1 and 2 in Figure 33.13c start from points that are distance $a/2$ apart. If the angle is such that $\Delta r_{12}$, the extra distance traveled by wavelet 2, happens to be $\lambda/2$, then wavelets 1 and 2 arrive out of phase and interfere destructively. But if $\Delta r_{12}$ is $\lambda/2$, then the difference $\Delta r_{34}$ between paths 3 and 4 and the difference $\Delta r_{56}$ between paths 5 and 6 are also $\lambda/2$. Those pairs of wavelets also interfere destructively. The superposition of all the wavelets produces perfect destructive interference.

Figure 33.13c shows six wavelets, but our conclusion is valid for any number of wavelets. The key idea is that **every point on the wave front can be paired with another point distance $a/2$ away.** If the path-length

difference is $\lambda/2$, the wavelets from these two points arrive at the screen out of phase and interfere destructively. When we sum the displacements of all $N$ wavelets, they will—pair by pair—add to zero. The viewing screen at this position will be dark. This is the main idea of the analysis, one worth thinking about carefully.

You can see from Figure 33.13c that $\Delta r_{12} = (a/2)\sin\theta$. This path-length difference will be $\lambda/2$, the condition for destructive interference, if

**(33.18)**

$$\Delta r_{12} = \frac{a}{2}\sin\theta_1 = \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

or, equivalently, if $a\sin\theta_1 = \lambda$.

> **Note**
>
> Equation 33.18 cannot be satisfied if the slit width *a* is less than the wavelength *λ*. If a wave passes through an opening smaller than the wavelength, the central maximum of the diffraction pattern expands to where it *completely* fills the space behind the opening. There are no minima or dark spots at any angle. This situation is uncommon for light waves, because *λ* is so small, but quite common in the diffraction of sound and water waves.

We can extend this idea to find other angles of perfect destructive interference. Suppose each wavelet is paired with another wavelet from a point $a/4$ away. If $\Delta r$ between these wavelets is $\lambda/2$, then all $N$ wavelets will again cancel in pairs to give complete destructive interference. The angle $\theta_2$ at which this occurs is found by replacing $a/2$ in Equation 33.18 with $a/4$, leading to the condition $a\sin\theta_2 = 2\lambda$. This process can

be continued, and we find that the general condition for complete destructive interference is

**(33.19)**

$$a \sin \theta_p = p\lambda \qquad p = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

When $\theta_p \ll 1$ rad, which is almost always true for light waves, we can use the small-angle approximation to write

---

**(33.20)**

$$\theta_p = p\frac{\lambda}{a} \qquad p = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \qquad \text{(angles of dark fringes)}$$

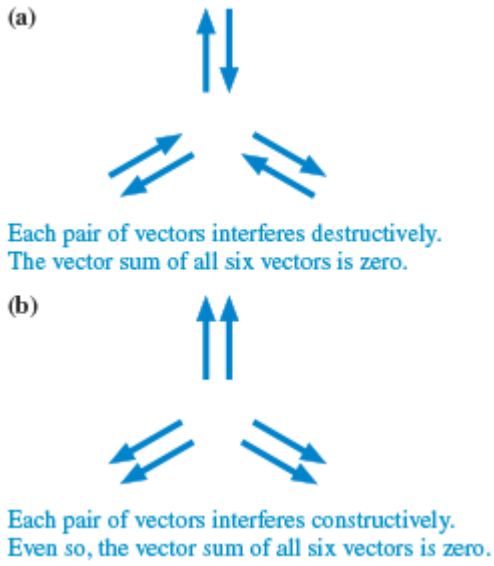
Equation 33.20 gives the angles *in radians* to the dark minima in the diffraction pattern of Figure 33.11. Notice that $p = 0$ is explicitly *excluded*. $p = 0$ corresponds to the straight-ahead position at $\theta = 0$, but you saw in Figures 33.11 and 33.13b that $\theta = 0$ is the central *maximum*, not a minimum.

> **Note**
>
> It is perhaps surprising that Equations 33.19 and 33.20 are *mathematically* the same as the condition for the *m*th *maximum* of the double-slit interference pattern. But the physical meaning here is quite different. Equation 33.20 locates the *minima* (dark fringes) of the single-slit diffraction pattern.

You might think that we could use this method of pairing wavelets from different points on the wave front to find the maxima in the diffraction

pattern. Why not take two points on the wave front that are distance $a/2$ apart, find the angle at which their wavelets are in phase and interfere constructively, then sum over all points on the wave front? There is a subtle but important distinction. Figure 33.14 shows six vector arrows. The arrows in Figure 33.14a are arranged in pairs such that the two members of each pair cancel. The sum of all six vectors is clearly the zero vector $\vec{0}$, representing destructive interference. This is the procedure we used in Figure 33.13c to arrive at Equation 33.18.

## Figure 33.14



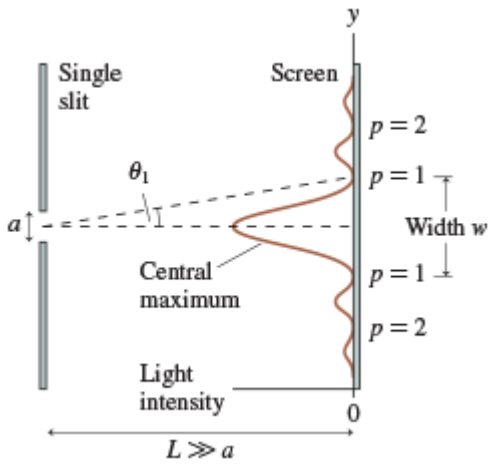

Destructive interference by pairs leads to net destructive interference, but constructive interference by pairs does *not* necessarily lead to net constructive interference.

The arrows in Figure 33.14b are arranged in pairs such that the two members of each pair point in the same direction—constructive interference! Nonetheless, the sum of all six vectors is still $\vec{0}$. To have $N$ waves interfere constructively requires more than simply having constructive interference between pairs. Each pair must also be in phase with every other pair, a condition not satisfied in Figure 33.14b. Constructive interference by pairs does *not* necessarily lead to net

constructive interference. It turns out that there is no simple formula to locate the maxima of a single-slit diffraction pattern.

Optional Section 33.5 will calculate the full intensity pattern of a single slit. The results are shown graphically in Figure 33.15. You can see the bright central maximum at $\theta = 0$, the weaker secondary maxima, and the dark points of destructive interference at the angles given by Equation 33.20. Compare this graph to the image of Figure 33.11 and make sure you see the agreement between the two.

## Figure 33.15




A graph of the intensity of a single-slit diffraction pattern.

### Example 33.3 Diffraction of a laser through a slit

Light from a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) passes through a narrow slit and is seen on a screen 2.0 m behind the slit. The first minimum in the diffraction pattern is 1.2 cm from the central maximum. How wide is the slit?

**MODEL** A narrow slit produces a single-slit diffraction pattern. A displacement of only 1.2 cm in a distance of 200 cm means that angle $\theta_1$ is certainly a small angle.

**VISUALIZE** The intensity pattern will look like Figure 33.15.

**SOLVE** We can use the small-angle approximation to find that the angle to the first minimum is

$$\theta_1 = \frac{1.2\,\text{cm}}{200\,\text{cm}} = 0.00600\,\text{rad} = 0.344^\circ$$

The first minimum is at angle $\theta_1 = \lambda/a$, from which we find that the slit width is

$$a = \frac{\lambda}{\theta_1} = \frac{633 \times 10^{-9}\,\text{m}}{6.00 \times 10^{-3}\,\text{rad}} = 1.1 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{m} = 0.11\,\text{mm}$$

**ASSESS** This is typical of the slit widths used to observe single-slit diffraction. You can see that the small-angle approximation is well satisfied.

## The Width of a Single-Slit Diffraction Pattern

We'll find it useful, as we did for the double slit, to measure *positions* on the screen rather than angles. The position of the $p$th dark fringe, at angle $\theta_p$, is $y_p = L\tan\theta_p$, where $L$ is the distance from the slit to the viewing screen. Using Equation 33.20 for $\theta_p$ and the small-angle approximation $\tan\theta_p \approx \theta_p$, we find that the dark fringes in the single-slit diffraction pattern are located at

(33.21)

$$y_p = \frac{p\lambda L}{a} \qquad p = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \qquad \text{(positions of dark fringes)}$$

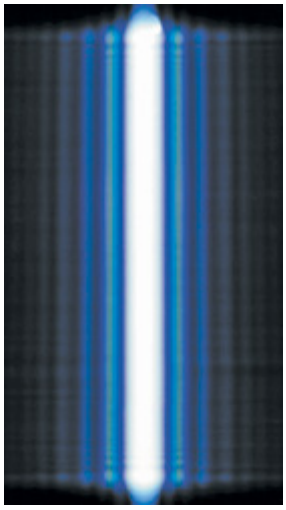


A diffraction pattern is dominated by the central maximum, which is much brighter than the secondary maxima. The width $w$ of the central maximum, shown in Figure 33.15, is defined as the distance between the two $p = 1$ minima on either side of the central maximum. Because the pattern is symmetrical, the width is simply $w = 2y_1$. This is

(33.22)

$$w = \frac{2\lambda L}{a} \qquad \text{(single slit)}$$

**The width of the central maximum is *twice* the spacing $\lambda L/a$ between the dark fringes on either side.** The farther away the screen (larger $L$), the wider the pattern of light on it becomes. In other words, the light waves are *spreading out* behind the slit, and they fill a wider and wider region as they travel farther.



The central maximum of this single-slit diffraction pattern appears white because it is overexposed. The width of the central maximum is clear.

An important implication of Equation 33.22, one contrary to common sense, is that a narrower slit (smaller $a$) causes a *wider* diffraction pattern. **The smaller the opening you squeeze a wave through, the *more* it spreads out on the other side.**

### Example 33.4 Determining the wavelength

Light passes through a 0.12-mm-wide slit and forms a diffraction pattern on a screen 1.00 m behind the slit. The width of the central maximum is 0.85 cm. What is the wavelength of the light?

**SOLVE** From Equation 33.22, the wavelength is

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= \frac{aw}{2L} = \frac{\left(1.2 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{m}\right)\left(0.0085\,\text{m}\right)}{2\left(1.00\,\text{m}\right)} \\ &= 5.1 \times 10^{-7}\,\text{m} = 510\,\text{nm}\end{aligned}$$

## Stop to Think 33.4

The figure shows two single-slit diffraction patterns. The distance between the slit and the viewing screen is the same in both cases. Which of the following (perhaps more than one) could be true?

**a.** The slits are the same for both; $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$.

**b.** The slits are the same for both; $\lambda_2 > \lambda_1$.

**c.** The wavelengths are the same for both; $a_1 > a_2$.

**d.** The wavelengths are the same for both; $a_2 > a_1$.

**e.** The slits and the wavelengths are the same for both; $p_1 > p_2$.

**f.** The slits and the wavelengths are the same for both; $p_2 > p_1$.

# 33.5 Advanced Topic: A Closer Look at Diffraction

Interference and diffraction are manifestations of superposition. Mathematically, the superposition of waves at a fixed point in space ($r_1$ and $r_2$ constant) involves sums such as $e\cos(\omega t) + e\cos(\omega t + \Delta\phi)$, where $e$ is the electric field amplitude of each wave and $\Delta\phi$ is the phase difference between them due to the fact that the waves have traveled different distances. Interestingly, we can use geometry to compute the sums that are relevant to interference and diffraction.

Figure 33.16a shows two vectors, each with amplitude $e$, rotating in the $xy$-plane with angular frequency $\omega$. At any instant, the angle from the $x$-axis is the vector's phase, $\omega t$ or $\omega t + \Delta\phi$. A rotating *vector* that encodes amplitude and *phase* information is called a **phasor**, and Figure 33.16a is a *phasor diagram*. Notice two key features. First, the vectors rotate together, keeping a fixed angle $\Delta\phi$ between them. Second, the projections of the phasors onto the $x$-axis are $e\cos(\omega t)$ and $e\cos(\omega t + \Delta\phi)$, exactly what we add in a superposition calculation.

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**Figure 33.16**

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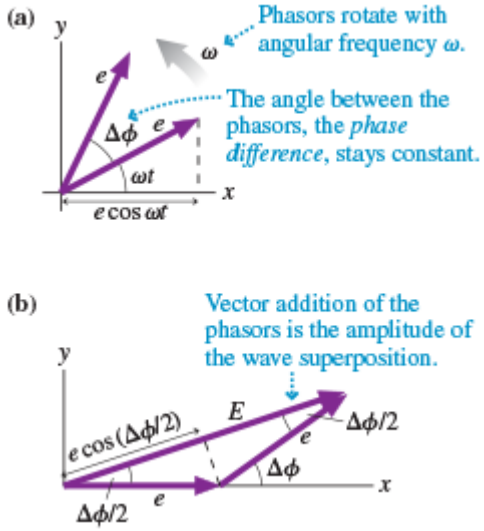


Phasor diagrams for double-slit interference.

---

To see how this works, let's return to Young's double-slit experiment. The bright and dark interference fringes arise from the superposition of two waves, one from each slit, with a phase difference $\Delta\phi = 2\pi\,\Delta r/\lambda$ due to the path-length difference $\Delta r$. Figure 33.16b represents each wave as a phasor with amplitude $e$. We're interested only in their superposition, not the rapid oscillation at frequency $\omega$, so we can draw the first phasor horizontally. If we add the phasors as vectors, using the tip-to-tail method, **the magnitude $E$ of their vector sum is the electric field amplitude of the superposition** of the two waves.

We can use geometry and trigonometry to determine $E$. We have an isosceles triangle whose large angle, complementary to $\Delta\phi$, is $180^\circ - \Delta\phi$. Consequently, the two smaller, equal angles are each $\Delta\phi/2$, and thus the base of the isosceles triangle has length $E = 2e\cos(\Delta\phi/2)$. The figure shows a triangle for which $\cos(\Delta\phi/2)$ is positive, but $\cos(\Delta\phi/2)$ can be negative at some points in the double-slit pattern. Amplitude, however, must be a positive number, so in general

(33.23)

$$E = \left| 2e \cos\left(\frac{\Delta\phi}{2}\right) \right|$$

Equation 33.23 is identical to Equation 33.10, which we found previously to be the amplitude of the double-slit interference pattern. The intensity of the interference pattern is proportional to $E^2$.

## The Single Slit Revisited

Let's use phasors to find the intensity of the diffraction pattern of a single slit. Figure 33.17a shows a slit of width $a$ with $N$ point sources of Huygens' wavelets, each separated by distance $a/N$. (We'll soon consider the entire wave front by letting $N \to \infty$.) We need to calculate the superposition of these $N$ wavelets at a point on a distant screen, so far away in comparison with the slit width $a$ that the directions are all essentially parallel at angle $\theta$.

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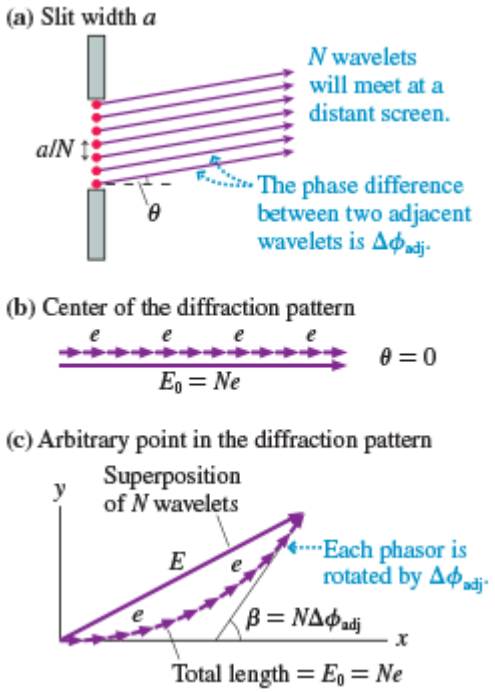
**Figure 33.17**



In the double-slit experiment, two waves from slits separated by distance $d$ had a phase difference $\Delta\phi = 2\pi d \sin\theta/\lambda$. By exactly the same reasoning, the phase difference between two adjacent wavelets separated by $a/N$ is $\Delta\phi_{\text{adj}} = 2\pi\,(a/N)\sin\theta/\lambda$. This is the phase difference for *every* pair of adjacent wavelets.

Figure 33.17b analyzes the diffraction at $\theta = 0$, the center of the diffraction pattern. Here all the wavelets travel straight ahead, and the phase difference between adjacent wavelets is $\Delta\phi_{\text{adj}} = 0$. Consequently, the phasor diagram shows $N$ phasors in a straight line with amplitude $E_0 = Ne$.

Figure 33.17c is the phasor diagram for superposition at an arbitrary point on the screen with $\theta \neq 0$. All $N$ phasors have the same length $e$—so the length of the chain of phasors is still $E_0 = Ne$—but each is rotated by angle $\Delta\phi_{\text{adj}}$ with respect to the preceding phasor. The angle of the last phasor, after $N$ rotations, is

**(33.24)**

$$\beta = N\,\Delta\phi_{\text{adj}} = \frac{2\pi a \sin\theta}{\lambda}$$

Notice that $\beta$ is independent of $N$. It is the phase difference between a wavelet originating at the top edge of the slit and one originating at the bottom edge, distance $a$ away.

$E$ is the amplitude of the superposition of the $N$ wavelets. To determine $E$, let $N \to \infty$. This makes our calculation exact, because now we're considering every point on the wave front. It also makes our calculation

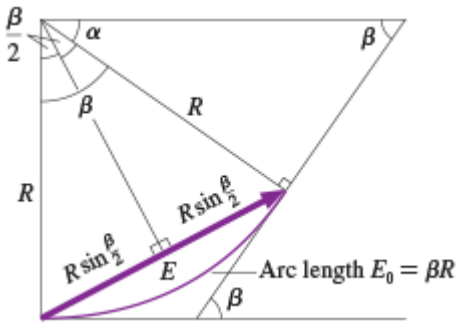
easier, because now the chain of phasors, with length $E_0$, is simply the arc of a circle.

Figure 33.18 shows the geometry. The triangle at the upper right is a right triangle, so $\alpha + \beta = 90°$. But $\alpha$ and the angle subtending the arc also add up to 90°, so the angle subtending the arc must be $\beta$. We've divided it into two angles, each $\beta/2$, in order to create two right triangles along $E$. You can see that $E = 2R\sin(\beta/2)$. In addition, the arc length, if $\beta$ is in radians, is $E_0 = \beta R$. Eliminating $R$, we find that the amplitude of the superposition is

**(33.25)**

$$E = E_0 \frac{\sin(\beta/2)}{\beta/2} = E_0 \frac{\sin(\pi a \sin\theta/\lambda)}{\pi a \sin\theta/\lambda}$$

## Figure 33.18




Calculating the superposition.

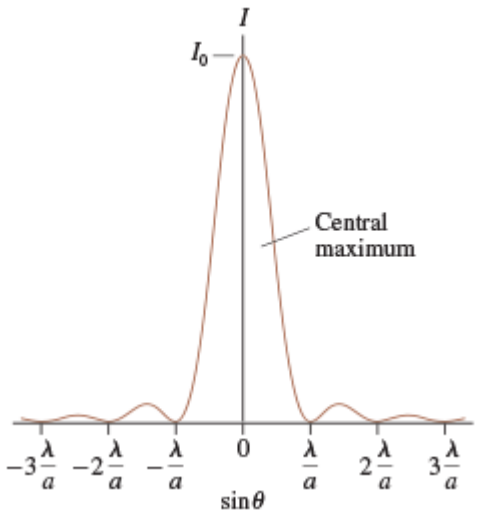
The diffraction-pattern intensity is proportional to $E^2$, thus

**(33.26)**

$$I_{\text{slit}} = I_0 \left[ \frac{\sin(\pi a \sin\theta/\lambda)}{\pi a \sin\theta/\lambda} \right]^2$$

where $I_0$ (proportional to $E_0^2$) is the intensity at the center of the central maximum, $\theta = 0$. (Recall, from l'Hôpital's rule, that $\sin x/x \to 1$ as $x \to 0$.) Figure 33.19 is a graph of Equation 33.26. You can see that it is, indeed, exactly what we observe for single-slit diffraction—a bright central maximum flanked by weaker secondary maxima. The minima occur where the numerator of Equation 33.26 is zero. This requires $\sin\theta_p = p\lambda/a$ for $p = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$, which is exactly the result for the dark fringes that we found previously.

## Figure 33.19




The single-slit diffraction pattern.

We usually measure positions on a screen rather than angles. For a screen at distance $L$, a point on the screen at distance $y$ from the center of the pattern is at angle $\theta = \tan^{-1}(y/L)$. For very small angles, which is also typical, the small-angle approximation $\tan\theta \approx \sin\theta \approx \theta$ allows us to write the intensity at position $y$ as

(33.27)

$$I_{\text{slit}} = I_0 \left[ \frac{\sin(\pi a y / \lambda L)}{\pi a y / \lambda L} \right]^2 \qquad \text{(small angles)}$$

In this case the minima are at $y_p = p\lambda L / a$, also as we found previously.

You might think that the maximum would occur where the numerator in Equation 33.27 is 1. However, $y$ also appears in the denominator, and that affects the maxima. Setting the derivative of Equation 33.27 to zero, to locate the maxima, leads to a *transcendental equation*, one that cannot be solved algebraically. It can be solved numerically, leading to the result that, for small angles, the first two maxima occur at $y_{\text{max 1}} = 1.43\lambda L/a$ and $y_{\text{max 2}} = 2.46\lambda L/a$.

**Example 33.5 Single-slit intensity**

Light with a wavelength of 500 nm passes through a 150-$\mu$m-wide slit and is viewed on a screen 2.5 m behind the slit. At what distance from the center of the diffraction pattern is the intensity 50% of maximum?



**MODEL** The slit produces a single-slit diffraction pattern. Assume that the diffraction angles are small enough to justify the small-angle approximation.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 33.19 showed a graph of the intensity distribution. The intensity falls to 50% of maximum before the first minimum and never returns to 50% after the first minimum.

**SOLVE** From Equation 33.27, the intensity at position $y$ is

$$I = I_0 \left[ \frac{\sin(\pi a y/\lambda L)}{\pi a y/\lambda L} \right]^2$$

The intensity will have fallen to 50% of maximum $I_0$ when

$$\frac{\sin(\pi a y/\lambda L)}{\pi a y/\lambda L} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} = 0.707$$

This is a transcendental equation; there is no exact solution. However, it can easily be solved on a calculator with only a small amount of trial and error. If we let $x = \pi a y/\lambda L$, then the equation we want to solve is $\sin x/x = 0.707$, where $x$ is in radians. Put your calculator in radian mode, guess a value of $x$, compute $\sin x/x$, and then use the result to make an improved guess. The first minimum, $y_1 = \lambda L/a$, has $x = \pi$ rad, and we know that the solution is less than this.

First try: $x = 1.0$ rad gives $\sin x/x = 0.841$.

Second try: $x = 1.5$ rad gives $\sin x/x = 0.665$.

With just two guesses we've narrowed the range to $1.0\,\text{rad} < x < 1.5\,\text{rad}$. It only takes about three more tries to arrive at $x = 1.39$ rad as the answer to three significant figures. Thus the intensity has dropped to 50% of maximum at

$$y = \frac{1.39}{\pi}\frac{\lambda L}{a} = 3.7\,\text{mm}$$

**ASSESS** Diffraction patterns seen in the laboratory are typically a centimeter or two wide. This point is within the central maximum, so ≈4 mm from the center is reasonable. And ≈4 mm from the center at a distance of 2.5 m certainly justifies our use of the small-angle approximation.

## The Complete Double-Slit Intensity

Figure 33.4 showed double-slit interference occurring between two overlapping waves as they "spread out behind the two slits." The waves are spreading because light has passed through two narrow slits, and each slit is causing single-slit diffraction. What we see in double-slit interference is actually interference between two overlapping single-slit diffraction patterns. Interference produces the fringes, but the diffraction pattern—the amount of light reaching the screen—determines *how bright* the fringes are.

We earlier calculated the ideal double-slit intensity, $I_{\text{double}} = 4I_1 \cos^2(\pi dy/\lambda L)$, for two slits separated by distance $d$. But each slit has width $a$, so the double-slit pattern is *modulated* by the single-slit diffraction intensity for a slit of width $a$. Thus a realistic double-slit intensity, for small angles, is

**(33.28)**

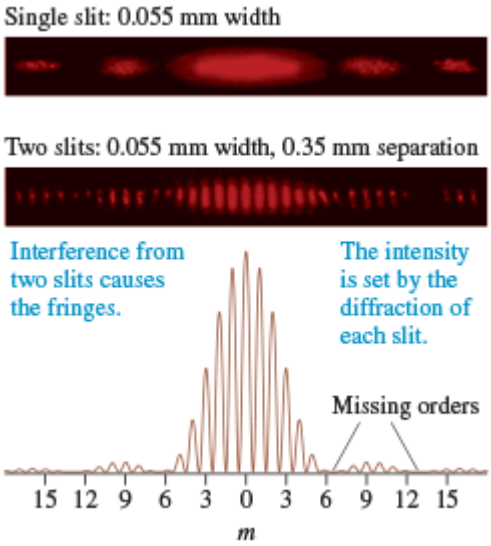
$$I_{\text{double}} = I_0 \left[\frac{\sin(\pi dy/\lambda L)}{\pi dy/\lambda L}\right]^2 \cos^2(\pi dy/\lambda L)$$

The cosine term produces the fringe oscillations, but now the overall intensity is determined by the diffraction of the individual slits. If the slits are extremely narrow ($a \ll d$), which we tacitly assumed before, then the central maximum of the single-slit pattern is very broad and we see many

fringes with only a slow decline in the fringe intensity. This was the case in Figure 33.6b.

But many double slits have a width $a$ that is only slightly smaller than the slit spacing $d$, and this leads to a complex interplay between diffraction and interference. Figure 33.20 shows a double-slit interference pattern for two 0.055-mm-wide slits separated by 0.35 mm and, for comparison, the diffraction pattern of a single 0.055-mm-wide slit. Diffraction of the individual slits determines the overall brightness on the screen—it is the spreading of the light behind the slit—and within this we see the interference between light waves from the two slits. It seems there could be no better proof that light is a wave!

## Figure 33.20




The overall intensity of a double-slit interference pattern is governed by the single-slit diffraction through each slit.

Notice that the $m = 7$ interference fringe is missing (and $m = 8$ is so weak as to be almost invisible). If an interference maximum falls exactly on a minimum (a zero) in the single-slit diffraction pattern, then we have what is called a **missing order**. Interference maxima occur at

$y_m = m\lambda L / d$ and diffraction minima are at $y_p = p\lambda L/a$, where $m$ and $p$ are integers. Equating these, to find where they overlap, we see that order $m$ is missing if

**(33.29)**

$$m_{\text{missing}} = p\frac{d}{a} \qquad p = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

$m$ has to be an integer, so the order is truly missing only for certain slit-spacing-to-width ratios $d/a$. In the case of Figure 33.20, $d/a = 7$ and so the $m = 7$ order is missing (it falls on the $p = 1$ diffraction minimum), as is $m = 14$. In practice, one or more interference maxima may be too weak to be seen even if they don't satisfy Equation 33.29 exactly.

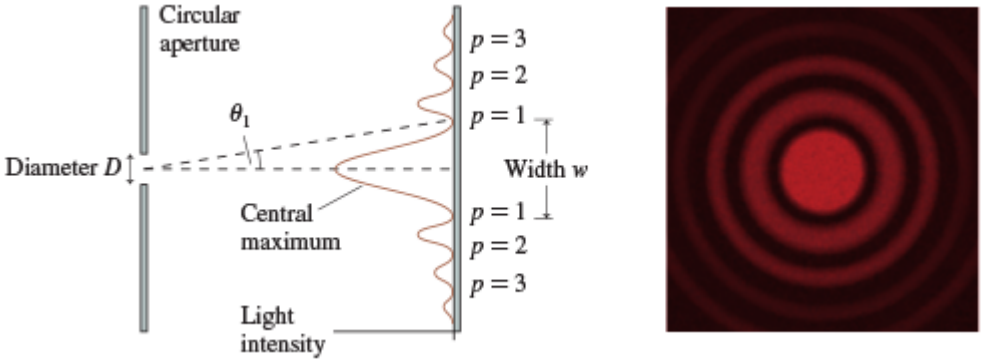
# 33.6 Circular-Aperture Diffraction

Diffraction occurs if a wave passes through an opening of any shape. Diffraction by a single slit establishes the basic ideas of diffraction, but a common situation of practical importance is diffraction of a wave by a **circular aperture.** Circular diffraction is mathematically more complex than diffraction from a slit, and we will present results without derivation.

Consider some examples. A loudspeaker cone generates sound by the rapid oscillation of a diaphragm, but the sound wave must pass through the circular aperture defined by the outer edge of the speaker cone before it travels into the room beyond. This is diffraction by a circular aperture. Telescopes and microscopes are the reverse. Light waves from outside need to enter the instrument. To do so, they must pass through a circular lens. In fact, the performance limit of optical instruments is determined by the diffraction of the circular openings through which the waves must pass. This is an issue we'll look at in Chapter 35.

Figure 33.21 shows a circular aperture of diameter $D$. Light waves passing through this aperture spread out to generate a *circular* diffraction pattern. You should compare this to Figure 33.11 for a single slit to note the similarities and differences. The diffraction pattern still has a *central maximum*, now circular, and it is surrounded by a series of secondary bright fringes.

**Figure 33.21**




The diffraction of light by a circular opening.

Angle $\theta_1$ locates the first minimum in the intensity, where there is perfect destructive interference. A mathematical analysis of circular diffraction finds

**(33.30)**

$$\theta_1 = \frac{1.22\lambda}{D}$$

where $D$ is the *diameter* of the circular opening. Equation 33.30 has assumed the small-angle approximation, which is almost always valid for the diffraction of light but usually is *not* valid for the diffraction of longer-wavelength sound waves.

Within the small-angle approximation, the width of the central maximum is

**(33.31)**

$$w = 2y_1 = 2L\tan\theta_1 \approx \frac{2.44\lambda L}{D} \qquad \text{(circular aperture)}$$

The diameter of the diffraction pattern increases with distance $L$, showing that light spreads out behind a circular aperture, but it decreases if the size $D$ of the aperture is increased.

**Example 33.6 Shining a laser through a circular hole**

Light from a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) passes through a 0.50-mm-diameter hole. How far away should a viewing screen be placed to observe a diffraction pattern whose central maximum is 3.0 mm in diameter?

**SOLVE** Equation 33.31 gives us the appropriate screen distance:

$$L = \frac{wD}{2.44\lambda} = \frac{\left(3.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m}\right)\left(5.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}\right)}{2.44\left(633 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{m}\right)} = 0.97\,\text{m}$$

# 33.7 The Wave Model of Light



We opened this chapter by noting that there are three models of light, each useful within a certain range of circumstances. We are now at a point where we can establish an important condition that separates the wave model of light from the ray model of light.

When light passes through an opening of size $a$, the angle of the first diffraction minimum is

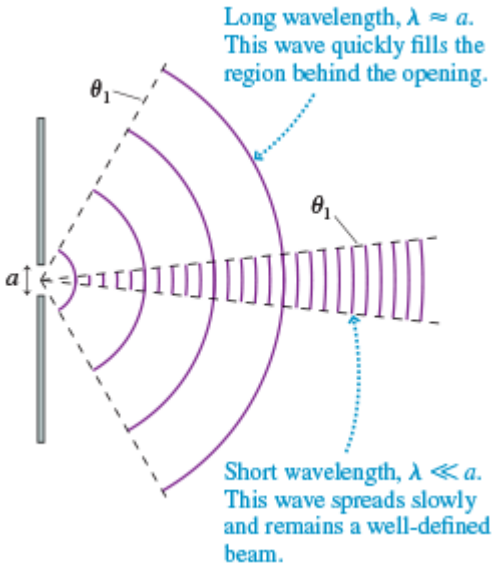
**(33.32)**

$$\theta_1 = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\lambda}{a}\right)$$

Equation 33.32 is for a slit, but the result is very nearly the same if $a$ is the diameter of a circular aperture. Regardless of the shape of the opening, **the factor that determines how much a wave spreads out behind an opening is the ratio $\lambda/a$, the size of the wavelength compared to the size of the opening.**

Figure 33.22 illustrates the difference between a wave whose wavelength is much smaller than the size of the opening and a second wave whose wavelength is comparable to the opening. A wave with $\lambda/a \approx 1$ quickly spreads to fill the region behind the opening. Light waves, because of their very short wavelength, almost always have $\lambda/a \ll 1$ and diffract to produce a slowly spreading "beam" of light.

**Figure 33.22**



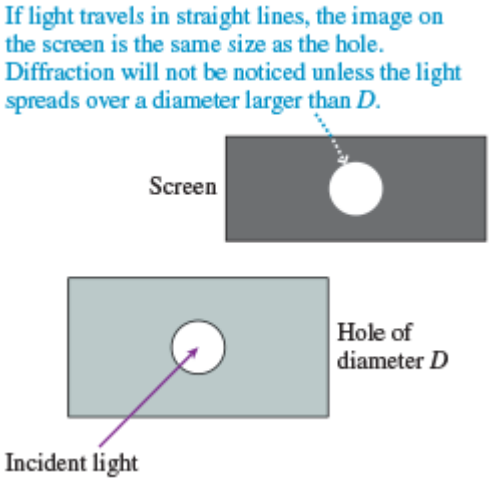

The diffraction of a long-wavelength wave and a short-wavelength wave through the same opening.

Now we can better appreciate Newton's dilemma. With everyday-sized openings, sound and water waves have $\lambda/a \approx 1$ and diffract to fill the space behind the opening. Consequently, this is what we come to expect for the behavior of waves. We see now that light really does spread out behind an opening, but the very small $\lambda/a$ ratio usually makes the diffraction pattern too small to see. Diffraction begins to be discernible only when the size of the opening is a fraction of a millimeter or less. If we wanted the diffracted light wave to *fill* the space behind the opening ($\theta_1 \approx 90^\circ$), as a sound wave does, we would need to reduce the size of the opening to $a \approx 0.001$ mm!

Figure 33.23 shows light passing through a hole of diameter $D$. According to the ray model, light rays passing through the hole travel straight ahead to create a bright circular spot of diameter $D$ on a viewing screen. This is the *geometric image* of the slit. In reality, diffraction causes the light to spread out behind the slit, but—and this is the important point—**we will not notice the spreading if it is less than the diameter $D$**

**of the geometric image.** That is, we will not be aware of diffraction unless the bright spot on the screen increases in diameter.

## Figure 33.23




Diffraction will be noticed only if the bright spot on the screen is wider than $D$.

This idea provides a reasonable criterion for when to use ray optics and when to use wave optics:

- If the spreading due to diffraction is less than the size of the opening, use the ray model and think of light as traveling in straight lines.
- If the spreading due to diffraction is greater than the size of the opening, use the wave model of light.

The crossover point between these two regimes occurs when the spreading due to diffraction is equal to the size of the opening. The central-maximum width of a circular-aperture diffraction pattern is $w = 2.44\lambda L/D$. If we equate this diffraction width to the diameter of the aperture itself, we have

**(33.33)**

$$\frac{2.44\lambda L}{D_c} = D_c$$

where the subscript c on $D_c$ indicates that this is the crossover between the ray model and the wave model. Because we're making an estimate—the change from the ray model to the wave model is gradual, not sudden—to one significant figure, we find

**(33.34)**

$$D_c \approx \sqrt{2\lambda L}$$

This is the diameter of a circular aperture whose diffraction pattern, at distance $L$, has width $w \approx D$. We know that visible light has $\lambda \approx 500\,\text{nm}$, and a typical distance in laboratory work is $L \approx 1\,\text{m}$. For these values,

$$D_c \approx 1\,\text{mm}$$

Thus diffraction is significant, and you should use the wave model, when light passes through openings smaller than about 1 mm. The ray model, which we'll study in the next chapter, is the more appropriate model when light passes through openings larger than about 1 mm. Lenses and mirrors, in particular, are almost always larger than 1 mm, so they will be analyzed with the ray model.

We can now pull all these ideas together in a more complete presentation of the wave model of light.

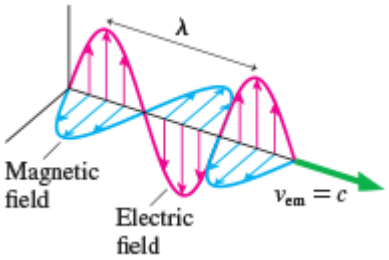
---

MODEL 33.1 **Wave model of light**

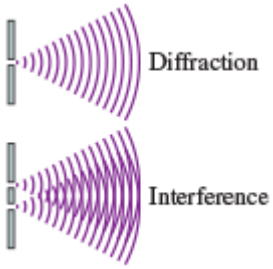
For use when diffraction is significant.

- Light is an electromagnetic wave.
  - Light travels through vacuum at speed $c$.
  - Wavelength $\lambda$ and frequency $f$ are related by $\lambda f = c$.

- Most of optics depends only on the waviness of light, not on its electromagnetic properties.




- Light exhibits diffraction and interference.
  - Light spreads out after passing through an opening. The amount of spread is inversely proportional to the size of the opening.
  - Two equal-wavelength light waves interfere. Constructive and destructive interference depend on the path-length difference.




- Limitations:
  - The ray model is a better description in situations with no diffraction.
    Use the wave model with openings < 1 mm in size.
    Use the ray model with openings > 1 mm in size.
  - The *photon model* is a better description of extremely weak light or the light emitted in atomic transitions.

# 33.8 Interferometers



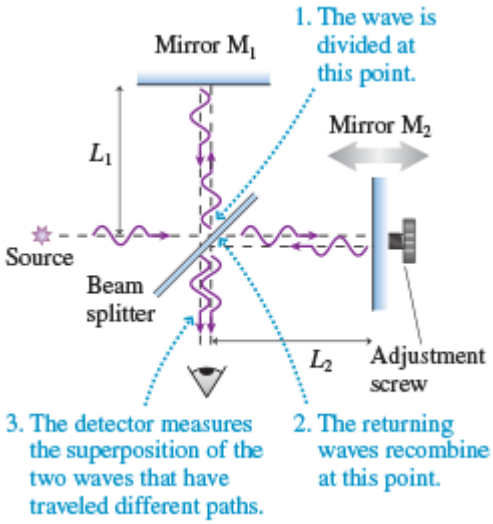
Scientists and engineers have devised many ingenious methods for using interference to control the flow of light and to make very precise measurements with light waves. A device that makes practical use of interference is called an **interferometer.**

Interference requires two waves of *exactly* the same wavelength. One way of guaranteeing that two waves have exactly equal wavelengths is to divide one wave into two parts of smaller amplitude. Later, at a different point in space, the two parts are recombined. **Interferometers are based on the division and recombination of a single wave.**

## The Michelson Interferometer

Albert Michelson, the first American scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, invented an optical interferometer, shown in Figure 33.24, in which an incoming light wave is divided by a **beam splitter,** a partially silvered mirror that reflects half the light but transmits the other half. The two waves then travel toward mirrors $M_1$ and $M_2$. Half of the wave reflected from $M_1$ is transmitted through the beam splitter, where it recombines with the reflected half of the wave returning from $M_2$. The superimposed waves travel on to a light detector, originally a human observer but now more likely an electronic photodetector.

**Figure 33.24**




A Michelson interferometer.

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After separating, the two waves travel distances $r_1 = 2L_1$ and $r_2 = 2L_2$ before recombining, with the factors of 2 appearing because the waves travel to the mirrors and back again. Thus the path-length difference between the two waves is

**(33.35)**

$$\Delta r = 2L_2 - 2L_1$$

The conditions for constructive and destructive interference between the two recombined beams are the same as for double-slit interference: $\Delta r = m\lambda$ and $\Delta r = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\lambda\right)$, respectively. Thus constructive and destructive interference occur when

**(33.36)**

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Constructive:} \quad L_2 - L_1 = m\tfrac{\lambda}{2} \\ &\text{Destructive:} \quad L_2 - L_1 = (m + \tfrac{1}{2})\tfrac{\lambda}{2} \end{aligned} \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$$

You might expect the interferometer output to be either "bright" or "dark." Instead, a viewing screen shows the pattern of circular interference fringes seen in Figure 33.25. Our analysis was for light

waves that impinge on the mirrors exactly perpendicular to the surface. In an actual experiment, some of the light waves enter the interferometer at slightly different angles and, as a result, the recombined waves have slightly altered path-length differences $\Delta r$ These waves cause the alternating bright and dark fringes as you move outward from the center of the pattern. Their analysis will be left to more advanced courses in optics. Equations 33.36 are valid at the *center* of the circular pattern; thus there is a bright or dark central spot when one of the conditions in Equations 33.36 is true.

## Figure 33.25

Photograph of the interference fringes produced by a Michelson interferometer.

Mirror $M_2$ can be moved forward or backward by turning a precision screw, causing the central spot to alternate in a bright-dark-bright-dark-bright cycle that is easily seen or monitored by a photodetector. Suppose the interferometer is adjusted to produce a bright central spot. The next bright spot will appear when $M_2$ has moved *half* a wavelength, increasing the path-length difference by one full wavelength. The number $\Delta m$ of maxima appearing as $M_2$ moves through distance $\Delta L_2$ is

(33.37)

$$\Delta m = \frac{\Delta L_2}{\lambda/2}$$

Very precise wavelength measurements can be made by moving the mirror while counting the number of new bright spots appearing at the center of the pattern. The number $\Delta m$ is counted and known exactly. The only limitation on how precisely $\lambda$ can be measured this way is the precision with which distance $\Delta L_2$ can be measured. Unlike $\lambda$, which is microscopic, $\Delta L_2$ is typically a few millimeters, a macroscopic distance that can be measured very accurately using precision screws, micrometers, and other techniques. Michelson's invention provided a way to transfer the precision of macroscopic distance measurements to an equal precision for the wavelength of light.

**Example 33.7 Measuring the wavelength of light**

An experimenter uses a Michelson interferometer to measure one of the wavelengths of light emitted by neon atoms. She slowly moves mirror $M_2$ until 10,000 new bright central spots have appeared. (In a modern experiment, a photodetector and computer would eliminate the possibility of experimenter error while counting.) She then measures that the mirror has moved a distance of 3.164 mm. What is the wavelength of the light?

**MODEL** An interferometer produces a new maximum each time $L_2$ increases by $\lambda/2$.

**SOLVE** The mirror moves $\Delta L_2 = 3.164\ \text{mm} = 3.164 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m}$. We can use Equation 33.37 to find

$$\lambda = \frac{2\,\Delta L_2}{\Delta m} = 6.328 \times 10^{-7}\,\text{m} = 632.8\,\text{nm}$$

**ASSESS** A measurement of $\Delta L_2$ accurate to four significant figures allowed us to determine $\lambda$ to four significant figures. This happens to be the neon wavelength that is emitted as the laser beam in a helium-neon laser.

### Stop to Think 33.5

A Michelson interferometer using light of wavelength $\lambda$ has been adjusted to produce a bright spot at the center of the interference pattern. Mirror $M_1$ is then moved distance $\lambda$ toward the beam splitter while $M_2$ is moved distance $\lambda$ away from the beam splitter. How many bright-dark-bright fringe shifts are seen?

**a.** 0
**b.** 1
**c.** 2
**d.** 4
**e.** 8
**f.** It's not possible to say without knowing $\lambda$.

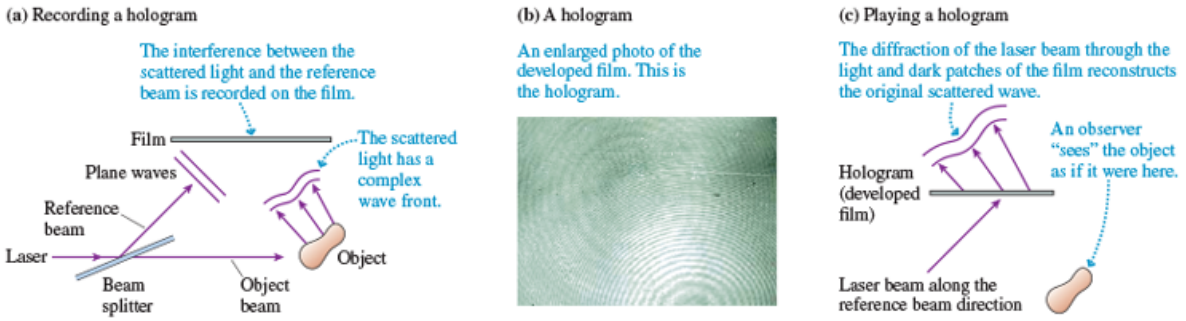
# Holography

No discussion of wave optics would be complete without mentioning holography, which has both scientific and artistic applications. The basic

idea is a simple extension of interferometry. 

Figure 33.26a shows how a **hologram** is made. A beam splitter divides a laser beam into two waves. One wave illuminates the object of interest. The light scattered by this object is a very complex wave, but it is the wave you would see if you looked at the object from the position of the film. The other wave, called the *reference beam,* is reflected directly toward the film. The scattered light and the reference beam meet at the film and interfere. The film records their interference pattern.

## Figure 33.26




Holography is an important application of wave optics.

The interference patterns we've looked at in this chapter have been simple patterns of stripes and circles because the light waves have been well-behaved plane waves and spherical waves. The light wave scattered by the object in Figure 33.26a is exceedingly complex. As a result, the interference pattern recorded on the film—the hologram—is a seemingly random pattern of whorls and blotches. Figure 33.26b is an enlarged photograph of a portion of a hologram. It's certainly not obvious that information is stored in this pattern, but it is.

A hologram.

The hologram is "played" by sending just the reference beam through it, as seen in Figure 33.26c. The reference beam diffracts through the transparent parts of the hologram, just as it would through the slits of a diffraction grating. Amazingly, the diffracted wave is *exactly the same* as the light wave that had been scattered by the object! In other words, the diffracted reference beam *reconstructs* the original scattered wave. As you look at this diffracted wave, from the far side of the hologram, you "see" the object exactly as if it were there. The view is three dimensional because, by moving your head with respect to the hologram, you can see different portions of the wave front.

**Challenge Example 33.8 Measuring the index of refraction of a gas**

A Michelson interferometer uses a helium-neon laser with wavelength $\lambda_{\text{vac}} = 633\,\text{nm}$. In one arm, the light passes through a 4.00-cm-thick glass cell. Initially the cell is evacuated, and the interferometer is adjusted so that the central spot is a bright fringe. The cell is then slowly filled to atmospheric pressure with a gas. As the cell fills, 43 bright-dark-bright fringe shifts are seen and

counted. What is the index of refraction of the gas at this wavelength?

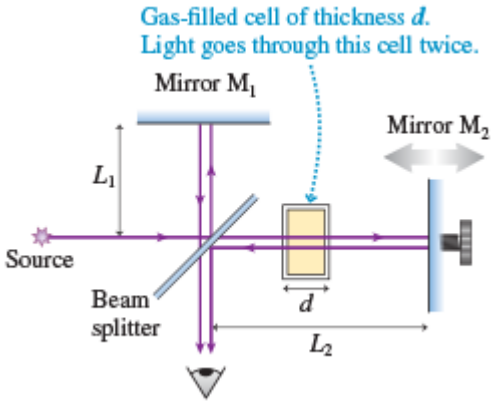
---

**MODEL** Adding one additional wavelength to the round trip causes one bright-dark-bright fringe shift. Changing the length of the arm is one way to add wavelengths, but not the only way. Increasing the index of refraction also adds wavelengths because light has a shorter wavelength when traveling through a material with a larger index of refraction.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 33.27 shows a Michelson interferometer with a cell of thickness $d$ in one arm.

---

## Figure 33.27




Measuring the index of refraction.

---

**SOLVE** To begin, all the air is pumped out of the cell. As light travels from the beam splitter to the mirror and back, the number of wavelengths inside the cell is

$$m_1 = \frac{2d}{\lambda_{\text{vac}}}$$

where the 2 appears because the light passes through the cell twice.

The cell is then filled with gas at 1 atm pressure. Light travels slower in the gas, $v = c/n$, and you learned in Chapter 16 that the reduction in speed decreases the wavelength to $\lambda_{\text{vac}}/n$. With the cell filled, the number of wavelengths spanning distance $d$ is

$$m_2 = \frac{2d}{\lambda} = \frac{2d}{\lambda_{\text{vac}}/n}$$

The physical distance has not changed, but the number of wavelengths along the path has. Filling the cell has increased the path by

$$\Delta m = m_2 - m_1 = (n-1)\,\frac{2d}{\lambda_{\text{vac}}}$$

wavelengths. Each increase of one wavelength causes one bright-dark-bright fringe shift at the output. Solving for $n$, we find

$$n = 1 + \frac{\lambda_{\text{vac}}\,\Delta m}{2d} = 1 + \frac{(6.33 \times 10^{-1}\ \text{m})(43)}{2(0.0400\,\text{m})} = 1.00034$$

**ASSESS** This may seem like a six-significant-figure result, but there are really only two. What we're measuring is not $n$ but $n - 1$. We know the fringe count to two significant figures, and that has allowed us to compute

$$n - 1 = \lambda_{\text{vac}}\,\Delta m/2d = 3.4 \times 10^{-4}.$$

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 33 has been to learn about and apply the wave model of light.

## General Principles

**Huygens' principle** says that each point on a wave front is the source of a spherical wavelet. The wave front at a later time is tangent to all the wavelets.

**Diffraction** is the spreading of a wave after it passes through an opening.

Constructive and destructive **interference** are due to the overlap of two or more waves as they spread behind openings.

## Important Concepts

The **wave model** of light considers light to be a wave propagating through space. Diffraction and interference are important.

The **ray model** of light considers light to travel in straight lines like little particles. Diffraction and interference are not important.

Diffraction is important when the width of the diffraction pattern of an aperture equals or exceeds the size of the aperture.

For a circular aperture, the crossover between the ray and wave models occurs for an opening of diameter $D_c \approx \sqrt{2\lambda L}$.

In practice, $D_c \approx 1$ mm for visible light. Thus

- Use the wave model when light passes through openings < 1 mm in size. Diffraction effects are usually important.
- Use the ray model when light passes through openings > 1 mm in size. Diffraction is usually not important.

# Applications

**Single slit** of width $a$.

A bright **central maximum** of width

$$w = \frac{2\lambda L}{a}$$

is flanked by weaker **secondary maxima.**

Dark fringes are located at angles such that

$$a \sin \theta_p = p\lambda \qquad p = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

If $\lambda/a \ll 1$, then from the small-angle approximation

$$\theta_p = \frac{p\lambda}{a} \qquad y_p = \frac{p\lambda L}{a}$$

## Interference due to wave-front division

Waves overlap as they spread out behind slits. Constructive interference occurs along antinodal lines. Bright fringes are seen where the antinodal lines intersect the viewing screen.

**Double slit** with separation $d$.

Equally spaced bright fringes are located at

$$\theta_m = \frac{m\lambda}{d} \qquad y_m = \frac{m\lambda L}{d} \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots .$$

The **fringe spacing** is $\Delta y = \frac{\lambda L}{d}$

**Diffraction grating** with slit spacing $d$.

Very bright and narrow fringes are located at angles and positions

$$d \sin\theta_m = m\lambda \qquad y_m = L \tan\theta_m$$

**Circular aperture** of diameter $D$.

A bright central maximum of diameter

$$w = \frac{2.44\lambda L}{D}$$

is surrounded by circular secondary maxima.

The first dark fringe is located at

$$\theta_1 = \frac{1.22\lambda}{D} \qquad y_1 = \frac{1.22\lambda L}{D}$$

For an aperture of any shape, a smaller opening causes a more rapid spreading of the wave behind the opening.

## Interference due to amplitude division

An interferometer divides a wave, lets the two waves travel different paths, then recombines them. Interference is constructive if one wave travels an integer number of wavelengths more or less than the other wave. The difference can be due to an actual path-length difference or to a different index of refraction.

## Michelson interferometer

The number of bright-dark-bright fringe shifts as mirror $M_2$ moves distance $\Delta L_2$ is

$$\Delta m = \frac{\Delta L_2}{\lambda/2}$$

optics

diffraction

models of light

wave model

ray model

photon model

double slit

interference fringes

central maximum

fringe spacing, $\Delta y$

diffraction grating

order, $m$

spectroscopy

single-slit diffraction

secondary maxima

Huygens' principle

phasor

missing order

circular aperture

interferometer

beam splitter

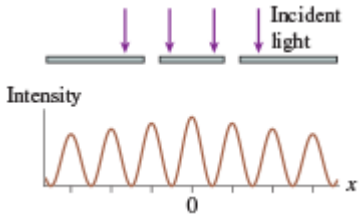
hologram

# Conceptual Questions



1. Figure Q33.1 shows light waves passing through two closely spaced, narrow slits. The graph shows the intensity of light on a screen behind the slits. Reproduce these graph axes, including the zero and the tick marks locating the double-slit fringes, then draw a graph to show how the light-intensity pattern will appear if the right slit is blocked, allowing light to go through only the left slit. Explain your reasoning.

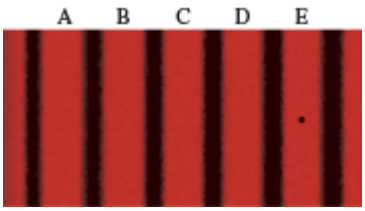
**Figure Q33.1**




2. In a double-slit interference experiment, which of the following actions (perhaps more than one) would cause the fringe spacing to increase? (a) Increasing the wavelength of the light. (b) Increasing the slit spacing. (c) Increasing the distance to the viewing screen. (d) Submerging the entire experiment in water.
3. Figure Q33.3 shows the viewing screen in a double-slit experiment. Fringe C is the central maximum. What will happen to the fringe spacing if
    a. The wavelength of the light is decreased?
    b. The spacing between the slits is decreased?
    c. The distance to the screen is decreased?

**d.** Suppose the wavelength of the light is 500 nm. How much farther is it from the dot on the screen in the center of fringe E to the left slit than it is from the dot to the right slit?

**Figure Q33.3**




**4.** Figure Q33.3 is the interference pattern seen on a viewing screen behind 2 slits. Suppose the 2 slits were replaced by 20 slits having the same spacing $d$ between adjacent slits.

**a.** Would the number of fringes on the screen increase, decrease, or stay the same?

**b.** Would the fringe spacing increase, decrease, or stay the same?

**c.** Would the width of each fringe increase, decrease, or stay the same?

**d.** Would the brightness of each fringe increase, decrease, or stay the same?

**5.** Figure Q33.5 shows the light intensity on a viewing screen behind a single slit of width $a$. The light's wavelength is $\lambda$. Is $\lambda < a, \lambda = a, \lambda > a$, or is it not possible to tell? Explain.

**Figure Q33.5**

6. Figure Q33.6 shows the light intensity on a viewing screen behind a circular aperture. What happens to the width of the central maximum if

    a. The wavelength of the light is increased?

    b. The diameter of the aperture is increased?

    c. How will the screen appear if the aperture diameter is less than the light wavelength?

**Figure Q33.6**

7. Narrow, bright fringes are observed on a screen behind a diffraction grating. The entire experiment is then immersed in water. Do the fringes on the screen get closer together, get farther apart, remain the same, or disappear? Explain.

8. a. Green light shines through a 100-mm-diameter hole and is observed on a screen. If the hole diameter is increased by 20%, does the circular spot of light on the screen decrease in diameter, increase in diameter, or stay the same? Explain.

    b. Green light shines through a 100-$\mu m$-diameter hole and is observed on a screen. If the hole diameter is increased by 20%, does the circular spot of light on the screen decrease in diameter, increase in diameter, or stay the same? Explain.

9. A Michelson interferometer using 800 nm light is adjusted to have a bright central spot. One mirror is then moved 200 nm forward, the other 200 nm back. Afterward, is the central spot bright, dark, or in between? Explain.
10. A Michelson interferometer is set up to display constructive interference (a bright central spot in the fringe pattern of Figure 33.25) using light of wavelength $\lambda$. If the wavelength is changed to $\lambda/2$ does the central spot remain bright, does the central spot become dark, or do the fringes disappear? Explain. Assume the fringes are viewed by a detector sensitive to both wavelengths.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 33.2 The Interference of Light

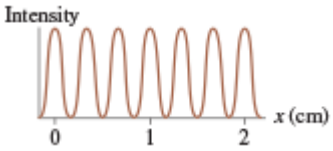
1. • A double slit is illuminated simultaneously with orange light of wavelength 620 nm and light of an unknown wavelength. The $m = 4$ bright fringe of the unknown wavelength overlaps the $m = 3$ bright orange fringe. What is the unknown wavelength?
2. •• Two narrow slits 80 $\mu$m apart are illuminated with light of wavelength 620 nm. What is the angle of the $m = 3$ bright fringe in radians? In degrees?
3. • A double-slit experiment is performed with light of wavelength 630 nm. The bright interference fringes are spaced

1.8 mm apart on the viewing screen. What will the fringe spacing be if the light is changed to a wavelength of 420 nm?

**4.** • Light of wavelength 550 nm illuminates a double slit, and the interference pattern is observed on a screen. At the position of the $m = 2$ bright fringe, how much farther is it to the more distant slit than to the nearer slit?

**5.** •• Light of 630 nm wavelength illuminates two slits that are 0.25 mm apart. Figure EX33.5 shows the intensity pattern seen on a screen behind the slits. What is the distance to the screen?

**Figure EX33.5**




**6.** •• In a double-slit experiment, the slit separation is 200 times the wavelength of the light. What is the angular separation (in degrees) between two adjacent bright fringes?

**7.** •• Light from a sodium lamp ($\lambda = 589$ nm) illuminates two narrow slits. The fringe spacing on a screen 150 cm behind the slits is 4.0 mm. What is the spacing (in mm) between the two slits?

**8.** •• A double-slit interference pattern is created by two narrow slits spaced 0.25 mm apart. The distance between the first and the fifth minimum on a screen 60 cm behind the slits is 5.5 mm. What is the wavelength (in nm) of the light used in this experiment?

## Section 33.3 The Diffraction Grating

**9.** • A 4.0-cm-wide diffraction grating has 2000 slits. It is illuminated by light of wavelength 550 nm. What are the angles (in degrees) of the first two diffraction orders?

**10.** •• Light of wavelength 620 nm illuminates a diffraction grating. The second-order maximum is at angle 39.5°. How many lines per millimeter does this grating have?

**11.** •• A diffraction grating produces a first-order maximum at an angle of 20.0°. What is the angle of the second-order maximum?

**12.** • A diffraction grating is illuminated simultaneously with red light of wavelength 660 nm and light of an unknown wavelength. The fifth-order maximum of the unknown wavelength exactly overlaps the third-order maximum of the red light. What is the unknown wavelength?

**13.** •• The two most prominent wavelengths in the light emitted by a hydrogen discharge lamp are 656 nm (red) and 486 nm (blue). Light from a hydrogen lamp illuminates a diffraction grating with 500 lines/mm, and the light is observed on a screen 1.50 m behind the grating. What is the distance between the first-order red and blue fringes?

**14.** •• A helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) illuminates a diffraction grating. The distance between the two $m = 1$ bright fringes is 32 cm on a screen 2.0 m behind the grating. What is the spacing between slits of the grating?

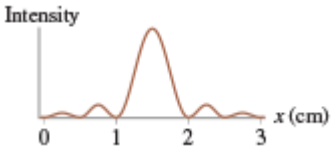
## Section 33.4 Single-Slit Diffraction 956

**15.** •• In a single-slit experiment, the slit width is 200 times the wavelength of the light. What is the width (in mm) of the central maximum on a screen 2.0 m behind the slit?

**16.** •• A helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) illuminates a single slit and is observed on a screen 1.5 m behind the slit. The distance between the first and second minima in the diffraction pattern is 4.75 mm. What is the width (in mm) of the slit?

**17.** •• Light of 630 nm wavelength illuminates a single slit of width 0.15 mm. Figure EX33.17 shows the intensity pattern seen on a screen behind the slit. What is the distance to the screen?

**Figure EX33.17**




**18.** • A 0.50-mm-wide slit is illuminated by light of wavelength 500 nm. What is the width (in mm) of the central maximum on a screen 2.0 m behind the slit?

**19.** •• You need to use your cell phone, which broadcasts an 800 MHz signal, but you're behind two massive, radio-wave-absorbing buildings that have only a 15 m space between them. What is the angular width, in degrees, of the electromagnetic wave after it emerges from between the buildings?

**20.** • For what slit-width-to-wavelength ratio does the first minimum of a single-slit diffraction pattern appear at (a) 30°, (b) 60°, and (c) 90°?

**21.** • Light from a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) is incident on a single slit. What is the largest slit width for which there are no minima in the diffraction pattern?

## Section 33.5 A Closer Look at Diffraction

**22.** • A laser beam illuminates a single, narrow slit, and the diffraction pattern is observed on a screen behind the slit. The first secondary maximum is 26 mm from the center of the diffraction pattern. How far is the first minimum from the center of the diffraction pattern?

**23.** •• Two 50-$\mu$m-wide slits spaced 0.25 mm apart are illuminated by blue laser light with a wavelength of 450 nm. The interference pattern is observed on a screen 2.0 m behind the slits. How many bright fringes are seen in the *central maximum* that spans the distance between the first missing order on one side and the first missing order on the other side?

**24.** •• A laser beam with a wavelength of 480 nm illuminates two 0.12-mm-wide slits separated by 0.30 mm. The interference pattern is observed on a screen 2.3 m behind the slits. What is the light intensity, as a fraction of the maximum intensity $I_0$, at a point halfway between the center and the first minimum?

## Section 33.6 Circular-Aperture Diffraction

**25.** •• A 0.50-mm-diameter hole is illuminated by light of wavelength 550 nm. What is the width (in mm) of the central maximum on a screen 2.0 m behind the slit?

**26.** •• Infrared light of wavelength 2.5 $\mu$m illuminates a 0.20-mm-diameter hole. What is the angle of the first dark fringe in radians? In degrees?

**27.** •• You want to photograph a circular diffraction pattern whose central maximum has a diameter of 1.0 cm. You have a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) and a 0.12-mm-diameter pinhole. How far behind the pinhole should you place the screen that's to be photographed?

**28.** • Your artist friend is designing an exhibit inspired by circular-aperture diffraction. A pinhole in a red zone is going to be illuminated with a red laser beam of wavelength 670 nm, while a pinhole in a violet zone is going to be illuminated with a violet laser beam of wavelength 410 nm. She wants all the diffraction patterns seen on a distant screen to have the same size. For this to work, what must be the ratio of the red pinhole's diameter to that of the violet pinhole?

**29.** •• Light from a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) passes through a circular aperture and is observed on a screen 4.0 m behind the aperture. The width of the central maximum is 2.5 cm. What is the diameter (in mm) of the hole?

## Section 33.8 Interferometers

**30.** • A Michelson interferometer uses red light with a wavelength of 656.45 nm from a hydrogen discharge lamp. How many bright-dark-bright fringe shifts are observed if mirror $M_2$ is moved exactly 1 cm?

**31.** • Moving mirror $M_2$ of a Michelson interferometer a distance of 100 $\mu$m causes 500 bright-dark-bright fringe shifts. What is the wavelength of the light?

**32.** • A Michelson interferometer uses light from a sodium lamp. Sodium atoms emit light having wavelengths 589.0 nm and 589.6 nm. The interferometer is initially set up with both arms of equal length ($L_1 = L_2$), producing a bright spot at the center of the interference pattern. How far must mirror $M_2$ be moved so that one wavelength has produced one more new maximum than the other wavelength?

# Problems

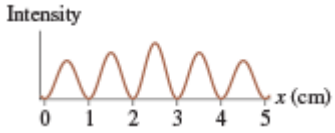
**33.** • Figure P33.33 shows the light intensity on a screen 2.5 m behind an aperture. The aperture is illuminated with light of wavelength 620 nm.

**a.** Is the aperture a single slit or a double slit? Explain.

**b.** If the aperture is a single slit, what is its width? If it is a double slit, what is the spacing between the slits?



**Figure P33.33**

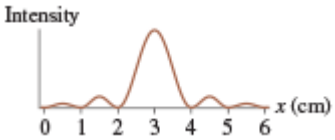



**34.** • Figure P33.34 shows the light intensity on a screen 2.5 m behind an aperture. The aperture is illuminated with light of wavelength 620 nm.

**a.** Is the aperture a single slit or a double slit? Explain.

**b.** If the aperture is a single slit, what is its width? If it is a double slit, what is the spacing between the slits?

**Figure P33.34**




**35.** •• Light from a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) is used to illuminate two narrow slits. The interference pattern is observed on a screen 3.0 m behind the slits. Twelve bright fringes are seen, spanning a distance of 52 mm. What is the spacing (in mm) between the slits?

**36.** •• Figure P33.36 shows the light intensity on a screen behind a double slit. The slit spacing is 0.20 mm and the wavelength of the light is 620 nm. What is the distance from the slits to the screen?

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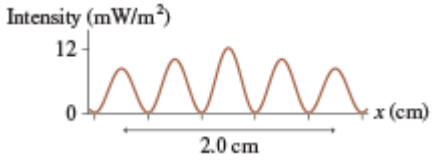
**Figure P33.36**




**37.** •• Figure P33.36 shows the light intensity on a screen behind a double slit. The slit spacing is 0.20 mm and the screen is 2.0 m behind the slits. What is the wavelength (in nm) of the light?

**38.** •• Figure P33.36 shows the light intensity on a screen behind a double slit. Suppose one slit is covered. What will be the light intensity at the center of the screen due to the remaining slit?

**39.** •• A diffraction grating having 500 lines/mm diffracts visible light at 30°. What is the light's wavelength?

**40.** •• Helium atoms emit light at several wavelengths. Light from a helium lamp illuminates a diffraction grating and is observed on a screen 50.00 cm behind the grating. The emission at wavelength 501.5 nm creates a first-order bright fringe 21.90 cm from the central maximum. What is the wavelength of the bright fringe that is 31.60 cm from the central maximum?

**41.** •• A triple-slit experiment consists of three narrow slits, equally spaced by distance $d$ and illuminated by light of wavelength $\lambda$. Each slit alone produces intensity $I_1$ on the viewing screen at distance $L$.

**a.** Consider a point on the distant viewing screen such that the path-length difference between any two

adjacent slits is $\lambda$. What is the intensity at this point?

**b.** What is the intensity at a point where the path-length difference between any two adjacent slits is $\lambda/2$?

**42.** •• **INT** Because sound is a wave, it's possible to make a diffraction grating for sound from a large board of sound-absorbing material with several parallel slits cut for sound to go through. When 10 kHz sound waves pass through such a grating, listeners 10 m from the grating report "loud spots" 1.4 m on both sides of center. What is the spacing between the slits? Use 340 m/s for the speed of sound.

**43.** •• A diffraction grating with 600 lines/mm is illuminated with light of wavelength 510 nm. A very wide viewing screen is 2.0 m behind the grating.

**a.** What is the distance between the two $m = 1$ bright fringes?

**b.** How many bright fringes can be seen on the screen?

**44.** •• A 500 line/mm diffraction grating is illuminated by light of wavelength 510 nm. How many bright fringes are seen on a 2.0-m-wide screen located 2.0 m behind the grating?

**45.** •• White light (400–700 nm) incident on a 600 line/mm diffraction grating produces rainbows of diffracted light. What is the width of the first-order rainbow on a screen 2.0 m behind the grating?

**46.** •• A chemist identifies compounds by identifying bright lines in their spectra. She does so by heating the compounds until they glow, sending the light through a diffraction grating, and measuring the positions of first-order spectral lines on a detector 15.0 cm behind the grating. Unfortunately, she has lost the card that gives the specifications of the grating. Fortunately, she has a known compound that she can use to calibrate the

grating. She heats the known compound, which emits light at a wavelength of 461 nm, and observes a spectral line 9.95 cm from the center of the diffraction pattern. What are the wavelengths emitted by compounds A and B that have spectral lines detected at positions 8.55 cm and 12.15 cm, respectively?

**47.** •••

**a.** Find an expression for the positions $y_1$ of the first-order fringes of a diffraction grating if the line spacing is large enough for the small-angle approximation $\tan\theta \approx \sin\theta \approx \theta$ to be valid. Your expression should be in terms of $d$, $L$, and $\lambda$



**b.** Use your expression from part a to find an expression for the separation $\Delta y$ on the screen of two fringes that differ in wavelength by $\Delta\lambda$.

**c.** Rather than a viewing screen, modern spectrometers use detectors—similar to the one in your digital camera—that are divided into *pixels*. Consider a spectrometer with a 333 line/mm grating and a detector with 100 pixels/mm located 12 cm behind the grating. The *resolution* of a spectrometer is the smallest wavelength separation $\Delta\lambda_{\text{min}}$ that can be measured reliably. What is the resolution of this spectrometer for wavelengths near 550 nm, in the center of the visible spectrum? You can assume that the fringe due to one specific wavelength is narrow enough to illuminate only one column of pixels.

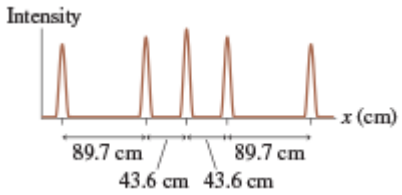
**48.** •• For your science fair project you need to design a diffraction grating that will disperse the visible spectrum (400–700 nm) over 30.0° in first order.

**a.** How many lines per millimeter does your grating need?

**b.** What is the first-order diffraction angle of light from a sodium lamp ($\lambda = 589$ nm)?

**49.** •• Figure P33.49 shows the interference pattern on a screen 1.0 m behind an 800 line/mm diffraction grating. What is the wavelength (in nm) of the light?

**Figure P33.49**




**50.** •• Figure P33.49 shows the interference pattern on a screen 1.0 m behind a diffraction grating. The wavelength of the light is 620 nm. How many lines per millimeter does the grating have?

**51.** •• Light from a sodium lamp ($\lambda = 589$ nm) illuminates a narrow slit and is observed on a screen 75 cm behind the slit. The distance between the first and third dark fringes is 7.5 mm. What is the width (in mm) of the slit?

**52.** •• **BIO** The wings of some beetles have closely spaced parallel lines of melanin, causing the wing to act as a reflection grating. Suppose sunlight shines straight onto a beetle wing. If the melanin lines on the wing are spaced 2.0 $\mu$m apart, what is the first-order diffraction angle for green light ($\lambda = 559$ nm)?

**53.** • **BIO** If sunlight shines straight onto a peacock feather, the feather appears bright blue when viewed from 15° on either side of the incident beam of light. The blue color is due to diffraction from parallel rods of melanin in the feather barbules, as was shown in the photograph. Other wavelengths in the incident light are diffracted at different angles, leaving only the blue light to be seen. The average wavelength of blue light is 470 nm. Assuming this to be the first-order diffraction, what is the spacing of the melanin rods in the feather?

**54.** •• You've found an unlabeled diffraction grating. Before you can use it, you need to know how many lines per mm it has. To find out, you illuminate the grating with light of several different wavelengths and then measure the distance between the two first-order bright fringes on a viewing screen 150 cm behind the grating. Your data are as follows:

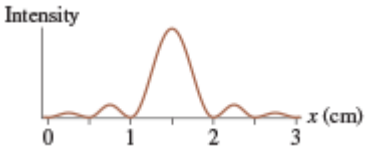
| Wavelength (nm) | Distance (cm) |
|---|---|
| 430 | 109.6 |
| 480 | 125.4 |
| 530 | 139.8 |
| 580 | 157.2 |
| 630 | 174.4 |
| 680 | 194.8 |

Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine the number of lines per mm.

**55.** ••• A diffraction grating has slit spacing $d$. Fringes are viewed on a screen at distance $L$. Find an expression for the wavelength of light that produces a first-order fringe on the viewing screen at distance $L$ from the center of the screen.

**56.** •• Figure P33.56 shows the light intensity on a screen behind a single slit. The slit width is 0.20 mm and the screen is 1.5 m behind the slit. What is the wavelength (in nm) of the light?

**Figure P33.56**




**57.** •• Figure P33.56 shows the light intensity on a screen behind a single slit. The wavelength of the light is 600 nm and the slit width is 0.15 mm. What is the distance from the slit to the screen?

**58.** •• Figure P33.56 shows the light intensity on a screen behind a circular aperture. The wavelength of the light is 500 nm and the screen is 1.0 m behind the slit. What is the diameter (in mm) of the aperture?

**59.** •• A student performing a double-slit experiment is using a green laser with a wavelength of 530 nm. She is confused when the $m = 5$ maximum does not appear. She had predicted that this bright fringe would be 1.6 cm from the central maximum on a screen 1.5 m behind the slits.



**a.** Explain what prevented the fifth maximum from being observed.

**b.** What is the width of her slits?

**60.** •• Scientists shine a laser beam on a 35-$\mu$m-wide slit and produce a diffraction pattern on a screen 70 cm behind the slit. Careful measurements show that the intensity first falls to 25% of maximum at a distance of 7.2 mm from the center of the diffraction pattern. What is the wavelength of the laser light? **Hint:** Use the trial-and-error technique demonstrated in Example 33.5 to solve the transcendental equation.

**61.** •• Light from a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) illuminates a circular aperture. It is noted that the diameter of the central maximum on a screen 50 cm behind the aperture matches the diameter of the geometric image. What is the aperture's diameter (in mm)?

**62.** •• A helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) is built with a glass tube of inside diameter 1.0 mm, as shown in Figure P33.62. One mirror is partially transmitting to allow the laser beam out. An electrical discharge in the tube causes it to glow like a neon light. From an optical perspective, the laser beam is a light wave that diffracts out through a 1.0-mm-diameter circular opening.

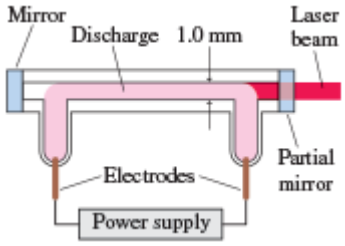
**a.** Can a laser beam be *perfectly* parallel, with no spreading? Why or why not?

**b.** The angle $\theta_1$ to the first minimum is called the *divergence angle* of a laser beam. What is the divergence angle of this laser beam?

**c.** What is the diameter (in mm) of the laser beam after it travels 3.0 m? Note that the wave model is appropriate because the spreading, at this distance, is significantly larger than the size of the opening.

**d.** What is the diameter of the laser beam after it travels 1.0 km?

## Figure P33.62




**63.** •• One day, after pulling down your window shade, you notice that sunlight is passing through a pinhole in the shade and making a small patch of light on the far wall. Having recently studied optics in your physics class, you're not too surprised to see that the patch of light seems to be a circular diffraction pattern. It appears that the central maximum is about 1 cm across, and you estimate that the distance from the window shade to the wall is about 3 m. Estimate (a) the average wavelength of the sunlight (in nm) and (b) the diameter of the pinhole (in mm).

**64.** • A radar for tracking aircraft broadcasts a 12 GHz microwave beam from a 2.0-m-diameter circular radar antenna. From a wave perspective, the antenna is a circular aperture through which the microwaves diffract.

**a.** What is the diameter of the radar beam at a distance of 30 km?

**b.** If the antenna emits 100 kW of power, what is the average microwave intensity at 30 km?

**65.** •• Scientists use *laser range-finding* to measure the distance to the moon with great accuracy. A brief laser pulse is fired at the moon, then the time interval is measured until the "echo" is seen by a telescope. A laser beam spreads out as it travels because it diffracts through a circular exit as it leaves the laser.

In order for the reflected light to be bright enough to detect, the laser spot on the moon must be no more than 1.0 km in diameter. Staying within this diameter is accomplished by using a special large-diameter laser. If $\lambda = 532$ nm, what is the minimum diameter of the circular opening from which the laser beam emerges? The earth-moon distance is 384,000 km.

**66.** •• Light of wavelength 600 nm passes though two slits separated by 0.20 mm and is observed on a screen 1.0 m behind the slits. The location of the central maximum is marked on the screen and labeled $y = 0$.

**a.** At what distance, on either side of $y = 0$, are the $m = 1$ bright fringes?

**b.** A very thin piece of glass is then placed in one slit. Because light travels slower in glass than in air, the wave passing through the glass is delayed by $5.0 \times 10^{-16}$ s in comparison to the wave going through the other slit. What fraction of the period of the light wave is this delay?

**c.** With the glass in place, what is the phase difference $\Delta\phi_0$ between the two waves as they leave the slits?

**d.** The glass causes the interference fringe pattern on the screen to shift sideways. Which way does the central maximum move (toward or away from the slit with the glass) and by how far?

**67.** •• A 600 line/mm diffraction grating is in an empty aquarium tank. The index of refraction of the glass walls is $n_{\text{glass}} = 1.50$. A helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) is outside the aquarium. The laser beam passes through the glass wall and illuminates the diffraction grating.

**a.** What is the first-order diffraction angle of the laser beam?

**b.** What is the first-order diffraction angle of the laser beam after the aquarium is filled with water ($n_{\text{water}} = 1.33$)?

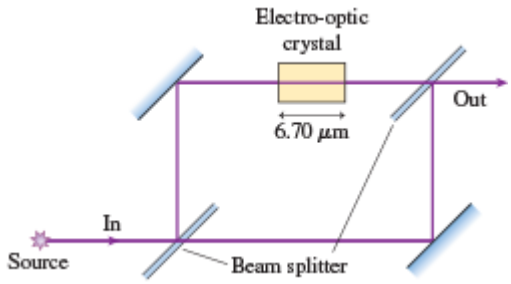
**68.** •• A Michelson interferometer operating at a 600 nm wavelength has a 2.00-cm-long glass cell in one arm. To begin, the air is pumped out of the cell and mirror $M_2$ is adjusted to produce a bright spot at the center of the interference pattern. Then a valve is opened and air is slowly admitted into the cell. The index of refraction of air at 1.00 atm pressure is 1.00028. How many bright-dark-bright fringe shifts are observed as the cell fills with air?

**69.** ••• Optical computers require microscopic optical switches to turn signals on and off. One device for doing so, which can be implemented in an integrated circuit, is the *Mach-Zender interferometer* seen in Figure P33.69. Light from an on-chip infrared laser ($\lambda = 1.000\ \mu\text{m}$) is split into two waves that travel equal distances around the arms of the interferometer. One arm passes through an *electro-optic crystal*, a transparent material that can change its index of refraction in response to an applied voltage. Suppose both arms are exactly the same length and the crystal's index of refraction with no applied voltage is 1.522.

**a.** With no voltage applied, is the output bright (switch closed, optical signal passing through) or dark (switch open, no signal)? Explain.

**b.** What is the first index of refraction of the electro-optic crystal larger than 1.522 that changes the optical switch to the state opposite the state you found in part a?

## Figure P33.69




**70.** •• To illustrate one of the ideas of holography in a simple way, consider a diffraction grating with slit spacing $d$. The small-angle approximation is usually not valid for diffraction gratings, because $d$ is only slightly larger than $\lambda$, but assume that the $\lambda/d$ ratio of this grating is small enough to make the small-angle approximation valid.

**a.** Use the small-angle approximation to find an expression for the fringe spacing on a screen at distance $L$ behind the grating.

**b.** Rather than a screen, suppose you place a piece of film at distance $L$ behind the grating. The bright fringes will expose the film, but the dark spaces in between will leave the film unexposed. After being developed, the film will be a series of alternating light and dark stripes. What if you were to now "play" the film by using it as a diffraction grating? In other words, what happens if you shine the same laser through the film and look at the film's diffraction pattern on a screen at the same distance $L$? Demonstrate that the film's diffraction pattern is a reproduction of the original diffraction grating.

# Challenge Problems

**71.** ••• A double-slit experiment is set up using a helium-neon laser ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$). Then a very thin piece of glass ($n = 1.50$) is placed over one of the slits. Afterward, the central point on the screen is occupied by what had been the $m = 10$ dark fringe. How thick is the glass?

**72.** ••• The intensity at the central maximum of a double-slit interference pattern is $4I_1$. The intensity at the first minimum is zero. At what fraction of the distance from the central maximum to the first minimum is the intensity $I_1$? Assume an ideal double slit.

**73.** ••• Figure CP33.73 shows two nearly overlapped intensity peaks of the sort you might produce with a diffraction grating (see Figure 33.9b). As a practical matter, two peaks can just barely be resolved if their spacing $\Delta y$ equals the width $w$ of each peak, where $w$ is measured at half of the peak's height. Two peaks closer together than $w$ will merge into a single peak. We can use this idea to understand the *resolution* of a diffraction grating.

**a.** In the small-angle approximation, the position of the $m = 1$ peak of a diffraction grating falls at the same location as the $m = 1$ fringe of a double slit: $y_1 = \lambda L/d$. Suppose two wavelengths differing by $\Delta\lambda$ pass through a grating at the same time. Find an expression for $\Delta y$, the separation of their first-order peaks.

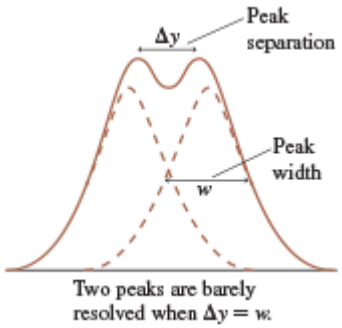
**b.** We noted that the widths of the bright fringes are proportional to $1/N$, where $N$ is the number of slits in the grating. Let's hypothesize that the fringe width is

$w = y_1/N$. Show that this is true for the double-slit pattern. We'll then assume it to be true as $N$ increases.

**c.** Use your results from parts a and b together with the idea that $\Delta y_{\text{min}} = w$ to find an expression for $\Delta\lambda_{\text{min}}$, the minimum wavelength separation (in first order) for which the diffraction fringes can barely be resolved.

**d.** Ordinary hydrogen atoms emit red light with a wavelength of 656.45 nm. In deuterium, which is a "heavy" isotope of hydrogen, the wavelength is 656.27 nm. What is the minimum number of slits in a diffraction grating that can barely resolve these two wavelengths in the first-order diffraction pattern?

**Figure CP33.73**




**74.** ••• Figure CP33.74 shows light of wavelength $\lambda$ incident at angle $\phi$ on a *reflection* grating of spacing $d$. We want to find the angles $\theta_m$ at which constructive interference occurs.

**a.** The figure shows paths 1 and 2 along which two waves travel and interfere. Find an expression for the path-length difference $\Delta r = r_2 - r_1$.

**b.** Using your result from part a, find an equation (analogous to Equation 33.15) for the angles $\theta_m$ at which diffraction occurs when the light is incident at

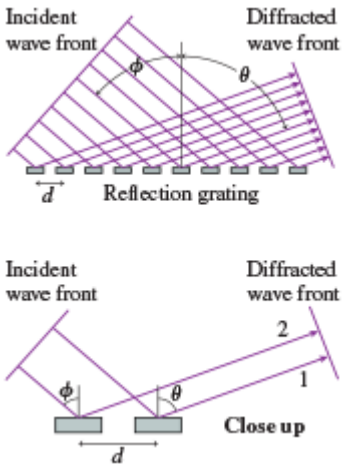
angle $\phi$. Notice that $m$ can be a negative integer in your expression, indicating that path 2 is shorter than path 1.

**c.** Show that the zeroth-order diffraction is simply a "reflection." That is, $\theta = \phi$.

**d.** Light of wavelength 500 nm is incident at $\phi = 40^\circ$ on a reflection grating having 700 reflection lines/mm. Find all angles $\theta_m$ at which light is diffracted. Negative values of $\theta_m$ are interpreted as an angle left of the vertical.

**e.** Draw a picture showing a *single* 500 nm light ray incident at $\phi = 40^\circ$ and showing all the diffracted waves at the correct angles.

## Figure CP33.74




**75.** ••• The pinhole camera of Figure CP33.75 images distant objects by allowing only a narrow bundle of light rays to pass through the hole and strike the film. If light consisted of particles, you could make the image sharper and sharper (at the expense of getting dimmer and dimmer) by making the aperture smaller and smaller. In practice, diffraction of light by the circular aperture limits the maximum sharpness that can be obtained. Consider two distant points of light, such as two

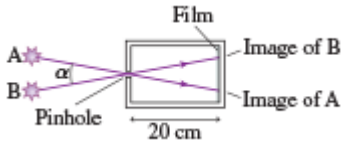
distant streetlights. Each will produce a circular diffraction pattern on the film. The two images can just barely be resolved if the central maximum of one image falls on the first dark fringe of the other image. (This is called Rayleigh's criterion, and we will explore its implication for optical instruments in Chapter 35.)

**a.** Optimum sharpness of one image occurs when the diameter of the central maximum equals the diameter of the pinhole. What is the optimum hole size for a pinhole camera in which the film is 20 cm behind the hole? Assume $\lambda = 500$ nm, an average value for visible light.

**b.** For this hole size, what is the angle $\alpha$ (in degrees) between two distant sources that can barely be resolved?

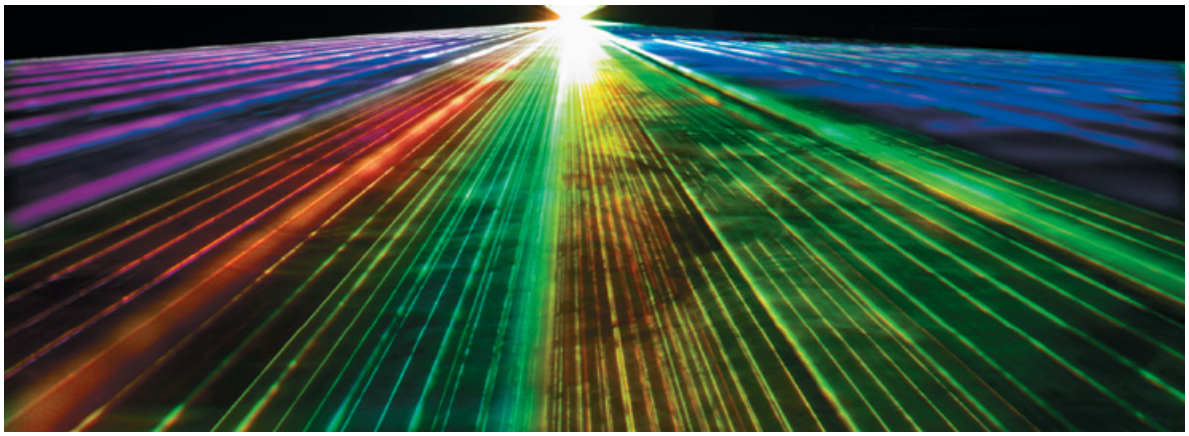
**c.** What is the distance between two street lights 1 km away that can barely be resolved?

**Figure CP33.75**



# Chapter 34
# Ray Optics





The observation that light travels in straight lines—*light rays*—will help us understand the physics of lenses and prisms.

**In This Chapter**

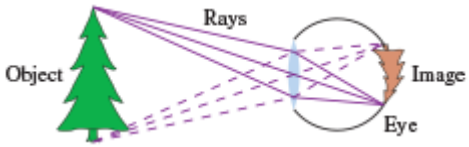
you will learn about and apply the ray model of light.

## What are light rays?

A light ray is a concept, not a physical thing. It is the line along which light energy flows.

- Rays travel in straight lines. Two rays can cross without disturbing one another.
- Objects are sources of light rays.
- Reflection and refraction by mirrors and lenses create images of objects. Points to which light rays converge are called real images. Points from which light rays diverge are called virtual images.
- The eye sees an object or an image when diverging bundles of rays enter the pupil and are focused to a real

image on the retina.



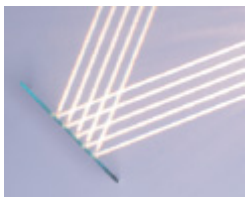

You'll use both graphical and mathematical techniques to analyze how light rays travel and how images are formed.

## What is the law of reflection?

Light rays bounce, or reflect, off a surface.

- Specular reflection is mirror like.
- Diffuse reflection is like light reflecting from the page of this book.

The law of reflection says that the angle of reflection equals the angle of incidence. You'll learn how reflection allows images to be seen in both flat and curved mirrors.



## What is refraction?

Light rays change direction at the boundary when they move from one medium to another. This is called refraction, and it is the basis for image formation by lenses. Snell's law will allow you to find the angles on both sides of the boundary.

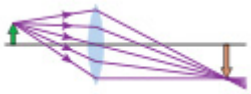
Looking Back Section 16.5 Index of refraction

## How do lenses form images?

Lenses form images by refraction.

- We'll start with ray tracing, a graphical method of seeing how and where images are formed.
- We'll then develop the thin-lens equation for more quantitative results.

The same methods apply to image formation by curved mirrors.



## Why is optics important?

Optics is everywhere, from your smart phone camera and your car headlights to laser pointers and the optical scanners that read bar codes. Our knowledge of the microscopic world and of the cosmos comes through optical instruments. And, of course, your eye is one of the most marvelous optical devices of all. Modern optical engineering is called photonics. Photonics does draw on all three models of light, as needed, but ray optics is usually the foundation on which optical instruments are designed.

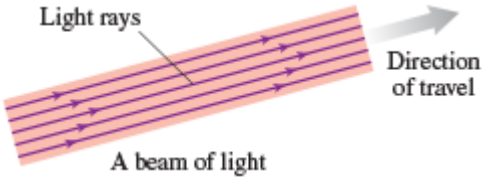
# 34.1 The Ray Model of Light

A flashlight makes a beam of light through the night's darkness. Sunbeams stream into a darkened room through a small hole in the shade. Laser beams are even more well defined. Our everyday experience that light travels in straight lines is the basis of the *ray model* of light.

The ray model is an oversimplification of reality but nonetheless is very useful within its range of validity. In particular, the ray model of light is valid as long as any apertures through which the light passes (lenses, mirrors, and holes) are very large compared to the wavelength of light. In that case, diffraction and other wave aspects of light are negligible and can be ignored. The analysis of Section 33.7 found that the crossover between wave optics and ray optics occurs for apertures ≈ 1 mm in diameter. Lenses and mirrors are almost always larger than 1 mm, so the ray model of light is an excellent basis for the practical optics of image formation.

To begin, let us define a **light ray** as a line in the direction along which light energy is flowing. A light ray is an abstract idea, not a physical entity or a "thing." Any narrow beam of light, such as the laser beam in Figure 34.1, is actually a bundle of many parallel light rays. You can think of a single light ray as the limiting case of a laser beam whose diameter approaches zero. Laser beams are good approximations of light rays, but any real laser beam is a bundle of many parallel rays.

**Figure 34.1**




A laser beam or beam of sunlight is a bundle of parallel light rays.

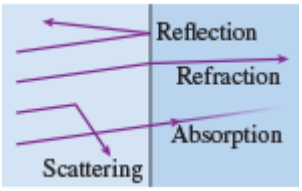
Chapter 33 briefly introduced the three models of light. Here we expand on the ray model, the subject of this chapter.

MODEL 34.1 **Ray model of light**

For use when diffraction is not significant.

- Light rays travel in straight lines.
  - The speed of light is $v = c/n$, where $n$ is the material's index of refraction.
  - Light rays cross without interacting.

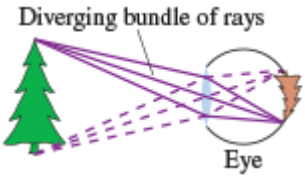
- Light rays travel forever unless they interact with matter.
  - At an interface between two materials, rays can be either reflected or refracted.
  - Within a material, light rays can be either scattered or absorbed.




- An **object** is a source of light rays.

- Rays originate at *every* point on an object.
- Rays are sent in *all* directions.

- The eye sees by focusing a diverging bundle of light rays.
  - Diverging rays enter the pupil and are focused on the retina.
  - Your brain perceives the object as being at the point from which the rays are diverging.




- Limitations: Use the wave model if diffraction is significant. The ray model is usually valid if openings are larger than about 1 mm, while the wave model is more appropriate if openings are smaller than about 1 mm. **962**

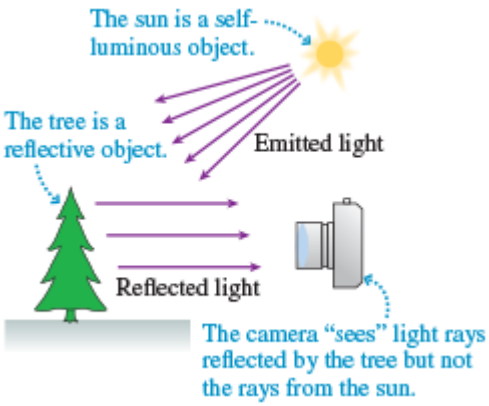
Workbook Exercise 3

# Objects

Figure 34.2 on the next page illustrates the idea that objects can be either *self-luminous*, such as the sun, flames, and lightbulbs, or *reflective*. Most objects are reflective. A tree, unless it is on fire, is seen or

photographed by virtue of reflected sunlight or reflected skylight. People, houses, and this page in the book reflect light from self-luminous sources. In this chapter we are concerned not with how the light originates but with how it behaves after leaving the object.

## Figure 34.2



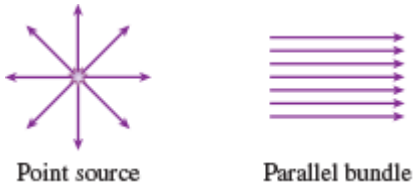

Self-luminous and reflective objects.

Light rays from an object are emitted in all directions, but you are not *aware* of light rays unless they enter the pupil of your eye. Consequently, most light rays go completely unnoticed. For example, light rays travel from the sun to the tree in Figure 34.2, but you're not aware of these unless the tree reflects some of them into your eye. Or consider a laser beam. You've probably noticed that it's almost impossible to see a laser beam from the side unless there's dust in the air. The dust scatters a few of the light rays toward your eye, but in the absence of dust you would be completely unaware of a very powerful light beam traveling past you. **Light rays exist independently of whether you are seeing them**.

Figure 34.3 shows two idealized sets of light rays. The diverging rays from a **point source** are emitted in all directions. It is useful to think of each point on an object as a point source of light rays. A **parallel bundle** of rays could be a laser beam. Alternatively it could represent a *distant*

*object*, an object such as a star so far away that the rays arriving at the observer are essentially parallel to each other.

**Figure 34.3**



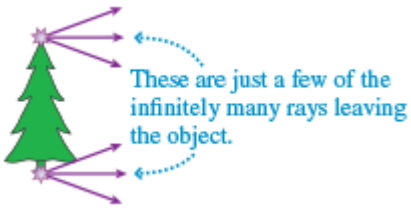

Point sources and parallel bundles represent idealized objects.

## Ray Diagrams

Rays originate from *every* point on an object and travel outward in *all* directions, but a diagram trying to show all these rays would be hopelessly messy and confusing. To simplify the picture, we usually use a **ray diagram** showing only a few rays. For example, Figure 34.4 is a ray diagram showing only a few rays leaving the top and bottom points of the object and traveling to the right. These rays will be sufficient to show us how the object is imaged by lenses or mirrors.

**Figure 34.4**






A ray diagram simplifies the situation by showing only a few rays.

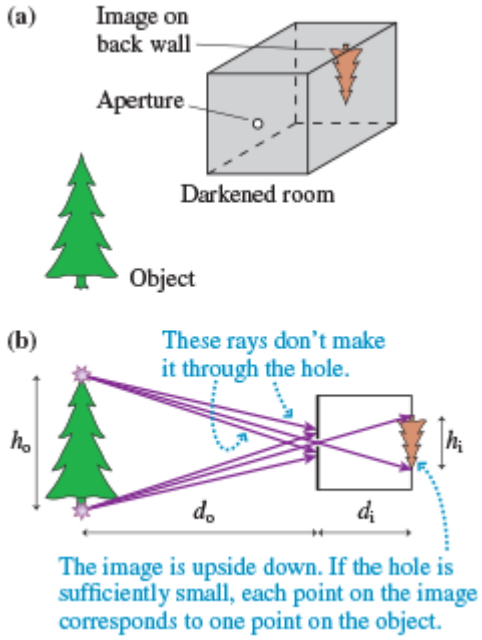
> **Note**
>
> Ray diagrams are the basis for a *pictorial representation* that we'll use throughout this chapter. Be careful not to think that a

ray diagram shows all of the rays. The rays shown on the diagram are just a subset of the infinitely many rays leaving the object.

## Apertures

A popular form of entertainment during ancient Roman times was a visit to a **camera obscura,** Latin for "dark room." As Figure 34.5a shows, a camera obscura was a darkened room with a single, small hole to the outside world. After their eyes became dark adapted, visitors could see a dim but full-color image of the outside world displayed on the back wall of the room. However, the image was upside down! The *pinhole camera* is a miniature version of the camera obscura.

**Figure 34.5**




A camera obscura.

A hole through which light passes is called an **aperture**. Figure 34.5b uses the ray model of light passing through a small aperture to explain

how the camera obscura works. Each point on an object emits light rays in all directions, but only a very few of these rays pass through the aperture and reach the back wall. As the figure illustrates, the geometry of the rays causes the image to be upside down.

Actually, as you may have realized, each *point* on the object illuminates a small but extended *patch* on the wall. This is because the non-zero size of the aperture—needed for the image to be bright enough to see—allows several rays from each point on the object to pass through at slightly different angles. As a result, the image is slightly blurred and out of focus. (Diffraction also becomes an issue if the hole gets too small.) We'll later discover how a modern camera, with a lens, improves on the camera obscura.

You can see from the similar triangles in Figure 34.5b that the object and image heights are related by

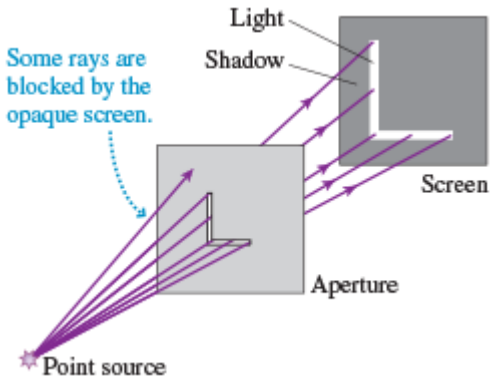
**(34.1)**

$$\frac{h_\text{i}}{h_\text{o}} = \frac{d_\text{i}}{d_\text{o}}$$

where $d_\text{o}$ is the distance to the object and $d_\text{i}$ is the depth of the camera obscura. Any realistic camera obscura has $d_\text{i} < d_\text{o}$; thus the image is smaller than the object.

We can apply the ray model to more complex apertures, such as the L-shaped aperture in Figure 34.6. The pattern of light on the screen is found by tracing all the straight-line paths—the ray trajectories—that start from the point source and pass through the aperture. We will see an enlarged L on the screen, with a sharp boundary between the image and the dark shadow.

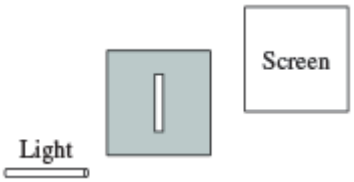
## Figure 34.6




Light through an aperture.

## Stop to Think 34.1

A long, thin lightbulb illuminates a vertical aperture. Which pattern of light do you see on a viewing screen behind the aperture?




**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

# 34.2 Reflection

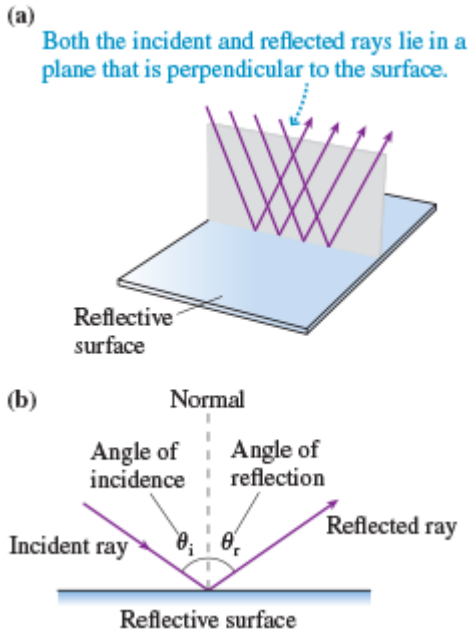


Reflection of light is a familiar, everyday experience. You see your reflection in the bathroom mirror first thing every morning, reflections in your car's rearview mirror as you drive to school, and the sky reflected in puddles of standing water. Reflection from a flat, smooth surface, such as a mirror or a piece of polished metal, is called **specular reflection,** from *speculum,* the Latin word for "mirror."

Figure 34.7a shows a bundle of parallel light rays reflecting from a mirror-like surface. You can see that the incident and reflected rays are both in a plane that is normal, or perpendicular, to the reflective surface. A three-dimensional perspective accurately shows the relationship between the light rays and the surface, but figures such as this are hard to draw by hand. Instead, it is customary to represent reflection with the simpler pictorial representation of Figure 34.7b. In this figure,

- The plane of the page is the *plane of incidence*, the plane containing both incident and reflected rays. The reflective surface extends into the page.
- A *single* light ray represents the entire bundle of parallel rays. This is oversimplified, but it keeps the figure and the analysis clear.

**Figure 34.7**




Specular reflection of light.

The angle $\theta_i$ between the ray and a line perpendicular to the surface—the *normal* to the surface—is called the **angle of incidence.** Similarly, the **angle of reflection** $\theta_r$ is the angle between the reflected ray and the normal to the surface. The **law of reflection,** easily demonstrated with simple experiments, states that

1. The incident ray and the reflected ray are in the same plane normal to the surface, and
2. The angle of reflection equals the angle of incidence: $\theta_r = \theta_i$.

> **Note**
>
> Optics calculations *always* use the angle measured from the normal, not the angle between the ray and the surface.

### Example 34.1 Light reflecting from a mirror

A dressing mirror on a closet door is 1.50 m tall. The bottom is 0.50 m above the floor. A bare lightbulb hangs 1.00 m from the closet

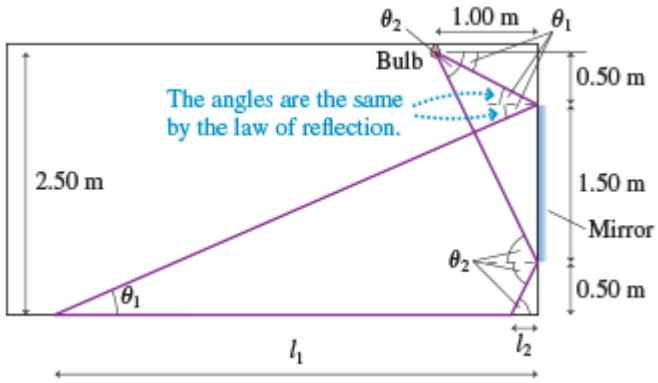
door, 2.50 m above the floor. How long is the streak of reflected light across the floor?

---

**MODEL** Treat the lightbulb as a point source and use the ray model of light.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.8 is a pictorial representation of the light rays. We need to consider only the two rays that strike the edges of the mirror. All other reflected rays will fall between these two.

## Figure 34.8




Pictorial representation of the light rays reflecting from a mirror.

**SOLVE** Figure 34.8 has used the law of reflection to set the angles of reflection equal to the angles of incidence. Other angles have been identified with simple geometry. The two angles of incidence are

$$\theta_1 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.50\ \text{m}}{1.00\ \text{m}}\right) = 26.6^\circ$$

$$\theta_2 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{2.00\ \text{m}}{1.00\ \text{m}}\right) = 63.4^\circ$$

The distances to the points where the rays strike the floor are then

$$l_1 = \frac{2.00\ \text{m}}{\tan\theta_1} = 4.00\ \text{m}$$
$$l_2 = \frac{0.50\ \text{m}}{\tan\theta_2} = 0.25\ \text{m}$$

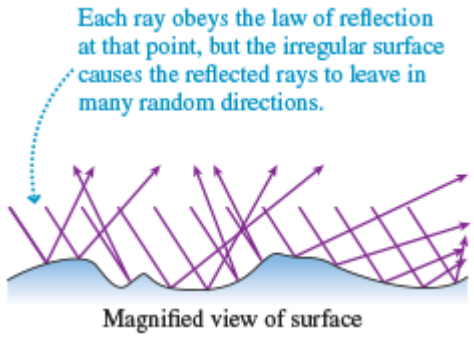
Thus the length of the light streak is $l_1 - l_2 = 3.75\ \text{m}$.

## Diffuse Reflection

Most objects are seen by virtue of their reflected light. For a "rough" surface, the law of reflection $\theta_\text{r} = \theta_\text{i}$ is obeyed at each point but the irregularities of the surface cause the reflected rays to leave in many random directions. This situation, shown in Figure 34.9, is called **diffuse reflection.** It is how you see this page, the wall, your hand, your friend, and so on.



**Figure 34.9**




Diffuse reflection from an irregular surface.

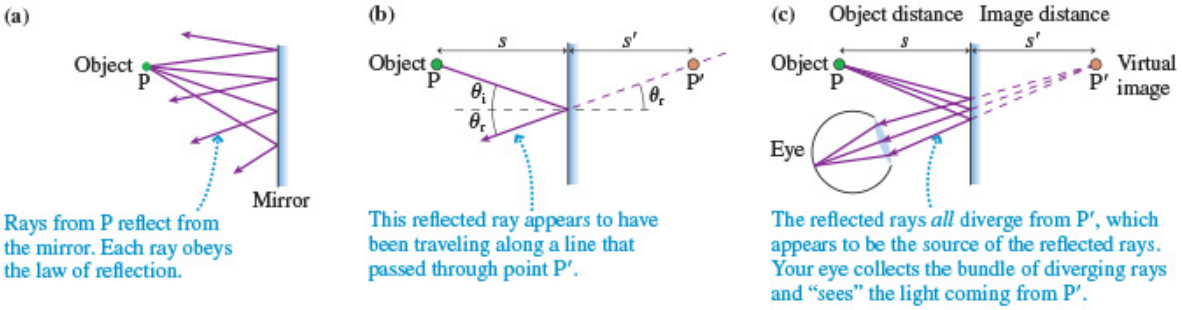
By a "rough" surface, we mean a surface that is rough or irregular in comparison to the wavelength of light. Because visible-light wavelengths are ≈ 0.5 $\mu$m, any surface with texture, scratches, or other irregularities larger than 1 $\mu$m will cause diffuse reflection rather than specular reflection. A piece of paper may feel quite smooth to your hand, but a

microscope would show that the surface consists of distinct fibers much larger than 1 $\mu$m. By contrast, the irregularities on a mirror or a piece of polished metal are much smaller than 1 $\mu$m.

## The Plane Mirror

One of the most commonplace observations is that you can see yourself in a mirror. How? Figure 34.10a shows rays from point source P reflecting from a mirror. Consider the particular ray shown in Figure 34.10b. The reflected ray travels along a line that passes through point P′ on the "back side" of the mirror. Because $\theta_r = \theta_i$, simple geometry dictates that P′ is the same distance behind the mirror as P is in front of the mirror. That is, $s' = s$.

**Figure 34.10**




The light rays reflecting from a plane mirror.

The location of point P′ in Figure 34.10b is independent of the value of $\theta_i$. Consequently, as Figure 34.10c shows, **the reflected rays all *appear* to be coming from point P′**. For a plane mirror, the distance $s'$ to point P′ is equal to the object distance $s$:

**(34.2)**

$$s' = s \quad \text{(plane mirror)}$$

If rays diverge from an object point P and interact with a mirror so that the reflected rays diverge from point P′ and *appear* to come from P′, then we call P′ a **virtual image** of point P. The image is "virtual" in the sense that no rays actually leave P′, which is in darkness behind the mirror. But as far as your eye is concerned, the light rays act exactly *as if* the light really originated at P′. So while you may say "I see P in the mirror," what you are actually seeing is the virtual image of P. Distance $s'$ is the *image distance*.

For an extended object, such as the one in Figure 34.11, each point on the object from which rays strike the mirror has a corresponding image point an equal distance on the opposite side of the mirror. The eye captures and focuses diverging bundles of rays from each point of the image in order to see the full image in the mirror. Two facts are worth noting:



1. Rays from each point on the object spread out in all directions and strike *every point* on the mirror. Only a very few of these rays enter your eye, but the other rays are very real and might be seen by other observers.
2. Rays from points P and Q enter your eye after reflecting from *different* areas of the mirror. This is why you can't always see the full image of an object in a very small mirror.

---

**Figure 34.11**

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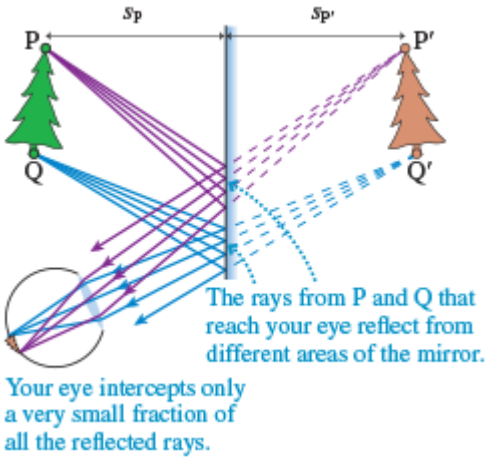



Each point on the extended object has a corresponding image point an equal distance on the opposite side of the mirror.

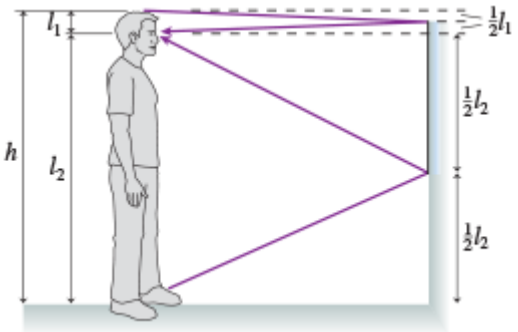
### Example 34.2 How high is the mirror?

If your height is $h$, what is the shortest mirror on the wall in which you can see your full image? Where must the top of the mirror be hung?

**MODEL** Use the ray model of light.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.12 is a pictorial representation of the light rays. We need to consider only the two rays that leave your head and feet and reflect into your eye.

#### Figure 34.12



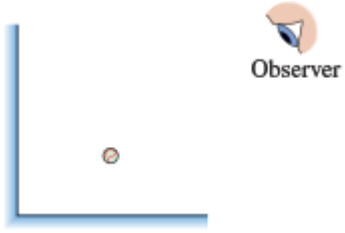
Pictorial representation of light rays from your head and feet reflecting into your eye.

**SOLVE** Let the distance from your eyes to the top of your head be $l_1$ and the distance to your feet be $l_2$. Your height is $h = l_1 + l_2$. A light ray from the top of your head that reflects from the mirror at $\theta_r = \theta_i$ and enters your eye must, by congruent triangles, strike the mirror a distance $\frac{1}{2}l_1$ above your eyes. Similarly, a ray from your foot to your eye strikes the mirror a distance $\frac{1}{2}l_2$ below your eyes. The distance between these two points on the mirror is $\frac{1}{2}l_1 + \frac{1}{2}l_2 = \frac{1}{2}h$. A ray from anywhere else on your body can reach your eye if it strikes the mirror between these two points. Pieces of the mirror outside these two points are irrelevant, not because rays don't strike them but because the reflected rays don't reach your eye. Thus the shortest mirror in which you can see your full reflection is $\frac{1}{2}h$. But this will work only if the top of the mirror is hung midway between your eyes and the top of your head.

**ASSESS** It is interesting that the answer does not depend on how far you are from the mirror.

## Stop to Think 34.2

Two plane mirrors form a right angle. How many images of the ball can you see in the mirrors?



**a.** 1

**b.** 2

**c.** 3

**d.** 4

# 34.3 Refraction



Two things happen when a light ray is incident on a smooth boundary between two transparent materials, such as the boundary between air and glass:

1. Part of the light *reflects* from the boundary, obeying the law of reflection. This is how you see reflections from pools of water or storefront windows.
2. Part of the light continues into the second medium. It is *transmitted* rather than reflected, but the transmitted ray changes direction as it crosses the boundary. The transmission of light from one medium to another, but with a change in direction, is called **refraction.**

The photograph of Figure 34.13 shows the refraction of a light beam as it passes through a glass prism. Notice that the ray direction changes as the light enters and leaves the glass. Our goal in this section is to understand refraction, so we will usually ignore the weak reflection and focus on the transmitted light.

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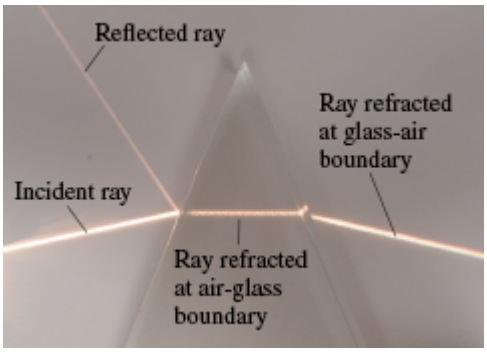
**Figure 34.13**

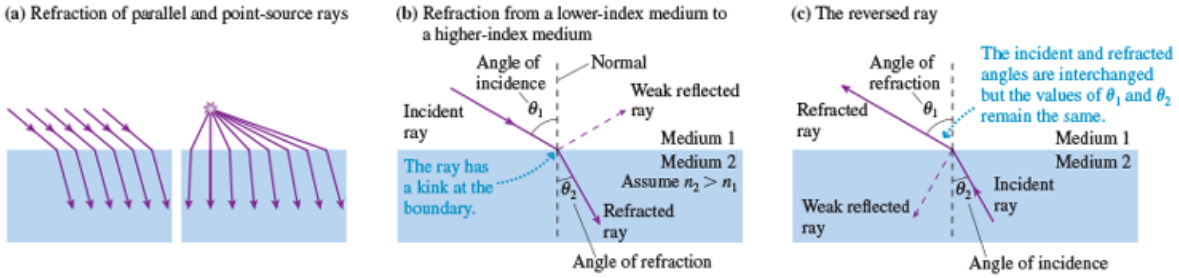


A light beam refracts twice in passing through a glass prism.

> **Note**
>
> A transparent material through which light travels is called the *medium*. This term has to be used with caution. The material does affect the light speed, but a transparent material differs from the medium of a sound or water wave in that particles of the medium do *not* oscillate as a light wave passes through. For a light wave it is the electromagnetic field that oscillates.

Figure 34.14a shows the refraction of light rays in a parallel beam of light, such as a laser beam, and rays from a point source. Our analysis will be easier, however, if we focus on a single light ray. Figure 34.14b is a ray diagram showing the refraction of a single ray at a boundary between medium 1 and medium 2. Let the angle between the ray and the normal be $\theta_1$ in medium 1 and $\theta_2$ in medium 2. For the medium in which the ray is approaching the boundary, this is the *angle of incidence* as we've previously defined it. The angle on the transmitted side, *measured from the normal,* is called the **angle of refraction.** Notice that $\theta_1$ is the angle of incidence in Figure 34.14b and the angle of refraction in Figure 34.14c, where the ray is traveling in the opposite direction.

## Figure 34.14




Refraction of light rays.

Refraction was first studied experimentally by the Arab scientist Ibn al-Haitham, in about the year 1000, and later by the Dutch scientist Willebrord Snell. **Snell's law** says that when a ray refracts between medium 1 and medium 2, having indices of refraction $n_1$ and $n_2$, the ray angles $\theta_1$ and $\theta_2$ in the two media are related by

**(34.3)**

$$n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2 \qquad \text{(Snell's law of refraction)}$$

Notice that Snell's law does not mention which is the incident angle and which is the refracted angle.

## The Index of Refraction

To Snell and his contemporaries, $n$ was simply an "index of the refractive power" of a transparent substance. The relationship between the index of refraction and the speed of light was not recognized until the development of a wave theory of light in the 19th century. Theory predicts, and experiment confirms, that light travels through a transparent medium, such as glass or water, at a speed *less* than its speed $c$ in vacuum. In Section 16.5, we defined the *index of refraction* $n$ of a transparent medium as

**(34.4)**

$$n = \frac{c}{v_{\text{medium}}}$$

where $v_{\text{medium}}$ is the light speed in the medium. This implies, of course, that $v_{\text{medium}} = c/n$. The index of refraction of a medium is always $n > 1$ except for vacuum.

Table 34.1 shows measured values of $n$ for several materials. There are many types of glass, each with a slightly different index of refraction, so we will keep things simple by accepting $n = 1.50$ as a typical value. Notice that cubic zirconia, used to make costume jewelry, has an index of refraction much higher than glass.

**Table 34.1**

| Medium | $n$ |
|---|---|
| Vacuum | 1.00 exactly |
| Air (actual) | 1.0003 |
| Air (accepted) | 1.00 |
| Water | 1.33 |
| Ethyl alcohol | 1.36 |
| Oil | 1.46 |
| Glass (typical) | 1.50 |
| Polystyrene plastic | 1.59 |
| Cubic zirconia | 2.18 |
| Diamond | 2.41 |
| Silicon (infrared) | 3.50 |

Indices of refraction

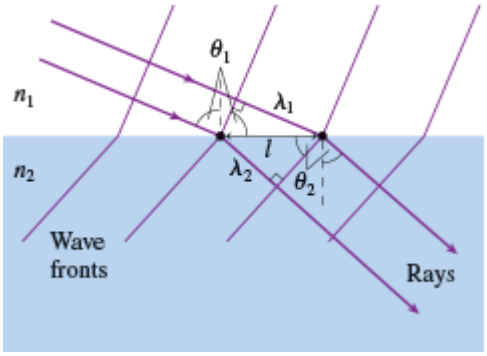
We can accept Snell's law as simply an empirical discovery about light. Alternatively, and perhaps surprisingly, we can use the wave model of light to justify Snell's law. The key ideas we need are:

- Wave fronts represent the crests of waves. They are spaced one wavelength apart.
- The wavelength in a medium with index of refraction $n$ is $\lambda = \lambda_{\text{vac}}/n$, where $\lambda_{\text{vac}}$ is the vacuum wavelength.

- Wave fronts are perpendicular to the wave's direction of travel.
- The wave fronts stay lined up as a wave crosses from one medium into another.

Figure 34.15 shows a wave crossing the boundary between two media, where we're assuming $n_2 > n_1$. **Because the wavelengths differ on opposite sides of the boundary, the wave fronts can stay lined up only if the waves in the two media are traveling in different directions**. In other words, the wave must refract at the boundary to keep the crests of the wave aligned.

## Figure 34.15




Snell's law is a consequence of the wave model of light.



To analyze Figure 34.15, consider the segment of boundary of length $l$ between the two wave fronts. This segment is the common hypotenuse of two right triangles. From the upper triangle, which has one side of length $\lambda_1$, we see

**(34.5)**

$$l = \frac{\lambda_1}{\sin\theta_1}$$

where $\theta_1$ is the angle of incidence. Similarly, the lower triangle, where $\theta_2$ is the angle of refraction, gives

**(34.6)**

$$l = \frac{\lambda_2}{\sin\theta_2}$$

Equating these two expressions for $l$, and using $\lambda_1 = \lambda_{\text{vac}}/n_1$ and $\lambda_2 = \lambda_{\text{vac}}/n_2$, we find

**(34.7)**

$$\frac{\lambda_{\text{vac}}}{n_1 \sin\theta_1} = \frac{\lambda_{\text{vac}}}{n_2 \sin\theta_2}$$

Equation 34.7 can be true only if

**(34.8)**

$$n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$$

which is Snell's law.

## Examples of Refraction

Look back at Figure 34.14. As the ray in Figure 34.14b moves from medium 1 to medium 2, where $n_2 > n_1$, it bends closer to the normal. In Figure 34.14c, where the ray moves from medium 2 to medium 1, it bends away from the normal. This is a general conclusion that follows from Snell's law:

- When a ray is transmitted into a material with a higher index of refraction, it bends toward the normal.

- When a ray is transmitted into a material with a lower index of refraction, it bends away from the normal.

This rule becomes a central idea in a procedure for analyzing refraction problems.

TACTICS BOX 34.1 **Analyzing refraction**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Draw a ray diagram.** Represent the light beam with one ray.
2. **Draw a line normal to the boundary.** Do this at each point where the ray intersects a boundary.
3. **Show the ray bending in the correct direction.** The angle is larger on the side with the smaller index of refraction. This is the qualitative application of Snell's law.
4. **Label angles of incidence and refraction.** Measure all angles from the normal.
5. **Use Snell's law.** Calculate the unknown angle or unknown index of refraction.

Workbook Exercises 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

**Example 34.3 Deflecting a laser beam**

A laser beam is aimed at a 1.0-cm-thick sheet of glass at an angle 30° above the glass.

**a.** What is the laser beam's direction of travel in the glass?

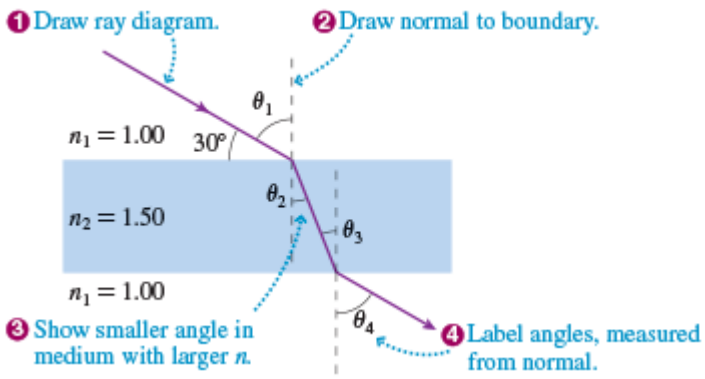
**b.** What is its direction in the air on the other side?

**c.** By what distance is the laser beam displaced?

**MODEL** Represent the laser beam with a single ray and use the ray model of light.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.16 is a pictorial representation in which the first four steps of Tactics Box 34.1 are identified. Notice that the angle of incidence is $\theta_1 = 60^\circ$, not the 30° value given in the problem.

**Figure 34.16**




The ray diagram of a laser beam passing through a sheet of glass.

**SOLVE**

**a.** Snell's law, the final step in the Tactics Box, is $n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$. Using $\theta_1 = 60^\circ$, we find that the direction of travel in the glass is

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_2 &= \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{n_1 \sin\theta_1}{n_2}\right) = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sin 60^\circ}{1.5}\right) \\ &= \sin^{-1}(0.577) = 35.3^\circ\end{aligned}$$

**b.** Snell's law at the second boundary is $n_2 \sin\theta_3 = n_1 \sin\theta_4$. You can see from Figure 34.16 that the interior angles are equal: $\theta_3 = \theta_2 = 35.3^\circ$. Thus the ray emerges back into the air traveling at angle

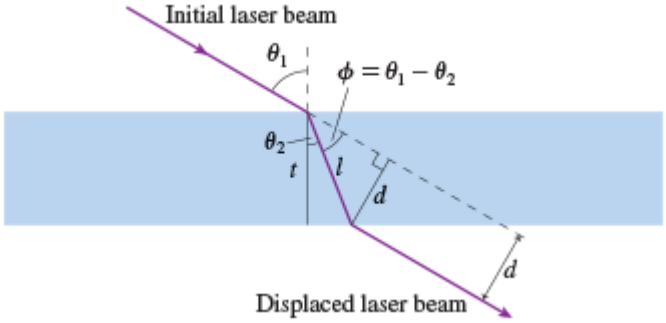
$$\begin{aligned}\theta_4 &= \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{n_2 \sin\theta_3}{n_1}\right) = \sin^{-1}(1.5 \sin 35.3^\circ) \\ &= \sin^{-1}(0.867) = 60^\circ\end{aligned}$$

This is the same as $\theta_1$, the original angle of incidence. The glass doesn't change the direction of the laser beam.

**c.** Although the exiting laser beam is parallel to the initial laser beam, it has been displaced sideways by distance $d$. Figure 34.17 shows the geometry for finding $d$. From trigonometry, $d = l \sin\phi$. Further, $\phi = \theta_1 - \theta_2$ and $l = t/\cos\theta_2$, where $t$ is the thickness of the glass. Combining these gives

$$\begin{aligned}d &= l \sin\phi = \frac{t}{\cos\theta_2}\sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) \\ &= \frac{(1.0\text{ cm})\ \sin 24.7^\circ}{\cos\ 35.3^\circ} = 0.51\text{ cm}\end{aligned}$$

**Figure 34.17**




The laser beam is deflected sideways by distance $d$.

The glass causes the laser beam to be displaced sideways by 0.51 cm.

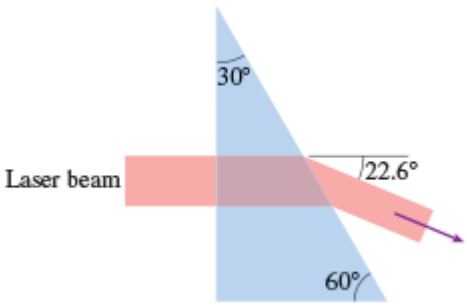
**ASSESS** The laser beam exits the glass still traveling in the same direction as it entered. This is a general result for light traveling through a medium with parallel sides. Notice that the displacement $d$ becomes zero in the limit $t \to 0$. This will be an important observation when we get to lenses.

970

## Example 34.4 Measuring the index of refraction

Figure 34.18 shows a laser beam deflected by a 30°-60°-90° prism. What is the prism's index of refraction?

### Figure 34.18

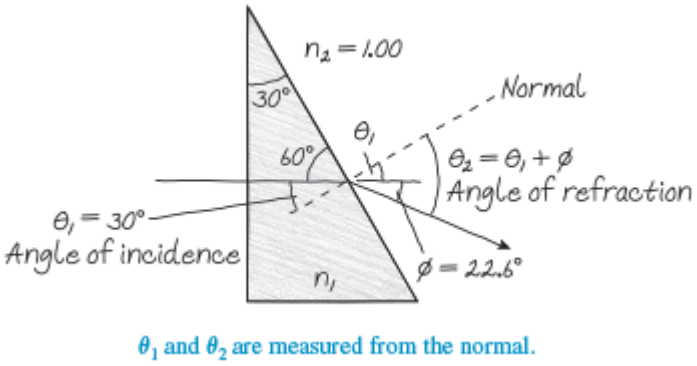



A prism deflects a laser beam.

**MODEL** Represent the laser beam with a single ray and use the ray model of light.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.19 uses the steps of Tactics Box 34.1 to draw a ray diagram. The ray is incident perpendicular to the front face of the prism ($\theta_{\text{incident}} = 0^\circ$), thus it is transmitted through the first boundary without deflection. At the second boundary it is especially important to *draw the normal to the surface* at the point of incidence and to *measure angles from the normal.*

## Figure 34.19




Pictorial representation of a laser beam passing through the prism.

**SOLVE** From the geometry of the triangle you can find that the laser's angle of incidence on the hypotenuse of the prism is $\theta_1 = 30^\circ$, the same as the apex angle of the prism. The ray exits the prism at angle $\theta_2$ such that the deflection is $\phi = \theta_2 - \theta_1 = 22.6^\circ$. Thus $\theta_2 = 52.6^\circ$. Knowing both angles and $n_2 = 1.00$ for air, we can use Snell's law to find $n_1$:

$$n_1 = \frac{n_2 \sin\theta_2}{\sin\theta_1} = \frac{1.00 \sin 52.6^\circ}{\sin 30^\circ} = 1.59$$

**ASSESS** Referring to the indices of refraction in Table 34.1, we see that the prism is made of plastic.

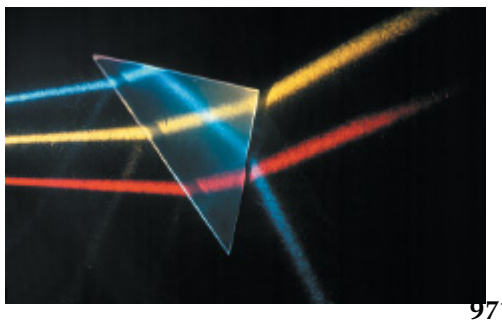
# Total Internal Reflection

What would have happened in Example 34.4 if the prism angle had been 45° rather than 30°? The light rays would approach the rear surface of the prism at an angle of incidence $\theta_1 = 45^\circ$. When we try to calculate the angle of refraction at which the ray emerges into the air, we find

$$\sin\theta_2 = \frac{n_1}{n_2}\sin\theta_1 = \frac{1.59}{1.00}\sin 45^\circ = 1.12$$
$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1}(1.12) = ???$$

Angle $\theta_2$ doesn't compute because the sine of an angle can't be larger than 1. The ray is unable to refract through the boundary. Instead, 100% of the light *reflects* from the boundary back into the prism. This process is called **total internal reflection,** often abbreviated TIR. That it really happens is illustrated in Figure 34.20. Here three laser beams enter a prism from the left. The bottom two refract out through the right side of the prism. The blue beam, which is incident on the prism's top face, undergoes total internal reflection and then emerges through the right surface.

## Figure 34.20

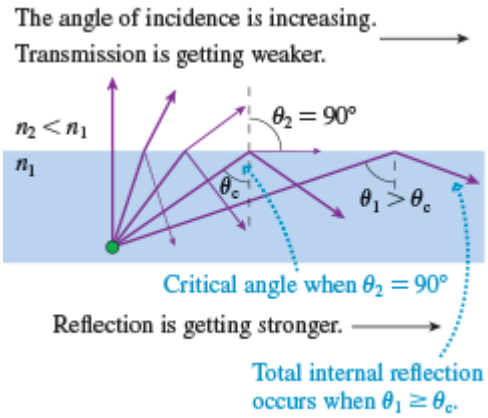




The blue laser beam undergoes total internal reflection inside the prism.

Figure 34.21 shows several rays leaving a point source in a medium with index of refraction $n_1$. The medium on the other side of the boundary has $n_2 < n_1$. As we've seen, crossing a boundary into a material with a lower index of refraction causes the ray to bend away from the normal. Two things happen as angle $\theta_1$ increases. First, the refraction angle $\theta_2$ approaches 90°. Second, the fraction of the light energy transmitted decreases while the reflected fraction increases.

## Figure 34.21




Refraction and reflection of rays as the angle of incidence increases.

A **critical angle** is reached when $\theta_2 = 90^\circ$. Because $\sin 90^\circ = 1$, Snell's law $n_1 \sin\theta_c = n_2 \sin 90^\circ$ gives the critical angle of incidence as

**(34.9)**

$$\theta_c = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right)$$

The refracted light vanishes at the critical angle and the reflection becomes 100% for any angle $\theta_1 \geq \theta_c$. The critical angle is well defined

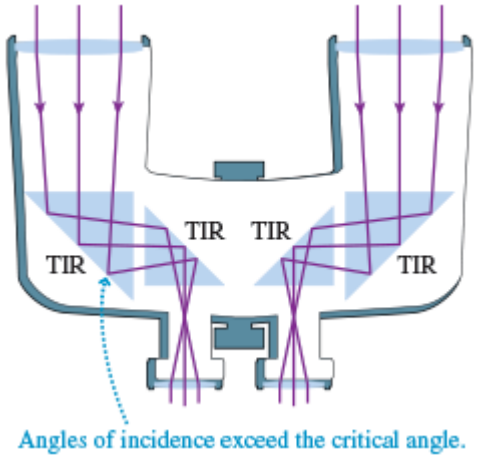
because of our assumption that $n_2 < n_1$. **There is no critical angle and no total internal reflection if** $n_2 > n_1$.

As a quick example, the critical angle in a typical piece of glass at the glass-air boundary is

$$\theta_{\text{c glass}} = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1.00}{1.50}\right) = 42^\circ$$

The fact that the critical angle is less than 45° has important applications. For example, Figure 34.22 shows a pair of binoculars. The lenses are much farther apart than your eyes, so the light rays need to be brought together before exiting the eyepieces. Rather than using mirrors, which get dirty and require alignment, binoculars use a pair of prisms on each side. Thus the light undergoes two total internal reflections and emerges from the eyepiece. (The actual arrangement is a little more complex than in Figure 34.22, to avoid left-right reversals, but this illustrates the basic idea.)

## Figure 34.22




Binoculars make use of total internal reflection.

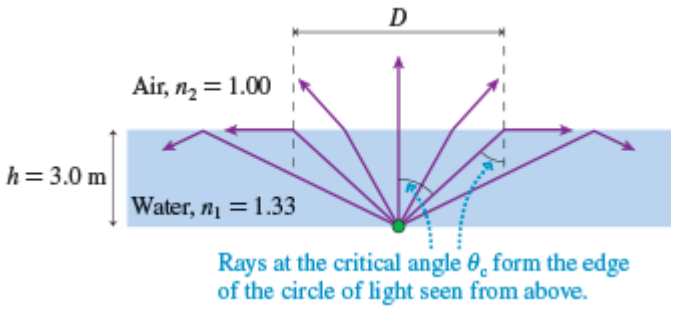
### Example 34.5 Total internal reflection

A small lightbulb is set in the bottom of a 3.0-m-deep swimming pool. What is the diameter of the circle of light seen on the water's surface from above?

**MODEL** Use the ray model of light.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.23 is a pictorial representation. The lightbulb emits rays at all angles, but only some of the rays refract into the air and are seen from above. Rays striking the surface at greater than the critical angle undergo TIR and remain within the water. The diameter of the circle of light is the distance between the two points at which rays strike the surface at the critical angle.

**Figure 34.23**




Pictorial representation of the rays leaving a lightbulb at the bottom of a swimming pool.

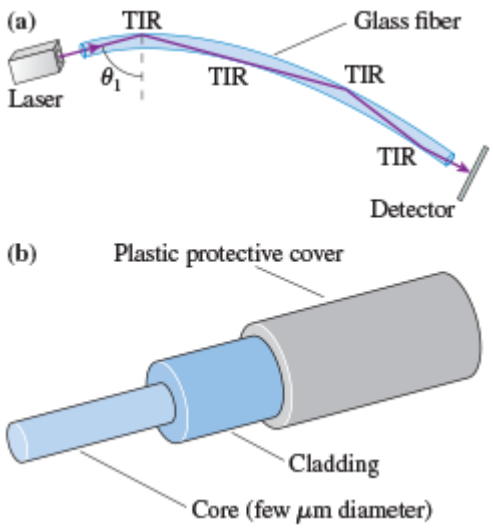
**SOLVE** From trigonometry, the circle diameter is $D = 2h \tan \theta_c$, where $h$ is the depth of the water. The critical angle for a water-air boundary is $\theta_c = \sin^{-1}(1.00/1.33) = 48.7^\circ$. Thus

$$D = 2(3.0\text{ m}) \tan 48.7^\circ = 6.8\text{ m}$$

# Fiber Optics

The most important modern application of total internal reflection is the transmission of light through optical fibers. Figure 34.24a shows a laser beam shining into the end of a long, narrow-diameter glass tube. The light rays pass easily from the air into the glass, but they then impinge on the inside wall of the glass tube at an angle of incidence $\theta_1$ approaching 90°. This is well above the critical angle, so the laser beam undergoes TIR and remains inside the glass. The laser beam continues to "bounce" its way down the tube as if the light were inside a pipe. Indeed, optical fibers are sometimes called "light pipes." The rays are *below* the critical angle ($\theta_1 \approx 0$) when they finally reach the end of the fiber, thus they refract out without difficulty and can be detected.

**Figure 34.24**




Light rays are confined within an optical fiber by total internal reflection.

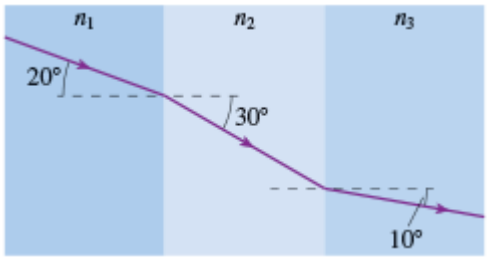
While a simple glass tube can transmit light, a glass-air boundary is not sufficiently reliable for commercial use. Any small scratch on the side of the tube alters the rays' angle of incidence and allows leakage of light. Figure 34.24b shows the construction of a practical optical fiber. A

small-diameter glass *core* is surrounded by a layer of glass *cladding*. The glasses used for the core and the cladding have $n_{\text{core}} > n_{\text{cladding}}$; thus light undergoes TIR at the core-cladding boundary and remains confined within the core. This boundary is not exposed to the environment and hence retains its integrity even under adverse conditions.

Even glass of the highest purity is not perfectly transparent. Absorption in the glass, even if very small, causes a gradual decrease in light intensity. The glass used for the core of optical fibers has a minimum absorption at a wavelength of 1.3 $\mu$m, in the infrared, so this is the laser wavelength used for long-distance signal transmission. Light at this wavelength can travel hundreds of kilometers through a fiber without significant loss.

## Stop to Think 34.3

A light ray travels from medium 1 to medium 3 as shown. For these media,




**a.** $n_3 > n_1$

**b.** $n_3 = n_1$

**c.** $n_3 < n_1$

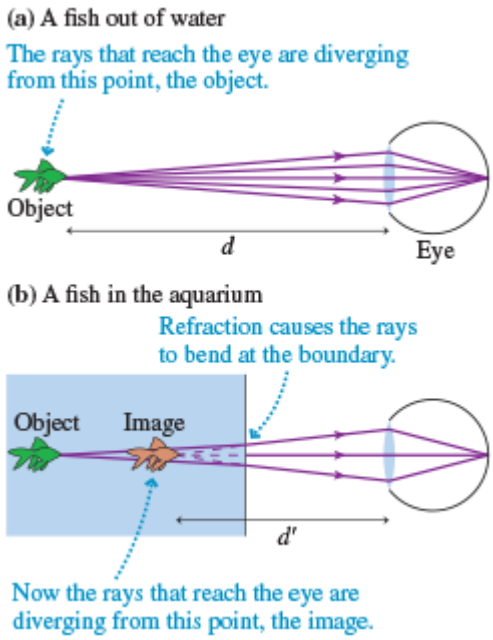
**d.** We can't compare $n_1$ to $n_3$ without knowing $n_2$.

# 34.4 Image Formation by Refraction at a Plane Surface

If you see a fish that appears to be swimming close to the front window of the aquarium, but then look through the side of the aquarium, you'll find that the fish is actually farther from the window than you thought. Why is this?

To begin, recall that vision works by focusing a diverging bundle of rays onto the retina. The point from which the rays diverge is where you perceive the object to be. Figure 34.25a shows how you would see a fish out of water at distance $d$.

## Figure 34.25




Refraction of the light rays causes a fish in the aquarium to be seen at distance $d'$.

Now place the fish back into the aquarium at the same distance $d$. For simplicity, we'll ignore the glass wall of the aquarium and consider the water-air boundary. (The thin glass of a typical window has only a very small effect on the refraction of the rays and doesn't change the conclusions.) Light rays again leave the fish, but this time they refract at the water-air boundary. Because they're going from a higher to a lower index of refraction, the rays refract *away from* the normal. Figure 34.25b shows the consequences.

A bundle of diverging rays still enters your eye, but now these rays are diverging from a closer point, at distance $d'$. As far as your eye and brain are concerned, it's exactly *as if* the rays really originate at distance $d'$, and this is the location at which you see the fish. **The object appears closer than it really is because of the refraction of light at the boundary.**

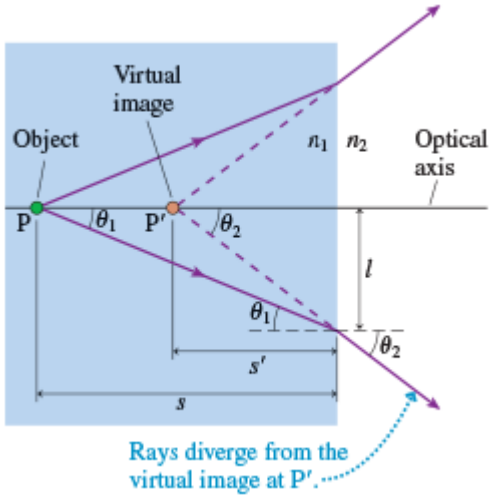
We found that the rays reflected from a mirror diverge from a point that is not the object point. We called that point a *virtual image.* Similarly, if rays from an object point P refract at a boundary between two media such that the rays then diverge from a point P′ and *appear* to come from P′, we call P′ a virtual image of point P. **The virtual image of the fish is what you see.**

Let's examine this image formation a bit more carefully. Figure 34.26 shows a boundary between two transparent media having indices of refraction $n_1$ and $n_2$. Point P, a source of light rays, is the object. Point P′, from which the rays *appear* to diverge, is the virtual image of P. Distance $s$ is called the **object distance.** Our goal is to determine distance $s'$, the **image distance**. **Both are measured from the boundary.**

---

**Figure 34.26**

---




Finding the virtual image P′ of an object at P. We've assumed $n_1 > n_2$.

A line perpendicular to the boundary is called the **optical axis.** Consider a ray leaving the object at angle $\theta_1$ with respect to the optical axis. $\theta_1$ is also the angle of incidence at the boundary, where the ray refracts into the second medium at angle $\theta_2$. By tracing the refracted ray backward, you can see that $\theta_2$ is also the angle between the refracted ray and the optical axis at point P′.

The distance $l$ is common to both the incident and the refracted rays, and you can see that $l = s \tan\theta_1 = s' \tan\theta_2$. However, **it is customary in optics for virtual image distances to be negative**. (The reason will be clear when we get to image formation by lenses.) Hence we will insert a minus sign, finding that

**(34.10)**

$$s' = -\frac{\tan\theta_1}{\tan\theta_2} s$$

Snell's law relates the sines of angles $\theta_1$ and $\theta_2$; that is,

(34.11)

$$\frac{\sin\theta_1}{\sin\theta_2} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

In practice, the angle between any of these rays and the optical axis is very small because the size of the pupil of your eye is very much less than the distance between the object and your eye. (The angles in the figure have been greatly exaggerated.) Rays that are nearly *parallel* to the *axis* are called **paraxial rays.** The small-angle approximation $\sin\theta \approx \tan\theta \approx \theta$, where $\theta$ is in radians, can be applied to paraxial rays. Consequently,

(34.12)

$$\frac{\tan\theta_1}{\tan\theta_2} \approx \frac{\sin\theta_1}{\sin\theta_2} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

Using this result in Equation 34.10, we find that the image distance is

(34.13)

$$s' = -\frac{n_2}{n_1}s$$

The minus sign tells us that we have a virtual image.

> **Note**
>
> The fact that the result for $s'$ is independent of $\theta_1$ implies that *all* paraxial rays appear to diverge from the same point P′. This property of the diverging rays is essential in order to have a well-defined image.

**Example 34.6 An air bubble in a window**

A fish and a sailor look at each other through a 5.0-cm-thick glass porthole in a submarine. There happens to be an air bubble right in the center of the glass. How far behind the surface of the glass does the air bubble appear to the fish? To the sailor?

**MODEL** Represent the air bubble as a point source and use the ray model of light.

**VISUALIZE** Paraxial light rays from the bubble refract into the air on one side and into the water on the other. The ray diagram looks like Figure 34.26.

**SOLVE** The index of refraction of the glass is $n_1 = 1.50$. The bubble is in the center of the window, so the object distance from either side of the window is $s = 2.25$ cm. On the water side, the image distance is

$$s' = -\frac{n_2}{n_1}s = -\frac{1.33}{1.50}(2.5 \text{ cm}) = -2.2 \text{ cm}$$

The minus sign indicates a virtual image. Physically, the fish sees the bubble 2.2 cm behind the surface. The image distance on the air side is

$$s' = -\frac{n_2}{n_1}s = -\frac{1.00}{1.50}(2.5 \text{ cm}) = -1.7 \text{ cm}$$

So the sailor sees the bubble 1.7 cm behind the surface.

**ASSESS** The image distance is *less* for the sailor because of the *larger* difference between the two indices of refraction.

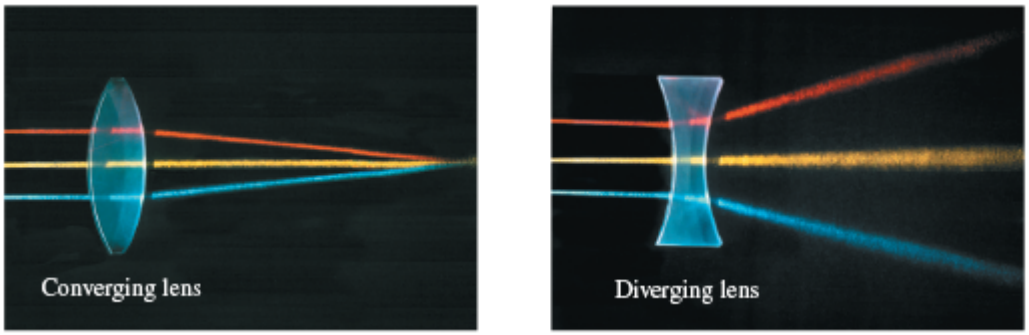
# 34.5 Thin Lenses: Ray Tracing



A camera obscura or a pinhole camera forms images on a screen, but the images are faint and not perfectly focused. The ability to create a bright, well-focused image is vastly improved by using a lens. A **lens** is a transparent object that uses refraction at *curved* surfaces to form an image from diverging light rays. We will defer a mathematical analysis of lenses until the next section. First, we want to establish a pictorial method of understanding image formation. This method is called **ray tracing.**

Figure 34.27 shows parallel light rays entering two different lenses. The left lens, called a **converging lens,** causes the rays to refract *toward* the optical axis. The common point through which initially parallel rays pass is called the **focal point** of the lens. The distance of the focal point from the lens is called the **focal length** $f$ of the lens. The right lens, called a **diverging lens,** refracts parallel rays *away from* the optical axis. This lens also has a focal point, but it is not as obvious.

**Figure 34.27**

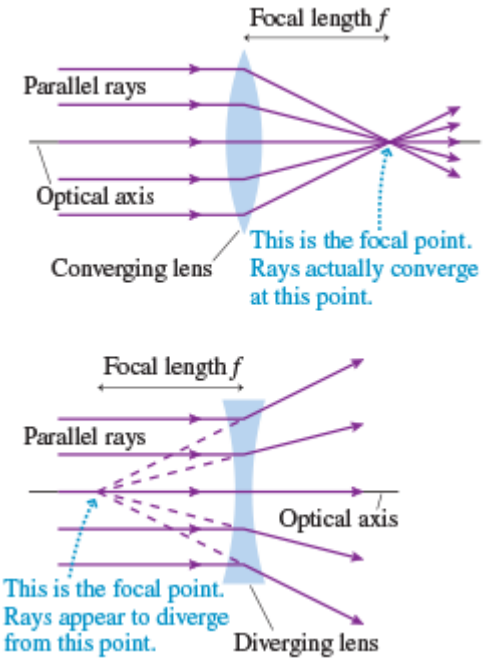



Parallel light rays pass through a converging lens and a diverging lens.

> **Note**
>
> A converging lens is thicker in the center than at the edges. A diverging lens is thicker at the edges than at the center.

Figure 34.28 clarifies the situation. In the case of a diverging lens, a backward projection of the diverging rays shows that they *appear* to have started from the same point. This is the focal point of a diverging lens, and its distance from the lens is the focal length of the lens. In the next section we'll relate the focal length to the curvature and index of refraction of the lens, but now we'll use the practical definition that **the focal length is the distance from the lens at which rays parallel to the optical axis converge or from which they diverge.**

## Figure 34.28




The focal lengths of converging and diverging lenses.

> **Note**
>
> The focal length *f* is a property *of the lens*, independent of how the lens is used. The focal length characterizes a lens in much

the same way that a mass $m$ characterizes an object or a spring constant $k$ characterizes a spring.

## Converging Lenses

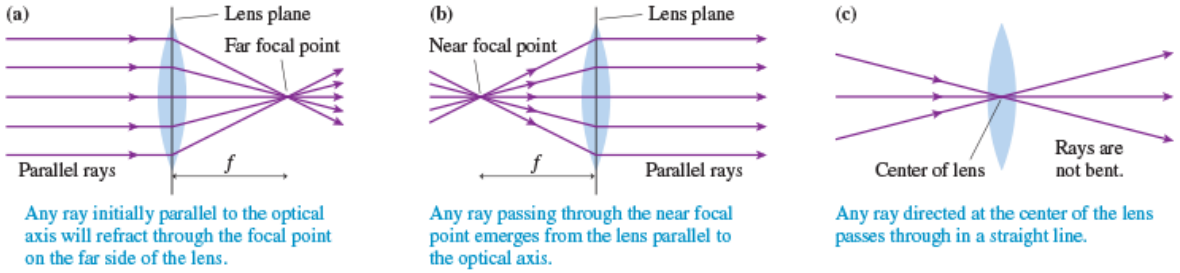
These basic observations about lenses are enough to understand image formation by a thin lens. A **thin lens** is a lens whose thickness is very small in comparison to its focal length and in comparison to the object and image distances. We'll make the approximation that the thickness of a thin lens is zero and that the lens lies in a plane called the **lens plane.** Within this approximation, **all refraction occurs as the rays cross the lens plane, and all distances are measured from the lens plane.** Fortunately, the thin-lens approximation is quite good for most practical applications of lenses.



> **Note**
>
> We'll *draw* lenses as if they have a thickness, because that is how we expect lenses to look, but our analysis will not depend on the shape or thickness of a lens.

Figure 34.29 shows three important situations of light rays passing through a thin converging lens. Part a is familiar from Figure 34.28. If the direction of each of the rays in Figure 34.29a is reversed, Snell's law tells us that each ray will exactly retrace its path and emerge from the lens parallel to the optical axis. This leads to Figure 34.29b, which is the "mirror image" of part a. Notice that the lens actually has *two* focal points, located at distances $f$ on either side of the lens.

**Figure 34.29**




Three important sets of rays passing through a thin converging lens.

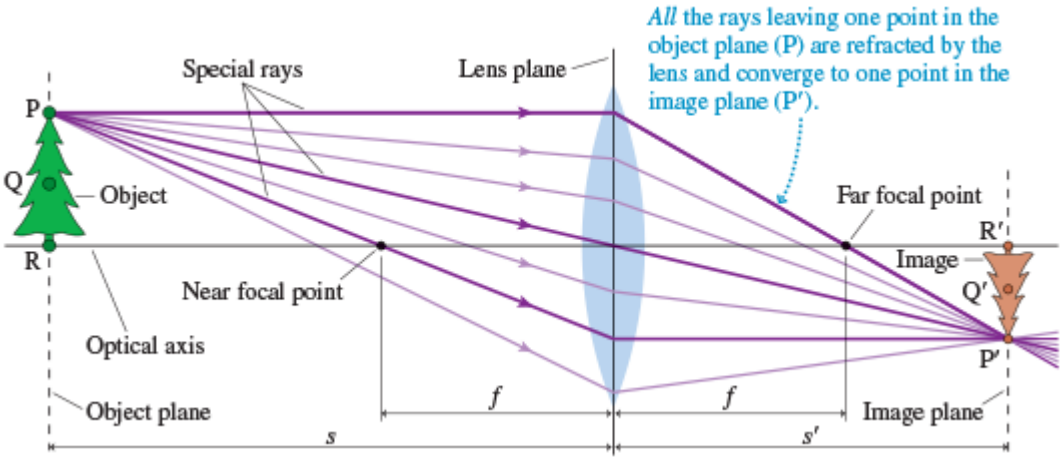
Figure 34.29c shows three rays passing through the *center* of the lens. At the center, the two sides of a lens are very nearly parallel to each other. Earlier, in Example 34.3, we found that a ray passing through a piece of glass with parallel sides is *displaced* but *not bent* and that the displacement becomes zero as the thickness approaches zero. Consequently, a ray through the center of a thin lens, with zero thickness, is neither bent nor displaced but travels in a straight line.

These three situations form the basis for ray tracing.

## Real Images

Figure 34.30 shows a lens and an object whose *object distance s* from the lens is larger than the focal length. Rays from point P on the object are refracted by the lens so as to converge at point P′ on the opposite side of the lens at *image distance s′*. If rays diverge from an object point P and interact with a lens such that the refracted rays *converge* at point P′, actually meeting at P′, then we call P′ a **real image** of point P. Contrast this with our prior definition of a *virtual image* as a point from which rays —which never meet—appear to *diverge*. For a real image, the image distance *s′* is *positive*.

**Figure 34.30**




Rays from an object point P are refracted by the lens and converge to a real image at point P′.

---

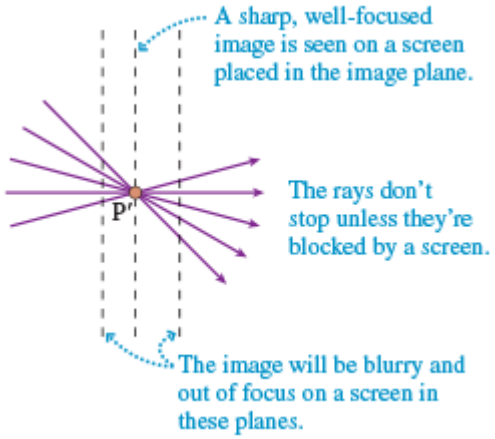
All points on the object that are in the same plane, the **object plane,** converge to image points in the **image plane.** Points Q and R in the object plane of Figure 34.30 have image points Q′ and R′ in the same plane as point P′. Once we locate *one* point in the image plane, such as P′, we know that the full image lies in the same plane.

There are two important observations to make about Figure 34.30. First, the image is upside down with respect to the object. This is called an **inverted image,** and it is a standard characteristic of real-image formation with a converging lens. Second, rays from point P *fill* the entire lens surface, and all portions of the lens contribute to the image. A larger lens will "collect" more rays and thus make a brighter image.

Figure 34.31 is a close-up view of the rays very near the image plane. The rays don't stop at P′ unless we place a screen in the image plane. When we do so, we see a sharp, well-focused image on the screen. To focus an image, you must either move the screen to coincide with the image plane or move the lens or object to make the image plane coincide with the screen. For example, the focus knob on a projector moves the

lens forward or backward until the image plane matches the screen position.

## Figure 34.31




A close-up look at the rays near the image plane.

> **Note**
>
> The ability to see a real image on a screen sets real images apart from *virtual* images. But keep in mind that we need not *see* a real image in order to *have* an image. A real image exists at a point in space where the rays converge even if there's no viewing screen in the image plane.

Figure 34.30 highlights three "special rays" based on the three situations of Figure 34.29. These three rays alone are sufficient to locate the image point P′. That is, we don't need to draw all the rays shown in Figure 34.30. The procedure known as *ray tracing* consists of locating the image by the use of just these three rays.

TACTICS BOX 34.2 **Ray tracing for a converging lens**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Draw an optical axis.** Use graph paper or a ruler! Establish an appropriate scale.
2. **Center the lens on the axis.** Mark and label the focal points at distance $f$ on either side.
3. **Represent the object with an upright arrow at distance $s$.** It's usually best to place the base of the arrow on the axis and to draw the arrow about half the radius of the lens.
4. **Draw the three "special rays" from the tip of the arrow.** Use a straightedge.
    a. A ray parallel to the axis refracts through the far focal point.
    b. A ray that enters the lens along a line through the near focal point emerges parallel to the axis.
    c. A ray through the center of the lens does not bend.
5. **Extend the rays until they converge.** This is the image point. Draw the rest of the image in the image plane. If the base of the object is on the axis, then the base of the image will also be on the axis.
6. **Measure the image distance $s'$.** Also, if needed, measure the image height relative to the object height.

Workbook Exercises 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

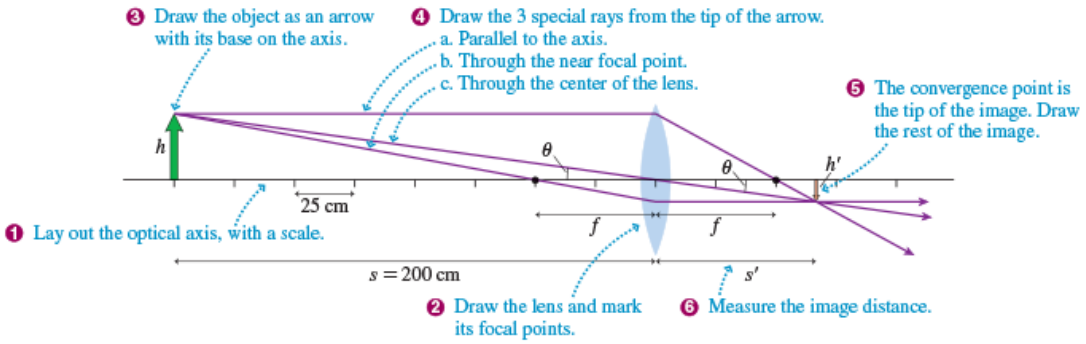
**Example 34.7 Finding the image of a flower**

A 4.0-cm-diameter flower is 200 cm from the 50-cm-focal-length lens of a camera. How far should the light detector be placed behind the lens to record a well-focused image? What is the diameter of the image on the detector?

**MODEL** The flower is in the object plane. Use ray tracing to locate the image.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.32 shows the ray-tracing diagram and the steps of Tactics Box 34.2. The image has been drawn in the plane where the three special rays converge. You can see *from the drawing* that the image distance is $s' \approx 67$ cm. This is where the detector needs to be placed to record a focused image.

**Figure 34.32**




Ray-tracing diagram for Example 34.7.

The heights of the object and image are labeled $h$ and $h'$. The ray through the center of the lens is a straight line, thus the object and image both subtend the same angle $\theta$. Using similar triangles,

$$\frac{h'}{s'} = \frac{h}{s}$$

Solving for $h'$ gives

$$h' = h\frac{s'}{s} = (4.0\text{ cm})\,\frac{67\text{ cm}}{200\text{ cm}} = 1.3\text{ cm}$$

The flower's image has a diameter of 1.3 cm.

**ASSESS** We've been able to learn a great deal about the image from a simple geometric procedure.

## Lateral Magnification



The image can be either larger or smaller than the object, depending on the location and focal length of the lens. But there's more to a description of the image than just its size. We also want to know its *orientation* relative to the object. That is, is the image upright or inverted? It is customary to combine size and orientation information into a single number. The **lateral magnification** $m$ is defined as

**(34.14)**

$$m = -\frac{s'}{s}$$

You just saw in Example 34.7 that the image-to-object height ratio is $h'/h = s'/s$. Consequently, we interpret the lateral magnification $m$ as follows:

1. A positive value of $m$ indicates that the image is upright relative to the object. A negative value of $m$ indicates that the image is inverted relative to the object.

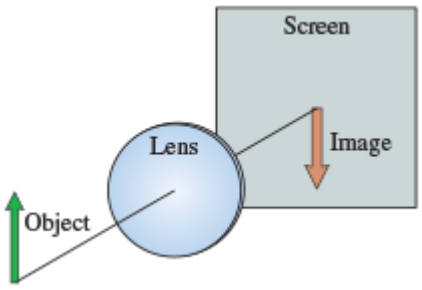
2. The absolute value of $m$ gives the size ratio of the image and object: $h'/h = |m|$.

The lateral magnification in Example 34.7 would be $m = -0.33$, indicating that the image is inverted and 33% the size of the object.

> **Note**
>
> The image-to-object height ratio is called *lateral* magnification to distinguish it from angular magnification, which we'll introduce in the next chapter. In practice, *m* is simply called "magnification" when there's no chance of confusion. Although we usually think that "to magnify" means "to make larger," in optics the magnification can be either > 1 (the image is larger than the object) or < 1 (the image is smaller than the object).

## Stop to Think 34.4

A lens produces a sharply focused, inverted image on a screen. What will you see on the screen if the lens is removed?




**a.** The image will be inverted and blurry.

**b.** The image will be upright and sharp.

**c.** The image will be upright and blurry.

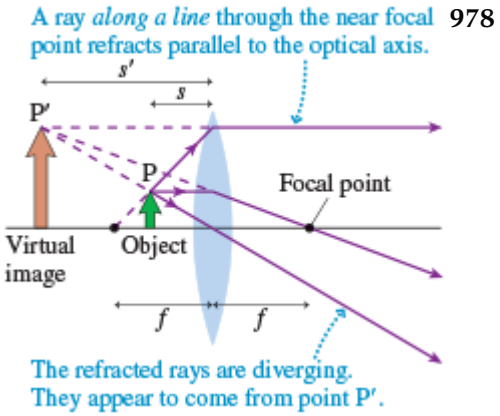
**d.** The image will be much dimmer but otherwise unchanged.

**e.** There will be no image at all.

# Virtual Images

The previous section considered a converging lens with the object at distance $s > f$. That is, the object was outside the focal point. What if the object is inside the focal point, at distance $s < f$? Figure 34.33 shows just this situation, and we can use ray tracing to analyze it.

## Figure 34.33




Rays from an object at distance $s < f$ are refracted by the lens and diverge to form a virtual image.

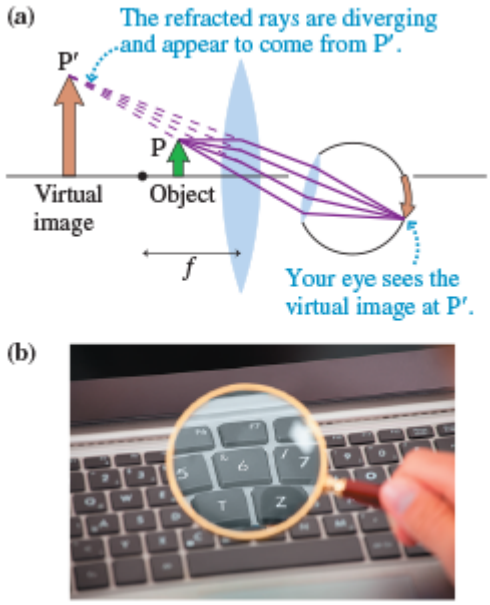
The special rays initially parallel to the axis and through the center of the lens present no difficulties. However, a ray through the near focal point would travel toward the left and would never reach the lens! Referring back to Figure 34.29b, you can see that the rays emerging parallel to the axis entered the lens *along a line* passing through the near focal point. It's the angle of incidence on the lens that is important, not whether the light ray actually passes through the focal point. This was the basis for the wording of step 4b in Tactics Box 34.2 and is the third special ray shown in Figure 34.33.

You can see that the three refracted rays don't converge. Instead, all three rays appear to *diverge* from point P′. This is the situation we found for rays reflecting from a mirror and for the rays refracting out of an aquarium. Point P′ is a *virtual image* of the object point P. Furthermore, it is an **upright image,** having the same orientation as the object.

The refracted rays, which are all to the right of the lens, *appear* to come from P′, but none of the rays were ever at that point. No image would appear on a screen placed in the image plane at P′. So what good is a virtual image?

Your eye collects and focuses bundles of diverging rays; thus, as Figure 34.34a shows, you can see a virtual image by looking *through* the lens. This is exactly what you do with a magnifying glass, producing a scene like the one in Figure 34.34b. In fact, you view a virtual image anytime you look *through* the eyepiece of an optical instrument such as a microscope or binoculars.

## Figure 34.34




A converging lens is a magnifying glass when the object distance is less than *f*.

As before, **the image distance $s'$ for a virtual image is defined to be a *negative number*** $(s' < 0)$, indicating that the image is on the opposite side of the lens from a real image. With this choice of sign, the definition of magnification, $m = -s'/s$, is still valid. A virtual image with negative $s'$ has $m > 0$, thus the image is upright. This agrees with the rays in Figure 34.33 and the photograph of Figure 34.34b.

> **Note**
>
> A lens thicker in the middle than at the edges is classified as a converging lens. The light rays from an object *can* converge to form a real image after passing through such a lens, but only if the object distance is larger than the focal length of the lens: $s > f$. If $s < f$, the rays diverge to produce a virtual image.

**Example 34.8 Magnifying a flower**

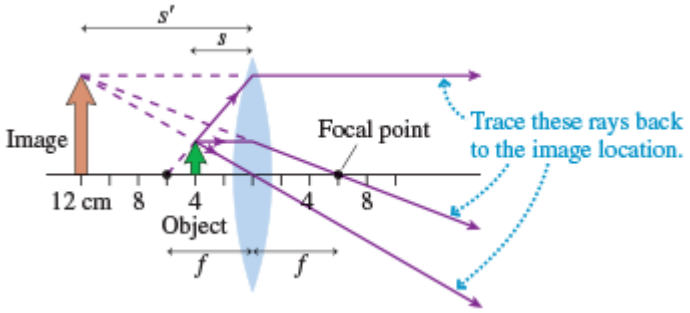
To see a flower better, a naturalist holds a 6.0-cm-focal-length magnifying glass 4.0 cm from the flower. What is the magnification?

**MODEL** The flower is in the object plane. Use ray tracing to locate the image.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.35 shows the ray-tracing diagram. The three special rays diverge from the lens, but we can use a straightedge to extend the rays backward to the point from which they diverge. This point, the image point, is seen to be 12 cm to the left of the lens. Because this is a virtual image, the image distance is a negative $s' = -12$ cm. Thus the magnification is

$$m = -\frac{s'}{s} = -\frac{-12 \text{ cm}}{4.0 \text{ cm}} = 3.0$$

**Figure 34.35**



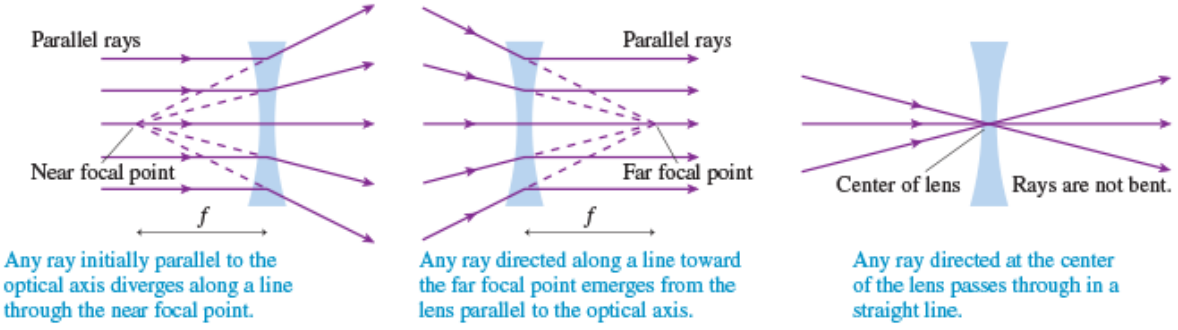

Ray-tracing diagram for Example 34.8.

The image is three times as large as the object and, because $m$ is positive, upright.

## Diverging Lenses

A lens thicker at the edges than in the middle is called a *diverging lens*. Figure 34.36 shows three important sets of rays passing through a diverging lens. These are based on Figures 34.27 and 34.28, where you saw that rays initially parallel to the axis diverge after passing through a diverging lens.

**Figure 34.36**




Three important sets of rays passing through a thin diverging lens.

Ray tracing follows the steps of Tactics Box 34.2 for a converging lens *except* that two of the three special rays in step 4 are different.

TACTICS BOX 34.3 **Ray tracing for a diverging lens**

**Mastering Physics**

**1–3.** **Follow steps 1 through 3 of Tactics Box 34.2.**

**4.** **Draw the three "special rays" from the tip of the arrow.** Use a straightedge.

- **a.** A ray parallel to the axis diverges along a line through the near focal point.
- **b.** A ray along a line toward the far focal point emerges parallel to the axis.
- **c.** A ray through the center of the lens does not bend.

**5.** **Trace the diverging rays backward.** The point from which they are diverging is the image point, which is always a virtual image.

**6.** **Measure the image distance $s'$.** This will be a negative number.

Workbook Exercise 24

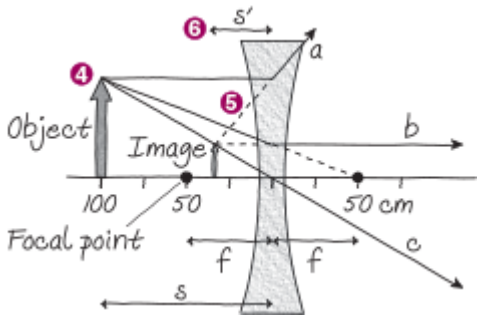
**Example 34.9 Demagnifying a flower**

A diverging lens with a focal length of 50 cm is placed 100 cm from a flower. Where is the image? What is its magnification?

**MODEL** The flower is in the object plane. Use ray tracing to locate the image.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.37 shows the ray-tracing diagram. The three special rays (labeled a, b, and c to match the Tactics Box) do not converge. However, they can be traced backward to an intersection ≈ 33 cm to the left of the lens. A virtual image is formed at $s' = -33$ cm with magnification

**Figure 34.37**




Ray-tracing diagram for Example 34.9.

$$m = -\frac{s'}{s} = -\frac{-33 \text{ cm}}{100 \text{ cm}} = 0.33$$

The image, which can be seen by looking *through* the lens, is one-third the size of the object and upright.

**ASSESS** Ray tracing with a diverging lens is somewhat trickier than with a converging lens, so this example is worth careful study.

Diverging lenses *always* make virtual images and, for this reason, are rarely used alone. However, they have important applications when used in combination with other lenses. Cameras, eyepieces, and eyeglasses often incorporate diverging lenses.

# 34.6 Thin Lenses: Refraction Theory



Ray tracing is a powerful visual approach for understanding image formation, but it doesn't provide precise information about the image. We need to develop a quantitative relationship between the object distance $s$ and the image distance $s'$.

To begin, Figure 34.38 shows a *spherical* boundary between two transparent media with indices of refraction $n_1$ and $n_2$. The sphere has radius of curvature $R$. Consider a ray that leaves object point P at angle $\alpha$ and later, after refracting, reaches point P′. Figure 34.38 has exaggerated the angles to make the picture clear, but we will restrict our analysis to *paraxial rays* traveling nearly parallel to the axis. For paraxial rays, all the angles are small and we can use the small-angle approximation.

**Figure 34.38**

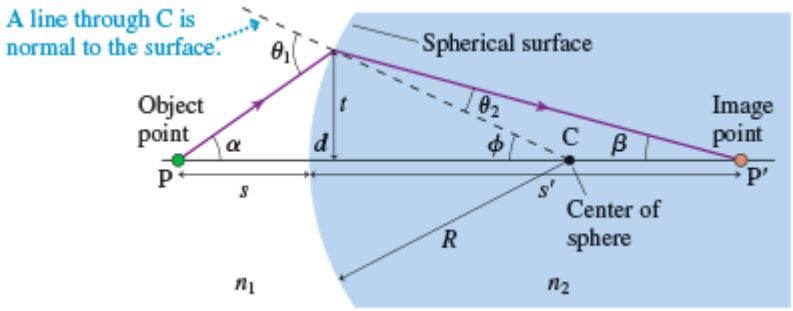



Image formation due to refraction at a spherical surface. The angles are exaggerated.

The ray from P is incident on the boundary at angle $\theta_1$ and refracts into medium $n_2$ at angle $\theta_2$, both measured from the normal to the surface at

the point of incidence. Snell's law is $n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$, which in the small-angle approximation is

**(34.15)**

$$n_1\theta_1 = n_2\theta_2$$

You can see from the geometry of Figure 34.38 that angles $\alpha$, $\beta$, and $\phi$ are related by

**(34.16)**

$$\theta_1 = \alpha + \phi \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_2 = \phi - \beta$$

Using these expressions in Equation 34.15, we can write Snell's law as

**(34.17)**

$$n_1\,(\alpha + \phi) = n_2\,(\phi - \beta)$$

This is one important relationship between the angles.

The line of height $t$, from the axis to the point of incidence, is the vertical leg of three different right triangles having vertices at points P, C, and P′. Consequently,

**(34.18)**

$$\tan\alpha \approx \alpha = \frac{t}{s + d} \qquad \tan\beta \approx \beta = \frac{t}{s' - d} \qquad \tan\phi \approx \phi = \frac{t}{R - d}$$

But $d \to 0$ for paraxial rays, thus

**(34.19)**

$$\alpha = \frac{t}{s} \qquad \beta = \frac{t}{s'} \qquad \phi = \frac{t}{R}$$

This is the second important relationship that comes from Figure 34.38.

If we use Equation 34.19 in Equation 34.17, the $t$ cancels and we find

(34.20)

$$\frac{n_1}{s} + \frac{n_2}{s'} = \frac{n_2 - n_1}{R}$$

Equation 34.20 is independent of angle $\alpha$. Consequently, ***all* paraxial rays leaving point P later converge at point** P′. If an object is located at distance $s$ from a spherical refracting surface, an image will be formed at distance $s'$ given by Equation 34.20.

Equation 34.20 was derived for a surface that is convex toward the object point, and the image is real. However, the result is also valid for virtual images or for surfaces that are concave toward the object point as long as we adopt the *sign convention* shown in Table 34.2.

**Table 34.2**

| | Positive | Negative |
|---|---|---|
| $R$ | Convex toward the object | Concave toward the object |
| $s'$ | Real image, opposite side from object | Virtual image, same side as object |

Sign convention for refracting surfaces

Section 34.4 considered image formation due to refraction by a plane surface. There we found (in Equation 34.13) an image distance $s' = -(n_2/n_1)s$. A plane can be thought of as a sphere in the limit

$R \to \infty$, so we should be able to reach the same conclusion from Equation 34.20. Indeed, as $R \to \infty$, the term $(n_2 - n_1)/R \to 0$ and Equation 34.20 becomes $s' = -(n_2/n_1)\, s$.

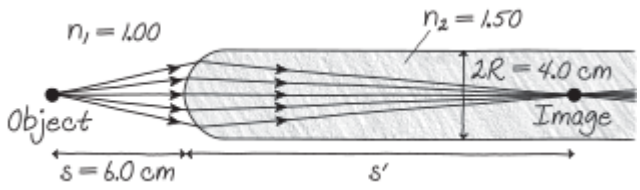
### Example 34.10 Image formation inside a glass rod

One end of a 4.0-cm-diameter glass rod is shaped like a hemisphere. A small lightbulb is 6.0 cm from the end of the rod. Where is the bulb's image located?

**MODEL** Model the lightbulb as a point source of light and consider the paraxial rays that refract into the glass rod.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.39 shows the situation. $n_1 = 1.00$ for air and $n_2 = 1.50$ for glass.

**Figure 34.39**




The curved surface refracts the light to form a real image.

**SOLVE** The radius of the surface is half the rod diameter, so $R = 2.0$ cm. Equation 34.20 is

$$\frac{1.00}{6.0 \text{ cm}} + \frac{1.50}{s'} = \frac{1.50 - 1.00}{2.0 \text{ cm}} = \frac{0.50}{2.0 \text{ cm}}$$

Solving for the image distance $s'$ gives

$$\frac{1.50}{s'} = \frac{0.50}{2.0\text{ cm}} - \frac{1.00}{6.0\text{ cm}} = 0.0833\text{ cm}^{-1}$$

$$s' = \frac{1.50}{0.0833} = 18\text{ cm}$$

**ASSESS** This is a real image located 18 cm inside the glass rod.

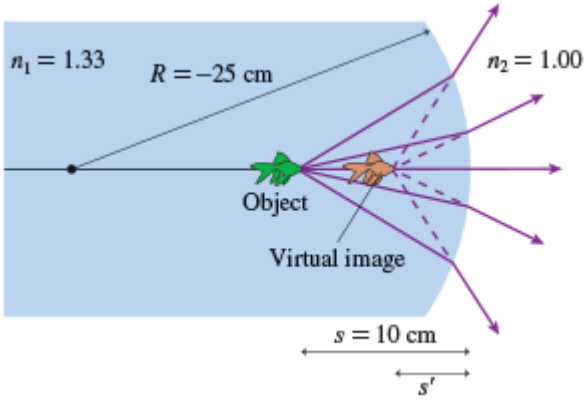
### Example 34.11 A goldfish in a bowl

A goldfish lives in a spherical fish bowl 50 cm in diameter. If the fish is 10 cm from the near edge of the bowl, where does the fish appear when viewed from the outside?

**MODEL** Model the fish as a point source and consider the paraxial rays that refract from the water into the air. The thin glass wall has little effect and will be ignored.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.40 shows the rays refracting *away* from the normal as they move from the water into the air. We expect to find a virtual image at a distance less than 10 cm.

#### Figure 34.40




The curved surface of a fish bowl produces a virtual image of the fish.

**SOLVE** The object is in the water, so $n_1 = 1.33$ and $n_2 = 1.00$. The inner surface is concave (you can remember "concave" because it's like looking into a cave), so $R = -25$ cm. The object distance is $s = 10$ cm. Thus Equation 34.20 is

$$\frac{1.33}{10\text{ cm}} + \frac{1.00}{s'} = \frac{1.00 - 1.33}{-25\text{ cm}} = \frac{0.33}{25\text{ cm}}$$

Solving for the image distance $s'$ gives

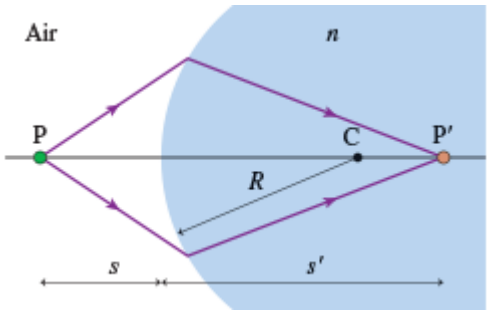
$$\frac{1.00}{s'} = \frac{0.33}{25\text{ cm}} - \frac{1.33}{10\text{ cm}} = -0.1281\text{ cm}^{-1}$$

$$s' = \frac{1.00}{-0.12\text{ cm}^{-1}} = -8.3\text{ cm}$$

**ASSESS** The image is virtual, located to the left of the boundary. A person looking into the bowl will see a fish that appears to be 8.3 cm from the edge of the bowl.

## Stop to Think 34.5

Which of these actions will move the real image point P′ farther from the boundary? More than one may work.




**a.** Increase the radius of curvature $R$.

**b.** Increase the index of refraction $n$.

**c.** Increase the object distance $s$.

**d.** Decrease the radius of curvature $R$.

**e.** Decrease the index of refraction $n$.

**f.** Decrease the object distance $s$.

## Lenses

The thin-lens approximation assumes rays refract one time, at the lens plane. In fact, as Figure 34.41 shows, rays refract *twice*, at spherical surfaces having radii of curvature $R_1$ and $R_2$. Let the lens have thickness $t$ and be made of a material with index of refraction $n$. For simplicity, we'll assume that the lens is surrounded by air.

**Figure 34.41**

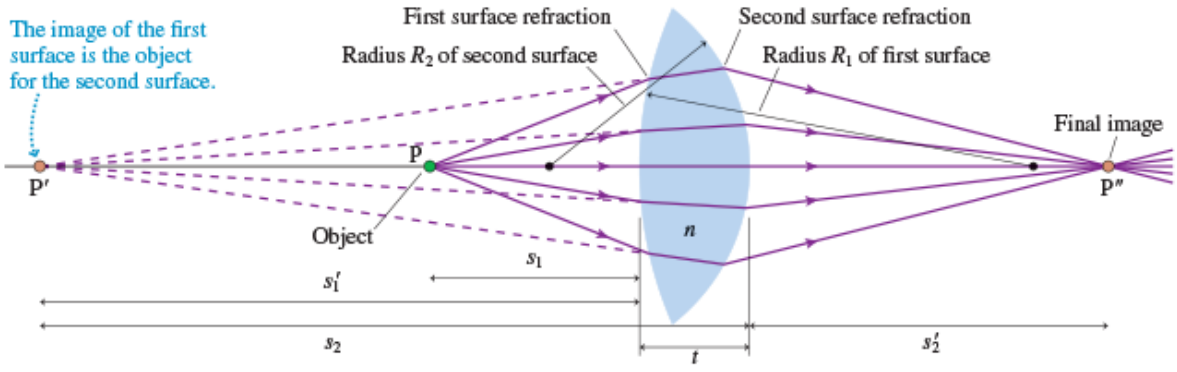



Image formation by a lens.

The object at point P is distance $s_1$ to the left of the lens. The first surface of the lens, of radius $R_1$, refracts the rays from P to create an image at point P′. We can use Equation 34.20 for a spherical surface to find the image distance $s_1'$:

(34.21)

$$\frac{1}{s_1} + \frac{n}{s_1'} = \frac{n-1}{R_1}$$

where we used $n_1 = 1$ for the air and $n_2 = n$ for the lens. We'll assume that the image P′ is a virtual image, but this assumption isn't essential to the outcome.

With two refracting surfaces, the image P′ of the first surface becomes the object for the second surface. That is, the rays refracting at the second surface appear to have come from P′. Object distance $s_2$ from P′ to the second surface looks like it should be $s_2 = s_1' + t$, but P′ is a virtual image, so $s_1'$ is a *negative* number. Thus the distance to the second surface is $s_2 = |s_1'| + t = t - s_1'$. We can find the image of P′ by a second application of Equation 34.20, but now the rays are incident on the surface from within the lens, so $n_1 = n$ and $n_2 = 1$. Consequently,

(34.22)

$$\frac{n}{t - s_1'} + \frac{1}{s_2'} = \frac{1-n}{R_2}$$

For a *thin lens*, which has $t \to 0$, Equation 34.22 becomes

(34.23)

$$-\frac{n}{s_1'} + \frac{1}{s_2'} = \frac{1-n}{R_2} = -\frac{n-1}{R_2}$$



Our goal is to find the distance $s_2'$ to point P″, the image produced by the lens as a whole. This goal is easily reached if we simply add Equations 34.21 and 34.23, eliminating $s_1'$ and giving

**(34.24)**

$$\frac{1}{s_1} + \frac{1}{s_2'} = \frac{n-1}{R_1} - \frac{n-1}{R_2} = (n-1)\left(\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2}\right)$$

The numerical subscripts on $s_1$ and $s_2'$ no longer serve a purpose. If we replace $s_1$ by $s$, the object distance from the lens, and $s_2'$ by $s'$, the image distance, Equation 34.24 becomes the **thin-lens equation:**

---

**(34.25)**

$$\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{f} \qquad \text{(thin-lens equation)}$$

where the *focal length* of the lens is

---

**(34.26)**

$$\frac{1}{f} = (n-1)\left(\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2}\right) \qquad \text{(lens maker's equation)}$$

Equation 34.26 is known as the **lens maker's equation.** It allows you to determine the focal length from the shape of a thin lens and the material used to make it.

We can verify that this expression for $f$ really is the focal length of the lens by recalling that rays initially parallel to the optical axis pass through the focal point on the far side. In fact, this was our *definition* of the focal length of a lens. Parallel rays must come from an object extremely far

away, with object distance $s \to \infty$ and thus $1/s = 0$. In that case, Equation 34.25 tells us that the parallel rays will converge at distance $s' = f$ on the far side of the lens, exactly as expected.

We derived the thin-lens equation and the lens maker's equation from the specific lens geometry shown in Figure 34.41, but the results are valid for any lens as long as all quantities are given appropriate signs. The sign convention used with Equations 34.25 and 34.26 is given in Table 34.3.

**Table 34.3**

| | Positive | Negative |
|---|---|---|
| $R_1$, $R_2$ | Convex toward the object | Concave toward the object |
| $f$ | Converging lens, thicker in center | Diverging lens, thinner in center |
| $s'$ | Real image, opposite side from object | Virtual image, same side as object |

Sign convention for thin lenses

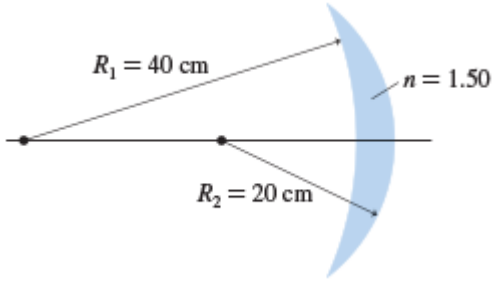
> **Note**
>
> For a *thick lens,* where the thickness $t$ is not negligible, we can solve Equations 34.21 and 34.22 in sequence to find the position of the image point P″.



**Example 34.12 Focal length of a meniscus lens**

What is the focal length of the glass *meniscus lens* shown in Figure 34.42? Is this a converging or diverging lens?

**Figure 34.42**




A meniscus lens.

**SOLVE** If the object is on the left, then the first surface has $R_1 = -40$ cm (concave toward the object) and the second surface has $R_2 = -20$ cm (also concave toward the object). The index of refraction of glass is $n = 1.50$, so the lens maker's equation is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{f} &= (n-1)\left(\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2}\right) = (1.50-1)\left(\frac{1}{-40\text{ cm}} - \frac{1}{-20\text{ cm}}\right) \\ &= 0.0125\text{ cm}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Inverting this expression gives $f = 80$ cm. This is a converging lens, as seen both from the positive value of $f$ and from the fact that the lens is thicker in the center.

## Thin-Lens Image Formation

Although the thin-lens equation allows precise calculations, the lessons of ray tracing should not be forgotten. The most powerful tool of optical analysis is a combination of ray tracing, to gain an intuitive understanding of the ray trajectories, and the thin-lens equation.

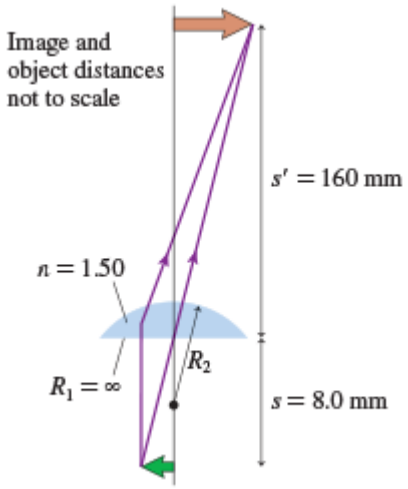
**Example 34.13 Designing a lens**

The objective lens of a microscope uses a planoconvex glass lens with the flat side facing the specimen. A real image is formed 160 mm behind the lens when the lens is 8.0 mm from the specimen. What is the radius of the lens's curved surface?

**MODEL** Treat the lens as a thin lens with the specimen as the object. The lens's focal length is given by the lens maker's equation.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.43 clarifies the shape of the lens and defines $R_2$. The index of refraction was taken from Table 34.1.

**Figure 34.43**




A planoconvex microscope lens.

**SOLVE** We can use the lens maker's equation to solve for $R_2$ if we know the lens's focal length. Because we know both the object and image distances, we can use the thin-lens equation to find

$$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{8.0\text{ mm}} + \frac{1}{160\text{ mm}} = 0.131\text{ mm}^{-1}$$

The focal length is $f = 1/\left(0.131\ \text{mm}^{-1}\right) = 7.6\ \text{mm}$, but $1/f$ is all we need for the lens maker's equation. The front surface of the lens is planar, which we can consider a portion of a sphere with $R_1 \to \infty$. Consequently $1/R_1 = 0$. With this, we can solve the lens maker's equation for $R_2$:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{R_2} &= \frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{n-1}\frac{1}{f} = 0 - \left(\frac{1}{1.50-1}\right)\left(0.131\ \text{mm}^{-1}\right)\\ &= -0.262\ \text{mm}^{-1}\\ R_2 &= -3.8\ \text{mm}\end{aligned}$$

The minus sign appears because the curved surface is concave toward the object. Physically, the radius of the curved surface is 3.8 mm.

**ASSESS** The actual thickness of the lens has to be less than $R_2$, probably no more than about 1.0 mm. This thickness is significantly less than the object and image distances, so the thin-lens approximation is justified.

### Example 34.14 A magnifying lens

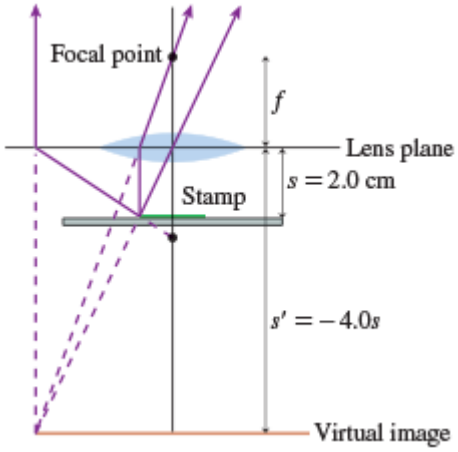
A stamp collector uses a magnifying lens that sits 2.0 cm above the stamp. The magnification is 4.0. What is the focal length of the lens?

**MODEL** A magnifying lens is a converging lens with the object distance less than the focal length $(s < f)$. Assume it is a thin lens.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.44 shows the lens and a ray-tracing diagram. We do not need to know the actual shape of the lens, so

the figure shows a generic converging lens.

**Figure 34.44**




Pictorial representation of a magnifying lens.

**SOLVE** A virtual image is upright, so $m = +4.0$. The magnification is $m = -s'/s$, thus

$$s' = -4.0s = -(4.0)(2.0\text{ cm}) = -8.0\text{ cm}$$

We can use $s$ and $s'$ in the thin-lens equation to find the focal length:

$$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{2.0\text{ cm}} + \frac{1}{-8.0\text{ cm}} = 0.375\text{ cm}^{-1}$$
$$f = 2.7\text{ cm}$$

**ASSESS** $f > 2$ cm, as expected.

## Stop to Think 34.6

A lens forms a real image of a lightbulb, but the image of the bulb on a viewing screen is blurry because the screen is slightly in front

of the image plane. To focus the image, should you move the lens toward the bulb or away from the bulb?

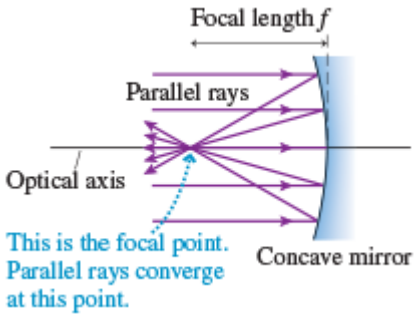
# 34.7 Image Formation with Spherical Mirrors

Curved mirrors—such as those used in telescopes, security and rearview mirrors, and searchlights—can be used to form images, and their images can be analyzed with ray diagrams similar to those used with lenses. We'll consider only the important case of **spherical mirrors,** whose surface is a section of a sphere.

## Concave Mirrors

Figure 34.45 shows a **concave mirror,** a mirror in which the edges curve *toward* the light source. Rays parallel to the optical axis reflect from the surface of the mirror so as to pass through a single point on the optical axis. This is the focal point of the mirror. The focal length is the distance from the mirror surface to the focal point. A concave mirror is analogous to a converging lens, but it has only one focal point.

**Figure 34.45**

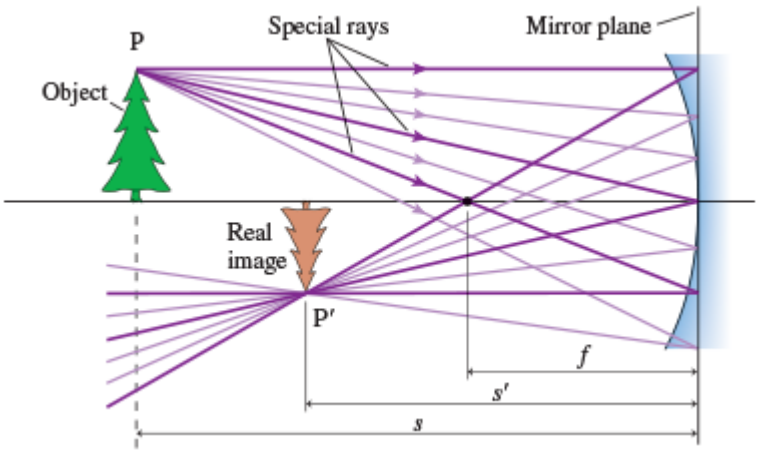



The focal point and focal length of a concave mirror.

Let's begin by considering the case where the object's distance $s$ from the mirror is greater than the focal length $(s > f)$, as shown in Figure 34.46 on the next page. We see that the image is *real* (and inverted) because rays from the object point P converge at the image point P′. Although an infinite number of rays from P all meet at P′, each ray obeying the law of reflection, you can see that three "special rays" are enough to determine the position and size of the image:

- A ray parallel to the axis reflects through the focal point.
- A ray through the focal point reflects parallel to the axis.
- A ray striking the center of the mirror reflects at an equal angle on the opposite side of the axis.

## Figure 34.46




A real image formed by a concave mirror.

These three rays also locate the image if $s < f$, but in that case the image is *virtual* and behind the mirror. Once again, virtual images have a *negative* image distance $s'$.

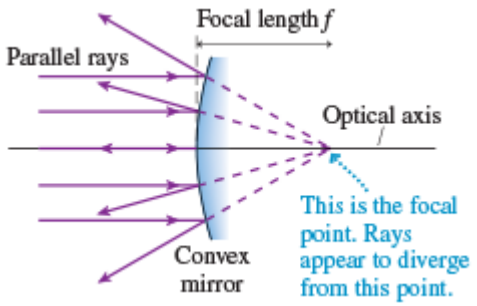
> **Note**
>
> A thin lens has negligible thickness and all refraction occurs at

> the lens plane. Similarly, we will assume that mirrors are thin (even though drawings may show a thickness) and thus *all reflection occurs at the mirror plane*.

## Convex Mirrors

Figure 34.47 shows parallel light rays approaching a mirror in which the edges curve *away from* the light source. This is called a **convex mirror.** In this case, the reflected rays appear to come from a point behind the mirror. This is the focal point for a convex mirror.

**Figure 34.47**




The focal point and focal length of a convex mirror.

A common example of a convex mirror is a silvered ball, such as a tree ornament. You may have noticed that if you look at your reflection in such a ball, your image appears right-side-up but is quite small. As another example, Figure 34.48 shows a city skyline reflected in a polished metal sphere. Let's use ray tracing to understand why the skyscrapers all appear to be so small.

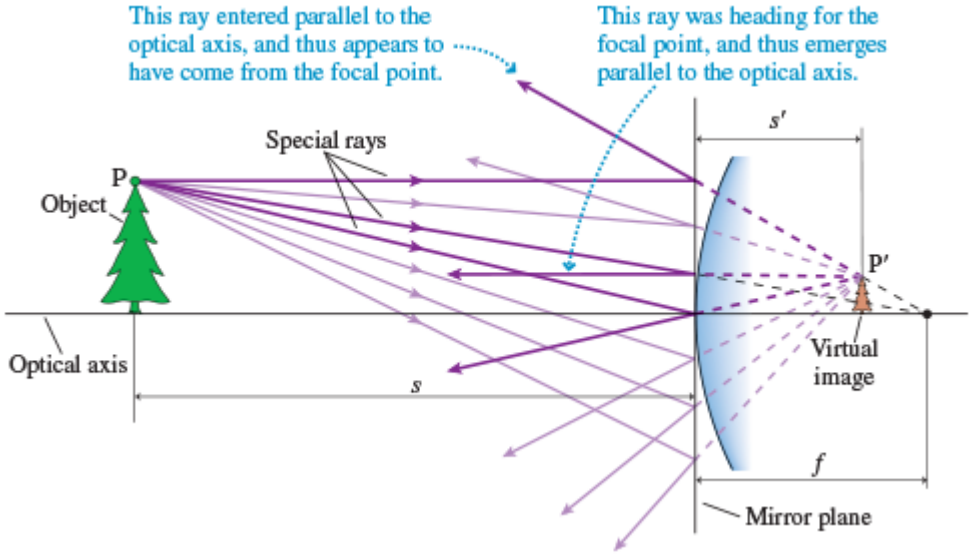


**Figure 34.48**

A city skyline is reflected in this polished sphere.

Figure 34.49 shows an object in front of a convex mirror. In this case, the reflected rays—each obeying the law of reflection—create an upright image of reduced height behind the mirror. We see that the image is virtual because no rays actually converge at the image point P′. Instead, diverging rays *appear* to come from this point. Once again, three special rays are enough to find the image.

## Figure 34.49




A virtual image formed by a convex mirror.

Convex mirrors are used for a variety of safety and monitoring applications, such as passenger-side rearview mirrors and the round mirrors used in stores to keep an eye on the customers. When an object is reflected in a convex mirror, the image appears smaller than the object

itself. Because the image is, in a sense, a miniature version of the object, you can *see much more of it* within the edges of the mirror than you could with an equal-sized flat mirror.

TACTICS BOX 34.4 **Ray tracing for a spherical mirror**

**Mastering Physics**

1. **Draw an optical axis.** Use graph paper or a ruler! Establish a scale.
2. **Center the mirror on the axis.** Mark and label the focal point at distance *f* from the mirror's surface.
3. **Represent the object with an upright arrow at distance *s*.** It's usually best to place the base of the arrow on the axis and to draw the arrow about half the radius of the mirror.
4. **Draw the three "special rays" from the tip of the arrow.** All reflections occur at the mirror plane.
    a. A ray parallel to the axis reflects through (concave) or away from (convex) the focal point.
    b. An incoming ray passing through (concave) or heading toward (convex) the focal point reflects parallel to the axis.
    c. A ray that strikes the center of the mirror reflects at an equal angle on the opposite side of the optical axis.
5. **Extend the rays forward or backward until they converge.** This is the image point. Draw the rest of the image in the image plane. If the base of the object is on

the axis, then the base of the image will also be on the axis.

6. **Measure the image distance $s'$.** Also, if needed, measure the image height relative to the object height.

Workbook Exercises 28, 29

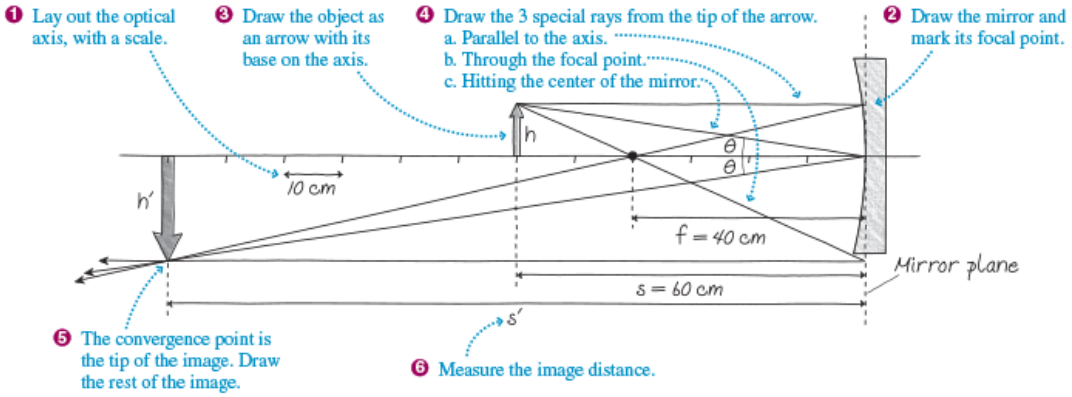
### Example 34.15 Analyzing a concave mirror

A 3.0-cm-high object is located 60 cm from a concave mirror. The mirror's focal length is 40 cm. Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the image.

**MODEL** Use the ray-tracing steps of Tactics Box 34.4.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.50 shows the steps of Tactics Box 34.4.

**Figure 34.50**




Ray-tracing diagram for a concave mirror.

**SOLVE** We can use a ruler to find that the image position is $s' \approx 120$ cm in front of the mirror and its height is $h' \approx 6$ cm.

**ASSESS** The image is a *real* image because light rays converge at the image point.

## The Mirror Equation

The thin-lens equation assumes lenses have negligible thickness (so a single refraction occurs in the lens plane) and the rays are nearly parallel to the optical axis (paraxial rays). If we make the same assumptions about spherical mirrors—the mirror has negligible thickness and so paraxial rays reflect at the mirror plane—then the object and image distances are related exactly as they were for thin lenses:

**(34.27)**

$$\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{f} \quad \text{(mirror equation)}$$

The focal length of the mirror, as you can show as a homework problem, is related to the mirror's radius of curvature by

**(34.28)**

$$f = \frac{R}{2}$$

Table 34.4 shows the sign convention used with spherical mirrors. It differs from the convention for lenses, so you'll want to carefully compare this table to Table 34.3. A concave mirror (analogous to a converging lens) has a positive focal length while a convex mirror (analogous to a diverging lens) has a negative focal length. The lateral magnification of a spherical mirror is computed exactly as for a lens:

(34.29)

$$m = -\frac{s'}{s}$$

## Table 34.4

| | Positive | Negative |
|---|---|---|
| $R, f$ | Concave toward the object | Convex toward the object |
| $s'$ | Real image, same side as object | Virtual image, opposite side from object |

Sign convention for spherical mirrors

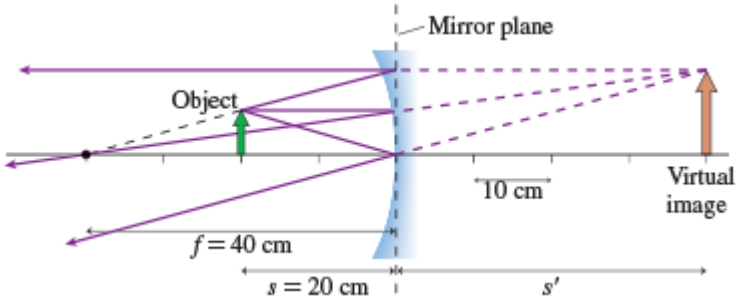
### Example 34.16 Analyzing a concave mirror

A 3.0-cm-high object is located 20 cm from a concave mirror. The mirror's radius of curvature is 80 cm. Determine the position, orientation, and height of the image.

**MODEL** Treat the mirror as a thin mirror.

**VISUALIZE** The mirror's focal length is $f = R/2 = +40$ cm, where we used the sign convention from Table 34.4. With the focal length known, the three special rays in Figure 34.51 show that the image is a magnified, virtual image behind the mirror.

## Figure 34.51



Pictorial representation of Example 34.16.

**SOLVE** The thin-mirror equation is

$$\frac{1}{20\text{ cm}} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{40\text{ cm}}$$

This is easily solved to give $s' = -40$ cm, in agreement with the ray tracing. The negative sign tells us this is a virtual image behind the mirror. The magnification is

$$m = -\frac{-40\text{ cm}}{20\text{ cm}} = +2.0$$

Consequently, the image is 6.0 cm tall and upright.

**ASSESS** This is a virtual image because light rays diverge from the image point. You could see this enlarged image by standing behind the object and looking into the mirror. In fact, this is how magnifying cosmetic mirrors work.

## Stop to Think 34.7

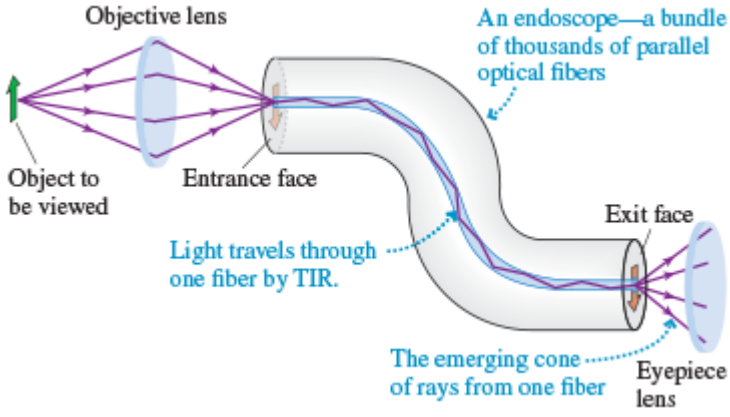
A concave mirror of focal length *f* forms an image of the moon. Where is the image located?

**a.** At the mirror's surface
**b.** Almost exactly a distance *f* behind the mirror
**c.** Almost exactly a distance *f* in front of the mirror
**d.** At a distance behind the mirror equal to the distance of the moon in front of the mirror

## Challenge Example 34.17 Optical fiber imaging

An *endoscope* is a thin bundle of optical fibers that can be inserted through a bodily opening or small incision to view the interior of the body. As Figure 34.52 shows, an *objective* lens forms a real image on the entrance face of the fiber bundle. Individual fibers, using total internal reflection, transport the light to the exit face, where it emerges. The doctor (or a TV camera) observes the object by viewing the exit face through an *eyepiece* lens.

### Figure 34.52




An endoscope.

Consider an endoscope having a 3.0-mm-diameter objective lens with a focal length of 1.1 mm. These are typical values. The indices of refraction of the core and the cladding of the optical fibers are

1.62 and 1.50, respectively. To give maximum brightness, the objective lens is positioned so that, for an on-axis object, rays passing through the outer edge of the lens have the maximum angle of incidence for undergoing TIR in the fiber. How far should the objective lens be placed from the object the doctor wishes to view?

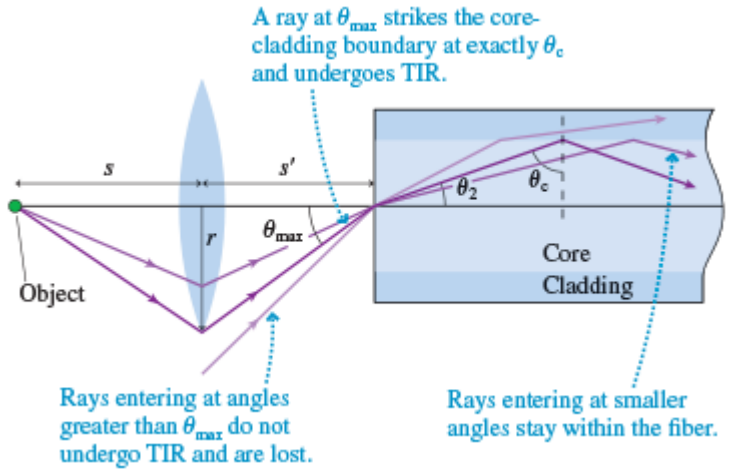
---

**MODEL** Represent the object as an on-axis point source and use the ray model of light.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.53 shows the real image being focused on the entrance face of the endoscope. Inside the fiber, rays that strike the cladding at an angle of incidence greater than the critical angle $\theta_c$ undergo TIR and stay in the fiber; rays are lost if their angle of incidence is less than $\theta_c$. For maximum brightness, the lens is positioned so that a ray passing through the outer edge refracts into the fiber at the maximum angle of incidence $\theta_{max}$ for which TIR is possible. A smaller-diameter lens would sacrifice light-gathering power, whereas the outer rays from a larger-diameter lens would impinge on the core-cladding boundary at less than $\theta_c$ and would not undergo TIR.

---

**Figure 34.53**




Magnified view of the entrance of an optical fiber.

---

**SOLVE** We know the focal length of the lens. We can use the geometry of the ray at the critical angle to find the image distance $s'$, then use the thin-lens equation to find the object distance $s$. The critical angle for TIR inside the fiber is

$$\theta_c = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{n_{\text{cladding}}}{n_{\text{core}}}\right) = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1.50}{1.62}\right) = 67.8^\circ$$

A ray incident on the core-cladding boundary at exactly the critical angle must have entered the fiber, at the entrance face, at angle $\theta_2 = 90^\circ - \theta_c = 22.2^\circ$. For optimum lens placement, this ray passed through the outer edge of the lens and was incident on the entrance face at angle $\theta_{\text{max}}$. Snell's law at the entrance face is

$$n_{\text{air}} \sin\theta_{\text{max}} = 1.00 \sin\theta_{\text{max}} = n_{\text{core}} \sin\theta_2$$

and thus

$$\theta_{\text{max}} = \sin^{-1}\left(1.62 \sin 22.2^\circ\right) = 37.7^\circ$$

We know the lens radius, $r = 1.5$ mm, so the distance of the lens from the fiber—the image distance $s'$—is

$$s' = \frac{r}{\tan\theta_{\max}} = \frac{1.5\ \text{mm}}{\tan\left(37.7^\circ\right)} = 1.9\ \text{mm}$$

Now we can use the thin-lens equation to locate the object:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{s} &= \frac{1}{f} - \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{1.1\ \text{mm}} - \frac{1}{1.9\ \text{mm}} \\ s &= 2.6\ \text{mm} \end{aligned}$$

The doctor, viewing the exit face of the fiber bundle, will see a focused image when the objective lens is 2.6 mm from the object she wishes to view.

**ASSESS** The object and image distances are both greater than the focal length, which is correct for forming a real image.

# Summary



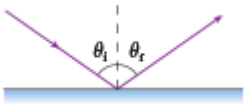
> The goals of Chapter 34 have been to learn about and apply the ray model of light.

## General Principles

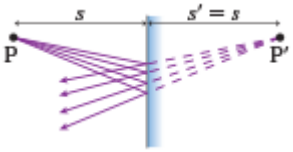
### Reflection

Law of reflection: $\theta_r = \theta_i$

Reflection can be **specular** (mirror-like) or **diffuse** (from rough surfaces).




Plane mirrors: A virtual image is formed at P′ with $s' = s$.




### Refraction

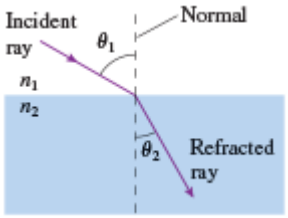
**Snell's law** of refraction:

$$n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$$

**Index of refraction** is $n = c/v$.

The ray is closer to the normal on the side with the larger index of refraction.

If $n_2 < n_1$, **total internal reflection** (TIR) occurs when the angle of incidence $\theta_1 \geq \theta_c = \sin^{-1}(n_2/n_1)$.




# Important Concepts

## The ray model of light

Light travels along straight lines, called **light rays,** at speed $v = c/n$.

A light ray continues forever unless an interaction with matter causes it to reflect, refract, scatter, or be absorbed.

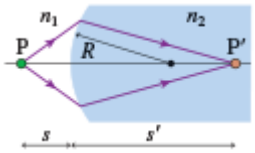
Light rays come from **objects.** Each point on the object sends rays in all directions.

The eye sees an object (or an image) when diverging rays are collected by the pupil and focused on the retina.

- Ray optics is valid when lenses, mirrors, and apertures are larger than $\approx 1$ mm.

## Image formation

If rays diverge from P and interact with a lens or mirror so that the refracted/reflected rays *converge* at P′, then P′ is a **real image** of P.




If rays diverge from P and interact with a lens or mirror so that the refracted/reflected rays *diverge* from P′ and appear to come from P′, then P′ is a **virtual image** of P.

**Spherical surface:** Object and image distances are related by

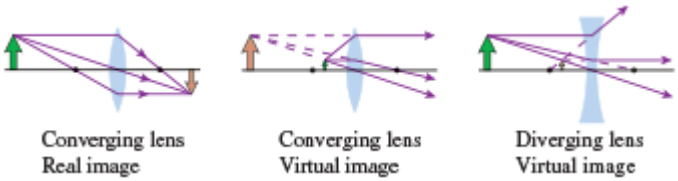
$$\frac{n_1}{s} + \frac{n_2}{s'} = \frac{n_2 - n_1}{R}$$

**Plane surface:** $R \to \infty$, so $s' = -\left(n_2/n_1\right) s$.

# Applications

## Ray tracing

3 special rays in 3 basic situations:




## Magnification

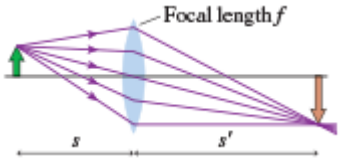
$$m = -\frac{s'}{s}$$

$m$ is + for an upright image, – for inverted.

The height ratio is $h'/h = |m|$ .

## Thin lenses

The image and object distances are related by




$$\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{f}$$

where the focal length is given by the lens maker's equation:

$$\frac{1}{f} = (n-1)\left(\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2}\right)$$

$R$

+ for surface convex toward object

– for concave

$f$

+ for a converging lens

– for diverging

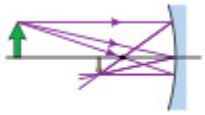
$s'$

+ for a real image

– for virtual

## Spherical mirrors

The image and object distances are related by



$$\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{f}$$

$R, f$

\+ for concave mirror

– for convex

$s'$

\+ for a real image

– for virtual

Focal length $f = R/2$

## Terms and Notation



light ray

object

point source

parallel bundle

ray diagram

camera obscura

aperture

specular reflection

angle of incidence

angle of reflection

law of reflection

diffuse reflection

virtual image

refraction

angle of refraction

Snell's law

total internal reflection (TIR)

critical angle, $\theta_c$

object distance, $s$

image distance, $s'$

optical axis

paraxial rays

lens

ray tracing

converging lens

focal point

focal length, $f$

diverging lens

thin lens

lens plane

real image

object plane

image plane

inverted image

lateral magnification, $m$

upright image

thin-lens equation

lens maker's equation

spherical mirror

concave mirror

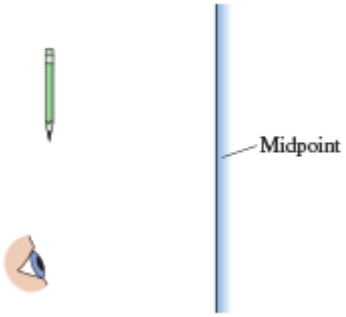
convex mirror

# Conceptual Questions



1. Suppose you have two pinhole cameras. The first has a small round hole in the front. The second is identical except it has a square hole of the same area as the round hole in the first camera. Would the pictures taken by these two cameras, under the same conditions, be different in any obvious way? Explain.
2. You are looking at the image of a pencil in a mirror, as shown in Figure Q34.2.

**Figure Q34.2**

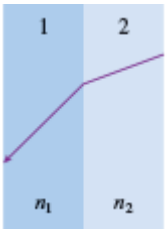



   a. What happens to the image if the top half of the mirror, down to the midpoint, is covered with a piece of cardboard? Explain.
   b. What happens to the image if the bottom half of the mirror is covered with a piece of cardboard? Explain.
3. One problem with using optical fibers for communication is that a light ray passing directly down the center of the fiber takes less time to travel from one end to the other than a ray taking a longer, zig-zag path. Thus light rays starting at the same time but traveling in slightly different directions reach the end of the fiber at different times. This problem can be solved by making the

refractive index of the glass change gradually from a higher value in the center to a lower value near the edges of the fiber. Explain how this reduces the difference in travel times.

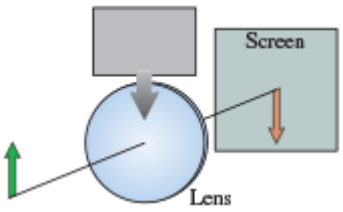
4. A light beam passing from medium 2 to medium 1 is refracted as shown in Figure Q34.4. Is $n_1$ larger than $n_2$, is $n_1$ smaller than $n_2$, or is there not enough information to tell? Explain.

**Figure Q34.4**



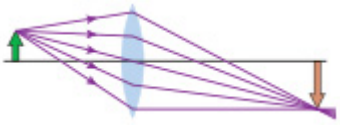

5. A fish in an aquarium with flat sides looks out at a hungry cat. To the fish, does the distance to the cat appear to be less than the actual distance, the same as the actual distance, or more than the actual distance? Explain.
6. Consider *one* point on an object near a lens.
    a. What is the minimum number of rays needed to locate its image point? Explain.
    b. How many rays from this point actually strike the lens and refract to the image point?
7. The object and lens in Figure Q34.7 are positioned to form a well-focused, inverted image on a viewing screen. Then a piece of cardboard is lowered just in front of the lens to cover the top half of the lens. Describe what you see on the screen when the cardboard is in place.

**Figure Q34.7**




8. A converging lens creates the image shown in Figure Q34.8. Is the object distance less than the focal length *f*, between *f* and 2*f*, or greater than 2*f*? Explain.

**Figure Q34.8**



9. A concave mirror brings the sun's rays to a focus in front of the mirror. Suppose the mirror is submerged in a swimming pool but still pointed up at the sun. Will the sun's rays be focused nearer to, farther from, or at the same distance from the mirror? Explain.
10. You see an upright, magnified image of your face when you look into a magnifying cosmetic mirror. Where is the image? Is it in front of the mirror's surface, on the mirror's surface, or behind the mirror's surface? Explain.
11. When you look at your reflection in the bowl of a spoon, it is upside down. Why?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

## Section 34.1 The Ray Model of Light

**1.** •• A point source of light illuminates an aperture 2.0 m away. A 12.0-cm-wide bright patch of light appears on a screen 1.0 m behind the aperture. How wide is the aperture?

**2.** ••

**a.** How long (in ns) does it take light to travel 1.0 m in vacuum?

**b.** What distance does light travel in water, glass, and cubic zirconia during the time that it travels 1.0 m in vacuum?

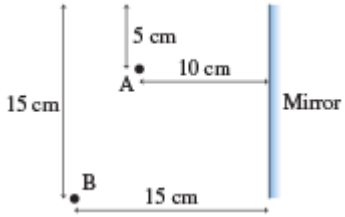
**3.** • A student has built a 15-cm-long pinhole camera for a science fair project. She wants to photograph her 180-cm-tall friend and have the image on the film be 5.0 cm high. How far should the front of the camera be from her friend?

**4.** •• A 5.0-cm-thick layer of oil is sandwiched between a 1.0-cm-thick sheet of glass and a 2.0-cm-thick sheet of polystyrene plastic. How long (in ns) does it take light incident perpendicular to the glass to pass through this 8.0-cm-thick sandwich?

## Section 34.2 Reflection

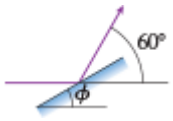
**5.** • A light ray leaves point A in Figure EX34.5, reflects from the mirror, and reaches point B. How far below the top edge does the ray strike the mirror?

**Figure EX34.5**



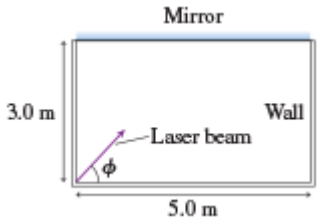
**6.** • The mirror in Figure EX34.6 deflects a horizontal laser beam by 60°. What is the angle $\phi$?

**Figure EX34.6**



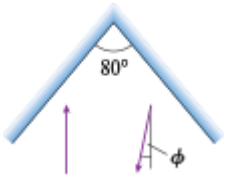

**7.** • At what angle $\phi$ should the laser beam in Figure EX34.7 be aimed at the mirrored ceiling in order to hit the midpoint of the far wall?

**Figure EX34.7**




**8.** • A laser beam is incident on the left mirror in Figure EX34.8. Its initial direction is parallel to a line that bisects the mirrors. What is the angle $\phi$ of the reflected laser beam?

**Figure EX34.8**




**9.** • It is 165 cm from your eyes to your toes. You're standing 200 cm in front of a tall mirror. How far is it from your eyes to the image of your toes?

## Section 34.3 Refraction

**10.** • A laser beam in air is incident on a liquid at an angle of 53° with respect to the normal. The laser beam's angle in the liquid is 35°. What is the liquid's index of refraction?

**11.** •• A 1.0-cm-thick layer of water stands on a horizontal slab of glass. A light ray in the air is incident on the water 60° from the normal. What is the ray's direction of travel in the glass?

**12.** •• A costume jewelry pendant made of cubic zirconia is submerged in oil. A light ray strikes one face of the zirconia crystal at an angle of incidence of 25°. Once inside, what is the ray's angle with respect to the face of the crystal?

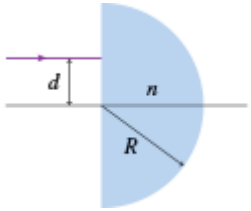
**13.** •• An underwater diver sees the sun 50° above horizontal. How high is the sun above the horizon to a fisherman in a boat above the diver?

**14.** •• The glass core of an optical fiber has an index of refraction 1.60. The index of refraction of the cladding is 1.48. What is the maximum angle a light ray can make with the wall of the core if it is to remain inside the fiber?

**15.** •• A thin glass rod is submerged in oil. What is the critical angle for light traveling inside the rod?

**16.** •• Figure EX34.16 shows a transparent hemisphere with radius $R$ and index of refraction $n$. What is the maximum distance $d$ for which a light ray parallel to the axis refracts out through the curved surface?

**Figure EX34.16**



## Section 34.4 Image Formation by Refraction at a Plane Surface

**17.** • A fish in a flat-sided aquarium sees a can of fish food on the counter. To the fish's eye, the can looks to be 30 cm outside the aquarium. What is the actual distance between the can and the aquarium? (You can ignore the thin glass wall of the aquarium.)

**18.** • A biologist keeps a specimen of his favorite beetle embedded in a cube of polystyrene plastic. The hapless bug appears to be 2.0 cm within the plastic. What is the beetle's actual distance beneath the surface?

**19.** • A 150-cm-tall diver is standing completely submerged on the bottom of a swimming pool full of water. You are sitting on the end of the diving board, almost directly over her. How tall does the diver appear to be?

**20.** •• To a fish in an aquarium, the 4.00-mm-thick walls appear to be only 3.50 mm thick. What is the index of refraction of the walls?

## Section 34.5 Thin Lenses: Ray Tracing

**21.** •• An object is 20 cm in front of a converging lens with a focal length of 10 cm. Use ray tracing to determine the location of the image. Is the image upright or inverted?

**22.** •• An object is 30 cm in front of a converging lens with a focal length of 5 cm. Use ray tracing to determine the location of the image. Is the image upright or inverted?

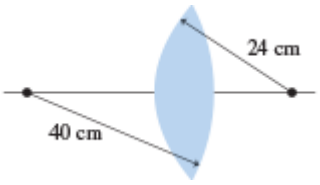
**23.** •• An object is 6 cm in front of a converging lens with a focal length of 10 cm. Use ray tracing to determine the location of the image. Is the image upright or inverted?

**24.** •• An object is 15 cm in front of a diverging lens with a focal length of –15 cm. Use ray tracing to determine the location of the image. Is the image upright or inverted?

## Section 34.6 Thin Lenses: Refraction Theory

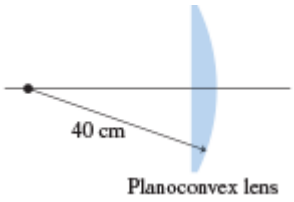
**25.** •• Find the focal length of the glass lens in Figure EX34.25.

**Figure EX34.25**



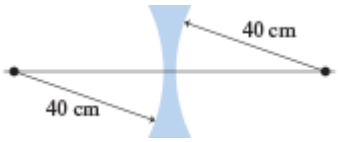

**26.** •• Find the focal length of the planoconvex polystyrene plastic lens in Figure EX34.26.

**Figure EX34.26**



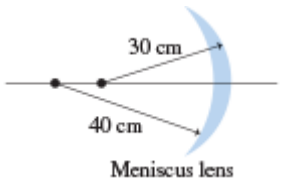

**27.** •• Find the focal length of the glass lens in Figure EX34.27.

**Figure EX34.27**




**28.** •• Find the focal length of the meniscus polystyrene plastic lens in Figure EX34.28.

## Figure EX34.28




**29.** •• An air bubble inside an 8.0-cm-diameter plastic ball is 2.0 cm from the surface. As you look at the ball with the bubble turned toward you, how far beneath the surface does the bubble appear to be?

**30.** •• A goldfish lives in a 50-cm-diameter spherical fish bowl. The fish sees a cat watching it. If the cat's face is 20 cm from the edge of the bowl, how far from the edge does the fish see it as being? (You can ignore the thin glass wall of the bowl.)

**31.** • A 1.0-cm-tall candle flame is 60 cm from a lens with a focal length of 20 cm. What are the image distance and the height of the flame's image?

**32.** •• A 1.0-cm-tall object is 10 cm in front of a converging lens that has a 30 cm focal length.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the image. To do this accurately, use a ruler or paper with a grid. Determine the image distance and image height by making measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.



**33.** •• A 2.0-cm-tall object is 40 cm in front of a converging lens that has a 20 cm focal length.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the image. To do this accurately, use a ruler or paper with a

grid. Determine the image distance and image height by making measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**34.** •• A 1.0-cm-tall object is 75 cm in front of a converging lens that has a 30 cm focal length.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the image. To do this accurately, use a ruler or paper with a grid. Determine the image distance and image height by making measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**35.** •• A 2.0-cm-tall object is 15 cm in front of a converging lens that has a 20 cm focal length.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the image. To do this accurately, use a ruler or paper with a grid. Determine the image distance and image height by making measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**36.** •• A 1.0-cm-tall object is 60 cm in front of a diverging lens that has a –30 cm focal length.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the image. To do this accurately, use a ruler or paper with a grid. Determine the image distance and image height by making measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**37.** •• A 2.0-cm-tall object is 15 cm in front of a diverging lens that has a –20 cm focal length.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the image. To do this accurately, use a ruler or paper with a grid. Determine the image distance and image height by making measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

## Section 34.7 Image Formation with Spherical Mirrors

**38.** •• An object is 40 cm in front of a concave mirror with a focal length of 20 cm. Use ray tracing to locate the image. Is the image upright or inverted?

**39.** •• An object is 12 cm in front of a concave mirror with a focal length of 20 cm. Use ray tracing to locate the image. Is the image upright or inverted?

**40.** •• An object is 30 cm in front of a convex mirror with a focal length of –20 cm. Use ray tracing to locate the image. Is the image upright or inverted?

**41.** • A 1.0-cm-tall object is 20 cm in front of a concave mirror that has a 60 cm focal length. Calculate the position and height of the image. State whether the image is in front of or behind the mirror, and whether the image is upright or inverted.

**42.** • A 1.0-cm-tall object is 20 cm in front of a convex mirror that has a –60 cm focal length. Calculate the position and height of the image. State whether the image is in front of or behind the mirror, and whether the image is upright or inverted.

# Problems

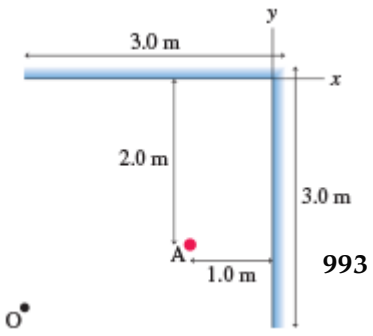
**43.** •• An advanced computer sends information to its various parts via infrared light pulses traveling through silicon fibers. To acquire data from memory, the central processing unit sends a light-pulse request to the memory unit. The memory unit processes the request, then sends a data pulse back to the central processing unit. The memory unit takes 0.5 ns to process a request. If the information has to be obtained from memory in 2.0 ns, what is the maximum distance the memory unit can be from the central processing unit?

**44.** •• A red ball is placed at point A in Figure P34.44.

**a.** How many images are seen by an observer at point O?

**b.** What are the $(x, y)$ coordinates of each image?

**Figure P34.44**






**45.** •• The place you get your hair cut has two nearly parallel mirrors 5.0 m apart. As you sit in the chair, your head is 2.0 m from the nearer mirror. Looking toward this mirror, you first see your face and then, farther away, the back of your head. (The mirrors need to be slightly nonparallel for you to be able to see the back of your head, but you can treat them as parallel in this problem.) How far away does the back of your head appear to be? Neglect the thickness of your head.

**46.** •• A microscope is focused on a black dot. When a 1.00-cm-thick piece of plastic is placed over the dot, the microscope objective has to be raised 0.40 cm to bring the dot back into focus. What is the index of refraction of the plastic?

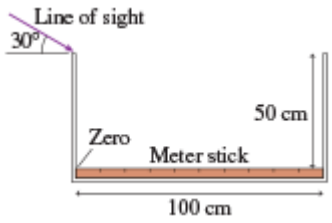
**47.** •• A light ray in air is incident on a transparent material whose index of refraction is $n$.

**a.** Find an expression for the (non-zero) angle of incidence whose angle of refraction is half the angle of incidence.

**b.** Evaluate your expression for light incident on glass.

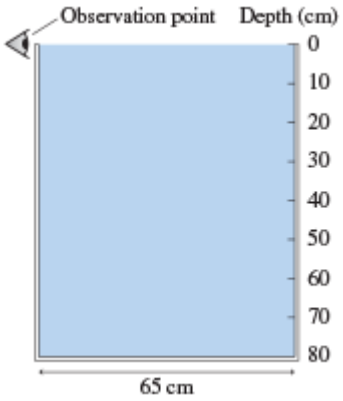
**48.** •• The meter stick in Figure P34.48 lies on the bottom of a 100-cm-long tank with its zero mark against the left edge. You look into the tank at a 30° angle, with your line of sight just grazing the upper left edge of the tank. What mark do you see on the meter stick if the tank is (a) empty, (b) half full of water, and (c) completely full of water?

**Figure P34.48**




**49.** •• The 80-cm-tall, 65-cm-wide tank shown in Figure P34.49 is completely filled with water. The tank has marks every 10 cm along one wall, and the 0 cm mark is barely submerged. As you stand beside the opposite wall, your eye is level with the top of the water.

**Figure P34.49**




**a.** Can you see the marks from the top of the tank (the 0 cm mark) going down, or from the bottom of the tank (the 80 cm mark) coming up? Explain.

**b.** Which is the lowest or highest mark, depending on your answer to part a, that you can see?

**50.** •• A horizontal meter stick is centered at the bottom of a 3.0-m-deep, 3.0-m-wide pool of water. How long does the meter stick appear to be as you look at it from the edge of the pool?

**51.** •• A 4.0-m-wide swimming pool is filled to the top. The bottom of the pool becomes completely shaded in the afternoon when the sun is 20° above the horizon. How deep is the pool?

**52.** •• It's nighttime, and you've dropped your goggles into a 3.0-m-deep swimming pool. If you hold a laser pointer 1.0 m above the edge of the pool, you can illuminate the goggles if the laser beam enters the water 2.0 m from the edge. How far are the goggles from the edge of the pool?

**53.** •• An astronaut is exploring an unknown planet when she accidentally drops an oxygen canister into a 1.50-m-deep pool filled with an unknown liquid. Although she dropped the canister 21 cm from the edge, it appears to be 31 cm away when she peers in from the edge. What is the liquid's index of

refraction? Assume that the planet's atmosphere is similar to earth's.

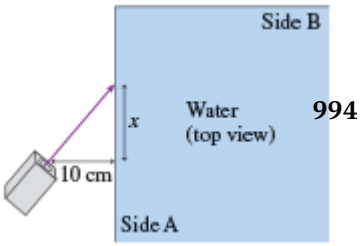
**54.** •• Shown from above in Figure P34.54 is one corner of a rectangular box filled with water. A laser beam starts 10 cm from side A of the container and enters the water at position $x$. You can ignore the thin walls of the container.

**a.** If $x = 15$ cm, does the laser beam refract back into the air through side B or reflect from side B back into the water? Determine the angle of refraction or reflection.

**b.** Repeat part a for $x = 25$ cm.

**c.** Find the minimum value of $x$ for which the laser beam passes through side B and emerges into the air.

**Figure P34.54**






**55.** •• A light beam can use reflections to form a closed, $N$-sided polygon inside a solid, transparent cylinder if $N$ is sufficiently large. What is the minimum possible value of $N$ for light inside a cylinder of (a) water, (b) polystyrene plastic, and (c) cubic zirconia? Assume the cylinder is surrounded by air.

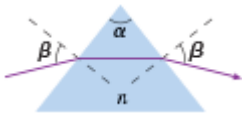
**56.** •• Optical engineers need to know the *cone of acceptance* of an optical fiber. This is the maximum angle that an entering light ray can make with the axis of the fiber if it is to be guided down the fiber. What is the cone of acceptance of an optical fiber for which the index of refraction of the core is 1.55 while that of

the cladding is 1.45? You can model the fiber as a cylinder with a flat entrance face.

**57.** ••• One of the contests at the school carnival is to throw a spear at an underwater target lying flat on the bottom of a pool. The water is 1.0 m deep. You're standing on a small stool that places your eyes 3.0 m above the bottom of the pool. As you look at the target, your gaze is 30° below horizontal. At what angle below horizontal should you throw the spear in order to hit the target? Your raised arm brings the spear point to the level of your eyes as you throw it, and over this short distance you can assume that the spear travels in a straight line rather than a parabolic trajectory.

**58.** •• There's one angle of incidence $\beta$ onto a prism for which the light inside an isosceles prism travels parallel to the base and emerges at angle $\beta$.

**Figure P34.58**




**a.** Find an expression for $\beta$ in terms of the prism's apex angle $\alpha$ and index of refraction $n$.

**b.** A laboratory measurement finds that $\beta = 52.2^\circ$ for a prism shaped like an equilateral triangle. What is the prism's index of refraction?

**59.** •• You're visiting the shark tank at the aquarium when you see a 2.5-m-long shark that appears to be swimming straight toward you at 2.0 m/s. What is the shark's actual speed through the water? You can ignore the glass wall of the tank.

**60.** •• Paraxial light rays approach a transparent sphere parallel to an optical axis passing through the center of the sphere. The rays come to a focus on the far surface of the sphere. What is the sphere's index of refraction?

**61.** •• To determine the focal length of a lens, you place the lens in front of a small lightbulb and then adjust a viewing screen to get a sharply focused image. Varying the lens position produces the following data:

| Bulb to lens (cm) | Lens to screen (cm) |
|---|---|
| 20 | 61 |
| 22 | 47 |
| 24 | 39 |
| 26 | 37 |
| 28 | 32 |

Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine the focal length of the lens.

**62.** •• **BIO** The illumination lights in an operating room use a concave mirror to focus an image of a bright lamp onto the surgical site. One such light uses a mirror with a 30 cm radius of curvature. If the mirror is 1.2 m from the patient, how far should the lamp be from the mirror?

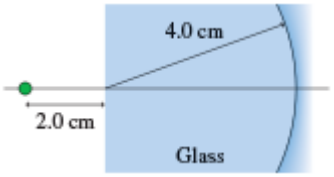
**63.** •• **BIO** A dentist uses a curved mirror to view the back side of teeth in the upper jaw. Suppose she wants an upright image with a magnification of 1.5 when the mirror is 1.2 cm from a tooth. Should she use a convex or a concave mirror? What focal length should it have?

**64.** •• **BIO** A *keratometer* is an optical device used to measure the radius of curvature of the eye's cornea—its entrance surface. This measurement is especially important when fitting contact lenses, which must match the cornea's curvature. Most light incident on the eye is transmitted into the eye, but some light

reflects from the cornea, which, due to its curvature, acts like a convex mirror. The keratometer places a small, illuminated ring of known diameter 7.5 cm in front of the eye. The optometrist, using an eyepiece, looks through the center of this ring and sees a small virtual image of the ring that appears to be behind the cornea. The optometrist uses a scale inside the eyepiece to measure the diameter of the image and calculate its magnification. Suppose the optometrist finds that the magnification for one patient is 0.049. What is the absolute value of the radius of curvature of her cornea?

**65.** •• The mirror in Figure P34.65 is covered with a piece of glass. A point source of light is outside the glass. How far from the mirror is the image of this source?

**Figure P34.65**




**66.** •• A 2.0-cm-tall candle flame is 2.0 m from a wall. You happen to have a lens with a focal length of 32 cm. How many places can you put the lens to form a well-focused image of the candle flame on the wall? For each location, what are the height and orientation of the image?

**67.** •• **INT** A 25 g rubber ball is dropped from a height of 3.0 m above the center of a horizontal, concave mirror. The ball and its image coincide 0.65 s after the ball is released. What is the mirror's radius of curvature?

**68.** •• In recent years, physicists have learned to create *metamaterials*—engineered materials not found in nature—with

negative indices of refraction. It's not yet possible to form a lens from a material with a negative index of refraction, but researchers are optimistic. Suppose you had a planoconvex lens (flat on one side, a 15 cm radius of curvature on the other) that is made from a metamaterial with $n = -1.25$. If you place an object 12 cm from this lens, (a) what type of image will be formed and (b) where will the image be located?

**69.** •• A lightbulb is 3.0 m from a wall. What are the focal length and the position (measured from the bulb) of a lens that will form an image on the wall that is twice the size of the lightbulb?

**70.** •• An old-fashioned slide projector needs to create a 98-cm-high image of a 2.0-cm-tall slide. The screen is 300 cm from the slide.

**a.** What focal length does the lens need? Assume that it is a thin lens.

**b.** How far should you place the lens from the slide?

**71.** •• Some *electro-optic materials* can change their index of refraction in response to an applied voltage. Suppose a planoconvex lens (flat on one side, a 15.0 cm radius of curvature on the other), made from a material whose normal index of refraction is 1.500, is creating an image of an object that is 50.0 cm from the lens. By how much would the index of refraction need to be increased to move the image 5.0 cm closer to the lens?

**72.** •• A point source of light is distance $d$ from the surface of a 6.0-cm-diameter glass sphere. For what value of $d$ is there an image at the same distance $d$ on the opposite side of the sphere?

**73.** •• A lens placed 10 cm in front of an object creates an upright image twice the height of the object. The lens is then moved along the optical axis until it creates an inverted image twice the height of the object. How far did the lens move?

**74.** •• An object is 60 cm from a screen. What are the radii of a symmetric converging plastic lens (i.e., two equally curved surfaces) that will form an image on the screen twice the height of the object?

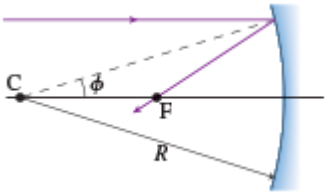
**75.** •• **CALC** A wildlife photographer with a 200-mm-focal-length telephoto lens on his camera is taking a picture of a rhinoceros that is 100 m away. Suddenly, the rhino starts charging straight toward the photographer at a speed of 5.0 m/s. What is the speed, in $\mu$m/s, of the image of the rhinoceros? Is the image moving toward or away from the lens?

**76.** •• A concave mirror has a 40 cm radius of curvature. How far from the mirror must an object be placed to create an upright image three times the height of the object?

**77.** ••• A 2.0-cm-tall object is placed in front of a mirror. A 1.0-cm-tall upright image is formed behind the mirror, 150 cm from the object. What is the focal length of the mirror?

**78.** •• A spherical mirror of radius $R$ has its center at C, as shown in Figure P34.78. A ray parallel to the axis reflects through F, the focal point. Prove that $f = R/2$ if $\phi \ll 1$ rad.

**Figure P34.78**



# Challenge Problems

**79.** ••• Consider a lens having index of refraction $n_2$ and surfaces with radii $R_1$ and $R_2$. The lens is immersed in a fluid that has index of refraction $n_1$.

**a.** Derive a generalized lens maker's equation to replace Equation 34.26 when the lens is surrounded by a medium other than air. That is, when $n_1 \neq 1$.

**b.** A symmetric converging glass lens (i.e., two equally curved surfaces) has two surfaces with radii of 40 cm. Find the focal length of this lens in air and the focal length of this lens in water.

**80.** ••• **CALC** Figure CP34.80 shows a light ray that travels from point A to point B. The ray crosses the boundary at position $x$, making angles $\theta_1$ and $\theta_2$ in the two media. Suppose that you did *not* know Snell's law.

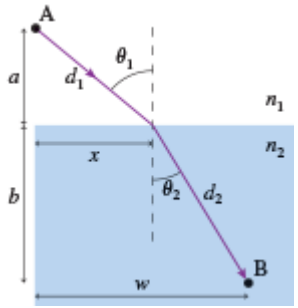
**a.** Write an expression for the *time* $t$ it takes the light ray to travel from A to B. Your expression should be in terms of the distances $a$, $b$, and $w$; the variable $x$; and the indices of refraction $n_1$ and $n_2$.

**b.** The time depends on $x$. There's one value of $x$ for which the light travels from A to B in the shortest possible time. We'll call it $x_{\text{min}}$. Write an expression (but don't try to solve it!) from which $x_{\text{min}}$ could be found.

**c.** Now, by using the geometry of the figure, derive Snell's law from your answer to part b.

You've proven that Snell's law is equivalent to the statement that "light traveling between two points follows the path that requires the shortest time." This interesting way of thinking about refraction is called *Fermat's principle*.

Figure CP34.80




**81.** ••• A fortune teller's "crystal ball" (actually just glass) is 10 cm in diameter. Her secret ring is placed 6.0 cm from the edge of the ball.

**a.** An image of the ring appears on the opposite side of the crystal ball. How far is the image from the center of the ball?

**b.** Draw a ray diagram showing the formation of the image.

**c.** The crystal ball is removed and a thin lens is placed where the center of the ball had been. If the image is still in the same position, what is the focal length of the lens?

**82.** ••• **CALC** Consider an object of thickness $ds$ (parallel to the axis) in front of a lens or mirror. The image of the object has thickness $ds'$. Define the *longitudinal magnification* as $M = ds'/ds$. Prove that $M = -m^2$, where $m$ is the lateral magnification.

# Chapter 35
# Optical Instruments

The world's greatest collection of telescopes is on the summit of Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawaii, towering 4200 m (13,800 ft) over the Pacific Ocean.

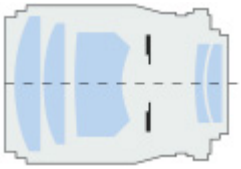
**In This Chapter**

you will learn about some common optical instruments and their limitations.

## What is an optical instrument?

Optical instruments, such as cameras, microscopes, and telescopes, are used to produce images for viewing or detection. Most use several individual lenses in combination to improve performance. You'll learn how to analyze a system with multiple lenses.

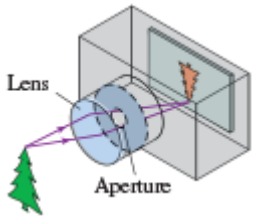
Looking Back Sections 34.5, 34.6 Thin lenses



## How does a camera work?

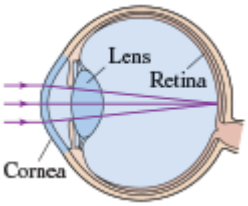
A camera uses a lens—made of several individual lenses—to project a real image onto a light-sensitive detector. The detector in a digital camera uses millions of tiny pixels.

- You'll learn about focusing and zoom.
- You'll also learn how to calculate a lens's *f*-number, which, along with shutter speed, determines the exposure.




## How does vision work?

The human eye is much like a camera; the cornea and lens together focus a real image onto the retina. You'll learn about two defects of vision—myopia (nearsightedness) and hyperopia (farsightedness)—and how they can be corrected with eyeglasses.




## What optical systems are used to magnify things?

Lenses and mirrors can be used to magnify objects both near and far.

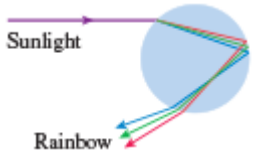
- A simple magnifying glass has a low magnification of 2× or 3×.

- Microscopes use two sets of lenses to reach magnifications up to 1000×.
- Telescopes magnify distant objects.

## Is color important in optics?

Color depends on the wavelength of light.

- The index of refraction is slightly wavelength dependent, so different wavelengths refract at different angles. This is the main reason we have rainbows.
- Many materials absorb or scatter some wavelengths more than others.




## What is the resolution of an optical system?

Light passing through a lens undergoes diffraction, just like light passing through a circular hole. Images are not perfect points but are tiny diffraction patterns, and this limits how well two nearby objects can be resolved. You'll learn about Rayleigh's criterion for the resolution of two images.

Looking Back Section 33.6 Circular diffraction

# 35.1 Lenses in Combination

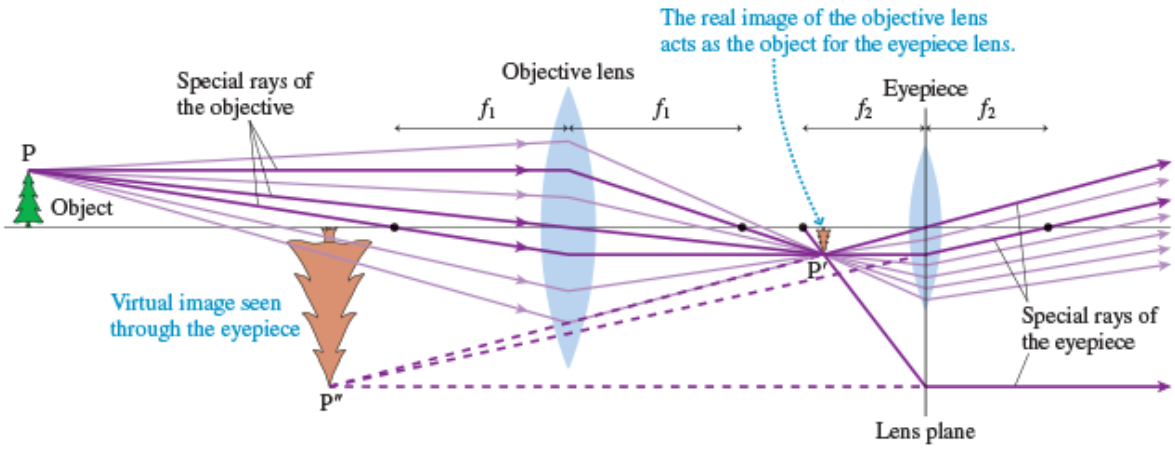


Only the simplest magnifiers are built with a single lens of the sort we analyzed in Chapter 34. Optical instruments, such as microscopes and cameras, are invariably built with multiple lenses. The reason, as we'll see, is to improve the image quality.

The analysis of multi-lens systems requires only one new rule: **The image of the first lens acts as the object for the second lens.** To see why this is so, Figure 35.1 shows a simple telescope consisting of a large-diameter converging lens, called the *objective*, and a smaller converging lens used as the *eyepiece*. (We'll analyze telescopes more thoroughly later in the chapter.) Highlighted are the three special rays you learned to use in Chapter 34:

- A ray parallel to the optical axis refracts through the focal point.
- A ray through the focal point refracts parallel to the optical axis.
- A ray through the center of the lens is undeviated.

## Figure 35.1




Ray-tracing diagram of a simple astronomical telescope.

The rays passing through the objective converge to a real image at P′, **but they don't stop there.** Instead, light rays *diverge* from P′ as they approach the second lens. **As far as the eyepiece is concerned, the rays are coming from P′, and thus P′ acts as the object for the second lens.** The three special rays passing through the objective lens are sufficient to locate the image P′, but these rays are generally *not* the special rays for the second lens. However, other rays converging at P′ leave at the correct angles to be the special rays for the eyepiece. That is, a new set of special rays is drawn from P′ to the second lens and used to find the final image point P″.

> **Note**
>
> One ray seems to "miss" the eyepiece lens, but this isn't a problem. All rays passing through the lens converge to (or diverge from) a single point, and the purpose of the special rays is to locate that point. To do so, we can let the special rays refract as they cross the *lens plane*, regardless of whether the physical lens really extends that far.

**Example 35.1 A camera lens**

The "lens" on a camera is usually a combination of two or more single lenses. Consider a camera in which light passes first through a diverging lens, with $f_1 = -120\,\text{mm}$, then a converging lens, with $f_2 = 42\,\text{mm}$, spaced 60 mm apart. A reasonable definition of the *effective focal length* of this lens combination is the focal length of a *single* lens that could produce an image in the same location if placed at the midpoint of the lens combination. A 10-cm-tall object is 500 mm from the first lens.

**a.** What are the location, size, and orientation of the image?

**b.** What is the effective focal length of the double-lens system used in this camera?

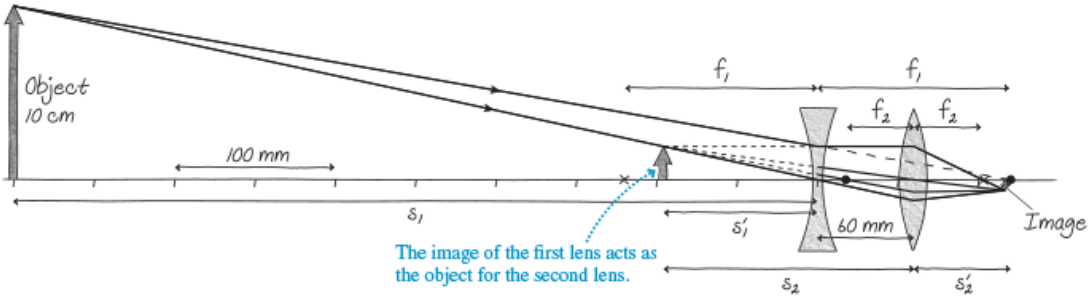
---

**MODEL** Each lens is a thin lens. The image of the first lens is the object for the second.

**VISUALIZE** The ray-tracing diagram of Figure 35.2 shows the production of a real, inverted image ≈ 55 mm behind the second lens.

**Figure 35.2**






Pictorial representation of a combination lens.

**SOLVE**

**a.** $s_1 = 500\,\text{mm}$ is the object distance of the first lens. Its image, a virtual image, is found from the thin-lens equation:

$$\frac{1}{s_1'} = \frac{1}{f_1} - \frac{1}{s_1} = \frac{1}{-120\,\text{mm}} - \frac{1}{500\,\text{mm}} = -0.0103\,\text{mm}^{-1}$$
$$s_1' = -97\,\text{mm}$$

This is consistent with the ray-tracing diagram. The image of the first lens now acts as the object for the second lens.

Because the lenses are 60 mm apart, the object distance is $s_2 = 97\,\text{mm} + 60\,\text{mm} = 157\,\text{mm}$. A second application of the thin-lens equation yields

$$\frac{1}{s_2'} = \frac{1}{f_2} - \frac{1}{s_2} = \frac{1}{42\ \text{mm}} - \frac{1}{157\ \text{mm}} = 0.0174\ \text{mm}^{-1}$$
$$s_2' = 57\ \text{mm}$$

The image of the lens combination is 57 mm behind the second lens. The lateral magnifications of the two lenses are

$$m_1 = -\frac{s_1'}{s_1} = -\frac{-97\ \text{cm}}{500\ \text{cm}} = 0.194$$

$$m_2 = -\frac{s_2'}{s_2} = -\frac{57\ \text{cm}}{157\ \text{cm}} = -0.363$$

The second lens magnifies the image of the first lens, which magnifies the object, so **the total magnification is the product of the individual magnifications:**

$$m = m_1 m_2 = -0.070$$

Thus the image is 57 mm behind the second lens, inverted ($m$ is negative), and 0.70 cm tall.

**b.** If a single lens midway between these two lenses produced an image in the same plane, its object and image distances would be $s = 500\,\text{mm} + 30\,\text{mm} = 530\,\text{mm}$ and $s' = 57\,\text{mm} + 30\,\text{mm} = 87\,\text{mm}$. A final application of the thin-lens equation gives the effective focal length:

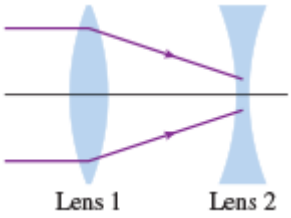
$$\frac{1}{f_{\text{eff}}} = \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{530\,\text{mm}} + \frac{1}{87\,\text{mm}} = 0.0134\,\text{mm}^{-1}$$

$$f_{\text{eff}} = 75\,\text{mm}$$

**ASSESS** This combination lens would be sold as a "75 mm lens."

## Stop to Think 35.1

The second lens in this optical instrument




**a.** Causes the light rays to focus closer than they would with the first lens acting alone.

**b.** Causes the light rays to focus farther away than they would with the first lens acting alone.

**c.** Inverts the image but does not change where the light rays focus.

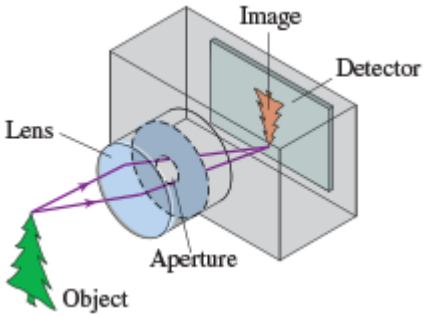
**d.** Prevents the light rays from reaching a focus.

# 35.2 The Camera



A **camera,** shown in Figure 35.3, "takes a picture" by using a lens to form a real, inverted image on a light-sensitive detector in a light-tight box. Film was the detector of choice for well over a hundred years, but today's digital cameras use an electronic detector called a *charge-coupled device,* or CCD.

## Figure 35.3

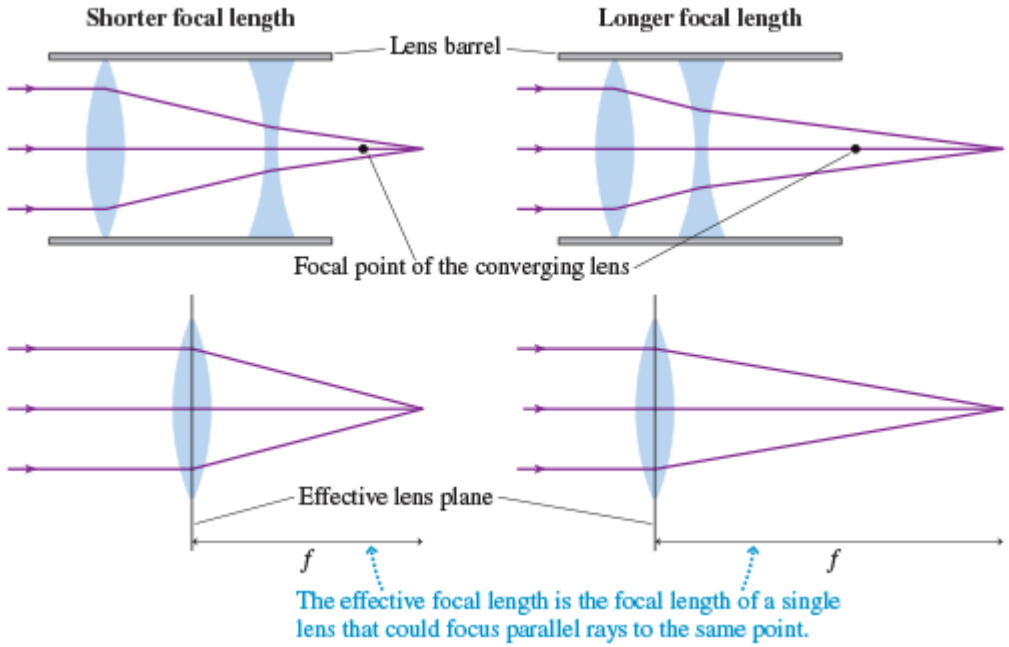



A camera.

The camera "lens" is always a combination of two or more individual lenses. The simplest such lens, shown in Figure 35.4, consists of a converging lens and a somewhat weaker diverging lens. This combination of positive and negative lenses corrects some of the defects inherent in single lenses, as we'll discuss later in the chapter. As Example 35.1 suggested, we can model a combination lens as a single lens with an **effective focal length** (usually called simply "the focal length") $f$. A *zoom lens* changes the effective focal length by changing the spacing between the converging lens and the diverging lens; this is what happens when the lens barrel on your digital camera moves in and out as you use

the zoom. A typical digital camera has a lens whose effective focal length can be varied from 6 mm to 18 mm, giving, as we'll see, a 3× zoom.

## Figure 35.4




A simple camera lens is a combination lens.

A camera must carry out two important functions: focus the image on the detector and control the exposure. Cameras are focused by moving the lens forward or backward until the image is well focused on the detector. Most modern cameras do this automatically, but older cameras required manual focusing.

### Example 35.2 Focusing a camera

Your digital camera lens, with an effective focal length of 10.0 mm, is focused on a flower 20.0 cm away. You then turn to take a picture of a distant landscape. How far, and in which direction, must the lens move to bring the landscape into focus?

**MODEL** Model the camera's combination lens as a single thin lens with $f = 10.0\,\text{mm}$. Image and object distances are measured from the effective lens plane. Assume all the lenses in the combination move together as the camera refocuses.

**SOLVE** The flower is at object distance $s = 20.0\,\text{cm} = 200\,\text{mm}$. When the camera is focused, the image distance between the effective lens plane and the detector is found by solving the thin-lens equation $1/s + 1/s' = 1/f$ to give

$$s' = \left(\frac{1}{f} - \frac{1}{s}\right)^{-1} = \left(\frac{1}{10.0\,\text{mm}} - \frac{1}{200\,\text{mm}}\right)^{-1} = 10.5\,\text{mm}$$

The distant landscape is effectively at object distance $s = \infty$, so its image distance is $s' = f = 10.0\,\text{mm}$. To refocus as you shift scenes, the lens must move 0.5 mm closer to the detector.

**ASSESS** The required motion of the lens is very small, about the diameter of the lead used in a mechanical pencil.

## Zoom Lenses

For objects more than 10 focal lengths from the lens (roughly $s > 20\,\text{cm}$ for a typical digital camera), the approximation $s \gg f$ (and thus $1/s \ll 1/f$) leads to $s' \approx f$. In other words, objects more than about 10 focal lengths away are essentially "at infinity," and we know that the parallel rays from an infinitely distant object are focused one focal length behind the lens. For such an object, the lateral magnification of the image is

(35.1)

$$m = -\frac{s'}{s} \approx -\frac{f}{s}$$

The magnification is much less than 1, because $s \gg f$, so the image on the detector is much smaller than the object itself. This comes as no surprise. More important, **the size of the image is directly proportional to the focal length of the lens.** We saw in Figure 35.4 that the effective focal length of a combination lens is easily changed by varying the distance between the individual lenses, and this is exactly how a zoom lens works. A lens that can be varied from $f_{\text{min}} = 6\,\text{mm}$ to $f_{\text{max}} = 18\,\text{mm}$ gives magnifications spanning a factor of 3, and that is why you see it specified as a 3× zoom lens.

## Controlling the Exposure

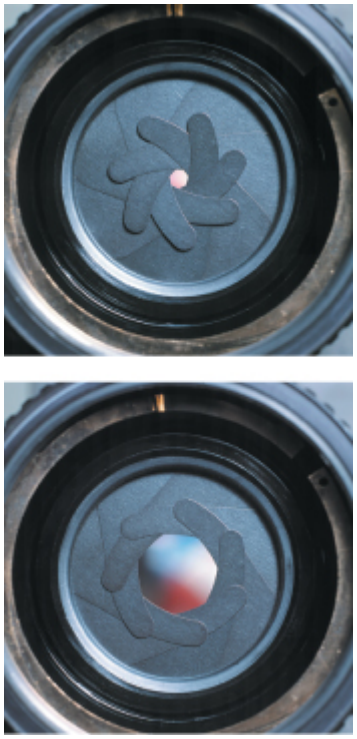
The camera also must control the amount of light reaching the detector. Too little light results in photos that are *underexposed;* too much light gives *overexposed* pictures. Both the shutter and the lens diameter help control the exposure.

The *shutter* is "opened" for a selected amount of time as the image is recorded. Older cameras used a spring-loaded mechanical shutter that literally opened and closed; digital cameras electronically control the amount of time the detector is active. Either way, the exposure—the amount of light captured by the detector—is directly proportional to the time the shutter is open. Typical exposure times range from 1/1000 s or less for a sunny scene to 1/30 s or more for dimly lit or indoor scenes. The exposure time is generally referred to as the *shutter speed.*

The amount of light passing through the lens is controlled by an adjustable **aperture,** also called an *iris* because it functions much like the iris of your eye. The aperture sets the effective diameter $D$ of the lens. The full area of the lens is used when the aperture is fully open, but a *stopped-down* aperture allows light to pass through only the central portion of the lens.

1000

The light intensity on the detector is directly proportional to the area of the lens; a lens with twice as much area will collect and focus twice as many light rays from the object to make an image twice as bright. The lens area is proportional to the square of its diameter, so the intensity $I$ is proportional to $D^2$. The light intensity—power per square meter—is also *inversely* proportional to the area of the image. That is, the light reaching the detector is more intense if the rays collected from the object are focused into a small area than if they are spread out over a large area. The lateral size of the image is proportional to the focal length of the lens, as we saw in Equation 35.1, so the *area* of the image is proportional to $f^2$ and thus $I$ is proportional to $1/f^2$. Altogether, $I \propto D^2/f^2$.



An iris can change the effective diameter of a lens and thus the amount of light reaching the detector.

---

By long tradition, the light-gathering ability of a lens is specified by its ***f*-number**, defined as

**(35.2)**

$$f\text{-number} = \frac{f}{D}$$

The *f*-number of a lens may be written either as $f/4.0$, to mean that the *f*-number is 4.0, or as F4.0. The instruction manuals with some digital cameras call this the *aperture value* rather than the *f*-number. A digital camera in fully automatic mode does not display shutter speed or *f*-number, but that information is displayed if you set your camera to any of the other modes. For example, the display 1/125 F5.6 means that your camera is going to achieve the correct exposure by adjusting the diameter of the lens aperture to give $f/D = 5.6$ and by opening the shutter for 1/125 s. If your lens's effective focal length is 10 mm, the diameter of the lens aperture will be

$$D = \frac{f}{f\text{-number}} = \frac{10\,\text{mm}}{5.6} = 1.8\,\text{mm}$$

> **Note**
>
> The *f* in *f*-number is not the focal length *f*; it's just a name. And the / in $f/4$ does not mean division; it's just a notation. These both derive from the long history of photography.

Because the aperture diameter is in the denominator of the *f*-number, a *larger-diameter* aperture, which gathers more light and makes a brighter image, has a *smaller f*-number. The light intensity on the detector is related to the lens's *f*-number by

**(35.3)**

$$I \propto \frac{D^2}{f^2} = \frac{1}{(f\text{-number})^2}$$

Historically, a lens's *f*-numbers could be adjusted in the sequence 2.0, 2.8, 4.0, 5.6, 8.0, 11, 16. Each differs from its neighbor by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$, so changing the lens by one "*f* stop" changed the light intensity by a factor of 2. A modern digital camera is able to adjust the *f*-number continuously.

Focal length and *f*-number information is stamped on a camera lens. This lens is labeled 5.8–23.2 mm 1:2.6–5.5. The first numbers are the range of focal lengths. They span a factor of 4, so this is a 4× zoom lens. The second numbers show that the minimum *f*-number ranges from $f/2.6$ (for the $f = 5.8\,\text{mm}$ focal length) to $f/5.5$ (for the $f = 23.2\,\text{mm}$ focal length).

The exposure, the total light reaching the detector while the shutter is open, depends on the product $I\,\Delta t_{\text{shutter}}$. A small $f$-number (large aperture diameter $D$) and short $\Delta t_{\text{shutter}}$ can produce the same exposure as a larger $f$-number (smaller aperture) and a longer $\Delta t_{\text{shutter}}$. It might not make any difference for taking a picture of a distant mountain, but action photography needs very short shutter times to "freeze" the action. Thus action photography requires a large-diameter lens with a small $f$-number.

**Example 35.3 Capturing the action**

Before a race, a photographer finds that she can make a perfectly exposed photo of the track while using a shutter speed of 1/250 s and a lens setting of $f/8.0$. To freeze the sprinters as they go past, she plans to use a shutter speed of 1/1000 s. To what $f$-number must she set her lens?

**MODEL** The exposure depends on $I\,\Delta t_{\text{shutter}}$, and the light intensity depends inversely on the square of the $f$-number.

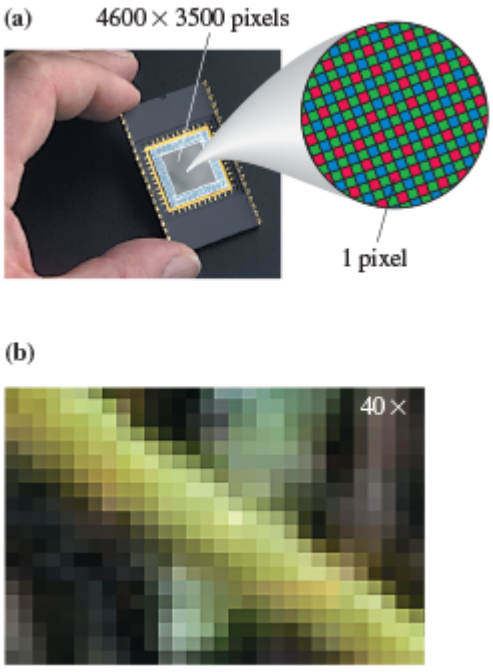
**SOLVE** Changing the shutter speed from 1/250 s to 1/1000 s will reduce the light reaching the detector by a factor of 4. To compensate, she needs to let 4 times as much light through the lens. Because $I \propto 1/(f\text{-number})^2$, the intensity will increase by a factor of 4 if she *decreases* the $f$-number by a factor of 2. Thus the correct lens setting is $f/4.0$.

## The Detector

For traditional cameras, the light-sensitive detector is film. Today's digital cameras use an electronic light-sensitive surface called a *charge-coupled device* or **CCD.** A CCD consists of a rectangular array of many millions of small detectors called **pixels.** When light hits one of these pixels, it generates an electric charge proportional to the light intensity. Thus an image is recorded on the CCD in terms of little packets of charge. After the CCD has been exposed, the charges are read out, the signal levels are digitized, and the picture is stored in the digital memory of the camera.

Figure 35.5a shows a CCD "chip" and, schematically, the magnified appearance of the pixels on its surface. To record color information, different pixels are covered by red, green, or blue filters. A pixel covered by a green filter, for instance, records only the intensity of the green light hitting it. Later, the camera's microprocessor interpolates nearby colors to give each pixel an overall true color. The pixels are so small that the picture looks "smooth" even after some enlargement, but, as you can see in Figure 35.5b, sufficient magnification reveals the individual pixels.

## Figure 35.5



The CCD detector used in a digital camera.

## Stop to Think 35.2

A photographer has adjusted his camera for a correct exposure with a short-focal-length lens. He then decides to zoom in by increasing the focal length. To maintain a correct exposure without changing the shutter speed, the diameter of the lens aperture should

**a.** Be increased.
**b.** Be decreased.
**c.** Stay the same.

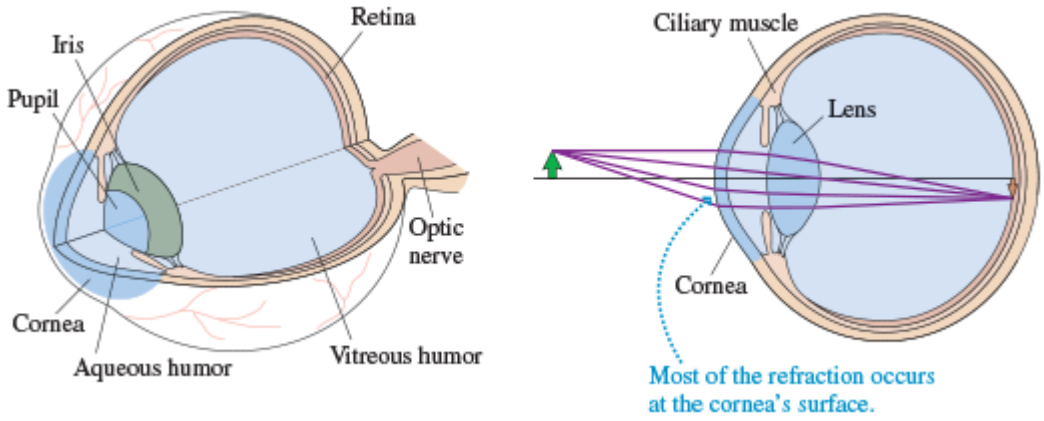
# 35.3 Vision



The human eye is a marvelous and intricate organ. If we leave the biological details to biologists and focus on the eye's optical properties, we find that it functions very much like a camera. Like a camera, the eye has refracting surfaces that focus incoming light rays, an adjustable iris to control the light intensity, and a light-sensitive detector.

Figure 35.6 shows the basic structure of the eye. It is roughly spherical, about 2.4 cm in diameter. The transparent **cornea,** which is somewhat more sharply curved, and the *lens* are the eye's refractive elements. The eye is filled with a clear, jellylike fluid called the *aqueous humor* (in front of the lens) and the *vitreous humor* (behind the lens). The indices of refraction of the aqueous and vitreous humors are 1.34, only slightly different from water. The lens, although not uniform, has an average index of 1.44. The **pupil,** a variable-diameter aperture in the **iris,** automatically opens and closes to control the light intensity. A fully dark-adapted eye can open to ≈ 8 mm, and the pupil closes down to ≈ 1.5 mm in bright sun. This corresponds to *f*-numbers from roughly $f/3$ to $f/16$, very similar to a camera.

Figure 35.6

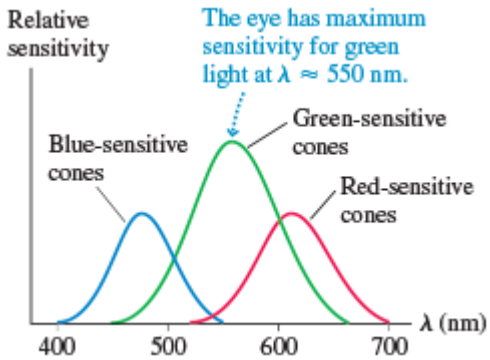



The human eye.

The eye's detector, the **retina,** consists of specialized light-sensitive cells called *rods* and *cones*. The rods, sensitive mostly to light and dark, are most important in very dim lighting. Color vision, which requires somewhat more light, is due to the cones, of which there are three types. Figure 35.7 shows the wavelength responses of the cones. They have overlapping ranges, especially the red- and green-sensitive cones, so two or even all three cones respond to light of any particular wavelength. The relative response of the different cones is interpreted by your brain as light of a particular color. Color is a *perception*, a response of our sensory and nervous systems, not something inherent in the light itself. Other animals, with slightly different retinal cells, can see ultraviolet or infrared wavelengths that we cannot see.



Figure 35.7




Wavelength sensitivity of the three types of cones in the human retina.

# Focusing and Accommodation

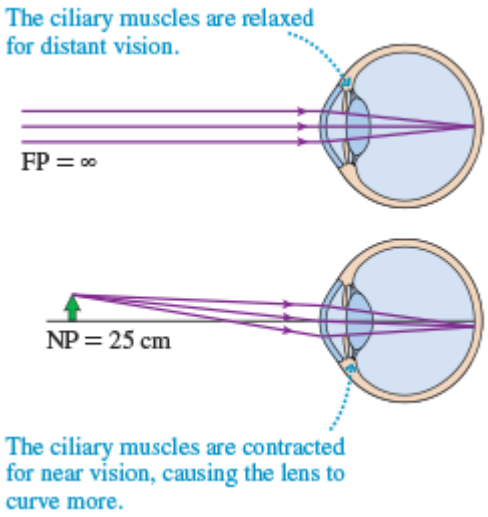
The eye, like a camera, focuses light rays to an inverted image on the retina. Perhaps surprisingly, most of the refractive power of the eye is due to the cornea, not the lens. The cornea is a sharply curved, spherical surface, and you learned in Chapter 34 that images are formed by refraction at a spherical surface. The rather large difference between the index of refraction of air and that of the aqueous humor causes a significant refraction of light rays at the cornea. In contrast, there is much less difference between the indices of the lens and its surrounding fluid, so refraction at the lens surfaces is weak. The lens is important for fine-tuning, but the air-cornea boundary is responsible for the majority of the refraction.

You can recognize the power of the cornea if you open your eyes underwater. Everything is very blurry! When light enters the cornea through water, rather than through air, there's almost no difference in the indices of refraction at the surface. Light rays pass through the cornea with almost no refraction, so what little focusing ability you have while underwater is due to the lens alone.

A camera focuses by moving the lens. The eye focuses by changing the focal length of the lens, a feat it accomplishes by using the *ciliary muscles* to change the curvature of the lens surface. The ciliary muscles are relaxed when you look at a distant scene. Thus the lens surface is relatively flat and the lens has its longest focal length. As you shift your gaze to a nearby object, the ciliary muscles contract and cause the lens to bulge. This process, called **accommodation,** decreases the lens's radius of curvature and thus decreases its focal length.

The farthest distance at which a relaxed eye can focus is called the eye's **far point** (FP). The far point of a normal eye is infinity; that is, the eye can focus on objects extremely far away. The closest distance at which an eye can focus, using maximum accommodation, is the eye's **near point** (NP). (Objects can be *seen* closer than the near point, but they're not sharply focused on the retina.) Both situations are shown in Figure 35.8.

Figure 35.8




Normal vision of far and near objects.

## Vision Defects and Their Correction

The near point of normal vision is considered to be 25 cm, but the near point of any individual changes with age. The near point of young children can be as little as 10 cm. The "normal" 25 cm near point is characteristic of young adults, but the near point of most individuals begins to move outward by age 40 or 45 and can reach 200 cm by age 60. This loss of accommodation, which arises because the lens loses flexibility, is called **presbyopia.** Even if their vision is otherwise normal, individuals with presbyopia need reading glasses to bring their near point back to 25 or 30 cm, a comfortable distance for reading.

Presbyopia is known as a *refractive error* of the eye. Two other common refractive errors are *hyperopia* and *myopia*. All three can be corrected with lenses—either eyeglasses or contact lenses—that assist the eye's focusing. Corrective lenses are prescribed not by their focal length but by their **power.** The power of a lens is the inverse of its focal length:

**(35.4)**

$$\text{Power of a lens} = P = \frac{1}{f}$$

A lens with more power (shorter focal length) causes light rays to refract through a larger angle. The SI unit of lens power is the **diopter,** abbreviated D, defined as $1\,\text{D} = 1\,\text{m}^{-1}$. Thus a lens with $f = 50\,\text{cm} = 0.50\,\text{m}$ has power $P = 2.0\,\text{D}$.

A person who is *farsighted* can see faraway objects (but even then must use some accommodation rather than a relaxed eye), but his near point is larger than 25 cm, often much larger, so he cannot focus on nearby objects. The cause of farsightedness—called **hyperopia**—is an eyeball that is too short for the refractive power of the cornea and lens. As Figures 35.9a and b show, no amount of accommodation allows the eye to focus on an object 25 cm away, the normal near point.

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Figure 35.9

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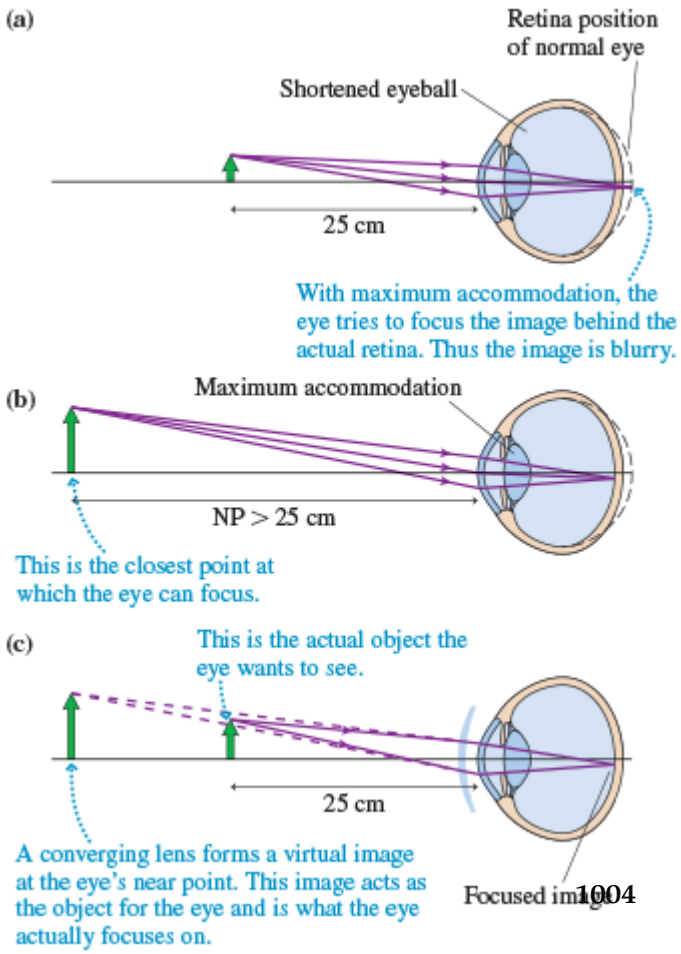


Hyperopia.

With hyperopia, the eye needs assistance to focus the rays from a near object onto the closer-than-normal retina. This assistance is obtained by adding refractive power with the positive (i.e., converging) lens shown in Figure 35.9c. To understand why this works, recall that the image of a first lens acts as the object for a second lens. The goal is to allow the person to focus on an object 25 cm away. If a corrective lens forms an upright, virtual image at the person's actual near point, that virtual image acts as an object for the eye itself and, with maximum accommodation, the eye can focus these rays onto the retina. Presbyopia, the loss of accommodation with age, is corrected in the same way.

The optometrist's prescription is –2.25 D for the right eye (top) and –2.50 D for the left (bottom), the minus sign indicating that these are diverging lenses. The optometrist doesn't write the D because the lens maker already knows that prescriptions are in diopters. Most people's eyes are not exactly the same, so each eye usually gets a different lens.

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> **Note**
>
> Figures 35.9 and 35.10 show the corrective lenses as they are actually shaped—called *meniscus lenses*—rather than with our usual lens shape. Nonetheless, the lens in Figure 35.9c is a converging lens because it's thicker in the center than at the edges. The lens in Figure 35.10c is a diverging lens because it's thicker at the edges than in the center.

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Figure 35.10

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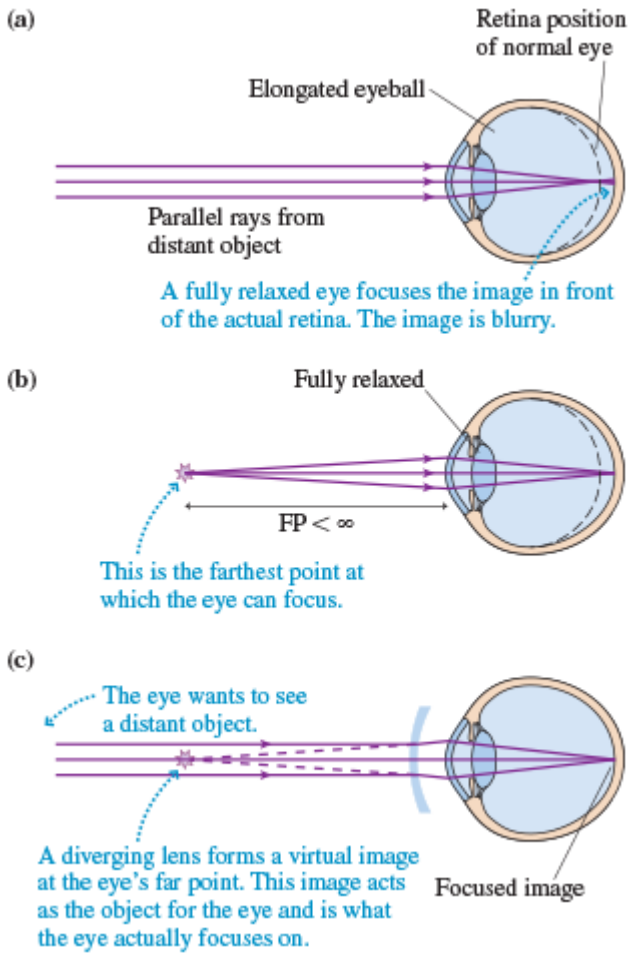



Myopia.

A person who is *nearsighted* can clearly see nearby objects when the eye is relaxed (and extremely close objects by using accommodation), but no amount of relaxation allows her to see distant objects. Nearsightedness—called **myopia**—is caused by an eyeball that is too long. As Figure 35.10a shows, rays from a distant object come to a focus in front of the retina and have begun to diverge by the time they reach the retina. The eye's far point, shown in Figure 35.10b, is less than infinity.

To correct myopia, we needed a diverging lens, as shown in Figure 35.10c, to slightly defocus the rays and move the image point back to the retina. To focus on a very distant object, the person needs a corrective lens that forms an upright, virtual image at her actual far point.

That virtual image acts as an object for the eye itself and, when fully relaxed, the eye can focus these rays onto the retina.

### Example 35.4 Correcting hyperopia

Sanjay has hyperopia. The near point of his left eye is 150 cm. What prescription lens will restore normal vision?

**MODEL** Normal vision will allow Sanjay to focus on an object 25 cm away. In measuring distances, we'll ignore the small space between the lens and his eye.

**SOLVE** Because Sanjay can see objects at 150 cm, using maximum accommodation, we want a lens that creates a virtual image at position $s' = -150\,\text{cm}$ (negative because it's a virtual image) of an object held at $s = 25\,\text{cm}$. From the thin-lens equation,

$$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{0.25\,\text{m}} + \frac{1}{-1.50\,\text{m}} = 3.3\,\text{m}^{-1}$$

$1/f$ is the lens power, and $\text{m}^{-1}$ are diopters. Thus the prescription is for a lens with power $P = 3.3\,\text{D}$.

**ASSESS** Hyperopia is always corrected with a converging lens.

### Example 35.5 Correcting myopia

Martina has myopia. The far point of her left eye is 200 cm. What prescription lens will restore normal vision?

**MODEL** Normal vision will allow Martina to focus on a very distant object. In measuring distances, we'll ignore the small space between the lens and her eye.

**SOLVE** Because Martina can see objects at 200 cm with a fully relaxed eye, we want a lens that will create a virtual image at position $s' = -200\,\text{cm}$ (negative because it's a virtual image) of a distant object at $s = \infty\,\text{cm}$. From the thin-lens equation,

$$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{\infty\,\text{m}} + \frac{1}{-2.0\,\text{m}} = -0.5\,\text{m}^{-1}$$

Thus the prescription is for a lens with power $P = -0.5\,\text{D}$.

**ASSESS** Myopia is always corrected with a diverging lens.

## Stop to Think 35.3

You need to improvise a magnifying glass to read some very tiny print. Should you borrow the eyeglasses from your hyperopic friend or from your myopic friend?

**a.** The hyperopic friend

**b.** The myopic friend

**c.** Either will do.

**d.** Neither will work.

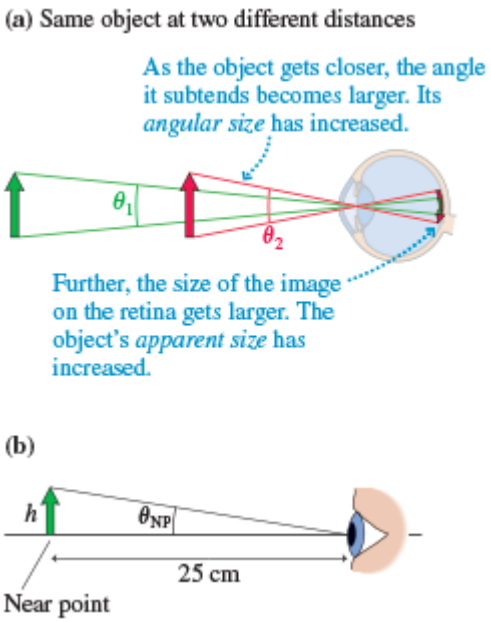
# 35.4 Optical Systems That Magnify



The camera, with its fast shutter speed, allows us to capture images of events that take place too quickly for our unaided eye to resolve. Another use of optical systems is to magnify—to see objects smaller or closer together than our eye can see.

The easiest way to magnify an object requires no extra optics at all; simply get closer! The closer you get, the bigger the object appears. Obviously the actual size of the object is unchanged as you approach it, so what exactly is getting "bigger"? Consider the green arrow in Figure 35.11a. We can determine the size of its image on the retina by tracing the rays that are undeviated as they pass through the center of the lens. (Here we're modeling the eye's optical system as one thin lens.) If we get closer to the arrow, now shown as red, we find the arrow makes a larger image on the retina. Our brain interprets the larger image as a larger-appearing object. The object's actual size doesn't change, but its *apparent size* gets larger as it gets closer.

**Figure 35.11**




Angular size.

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Technically, we say that closer objects look larger because they subtend a larger angle $\theta$, called the **angular size** of the object. The red arrow has a larger angular size than the green arrow, $\theta_2 > \theta_1$, so the red arrow looks larger and we can see more detail. But you can't keep increasing an object's angular size because you can't focus on the object if it's closer than your near point, which we'll take to be a normal 25 cm. Figure 35.11b defines the angular size $\theta_{\text{NP}}$ of an object at your near point. If the object's height is $h$ and if we assume the small-angle approximation $\tan\theta \approx \theta$, the maximum angular size viewable by your unaided eye is

**(35.5)**

$$\theta_{\text{NP}} = \frac{h}{25\text{ cm}}$$

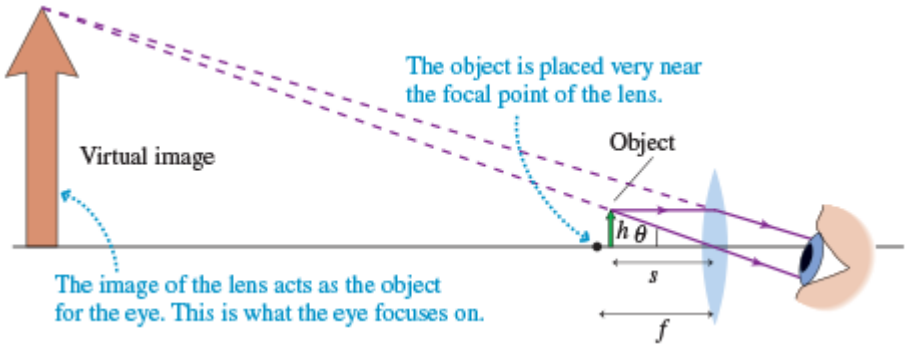
Suppose we view the same object, of height $h$, through the single converging lens in Figure 35.12. If the object's distance from the lens is less than the lens's focal length, we'll see an enlarged, upright image. Used in this way, the lens is called a **magnifier** or *magnifying glass*. The eye sees the virtual image subtending angle $\theta$, and it can focus on this

virtual image as long as the image distance is more than 25 cm. Within the small-angle approximation, the image subtends angle $\theta = h/s$. In practice, we usually want the image to be at distance $s' \approx \infty$ so that we can view it with a relaxed eye as a "distant object." This will be true if the object is very near the focal point: $s \approx f$. In this case, the image subtends angle

**(35.6)**

$$\theta = \frac{h}{s} \approx \frac{h}{f}$$

## Figure 35.12




The magnifier.

Let's define the **angular magnification** $M$ as

**(35.7)**

$$M = \frac{\theta}{\theta_{\text{NP}}}$$

Angular magnification is the increase in the *apparent size* of the object that you achieve by using a magnifying lens rather than simply holding the object at your near point. Substituting from Equations 35.5 and 35.6, we find the angular magnification of a magnifying glass is

(35.8)

$$M = \frac{25\,\text{cm}}{f}$$

The angular magnification depends on the focal length of the lens but not on the size of the object. Although it would appear we could increase angular magnification without limit by using lenses with shorter and shorter focal lengths, the inherent limitations of lenses we discuss later in the chapter limit the magnification of a simple lens to about 4×. Slightly more complex magnifiers with two lenses reach 20×, but beyond that one would use a microscope.

> **Note**
>
> Don't confuse angular magnification with lateral magnification. Lateral magnification *m* compares the height of an object to the height of its image. The lateral magnification of a magnifying glass is $\approx \infty$ because the virtual image is at $s' \approx \infty$, but that doesn't make the object seem infinitely big. Its apparent size is determined by the angle subtended on your retina, and that angle remains finite. Thus angular magnification tells us how much bigger things appear.

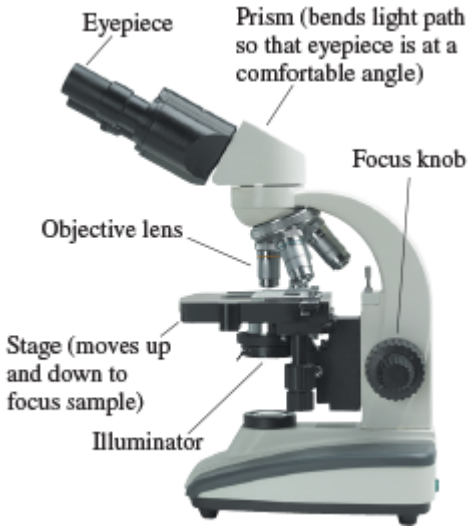


## The Microscope

A microscope, whose major parts are shown in Figure 35.13, can attain a magnification of up to 1000× by a *two-step* magnification process. A specimen to be observed is placed on the *stage* of the microscope, directly beneath the **objective,** a converging lens with a relatively short focal length. The objective creates a magnified real image that is further enlarged by the **eyepiece.** Both the objective and the eyepiece are complex combination lenses, but we'll model them as single thin lenses.

It's common for a prism to bend the rays so that the eyepiece is at a comfortable viewing angle. However, we'll consider a simplified version of a microscope in which the light travels along a straight tube.

## Figure 35.13



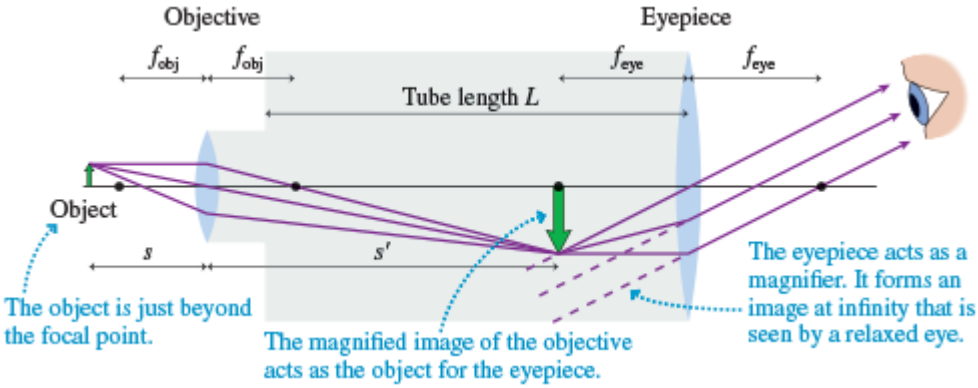

A microscope.

Figure 35.14 on the next page is a simple two-lens model of a microscope. The object is placed just outside the focal point of the objective, which creates a highly magnified real image with lateral magnification $m = -s'/s$. The object is so close to the focal point that $s \approx f_{\text{obj}}$ is an excellent approximation. In addition, the microscope is designed so that the image distance $s'$ is approximately the tube length $L$, so $s' \approx L$. With these approximations, the lateral magnification of the objective is

**(35.9)**

$$m_{\text{obj}} = -\frac{s'}{s} \approx -\frac{L}{f_{\text{obj}}}$$

## Figure 35.14




The optics of a microscope.

The image of the objective acts as the object for the eyepiece, which functions as a simple magnifier. The angular magnification of the eyepiece is given by Equation 35.8, $M_{\text{eye}} = (25\,\text{cm})\,/\,f_{\text{eye}}$. Together, the objective and eyepiece produce a total angular magnification

1007

**(35.10)**

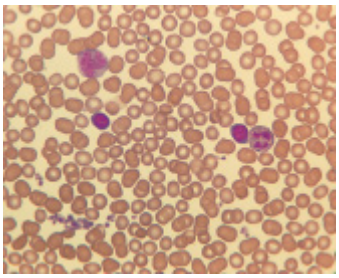
$$M = m_{\text{obj}}\,M_{\text{eye}} \approx -\frac{L}{f_{\text{obj}}}\,\frac{25\,\text{cm}}{f_{\text{eye}}}$$

The minus sign shows that the image seen in a microscope is inverted.

In practice, the magnifications of the objective (without the minus sign) and the eyepiece are stamped on the barrels. A set of objectives on a rotating turret might include 10×, 20×, 40×, and 100×. When combined with a 10× eyepiece, the microscope's total angular magnification ranges from 100× to 1000×. In addition, most biological microscopes are standardized with a tube length $L = 160\,\text{mm}$. Thus a 40× objective has focal length $f_{\text{obj}} = 160\,\text{mm}/40 = 4.0\,\text{mm}$.

### Example 35.6 Viewing blood cells

A pathologist inspects a sample of 7-$\mu$m-diameter human blood cells under a microscope. She selects a 40× objective and a 10× eyepiece. What size object, viewed from 25 cm, has the same apparent size as a blood cell seen through the microscope?



**MODEL** Angular magnification compares the magnified angular size to the angular size seen at the near-point distance of 25 cm.

**SOLVE** The microscope's angular magnification is $M = -(40) \times (10) = -400$. The magnified cells will have the same apparent size as an object $400 \times 7\,\mu\text{m} \approx 3\,\text{mm}$ in diameter seen from a distance of 25 cm.

**ASSESS** 3 mm is about the size of a capital O in this textbook, so a blood cell seen through the microscope will have about the same apparent size as an O seen from a comfortable reading distance.

## Stop to Think 35.4

A biologist rotates the turret of a microscope to replace a 20× objective with a 10× objective. To keep the same overall magnification, the focal length of the eyepiece must be

**a.** Doubled.

**b.** Halved.

**c.** Kept the same.

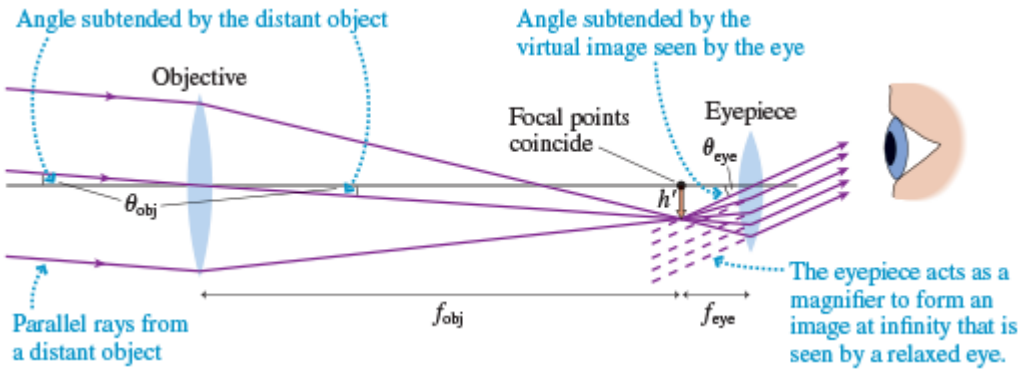
**d.** The magnification cannot be kept the same if the objective is changed.

## The Telescope

A microscope magnifies small, nearby objects to look large. A telescope magnifies distant objects, which might be quite large, so that we can see details that are blended together when seen by eye.

Figure 35.15 shows the optical layout of a simple telescope. A large-diameter objective lens (larger lenses collect more light and thus can see fainter objects) collects the parallel rays from a distant object ($s = \infty$) and forms a real, inverted image at distance $s' = f_{\text{obj}}$. Unlike a microscope, which uses a short-focal-length objective, the focal length of a telescope objective is very nearly the length of the telescope tube. Then, just as in the microscope, the eyepiece functions as a simple magnifier. The viewer observes an inverted image, but that's not a serious problem in astronomy. Telescopes for use on earth have a somewhat different design to obtain an upright image.

**Figure 35.15**




A refracting telescope.

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Suppose the distant object, as seen by the objective lens, subtends angle $\theta_{\text{obj}}$. If the image seen through the eyepiece subtends a larger angle $\theta_{\text{eye}}$, then the angular magnification is $M = \theta_{\text{eye}}/\theta_{\text{obj}}$. We can see from the undeviated ray passing through the center of the objective lens that (using the small-angle approximation)

$$\theta_{\text{obj}} \approx -\frac{h'}{f_{\text{obj}}}$$

where the minus sign indicates the inverted image. The image of height $h'$ acts as the object for the eyepiece, and we can see that the final image observed by the viewer subtends angle

$$\theta_{\text{eye}} = \frac{h'}{f_{\text{eye}}}$$

Consequently, the angular magnification of a telescope is

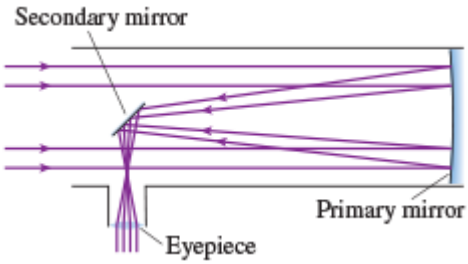
**(35.11)**

$$M = \frac{\theta_{\text{eye}}}{\theta_{\text{obj}}} = -\frac{f_{\text{obj}}}{f_{\text{eye}}}$$

The angular magnification is simply the ratio of the objective focal length to the eyepiece focal length.

Because the stars and galaxies are so distant, light-gathering power is more important to astronomers than magnification. Large light-gathering power requires a large-diameter objective lens, but large lenses are not practical; they begin to sag under their own weight. Thus **refracting telescopes,** with two lenses, are relatively small. Serious astronomy is done with a **reflecting telescope,** such as the one shown in Figure 35.16.

## Figure 35.16




A reflecting telescope.

A large-diameter mirror (the *primary mirror*) focuses the rays to form a real image, but, for practical reasons, a *secondary mirror* reflects the rays sideways before they reach a focus. This moves the primary mirror's image out to the edge of the telescope where it can be viewed by an eyepiece on the side. None of these changes affects the overall analysis of the telescope, and its angular magnification is given by Equation 35.11 if $f_{obj}$ is replaced by $f_{pri}$, the focal length of the primary mirror.

# 35.5 Color and Dispersion[1008]

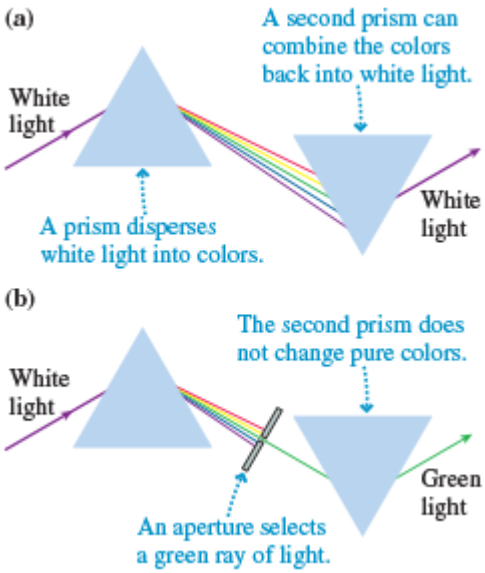
One of the most obvious visual aspects of light is the phenomenon of color. Yet color, for all its vivid sensation, is not inherent in the light itself. Color is a *perception*, not a physical quantity. Color is associated with the wavelength of light, but the fact that we see light with a wavelength of 650 nm as "red" tells us how our visual system responds to electromagnetic waves of this wavelength. There is no "redness" associated with the light wave itself.

Most of the results of optics do not depend on color; a microscope works the same with red light and blue light. Even so, indices of refraction are slightly wavelength dependent, which will be important in the next section where we consider the resolution of optical instruments. And color in nature is an interesting subject, one worthy of a short digression.

## Color

It has been known since antiquity that irregularly shaped glass and crystals cause sunlight to be broken into various colors. A common idea was that the glass or crystal somehow altered the properties of the light by *adding* color to the light. Newton suggested a different explanation. He first passed a sunbeam through a prism, producing the familiar rainbow of light. We say that the prism *disperses* the light. Newton's novel idea, shown in Figure 35.17a, was to use a second prism, inverted with respect to the first, to "reassemble" the colors. He found that the light emerging from the second prism was a beam of pure, white light.

## Figure 35.17




Newton used prisms to study color.

But the emerging light beam is white only if *all* the rays are allowed to move between the two prisms. Blocking some of the rays with small obstacles, as in Figure 35.17b, causes the emerging light beam to have color. This suggests that color is associated with the light itself, not with anything that the prism is doing to the light. Newton tested this idea by inserting a small aperture between the prisms to pass only the rays of a particular color, such as green. If the prism alters the properties of light, then the second prism should change the green light to other colors. Instead, the light emerging from the second prism is unchanged from the green light entering the prism.

These and similar experiments show that

1. What we perceive as white light is a mixture of all colors. White light can be dispersed into its various colors and, equally important, mixing all the colors produces white light.
2. The index of refraction of a transparent material differs slightly for different colors of light. Glass has a slightly larger index of

refraction for violet light than for green light or red light. Consequently, different colors of light refract at slightly different angles. A prism does not alter the light or add anything to the light; it simply causes the different colors that are inherent in white light to follow slightly different trajectories.

## Dispersion

It was Thomas Young, with his two-slit interference experiment, who showed that different colors are associated with light of different wavelengths. The longest wavelengths are perceived as red light and the shortest as violet light. Table 35.1 is a brief summary of the *visible spectrum* of light. Visible-light wavelengths are used so frequently that it is well worth committing this short table to memory.[1009]

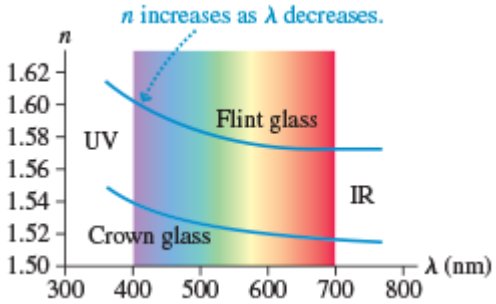
**Table 35.1**

| Color | Approximate wavelength |
|---|---|
| Deepest red | 700 nm |
| Red | 650 nm |
| Green | 550 nm |
| Blue | 450 nm |
| Deepest violet | 400 nm |

A brief summary of the visible spectrum of light

The slight variation of index of refraction with wavelength is known as **dispersion**. Figure 35.18 shows the *dispersion curves* of two common glasses. Notice that ***n* is *larger* when the wavelength is *shorter***, thus violet light refracts more than red light.

**Figure 35.18**




Dispersion curves show how the index of refraction varies with wavelength.

### Example 35.7 Dispersing light with a prism

Example 34.4 found that a ray incident on a 30° prism is deflected by 22.6° if the prism's index of refraction is 1.59. Suppose this is the index of refraction of deep violet light and deep red light has an index of refraction of 1.54.

**a.** What is the deflection angle for deep red light?

**b.** If a beam of white light is dispersed by this prism, how wide is the rainbow spectrum on a screen 2.0 m away?

**VISUALIZE** Figure 34.19 showed the geometry. A ray of any wavelength is incident on the hypotenuse of the prism at $\theta_1 = 30^\circ$.

**SOLVE**

**a.** If $n_1 = 1.54$ for deep red light, the refraction angle is

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{n_1 \sin\theta_1}{n_2}\right) = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1.54\sin 30^\circ}{1.00}\right) = 50.4^\circ$$

Example 34.4 showed that the deflection angle is $\phi = \theta_2 - \theta_1$, so deep red light is deflected by $\phi_{\text{red}} = 20.4^\circ$.

This angle is slightly smaller than the previously observed $\phi_{\text{violet}} = 22.6^\circ$.

**b.** The entire spectrum is spread between $\phi_{\text{red}} = 20.4^\circ$ and $\phi_{\text{violet}} = 22.6^\circ$. The angular spread is

$$\delta = \phi_{\text{violet}} - \phi_{\text{red}} = 2.2^\circ = 0.038\,\text{rad}$$

At distance $r$, the spectrum spans an arc length

$$s = r\delta = (2.0\ \text{m})\,(0.038\,\text{rad}) = 0.076\,\text{m} = 7.6\,\text{cm}$$

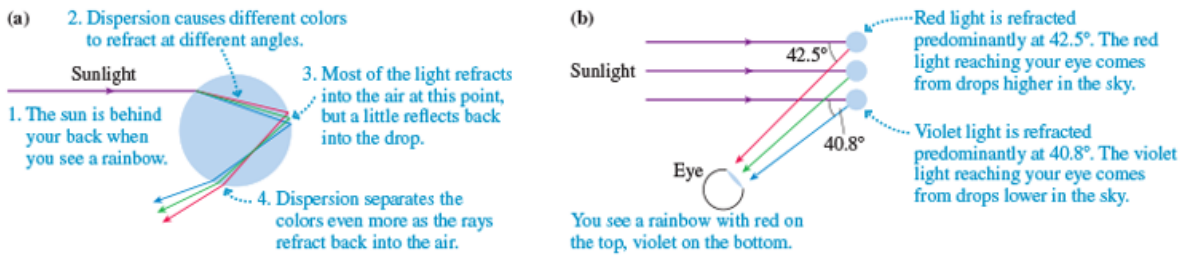
**ASSESS** The angle is so small that there's no appreciable difference between arc length and a straight line. The spectrum will be 7.6 cm wide at a distance of 2.0 m.

# Rainbows

One of the most interesting sources of color in nature is the rainbow. The details get somewhat complicated, but Figure 35.19a shows that the basic cause of the rainbow is a combination of refraction, reflection, and dispersion.

**Figure 35.19**






Light seen in a rainbow has undergone refraction + reflection + refraction in a raindrop.

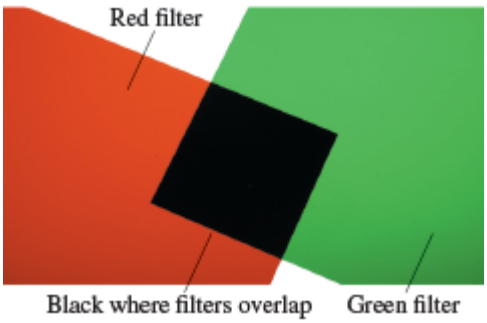
Figure 35.19a might lead you to think that the top edge of a rainbow is violet. In fact, the top edge is red, and violet is on the bottom. The rays leaving the drop in Figure 35.19a are spreading apart, so they can't all reach your eye. As Figure 35.19b shows, a ray of red light reaching your eye comes from a drop *higher* in the sky than a ray of violet light. In other words, the colors you see in a rainbow refract toward your eye from different raindrops, not from the same drop. You have to look higher in the sky to see the red light than to see the violet light.

## Colored Filters and Colored Objects

White light passing through a piece of green glass emerges as green light. A possible explanation would be that the green glass *adds* "greenness" to the white light, but Newton found otherwise. Green glass is green because it *absorbs* any light that is "not green." We can think of a piece of colored glass or plastic as a *filter* that removes all wavelengths except a chosen few.

If a green filter and a red filter are overlapped, as in Figure 35.20, *no* light gets through. The green filter transmits only green light, which is then absorbed by the red filter because it is "not red."

**Figure 35.20**

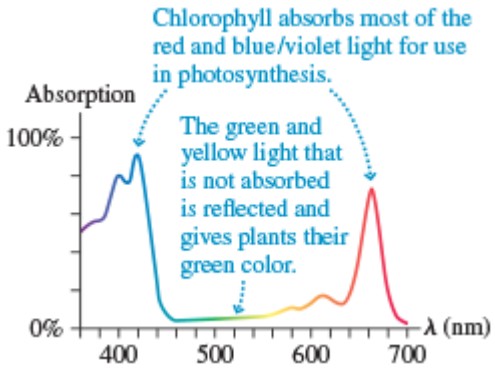



No light at all passes through both a green and a red filter.

This behavior is true not just for glass filters, which transmit light, but for *pigments* that absorb light of some wavelengths but *reflect* light at other wavelengths. For example, red paint contains pigments reflecting light at wavelengths near 650 nm while absorbing all other wavelengths. Pigments in paints, inks, and natural objects are responsible for most of the color we observe in the world, from the red of lipstick to the blue of a blueberry.

As an example, Figure 35.21 shows the absorption curve of *chlorophyll*. Chlorophyll is essential for photosynthesis in green plants. The chemical reactions of photosynthesis are able to use red light and blue/violet light, thus chlorophyll absorbs red light and blue/violet light from sunlight and puts it to use. But green and yellow light are not absorbed. Instead, to conserve energy, these wavelengths are mostly *reflected* to give the object a greenish-yellow color. When you look at the green leaves on a tree, you're seeing the light that was reflected because it *wasn't* needed for photosynthesis.

**Figure 35.21**



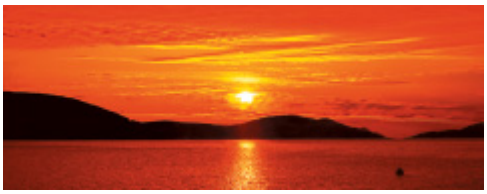

The absorption curve of chlorophyll.

## Light Scattering: Blue Skies and Red Sunsets

In the ray model of Section 34.1 we noted that light within a medium can be scattered or absorbed. As we've now seen, the absorption of light can be wavelength dependent and can create color in objects. What are the effects of scattering?

Light can scatter from small particles that are suspended in a medium. If the particles are large compared to the wavelengths of light—even though they may be microscopic and not readily visible to the naked eye—the light essentially reflects off the particles. The law of reflection doesn't depend on wavelength, so all colors are scattered equally. White light scattered from many small particles makes the medium appear cloudy and white. Two well-known examples are clouds, where micrometer-size water droplets scatter the light, and milk, which is a colloidal suspension of microscopic droplets of fats and proteins.

A more interesting aspect of scattering occurs at the atomic level. The atoms and molecules of a transparent medium are much smaller than the wavelengths of light, so they can't scatter light simply by reflection. Instead, the oscillating electric field of the light wave interacts with the electrons in each atom in such a way that the light is scattered. This atomic-level scattering is called **Rayleigh scattering.**



Sunsets are red because all the blue light has scattered as the sunlight passes through the atmosphere.

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Unlike the scattering by small particles, Rayleigh scattering from atoms and molecules *does* depend on the wavelength. A detailed analysis shows that the intensity of scattered light depends inversely on the fourth power

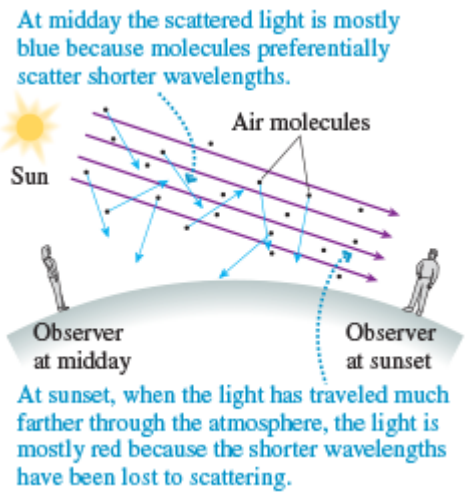
of the wavelength: $I_{\text{scattered}} \propto \lambda^{-4}$. This wavelength dependence explains why the sky is blue and sunsets are red.

As sunlight travels through the atmosphere, the $\lambda^{-4}$ dependence of Rayleigh scattering causes the shorter wavelengths to be preferentially scattered. If we take 650 nm as a typical wavelength for red light and 450 nm for blue light, the intensity of scattered blue light relative to scattered red light is

$$\frac{I_{\text{blue}}}{I_{\text{red}}} = \left(\frac{650}{450}\right)^4 \approx 4$$

Four times more blue light is scattered toward us than red light and thus, as Figure 35.22 shows, the sky appears blue.

## Figure 35.22




Rayleigh scattering by molecules in the air gives the sky and sunsets their color.

Because of the earth's curvature, sunlight has to travel much farther through the atmosphere when we see it at sunrise or sunset than it does during the midday hours. In fact, the path length through the atmosphere at sunset is so long that essentially all the short wavelengths have been

lost due to Rayleigh scattering. Only the longer wavelengths remain—orange and red—and they make the colors of the sunset.

# 35.6 The Resolution of Optical Instruments

A camera *could* focus light with a single lens. A microscope objective *could* be built with a single lens. So why would anyone ever use a lens combination in place of a single lens? There are two primary reasons.

First, as you learned in the previous section, any lens has dispersion. That is, its index of refraction varies slightly with wavelength. Because the index of refraction for violet light is larger than for red light, a lens's focal length is shorter for violet light than for red light. Consequently, different colors of light come to a focus at slightly different distances from the lens. If red light is sharply focused on a viewing screen, then blue and violet wavelengths are not well focused. This imaging error, illustrated in Figure 35.23a, is called **chromatic aberration.**

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**Figure 35.23**

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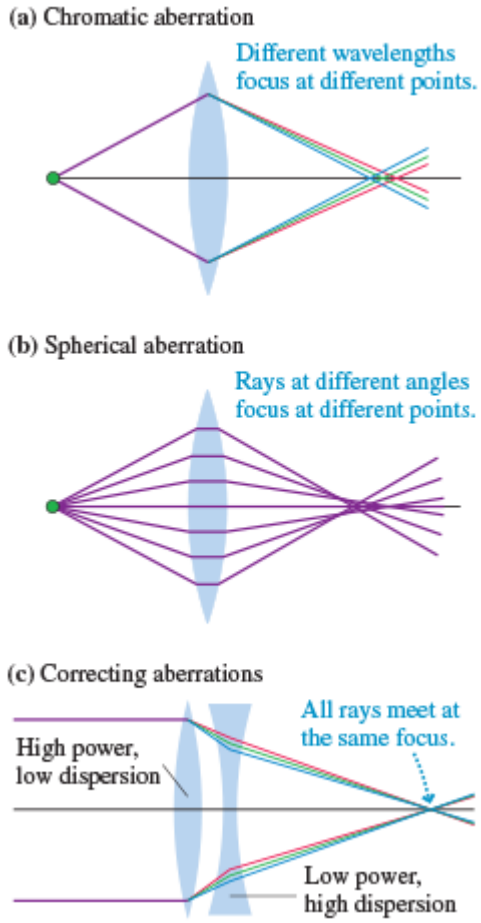


Chromatic aberration and spherical aberration prevent simple lenses from forming perfect images.

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Second, our analysis of thin lenses was based on paraxial rays traveling nearly parallel to the optical axis. A more exact analysis, taking all the rays into account, finds that rays incident on the outer edges of a spherical surface are not focused at exactly the same point as rays incident near the center. This imaging error, shown in Figure 35.23b, is called **spherical aberration.** Spherical aberration, which causes the image to be slightly blurred, gets worse as the lens diameter increases.

Fortunately, the chromatic and spherical aberrations of a converging lens and a diverging lens are in opposite directions. When a converging lens and a diverging lens are used in combination, their aberrations tend to cancel. A combination lens, such as the one in Figure 35.23c, can produce a much sharper focus than a single lens with the equivalent focal

length. Consequently, most optical instruments use combination lenses rather than single lenses.

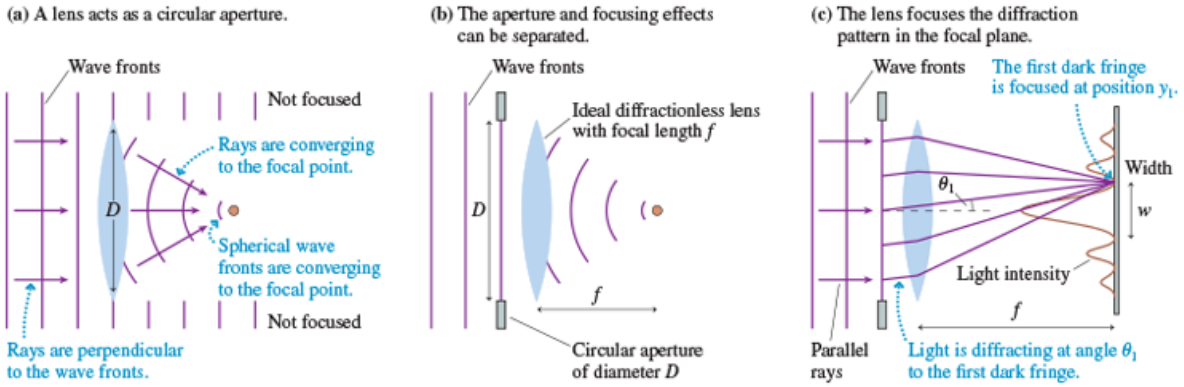
## Diffraction Again

According to the ray model of light, a perfect lens (one with no aberrations) should be able to form a perfect image. But the ray model of light, though a very good model for lenses, is not an absolutely correct description of light. If we look closely, the wave aspects of light haven't entirely disappeared. In fact, the performance of optical equipment is limited by the diffraction of light.

Figure 35.24a shows a plane wave, with parallel light rays, being focused by a lens of diameter *D*. According to the ray model of light, a perfect lens would focus parallel rays to a perfect point. Notice, though, that only a piece of each wave front passes *through* the lens and gets focused. In effect, **the lens itself acts as a circular aperture** in an opaque barrier, allowing through only a portion of each wave front. Consequently, **the lens diffracts the light wave.** The diffraction is usually very small because *D* is usually much greater than the wavelength of the light; nonetheless, this small amount of diffraction is the limiting factor in how well the lens can focus the light.

### Figure 35.24





A lens both focuses and diffracts the light passing through.

Figure 35.24b separates the diffraction from the focusing by modeling the lens as an actual aperture of diameter $D$ followed by an "ideal" diffractionless lens. You learned in Chapter 33 that a circular aperture produces a diffraction pattern with a bright central maximum surrounded by dimmer fringes. A converging lens brings this diffraction pattern to a focus in the image plane, as shown in Figure 35.24c. As a result, a perfect lens focuses parallel light rays not to a perfect point of light, as we expected, but to a small, circular diffraction pattern.

The angle to the first minimum of a circular diffraction pattern is $\theta_1 = 1.22\lambda / D$. The ray that passes through the center of a lens is not bent, so Figure 35.24c uses this ray to show that the position of the dark fringe is $y_1 = f \tan\theta_1 \approx f\theta_1$. Thus the width of the central maximum in the focal plane is

**(35.12)**

$$w_{\text{min}} \approx 2f\theta_1 = \frac{2.44\lambda f}{D} \qquad (\text{minimum spot size})$$

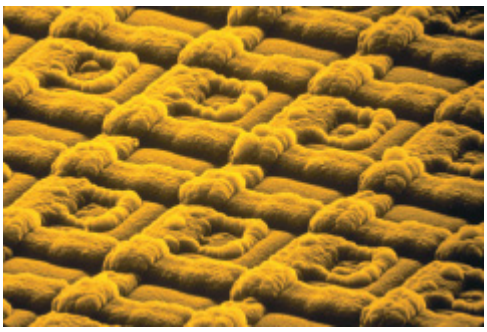
This is the **minimum spot size** to which a lens can focus light.

Lenses are often limited by aberrations, so not all lenses can focus parallel light rays to a spot this small. A well-crafted lens, for which Equation 35.12 is the minimum spot size, is called a *diffraction-limited lens*. No optical design can overcome the spreading of light due to diffraction, and it is because of this spreading that the image point has a minimum spot size. The image of an actual object, rather than of parallel rays, becomes a mosaic of overlapping diffraction patterns, so even the most perfect lens inevitably forms an image that is slightly fuzzy.

For various reasons, it is difficult to produce a diffraction-limited lens having a focal length that is much less than its diameter. The very best microscope objectives have $f \approx 0.5D$. This implies that **the smallest diameter to which you can focus a spot of light, no matter how hard you try, is** $w_{\text{min}} \approx \lambda$. This is a fundamental limit on the performance of optical equipment. Diffraction has very real consequences!

One example of these consequences is found in the manufacturing of integrated circuits. Integrated circuits are made by creating a "mask" showing all the components and their connections. A lens images this mask onto the surface of a semiconductor wafer that has been coated with a substance called *photoresist.* Bright areas in the mask expose the photoresist, and subsequent processing steps chemically etch away the exposed areas while leaving behind areas that had been in the shadows of the mask. This process is called *photolithography.*

The power of a microprocessor and the amount of memory in a memory chip depend on how small the circuit elements can be made. Diffraction dictates that a circuit element can be no smaller than the smallest spot to which light can be focused, which is roughly the wavelength of the light. If the mask is projected with ultraviolet light having $\lambda \approx 200\,\text{nm}$, then the smallest elements on a chip are about 200 nm wide. This is, in fact, just about the current limit of technology.



The size of the features in an integrated circuit is limited by the diffraction of light.

### Example 35.8 Seeing stars

A 12-cm-diameter telescope lens has a focal length of 1.0 m. What is the diameter of the image of a star in the focal plane if the lens is diffraction limited *and* if the earth's atmosphere is not a limitation?

**MODEL** Stars are so far away that they appear as points in space. An ideal diffractionless lens would focus their light to arbitrarily small points. Diffraction prevents this. Model the telescope lens as a 12-cm-diameter aperture in front of an ideal lens with a 1.0 m focal length.

**SOLVE** The minimum spot size in the focal plane of this lens is

$$w = \frac{2.44\lambda f}{D}$$

where $D$ is the lens diameter. What is $\lambda$? Because stars emit white light, the *longest* wavelengths spread the most and determine the size of the image that is seen. If we use $\lambda = 700\,\text{nm}$ as the approximate upper limit of visible wavelengths, we find $w = 1.4 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{m} = 14\,\mu\text{m}$.

**ASSESS** This is certainly small, and it would appear as a point to your unaided eye. Nonetheless, the spot size would be easily noticed if it were recorded on film and enlarged. Turbulence and temperature effects in the atmosphere, the causes of the "twinkling" of stars, prevent ground-based telescopes from being this good, but space-based telescopes really are diffraction limited.

# Resolution

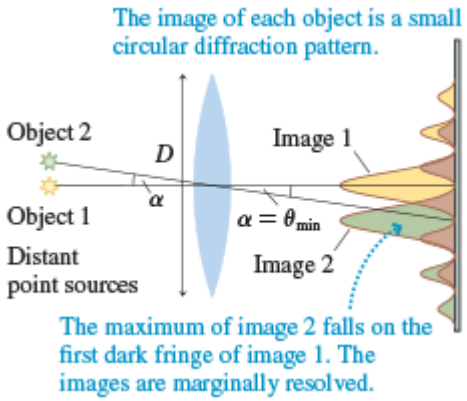
Suppose you point a telescope at two nearby stars in a galaxy far, far away. If you use the best possible detector, will you be able to distinguish separate images for the two stars, or will they blur into a single blob of light? A similar question could be asked of a microscope. Can two microscopic objects, very close together, be distinguished if sufficient magnification is used? Or is there some size limit at which their images will blur together and never be separated? These are important questions about the *resolution* of optical instruments.

Because of diffraction, the image of a distant star is not a point but a circular diffraction pattern. Our question, then, really is: How close together can two diffraction patterns be before you can no longer distinguish them? One of the major scientists of the 19th century, Lord Rayleigh, studied this problem and suggested a reasonable rule that today is called **Rayleigh's criterion.**

Figure 35.25 shows two distant point sources being imaged by a lens of diameter $D$. The angular separation between the objects, as seen from the lens, is $\alpha$. Rayleigh's criterion states that

- The two objects are resolvable if $\alpha > \theta_{\text{min}}$, where $\theta_{\text{min}} = \theta_1 = 1.22\lambda/D$ is the angle of the first dark fringe in the circular diffraction pattern.
- The two objects are not resolvable if $\alpha < \theta_{\text{min}}$ because their diffraction patterns are too overlapped.
- The two objects are marginally resolvable if $\alpha = \theta_{\text{min}}$. The central maximum of one image falls exactly on top of the first dark fringe of the other image. This is the situation shown in the figure.

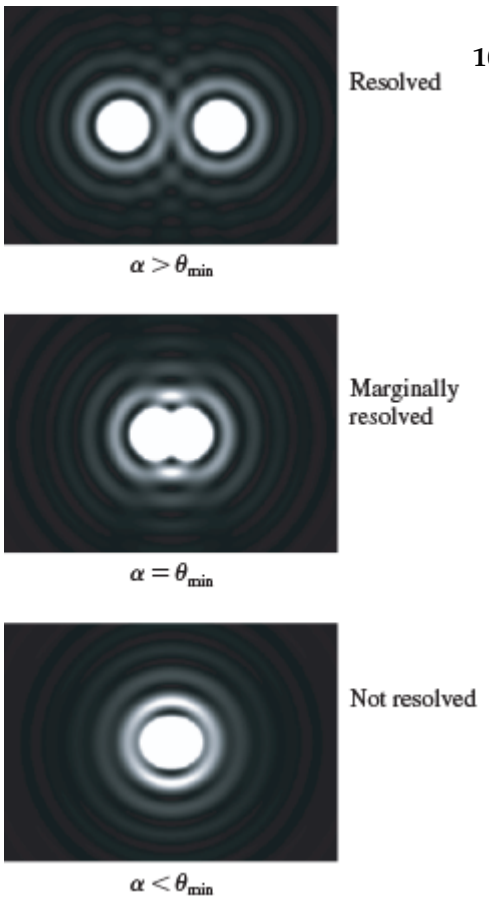
## Figure 35.25




Two images that are marginally resolved.

Figure 35.26 shows enlarged photographs of the images of two point sources. The images are circular diffraction patterns, not points. The two images are close but distinct where the objects are separated by $\alpha > \theta_{\text{min}}$. Two objects really were recorded in the photo at the bottom, but their separation is $\alpha < \theta_{\text{min}}$ and their images have blended together. In the middle photo, with $\alpha = \theta_{\text{min}}$, you can see that the two images are just barely resolved.

## Figure 35.26




Enlarged photographs of the images of two point sources.

The angle

**(35.13)**

$$\theta_{\text{min}} = \frac{1.22\lambda}{D} \qquad (\text{angular resolution of a lens})$$

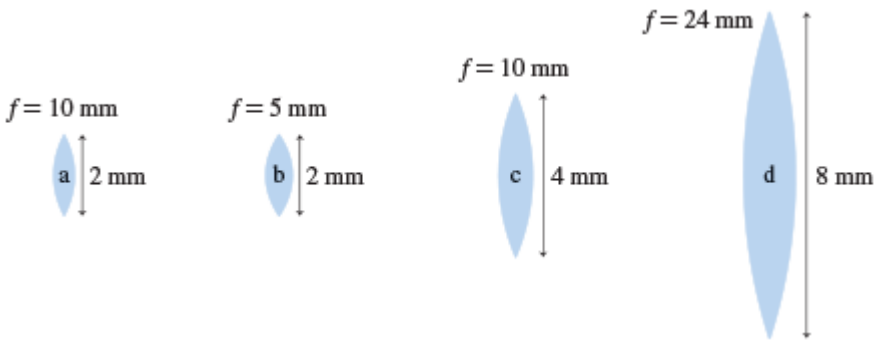
is called the **angular resolution** of a lens. The angular resolution of a telescope depends on the diameter of the objective lens (or the primary mirror) and the wavelength of the light; magnification is not a factor. Two images will remain overlapped and unresolved no matter what the magnification if their angular separation is less than $\theta_{\text{min}}$. For visible light, where $\lambda$ is pretty much fixed, the only parameter over which the

astronomer has any control is the diameter of the lens or mirror of the telescope. The urge to build ever-larger telescopes is motivated, in part, by a desire to improve the angular resolution. (Another motivation is to increase the light-gathering power so as to see objects farther away.)

The performance of a microscope is also limited by the diffraction of light passing through the objective lens. Just as light cannot be focused to a spot smaller than about a wavelength, the most perfect microscope cannot resolve the features of objects separated by less than one wavelength, or roughly 500 nm. (Some clever tricks with the phase of the light can improve the resolution to about 200 nm, but diffraction is still the limiting factor.) Because atoms are approximately 0.1 nm in diameter, vastly smaller than the wavelength of visible or even ultraviolet light, there is no hope of ever seeing atoms with an optical microscope. This limitation is not simply a matter of needing a better design or more precise components; it is a fundamental limit set by the wave nature of the light with which we see.

## Stop to Think 35.5

Four diffraction-limited lenses focus plane waves of light with the same wavelength $\lambda$. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the spot sizes $w_a$ to $w_d$.



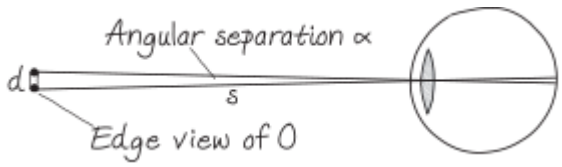
## Challenge Example 35.9 Visual acuity

The normal human eye has maximum visual acuity with a pupil diameter of about 3 mm. For larger pupils, acuity decreases due to increasing aberrations; for smaller pupils, acuity decreases due to increasing diffraction. If your pupil diameter is 2.0 mm, as it would be in bright light, what is the smallest-diameter circle that you should be able to see as a circle, rather than just an unresolved blob, on an eye chart at the standard distance of 20 ft? The index of refraction inside the eye is 1.33.

**MODEL** Assume that a 2.0-mm-diameter pupil is diffraction limited. Then the angular resolution is given by Rayleigh's criterion. Diffraction increases with wavelength, so the eye's acuity will be affected more by longer wavelengths than by shorter wavelengths. Consequently, assume that the light's wavelength in air is 600 nm.

**VISUALIZE** Let the diameter of the circle be $d$. Figure 35.27 shows the circle at distance $s = 20\,\text{ft} = 6.1\,\text{m}$. "Seeing the circle," shown edge-on, requires resolving the top and bottom lines as distinct.

### Figure 35.27




Viewing a circle of diameter $d$.

**SOLVE** The angular separation of the top and bottom lines of the circle is $\alpha = d/s$. Rayleigh's criterion says that a perfect lens with aperture $D$ can just barely resolve these two lines if

$$\alpha = \frac{d}{s} = \theta_{\text{min}} = \frac{1.22\lambda_{\text{eye}}}{D} = \frac{1.22\lambda_{\text{air}}}{n_{\text{eye}}D}$$

The diffraction takes place inside the eye, where the wavelength is shortened to $\lambda_{\text{eye}} = \lambda_{\text{air}}/n_{\text{eye}}$. Thus the circle diameter that can barely be resolved with perfect vision is

$$d = \frac{1.22\lambda_{\text{air}}\,s}{n_{\text{eye}}D} = \frac{1.22\left(600 \times 10^{-9}\text{ m}\right)(6.1\text{ m})}{(1.33)(0.0020\text{ m})} \approx 2\text{ mm}$$

That's about the height of a capital O in this book, so in principle you should—in very bright light—just barely be able to recognize it as an O at 20 feet.

**ASSESS** On an eye chart, the O on the line for 20/20 vision—the standard of excellent vision—is about 7 mm tall, so the calculated 2 mm, although in the right range, is a bit too small. There are two reasons. First, although aberrations of the eye are reduced with a smaller pupil, they haven't vanished. And second, for a 2-mm-tall object at 20 ft, the size of the image on the retina is barely larger than the spacing between the cone cells, so the resolution of the "detector" is also a factor. Your eye is a very good optical instrument, but not perfect.

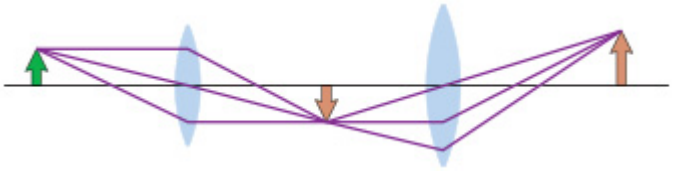
# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 35 has been to learn about some common optical instruments and their limitations.

## Important Concepts

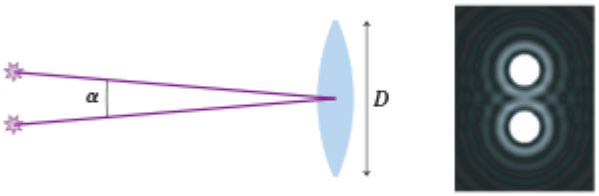
### Lens Combinations



**The image of the first lens acts as the object for the second lens.**

Lens **power**: $P = \dfrac{1}{f}$ diopters, $1\,\mathrm{D} = 1\,\mathrm{m}^{-1}$

### Resolution




The **angular resolution** of a lens of diameter $D$ is

$$\theta_{\text{min}} = 1.22\lambda/D$$

**Rayleigh's criterion** states that two objects separated by an angle $\alpha$ are marginally resolvable if $\alpha = \theta_{\text{min}}$.

# Applications

## Cameras

Form a real, inverted image on a detector. The lens's ***f*-number** is

$$f\text{-number} = \frac{f}{D}$$

The light intensity on the detector is

$$I \propto \frac{1}{(f\text{-number})^2}$$

## Magnifiers

For relaxed-eye viewing, the angular magnification is

$$M = \frac{25\ \text{cm}}{f}$$

For microscopes and telescopes, angular magnification, not lateral magnification, is the important characteristic. The eyepiece acts as a magnifier to view the image formed by the objective lens.

## Vision

Refraction at the cornea is responsible for most of the focusing. The lens provides fine-tuning by changing its shape **(accommodation).**

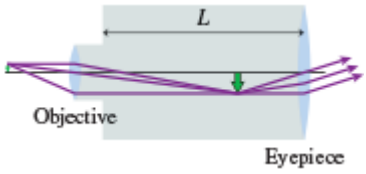
In normal vision, the eye can focus from a far point (FP) at ∞ (relaxed eye) to a near point (NP) at ≈ 25 cm (maximum accommodation).

- **Hyperopia** (farsightedness) is corrected with a converging lens.
- **Myopia** (nearsightedness) is corrected with a diverging lens.

## Microscopes

The object is very close to the focal point of the objective.

The total angular magnification is $M \approx -\frac{L}{f_{\text{obj}}}\frac{25\,\text{cm}}{f_{\text{eye}}}$.




The best possible spatial resolution of a microscope, limited by diffraction, is about one wavelength of light.

## Focusing and spatial resolution

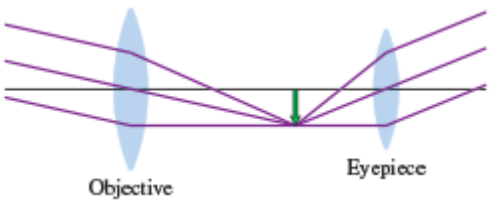
The minimum spot size to which a lens of focal length $f$ and diameter $D$ can focus light is limited by diffraction to

$$w_{\text{min}} = \frac{2.44\lambda f}{D}$$

With the best lenses that can be manufactured, $w_{\text{min}} \approx \lambda$.

## Telescopes

The object is very far from the objective.



The total angular magnification is $M = -\dfrac{f_{\text{obj}}}{f_{\text{eye}}}$.

## Terms and Notation

camera

effective focal length, $f$

aperture

$f$-number

CCD

pixel



cornea

pupil

iris

retina

accommodation

far point

near point

presbyopia

power, $P$

diopter, D

hyperopia

myopia

angular size

magnifier

angular magnification, $M$

objective

eyepiece

refracting telescope

reflecting telescope

dispersion

Rayleigh scattering

chromatic aberration

spherical aberration

minimum spot size, $w_{\text{min}}$

Rayleigh's criterion

angular resolution

# Conceptual Questions



**1.** Suppose a camera's exposure is correct when the lens has a focal length of 8.0 mm. Will the picture be overexposed, underexposed, or still correct if the focal length is "zoomed" to 16.0 mm without changing the diameter of the lens aperture? Explain.

**2.** A camera has a circular aperture immediately behind the lens. Reducing the aperture diameter to half its initial value will

- **A.** Make the image blurry.
- **B.** Cut off the outer half of the image and leave the inner half unchanged.
- **C.** Make the image less bright.
- **D.** All the above.

Explain your choice.

**3.** Suppose you wanted special glasses designed to let you see underwater without a face mask. Should the glasses use a converging or diverging lens? Explain.

**4.** A red card is illuminated by red light. What color will the card appear? What if it's illuminated by blue light?

**5.** The center of the galaxy is filled with low-density hydrogen gas that scatters light rays. An astronomer wants to take a picture of the center of the galaxy. Will the view be better using ultraviolet light, visible light, or infrared light? Explain.

**6.** A friend lends you the eyepiece of his microscope to use on your own microscope. He claims the spatial resolution of your microscope will be halved, since his eyepiece has the same

diameter as yours but twice the magnification. Is his claim valid? Explain.

**7.** A diffraction-limited lens can focus light to a 10-$\mu$m-diameter spot on a screen. Do the following actions make the spot diameter larger, make it smaller, or leave it unchanged?

**A.** Decreasing the wavelength of the light.

**B.** Decreasing the lens diameter.

**C.** Decreasing the lens focal length.

**D.** Decreasing the lens-to-screen distance.

**8.** To focus parallel light rays to the smallest possible spot, should you use a lens with a small $f$-number or a large $f$-number? Explain.

**9.** An astronomer is trying to observe two distant stars. The stars are marginally resolved when she looks at them through a filter that passes green light with a wavelength near 550 nm. Which of the following actions would improve the resolution? Assume that the resolution is not limited by the atmosphere.

**A.** Changing the filter to a different wavelength. If so, should she use a shorter or a longer wavelength?

**B.** Using a telescope with an objective lens of the same diameter but a different focal length. If so, should she select a shorter or a longer focal length?

**C.** Using a telescope with an objective lens of the same focal length but a different diameter. If so, should she select a larger or a smaller diameter?

**D.** Using an eyepiece with a different magnification. If so, should she select an eyepiece with more or less magnification?

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 35.1 Lenses in Combination

**1.** •• Two converging lenses with focal lengths of 40 cm and 20 cm are 10 cm apart. A 2.0-cm-tall object is 15 cm in front of the 40-cm-focal-length lens.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the final image. Do this accurately using a ruler or paper with a grid, then make measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**2.** •• A converging lens with a focal length of 40 cm and a diverging lens with a focal length of –40cm are 160 cm apart. A 2.0-cm-tall object is 60 cm in front of the converging lens.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the final image. Do this accurately using a ruler or paper with a grid, then make measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**3.** •• A 2.0-cm-tall object is 20 cm to the left of a lens with a focal length of 10 cm. A second lens with a focal length of 15 cm is 30 cm to the right of the first lens.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the final image. Do this accurately using a ruler or paper with a grid, then make measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**4.** •• A 2.0-cm-tall object is 20 cm to the left of a lens with a focal length of 10 cm. A second lens with a focal length of 5 cm is 30 cm to the right of the first lens.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the final image. Do this accurately using a ruler or paper with a grid, then make measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

**5.** •• A 2.0-cm-tall object is 20 cm to the left of a lens with a focal length of 10 cm. A second lens with a focal length of –5 cm is 30 cm to the right of the first lens.

**a.** Use ray tracing to find the position and height of the final image. Do this accurately using a ruler or paper with a grid, then make measurements on your diagram.

**b.** Calculate the image position and height. Compare with your ray-tracing answers in part a.

## Section 35.2 The Camera

**6.** • A 2.0-m-tall man is 10 m in front of a camera with a 15-mm-focal-length lens. How tall is his image on the detector?

**7.** • What is the *f*-number of a lens with a 35 mm focal length and a 7.0-mm-diameter aperture?

**8.** • What is the aperture diameter of a 12-mm-focal-length lens set to $f/4.0$?

**9.** • A camera takes a properly exposed photo at $f/5.6$ and 1/125 s. What shutter speed should be used if the lens is changed to $f/4.0$?

**10.** •• A camera takes a properly exposed photo with a 3.0-mm-diameter aperture and a shutter speed of 1/125 s. What is the appropriate aperture diameter for a 1/500 s shutter speed?

## Section 35.3 Vision

**11.** •• **BIO** Ramon has contact lenses with the prescription +2.0 D.

**a.** What eye condition does Ramon have?

**b.** What is his near point without the lenses?

**12.** • **BIO** Ellen wears eyeglasses with the prescription –1.0 D.

**a.** What eye condition does Ellen have?

**b.** What is her far point without the glasses?

**13.** • **BIO** What is the *f*-number of a relaxed eye with the pupil fully dilated to 8.0 mm? Model the eye as a single lens 2.4 cm in front of the retina.

## Section 35.4 Optical Systems That Magnify

**14.** •• A magnifier has a magnification of 5×. How far from the lens should an object be held so that its image is seen at the near-point distance of 25 cm? Assume that your eye is immediately behind the lens.

**15.** •• A microscope has a 20 cm tube length. What focal-length objective will give total magnification 500× when used with an eyepiece having a focal length of 5.0 cm?

**16.** •• A standardized biological microscope has an 8.0-mm-focal-length objective. What focal-length eyepiece should be used to achieve a total magnification of 100×?

**17.** •• A 6.0-mm-diameter microscope objective has a focal length of 9.0 mm. What object distance gives a lateral magnification of –40?

**18.** •• A 20× telescope has a 12-cm-diameter objective lens. What minimum diameter must the eyepiece lens have to collect all the light rays from an on-axis distant source?

**19.** •• A reflecting telescope is built with a 20-cm-diameter mirror having a 1.00 m focal length. It is used with a 10× eyepiece. What are (a) the magnification and (b) the *f*-number of the telescope?

## Section 35.5 Color and Dispersion

**20.** •• A sheet of glass has $n_{\text{red}} = 1.52$ and $n_{\text{violet}} = 1.55$. A narrow beam of white light is incident on the glass at 30°. What is the angular spread of the light inside the glass?

**21.** • A narrow beam of white light is incident on a sheet of quartz. The beam disperses in the quartz, with red light ($\lambda \approx 700\,\text{nm}$) traveling at an angle of 26.3° with respect to the normal and violet light ($\lambda \approx 400\,\text{nm}$) traveling at 25.7°. The index of refraction of quartz for red light is 1.45. What is the index of refraction of quartz for violet light?

**22.** •• A hydrogen discharge lamp emits light with two prominent wavelengths: 656 nm (red) and 486 nm (blue). The light enters a flint-glass prism perpendicular to one face and then refracts through the hypotenuse back into the air. The angle between these two faces is 35°.

- **a.** Use Figure 35.18 to estimate to ±0.002 the index of refraction of flint glass at these two wavelengths.
- **b.** What is the angle (in degrees) between the red and blue light as it leaves the prism?

**23.** •• Infrared telescopes, which use special infrared detectors, are able to peer farther into star-forming regions of the galaxy because infrared light is not scattered as strongly as is visible

light by the tenuous clouds of hydrogen gas from which new stars are created. For what wavelength of light is the scattering only 1% that of light with a visible wavelength of 500 nm?

## Section 35.6 The Resolution of Optical Instruments

**24.** •• A scientist needs to focus a helium-neon laser beam ($\lambda = 633\,\text{nm}$) to a 10-$\mu$m-diameter spot 8.0 cm behind a lens.

**a.** What focal-length lens should she use?



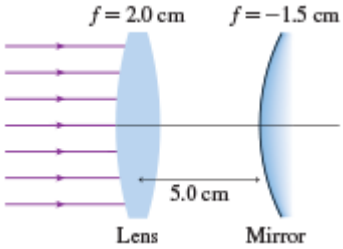
**b.** What minimum diameter must the lens have?

**25.** •• Two lightbulbs are 1.0 m apart. From what distance can these lightbulbs be marginally resolved by a small telescope with a 4.0-cm-diameter objective lens? Assume that the lens is diffraction limited and $\lambda = 600\,\text{nm}$.

# Problems

**26.** •• In Figure P35.26, parallel rays from the left are focused to a point at two locations on the optical axis. Find the position of each location, giving your answer as a distance left or right of the lens.

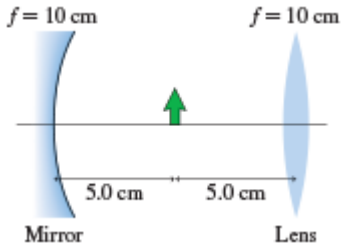
**Figure P35.26**




**27.** •• The rays leaving the two-component optical system of Figure P35.27 produce two distinct images of the 1.0-cm-tall

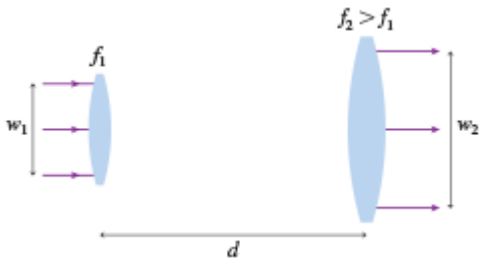
object. What are the position (relative to the lens), orientation, and height of each image?

**Figure P35.27**




**28.** • A common optical instrument in a laser laboratory is a *beam expander*. One type of beam expander is shown in Figure P35.28. The parallel rays of a laser beam of width $w_1$ enter from the left.

**Figure P35.28**

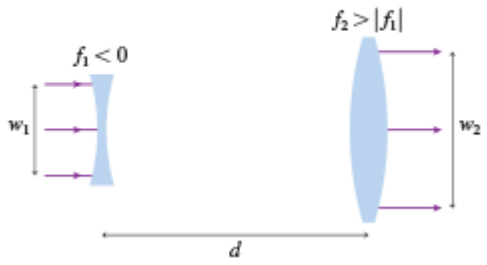



**a.** For what lens spacing $d$ does a parallel laser beam exit from the right?

**b.** What is the width $w_2$ of the exiting laser beam?

**29.** • A common optical instrument in a laser laboratory is a *beam expander*. One type of beam expander is shown in Figure P35.29. The parallel rays of a laser beam of width $w_1$ enter from the left.

**Figure P35.29**

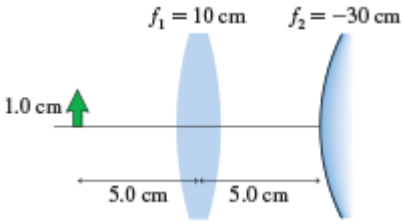



**a.** For what lens spacing $d$ does a parallel laser beam exit from the right?

**b.** What is the width $w_2$ of the exiting laser beam?

**30.** •• In Figure P35.30, what are the position, height, and orientation of the final image? Give the position as a distance to the right or left of the lens.

**Figure P35.30**




**31.** •• A 1.0-cm-tall object is 110 cm from a screen. A diverging lens with focal length –20 cm is 20 cm in front of the object. What are the focal length and distance from the screen of a second lens that will produce a well-focused, 2.0-cm-tall image on the screen?

**32.** ••• A 15-cm-focal-length converging lens is 20 cm to the right of a 7.0-cm-focal-length converging lens. A 1.0-cm-tall object is distance $L$ to the left of the first lens.

**a.** For what value of $L$ is the final image of this two-lens system halfway between the two lenses?

**b.** What are the height and orientation of the final image?

**33.** •• **BIO** Yang can focus on objects 150 cm away with a relaxed eye. With full accommodation, she can focus on objects 20 cm away. After her eyesight is corrected for distance vision, what will her near point be while wearing her glasses?

**34.** ••• **BIO** The cornea, a boundary between the air and the aqueous humor, has a 3.0 cm focal length when acting alone. What is its radius of curvature?



**35.** • The objective lens of a telescope is a symmetric glass lens with 100 cm radii of curvature. The eyepiece lens is also a symmetric glass lens. What are the radii of curvature of the eyepiece lens if the telescope's magnification is 20×?

**36.** •• Mars (6800 km diameter) is viewed through a telescope on a night when it is $1.1 \times 10^8$ km from the earth. Its angular size as seen through the eyepiece is 0.50°, the same size as the full moon seen by the naked eye. If the eyepiece focal length is 25 mm, how long is the telescope?

**37.** •• You've been asked to build a telescope from a 2.0× magnifying lens and a 5.0× magnifying lens.

**a.** What is the maximum magnification you can achieve?

**b.** Which lens should be used as the objective? Explain.

**c.** What will be the length of your telescope?

**38.** • Marooned on a desert island and with a lot of time on your hands, you decide to disassemble your glasses to make a crude telescope with which you can scan the horizon for rescuers. Luckily you're farsighted, and, like most people, your two eyes have different lens prescriptions. Your left eye uses a lens of power +4.5 D, and your right eye's lens is +3.0 D.

**a.** Which lens should you use for the objective and which for the eyepiece? Explain.

**b.** What will be the magnification of your telescope?

**c.** How far apart should the two lenses be when you focus on distant objects?

**39.** •• A microscope with a tube length of 180 mm achieves a total magnification of 800× with a 40× objective and a 20× eyepiece. The microscope is focused for viewing with a relaxed eye. How far is the sample from the objective lens?

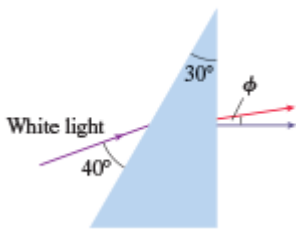
**40.** •• **BIO** Modern microscopes are more likely to use a camera than human viewing. This is accomplished by replacing the eyepiece in Figure 35.14 with a *photo-ocular* that focuses the image of the objective to a real image on the sensor of a digital camera. A typical sensor is 22.5 mm wide and consists of 5625 4.0-$\mu$m-wide pixels. Suppose a microscopist pairs a 40× objective with a 2.5× photo-ocular.

**a.** What is the field of view? That is, what width on the microscope stage, in mm, fills the sensor?

**b.** The photo of a cell is 120 pixels in diameter. What is the cell's actual diameter, in $\mu$m?

**41.** •• White light is incident onto a 30° prism at the 40° angle shown in Figure P35.41. Violet light emerges perpendicular to the rear face of the prism. The index of refraction of violet light in this glass is 2.0% larger than the index of refraction of red light. At what angle $\phi$ does red light emerge from the rear face?

**Figure P35.41**



**42.** •• **CALC** A beam of white light enters a transparent material. Wavelengths for which the index of refraction is $n$ are refracted at angle $\theta_2$. Wavelengths for which the index of refraction is $n + \delta n$, where $\delta n \ll n$, are refracted at angle $\theta_2 + \delta\theta$.

**a.** Show that the angular separation of the two wavelengths, in radians, is $\delta\theta = -(\delta n/n)\ \tan\theta_2$.

**b.** A beam of white light is incident on a piece of glass at 30.0°. Deep violet light is refracted 0.28° more than deep red light. The index of refraction for deep red light is known to be 1.552. What is the index of refraction for deep violet light?

**43.** •• High-power lasers are used to cut and weld materials by focusing the laser beam to a very small spot. This is like using a magnifying lens to focus the sun's light to a small spot that can burn things. As an engineer, you have designed a laser cutting device in which the material to be cut is placed 5.0 cm behind the lens. You have selected a high-power laser with a wavelength of 1.06 $\mu$m. Your calculations indicate that the laser must be focused to a 5.0-$\mu$m-diammerer spot in order to have sufficient power to make the cut. What is the minimum diameter of the lens you must install?

**44.** ••• **BIO** Once dark adapted, the pupil of your eye is approximately 7 mm in diameter. The headlights of an oncoming car are 120 cm apart. If the lens of your eye is diffraction limited, at what distance are the two headlights marginally resolved? Assume a wavelength of 600 nm and that the index of refraction inside the eye is 1.33. (Your eye is not really good enough to resolve headlights at this distance, due both to aberrations in the lens and to the size of the receptors in your retina, but it comes reasonably close.)

**45.** •• **INT** The resolution of a digital camera is limited by two factors: diffraction by the lens, a limit of any optical system, and the fact that the sensor is divided into discrete pixels. Consider a typical point-and-shoot camera that has a 20-mm-focal-length lens and a sensor with 2.5-$\mu$m-wide pixels.

**a.** First, assume an ideal, diffractionless lens. At a distance of 100 m, what is the smallest distance, in cm, between two point sources of light that the camera can barely resolve? In answering this question, consider what has to happen on the sensor to show two image points rather than one. You can use $s' = f$ because $s \gg f$.

**b.** You can achieve the pixel-limited resolution of part a only if the diffraction width of each image point is no greater than 1 pixel in diameter. For what lens diameter is the minimum spot size equal to the width of a pixel? Use 600 nm for the wavelength of light.

**c.** What is the *f*-number of the lens for the diameter you found in part b? Your answer is a quite realistic value of the *f*-number at which a camera transitions from being pixel limited to being diffraction limited. For *f*-numbers smaller than this (larger-diameter apertures), the resolution is limited by the pixel size and does not change as you change the aperture. For *f*-numbers larger than this (smaller-diameter apertures), the resolution is limited by diffraction, and it gets worse as you "stop down" to smaller apertures.

**46.** •• The Hubble Space Telescope has a mirror diameter of 2.4 m. Suppose the telescope is used to photograph stars near the center of our galaxy, 30,000 light years away, using red light with a wavelength of 650 nm.

**a.** What's the distance (in km) between two stars that are marginally resolved? The resolution of a reflecting telescope is calculated exactly the same as for a refracting telescope.

**b.** For comparison, what is this distance as a multiple of the distance of Jupiter from the sun?

**47.** •• Alpha Centauri, the nearest star to our solar system, is 4.3 light years away. Assume that Alpha Centauri has a planet with an advanced civilization. Professor Dhg, at the planet's Astronomical Institute, wants to build a telescope with which he can find out whether any planets are orbiting our sun.

**a.** What is the minimum diameter for an objective lens that will just barely resolve Jupiter and the sun? The radius of Jupiter's orbit is 780 million km. Assume $\lambda = 600\,\text{nm}$.

**b.** Building a telescope of the necessary size does not appear to be a major problem. What practical difficulties might prevent Professor Dhg's experiment from succeeding?

## Challenge Problems

**48.** ••• Your task in physics laboratory is to make a microscope from two lenses. One lens has a focal length of 2.0 cm, the other 1.0 cm. You plan to use the more powerful lens as the objective, and you want the eyepiece to be 16 cm from the objective.

**a.** For viewing with a relaxed eye, how far should the sample be from the objective lens?

**b.** What is the magnification of your microscope?

**49.** ••• The lens shown in Figure CP35.49 is called an *achromatic doublet,* meaning that it has no chromatic aberration. The left side is flat, and all other surfaces have radii of curvature $R$.

**Figure CP35.49**

**a.** For parallel light rays coming from the left, show that the effective focal length of this two-lens system is $f = R/(2n_2 - n_1 - 1)$, where $n_1$ and $n_2$ are, respectively, the indices of refraction of the diverging and the converging lenses. Don't forget to make the thin-lens approximation.

**b.** Because of dispersion, either lens alone would focus red rays and blue rays at different points. Define $\Delta n_1$ and $\Delta n_2$ as $n_{\text{blue}} - n_{\text{red}}$ for the two lenses. What value of the ratio $\Delta n_1/\Delta n_2$ makes $f_{\text{blue}} = f_{\text{red}}$ for the two-lens system? That is, the two-lens system does *not* exhibit chromatic aberration.

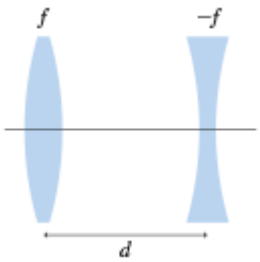
**c.** Indices of refraction for two types of glass are given in the table. To make an achromatic doublet, which glass should you use for the converging lens and which for the diverging lens? Explain.

| | $n_{\text{blue}}$ | $n_{\text{red}}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Crown glass | 1.525 | 1.517 |
| Flint glass | 1.632 | 1.616 |

**d.** What value of $R$ gives a focal length of 10.0 cm?

**50.** ••• Figure CP35.50 shows a simple zoom lens in which the magnitudes of both focal lengths are $f$. If the spacing $d < f$, the image of the converging lens falls on the right side of the diverging lens. Our procedure of letting the image of the first lens act as the object of the second lens will continue to work in this case if we use a *negative* object distance for the second lens. This is called a *virtual object.* Consider an object very far to the left ($s \approx \infty$) of the converging lens. Define the effective focal length as the distance from the midpoint between the lenses to the final image.

**Figure CP35.50**




**a.** Show that the effective focal length is

$$f_{\text{eff}} = \frac{f^2 - fd + \frac{1}{2}d^2}{d}$$

**b.** What is the zoom for a lens that can be adjusted from $d = \frac{1}{2}f$ to $d = \frac{1}{4}f$?

# Knowledge Structure Part VII: Optics



## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part VII?

Part VII has looked at two models of light: light waves and light rays.

- **Light waves**
  - Are electromagnetic waves.
  - Spread out after passing through openings.
  - Exhibit interference.

  A third model of light, the photon model, will be introduced in Part VIII.
- **Light rays**
  - Travel in straight lines.
  - Do not interact.
  - Form images.

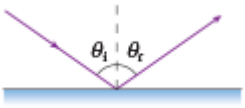
## Laws: What laws of physics govern optics?

**Superposition/interference**

Constructive interference occurs where crests overlap crests, destructive interference where crests overlap troughs.

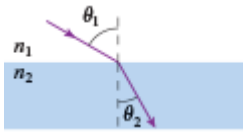
**Law of reflection**

$\theta_\text{r} = \theta_\text{i}$




**Law of refraction (Snell's law)**

$$n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$$



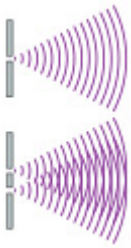

**Rayleigh's criterion**

Two objects can be resolved by a lens of diameter $D$ if their angular separation exceeds $1.22\lambda / D$.

# Models: What are the most important models of Part VII?

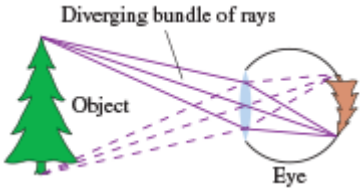
## Wave model

- Light is an electromagnetic wave.
  - Light travels through vacuum at speed $c$.
  - Wavelength and frequency are related by $\lambda f = c$.
- Light exhibits **diffraction** and **interference.**
  - Light spreads out after passing through an opening.
  - Equal-wavelength light waves interfere. Interference depends on the path-length difference.
- The wave model is usually appropriate for openings smaller than about 1 mm.



## Ray model

- Light rays travel in straight lines.
  - The speed is $v = c/n$, where $n$ is the index of refraction.
- Light rays travel forever unless they interact with matter.
  - **Reflection** and **refraction**
  - Scattering and absorption
- An object is a source of rays.
  - Rays originate at every point.
- The eye sees by focusing a diverging bundle of rays.
- The ray model is usually appropriate for openings larger than about 1 mm.




# Tools: What are the most important tools introduced in Part VII?

## Diffraction

- Dark fringes in a single-slit diffraction pattern are at $\theta_p = p\lambda \, / \, a, p = 1, 2, \ldots$

Slit width $a$

- The **central maximum** of the diffraction has width $w = 2\lambda L / a$.
- A circular hole has a central maximum of width $w = 2.44\lambda L / D$.

## Double-slit interference

- Bright equally spaced fringes are located at

  $y_m = mL\lambda / d \qquad m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$

Slit spacing $d$

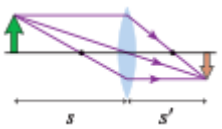
## Diffraction gratings

- Very narrow bright fringes are at

  $d \sin\theta_m = m\lambda \qquad y_m = L \tan\theta_m$

## Ray tracing

- For lenses and mirrors, three special rays locate the image.



    - Parallel to the axis
    - Through the focal point
    - Through the center

## Images

- If rays converge at P', then P' is a **real image** and $s$' is positive.
- If rays diverge from P', then P' is a **virtual image** and $s$' is negative.

## Thin lenses and mirrors

- The thin-lens and thin-mirror equation for focal length $f$ is

$$\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s'} = \frac{1}{f}$$

- Lateral magnification is $m = -s'/s$.

## Optical instruments

- With multiple lenses, the image of one lens is the object for the next.

## Vision

- **Hyperopia** occurs when the eye's near point is too far away. It is corrected with a converging lens.
- **Myopia** occurs when the eye's far point is too close. It is corrected with a diverging lens.

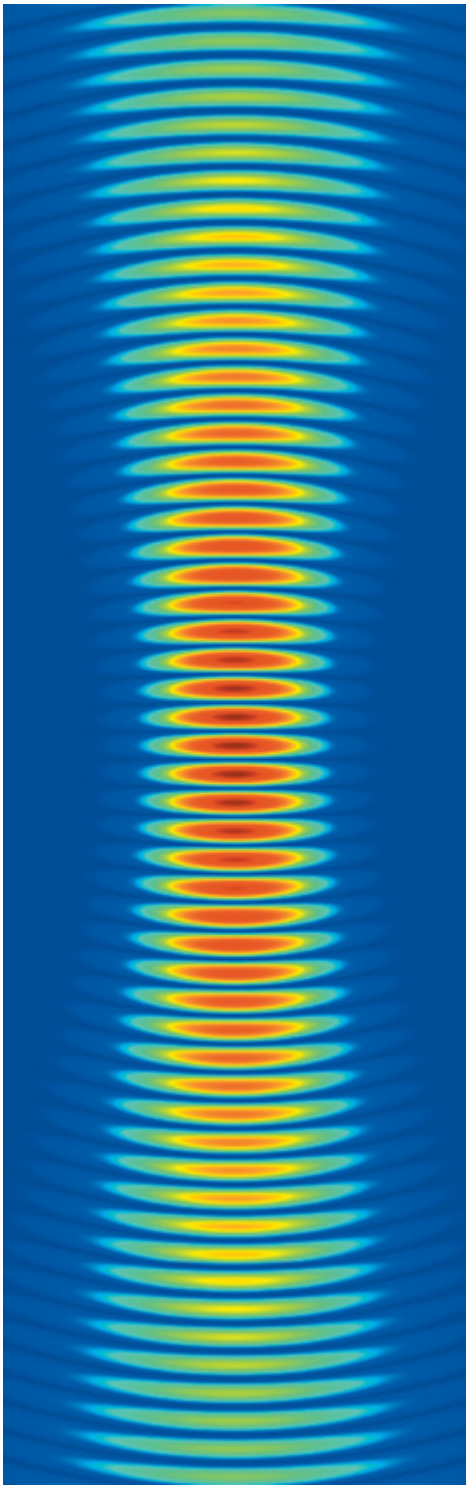
## Resolution

- Diffraction limits optical instruments.
    - The smallest spot to which light can be focused is $w_{\text{min}} = 2.44\lambda f \,/\, D$.

- Two objects can be resolved if their angular separation exceeds $1.22\lambda / D$.

# Part VIII: Relativity and Quantum Physics





This plot shows the instantaneous intensity of a focused laser beam.

# Overview

## Contemporary Physics

Our journey into physics is nearing its end. We began roughly 350 years ago with Newton's discovery of the laws of motion. Parts VI and VII have brought us to the end of the 19th century, just over 100 years ago. Along the way you've learned about the motion of particles, the conservation of energy, the physics of waves, and the electromagnetic interactions that hold atoms together and generate light waves. We begin the last phase of our journey with confidence.

Newton's mechanics and Maxwell's electromagnetism were the twin pillars of science at the end of the 19th century and remain the basis for much of engineering and applied science in the 21st century. Despite the successes of these theories, a series of discoveries starting around 1900 and continuing into the first few decades of the 20th century profoundly altered our understanding of the universe at the most fundamental level.

- Einstein's theory of relativity forced scientists to completely revise their concepts of space and time. Our exploration of these fascinating ideas will end with perhaps the most famous equation in physics: Einstein's $E = mc^2$.
- Experimenters found that the classical distinction between *particles* and *waves* breaks down at the atomic level. Light sometimes acts like a particle, while electrons and even entire atoms sometimes act like waves. We will need a new theory of light and matter—quantum physics—to explain these phenomena.

These two theories form the basis for physics—and, increasingly, engineering—as it is practiced today.

The complete theory of quantum physics, as it was developed in the 1920s, describes atomic particles in terms of an entirely new concept called a *wave function*. One of our most important tasks in Part VIII will be to learn what a wave function is, what laws govern its behavior, and how to relate wave functions to experimental measurements. We will concentrate on one-dimensional models that, while not perfect, will be adequate for understanding the essential features of scanning tunneling microscopes, various semiconductor devices, radioactive decay, and other applications.

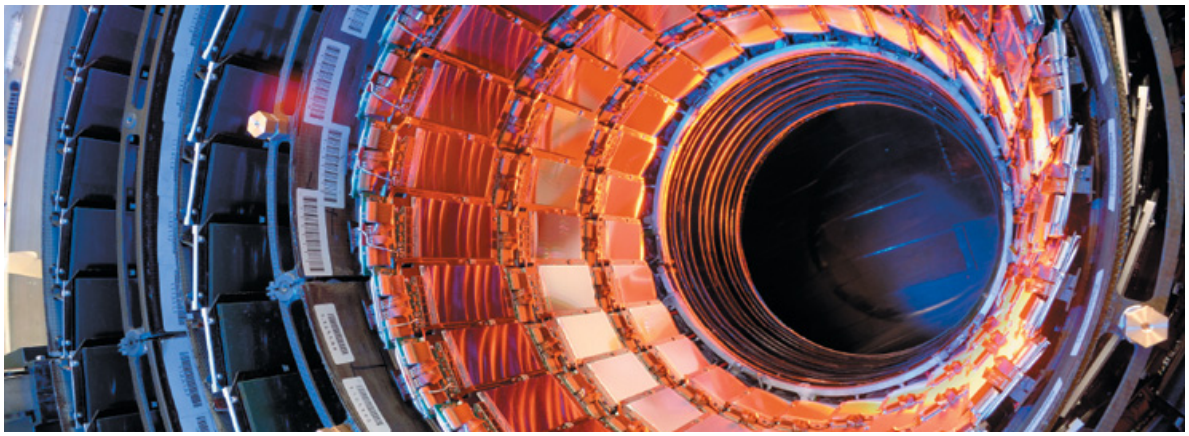
We'll complete our study of quantum physics with an introduction to atomic and nuclear physics. You will learn where the electron-shell model of chemistry comes from, how atoms emit and absorb light, what's inside the nucleus, and why some nuclei undergo radioactive decay.

The quantum world with its wave functions and probabilities can seem strange and mysterious, yet quantum physics gives the most definitive and accurate predictions of any physical theory ever devised. The contemporary perspective of quantum physics will be a fitting end to our journey.

> **Note**
>
> This edition of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* contains only Chapter 36, Relativity. The complete Part VIII may be found either in the hardbound *Physics for Scientists and Engineers with Modern Physics* or in the softbound *Volume 3: Relativity and Quantum Physics*.

# Chapter 36
# Relativity





The Compact Muon Solenoid detector at the Large Hadron Collider, where protons are accelerated to 99.999999% of the speed of light.

**In This Chapter**

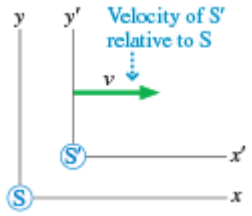
you will learn how relativity changes our concepts of space and time.

## What is an inertial reference frame?

Inertial reference frames are reference frames that move relative to each other with constant velocity.

- You'll learn to work with the positions and times of events.
- All the clocks in an inertial reference frame are synchronized.

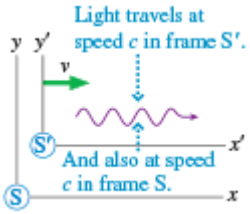
Looking Back Section 4.3 Relative motion




## What is relativity about?

Einstein's theory of relativity is based on a simple-sounding principle: The laws of physics are the same in all inertial reference frames. This leads to these conclusions:

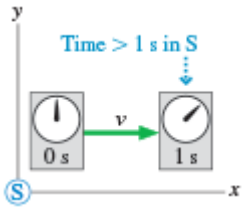
- Light travels at the same speed *c* in all inertial reference frames.
- No object or information can travel faster than the speed of light.




## How does relativity affect time?

Time is relative. Two reference frames moving relative to each other measure different time intervals between two events.

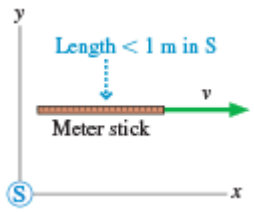
- Time dilation is the idea that moving clocks run slower than clocks at rest.
- We'll examine the famous twin paradox.



## How does relativity affect space?

Distances are also relative. Two reference frames moving relative to each other find different distances between two events.

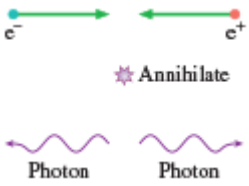
- Length contraction is the idea that the length of an object is less when the object is moving than when it is at rest.




## How does relativity affect mass and energy?

Einstein's most famous equation, $E = mc^2$, says that mass can be transformed into energy, and energy into mass, as long as the total energy is conserved.

- Nuclear fission converts mass into energy.
- Collisions between high-speed particles create new particles from energy.



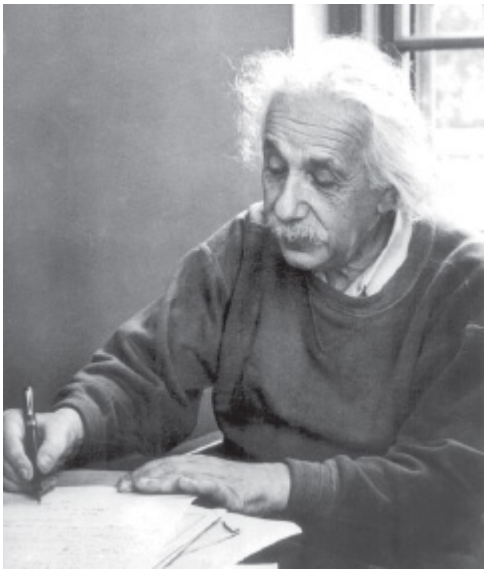

## Does relativity have applications?

Abstract though it may seem, relativity is important in technologies such as medical PET scans (positron-emission tomography) and nuclear energy. And the global GPS system, a technology we use every day, functions only when the signals

from precision clocks in orbiting satellites are corrected for relativistic time dilation.

# 36.1 Relativity: What's It All About?

What do you think of when you hear the phrase "theory of relativity"? A white-haired Einstein? $E = mc^2$? Black holes? Time travel? Perhaps you've heard that the theory of relativity is so complicated and abstract that only a handful of people in the whole world really understand it.



Albert Einstein (1879–1955) was one of the most influential thinkers in history.

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There is, without doubt, a certain mystique associated with relativity, an aura of the strange and exotic. The good news is that understanding the ideas of relativity is well within your grasp. Einstein's *special theory of relativity*, the portion of relativity we'll study, is not mathematically difficult at all. The challenge is conceptual because relativity questions deeply held assumptions about the nature of space and time. In fact, that's what relativity is all about—space and time.

## What's Special About Special Relativity?

Einstein's first paper on relativity, in 1905, dealt exclusively with inertial reference frames, reference frames that move relative to each other with constant velocity. Ten years later, Einstein published a more encompassing theory of relativity that considered accelerated motion and its connection to gravity. The second theory, because it's more general in scope, is called *general relativity*. General relativity is the theory that describes black holes, curved spacetime, and the evolution of the universe. It is a fascinating theory but, alas, very mathematical and outside the scope of this textbook.

Motion at constant velocity is a "special case" of motion—namely, motion for which the acceleration is zero. Hence Einstein's first theory of relativity has come to be known as **special relativity.** It is special in the sense of being a restricted, special case of his more general theory, not special in the everyday sense meaning distinctive or exceptional. Special relativity, with its conclusions about time dilation and length contraction, is what we will study.

# 36.2 Galilean Relativity 1024

Relativity is the process of relating measurements in one reference frame to those in a different reference frame moving *relative to* the first. To appreciate and understand what is new in Einstein's theory, we need a firm grasp of the ideas of relativity that are embodied in Newtonian mechanics. Thus we begin with *Galilean relativity*.

## Reference Frames

Suppose you're passing me as we both drive in the same direction along a freeway. My car's speedometer reads 55 mph while your speedometer shows 60 mph. Is 60 mph your "true" speed? That is certainly your speed relative to someone standing beside the road, but your speed relative to me is only 5 mph. Your speed is 120 mph relative to a driver approaching from the other direction at 60 mph.

An object does not have a "true" speed or velocity. The very definition of velocity, $v = \Delta x/\Delta t$, assumes the existence of a coordinate system in which, during some time interval $\Delta t$, the displacement $\Delta x$ is measured. The best we can manage is to specify an object's velocity relative to, or with respect to, the coordinate system in which it is measured.

Let's define a **reference frame** to be a coordinate system in which experimenters equipped with meter sticks, stopwatches, and any other needed equipment make position and time measurements on moving objects. Three ideas are implicit in our definition of a reference frame:

- A reference frame extends infinitely far in all directions.

- The experimenters are at rest in the reference frame.
- The number of experimenters and the quality of their equipment are sufficient to measure positions and velocities to any level of accuracy needed.

The first two ideas are especially important. It is often convenient to say "the laboratory reference frame" or "the reference frame of the rocket." These are shorthand expressions for "a reference frame, infinite in all directions, in which the laboratory (or the rocket) and a set of experimenters happen to be at rest."

> **Note**
>
> A reference frame is not the same thing as a "point of view." That is, each person or each experimenter does not have his or her own private reference frame. **All experimenters at rest relative to each other share the same reference frame**.

Figure 36.1 shows two reference frames called S and S′. The coordinate axes in S are $x$, $y$, $z$ and those in S′ are $x'$, $y'$, $z'$. Reference frame S′ moves with velocity $v$ relative to S or, equivalently, S moves with velocity $-v$ relative to S′. There's no implication that either reference frame is "at rest." Notice that the zero of time, when experimenters start their stopwatches, is the instant that the origins of S and S′ coincide.

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**Figure 36.1**

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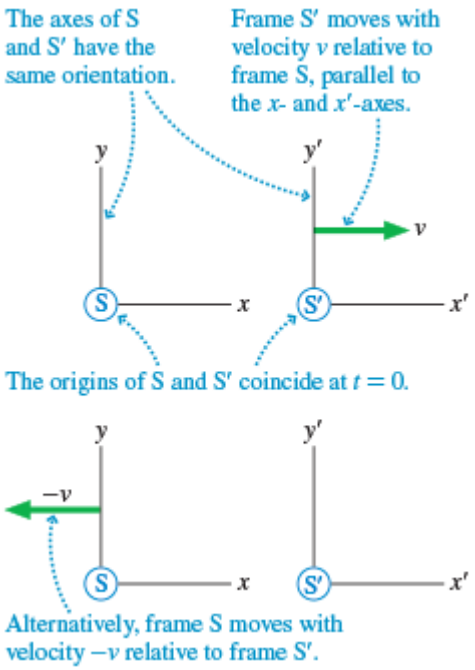



The standard reference frames S and S′.

We will restrict our attention to *inertial reference frames,* implying that the relative velocity $v$ is constant. You should recall from Chapter 5 that an **inertial reference frame** is a reference frame in which Newton's first law, the law of inertia, is valid. In particular, an inertial reference frame is one in which an isolated particle, one on which there are no forces, either remains at rest or moves in a straight line at constant speed.

Any reference frame moving at constant velocity with respect to an inertial reference frame is itself an inertial reference frame. Conversely, a reference frame accelerating with respect to an inertial reference frame is *not* an inertial reference frame. Our restriction to reference frames moving with respect to each other at constant velocity—with no acceleration—is the "special" part of special relativity.

> **Note**
>
> An inertial reference frame is an idealization. A true inertial reference frame would need to be floating in deep space, far from any gravitational influence. In practice, an earthbound

laboratory is a good approximation of an inertial reference frame because the accelerations associated with the earth's rotation and motion around the sun are too small to influence most experiments.

### Stop to Think 36.1

Which of these is an inertial reference frame (or a very good approximation)?

**a.** Your bedroom
**b.** A car rolling down a steep hill
**c.** A train coasting along a level track
**d.** A rocket being launched
**e.** A roller coaster going over the top of a hill
**f.** A sky diver falling at terminal speed

## The Galilean Transformations

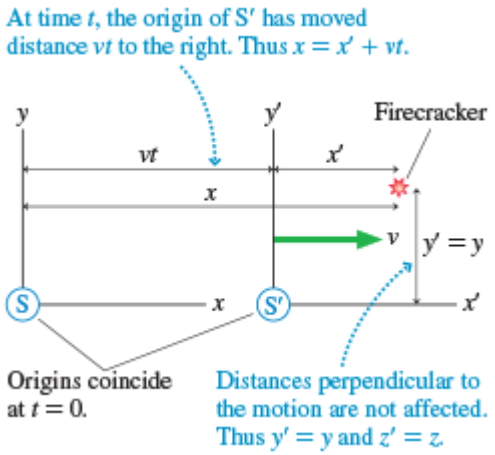
Suppose a firecracker explodes at time $t$. The experimenters in reference frame S determine that the explosion happened at position $x$. Similarly, the experimenters in S′ find that the firecracker exploded at $x'$ in their reference frame. What is the relationship between $x$ and $x'$?

Figure 36.2 shows the explosion and the two reference frames. You can see from the figure that $x = x' + vt$, thus

(36.1)

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x' + vt \\ y &= y' \\ z &= z' \end{aligned} \qquad \text{or} \qquad \begin{aligned} x' &= x - vt \\ y' &= y \\ z' &= z \end{aligned}$$

## Figure 36.2

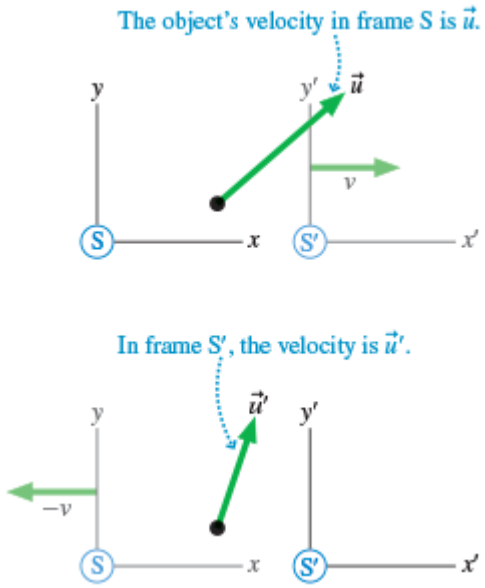



The position of an exploding firecracker is measured in reference frames S and S′.

These are the *Galilean transformations of position*. If you know a position measured by the experimenters in one inertial reference frame, you can calculate the position that would be measured by experimenters in any other inertial reference frame.

Suppose the experimenters in both reference frames now track the motion of the object in Figure 36.3 by measuring its position at many instants of time. The experimenters in S find that the object's velocity is $\vec{u}$. During the *same time interval* $\Delta t$, the experimenters in S′ measure the velocity to be $\vec{u}'$.

## Figure 36.3




The velocity of a moving object is measured in reference frames S and S′.

---

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we will use *v* to represent the velocity of one reference frame relative to another. We will use $\overrightarrow{u}$ and $\overrightarrow{u}'$ to represent the velocities of objects with respect to reference frames S and S′.

We can find the relationship between $\overrightarrow{u}$ and $\overrightarrow{u}'$ by taking the time derivatives of Equations 36.1 and using the definition $u_x = dx/dt$:

$$u_x = \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dx'}{dt} + v = u'_x + v$$
$$u_y = \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy'}{dt} = u'_y$$

The equation for $u_z$ is similar. The net result is

**(36.2)**

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= u'_x + v \\ u_y &= u'_y \\ u_z &= u'_z \end{aligned} \qquad \text{or} \qquad \begin{aligned} u'_x &= u_x - v \\ u'_y &= u_y \\ u'_z &= u_z \end{aligned}$$

Equations 36.2 are the *Galilean transformations of velocity*. If you know the velocity of a particle in one inertial reference frame, you can find the velocity that would be measured by experimenters in any other inertial reference frame.

> **Note**
>
> In Section 4.3 you learned the Galilean transformation of velocity as $\vec{v}_{\text{CB}} = \vec{v}_{\text{CA}} + \vec{v}_{\text{AB}}$, where $\vec{v}_{\text{AB}}$ means "the velocity of A relative to B." Equations 36.2 are equivalent for relative motion parallel to the *x*-axis but are written in a more formal notation that will be useful for relativity.

**Example 36.1 The speed of sound**

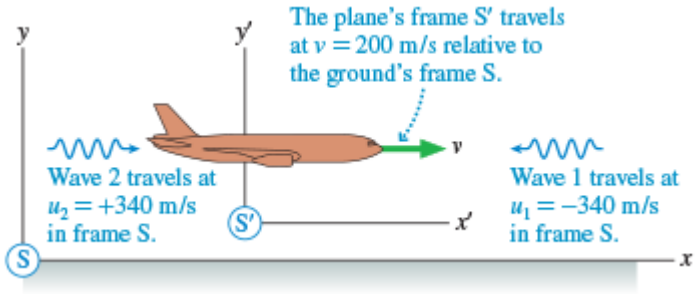
An airplane is flying at speed 200 m/s with respect to the ground. Sound wave 1 is approaching the plane from the front, sound wave 2 is catching up from behind. Both waves travel at 340 m/s relative to the ground. What is the speed of each wave relative to the plane?

**MODEL** Assume that the earth (frame S) and the airplane (frame S′) are inertial reference frames. Frame S′, in which the airplane is at rest, moves at $v = 200$ m/s relative to frame S.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 36.4 shows the airplane and the sound waves.



Figure 36.4




Experimenters in the plane measure different speeds for the waves than do experimenters on the ground.

**SOLVE** The speed of a mechanical wave, such as a sound wave or a wave on a string, is its speed *relative to its medium*. Thus the *speed of sound* is the speed of a sound wave through a reference frame in which the air is at rest. This is reference frame S, where wave 1 travels with velocity $u_1 = -340\,\text{m/s}$ and wave 2 travels with velocity $u_2 = +340\,\text{m/s}$. Notice that the Galilean transformations use *velocities*, with appropriate signs, not just speeds.

The airplane travels to the right with reference frame S′ at velocity $v$. We can use the Galilean transformations of velocity to find the velocities of the two sound waves in frame S′:

$$u_1' = u_1 - v = -340\,\text{m/s} - 200\,\text{m/s} = -540\,\text{m/s}$$
$$u_2' = u_2 - v = 340\,\text{m/s} - 200\,\text{m/s} = 140\,\text{m/s}$$

**ASSESS** This isn't surprising. If you're driving at 50 mph, a car coming the other way at 55 mph is approaching you at 105 mph. A car coming up behind you at 55 mph is gaining on you at the rate of only 5 mph. Wave speeds behave the same. Notice that a mechanical wave appears to be stationary to a person moving at the wave speed. To a surfer, the crest of the ocean wave remains at rest under his or her feet.

### Stop to Think 36.2

Ocean waves are approaching the beach at 10 m/s. A boat heading out to sea travels at 6 m/s. How fast are the waves moving in the boat's reference frame?

**a.** 16 m/s

**b.** 10 m/s

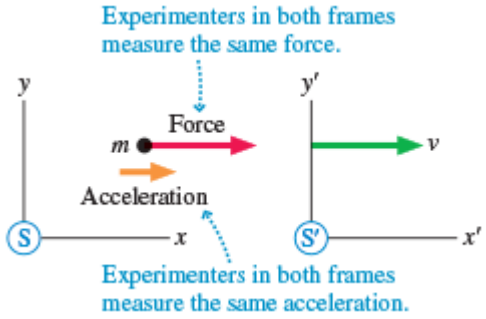
**c.** 6 m/s

**d.** 4 m/s

## The Galilean Principle of Relativity

Experimenters in reference frames S and S′ measure different values for position and velocity. What about the force on and the acceleration of the particle in Figure 36.5? The strength of a force can be measured with a spring scale. The experimenters in reference frames S and S′ both see the *same reading* on the scale (assume the scale has a bright digital display easily seen by all experimenters), so both conclude that the force is the same. That is, $F' = F$.

**Figure 36.5**



Experimenters in both reference frames test Newton's second law by measuring the force on a particle and its acceleration.

We can compare the accelerations measured in the two reference frames by taking the time derivative of the velocity transformation equation $u' = u - v$. (We'll assume, for simplicity, that the velocities and accelerations are all in the $x$-direction.) The relative velocity $v$ between the two reference frames is *constant*, with $dv/dt = 0$, thus

**(36.3)**

$$a' = \frac{du'}{dt} = \frac{du}{dt} = a$$

Experimenters in reference frames S and S′ measure different values for an object's position and velocity, but they *agree* on its acceleration.

If $F = ma$ in reference frame S, then $F' = ma'$ in reference frame S′. Stated another way, if Newton's second law is valid in one inertial reference frame, then it is valid in all inertial reference frames. Because other laws of mechanics, such as the conservation laws, follow from Newton's laws of motion, we can state this conclusion as the *Galilean principle of relativity:*

---

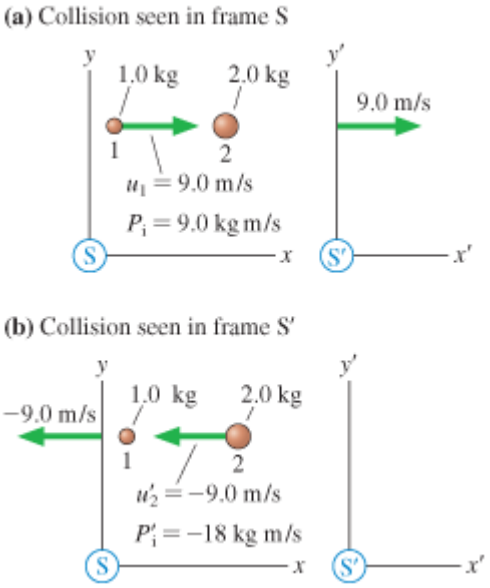
### Galilean principle of relativity

The laws of mechanics are the same in all inertial reference frames.

The Galilean principle of relativity is easy to state, but to understand it we must understand what is and is not "the same." To take a specific

example, consider the law of conservation of momentum. Figure 36.6a shows two particles about to collide. Their total momentum in frame S, where particle 2 is at rest, is $P_{\mathrm{i}} = 9.0\ \mathrm{kg\,m/s}$. This is an isolated system, hence the law of conservation of momentum tells us that the momentum after the collision will be $P_{\mathrm{f}} = 9.0\ \mathrm{kg\,m/s}$.

## Figure 36.6




Total momentum measured in two reference frames.

Figure 36.6b has used the velocity transformation to look at the same particles in frame S′ in which particle 1 is at rest. The initial momentum in S′ is $P'_{\mathrm{i}} = -18\ \mathrm{kg\,m/s}$. Thus it is not the *value* of the momentum that is the same in all inertial reference frames. Instead, the Galilean principle of relativity tells us that the *law* of momentum conservation is the same in all inertial reference frames. If $P_{\mathrm{f}} = P_{\mathrm{i}}$ in frame S, then it must be true that $P'_{\mathrm{f}} = P'_{\mathrm{i}}$ in frame S′. Consequently, we can conclude that $P'_{\mathrm{f}}$ will be –18 kg m/s after the collision in S′.

# 36.3 Einstein's Principle of Relativity

The 19th century was an era of optics and electromagnetism. Thomas Young demonstrated in 1801 that light is a wave, and by midcentury scientists had devised techniques for measuring the speed of light. Faraday discovered electromagnetic induction in 1831, setting in motion a series of events leading to Maxwell's prediction, in 1864, that light waves travel with speed

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}} = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

This is a quite specific prediction with no wiggle room. But in what reference frame is this the speed of light? And, if light travels with speed c in some inertial reference frame S, then surely, as Figure 36.7 shows, the light speed must be more or less than $c$ in a reference frame S′ that moves with respect to S. There could even be reference frames in which light is frozen and doesn't move at all!

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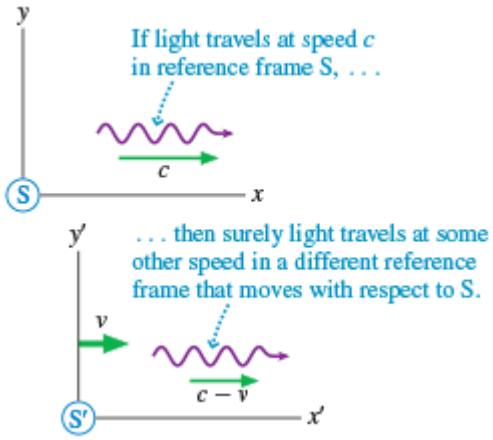
**Figure 36.7**



It seems as if the speed of light should differ from $c$ in a reference frame moving through the ether.

It was in this muddled state of affairs that a young Albert Einstein made his mark on the world. Even as a teenager, Einstein had wondered how a light wave would look to someone "surfing" the wave, traveling alongside the wave at the wave speed. You can do that with a water wave or a sound wave, but light waves seemed to present a logical difficulty. An electromagnetic wave sustains itself by virtue of the fact that a changing magnetic field induces an electric field and a changing electric field induces a magnetic field. But to someone moving with the wave, *the fields would not change*. How could there be an electromagnetic wave under these circumstances?

Several years of thinking about the connection between electromagnetism and reference frames led Einstein to the conclusion that *all* the laws of physics, not just the laws of mechanics, should obey the principle of relativity. In other words, the principle of relativity is a fundamental statement about the nature of the physical universe. Thus we can remove the restriction in the Galilean principle of relativity and state a much more general principle:

### Principle of relativity

All the laws of physics are the same in all inertial reference frames.

All the results of Einstein's theory of relativity flow from this one simple statement.

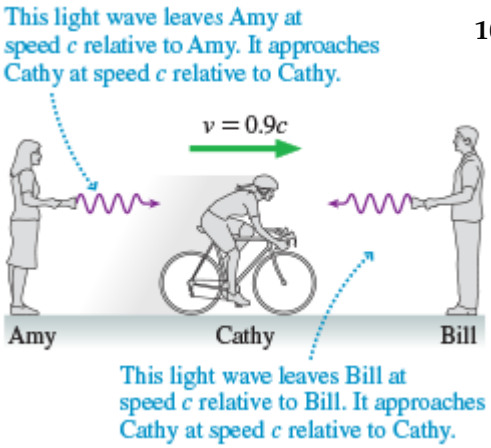
# The Constancy of the Speed of Light

If Maxwell's equations of electromagnetism are laws of physics, and there's every reason to think they are, then, according to the principle of relativity, Maxwell's equations must be true in *every* inertial reference frame. On the surface this seems to be an innocuous statement, equivalent to saying that the law of conservation of momentum is true in every inertial reference frame. But follow the logic:

1. Maxwell's equations are true in all inertial reference frames.
2. Maxwell's equations predict that electromagnetic waves, including light, travel at speed $c = 3.00 \times 10^8\ \mathrm{m/s}$.
3. Therefore, **light travels at speed *c* in all inertial reference frames.**

Figure 36.8 shows the implications of this conclusion. *All* experimenters, regardless of how they move with respect to each other, find that *all* light waves, regardless of the source, travel in their reference frame with the *same* speed $c$. If Cathy's velocity toward Bill and away from Amy is $v = 0.9c$, Cathy finds, by making measurements in her reference frame, that the light from Bill approaches her at speed $c$, not at $c + v = 1.9c$. And the light from Amy, which left Amy at speed $c$, catches up from behind at speed $c$ *relative to Cathy*, not the $c - v = 0.1c$ you would have expected.

**Figure 36.8**




Light travels at speed $c$ in all inertial reference frames, regardless of how the reference frames are moving with respect to the light source.

---

Although this prediction goes against all shreds of common sense, the experimental evidence for it is strong. Laboratory experiments are difficult because even the highest laboratory speed is insignificant in comparison to $c$. In the 1930s, however, physicists R. J. Kennedy and E. M. Thorndike realized that they could use the earth itself as a laboratory. The earth's speed as it circles the sun is about 30,000 m/s. The *relative* velocity of the earth in January differs by 60,000 m/s from its velocity in July, when the earth is moving in the opposite direction. Kennedy and Thorndike were able to use a very sensitive and stable interferometer to show that the numerical values of the speed of light in January and July differ by less than 2 m/s.

More recent experiments have used unstable elementary particles, called $\pi$ mesons, that decay into high-energy photons of light. The $\pi$ mesons, created in a particle accelerator, move through the laboratory at 99.975% the speed of light, or $v = 0.99975c$, as they emit photons at speed $c$ in the $\pi$ meson's reference frame. As Figure 36.9 shows, you would expect the photons to travel through the laboratory with speed $c + v = 1.99975c$. Instead, the measured speed of the photons in the laboratory was, within experimental error, $3.00 \times 10^8$ m/s.

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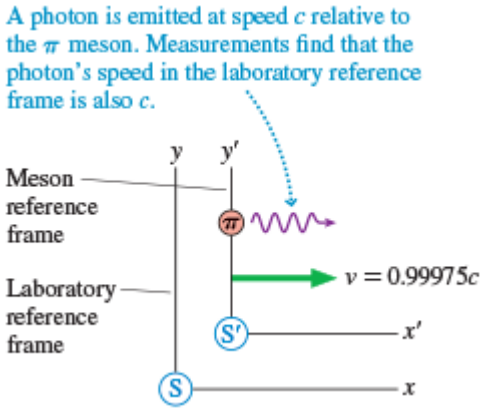
**Figure 36.9**




Experiments find that the photons travel through the laboratory with speed $c$, not the speed $1.99975c$ that you might expect.

In summary, *every* experiment designed to compare the speed of light in different reference frames has found that light travels at $3.00 \times 10^8$ m/s in every inertial reference frame, regardless of how the reference frames are moving with respect to each other.

## How Can This Be?

You're in good company if you find this impossible to believe. Suppose I shot a ball forward at 50 m/s while driving past you at 30 m/s. You would certainly see the ball traveling at 80 m/s relative to you and the ground. What we're saying with regard to light is equivalent to saying that the ball travels at 50 m/s relative to my car and *at the same time* travels at 50 m/s relative to the ground, even though the car is moving across the ground at 30 m/s. It seems logically impossible.

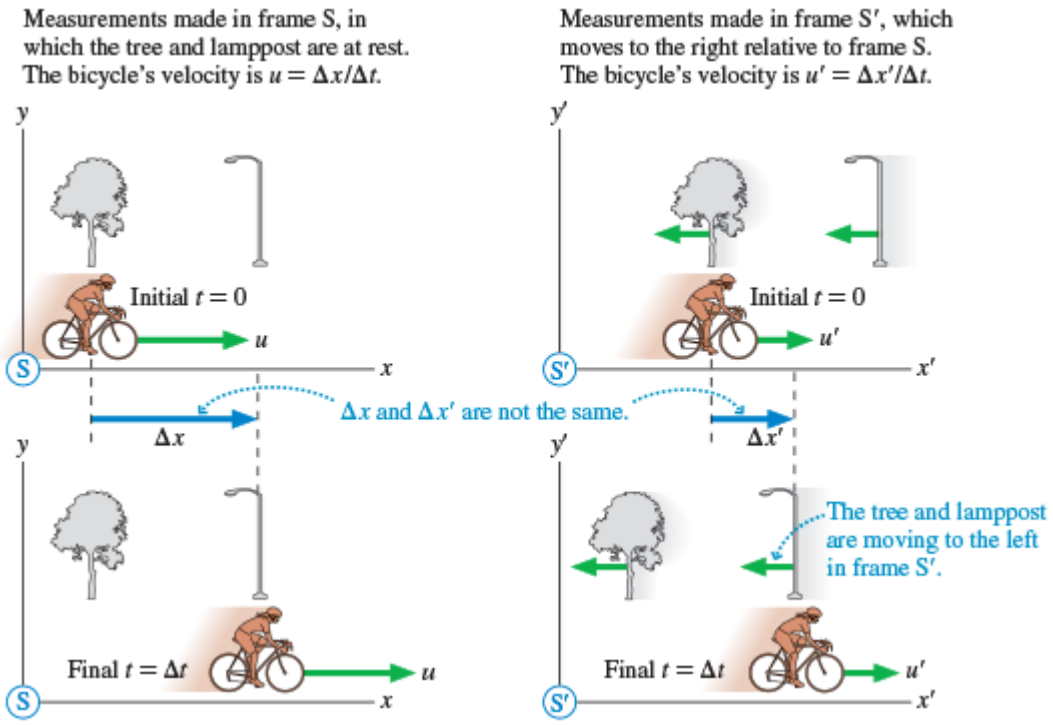
You might think that this is merely a matter of semantics. If we can just get our definitions and use of words straight, then the mystery and confusion will disappear. Or perhaps the difficulty is a confusion between what we "see" versus what "really happens." In other words, a better

analysis, one that focuses on what really happens, would find that light "really" travels at different speeds in different reference frames.

Alas, what "really happens" is that light travels at $3.00 \times 10^8\ \mathrm{m/s}$ in every inertial reference frame, regardless of how the reference frames are moving with respect to each other. It's not a trick. There remains only one way to escape the logical contradictions.

The definition of velocity is $u = \Delta x/\Delta t$, the ratio of a distance traveled to the time interval in which the travel occurs. Suppose you and I both make measurements on an object as it moves, but you happen to be moving relative to me. Perhaps I'm standing on the corner, you're driving past in your car, and we're both trying to measure the velocity of a bicycle. Further, suppose we have agreed in advance to measure the position of the bicycle first as it passes the tree in Figure 36.10, then later as it passes the lamppost. Your $\Delta x'$, the bicycle's displacement, differs from my $\Delta x$ because of your motion relative to me, causing you to calculate a bicycle velocity $u'$ in your reference frame that differs from its velocity $u$ in my reference frame. This is just the Galilean transformations showing up again.

## Figure 36.10




Measuring the velocity of an object by appealing to the basic definition $u = \Delta x/\Delta t$.

Now let's repeat the measurements, but this time let's measure the velocity of a light wave as it travels from the tree to the lamppost. Once again, your $\Delta x'$ differs from my $\Delta x$, and the obvious conclusion is that your light speed $u'$ differs from my light speed $u$. The difference will be very small if you're driving past in your car, very large if you're flying past in a rocket traveling at nearly the speed of light. Although this conclusion seems obvious, it is wrong. Experiments show that, for a light wave, we'll get the *same* values: $u' = u$.

The only way this can be true is if your $\Delta t$ is not the same as my $\Delta t$. If the time it takes the light to move from the tree to the lamppost in your reference frame, a time we'll now call $\Delta t'$, differs from the time $\Delta t$ it takes the light to move from the tree to the lamppost in my reference frame, then we might find that $\Delta x'/\Delta t' = \Delta x/\Delta t$. That is, $u' = u$ even though you are moving with respect to me.

We've assumed, since the beginning of this textbook, that time is simply time. It flows along like a river, and all experimenters in all reference frames simply use it. For example, suppose the tree and the lamppost both have big clocks that we both can see. Shouldn't we be able to agree on the time interval $\Delta t$ the light needs to move from the tree to the lamppost?

Perhaps not. It's demonstrably true that $\Delta x' \neq \Delta x$. It's experimentally verified that $u' = u$ for light waves. Something must be wrong with *assumptions* that we've made about the nature of time. The principle of relativity has painted us into a corner, and our only way out is to reexamine our understanding of time.

# 36.4 Events and Measurements



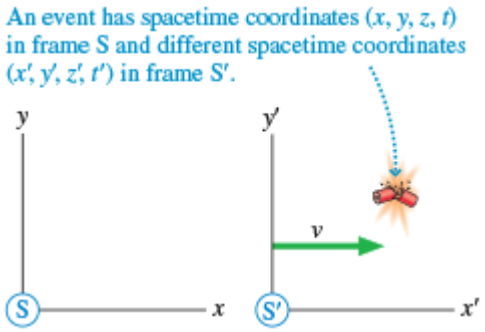
To question some of our most basic assumptions about space and time requires extreme care. We need to be certain that no assumptions slip into our analysis unnoticed. Our goal is to describe the motion of a particle in a clear and precise way, making the barest minimum of assumptions.

## Events

The fundamental element of relativity is called an **event.** An event is a physical activity that takes place at a definite point in space and at a definite instant of time. An exploding firecracker is an event. A collision between two particles is an event. A light wave hitting a detector is an event.

Events can be observed and measured by experimenters in different reference frames. An exploding firecracker is as clear to you as you drive by in your car as it is to me standing on the street corner. We can quantify where and when an event occurs with four numbers: the coordinates $(x, y, z)$ and the instant of time $t$. These four numbers, illustrated in Figure 36.11, are called the **spacetime coordinates** of the event.

**Figure 36.11**




The location and time of an event are described by its spacetime coordinates.

The spatial coordinates of an event measured in reference frames S and S′ may differ. It now appears that the instant of time recorded in S and S′ may also differ. Thus the spacetime coordinates of an event measured by experimenters in frame S are $(x, y, z, t)$ and the spacetime coordinates of the *same event* measured by experimenters in frame S′ are $(x', y', z', t')$.

The motion of a particle can be described as a sequence of two or more events. We introduced this idea in the preceding section when we agreed to measure the velocity of a bicycle and then of a light wave by making measurements when the object passed the tree (first event) and when the object passed the lamppost (second event).

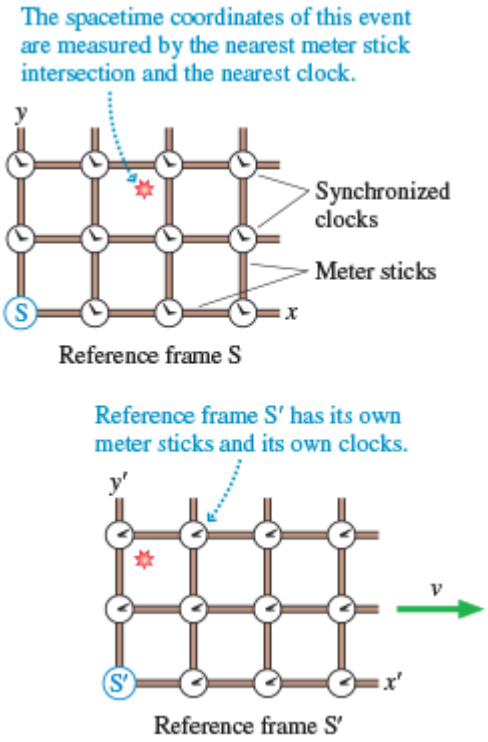
## Measurements

Events are what "really happen," but how do we learn about an event? That is, how do the experimenters in a reference frame determine the spacetime coordinates of an event? This is a problem of *measurement*.

We defined a reference frame to be a coordinate system in which experimenters can make position and time measurements. That's a good start, but now we need to be more precise as to *how* the measurements are made. Imagine that a reference frame is filled with a cubic lattice of meter sticks, as shown in Figure 36.12. At every intersection is a clock,

and all the clocks in a reference frame are *synchronized*. We'll return in a moment to consider how to synchronize the clocks, but assume for the moment it can be done.

## Figure 36.12




The spacetime coordinates of an event are measured by a lattice of meter sticks and clocks.

Now, with our meter sticks and clocks in place, we can use a two-part measurement scheme:

- The $(x, y, z)$ coordinates of an event are determined by the intersection of the meter sticks closest to the event.
- The event's time $t$ is the time displayed on the clock nearest the event.

You can imagine, if you wish, that each event is accompanied by a flash of light to illuminate the face of the nearest clock and make its reading

known.

Several important issues need to be noted:

1. The clocks and meter sticks in each reference frame are imaginary, so they have no difficulty passing through each other.
2. Measurements of position and time made in one reference frame must use only the clocks and meter sticks in that reference frame.
3. There's nothing special about the sticks being 1 m long and the clocks 1 m apart. The lattice spacing can be altered to achieve whatever level of measurement accuracy is desired.
4. We'll assume that the experimenters in each reference frame have assistants sitting beside every clock to record the position and time of nearby events.
5. Perhaps most important, $t$ is the time at which the event *actually happens*, not the time at which an experimenter sees the event or at which information about the event reaches an experimenter.
6. All experimenters in one reference frame agree on the spacetime coordinates of an event. In other words, **an event has a unique set of spacetime coordinates in each reference frame.**



## Stop to Think 36.3

A carpenter is working on a house two blocks away. You notice a slight delay between seeing the carpenter's hammer hit the nail and hearing the blow. At what time does the event "hammer hits nail" occur?

**a.** At the instant you hear the blow
**b.** At the instant you see the hammer hit

**c.** Very slightly before you see the hammer hit

**d.** Very slightly after you see the hammer hit

## Clock Synchronization

It's important that all the clocks in a reference frame be **synchronized,** meaning that all clocks in the reference frame have the same reading at any one instant of time. Thus we need a method of synchronization. One idea that comes to mind is to designate the clock at the origin as the *master clock*. We could then carry this clock around to every clock in the lattice, adjust that clock to match the master clock, and finally return the master clock to the origin.

This would be a perfectly good method of clock synchronization in Newtonian mechanics, where time flows along smoothly, the same for everyone. But we've been driven to reexamine the nature of time by the possibility that time is different in reference frames moving relative to each other. Because the master clock would *move*, we cannot assume that the moving master clock would keep time in the same way as the stationary clocks.

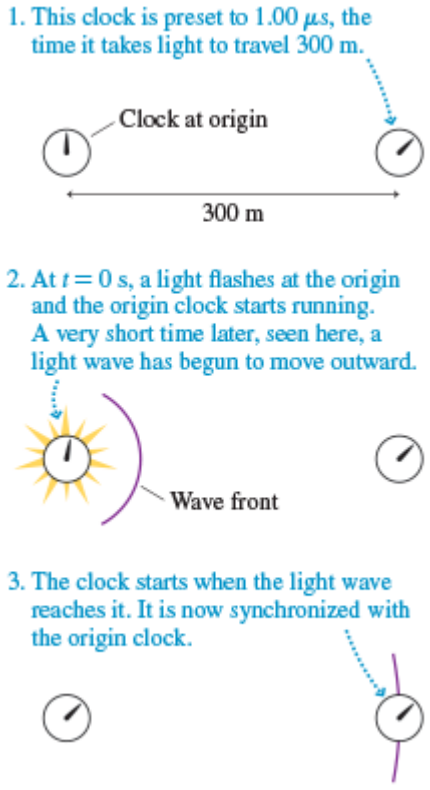
We need a synchronization method that does not require moving the clocks. Fortunately, such a method is easy to devise. Each clock is resting at the intersection of meter sticks, so by looking at the meter sticks, the assistant knows, or can calculate, exactly how far each clock is from the origin. Once the distance is known, the assistant can calculate exactly how long a light wave will take to travel from the origin to each clock. For example, light will take 1.00 $\mu$s to travel to a clock 300 m from the origin.

> **Note**
>
> It's handy for many relativity problems to know that the speed of light is $c = 300\,\text{m}/\mu\text{s}$.

To synchronize the clocks, the assistants begin by setting each clock to display the light travel time from the origin, but they don't start the clocks. Next, as Figure 36.13 shows, a light flashes at the origin and, simultaneously, the clock at the origin starts running from $t = 0$ s. The light wave spreads out in all directions at speed $c$. A photodetector on each clock recognizes the arrival of the light wave and, without delay, starts the clock. The clock had been preset with the light travel time, so each clock as it starts reads exactly the same as the clock at the origin. Thus all the clocks will be synchronized after the light wave has passed by.



## Figure 36.13




Synchronizing clocks.

# Events and Observations

We noted above that $t$ is the time the event *actually happens*. This is an important point, one that bears further discussion. Light waves take time to travel. Messages, whether they're transmitted by light pulses, telephone, or courier on horseback, take time to be delivered. An experimenter *observes* an event, such as an exploding firecracker, only *at a later time* when light waves reach his or her eyes. But our interest is in the event itself, not the experimenter's observation of the event. The time at which the experimenter sees the event or receives information about the event is not when the event actually occurred.

Suppose at $t = 0\,\text{s}$ a firecracker explodes at $x = 300\,\text{m}$. The flash of light from the firecracker will reach an experimenter at the origin at $t_1 = 1.0\,\mu\text{s}$. The sound of the explosion will reach a sightless experimenter at the origin at $t_2 = 0.88\,\text{s}$. Neither of these is the time $t_{\text{event}}$ of the explosion, although the experimenter can work backward from these times, using known wave speeds, to determine $t_{\text{event}}$. In this example, the spacetime coordinates of the event—the explosion—are (300 m, 0 m, 0 m, 0 s).

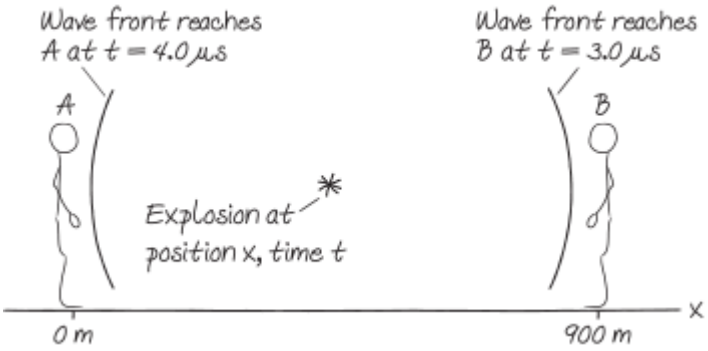
**Example 36.2 Finding the time of an event**

Experimenter A in reference frame S stands at the origin looking in the positive $x$-direction. Experimenter B stands at $x = 900\,\text{m}$ looking in the negative $x$-direction. A firecracker explodes somewhere between them. Experimenter B sees the light flash at $t = 3.0\,\mu\text{s}$. Experimenter A sees the light flash at $t = 4.0\,\mu\text{s}$. What are the spacetime coordinates of the explosion?

**MODEL** Experimenters A and B are in the same reference frame and have synchronized clocks.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 36.14 shows the two experimenters and the explosion at unknown position $x$.

## Figure 36.14




The light wave reaches the experimenters at different times. Neither of these is the time at which the event actually happened.

**SOLVE** The two experimenters observe light flashes at two different instants, but there's only one event. Light travels at 300 m/$\mu$s, so the additional 1.0 $\mu$s needed for the light to reach experimenter A implies that distance $(x - 0\,\text{m})$ is 300 m longer than distance $(900\,\text{m} - x)$. That is,

$$(x - 0\,\text{m}) = (900\,\text{m} - x) + 300\,\text{m}$$

This is easily solved to give $x = 600$ m as the position coordinate of the explosion. The light takes 1.0 $\mu$s to travel 300 m to experimenter B, 2.0 $\mu$s to travel 600 m to experimenter A. The light is received at 3.0 $\mu$s and 4.0 $\mu$s, respectively; hence it was emitted by the explosion at $t = 2.0$ $\mu$s. The spacetime coordinates of the explosion are (600 m, 0 m, 0 m, 2.0 $\mu$s).

**ASSESS** Although the experimenters *see* the explosion at different times, they agree that the explosion actually *happened* at $t = 2.0\ \mu\text{s}$.

## Simultaneity

Two events 1 and 2 that take place at different positions $x_1$ and $x_2$ but at the *same time* $t_1 = t_2$, as measured in some reference frame, are said to be **simultaneous** in that reference frame. Simultaneity is determined by when the events actually happen, not when they are seen or observed. In general, simultaneous events are *not* seen at the same time because of the difference in light travel times from the events to an experimenter.

**Example 36.3 Are the explosions simultaneous?**

An experimenter in reference frame S stands at the origin looking in the positive $x$-direction. At $t = 3.0\ \mu\text{s}$ she sees firecracker 1 explode at $x = 600\ \text{m}$. A short time later, at $t = 5.0\ \mu\text{s}$, she sees firecracker 2 explode at $x = 1200\ \text{m}$. Are the two explosions simultaneous? If not, which firecracker exploded first?

**MODEL** Light from both explosions travels toward the experimenter at 300 m/$\mu$s.

**SOLVE** The experimenter *sees* two different explosions, but perceptions of the events are not the events themselves. When did the explosions *actually* occur? Using the fact that light travels at 300 m/$\mu$s, we can see that firecracker 1 exploded at $t_1 = 1.0\ \mu\text{s}$ and firecracker 2 also exploded at $t_2 = 1.0\ \mu\text{s}$. The events *are* simultaneous.

## Stop to Think 36.4

A tree and a pole are 3000 m apart. Each is suddenly hit by a bolt of lightning. Mark, who is standing at rest midway between the two, sees the two lightning bolts at the same instant of time. Nancy is at rest under the tree. Define event 1 to be "lightning strikes tree" and event 2 to be "lightning strikes pole." For Nancy, does event 1 occur before, after, or at the same time as event 2?

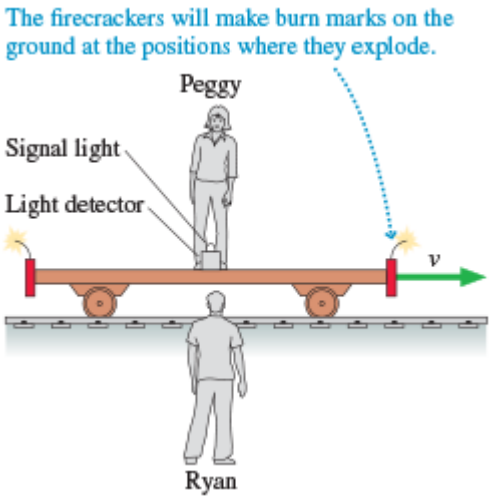
# 36.5 The Relativity of Simultaneity



We've now established a means for measuring the time of an event in a reference frame, so let's begin to investigate the nature of time. The following "thought experiment" is very similar to one suggested by Einstein.

Figure 36.15 shows a long railroad car traveling to the right with a velocity $v$ that may be an appreciable fraction of the speed of light. A firecracker is tied to each end of the car, just above the ground. Each firecracker is powerful enough so that, when it explodes, it will make a burn mark on the ground at the position of the explosion.

**Figure 36.15**




A railroad car traveling to the right with velocity $v$.

Ryan is standing on the ground, watching the railroad car go by. Peggy is standing in the exact center of the car with a special box at her feet. This box has two light detectors, one facing each way, and a signal light on top. The box works as follows:

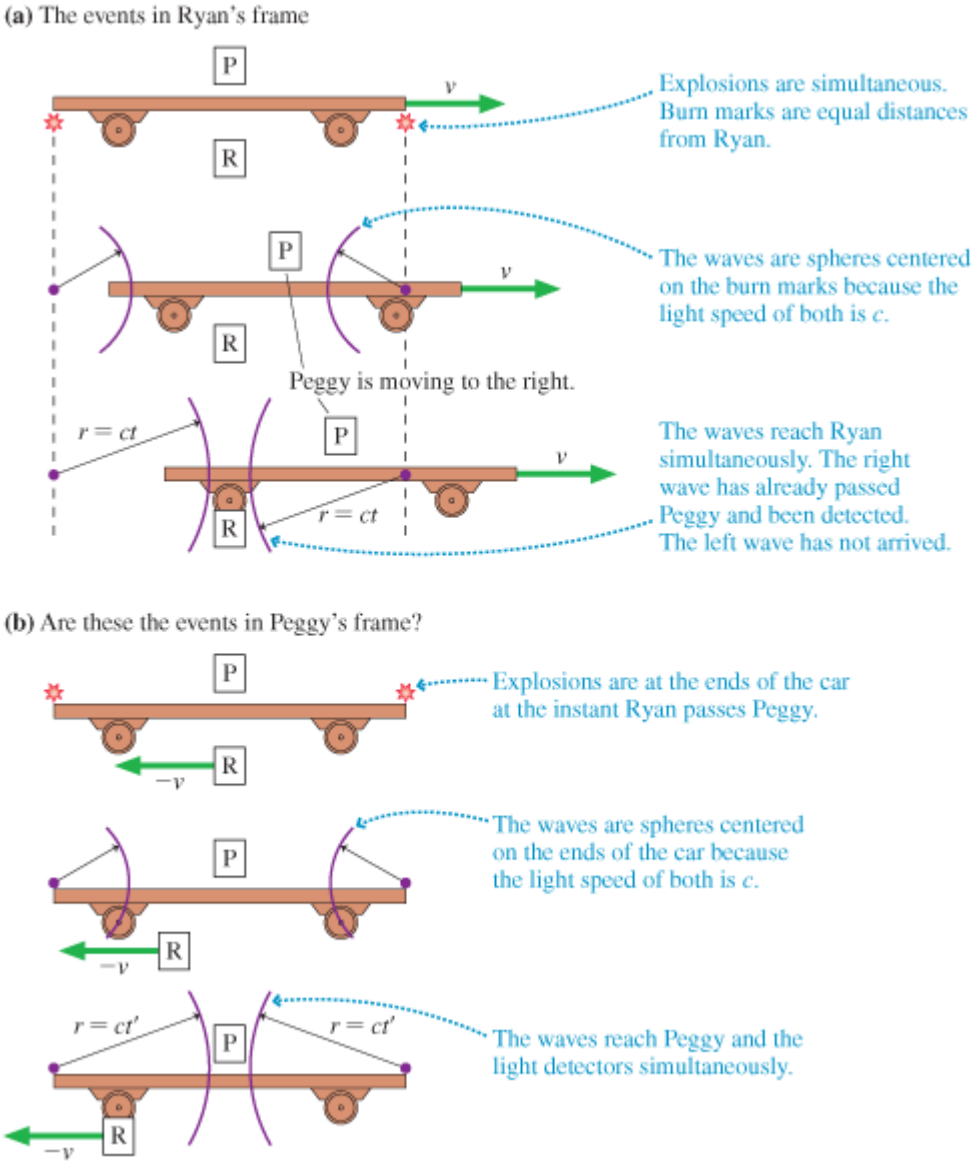
1. If a flash of light is received at the detector facing right, as seen by Ryan, before a flash is received at the left detector, then the light on top of the box will turn green.
2. If a flash of light is received at the left detector before a flash is received at the right detector, or if two flashes arrive simultaneously, the light on top will turn red.

The firecrackers explode as the railroad car passes Ryan, and he sees the two light flashes from the explosions simultaneously. He then measures the distances to the two burn marks and finds that he was standing exactly halfway between the marks. Because light travels equal distances in equal times, Ryan concludes that the two explosions were simultaneous in his reference frame, the reference frame of the ground. Further, because he was midway between the two ends of the car, he was directly opposite Peggy when the explosions occurred.



Figure 36.16a shows the sequence of events in Ryan's reference frame. Light travels at speed $c$ in all inertial reference frames, so, although the firecrackers were moving, the light waves are spheres centered on the burn marks. Ryan determines that the light wave coming from the right reaches Peggy and the box before the light wave coming from the left. Thus, according to Ryan, the signal light on top of the box turns green.

**Figure 36.16**




Exploding firecrackers seen in two different reference frames.

How do things look in Peggy's reference frame, a reference frame moving to the right at velocity $v$ relative to the ground? As Figure 36.16b shows, Peggy sees Ryan moving to the left with speed $v$. Light travels at speed $c$ in all inertial reference frames, so the light waves are spheres centered on the ends of the car. If the explosions are simultaneous, as Ryan has determined, the two light waves reach her and the box simultaneously. Thus, according to Peggy, the signal light on top of the box turns red!

Now the light on top must be either green or red. *It can't be both!* Later, after the railroad car has stopped, Ryan and Peggy can place the box in

front of them. Either it has a red light or a green light. Ryan can't see one color while Peggy sees the other. Hence we have a paradox. It's impossible for Peggy and Ryan both to be right. But who is wrong, and why?

What do we know with absolute certainty?

1. Ryan detected the flashes simultaneously.
2. Ryan was halfway between the firecrackers when they exploded.
3. The light from the two explosions traveled toward Ryan at equal speeds.

The conclusion that the explosions were simultaneous in Ryan's reference frame is unassailable. The light is green.

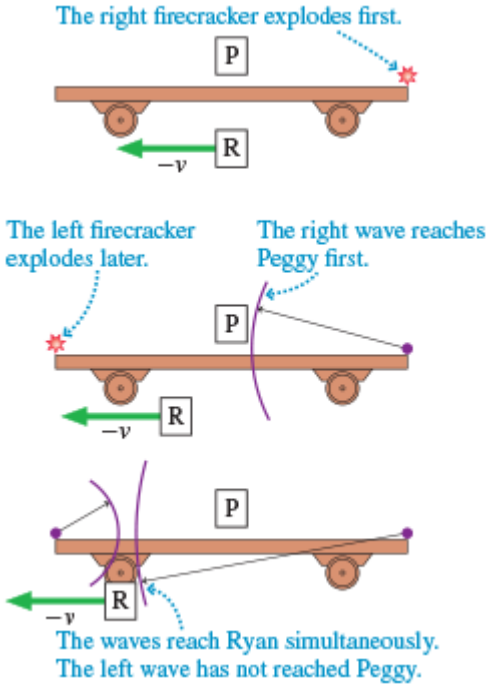
## Resolving the Paradox

Peggy, however, made an assumption. It's a perfectly ordinary assumption, one that seems sufficiently obvious that you probably didn't notice, but an assumption nonetheless. Peggy assumed that the explosions were simultaneous.

Didn't Ryan find them to be simultaneous? Indeed, he did. Suppose we call Ryan's reference frame S, the explosion on the right event R, and the explosion on the left event L. Ryan found that $t_{\mathrm{R}} = t_{\mathrm{L}}$. But Peggy has to use a different set of clocks, the clocks in her reference frame S′, to measure the times $t'_{\mathrm{R}}$ and $t'_{\mathrm{L}}$ at which the explosions occurred. The fact that $t_{\mathrm{R}} = t_{\mathrm{L}}$ in frame S does *not* allow us to conclude that $t'_{\mathrm{R}} = t'_{\mathrm{L}}$ in frame S′.

In fact, in frame S′ the right firecracker must explode *before* the left firecracker. Figure 36.16b, with its assumption about simultaneity, was incorrect. Figure 36.17 shows the situation in Peggy's reference frame, with the right firecracker exploding first. Now the wave from the right reaches Peggy and the box first, as Ryan had concluded, and the light on top turns green.

## Figure 36.17




The real sequence of events in Peggy's reference frame.

One of the most disconcerting conclusions of relativity is that **two events occurring simultaneously in reference frame S are *not* simultaneous in any reference frame S′ moving relative to S.** This is called the **relativity of simultaneity**.

The two firecrackers *really* explode at the same instant of time in Ryan's reference frame. And the right firecracker *really* explodes first in Peggy's reference frame. It's not a matter of when they see the flashes. Our conclusion refers to the times at which the explosions actually occur.

The paradox of Peggy and Ryan contains the essence of relativity, and it's worth careful thought. First, review the logic until you're certain that there *is* a paradox, a logical impossibility. Then convince yourself that the only way to resolve the paradox is to abandon the assumption that the explosions are simultaneous in Peggy's reference frame. If you understand the paradox and its resolution, you've made a big step toward understanding what relativity is all about.

### Stop to Think 36.5

A tree and a pole are 3000 m apart. Each is hit by a bolt of lightning. Mark, who is standing at rest midway between the two, sees the two lightning bolts at the same instant of time. Nancy is flying her rocket at $v = 0.5c$ in the direction from the tree toward the pole. The lightning hits the tree just as she passes by it. Define event 1 to be "lightning strikes tree" and event 2 to be "lightning strikes pole." For Nancy, does event 1 occur before, after, or at the same time as event 2?

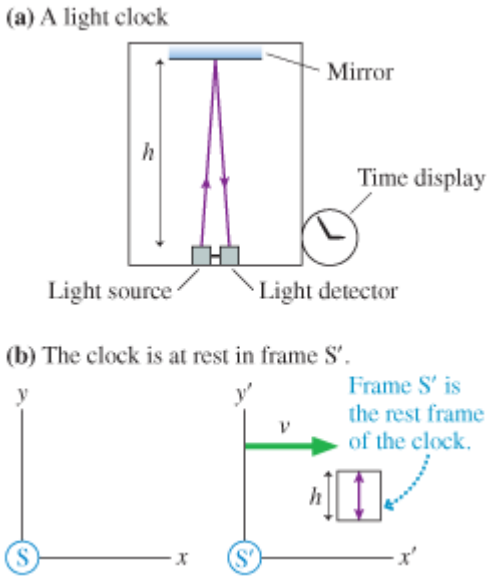
# 36.6 Time Dilation



The principle of relativity has driven us to the logical conclusion that time is not the same for two reference frames moving relative to each other. Our analysis thus far has been mostly qualitative. It's time to start developing some quantitative tools that will allow us to compare measurements in one reference frame to measurements in another reference frame.

Figure 36.18a shows a special clock called a *light clock*. The light clock is a box with a light source at the bottom and a mirror at the top, separated by distance $h$. The light source emits a very short pulse of light that travels to the mirror and reflects back to a light detector beside the source. The clock advances one "tick" each time the detector receives a light pulse, and it immediately, with no delay, causes the light source to emit the next light pulse.

## Figure 36.18



The ticking of a light clock can be measured by experimenters in two different reference frames.

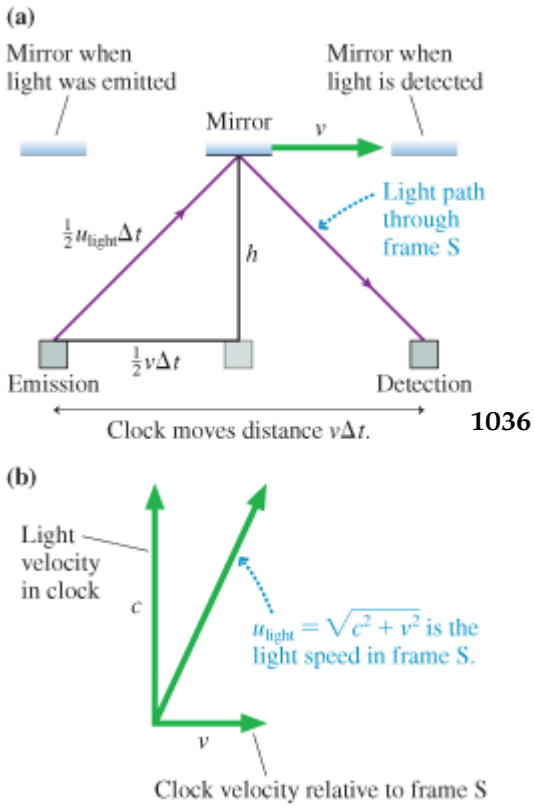
Our goal is to compare two measurements of the interval between two ticks of the clock: one taken by an experimenter standing next to the clock and the other by an experimenter moving with respect to the clock. To be specific, Figure 36.18b shows the clock at rest in reference frame S′. We call this the **rest frame** of the clock. Reference frame S′, with the clock, moves to the right with velocity $v$ relative to reference frame S.

Relativity requires us to measure *events*, so let's define event 1 to be the emission of a light pulse and event 2 to be the detection of that light pulse. Experimenters in both reference frames are able to measure where and when these events occur *in their frame*. In frame S, the time interval $\Delta t = t_2 - t_1$ is one tick of the clock. Similarly, one tick in frame S′ is $\Delta t' = t'_2 - t'_1$.

To be sure we have a clear understanding of the relativity result, let's first do a classical analysis. In frame S′, the clock's rest frame, the light travels straight up and down, a total distance $2h$, at speed $c$. The time interval is $\Delta t' = 2h/c$.

Figure 36.19a shows the operation of the light clock as seen in frame S. The clock is moving to the right at speed $v$ in S, thus the mirror moves distance $\frac{1}{2}v(\Delta t)$ during the time $\frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)$ in which the light pulse moves from the source to the mirror. The distance traveled by the light during this interval is $\frac{1}{2}u_{\text{light}}(\Delta t)$, where $u_{\text{light}}$ is the speed of light in frame S. You can see from the vector addition in Figure 36.19b that the speed of light in frame S is $u_{\text{light}} = \left(c^2 + v^2\right)^{1/2}$. (Remember, this is a classical analysis in which the speed of light *does* depend on the motion of the reference frame relative to the light source.)

## Figure 36.19






A classical analysis of the light clock.

The Pythagorean theorem applied to the right triangle in Figure 36.19a is

**(36.4)**

$$h^2 + \left(\tfrac{1}{2}v\,\Delta t\right)^2 = \left(\tfrac{1}{2}\,u_{\text{light}}\,\Delta t\right)^2 = \left(\tfrac{1}{2}\sqrt{c^2+v^2}\,\Delta t\right)^2$$
$$= \left(\tfrac{1}{2}c\,\Delta t\right)^2 + \left(\tfrac{1}{2}v\,\Delta t\right)^2$$

The term $\left(\frac{1}{2}v\,\Delta t\right)^2$ is common to both sides and cancels. Solving for $\Delta t$ gives $\Delta t = 2h/c$, identical to $\Delta t'$. In other words, a classical analysis finds that the clock ticks at exactly the same rate in both frame S and frame S′. This shouldn't be surprising. There's only one kind of time in classical physics, measured the same by all experimenters independent of their motion.

The principle of relativity changes only one thing, but that change has profound consequences. According to the principle of relativity, light travels at the same speed in *all* inertial reference frames. In frame S′, the rest frame of the clock, the light simply goes straight up and back. The time of one tick,

**(36.5)**

$$\Delta t' = \frac{2h}{c}$$

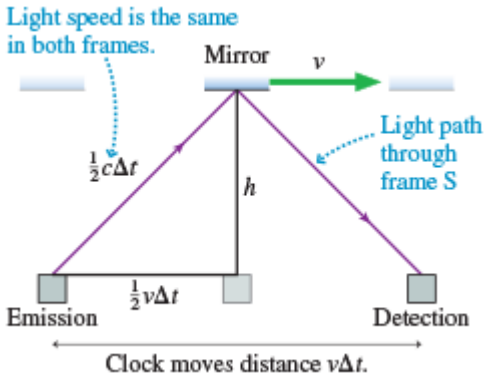
is unchanged from the classical analysis.

Figure 36.20 shows the light clock as seen in frame S. The difference from Figure 36.19a is that the light now travels along the hypotenuse at speed $c$. We can again use the Pythagorean theorem to write

**(36.6)**

$$h^2 + \left(\tfrac{1}{2}v\,\Delta t\right)^2 = \left(\tfrac{1}{2}c\,\Delta t\right)^2$$

## Figure 36.20




A light clock analysis in which the speed of light is the same in all reference frames.

Solving for $\Delta t$ gives

**(36.7)**

$$\Delta t = \frac{2h/c}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} = \frac{\Delta t'}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

The time interval between two ticks in frame S is *not* the same as in frame S′.

It's useful to define $\beta = v/c$, the velocity as a fraction of the speed of light. For example, a reference frame moving with $v = 2.4 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ has $\beta = 0.80$. In terms of $\beta$, Equation 36.7 is

**(36.8)**

$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t'}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$$



> **Note**
>
> The expression $\left(1 - v^2/c^2\right)^{1/2} = \left(1 - \beta^2\right)^{1/2}$ occurs frequently in relativity. The value of the expression is 1 when $v = 0$, and it steadily decreases to 0 as $v \to c$ (or $\beta \to 1$). The square root is an imaginary number if $v > c$, which would make Δ*t* imaginary in Equation 36.8. Time intervals certainly have to be real numbers, suggesting that $v > c$ is not physically possible. One of the predictions of the theory of relativity, as you've undoubtedly heard, is that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. Now you can begin to see why. We'll examine this topic more closely in Section 36.9. In the meantime, we'll require *v* to be less than *c*.

## Proper Time

Frame S′ has one important distinction. It is the *one and only* inertial reference frame in which the light clock is at rest. Consequently, it is the one and only inertial reference frame in which the times of both events—the emission of the light and the detection of the light—are measured by the *same* reference-frame clock. You can see that the light pulse in Figure 36.18a starts and ends at the same position. In Figure 36.20, the emission and detection take place at different positions in frame S and must be measured by different reference-frame clocks, one at each position.

The time interval between two events that occur at the *same position* is called the **proper time $\Delta\tau$**. Only one inertial reference frame measures the proper time, and it does so with *a single clock that is present at both events*. An inertial reference frame moving with velocity $v = \beta c$ relative to the proper-time frame must use two clocks to measure the time interval: one at the position of the first event, the other at the position of the second event. The time interval in the frame where two clocks are required is

---

**(36.9)**

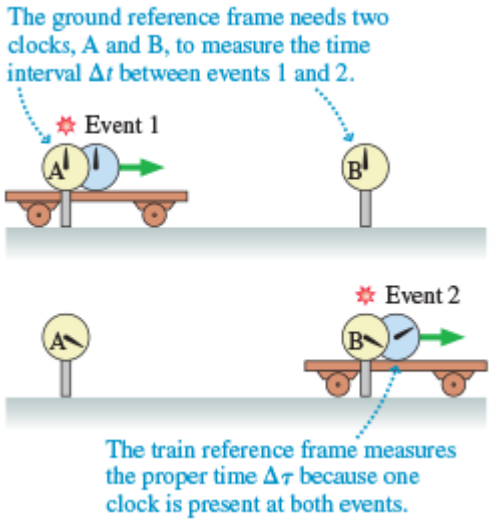
$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta\tau}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} \geq \Delta\tau \qquad \text{(time dilation)}$$

The "stretching out" of the time interval implied by Equation 36.9 is called **time dilation.** Time dilation is sometimes described by saying that "moving clocks run slow," but this statement has to be interpreted carefully. The whole point of relativity is that all inertial frames are

equally valid, so there's no absolute sense in which a clock is "moving" or "at rest."

To illustrate, Figure 36.21 shows two firecracker explosions—two events—that occur at different positions in the ground reference frame. Experimenters on the ground need two clocks to measure the time interval $\Delta t$. In the train reference frame, however, a single clock is present at both events; hence the time interval measured in the train reference frame is the proper time $\Delta\tau$. You can see that $\Delta\tau < \Delta t$, so less time has elapsed in the train reference frame.

## Figure 36.21




The time interval between two events is measured in two different reference frames.

In this sense, the "moving clock," the one that is present at both events, "runs slower" than clocks that are stationary with respect to the events. More generally, **the time interval between two events is smallest in the reference frame in which the two events occur at the same position.**

> **Note**
>
> Equation 36.9 was derived using a light clock because the operation of a light clock is clear and easy to analyze. But the

conclusion is really about time itself. *Any* clock, regardless of how it operates, behaves the same.

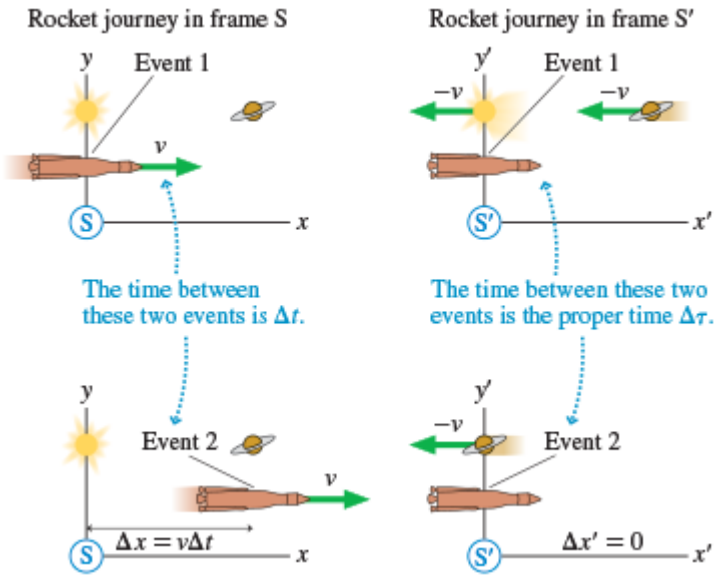
**Example 36.4 From the sun to Saturn**

Saturn is $1.43 \times 10^{12}$ m from the sun. A rocket travels along a line from the sun to Saturn at a constant speed of $0.9c$ relative to the solar system. How long does the journey take as measured by an experimenter on earth? As measured by an astronaut on the rocket?

**MODEL** Let the solar system be in reference frame S and the rocket be in reference frame S′ that travels with velocity $v = 0.9c$ relative to S. Relativity problems must be stated in terms of *events*. Let event 1 be "the rocket and the sun coincide" (the experimenter on earth says that the rocket passes the sun; the astronaut on the rocket says that the sun passes the rocket) and event 2 be "the rocket and Saturn coincide."

**VISUALIZE** Figure 36.22 shows the two events as seen from the two reference frames. Notice that the two events occur at the *same position* in S′, the position of the rocket, and consequently can be measured by *one* clock carried on board the rocket.

**Figure 36.22**




Pictorial representation of the trip as seen in frames S and S′.

**SOLVE** The time interval measured in the solar system reference frame, which includes the earth, is simply

$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta x}{v} = \frac{1.43 \times 10^{12}\,\text{m}}{0.9 \times (3.00 \times 10^{8}\,\text{m/s})} = 5300\,\text{s}$$

Relativity hasn't abandoned the basic definition $v = \Delta x/\Delta t$, although we do have to be sure that $\Delta x$ and $\Delta t$ are measured in just one reference frame and refer to the same two events.

How are things in the rocket's reference frame? The two events occur at the *same position* in S′ and can be measured by *one* clock, the clock at the origin. Thus the time measured by the astronauts is the *proper time* $\Delta\tau$ between the two events. We can use Equation 36.9 with $\beta = 0.9$ to find

$$\Delta\tau = \sqrt{1-\beta^2}\,\Delta t = \sqrt{1-0.9^2}\,(5300\,\text{s}) = 2310\,\text{s}$$

**ASSESS** The time interval measured between these two events by the astronauts is less than half the time interval measured by experimenters on earth. The difference has nothing to do with

when earthbound astronomers *see* the rocket pass the sun and Saturn. $\Delta t$ is the time interval from when the rocket actually passes the sun, as measured by a clock at the sun, until it actually passes Saturn, as measured by a synchronized clock at Saturn. The interval between *seeing* the events from earth, which would have to allow for light travel times, would be something other than 5300 s. $\Delta t$ and $\Delta\tau$ are different because *time is different* in two reference frames moving relative to each other.

### Stop to Think 36.6



Molly flies her rocket past Nick at constant velocity $v$. Molly and Nick both measure the time it takes the rocket, from nose to tail, to pass Nick. Which of the following is true?

**a.** Both Molly and Nick measure the same amount of time.
**b.** Molly measures a shorter time interval than Nick.
**c.** Nick measures a shorter time interval than Molly.

## Experimental Evidence

Is there any evidence for the crazy idea that clocks moving relative to each other tell time differently? Indeed, there's plenty. An experiment in 1971 sent an atomic clock around the world on a jet plane while an identical clock remained in the laboratory. This was a difficult experiment because the traveling clock's speed was so small compared to $c$, but measuring the small differences between the time intervals was just

barely within the capabilities of atomic clocks. It was also a more complex experiment than we've analyzed because the clock accelerated as it moved around a circle. The scientists found that, upon its return, the eastbound clock, traveling faster than the laboratory on a rotating earth, was 60 ns behind the stay-at-home clock, which was exactly as predicted by relativity.

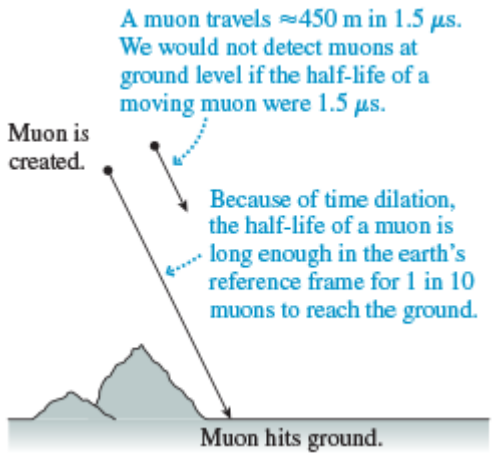
Very detailed studies have been done on unstable particles called *muons* that are created at the top of the atmosphere, at a height of about 60 km, when high-energy cosmic rays collide with air molecules. It is well known, from laboratory studies, that stationary muons decay with a *half-life* of 1.5 $\mu$s. That is, half the muons decay within 1.5 $\mu$s, half of those remaining decay in the next 1.5 $\mu$s, and so on. The decays can be used as a clock.

The muons travel down through the atmosphere at very nearly the speed of light. The time needed to reach the ground, assuming $v \approx c$, is $\Delta t \approx (60,000\,\text{m}) / \left(3 \times 10^8\,\text{m/s}\right) = 200\,\mu\text{s}$. This is 133 half-lives, so the fraction of muons reaching the ground should be $\approx \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{133} = 10^{-40}$. That is, only 1 out of every $10^{40}$ muons should reach the ground. In fact, experiments find that about 1 in 10 muons reach the ground, an experimental result that differs by a factor of $10^{39}$ from our prediction!

The discrepancy is due to time dilation. In Figure 36.23, the two events "muon is created" and "muon hits ground" take place at two different places in the earth's reference frame. However, these two events occur at the *same position* in the muon's reference frame. (The muon is like the rocket in Example 36.4.) Thus the muon's internal clock measures the proper time. The time-dilated interval $\Delta t = 200\,\mu\text{s}$ in the earth's reference frame corresponds to a proper time $\Delta\tau \approx 5\,\mu\text{s}$ in the muon's

reference frame. That is, in the muon's reference frame it takes only 5 $\mu$s from creation at the top of the atmosphere until the ground runs into it. This is 3.3 half-lives, so the fraction of muons reaching the ground is $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{3.3} = 0.1$, or 1 out of 10. We wouldn't detect muons at the ground at all if not for time dilation.

**Figure 36.23**




We wouldn't detect muons at the ground if not for time dilation.

The details are beyond the scope of this textbook, but dozens of high-energy particle accelerators around the world that study quarks and other elementary particles have been designed and built on the basis of Einstein's theory of relativity. The fact that they work exactly as planned is strong testimony to the reality of time dilation.

## The Twin Paradox

The most well-known relativity paradox is the twin paradox. George and Helen are twins. On their 25th birthday, Helen departs on a starship voyage to a distant star. Let's imagine, to be specific, that her starship accelerates almost instantly to a speed of 0.95$c$ and that she travels to a star that is 9.5 light years (9.5 ly) from earth. Upon arriving, she discovers

that the planets circling the star are inhabited by fierce aliens, so she immediately turns around and heads home at $0.95c$.

A **light year,** abbreviated ly, is the distance that light travels in one year. A light year is vastly larger than the diameter of the solar system. The distance between two neighboring stars is typically a few light years. For our purpose, we can write the speed of light as $c = 1\ \text{ly/year}$. That is, light travels 1 light year per year.

This value for $c$ allows us to determine how long, according to George and his fellow earthlings, it takes Helen to travel out and back. Her total distance is 19 ly and, due to her rapid acceleration and rapid turnaround, she travels essentially the entire distance at speed $v = 0.95c = 0.95\,\text{ly/year}$. Thus the time she's away, as measured by George, is

**(36.10)**

$$\Delta t_{\text{G}} = \frac{19\,\text{ly}}{0.95\,\text{ly/year}} = 20\,\text{years}$$

George will be 45 years old when his sister Helen returns with tales of adventure.

The global positioning system (GPS), which allows you to pinpoint your location anywhere in the world to within a few meters, uses a set of orbiting satellites. Because of their motion, the atomic clocks on these satellites keep time differently

from clocks on the ground. To determine an accurate position, the software in your GPS receiver must carefully correct for time-dilation effects.

---

While she's away, George takes a physics class and studies Einstein's theory of relativity. He realizes that time dilation will make Helen's clocks run more slowly than his clocks, which are at rest relative to him. Her heart—a clock—will beat fewer times and the minute hand on her watch will go around fewer times. In other words, she's aging more slowly than he is. Although she is his twin, she will be younger than he is when she returns.

Calculating Helen's age is not hard. We simply have to identify Helen's clock, because it's always with Helen as she travels, as the clock that measures proper time $\Delta\tau$. From Equation 36.9,

**(36.11)**

$$\Delta t_{\mathrm{H}} = \Delta\tau = \sqrt{1-\beta^2}\,\Delta t_{\mathrm{G}} = \sqrt{1-0.95^2}\,(20\,\text{years}) = 6.25\,\text{years}$$

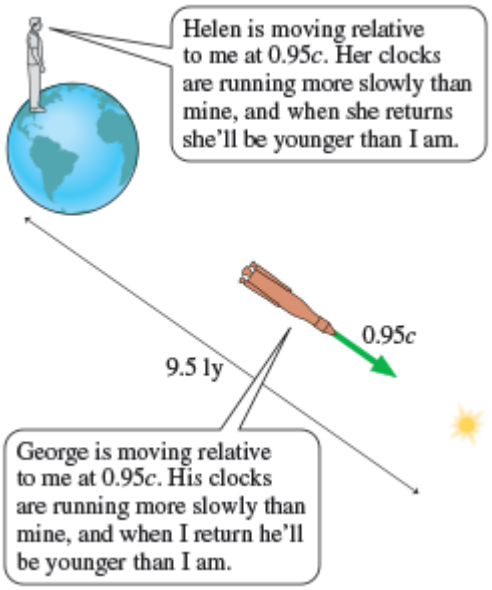
George will have just celebrated his 45th birthday as he welcomes home his 31-year-and-3-month-old twin sister.

This may be unsettling because it violates our commonsense notion of time, but it's not a paradox. There's no logical inconsistency in this outcome. So why is it called "the twin paradox"?

Helen, knowing that she had quite of bit of time to kill on her journey, brought along several physics books to read. As she learns about relativity, she begins to think about George and her friends back on earth. Relative to her, they are all moving away at $0.95c$. Later they'll come rushing toward her at $0.95c$. Time dilation will cause their clocks to run more slowly than her clocks, which are at rest relative to her. In other

words, as Figure 36.24 shows, Helen concludes that people on earth are aging more slowly than she is. Alas, she will be much older than they when she returns.

## Figure 36.24




The twin paradox.

Finally, the big day arrives. Helen lands back on earth and steps out of the starship. George is expecting Helen to be younger than he is. Helen is expecting George to be younger than she is.

Here's the paradox! It's logically impossible for each to be younger than the other at the time they are reunited. Where, then, is the flaw in our reasoning? It seems to be a symmetrical situation—Helen moves relative to George and George moves relative to Helen—but symmetrical reasoning has led to a conundrum.

But are the situations really symmetrical? George goes about his business day after day without noticing anything unusual. Helen, on the other hand, experiences three distinct periods during which the starship engines fire, she's crushed into her seat, and free dust particles that had

been floating inside the starship are no longer, in the starship's reference frame, at rest or traveling in a straight line at constant speed. In other words, George spends the entire time in an inertial reference frame, *but Helen does not*. The situation is *not* symmetrical.

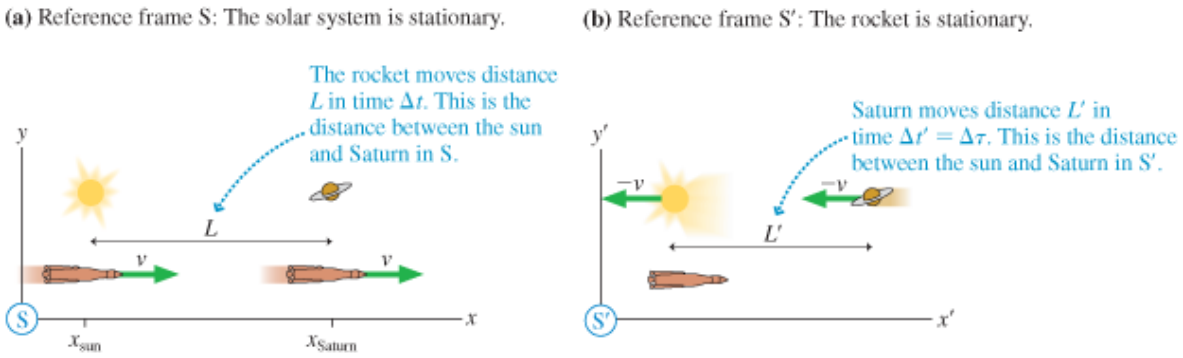
**The principle of relativity applies *only* to inertial reference frames.** Our discussion of time dilation was for inertial reference frames. Thus George's analysis and calculations are correct. Helen's analysis and calculations are *not* correct because she was trying to apply an inertial reference frame result while traveling in a noninertial reference frame. (Or, alternatively, Helen was in two different inertial frames while George was only in one, and thus the situation is not symmetrical.)

Helen is younger than George when she returns. This is strange, but not a paradox. It is a consequence of the fact that time flows differently in two reference frames moving relative to each other.

# 36.7 Length Contraction 1040

We've seen that relativity requires us to rethink our idea of time. Now let's turn our attention to the concepts of space and distance. Consider the rocket that traveled from the sun to Saturn in Example 36.4. Figure 36.25a on the next page shows the rocket moving with velocity $v$ through the solar system reference frame S. We define $L = \Delta x = x_{\text{Saturn}} - x_{\text{sun}}$ as the distance between the sun and Saturn in frame S or, more generally, the *length* of the spatial interval between two points. The rocket's speed is $v = L/\Delta t$, where $\Delta t$ is the time measured in frame S for the journey from the sun to Saturn.

## Figure 36.25




*L* and *L*′ are the distances between the sun and Saturn in frames S and S′.

Figure 36.25b shows the situation in reference frame S′, where the rocket is at rest. The sun and Saturn move to the left at speed $v = L'/\Delta t'$, where $\Delta t'$ is the time measured in frame S′ for Saturn to travel distance $L'$.

Speed $v$ is the relative speed between S and S′ and is the same for experimenters in both reference frames. That is,

(36.12)

$$v = \frac{L}{\Delta t} = \frac{L'}{\Delta t'}$$

The time interval $\Delta t'$ measured in frame S′ is the proper time $\Delta\tau$ because both events occur at the same position in frame S′ and can be measured by one clock. We can use the time-dilation result, Equation 36.9, to relate $\Delta\tau$ measured by the astronauts to $\Delta t$ measured by the earthbound scientists. Then Equation 36.12 becomes

(36.13)

$$\frac{L}{\Delta t} = \frac{L'}{\Delta\tau} = \frac{L'}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}\,\Delta t}$$

The $\Delta t$ cancels, and the distance $L'$ in frame S′ is

(36.14)

$$L' = \sqrt{1-\beta^2}L$$

Surprisingly, we find that **the distance between two objects in reference frame S′ is *not the same* as the distance between the same two objects in reference frame S.**

Frame S, in which the distance is $L$, has one important distinction. It is the *one and only* inertial reference frame in which the objects are at rest. Experimenters in frame S can take all the time they need to measure $L$ because the two objects aren't going anywhere. The distance $L$ between two objects, or two points on one object, measured in the reference frame in which the objects are at rest is called the **proper length** $\ell$. Only one inertial reference frame can measure the proper length.

We can use the proper length $\ell$ to write Equation 36.14 as

(36.15)

$$L' = \sqrt{1 - \beta^2}\,\ell \leq \ell$$

This "shrinking" of the distance between two objects, as measured by an experiment moving with respect to the objects, is called **length contraction.** Although we derived length contraction for the distance between two distinct objects, it applies equally well to the length of any physical object that stretches between two points along the $x$- and $x'$-axes. **The length of an object is greatest in the reference frame in which the object is at rest.** The object's length is less (i.e., the length is contracted) when it is measured in any reference frame in which the object is moving.

The Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC) is a 2-mi-long electron accelerator. The accelerator's length is less than 1 m in the reference frame of the electrons.

**Example 36.5 The distance from the sun to Saturn**

In Example 36.4 a rocket traveled along a line from the sun to Saturn at a constant speed of $0.9c$ relative to the solar system. The Saturn-to-sun distance was given as $1.43 \times 10^{12}$ m. What is the distance between the sun and Saturn in the rocket's reference frame?

---

**MODEL** Saturn and the sun are, at least approximately, at rest in the solar system reference frame S. Thus the given distance is the proper length $\ell$.

**SOLVE** We can use Equation 36.15 to find the distance in the rocket's frame S′:

$$\begin{aligned} L' &= \sqrt{1-\beta^2}\ell = \sqrt{1-0.9^2}\left(1.43 \times 10^{12}\,\text{m}\right) \\ &= 0.62 \times 10^{12}\,\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The sun-to-Saturn distance measured by the astronauts is less than half the distance measured by experimenters on earth. $L'$ and $\ell$ are different because *space is different* in two reference frames moving relative to each other.

---

The conclusion that space is different in reference frames moving relative to each other is a direct consequence of the fact that time is different. Experimenters in both reference frames agree on the relative velocity $v$, leading to Equation 36.12: $v = L/\Delta t = L'/\Delta t'$. We had already learned that $\Delta t' < \Delta t$ because of time dilation. Thus $L'$ *has* to be less than $L$. That is the only way experimenters in the two reference frames can reconcile their measurements.

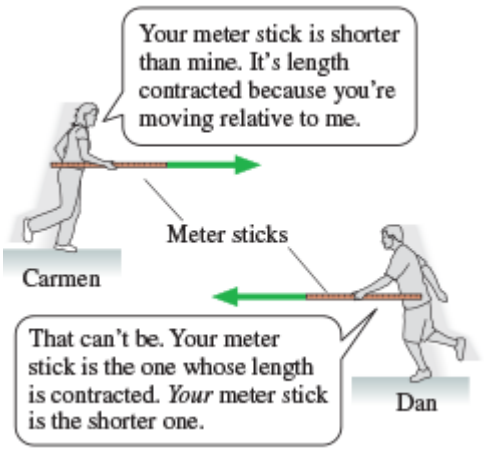
To be specific, the earthly experimenters in Examples 36.4 and 36.5 find that the rocket takes 5300 s to travel the $1.43 \times 10^{12}$ m between the sun and Saturn. The rocket's speed is $v = L/\Delta t = 2.7 \times 10^8$ m/s $= 0.9c$. The astronauts in the rocket find that it takes only 2310 s for Saturn to reach them after the sun has passed by. But there's no conflict, because they also find that the distance is only $0.62 \times 10^{12}$m. Thus Saturn's speed toward them is

$v = L'/\Delta t' = \left(0.62 \times 10^{12}\text{m}\right) / \left(2310\,\text{s}\right) = 2.7 \times 10^8$ m/s $= 0.9c$.

## Another Paradox?

Carmen and Dan are in their physics lab room. They each select a meter stick, lay the two side by side, and agree that the meter sticks are exactly the same length. Then, for an extra-credit project, they go outside and run past each other, in opposite directions, at a relative speed $v = 0.9c$. Figure 36.26 shows their experiment and a portion of their conversation.

**Figure 36.26**




Carmen and Dan each measure the length of the other's meter stick as they move relative to each other.

Now, Dan's meter stick can't be both longer and shorter than Carmen's meter stick. Is this another paradox? No! Relativity allows us to compare the *same* events as they're measured in two different reference frames. This did lead to a real paradox when Peggy rolled past Ryan on the train. There the signal light on the box turns green (a single event) or it doesn't, and Peggy and Ryan have to agree about it. But the events by which Dan measures the length (in Dan's frame) of Carmen's meter stick are *not the same events* as those by which Carmen measures the length (in Carmen's frame) of Dan's meter stick.

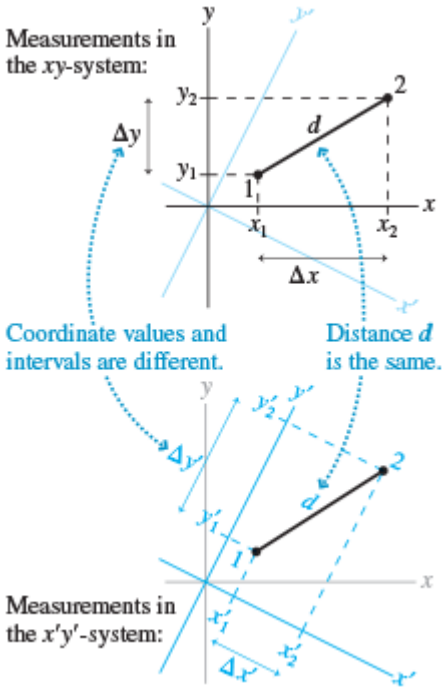
There's no conflict between their measurements. In Dan's reference frame, Carmen's meter stick has been length contracted and is less than 1 m in length. In Carmen's reference frame, Dan's meter stick has been length contracted and is less than 1 m in length. If this weren't the case, if both agreed that one of the meter sticks was shorter than the other, then we could tell which reference frame was "really" moving and which was "really" at rest. But the principle of relativity doesn't allow us to make that distinction. Each is moving relative to the other, so each should make the same measurement for the length of the other's meter stick.

## The Spacetime Interval

1042

Forget relativity for a minute and think about ordinary geometry. Figure 36.27 shows two ordinary coordinate systems. They are identical except for the fact that one has been rotated relative to the other. A student using the $xy$-system would measure coordinates $(x_1, y_1)$ for point 1 and $(x_2, y_2)$ for point 2. A second student, using the $x'y'$-system, would measure $(x'_1, y'_1)$ and $(x'_2, y'_2)$.

**Figure 36.27**




Distance $d$ is the same in both coordinate systems.

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The students soon find that none of their measurements agree. That is, $x_1 \neq x_1'$ and so on. Even the intervals are different: $\Delta x \neq \Delta x'$ and $\Delta y \neq \Delta y'$. Each is a perfectly valid coordinate system, giving no reason to prefer one over the other, but each yields different measurements.

Is there *anything* on which the two students can agree? Yes, there is. The distance $d$ between points 1 and 2 is independent of the coordinates. We can state this mathematically as

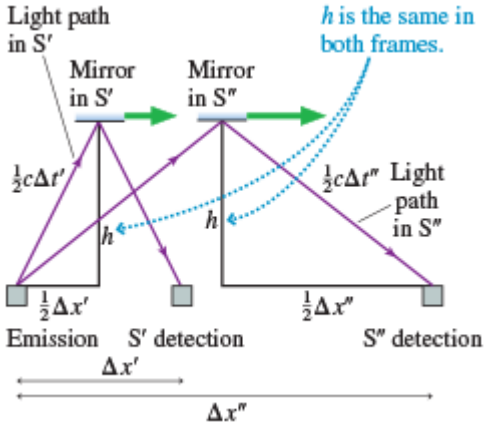
**(36.16)**

$$d^2 = (\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2 = (\Delta x')^2 + (\Delta y')^2$$

The quantity $(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2$ is called an **invariant** in geometry because it has the same value in any Cartesian coordinate system.

Returning to relativity, is there an invariant in the spacetime coordinates, some quantity that has the *same value* in all inertial reference frames? There is, and to find it let's return to the light clock of Figure 36.20. Figure 36.28 shows the light clock as seen in reference frames S′ and S″. The speed of light is the same in both frames, even though both are moving with respect to each other and with respect to the clock.

## Figure 36.28




The light clock seen by experimenters in reference frames S′ and S″.

Notice that the clock's height $h$ is common to both reference frames. Thus

**(36.17)**

$$h^2 = \left(\tfrac{1}{2}c\,\Delta t'\right)^2 - \left(\tfrac{1}{2}\Delta x'\right)^2 = \left(\tfrac{1}{2}c\,\Delta t''\right)^2 - \left(\tfrac{1}{2}\Delta x''\right)^2$$

The factor $\frac{1}{2}$ cancels, allowing us to write

**(36.18)**

$$c^2(\Delta t')^2 - (\Delta x')^2 = c^2(\Delta t'')^2 - (\Delta x'')^2$$

Let us define the **spacetime interval** $s$ between two events to be

(36.19)

$$s^2 = c^2(\Delta t)^2 - (\Delta x)^2$$

What we've shown in Equation 36.18 is that **the spacetime interval $s$ has the same value in all inertial reference frames**. That is, the spacetime interval between two events is an invariant. It is a value that all experimenters, in all reference frames, can agree upon.

**Example 36.6 Using the spacetime interval** 1043

A firecracker explodes at the origin of an inertial reference frame. Then, 2.0 $\mu$s later, a second firecracker explodes 300 m away. Astronauts in a passing rocket measure the distance between the explosions to be 200 m. According to the astronauts, how much time elapses between the two explosions?

**MODEL** The spacetime coordinates of two events are measured in two different inertial reference frames. Call the reference frame of the ground S and the reference frame of the rocket S′. The spacetime interval between these two events is the same in both reference frames.

**SOLVE** The spacetime interval (or, rather, its square) in frame S is

$$s^2 = c^2(\Delta t)^2 - (\Delta x)^2 = (600\,\text{m})^2 - (300\,\text{m})^2 = 270,000\,\text{m}^2$$

where we used $c = 300\ \text{m}/\mu\text{s}$ to determine that $c\Delta t = 600\ \text{m}$. The spacetime interval has the same value in frame S′. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} s^2 &= 270,000\,\text{m}^2 = c^2(\Delta t')^2 - (\Delta x')^2 \\ &= c^2(\Delta t')^2 - (200\,\text{m})^2 \end{aligned}$$

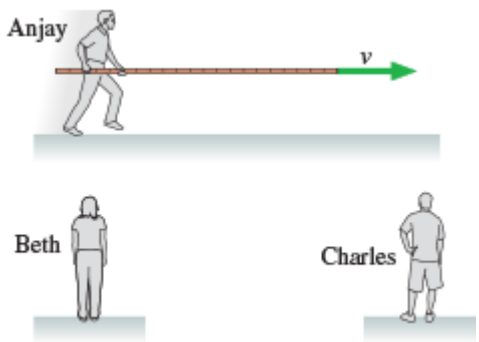
This is easily solved to give $\Delta t' = 1.85\ \mu\text{s}$.

**ASSESS** The two events are closer together in both space and time in the rocket's reference frame than in the reference frame of the ground.

Einstein's legacy, according to popular culture, was the discovery that "everything is relative." But it's not so. Time intervals and space intervals may be relative, as were the intervals $\Delta x$ and $\Delta y$ in the purely geometric analogy with which we opened this section, but some things are *not* relative. In particular, the spacetime interval $s$ between two events is not relative. It is a well-defined number, agreed on by experimenters in each and every inertial reference frame.

## Stop to Think 36.7

Beth and Charles are at rest relative to each other. Anjay runs past at velocity $v$ while holding a long pole parallel to his motion. Anjay, Beth, and Charles each measure the length of the pole at the instant Anjay passes Beth. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the three lengths $L_A$, $L_B$, and $L_C$.



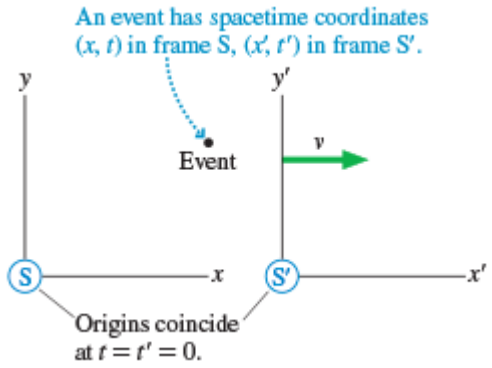
# 36.8 The Lorentz Transformations

The Galilean transformation $x' = x - vt$ of classical relativity lets us calculate the position $x'$ of an event in frame S′ if we know its position $x$ in frame S. Classical relativity, of course, assumes that $t' = t$. Is there a similar transformation in relativity that would allow us to calculate an event's spacetime coordinates $(x', t')$ in frame S′ if we know their values $(x, t)$ in frame S? Such a transformation would need to satisfy three conditions:

1. Agree with the Galilean transformations in the low-speed limit $v \ll c$.
2. Transform not only spatial coordinates but also time coordinates.
3. Ensure that the speed of light is the same in all reference frames.

We'll continue to use reference frames in the standard orientation of Figure 36.29. The motion is parallel to the $x$- and $x'$-axes, and we *define* $t = 0$ and $t' = 0$ as the instant when the origins of S and S′ coincide.

## Figure 36.29




The spacetime coordinates of an event are measured in inertial reference frames S and S′.

The requirement that a new transformation agree with the Galilean transformation when $v \ll c$ suggests that we look for a transformation of the form

**(36.20)**

$$x' = \gamma (x - vt) \quad \text{and} \quad x = \gamma (x' + vt')$$

where $\gamma$ is a dimensionless function of velocity that satisfies $\gamma \to 1 \ \text{ as } \ v \to 0$.

To determine $\gamma$, we consider the following two events:

Event 1: A flash of light is emitted from the origin of both reference frames ($x = x' = 0$) at the instant they coincide ($t = t' = 0$).

Event 2: The light strikes a light detector. The spacetime coordinates of this event are ($x$, $t$) in frame S and ($x'$, $t'$) in frame S′.

Light travels at speed $c$ in both reference frames, so the positions of event 2 are $x = ct$ in S and $x' = ct'$ in S′. Substituting these expressions for $x$ and $x'$ into Equation 36.20 gives

**(36.21)**

$$\begin{aligned} ct' &= \gamma (ct - vt) = \gamma (c - v)\, t \\ ct &= \gamma (ct' + vt') = \gamma (c + v)\, t' \end{aligned}$$

We solve the first equation for $t'$, by dividing by $c$, then substitute this result for $t'$ into the second:

$$ct = \gamma (c + v)\, \frac{\gamma (c - v)\, t}{c} = \gamma^2 \left(c^2 - v^2\right) \frac{t}{c}$$

The $t$ cancels, leading to

$$\gamma^2 = \frac{c^2}{c^2 - v^2} = \frac{1}{1 - v^2/c^2}$$

Thus the $\gamma$ that "works" in the proposed transformation of Equation 36.20 is

---

**(36.22)**

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$$

You can see that $\gamma \to 1$ as $v \to 0$, as expected.

The transformation between $t$ and $t'$ is found by requiring that $x = x$ if you use Equation 36.20 to transform a position from S to S′ and then back to S. The details will be left for a homework problem. Another homework problem will let you demonstrate that the $y$ and $z$ measurements made perpendicular to the relative motion are not affected by the motion. We tacitly assumed this condition in our analysis of the light clock.

The full set of equations is called the **Lorentz transformations.** They are

---

**(36.23)**

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= \gamma(x - vt) & \qquad x &= \gamma(x' + vt') \\ y' &= y & \qquad y &= y' \\ z' &= z & \qquad z &= z' \\ t' &= \gamma\left(t - vx/c^2\right) & \qquad t &= \gamma\left(t' + vx'/c^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

The Lorentz transformations transform the spacetime coordinates of *one* event. Compare these to the Galilean transformation equations in Equations 36.1.

> **Note**
>
> These transformations are named after the Dutch physicist H. A. Lorentz, who derived them prior to Einstein. Lorentz was close to discovering special relativity, but he didn't recognize that our concepts of space and time have to be changed before these equations can be properly interpreted.

## Using Relativity

Relativity is phrased in terms of *events;* hence relativity problems are solved by interpreting the problem statement in terms of specific events.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 36.1 Relativity**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Frame the problem in terms of events, things that happen at a specific place and time.

**VISUALIZE** A pictorial representation defines the reference frames.

- Sketch the reference frames, showing their motion relative to each other.
- Show events. Identify objects that are moving with respect to the reference frames.
- Identify any proper time intervals and proper lengths. These are measured in an object's rest frame.

**SOLVE** The mathematical representation is based on the Lorentz transformations, but not every problem requires the full transformation equations.

- Problems about time intervals can often be solved using time dilation: $\Delta t = \gamma \Delta \tau$.
- Problems about distances can often be solved using length contraction: $L = \ell / \gamma$.

**ASSESS** Are the results consistent with Galilean relativity when $v \ll c$?

### Example 36.7 Ryan and Peggy revisited

Peggy is standing in the center of a long, flat railroad car that has firecrackers tied to both ends. The car moves past Ryan, who is standing on the ground, with velocity $v = 0.8c$. Flashes from the exploding firecrackers reach him simultaneously 1.0 $\mu$s after the instant that Peggy passes him, and he later finds burn marks on the track 300 m to either side of where he had been standing.

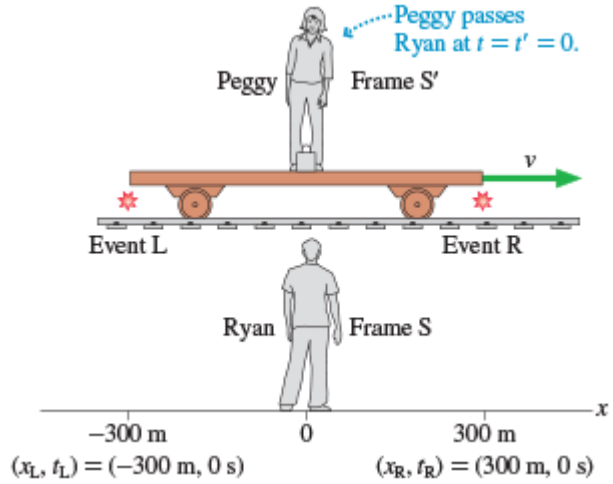
**a.** According to Ryan, what is the distance between the two explosions, and at what times do the explosions occur relative to the time that Peggy passes him?

**b.** According to Peggy, what is the distance between the two explosions, and at what times do the explosions occur relative to the time that Ryan passes her?

**MODEL** Let the explosion on Ryan's right, the direction in which Peggy is moving, be event R. The explosion on his left is event L.

**VISUALIZE** Peggy and Ryan are in inertial reference frames. As Figure 36.30 shows, Peggy's frame S′ is moving with $v = 0.8c$ relative to Ryan's frame S. We've defined the reference frames such that Peggy and Ryan are at the origins. The instant they pass, by definition, is $t = t' = 0\,\text{s}$. The two events are shown in Ryan's reference frame.

## Figure 36.30




A pictorial representation of the reference frames and events.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The two burn marks tell Ryan that the distance between the explosions was $L = 600\text{ m}$. Light travels at $c = 300\text{ m}/\mu\text{s}$, and the burn marks are 300 m on either side of him, so Ryan can determine that each explosion took place 1.0 $\mu$s before he saw the flash. But this was the instant of time that Peggy passed him, so Ryan concludes that the explosions were simultaneous with each other and with Peggy's passing him. The spacetime coordinates of the two events

in frame S are $(x_\mathrm{R}, t_\mathrm{R}) = (300\,\mathrm{m},\, 0\ \mu\mathrm{s})$ and $(x_\mathrm{L}, t_\mathrm{L}) = (-300\,\mathrm{m},\, 0\ \mu\mathrm{s})$.

**b.** We already know, from our qualitative analysis in Section 36.5, that the explosions are *not* simultaneous in Peggy's reference frame. Event R happens before event L in S′, but we don't know how they compare to the time at which Ryan passes Peggy. We can now use the Lorentz transformations to relate the spacetime coordinates of these events as measured by Ryan to the spacetime coordinates as measured by Peggy. Using $v = 0.8c$, we find that $\gamma$ is



$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 0.8^2}} = 1.667$$

For event L, the Lorentz transformations are

$$x'_\mathrm{L} = 1.667\left((-300\,\mathrm{m}) - (0.8c)\,(0\ \mu\mathrm{s})\right) = -500\,\mathrm{m}$$
$$x'_\mathrm{L} = 1.667\left((0\ \mu\mathrm{s}) - (0.8c)\,(-300\,\mathrm{m})\,/c^2\right) = 1.33\ \mu\mathrm{s}$$

And for event R,

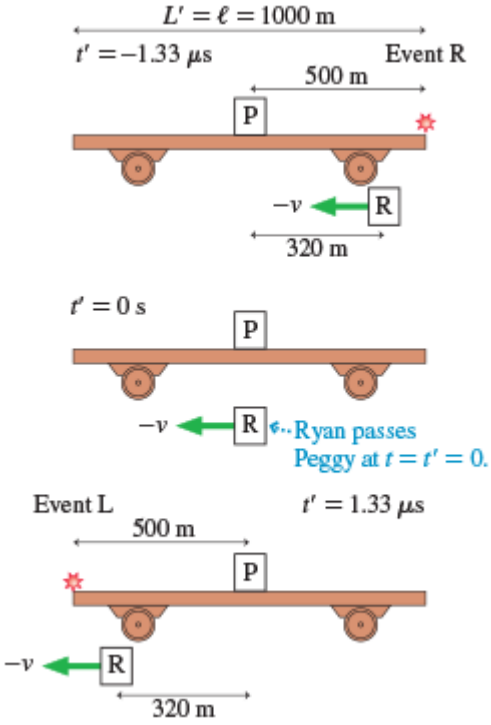
$$x'_\mathrm{R} = 1.667\left((300\,\mathrm{m}) - (0.8c)\,(0\ \mu\mathrm{s})\right) = 500\,\mathrm{m}$$
$$x'_\mathrm{R} = 1.667\left((0\ \mu\mathrm{s}) - (0.8c)\,(300\,\mathrm{m})\,/c^2\right) = -1.33\ \mu\mathrm{s}$$

According to Peggy, the two explosions occur 1000 m apart. Furthermore, the first explosion, on the right, occurs 1.33 $\mu$s before Ryan passes her at $t' = 0$ s. The second, on the left, occurs 1.33 $\mu$s after Ryan goes by.

**ASSESS** Events that are simultaneous in frame S are *not* simultaneous in frame S′. The results of the Lorentz transformations agree with our earlier qualitative analysis.

A follow-up discussion of Example 36.7 is worthwhile. Because Ryan moves at speed $v = 0.8c = 240\ \text{m}/\mu\text{s}$ relative to Peggy, he moves 320 m during the 1.33 $\mu$s between the first explosion and the instant he passes Peggy, then another 320 m before the second explosion. Gathering this information together, Figure 36.31 on the next page shows the sequence of events in Peggy's reference frame.

## Figure 36.31




The sequence of events as seen in Peggy's reference frame.

The firecrackers define the ends of the railroad car, so the 1000 m distance between the explosions in Peggy's frame is the car's length $L'$ in frame S′. The car is at rest in frame S′, hence length $L'$ is the proper length: $\ell = 1000$ m. Ryan is measuring the length of a moving object, so he should see the car length contracted to

$$L = \sqrt{1-\beta^2}\ell = \frac{\ell}{\gamma} = \frac{1000\,\text{m}}{1.667} = 600\,\text{m}$$

And, indeed, that is exactly the distance Ryan measured between the burn marks.

Finally, we can calculate the spacetime interval *s* between the two events. According to Ryan,

$$s^2 = c^2\left(\Delta t^2\right) - (\Delta x)^2 = c^2(0\,\mu\text{s})^2 - (600\,\text{m})^2 = -(600\,\text{m})^2$$

Peggy computes the spacetime interval to be

$$s^2 = c^2(\Delta t')^2 - (\Delta x')^2 = c^2(2.67\,\mu\text{s})^2 - (1000\,\text{m})^2 = -(600\,\text{m})^2$$

Their calculations of the spacetime interval agree, showing that *s* really is an invariant, but notice that *s* itself is an imaginary number.

## Length

**1047**

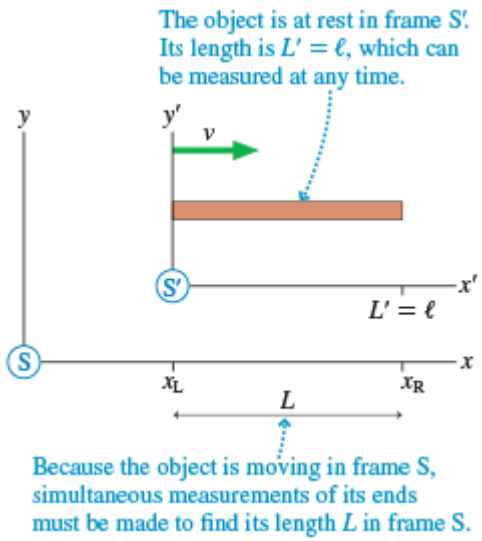
We've already introduced the idea of length contraction, but we didn't precisely define just what we mean by the *length* of a moving object. The length of an object at rest is clear because we can take all the time we need to measure it with meter sticks, surveying tools, or whatever we need. But how can we give clear meaning to the length of a moving object?

A reasonable definition of an object's length is the distance $L = \Delta x = x_\text{R} - x_\text{L}$ between the right and left ends when the positions $x_\text{R}$ and $x_\text{L}$ are measured *at the same time t*. In other words, length is the distance spanned by the object at *one instant* of time. Measuring an object's length requires *simultaneous* measurements of two positions (i.e.,

two events are required); hence the result won't be known until the information from two spatially separated measurements can be brought together.

Figure 36.32 shows an object traveling through reference frame S with velocity $v$. The object is at rest in reference frame S′ that travels with the object at velocity $v$; hence the length in frame S′ is the proper length $\ell$. That is, $\Delta x' = x'_{\mathrm{R}} - x'_{\mathrm{L}} = \ell$ in frame S′.

## Figure 36.32




The length of an object is the distance between *simultaneous* measurements of the positions of the end points.

At time $t$, an experimenter (and his or her assistants) in frame S makes simultaneous measurements of the positions $x_{\mathrm{R}}$ and $x_{\mathrm{L}}$ of the ends of the object. The difference $\Delta x = x_{\mathrm{R}} - x_{\mathrm{L}} = L$ is the length in frame S. The Lorentz transformations of $x_{\mathrm{R}}$ and $x_{\mathrm{L}}$ are

**(36.24)**

$$\begin{aligned} x'_{\mathrm{R}} &= \gamma\,(x_{\mathrm{R}} - vt) \\ x'_{\mathrm{L}} &= \gamma\,(x_{\mathrm{L}} - vt) \end{aligned}$$

where, it is important to note, $t$ is the *same* for both because the measurements are simultaneous.

Subtracting the second equation from the first, we find

$$x'_{\mathrm{R}} - x'_{\mathrm{L}} = \ell = \gamma\left(x_{\mathrm{R}} - x_{\mathrm{L}}\right) = \gamma L = \frac{L}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$$

Solving for $L$, we find, in agreement with Equation 36.15, that

**(36.25)**

$$L = \sqrt{1-\beta^2}\,\ell$$

This analysis has accomplished two things. First, by giving a precise definition of length, we've put our length-contraction result on a firmer footing. Second, we've had good practice at relativistic reasoning using the Lorentz transformation.

> **Note**
>
> Length contraction does not tell us how an object would *look*. The visual appearance of an object is determined by light waves that arrive simultaneously at the eye. These waves left points on the object at different times (i.e., *not* simultaneously) because they had to travel different distances to the eye. The analysis needed to determine an object's visual appearance is considerably more complex. Length and length contraction are concerned only with the *actual* length of the object at one instant of time.

## The Binomial Approximation

You've met the binomial approximation earlier in this text and in your calculus class. The binomial approximation is useful when we need to calculate a relativistic expression for a nonrelativistic velocity $v \ll c$. Because $v^2/c^2 \ll 1$ in these cases, we can write

**(36.26)**

$$\text{If } v \ll c: \begin{cases} \sqrt{1-\beta^2} = \left(1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{1/2} \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2}\frac{v^2}{c^2} \\ \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} = \left(1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1/2} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{v^2}{c^2} \end{cases}$$

**The binomial approximation**

---

If $x \ll 1$, then $(1+x)^n \approx 1 + nx$.

---

The following example illustrates the use of the binomial approximation.

**Example 36.8 The shrinking school bus**

An 8.0-m-long school bus drives past at 30 m/s. By how much is its length contracted?

**MODEL** The school bus is at rest in an inertial reference frame S′ moving at velocity $v = 30$ m/s relative to the ground frame S. The given length, 8.0 m, is the proper length $\ell$ in frame S′.

**SOLVE** In frame S, the school bus is length contracted to

$$L = \sqrt{1-\beta^2}\ell$$

The bus's velocity $v$ is much less than $c$, so we can use the binomial approximation to write

$$L \approx \left(1 - \tfrac{1}{2}\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)\ell = \ell - \tfrac{1}{2}\frac{v^2}{c^2}\ell$$

The *amount* of the length contraction is

$$\begin{aligned}\ell - L &= \tfrac{1}{2}\frac{v^2}{c^2}\ell = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(\frac{30\,\text{m/s}}{3.0\times10^8\,\text{m/s}}\right)^2(8.0\,\text{m}) \\ &= 4.0\times10^{-14}\,\text{m} = 40\,\text{fm}\end{aligned}$$

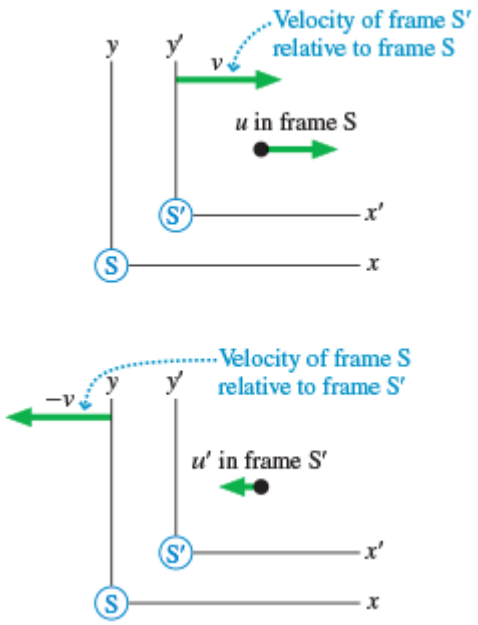
where $1\,\text{fm} = 1$ femtometer $= 10^{-15}\,\text{m}$.

**ASSESS** The bus "shrinks" by only slightly more than the diameter of the nucleus of an atom. It's no wonder that we're not aware of length contraction in our everyday lives. If you had tried to calculate this number exactly, your calculator would have shown $\ell - L = 0$ because the difference between $\ell$ and $L$ shows up only in the 14th decimal place. A scientific calculator determines numbers to 10 or 12 decimal places, but that isn't sufficient to show the difference. The binomial approximation provides an invaluable tool for finding the very tiny difference between two numbers that are nearly identical.

## The Lorentz Velocity Transformations

Figure 36.33 shows an object that is moving in both reference frame S and reference frame S′. Experimenters in frame S determine that the object's velocity is $u$, while experimenters in frame S′ find it to be $u'$. For simplicity, we'll assume that the object moves parallel to the $x$- and $x'$-axes.

## Figure 36.33




The velocity of a moving object is measured to be $u$ in frame S and $u'$ in frame S′.

The Galilean velocity transformation $u' = u - v$ was found by taking the time derivative of the position transformation. We can do the same with the Lorentz transformation if we take the derivative with respect to the time in each frame. Velocity $u'$ in frame S′ is

**(36.27)**

$$u' = \frac{dx'}{dt'} = \frac{d\left[\gamma\left(x - vt\right)\right]}{d\left[\gamma\left(t - vx/c^2\right)\right]}$$

where we've used the Lorentz transformations for position $x'$ and time $t'$.

Carrying out the differentiation gives

**(36.28)**

$$u' = \frac{\gamma\left(dx - v\,dt\right)}{\gamma\left(dt - v\,dx/c^2\right)} = \frac{dx/dt - v}{1 - v\left(dx/dt\right)/c^2}$$

But $dx/dt$ is $u$, the object's velocity in frame S, leading to

**(36.29)**

$$u' = \frac{u - v}{1 - uv/c^2}$$

You can see that Equation 36.29 reduces to the Galilean transformation $u' = u - v$ when $v \ll c$, as expected.

The transformation from S′ to S is found by reversing the sign of $v$. Altogether,

---

**(36.30)**

$$u' = \frac{u - v}{1 - uv/c^2} \quad \text{and} \quad u = \frac{u' + v}{1 + u'v/c^2}$$

Equations 36.30 are the Lorentz velocity transformation equations.

> **Note**
>
> It is important to distinguish carefully between *v*, which is the relative velocity between two reference frames, and *u* and *u*′, which are the velocities of an *object* as measured in the two different reference frames.

---

**Example 36.9 A really fast bullet**

A rocket flies past the earth at 0.90$c$. As it goes by, the rocket fires a bullet in the forward direction at 0.95$c$ with respect to the rocket. What is the bullet's speed with respect to the earth?

**MODEL** The rocket and the earth are inertial reference frames. Let the earth be frame S and the rocket be frame S′. The velocity of frame S′ relative to frame S is $v = 0.90c$. The bullet's velocity in frame S′ is $u' = 0.95c$.

**SOLVE** We can use the Lorentz velocity transformation to find

$$u = \frac{u' + v}{1 + u'v/c^2} = \frac{0.95c + 0.90c}{1 + (0.95c)(0.90c)/c^2} = 0.997\,c$$

The bullet's speed with respect to the earth is 99.7% of the speed of light.

> **Note**
>
> Many relativistic calculations are much easier when velocities are specified as a fraction of $c$.

**ASSESS** In Newtonian mechanics, the Galilean transformation of velocity would give $u = 1.85c$. Now, despite the very high speed of the rocket and of the bullet with respect to the rocket, the bullet's speed with respect to the earth remains less than $c$. This is yet another indication that objects cannot travel faster than the speed of light.

Suppose the rocket in Example 36.9 fired a laser beam in the forward direction as it traveled past the earth at velocity $v$. The laser beam would travel away from the rocket at speed $u' = c$ in the rocket's reference frame S′. What is the laser beam's speed in the earth's frame S? According to the Lorentz velocity transformation, it must be

**(36.31)**

$$u = \frac{u' + v}{1 + u'v/c^2} = \frac{c + v}{1 + cv/c^2} = \frac{c + v}{1 + v/c} = \frac{c + v}{(c + v)/c} = c$$

Light travels at speed $c$ in both frame S and frame S′. This important consequence of the principle of relativity is "built into" the Lorentz transformations.

# 36.9 Relativistic Momentum



In Newtonian mechanics, the total momentum of a system is a conserved quantity. Further, as we've seen, the law of conservation of momentum, $P_\mathrm{f} = P_\mathrm{i}$, is true in all inertial reference frames *if* the particle velocities in different reference frames are related by the Galilean velocity transformations.

The difficulty, of course, is that the Galilean transformations are not consistent with the principle of relativity. It is a reasonable approximation when all velocities are very much less than $c$, but the Galilean transformations fail dramatically as velocities approach $c$. We'll leave it as a homework problem to show that $P'_\mathrm{f} \neq P'_\mathrm{i}$ if the particle velocities in frame S′ are related to the particle velocities in frame S by the Lorentz transformations.

There are two possibilities:

1. The so-called law of conservation of momentum is not really a law of physics. It is approximately true at low velocities but fails as velocities approach the speed of light.
2. The law of conservation of momentum really is a law of physics, but the expression $p = mu$ is not the correct way to calculate momentum when the particle velocity $u$ becomes a significant fraction of $c$.

Momentum conservation is such a central and important feature of mechanics that it seems unlikely to fail in relativity.

The classical momentum, for one-dimensional motion, is $p = mu = m(\Delta x/\Delta t)$. $\Delta t$ is the time to move distance $\Delta x$. That seemed clear enough within a Newtonian framework, but now we've learned that experimenters in different reference frames disagree about the amount of time needed. So whose $\Delta t$ should we use?

One possibility is to use the time measured *by the particle*. This is the proper time $\Delta\tau$ because the particle is at rest in its own reference frame and needs only one clock. With this in mind, let's redefine the momentum of a particle of mass $m$ moving with velocity $u = \Delta x/\Delta t$ to be

**(36.32)**

$$p = m\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta \tau}$$

We can relate this new expression for $p$ to the familiar Newtonian expression by using the time-dilation result $\Delta\tau = \left(1 - u^2/c^2\right)^{1/2} \Delta t$ to relate the proper time interval measured by the particle to the more practical time interval $\Delta t$ measured by experimenters in frame S. With this substitution, Equation 36.32 becomes

**(36.33)**

$$p = m\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta \tau} = m\frac{\Delta x}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}\,\Delta t} = \frac{mu}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}}$$

You can see that Equation 36.33 reduces to the classical expression $p = mu$ when the particle's speed $u \ll c$. That is an important requirement, but whether this is the "correct" expression for $p$ depends on whether the total momentum $P$ is conserved when the velocities of a system of particles are transformed with the Lorentz velocity

transformation equations. The proof is rather long and tedious, so we will assert, without actual proof, that the momentum defined in Equation 36.33 does, indeed, transform correctly. **The law of conservation of momentum is still valid in all inertial reference frames *if* the momentum of each particle is calculated with Equation 36.33.**

The factor that multiplies $mu$ in Equation 36.33 looks much like the factor $\gamma$ in the Lorentz transformation equations for $x$ and $t$, but there's one very important difference. The $v$ in the Lorentz transformation equations is the velocity of a *reference frame*. The $u$ in Equation 36.33 is the velocity of a particle moving *in* a reference frame.

With this distinction in mind, let's define the quantity

**(36.34)**

$$\gamma_{\mathrm{p}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}}$$

where the subscript p indicates that this is $\gamma$ for a particle, not for a reference frame. In frame $\mathrm{S}'$, where the particle moves with velocity $u'$, the corresponding expression would be called $\gamma'_{\mathrm{p}}$. With this definition of $\gamma_{\mathrm{p}}$, the momentum of a particle is

**(36.35)**

$$p = \gamma_{\mathrm{p}} m u$$

**Example 36.10 Momentum of a subatomic particle**

Electrons in a particle accelerator reach a speed of $0.999c$ relative to the laboratory. One collision of an electron with a target produces a muon that moves forward with a speed of $0.95c$ relative to the laboratory. The muon mass is $1.90 \times 10^{-28}$kg. What is the muon's momentum in the laboratory frame and in the frame of the electron beam?



**MODEL** Let the laboratory be reference frame S. The reference frame S′ of the electron beam (i.e., a reference frame in which the electrons are at rest) moves in the direction of the electrons at $v = 0.999c$. The muon velocity in frame S is $u = 0.95c$.

**SOLVE** $\gamma_{\text{p}}$ for the muon in the laboratory reference frame is

$$\gamma_{\text{p}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 0.95^2}} = 3.20$$

Thus the muon's momentum in the laboratory is

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \gamma_{\text{p}} mu = (3.20)\left(1.90 \times 10^{-28}\,\text{kg}\right)\left(0.95 \times 3.00 \times 10^{8}\,\text{m/s}\right) \\ &= 1.73 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{kg m/s} \end{aligned}$$

The momentum is a factor of 3.2 larger than the Newtonian momentum $mu$. To find the momentum in the electron-beam reference frame, we must first use the velocity transformation equation to find the muon's velocity in frame S′:

$$u' = \frac{u - v}{1 - uv/c^2} = \frac{0.95c - 0.999c}{1 - (0.95c)\,(0.999c)\,/c^2} = -0.962c$$

In the laboratory frame, the faster electrons are overtaking the slower muon. Hence the muon's velocity in the electron-beam

frame is negative. $\gamma'_{\mathrm{p}}$ for the muon in frame S′ is

$$\gamma'_{\mathrm{p}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - u'^2/c^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 0.962^2}} = 3.66$$

The muon's momentum in the electron-beam reference frame is

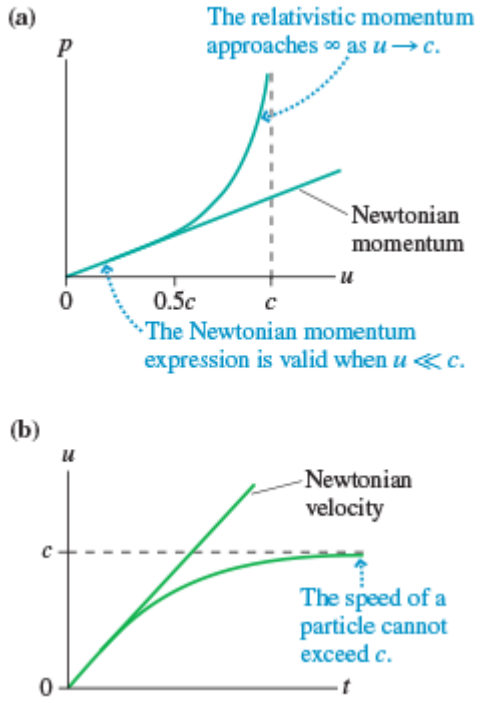
$$\begin{aligned} p' &= \gamma'_{\mathrm{p}}\, mu' \\ &= (3.66)\left(1.90 \times 10^{-28}\,\mathrm{kg}\right)\left(-0.962 \times 3.00 \times 10^{8}\,\mathrm{m/s}\right) \\ &= -2.01 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{kg\,m/s} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** From the laboratory perspective, the muon moves only slightly slower than the electron beam. But it turns out that the muon moves faster with respect to the electrons, although in the opposite direction, than it does with respect to the laboratory.

## The Cosmic Speed Limit

Figure 36.34a is a graph of momentum versus velocity. For a Newtonian particle, with $p = mu$, the momentum is directly proportional to the velocity. The relativistic expression for momentum agrees with the Newtonian value if $u \ll c$, but $p$ approaches $\infty$ as $u \to c$.

**Figure 36.34**




The speed of a particle cannot reach the speed of light.

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The implications of this graph become clear when we relate momentum to force. Consider a particle subjected to a constant force, such as a rocket that never runs out of fuel. If $F$ is constant, we can see from $F = dp/dt$ that the momentum is $p = Ft$. If Newtonian physics were correct, a particle would go faster and faster as its velocity $u = p/m = (F/m)t$ increased without limit. But the relativistic result, shown in Figure 36.34b, is that the particle's velocity asymptotically approaches the speed of light ($u \to c$) as $p$ approaches ∞. Relativity gives a very different outcome than Newtonian mechanics.

The speed $c$ is a "cosmic speed limit" for material particles. A force cannot accelerate a particle to a speed higher than $c$ because the particle's momentum becomes infinitely large as the speed approaches $c$. The amount of effort required for each additional increment of velocity becomes larger and larger until no amount of effort can raise the velocity any higher.

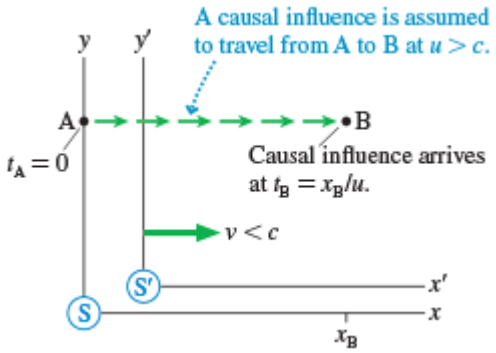
Actually, at a more fundamental level, $c$ is a speed limit for *any* kind of **causal influence.** If I throw a rock and break a window, my throw is the *cause* of the breaking window and the rock is the *causal influence*. If I shoot a laser beam at a light detector that is wired to a firecracker, the light wave is the *causal influence* that leads to the explosion. A causal influence can be any kind of particle, wave, or information that travels from A to B and allows A to be the cause of B.

For two unrelated events—a firecracker explodes in Tokyo and a balloon bursts in Paris—the relativity of simultaneity tells us that they may be simultaneous in one reference frame but not in others. Or in one reference frame the firecracker may explode before the balloon bursts but in some other reference frame the balloon may burst first. These possibilities violate our commonsense view of time, but they're not in conflict with the principle of relativity.

For two causally related events—A *causes* B—it would be nonsense for an experimenter in any reference frame to find that B occurs before A. No experimenter in any reference frame, no matter how it is moving, will find that you are born before your mother is born. If A causes B, then it must be the case that $t_{\text{A}} < t_{\text{B}}$ in *all* reference frames.

Suppose there exists some kind of causal influence that *can* travel at speed $u > c$. Figure 36.35 shows a reference frame S in which event A occurs at position $x_{\text{A}} = 0$. The faster-than-light causal influence—perhaps some yet-to-be-discovered "z ray"—leaves A at $t_{\text{A}} = 0$ and travels to the point at which it will cause event B. It arrives at $x_{\text{B}}$ at time $t_{\text{B}} = x_{\text{B}}/u$.

**Figure 36.35**




Assume that a causal influence can travel from A to B at a speed $u > c$.

---

How do events A and B appear in a reference frame S′ that travels at an ordinary speed $v < c$ relative to frame S? We can use the Lorentz transformations to find out. Because $x_A = 0$ and $t_A = 0$, it's easy to see that $x'_A = 0$ and $t'_A = 0$. That is, the origins of S and S′ overlap at the instant the causal influence leaves event A. More interesting is the time at which this influence reaches B in frame S′. The Lorentz time transformation for event B is

**(36.36)**

$$t'_B = \gamma\left(t_B - \frac{vx_B}{c^2}\right) = \gamma t_B\left(1 - \frac{v\,(x_B/t_B)}{c^2}\right) = \gamma t_B\left(1 - \frac{vu}{c^2}\right)$$

where we first factored out $t_B$, then made use of the fact that $u = x_B/t_B$ in frame S.

We're assuming that $u > c$, so there exist ordinary reference frames, with $v < c$, for which $vu/c^2 > 1$. In that case, the term $\left(1 - vu/c^2\right)$ is negative and $t'_B < 0$. But if $t'_B < 0$, then event B happens S′. In other words, if a causal influence can travel faster than $c$, then there exist reference frames in which the effect happens before the cause. We know this can't happen, so our assumption $u > c$ must be wrong. **No causal influence of any kind —particle, wave, or yet-to-be-discovered z rays—can travel faster than** $c$.

The existence of a cosmic speed limit is one of the most interesting consequences of the theory of relativity. “Warp drive,” in which a spaceship suddenly leaps to faster-than-light velocities, is simply incompatible with the theory of relativity. Rapid travel to the stars will remain in the realm of science fiction unless future scientific discoveries find flaws in Einstein’s theory and open the doors to yet-undreamed-of theories. While we can’t say with certainty that a scientific theory will never be overturned, there is currently not even a hint of evidence that disagrees with the special theory of relativity.

# 36.10 Relativistic Energy 1052

Energy is our final topic in this chapter on relativity. Space, time, velocity, and momentum are changed by relativity, so it seems inevitable that we'll need a new view of energy.

In Newtonian mechanics, a particle's kinetic energy $K = \frac{1}{2}mu^2$ can be written in terms of its momentum $p = mu$ as $K = p^2/2m$. This suggests that a relativistic expression for energy will likely involve both the square of $p$ and the particle's mass. We also hope that energy will be conserved in relativity, so a reasonable starting point is with the one quantity we've found that is the same in all inertial reference frames: the spacetime interval $s$.

Let a particle of mass $m$ move through distance $\Delta x$ during a time interval $\Delta t$, as measured in reference frame S. The spacetime interval is

$$s^2 = c^2(\Delta t)^2 - (\Delta x)^2 = \text{ invariant}$$

We can turn this into an expression involving momentum if we multiply by $(m/\Delta\tau)^2$, where $\Delta\tau$ is the proper time (i.e., the time measured by the particle). Doing so gives

**(36.37)**

$$(mc)^2\left(\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta\tau}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{m\,\Delta x}{\Delta\tau}\right)^2 = (mc)^2\left(\frac{\Delta t}{\Delta\tau}\right)^2 - p^2 = \text{invariant}$$

where we used $p = m(\Delta x/\Delta\tau)$ from Equation 36.32.

Now $\Delta t$, the time interval in frame S, is related to the proper time by the time-dilation result $\Delta t = \gamma_p \Delta\tau$. With this change, Equation 36.37 becomes

$$\left(\gamma_p mc\right)^2 - p^2 = \text{invariant}$$

Finally, for reasons that will be clear in a minute, we multiply by $c^2$, to get

**(36.38)**

$$\left(\gamma_p mc^2\right)^2 - (pc)^2 = \text{invariant}$$

To say that the right side is an *invariant* means it has the same value in all inertial reference frames. We can easily determine the constant by evaluating it in the reference frame in which the particle is at rest. In that frame, where $p = 0$ and $\gamma_p = 1$, we find that

**(36.39)**

$$\left(\gamma_p mc^2\right)^2 - (pc)^2 = \left(mc^2\right)^2$$

Let's reflect on what this means before taking the next step. The space-time interval $s$ has the same value in all inertial reference frames. In other words, $c^2(\Delta t)^2 - (\Delta x)^2 = c^2\left(\Delta t'\right)^2 - \left(\Delta x'\right)^2$. Equation 36.39 was derived from the definition of the spacetime interval; hence the quantity $mc^2$ is also an invariant having the same value in all inertial reference frames. In other words, if experimenters in frames S and S′ both make measurements on this particle of mass $m$, they will find that

**(36.40)**

$$\left(\gamma_p mc^2\right)^2 - (pc)^2 = \left(\gamma_p' mc^2\right)^2 - \left(p'c\right)^2$$

Experimenters in different reference frames measure different values for the momentum, but experimenters in all reference frames agree that momentum is a conserved quantity. Equations 36.39 and 36.40 suggest that the quantity $\gamma_p mc^2$ is also an important property of the particle, a property that changes along with $p$ in just the right way to satisfy Equation 36.39. But what is this property?

The first clue comes from checking the units. $\gamma_p$ is dimensionless and $c$ is a velocity, so $\gamma_p mc^2$ has the same units as the classical expression $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$—namely, units of energy. For a second clue, let's examine how $\gamma_p mc^2$ behaves in the low-velocity limit $u \ll c$. We can use the binomial approximation expression for $\gamma_p$ to find

**(36.41)**

$$\gamma_p mc^2 = \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}} \approx \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{u^2}{c^2}\right)mc^2 = mc^2 + \frac{1}{2}mu^2$$

The second term, $\frac{1}{2}mu^2$, is the low-velocity expression for the kinetic energy $K$. This is an energy associated with motion. But the first term suggests that the concept of energy is more complex than we originally thought. It appears that **there is an inherent energy associated with mass itself.**

## Rest Energy and Total Energy

With that as a possibility, subject to experimental verification, let's define the **total energy** $E$ of a particle to be

---

**(36.42)**

$$E = \gamma_p mc^2 = E_0 + K = \text{rest energy} + \text{kinetic energy}$$

This total energy consists of a **rest energy**

**(36.43)**

$$E_0 = mc^2$$

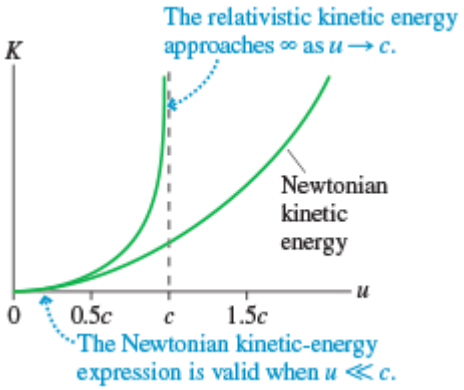
and a relativistic expression for the *kinetic energy*

**(36.44)**

$$K = \left(\gamma_p - 1\right)mc^2 = \left(\gamma_p - 1\right)E_0$$

This expression for the kinetic energy is very nearly $\frac{1}{2}mu^2$ when $u \ll c$ but, as Figure 36.36 shows, differs significantly from the classical value for very high velocities.

## Figure 36.36




The relativistic kinetic energy.



Equation 36.43 is, of course, Einstein's famous $E = mc^2$, perhaps the most famous equation in all of physics. Before discussing its significance,

we need to tie up some loose ends. First, we can use Equations 36.42 and 36.43 to rewrite Equation 36.39 as $E^2 - (pc)^2 = {E_0}^2$. This is easily rearranged to give the useful result

---

**(36.45)**

$$E = \sqrt{{E_0}^2 + (pc)^2}$$

The quantity $E_0$ is an *invariant* with the same value $mc^2$ in *all* inertial reference frames.

Second, notice that we can write

$$pc = \left(\gamma_{\mathrm{p}} mu\right)c = \frac{u}{c}\left(\gamma_{\mathrm{p}} mc^2\right)$$

But $\gamma_{\mathrm{p}} mc^2$ is the total energy $E$ and $u/c = \beta_{\mathrm{p}}$, where the subscript p, as on $\gamma_{\mathrm{p}}$, indicates that we're referring to the motion of a particle within a reference frame, not the motion of two reference frames relative to each other. Thus

---

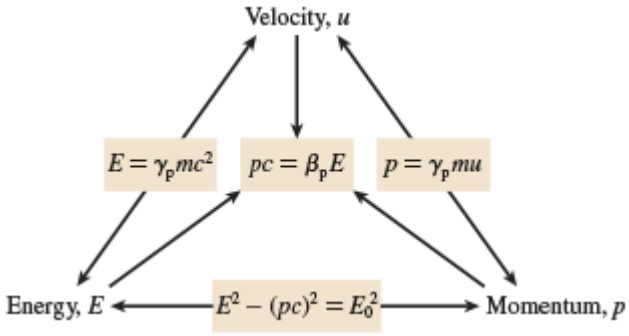
**(36.46)**

$$pc = \beta_{\mathrm{p}} E$$

Figure 36.37 shows the "velocity-energy-momentum triangle," a convenient way to remember the relationships among the three

quantities.

## Figure 36.37




The velocity-energy-momentum triangle.

### Example 36.11 Kinetic energy and total energy

Calculate the rest energy and the kinetic energy of (a) a 100 g ball moving with a speed of 100 m/s and (b) an electron with a speed of $0.999c$.

**MODEL** The ball, with $u \ll c$, is a classical particle. We don't need to use the relativistic expression for its kinetic energy. The electron is highly relativistic.

**SOLVE**

**a.** For the ball, with $m = 0.10\ \text{kg}$,

$$E_0 = mc^2 = 9.0 \times 10^{15}\ \text{J}$$

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mu^2 = 500\ \text{J}$$

**b.** For the electron, we start by calculating

$$\gamma_p = \frac{1}{\left(1 - u^2/c^2\right)^{1/2}} = 22.4$$

Then, using $m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg, we find

$$E_0 = mc^2 = 8.2 \times 10^{-14}\ \text{J}$$

$$K = \left(\gamma_p - 1\right) E_0 = 170 \times 10^{-14}\ \text{J}$$

**ASSESS** The ball's kinetic energy is a typical kinetic energy. Its rest energy, by contrast, is a staggeringly large number. For a relativistic electron, on the other hand, the kinetic energy is more important than the rest energy.

### Stop to Think 36.8

An electron moves through the lab at 99% the speed of light. The lab reference frame is S and the electron's reference frame is S′. In which reference frame is the electron's rest mass larger?

**a.** In frame S, the lab frame

**b.** In frame S′, the electron's frame

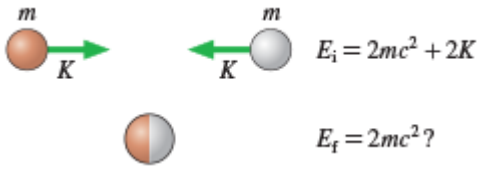
**c.** It is the same in both frames.

## Mass-Energy Equivalence

Now we're ready to explore the significance of Einstein's famous equation $E = mc^2$. Figure 36.38 shows two balls of clay approaching each

other. They have equal masses and equal kinetic energies, and they slam together in a perfectly inelastic collision to form one large ball of clay at rest. In Newtonian mechanics, we would say that the initial energy $2K$ is dissipated by being transformed into an equal amount of thermal energy, raising the temperature of the coalesced ball of clay. But Equation 36.42, $E = E_0 + K$, doesn't say anything about thermal energy. The total energy before the collision is $E_i = 2mc^2 + 2K$, with the factor of 2 appearing because there are two masses. It seems like the total energy after the collision, when the clay is at rest, should be $2mc^2$, but this value doesn't conserve total energy.

## Figure 36.38




An inelastic collision between two balls of clay does not seem to conserve the total energy $E$.

There's ample experimental evidence that energy is conserved, so there must be a flaw in our reasoning. The statement of energy conservation is

**(36.47)**

$$E_f = Mc^2 = E_i = 2mc^2 + 2K$$

The tracks of elementary particles in a bubble chamber show the creation of an electron-positron pair. The negative electron and positive positron spiral in opposite directions in the magnetic field.

---

where $M$ is the mass of clay after the collision. But, remarkably, this requires

**(36.48)**

$$M = 2m + \frac{2K}{c^2}$$

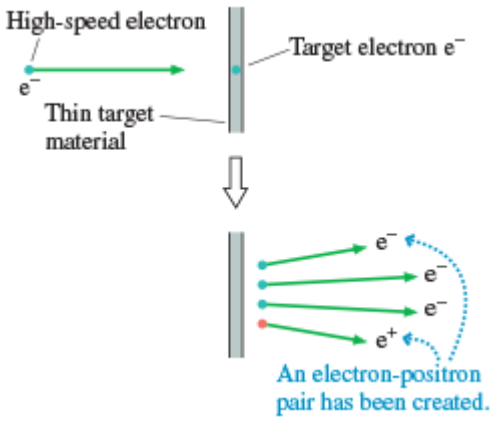
In other words, **mass is not conserved.** The mass of clay after the collision is larger than the mass of clay before the collision. Total energy can be conserved only if kinetic energy is transformed into an "equivalent" amount of mass.



The mass increase in a collision between two balls of clay is incredibly small, far beyond any scientist's ability to detect. So how do we know if such a crazy idea is true?

Figure 36.39 shows an experiment that has been done countless times in the last 50 years at particle accelerators around the world. An electron that has been accelerated to $u \approx c$ is aimed at a target material. When a high-energy electron collides with an atom in the target, it can easily knock one of the electrons out of the atom. Thus we would expect to see two electrons leaving the target: the incident electron and the ejected electron. Instead, *four* particles emerge from the target: three electrons and a positron. A *positron,* or positive electron, is the antimatter version of an electron, identical to an electron in all respects other than having charge $q = +e$.

## Figure 36.39




An inelastic collision between electrons can create an electron-positron pair.

In chemical-reaction notation, the collision is

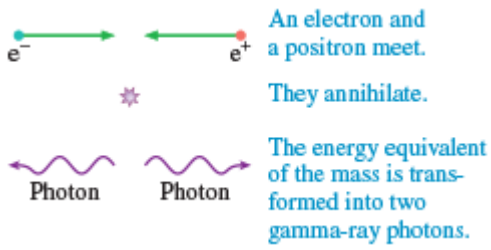
$$e^-(\text{fast}) + e^-(\text{at rest}) \rightarrow e^- + e^- + e^- + e^+$$

An electron and a positron have been *created,* apparently out of nothing. Mass $2m_e$ before the collision has become mass $4m_e$ after the collision. (Notice that charge has been conserved in this collision.)

Although the mass has increased, it wasn't created "out of nothing." This is an inelastic collision, just like the collision of the balls of clay, because the kinetic energy after the collision is less than before. In fact, if you measured the energies before and after the collision, you would find that the decrease in kinetic energy is exactly equal to the energy equivalent of the two particles that have been created: $\Delta K = 2m_e c^2$. The new particles have been created *out of energy!*

Particles can be created from energy, and particles can return to energy. Figure 36.40 shows an electron colliding with a positron, its antimatter partner. When a particle and its antiparticle meet, they *annihilate* each other. The mass disappears, and the energy equivalent of the mass is transformed into light. In Chapter 38, you'll learn that light is *quantized*, meaning that light is emitted and absorbed in discrete chunks of energy called *photons*. For light with wavelength $\lambda$, the energy of a photon is $E_{\text{photon}} = hc/\lambda$, where $h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34}$ J s is called *Planck's constant*. Photons carry momentum as well as energy. Conserving both energy and momentum in the annihilation of an electron and a positron requires the emission in opposite directions of two photons of equal energy.

## Figure 36.40




The annihilation of an electron-positron pair.

If the electron and positron are fairly slow, so that $K \ll mc^2$, then $E_i \approx E_0 = mc^2$. In that case, energy conservation requires

**(36.49)**

$$E_f = 2E_{photon} = E_i \approx 2m_e c^2$$

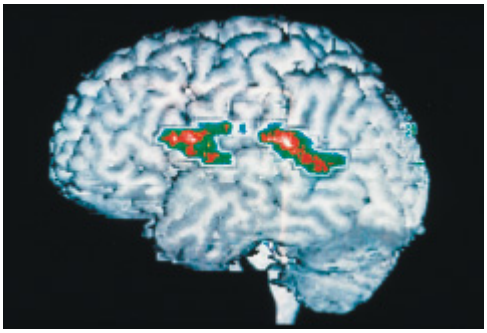
Hence the wavelength of the emitted photons is



**(36.50)**

$$\lambda = \frac{hc}{m_e c^2} \approx 0.0024\ \text{nm}$$

This is an extremely short wavelength, even shorter than the wavelengths of x rays. Photons in this wavelength range are called *gamma rays*. And, indeed, the emission of 0.0024 nm gamma rays is observed in many laboratory experiments in which positrons are able to collide with electrons and thus annihilate. In recent years, with the advent of gamma-ray telescopes on satellites, astronomers have found 0.0024 nm photons coming from many places in the universe, especially galactic centers—evidence that positrons are abundant throughout the universe.



Positron-electron annihilation (a PET scan) provides a noninvasive look into the brain.

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Positron-electron annihilation is also the basis of the medical procedure known as positron-emission tomography, or a PET scan. A patient ingests a very small amount of a radioactive substance that decays by the emission of positrons. This substance is taken up by certain tissues in the body, especially those tissues with a high metabolic rate. As the

substance decays, the positrons immediately collide with electrons, annihilate, and create two gamma-ray photons that are emitted back to back. The gamma rays, which easily leave the body, are detected, and their trajectories are traced backward into the body. The overlap of many such trajectories shows quite clearly the tissue in which the positron emission is occurring. The results are usually shown as false-color photographs, with redder areas indicating regions of higher positron emission.

## Conservation of Energy

The creation and annihilation of particles with mass, processes strictly forbidden in Newtonian mechanics, are vivid proof that neither mass nor the Newtonian definition of energy is conserved. Even so, the *total* energy—the kinetic energy *and* the energy equivalent of mass—remains a conserved quantity.

---

Law of conservation of total energy

The energy $E = \sum E_i$ of an isolated system is conserved, where $E_i = \left(\gamma_{\mathrm{p}}\right)_i m_i c^2$ is the total energy of particle $i$.

Mass and energy are not the same thing, but, as the last few examples have shown, they are *equivalent* in the sense that mass can be transformed into energy and energy can be transformed into mass as long as the total energy is conserved.

Probably the most well-known application of the conservation of total energy is nuclear fission. The uranium isotope $^{236}\mathrm{U}$, containing 236

protons and neutrons, does not exist in nature. It can be created when a $^{235}$U nucleus absorbs a neutron, increasing its atomic mass from 235 to 236. The $^{236}$U nucleus quickly fragments into two smaller nuclei and several extra neutrons, a process known as **nuclear fission.** The nucleus can fragment in several ways, but one is

$$n + {}^{235}U \rightarrow {}^{236}U \rightarrow {}^{144}Ba + {}^{89}Kr + 3n$$

Ba and Kr are the atomic symbols for barium and krypton.

This reaction seems like an ordinary chemical reaction—until you check the masses. The masses of atomic isotopes are known with great precision from many decades of measurement in instruments called mass spectrometers. If you add up the masses on both sides, you find that the mass of the products is 0.185 u smaller than the mass of the initial neutron and $^{235}$U, where, you will recall, $1\ \text{u} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg}$ is the atomic mass unit. In kilograms the mass loss is $3.07 \times 10^{-28}\ \text{kg}$.

Mass has been lost, but the energy equivalent of the mass has not. As Figure 36.41 shows, the mass has been converted to kinetic energy, causing the two product nuclei and three neutrons to be ejected at very high speeds. The kinetic energy is easily calculated:
$\Delta K = m_{\text{lost}}c^2 = 2.8 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{J}$.

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**Figure 36.41**

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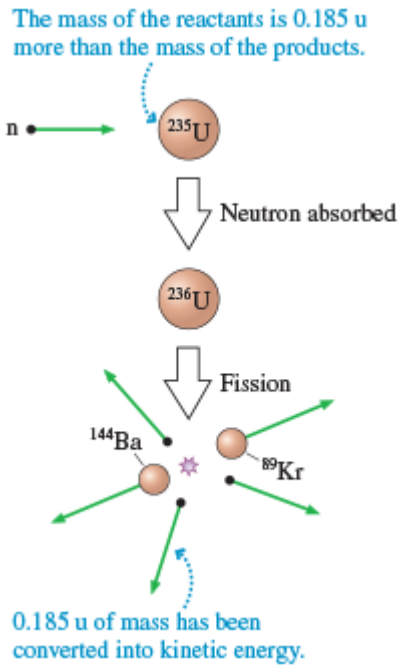


In nuclear fission, the energy equivalent of lost mass is converted into kinetic energy.

This is a very tiny amount of energy, but it is the energy released from *one* fission. The number of nuclei in a macroscopic sample of uranium is on the order of $N_A$, Avogadro's number. Hence the energy available if *all* the nuclei fission is enormous. This energy, of course, is the basis for both nuclear power reactors and nuclear weapons.

We started this chapter with an expectation that relativity would challenge our basic notions of space and time. We end by finding that relativity changes our understanding of mass and energy. Most remarkable of all is that each and every one of these new ideas flows from one simple statement: The laws of physics are the same in all inertial reference frames.

### Challenge Example 36.12 Goths and Huns

The rockets of the Goths and the Huns are each 1000 m long in their rest frame. The rockets pass each other, virtually touching, at a

relative speed of 0.8$c$. The Huns have a laser cannon at the rear of their rocket that fires a deadly laser beam perpendicular to the rocket's motion. The captain of the Huns wants to send a threatening message to the Goths by "firing a shot across their bow." He tells his first mate, "The Goths' rocket is length contracted to 600 m. Fire the laser cannon at the instant the tail of their rocket passes the nose of ours. The laser beam will cross 400 m in front of them."

But things are different in the Goths' reference frame. The Goth captain muses, "The Huns' rocket is length contracted to 600 m, 400 m shorter than our rocket. If they fire as the nose of their ship passes the tail of ours, the lethal laser beam will pass right through our side."

The first mate on the Huns' rocket fires as ordered. Does the laser beam blast the Goths or not?

---

**MODEL** Both rockets are inertial reference frames. Let the Huns' rocket be frame S and the Goths' rocket be frame S′. S′ moves with velocity $v = 0.8c$ relative to S. We need to describe the situation in terms of events.

**VISUALIZE** Begin by considering the situation from the Huns' reference frame, as shown in Figure 36.42.

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**Figure 36.42**

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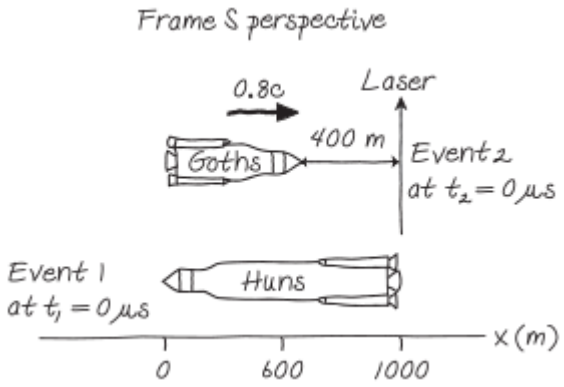


The situation seen by the Huns.

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**SOLVE** The key to resolving the paradox is that two events simultaneous in one reference frame are not simultaneous in a different reference frame. The Huns do, indeed, see the Goths' rocket length contracted to $L_{\text{Goths}} = \left(1 - (0.8)^2\right)^{1/2}(1000\text{ m}) = 600\text{ m}$. Let event 1 be the tail of the Goths' rocket passing the nose of the Huns' rocket. Since we're free to define the origin of our coordinate system, we define this event to be at time $t_1 = 0\,\mu\text{s}$ and at position $x_1 = 0\text{ m}$. Then, in the Huns' reference frame, the spacetime coordinates of event 2, the firing of the laser cannon, are $\left(x_2, t_2\right) = (1000\text{ m}, 0\,\mu\text{s})$. The nose of the Goths' rocket is at $x = 600\text{ m}$ at $t = 0\,\mu\text{s}$; thus the laser cannon misses the Goths by 400 m.

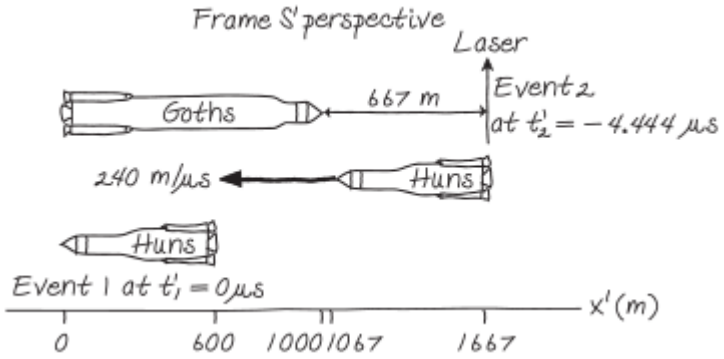
Now we can use the Lorentz transformations to find the space-time coordinates of the events in the Goths' reference frame. The nose of the Huns' rocket passes the tail of the Goths' rocket at $\left(x_1', t_1'\right) = (0\text{ m}, 0\,\mu\text{s})$. The Huns fire their laser cannon at

$$x_2' = \gamma\left(x_2 - vt_2\right) = \frac{5}{3}(1000\text{ m} - 0\text{ m}) = 1667\text{ m}$$

$$t_2' = \gamma\left(t_2 - \frac{vx_2}{c^2}\right) = \frac{5}{3}\left(0\,\mu\text{s} - (0.8)\frac{1000\text{ m}}{300\text{ m}/\mu\text{s}}\right) = -4.444\mu\text{s}$$

where we calculated $\gamma = 5/3$ for $v = 0.8c$. Events 1 and 2 are *not* simultaneous in S′. The Huns fire the laser cannon 4.444 $\mu$s *before* the nose of their rocket reaches the tail of the Goths' rocket. The laser is fired at $x_2' = 1667\ \text{m}$, missing the nose of the Goths' rocket by 667 m. Figure 36.43 shows how the Goths see things.

**Figure 36.43**




The situation seen by the Goths.

In fact, since the Huns' rocket is length contracted to 600 m, the nose of the Huns' rocket is at $x' = 1667\ \text{m} - 600\ \text{m} = 1067\ \text{m}$ at the instant they fire the laser cannon. At a speed of $v = 0.8c = 240\ \text{m}/\mu\text{s}$, in 4.444 $\mu$s the nose of the Huns' rocket travels $\Delta x' = (240\ \text{m}/\mu\text{s})(4.444\ \mu\text{s}) = 1067\ \text{m}$—exactly the right distance to be at the tail of the Goths' rocket at $t'_1 = 0\ \mu\text{s}$. We could also note that the 667 m "miss distance" in the Goths' frame is length contracted to $\left(1 - (0.8)^2\right)^{1/2}(667\ \text{m}) = 400\ \text{m}$ in the Huns' frame—exactly the amount by which the Huns think they miss the Goths' rocket.

**ASSESS** Thus we end up with a consistent explanation. The Huns miss the Goths' rocket because, to them, the Goths' rocket is length contracted. The Goths find that the Huns miss because event 2 (the firing of the laser cannon) occurs before event 1 (the nose of one rocket passing the tail of the other). The 400 m distance of the miss

in the Huns' reference frame is the length-contracted miss distance of 667 m in the Goths' reference frame.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 36 has been to learn how relativity changes our concepts of space and time.

## General Principles

### Principle of Relativity

**The laws of physics are the same in all inertial reference frames.**

- The speed of light $c$ is the same in all inertial reference frames.
- No particle or causal influence can travel at a speed greater than $c$.

### Solving Relativity Problems

- Base the analysis on events.
- Time intervals can often be found using time dilation.
- Distances can often be found using length contraction.
- Use the **Lorentz transformations** for general problems.

## Important Concepts

### Space

Spatial measurements depend on the motion of the experimenter relative to the events. An object's length is the difference between *simultaneous* measurements of the positions of both ends.

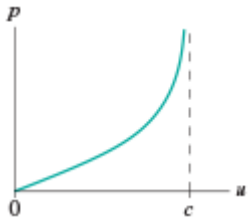
**Proper length** $\ell$ is the length of an object measured in a reference frame in which the object is at rest. The object's length in a frame in which the object moves with velocity $v$ is

$$L = \sqrt{1 - \beta^2}\ell \leq \ell$$

This is called **length contraction.**

## Momentum

The law of conservation of momentum is valid in all inertial reference frames if the momentum of a particle with velocity $u$ is $p = \gamma_\mathrm{p} mu$, where




$$\gamma_\mathrm{p} = 1/\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}$$

The momentum approaches ∞ as $u \to c$.

**Invariants** are quantities that have the same value in all inertial reference frames.

Spacetime interval: $s^2 = (c\Delta t)^2 - (\Delta x)^2$

Particle rest energy: ${E_0}^2 = \left(mc^2\right)^2 = E^2 - (pc)^2$

## Time

Time measurements depend on the motion of the experimenter relative to the events. Events that are simultaneous in reference frame S are not

simultaneous in frame S′ moving relative to S.

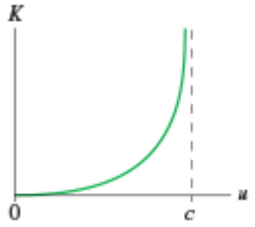
**Proper time** $\Delta\tau$ is the time interval between two events measured in a reference frame in which the events occur at the same position. The time interval between the events in a frame moving with relative velocity $v$ is

$$\Delta t = \Delta\tau / \sqrt{1 - \beta^2} \geq \Delta\tau$$

This is called **time dilation.**

## Energy

The law of conservation of energy is valid in all inertial reference frames if the energy of a particle with velocity $u$ is $E = \gamma_\mathrm{p} mc^2 = E_0 + K$.




**Rest energy** $E_0 = mc^2$

Kinetic energy $K = (\gamma_\mathrm{p} - 1)\, mc^2$

## Mass-energy equivalence

Mass $m$ can be transformed into energy $\Delta E = mc^2$.

Energy can be transformed into mass $m = \Delta E / c^2$.

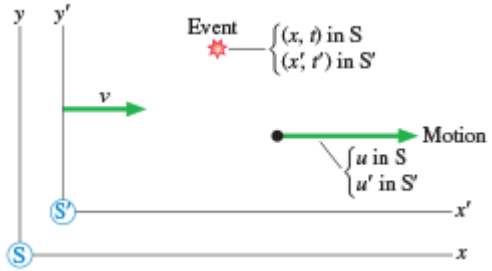
# Applications

An **event** happens at a specific place in space and time. Spacetime coordinates are $(x, t)$ in frame S and $(x', t')$ in frame S′.

A **reference frame** is a coordinate system with meter sticks and clocks for measuring events.

The **Lorentz transformations** transform spacetime coordinates and velocities between reference frames S and S′.

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= \gamma(x - vt) & x &= \gamma(x' + vt') \\ y' &= y & y &= y' \\ z' &= z & z &= z' \\ t' &= \gamma\left(t - vx/c^2\right) & t &= \gamma\left(t' + vx'/c^2\right) \\ u' &= \frac{u-v}{1-uv/c^2} & u &= \frac{u'+v}{1+u'v/c^2} \end{aligned}$$




where $u$ and $u'$ are the $x$- and $x'$-components of an object's velocity.

$$\beta = v/c \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma = 1/\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2} = 1/\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}$$



# Terms and Notation

special relativity

reference frame

inertial reference frame

Galilean principle of relativity

principle of relativity

event

spacetime coordinates $(x, y, z, t)$

synchronized

simultaneous

relativity of simultaneity

rest frame

proper time, $\Delta\tau$

time dilation

light year, ly

proper length, $\ell$

length contraction

invariant

spacetime interval, $s$

Lorentz transformations

causal influence

total energy, $E$

rest energy, $E_0$

law of conservation of total energy

nuclear fission

# Conceptual Questions

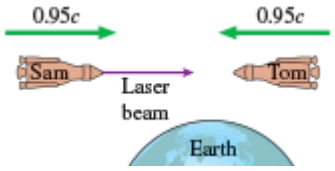


**1.** Figure Q36.1 shows two balls. What are the speed and direction of each (a) in a reference frame that moves with ball 1 and (b) in a reference frame that moves with ball 2?

**Figure Q36.1**

**2.** Teenagers Sam and Tom are playing chicken in their rockets. As Figure Q36.2 shows, an experimenter on earth sees that each is traveling at 0.95*c* as he approaches the other. Sam fires a laser beam toward Tom.

**Figure Q36.2**



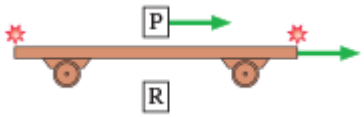

**a.** What is the speed of the laser beam relative to Sam?

**b.** What is the speed of the laser beam relative to Tom?

**3.** Firecracker A is 300 m from you. Firecracker B is 600 m from you in the same direction. You see both explode at the same time. Define event 1 to be "firecracker A explodes" and event 2 to be "firecracker B explodes." Does event 1 occur before, after, or at the same time as event 2? Explain.

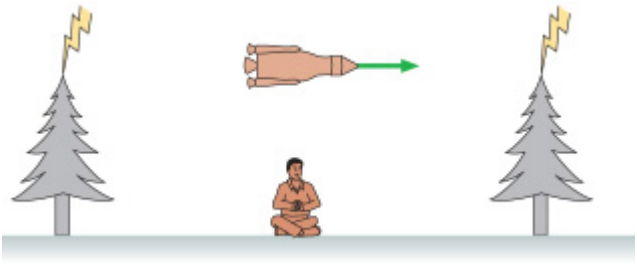
4. Firecrackers A and B are 600 m apart. You are standing exactly halfway between them. Your lab partner is 300 m on the other side of firecracker A. You see two flashes of light, from the two explosions, at exactly the same instant of time. Define event 1 to be "firecracker A explodes" and event 2 to be "firecracker B explodes." According to your lab partner, based on measurements he or she makes, does event 1 occur before, after, or at the same time as event 2? Explain.
5. Figure Q36.5 shows Peggy standing at the center of her railroad car as it passes Ryan on the ground. Firecrackers attached to the ends of the car explode. A short time later, the flashes from the two explosions arrive at Peggy at the same time.

**Figure Q36.5**




   a. Were the explosions simultaneous in Peggy's reference frame? If not, which exploded first? Explain.
   b. Were the explosions simultaneous in Ryan's reference frame? If not, which exploded first? Explain.
6. Figure Q36.6 shows a rocket traveling from left to right. At the instant it is halfway between two trees, lightning simultaneously (in the rocket's frame) hits both trees.

**Figure Q36.6**



**a.** Do the light flashes reach the rocket pilot simultaneously? If not, which reaches her first? Explain.

**b.** A student was sitting on the ground halfway between the trees as the rocket passed overhead. According to the student, were the lightning strikes simultaneous? If not, which tree was hit first? Explain.

**7.** Your friend flies from Los Angeles to New York. She carries an accurate stopwatch with her to measure the flight time. You and your assistants on the ground also measure the flight time.

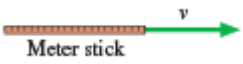
**a.** Identify the two events associated with this measurement.

**b.** Who, if anyone, measures the proper time?

**c.** Who, if anyone, measures the shorter flight time?

**8.** As the meter stick in Figure Q36.8 flies past you, you simultaneously measure the positions of both ends and determine that $L < 1\,\text{m}$.

**Figure Q36.8**




**a.** To an experimenter in frame S′, the meter stick's frame, did you make your two measurements simultaneously? If not, which end did you measure first? Explain.

**b.** Can experimenters in frame S′ give an explanation for why your measurement is less than 1 m?

**9.** A 100-m-long train is heading for an 80-m-long tunnel. If the train moves sufficiently fast, is it possible, according to experimenters on the ground, for the entire train to be inside the tunnel at one instant of time? Explain.

**10.** Particle A has half the mass and twice the speed of particle B. Is the momentum $p_A$ less than, greater than, or equal to $p_B$? Explain.

**11.** Event A occurs at spacetime coordinates (300 m, 2 $\mu$s).

**a.** Event B occurs at spacetime coordinates (1200 m, 6 $\mu$s). Could A possibly be the cause of B? Explain.

**b.** Event C occurs at spacetime coordinates (2400 m, 8 $\mu$s). Could A possibly be the cause of C? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 36.2 Galilean Relativity

**1.** •• A firecracker explodes in reference frame S at $t = 1.0$ s. A second firecracker explodes at the same position at $t = 3.0$ s. In reference frame S′, which moves in the $x$-direction at speed $v$, the first explosion is detected at $x' = 4.0$ m and the second at $x' = -4.0$ m.

**a.** What is the speed of frame S′ relative to frame S?

**b.** What is the position of the two explosions in frame S?

**2.** •• At $t = 1.0$ s, a firecracker explodes at $x = 10$ m in reference frame S. Four seconds later, a second firecracker explodes at $x = 20$ m. Reference frame S′ moves in the $x$-direction at a speed of 5.0 m/s. What are the positions and times of these two events in frame S′?

**3.** • A newspaper delivery boy is riding his bicycle down the street at 5.0 m/s. He can throw a paper at a speed of 8.0 m/s. What is the paper's speed relative to the ground if he throws the paper (a) forward, (b) backward, and (c) to the side?

**4.** • A baseball pitcher can throw a ball with a speed of 40 m/s. He is in the back of a pickup truck that is driving away from you. He throws the ball in your direction, and it floats toward you at a lazy 10 m/s. What is the speed of the truck?

## Section 36.3 Einstein's Principle of Relativity

**5.** • An out-of-control alien spacecraft is diving into a star at a speed of $1.0 \times 10^8$ m/s. At what speed, relative to the spacecraft, is the starlight approaching?

**6.** • A starship blasts past the earth at $2.0 \times 10^8$ m/s. Just after passing the earth, it fires a laser beam out the back of the starship. With what speed does the laser beam approach the earth?

## Section 36.4 Events and Measurements

## Section 36.5 The Relativity of Simultaneity

**7.** • Your job is to synchronize the clocks in a reference frame. You are going to do so by flashing a light at the origin at $t = 0$ s. To what time should the clock at $(x, y, z) = (30\text{ m}, 40\text{ m}, 0\text{ m})$ be preset?

**8.** •• Bjorn is standing at $x = 600$ m. Firecracker 1 explodes at the origin and firecracker 2 explodes at $x = 900$ m. The flashes from both explosions reach Bjorn's eye at $t = 3.0$ $\mu$s. At what time did each firecracker explode?

**9.** •• Bianca is standing at $x = 600$ m. Firecracker 1, at the origin, and firecracker 2, at $x = 900$ m, explode simultaneously. The flash from firecracker 1 reaches Bianca's eye at $t = 3.0$ $\mu$s. At what time does she see the flash from firecracker 2?

**10.** ••• You are standing at $x = 9.0$ km and your assistant is standing at $x = 3.0$ km. Lightning bolt 1 strikes at $x = 0$ km and lightning bolt 2 strikes at $x = 12.0$ km. You see the flash from bolt 2 at $t = 10$ $\mu$s and the flash from bolt 1 at $t = 50$ $\mu$s. According to your assistant, were the lightning strikes simultaneous? If not, which occurred first, and what was the time difference between the two?

**11.** •• You are standing at $x = 9.0$ km. Lightning bolt 1 strikes at $x = 0$ km and lightning bolt 2 strikes at $x = 12.0$ km. Both flashes reach your eye at the same time. Your assistant is standing at $x = 3.0$ km. Does your assistant see the flashes at the same time? If not, which does she see first, and what is the time difference between the two?

**12.** •• You are flying your personal rocketcraft at $0.90c$ from Star A toward Star B. The distance between the stars, in the stars' reference frame, is 1.0 ly. Both stars happen to explode simultaneously in your reference frame at the instant you are exactly halfway between them. Do you see the flashes simultaneously? If not, which do you see first, and what is the time difference between the two?

## Section 36.6 Time Dilation

**13.** •• A cosmic ray travels 60 km through the earth's atmosphere in 400 $\mu$s, as measured by experimenters on the ground. How long does the journey take according to the cosmic ray?

**14.** •• At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, does a moving clock tick at half the rate of an identical clock at rest?

**15.** • An astronaut travels to a star system 4.5 ly away at a speed of $0.90c$. Assume that the time needed to accelerate and decelerate is negligible.

**a.** How long does the journey take according to Mission Control on earth?

**b.** How long does the journey take according to the astronaut?

**c.** How much time elapses between the launch and the arrival of the first radio message from the astronaut saying that she has arrived?

**16.** ••

**a.** At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, must a rocket travel on a journey to and from a distant star so that the astronauts age 10 years while the Mission Control workers on earth age 120 years?

**b.** As measured by Mission Control, how far away is the distant star?

**17.** • At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, would a round-trip astronaut "lose" $\frac{1}{25}$ of the elapsed time shown on her watch?

**18.** •• At what speed, in m/s, would a moving clock lose 1.0 ns in 1.0 day according to experimenters on the ground?

**Hint:** Use the binomial approximation.

**19.** •• You fly 5000 km across the United States on an airliner at 250 m/s. You return two days later at the same speed.

**a.** Have you aged more or less than your friends at home?

**b.** By how much?

**Hint:** Use the binomial approximation.

## Section 36.7 Length Contraction

**20.** • Jill claims that her new rocket is 100 m long. As she flies past your house, you measure the rocket's length and find that it is only 80 m. What is Jill's speed, as a fraction of $c$?

**21.** • At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, will a moving rod have a length 60% that of an identical rod at rest?

**22.** •• A cube has a density of $2000\ \text{kg/m}^3$ while at rest in the laboratory. What is the cube's density as measured by an experimenter in the laboratory as the cube moves through the laboratory at 90% of the speed of light in a direction perpendicular to one of its faces?

**23.** • A muon travels 60 km through the atmosphere at a speed of $0.9997c$. According to the muon, how thick is the atmosphere?

**24.** • Our Milky Way galaxy is 100,000 ly in diameter. A spaceship crossing the galaxy measures the galaxy's diameter to be a mere 1.0 ly.

**a.** What is the spacecraft's speed, as a fraction of $c$, relative to the galaxy?

**b.** How long is the crossing time as measured in the galaxy's reference frame?

**25.** •• A human hair is about 50 $\mu$m in diameter. At what speed, in m/s, would a meter stick "shrink by a hair"?

**Hint:** Use the binomial approximation.

## Section 36.8 The Lorentz Transformations

**26.** •• A rocket travels in the $x$-direction at speed $0.60c$ with respect to the earth. An experimenter on the rocket observes a collision between two comets and determines that the spacetime coordinates of the collision are $(x', t') = \left(3.0 \times 10^{10}\,\text{m}, 200\,\text{s}\right)$. What are the spacetime coordinates of the collision in earth's reference frame?

**27.** • An event has spacetime coordinates $(x, t) = (1200\,\text{m}, 2.0\,\mu\text{s})$ in reference frame S. What are the event's spacetime coordinates (a) in reference frame S′ that moves in the positive $x$-direction at $0.80c$ and (b) in reference frame S″ that moves in the negative $x$-direction at $0.80c$?

**28.** •• In the earth's reference frame, a tree is at the origin and a pole is at $x = 30$ km. Lightning strikes both the tree and the pole at $t = 10\ \mu$s. The lightning strikes are observed by a rocket traveling in the $x$-direction at $0.50c$.

**a.** What are the spacetime coordinates for these two events in the rocket's reference frame?

**b.** Are the events simultaneous in the rocket's frame? If not, which occurs first?

**29.** • A rocket cruising past earth at $0.80c$ shoots a bullet out the back door, opposite the rocket's motion, at $0.90c$ relative to the rocket. What is the bullet's speed, as a fraction of $c$, relative to the earth?

**30.** •• A distant quasar is found to be moving away from the earth at $0.80c$. A galaxy closer to the earth and along the same line of sight is moving away from us at $0.20c$. What is the recessional speed of the quasar, as a fraction of $c$, as measured by astronomers in the other galaxy?

**31.** •• A laboratory experiment shoots an electron to the left at $0.90c$. What is the electron's speed, as a fraction of $c$, relative to

a proton moving to the right at 0.90$c$?

## Section 36.9 Relativistic Momentum

**32.** • A proton is accelerated to 0.999$c$.

**a.** What is the proton's momentum?

**b.** By what factor does the proton's momentum exceed its Newtonian momentum?

**33.** •• A 1.0 g particle has momentum 400,000 kg m/s. What is the particle's speed in m/s?

**34.** • At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, is a particle's momentum twice its Newtonian value?

**35.** • What is the speed, as a fraction of $c$, of a particle whose momentum is $mc$?

## Section 36.10 Relativistic Energy

**36.** • A quarter-pound hamburger with all the fixings has a mass of 200 g. The food energy of the hamburger (480 food calories) is 2 MJ.

**a.** What is the energy equivalent of the mass of the hamburger?

**b.** By what factor does the energy equivalent exceed the food energy?



**37.** •• What are the rest energy, the kinetic energy, and the total energy of a 1.0 g particle with a speed of 0.80$c$?

**38.** •• At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, must an electron move so that its total energy is 10% more than its rest mass energy?

**39.** •• At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, is a particle's kinetic energy twice its rest energy?

**40.** • At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, is a particle's total energy twice its rest energy?

**41.** • A modest *supernova* (the explosion of a massive star at the end of its life cycle) releases $1.5 \times 10^{44}$ J of energy in a few seconds. This is enough to outshine the entire galaxy in which it occurs. Suppose a star with the mass of our sun collides with an antimatter star of equal mass, causing complete annihilation. What is the ratio of the energy released in this star-antistar collision to the energy released in the supernova?

**42.** •• One of the important ways in which the *Higgs boson* was detected at the Large Hadron Collider was by observing a type of decay in which the Higgs—which decays too quickly to be observed directly—is immediately transformed into two photons emitted back to back. Two photons, with momenta $3.31 \times 10^{-17}$ kg m/s, were detected. What is the mass of the Higgs boson? Give your answer as a multiple of the proton mass.

**Hint:** The relationship between energy and momentum applies to photons if you treat a photon as a massless particle.

## Problems

**43.** •• The diameter of the solar system is 10 light hours. A spaceship crosses the solar system in 15 hours, as measured on earth. How long, in hours, does the passage take according to passengers on the spaceship?

**Hint:** $c = 1$ light hour per hour.

**44.** • A 30-m-long rocket train car is traveling from Los Angeles to New York at $0.50c$ when a light at the center of the car flashes. When the light reaches the front of the car, it immediately rings

a bell. Light reaching the back of the car immediately sounds a siren.

**a.** Are the bell and siren simultaneous events for a passenger seated in the car? If not, which occurs first and by how much time?

**b.** Are the bell and siren simultaneous events for a bicyclist waiting to cross the tracks? If not, which occurs first and by how much time?

**45.** •• The star Alpha goes supernova. Ten years later and 100 ly away, as measured by astronomers in the galaxy, star Beta explodes.

**a.** Is it possible that the explosion of Alpha is in any way responsible for the explosion of Beta? Explain.

**b.** An alien spacecraft passing through the galaxy finds that the distance between the two explosions is 120 ly. According to the aliens, what is the time between the explosions?

**46.** •• Two events in reference frame S occur 10 $\mu$s apart at the same point in space. The distance between the two events is 2400 m in reference frame S′.

**a.** What is the time interval between the events in reference frame S′?

**b.** What is the velocity of S′ relative to S?

**47.** •• A starship voyages to a distant planet 10 ly away. The explorers stay 1 year, return at the same speed, and arrive back on earth 26 years, as measured on earth, after they left. Assume that the time needed to accelerate and decelerate is negligible.

**a.** What is the speed of the starship?

**b.** How much time has elapsed on the astronauts' chronometers?

**48.** • The Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC) accelerates electrons to $v = 0.99999997c$ in a 3.2-km-long tube. If they travel the length of the tube at full speed (they don't, because they are accelerating), how long is the tube in the electrons' reference frame?

**49.** •• **INT** On a futuristic highway, a 15-m-long rocket travels so fast that a red stoplight, with a wavelength of 700 nm, appears to the pilot to be a green light with a wavelength of 520 nm. What is the length of the rocket to an observer standing at the intersection as the rocket speeds through?

**Hint:** The Doppler effect for light was covered in Chapter 16.

**50.** •• In an attempt to reduce the extraordinarily long travel times for voyaging to distant stars, some people have suggested traveling at close to the speed of light. Suppose you wish to visit the red giant star Betelgeuse, which is 430 ly away, and that you want your 20,000 kg rocket to move so fast that you age only 20 years during the round trip.

**a.** How fast, as a fraction of $c$, must the rocket travel relative to earth?

**b.** How much energy is needed to accelerate the rocket to this speed?

**c.** Compare this amount of energy to the total energy used by the United States in the year 2015, which was roughly $1.0 \times 10^{20}$ J.

**51.** •• **CALC** The quantity $dE/dv$, the rate of increase of energy with speed, is the amount of additional energy a moving object needs per 1 m/s increase in speed.

**a.** A 25,000 kg truck is traveling at 30 m/s. How much additional energy is needed to increase its speed by 1 m/s?

**b.** A 25,000 kg rocket is traveling at 0.90$c$. How much additional energy is needed to increase its speed by 1 m/s?

**52.** •• A rocket traveling at 0.50$c$ sets out for the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, which is 4.3 ly away from earth. It will return to earth immediately after reaching Alpha Centauri. What distance will the rocket travel and how long will the journey last according to (a) stay-at-home earthlings and (b) the rocket crew? (c) Which answers are the correct ones, those in part a or those in part b?



**53.** •• The star Delta goes supernova. One year later and 2.0 ly away, as measured by astronomers in the galaxy, star Epsilon explodes. Let the explosion of Delta be at $x_{\mathrm{D}} = 0$ and $t_{\mathrm{D}} = 0$. The explosions are observed by three spaceships cruising through the galaxy in the direction from Delta to Epsilon at velocities $v_1 = 0.30c,\ v_2 = 0.50c$ and $v_3 = 0.70c$. All three spaceships, each at the origin of its reference frame, happen to pass Delta as it explodes.

**a.** What are the times of the two explosions as measured by scientists on each of the three spaceships?

**b.** Does one spaceship find that the explosions are simultaneous? If so, which one?

**c.** Does one spaceship find that Epsilon explodes before Delta? If so, which one?

**d.** Do your answers to parts b and c violate the idea of causality? Explain.

**54.** •• Two rockets approach each other. Each is traveling at 0.75$c$ in the earth's reference frame. What is the speed, as a fraction of $c$, of one rocket relative to the other?

**55.** •• Two rockets, A and B, approach the earth from opposite directions at speed $0.80c$. The length of each rocket measured in its rest frame is 100 m. What is the length of rocket A as measured by the crew of rocket B?

**56.** •• A rocket fires a projectile at a speed of $0.95c$ while traveling past the earth. An earthbound scientist measures the projectile's speed to be $0.90c$. What was the rocket's speed as a fraction of $c$?

**57.** ••• **INT** Through what potential difference must an electron be accelerated, starting from rest, to acquire a speed of $0.99c$?

**58.** •• **INT** What is the speed, in m/s, of a proton after being accelerated from rest through a $50 \times 10^6$ V potential difference?

**59.** •• The half-life of a muon at rest is 1.5 $\mu$s. Muons that have been accelerated to a very high speed and are then held in a circular storage ring have a half-life of 7.5 $\mu$s.

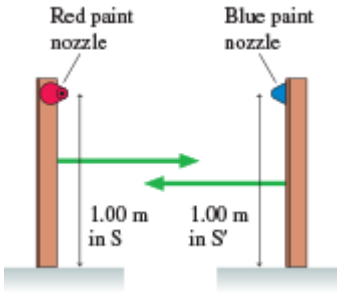
**a.** What is the speed, as a fraction of $c$, of the muons in the storage ring?

**b.** What is the total energy of a muon in the storage ring? The mass of a muon is 207 times the mass of an electron.

**60.** •• This chapter has assumed that lengths perpendicular to the direction of motion are not affected by the motion. That is, motion in the $x$-direction does not cause length contraction along the $y$- or $z$-axes. To find out if this is really true, consider two spray-paint nozzles attached to rods perpendicular to the $x$-axis. It has been confirmed that, when both rods are at rest, both nozzles are exactly 1 m above the base of the rod. One rod is placed in the S reference frame with its base on the $x$-axis; the other is placed in the S′ reference frame with its base on the $x'$-axis. The rods then swoop past each other and, as

Figure P36.60 shows, each paints a stripe across the other rod.

## Figure P36.60




We will use proof by contradiction. Assume that objects perpendicular to the motion *are* contracted. An experimenter in frame S finds that the S′ nozzle, as it goes past, is less than 1 m above the $x$-axis. The principle of relativity says that an experiment carried out in two different inertial reference frames will have the same outcome in both.

**a.** Pursue this line of reasoning and show that you end up with a logical contradiction, two mutually incompatible situations.

**b.** What can you conclude from this contradiction?

**61.** •• Derive the Lorentz transformations for $t$ and $t'$.

**Hint:** See the comment following Equation 36.22.

**62.** ••

**a.** Derive a velocity transformation equation for $u_y$ and $u'_y$. Assume that the reference frames are in the standard orientation with motion parallel to the $x$- and $x'$-axes.

**b.** A rocket passes the earth at $0.80c$. As it goes by, it launches a projectile at $0.60c$ perpendicular to the

direction of motion. What is the particle's speed, as a fraction of $c$, in the earth's reference frame?

**63.** •• A rocket is fired from the earth to the moon at a speed of $0.990c$. Let two events be "rocket leaves earth" and "rocket hits moon."

**a.** In the earth's reference frame, calculate $\Delta x$, $\Delta t$, and the spacetime interval $s$ for these events.

**b.** In the rocket's reference frame, calculate $\Delta x'$, $\Delta t'$, and the spacetime interval s′ for these events.

**c.** Repeat your calculations of part a if the rocket is replaced with a laser beam.

**64.** •• **INT** Let's examine whether or not the law of conservation of momentum is true in all reference frames if we use the Newtonian definition of momentum: $p_x = mu_x$. Consider an object A of mass $3m$ at rest in reference frame S. Object A explodes into two pieces: object B, of mass $m$, that is shot to the left at a speed of $c/2$ and object C, of mass $2m$, that, to conserve momentum, is shot to the right at a speed of $c/4$. Suppose this explosion is observed in reference frame S′ that is moving to the right at half the speed of light.

**a.** Use the Lorentz velocity transformation to find the velocity and the Newtonian momentum of A in S′.

**b.** Use the Lorentz velocity transformation to find the velocities and the Newtonian momenta of B and C in S′.

**c.** What is the total final momentum in S′?

**d.** Newtonian momentum was conserved in frame S. Is it conserved in frame S′?

**65.** ••

**a.** What are the momentum and total energy of a proton with speed $0.99c$?

**b.** What is the proton's momentum in a different reference frame in which $E' = 5.0 \times 10^{-10}$ J?

**66.** ••• At what speed, as a fraction of $c$, is the kinetic energy of a particle twice its Newtonian value?

**67.** • **INT** A typical nuclear power plant generates electricity at the rate of 1000 MW. The efficiency of transforming thermal energy into electrical energy is $\frac{1}{3}$ and the plant runs at full capacity for 80% of the year. (Nuclear power plants are down about 20% of the time for maintenance and refueling.)

**a.** How much thermal energy does the plant generate in one year?

**b.** What mass of uranium is transformed into energy in one year?

**68.** •• Many science fiction spaceships are powered by antimatter reactors. Suppose a 20-m-long spaceship, with a mass of 15,000 kg when empty, carries 2000 kg of fuel: 1000 kg each of matter and antimatter. The matter and antimatter are slowly combined, and the energy of their total annihilation is used to propel the ship. After consuming all the fuel and reaching top speed, the spaceship flies past a space station that is stationary with respect to the planet from which the ship was launched. What is the length of the spaceship as measured by astronauts on the space station?

**69.** • The sun radiates energy at the rate $3.8 \times 10^{26}$ W. The source of this energy is fusion, a nuclear reaction in which mass is transformed into energy. The mass of the sun is $2.0 \times 10^{30}$ kg.

**a.** How much mass does the sun lose each year?

**b.** What percent is this of the sun's total mass?

**c.** Fusion takes place in the core of a star, where the temperature and pressure are highest. A star like the sun can sustain fusion until it has transformed about 0.10% of its total mass into energy, then fusion ceases and the star slowly dies. Estimate the sun's lifetime, giving your answer in billions of years.

**70.** •• The radioactive element radium (Ra) decays by a process known as *alpha decay*, in which the nucleus emits a helium nucleus. (These high-speed helium nuclei were named alpha particles when radioactivity was first discovered, long before the identity of the particles was established.) The reaction is $^{226}\mathrm{Ra} \rightarrow {}^{222}\mathrm{Rn} + {}^{4}\mathrm{He}$, where Rn is the element radon. The accurately measured atomic masses of the three atoms are 226.0254 u, 222.0176 u, and 4.0026 u. How much energy is released in each decay? (The energy released in radioactive decay is what makes nuclear waste "hot.")

**71.** •• The nuclear reaction that powers the sun is the fusion of four protons into a helium nucleus. The process involves several steps, but the net reaction is simply $4\mathrm{p} \rightarrow {}^{4}\mathrm{He} + \text{energy}$. The mass of a proton, to four significant figures, is $1.673 \times 10^{-27}$ kg, and the mass of a helium nucleus is known to be $6.644 \times 10^{-27}$ kg.

**a.** How much energy is released in each fusion?

**b.** What fraction of the initial rest mass energy is this energy?

**72.** •• Consider the inelastic collision $\mathrm{e}^- + \mathrm{e}^- \rightarrow \mathrm{e}^- + \mathrm{e}^- + \mathrm{e}^- + \mathrm{e}^+$ in which an electron-positron pair is produced in a head-on collision between two electrons moving in opposite directions at the same speed. This is similar to Figure 36.39, but both of the initial electrons are moving.

**a.** What is the threshold kinetic energy? That is, what minimum kinetic energy must each electron have to allow this process to occur?

**b.** What is the speed of an electron with this kinetic energy?

## Challenge Problems

**73.** ••• An electron moving to the right at $0.90c$ collides with a positron moving to the left at $0.90c$. The two particles annihilate and produce two gamma-ray photons. What is the wavelength of the photons?

**74.** ••• Two rockets are each 1000 m long in their rest frame. Rocket Orion, traveling at $0.80c$ relative to the earth, is overtaking rocket Sirius, which is poking along at a mere $0.60c$. According to the crew on Sirius, how long does Orion take to completely pass? That is, how long is it from the instant the nose of Orion is at the tail of Sirius until the tail of Orion is at the nose of Sirius?

**75.** ••• Some particle accelerators allow protons ($p^+$) and antiprotons ($p^-$) to circulate at equal speeds in opposite directions in a device called a *storage ring*. The particle beams cross each other at various points to cause $p^+ + p^-$ collisions. In one collision, the outcome is $p^+ + p^- \rightarrow e^+ + e^- + \gamma + \gamma$, where $\gamma$ represents a high-energy gamma-ray photon. The electron and positron are ejected from the collision at $0.9999995c$ and the gamma-ray photon wavelengths are found to be $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ nm. What were the proton and antiproton speeds, as a fraction of $c$, prior to the collision?

**76.** ••• A ball of mass $m$ traveling at a speed of $0.80c$ has a perfectly inelastic collision with an identical ball at rest. If Newtonian physics were correct for these speeds, momentum conservation would tell us that a ball of mass $2m$ departs the collision with a speed of $0.40c$. Let's do a relativistic collision analysis to determine the mass and speed of the ball after the collision.

**a.** What is $\gamma_p$, written as a fraction like $a/b$?

**b.** What is the initial total momentum? Give your answer as a fraction times $mc$.

**c.** What is the initial total energy? Give your answer as a fraction times $mc^2$. Don't forget that there are two balls.

**d.** Because energy can be transformed into mass, and vice versa, you cannot assume that the final mass is $2m$. Instead, let the final state of the system be an unknown mass $M$ traveling at the unknown speed $u_f$. You have two conservation laws. Find $M$ and $u_f$.

**77.** ••• A very fast pole vaulter lives in the country. One day, while practicing, he notices a 10.0-m-long barn with the doors open at both ends. He decides to run through the barn at $0.866c$ while carrying his 16.0-m-long pole. The farmer, who sees him coming, says, "Aha! This guy's pole is length contracted to 8.0 m. There will be a short interval of time when the pole is entirely inside the barn. If I'm quick, I can simultaneously close both barn doors while the pole vaulter and his pole are inside." The pole vaulter, who sees the farmer beside the barn, thinks to himself, "That farmer is crazy. The barn is length contracted and is only 5.0 m long. My 16.0-m-long pole cannot fit into a 5.0-m-long barn. If the farmer closes

the doors just as the tip of my pole reaches the back door, the front door will break off the last 11.0 m of my pole."

Can the farmer close the doors without breaking the pole? Show that, when properly analyzed, the farmer and the pole vaulter agree on the outcome. Your analysis should contain both quantitative calculations and written explanation.

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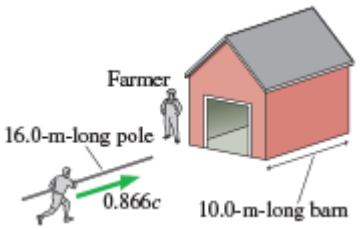
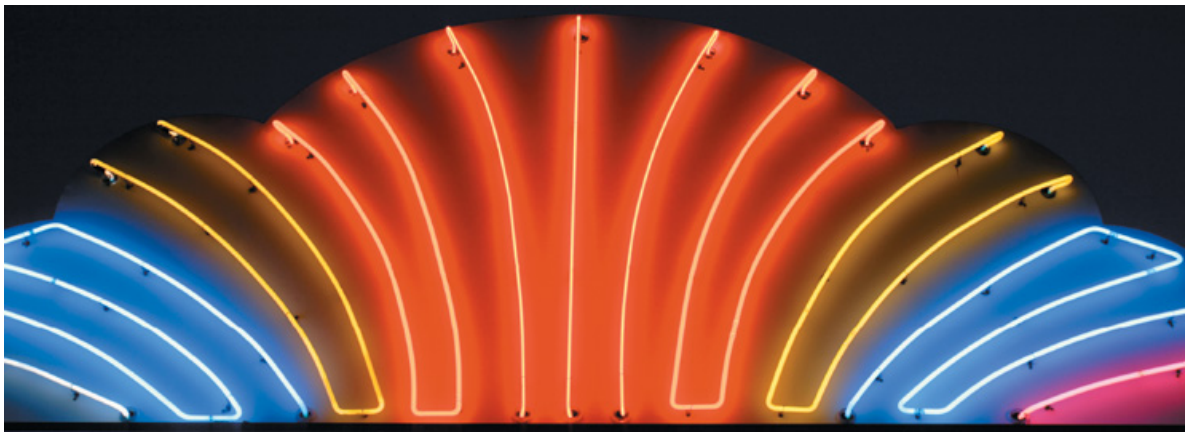
**Figure CP36.77**



# Chapter 37
# The Foundations of Modern Physics



Studies of the light emitted by gas discharge tubes helped lay the foundations of modern physics.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn about the structure and properties of atoms.

## How do we learn about light and matter?

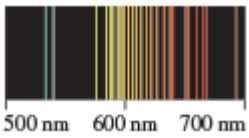
Except for relativity, everything you have studied until now was known by 1900. But within the span of just a few years, around 1900, investigations into the structure of matter and the properties of light led to new discoveries at odds with classical physics.

Our ultimate goal is to understand the new theories of matter and light that arose in the 20th century. But there's a problem: We can't see atoms. Thus the goal of this chapter is to establish the experimental evidence for how we know about atoms and their structure.

## How is light emitted and absorbed?

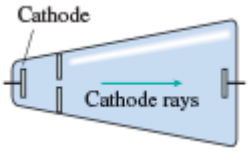
Scientists use spectroscopy, with diffraction gratings, to study how light is emitted and absorbed.

- Solids emit a continuous spectrum known as blackbody radiation.
- Atoms emit and absorb many distinct wavelengths, called a discrete spectrum.




## How do we know that atoms have smaller parts?

Experiments to study electricity in gases found that unknown "rays" travel outward from the cathode—the negative electrode. J. J. Thomson discovered that these cathode rays are subatomic particles—electrons—that exist within atoms. The electrons of all atoms were found to be identical.




## What is Rutherford's model of the atom?

Ernest Rutherford discovered that the positive charge within an atom is concentrated in a small, dense nucleus. This led Rutherford to propose a solar-system model of the atom with light, negative electrons orbiting a tiny, positive nucleus.

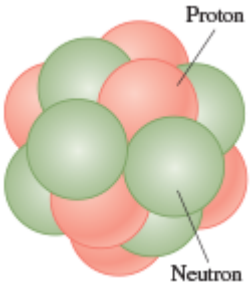
Looking Back Chapter 25 Electric potential and potential energy

## What is inside the atomic nucleus?

The nucleus consists of positive protons and neutral neutrons.

- The number of protons is the atomic number. Every element has a different atomic number.
- Neutrons provide additional “glue” to hold the nucleus together.

Looking Back Section 18.2 Atomic masses




## Why are atoms important?

Modern technology, from lasers to semiconductors, is based on the properties of atoms. The worldwide system of timekeeping utilizes atomic clocks. Much of what we know about the cosmos comes from studying the atomic spectra of stars and galaxies. And quantum computers, when they become available, will require the careful manipulation of atomic states. It’s an atomic world!

# 37.1 Matter and Light



The idea that matter consists of small, indivisible particles can be traced to the Greek philosophers Leucippus and Democritus in the 5th century BCE. They called these particles *atoms*, Greek for "not divisible." Atomism was not widely accepted, due in no small part to the complete lack of evidence, but atomic ideas never died.

Things began to change in the early years of the 19th century. The English chemist John Dalton argued that chemical reactions could be understood if each chemical element consisted of identical atoms. The evidence for atoms grew stronger as thermodynamics and the kinetic theory of gases developed in the mid-19th century. Slight deviations from the ideal-gas law at high pressures, which could be understood if the atoms were beginning to come into close proximity to one another, led to a rough estimate of atomic sizes. By 1890, it was widely accepted that atoms exist and have diameters of approximately $10^{-10}$ m.

Other scientists of the 19th century were trying to understand what light is. Newton, as we have seen, favored a *corpuscular* theory whereby small particles of light travel in straight lines. However, the situation changed when, in 1801, Thomas Young demonstrated the interference of light with his celebrated double-slit experiment. But if light is a wave, what is waving? Work by Maxwell and others led to the realization that light is an electromagnetic wave.

This was the situation at the end of the 19th century, when a series of discoveries began to reveal that the theories of Newton and Maxwell were not sufficient to explain the properties of atoms. New theories of

matter and light at the atomic level, collectively called *modern physics*, arose in the early decades of the 20th century.

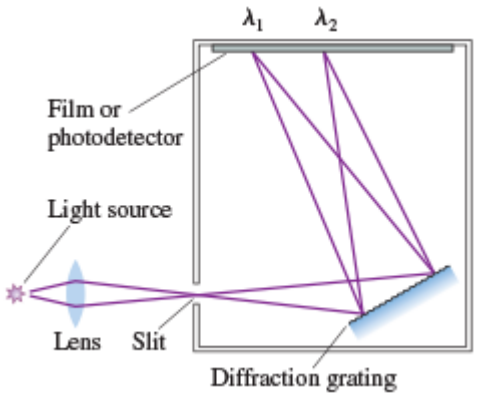
A difficulty, however, is that we cannot directly see, feel, or manipulate atoms. To know what the theories of modern physics are attempting to explain, and whether they are successful, we must start with *experimental evidence* about the behavior of atoms and light. That is the primary purpose of this chapter and the next.

# 37.2 The Emission and Absorption of Light



The interference and diffraction of light, discovered early in the 19th century, soon led to practical tools for measuring the wavelengths of light. The most important tool, still widely used today, is the **spectrometer,** such as the one shown in Figure 37.1. The heart of a spectrometer is a diffraction grating that diffracts different wavelengths of light at different angles. Making the grating slightly curved, like a spherical mirror, focuses the interference fringes onto a *photographic plate* or (more likely today) an electronic array detector. Each wavelength in the light is focused to a different position on the detector, producing a distinctive pattern called the **spectrum** of the light. Spectroscopists discovered very early that there are two distinct types of spectra.

**Figure 37.1**

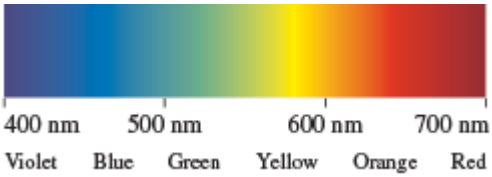



A grating spectrometer is used to study the emission of light.

## Continuous Spectra and Blackbody Radiation

Cool lava is black, but lava heated to a high temperature glows red and, if hot enough, yellow. A tungsten wire, dark gray at room temperature, emits bright white light when heated by a current—thus becoming the bright filament in an incandescent lightbulb. Hot, self-luminous objects, such as the lava or the lightbulb, form a rainbow-like **continuous spectrum** in which light is emitted at every possible wavelength. Figure 37.2 is a continuous spectrum.

## Figure 37.2




The continuous spectrum of an incandescent lightbulb.

This temperature-dependent emission of electromagnetic waves was called *thermal radiation* when we studied it as the mechanism of heat transfer in Section 19.8. Recall that an object with surface area $A$ and absolute temperature $T$ radiates heat energy at the rate

**(37.1)**

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = e\sigma AT^4$$

where $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8}\text{W/m}^2\text{K}^4$ is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant. Notice the very strong fourth-power dependence on temperature.

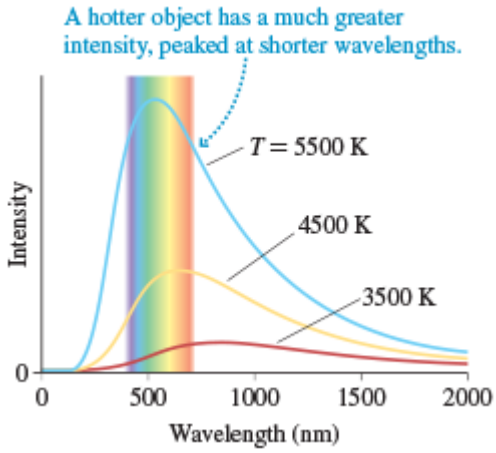
Black lava glows brightly when hot.

The parameter $e$ in Equation 37.1 is the *emissivity* of the surface, a measure of how effectively it radiates. A perfectly absorbing—and thus perfectly emitting—object with $e = 1$ is called a *blackbody*, and the thermal radiation emitted by a blackbody is called **blackbody radiation.** Charcoal is an excellent approximation of a blackbody.

Our interest in Chapter 19 was the amount of energy radiated. Now we want to examine the spectrum of that radiation. If we measure the spectrum of a blackbody at three temperatures, 3500 K, 4500 K, and 5500 K, the data appear as in Figure 37.3. These continuous curves are called *blackbody spectra*. There are four important features of the spectra:

- All blackbodies at the same temperature emit exactly the same spectrum. **The spectrum depends on only an object's temperature, not the material of which it is made.**
- Increasing the temperature increases the radiated intensity at *all* wavelengths. **Making the object hotter causes it to emit more radiation across the entire spectrum.**
- Increasing the temperature causes the peak intensity to shift toward shorter wavelengths. **The higher the temperature, the shorter the wavelength of the peak of the spectrum.**
- The visible light that we *see* is only a small portion of the continuous blackbody spectrum. Much of the emission is infrared. Extremely hot objects, such as stars, emit a significant fraction of their radiation at ultraviolet wavelengths.

## Figure 37.3




Blackbody radiation spectra.

The wavelength corresponding to the peak of the intensity graph is given by

**(37.2)**

$$\lambda_{\text{peak}}\,(\text{in nm}) = \frac{2.90 \times 10^6\ \text{nm K}}{T}$$

where $T$ must be in kelvin. Equation 37.2 is known as **Wien's law.**

**Example 37.1 Finding peak wavelengths**

What are the peak wavelengths and the corresponding spectral regions for thermal radiation from the sun, a glowing ball of gas with a surface temperature of 5800 K, and from the earth, whose average surface temperature is 15°C?

**MODEL** The sun and the earth are well approximated as blackbodies.

**SOLVE** The sun's wavelength of peak intensity is given by Wien's law:

$$\lambda_{\text{peak}} = \frac{2.90 \times 10^6\,\text{nm K}}{5800\,\text{K}} = 500\,\text{nm}$$

This is right in the middle of the visible spectrum. The earth's wavelength of peak intensity is

$$\lambda_{\text{peak}} = \frac{2.90 \times 10^6\,\text{nm K}}{288\,\text{K}} = 10,000\,\text{nm}$$

where we converted the surface temperature to kelvin before computing. This is rather far into the infrared portion of the spectrum, which is not surprising because we don't "see" the earth glowing.

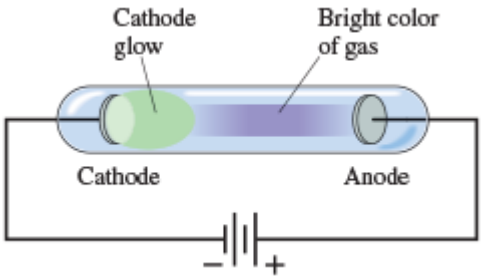
**ASSESS** The difference between these two wavelengths is quite important for understanding the earth's greenhouse effect. Most of the energy from the sun—its spectrum is much like the highest curve in Figure 37.3—arrives as visible light. The earth's atmosphere is transparent to visible wavelengths, so this energy reaches the ground and is absorbed. The earth must radiate an equal amount of energy back to space, but it does so with long-wavelength infrared radiation. These wavelengths are strongly absorbed by some gases in the atmosphere, so the atmosphere acts as a blanket to keep the earth's surface warmer than it would be otherwise.

That all blackbodies at the same temperature emit the same spectrum was an unexpected discovery. Why should this be? It seemed that a combination of thermodynamics and Maxwell's new theory of electromagnetic waves ought to provide a convincing explanation, but scientists of the late 19th century failed to come up with a theoretical justification for the curves seen in Figure 37.3.

# Discrete Spectra

Michael Faraday wanted to know whether an electric current could pass through a gas. To find out, he sealed metal electrodes into a glass tube, lowered the pressure with a primitive vacuum pump, and then attached an electrostatic generator. When he started the generator, the gas inside the tube began to glow with a bright purple color! Faraday's device, called a **gas discharge tube**, is shown in Figure 37.4.

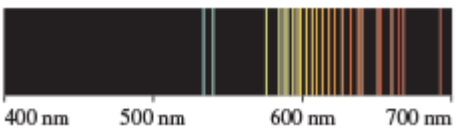
## Figure 37.4




Faraday's gas discharge tube.

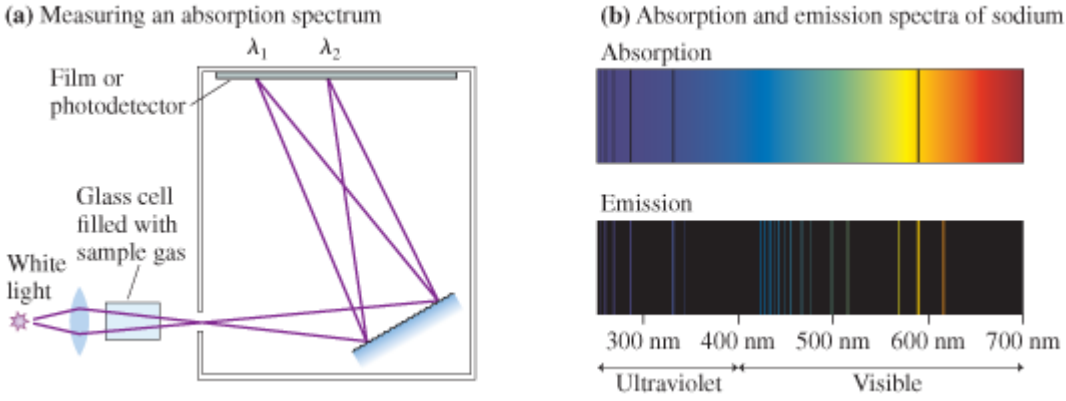
The purple color Faraday saw is characteristic of nitrogen, the primary component of air. You are more likely familiar with the reddish-orange color of a neon discharge tube. If light from a neon discharge tube is sent through a spectrometer, it produces the spectrum seen in Figure 37.5. This is called a **discrete spectrum** because it contains only discrete, individual wavelengths. Further, each kind of gas emits a unique spectrum—a *spectral fingerprint*—that distinguishes it from every other gas.

## Figure 37.5



The discrete emission spectrum of a hot, low-density gas stands in sharp contrast to the continuous blackbody spectrum of a glowing solid. Not only do gases emit discrete wavelengths, but it was soon discovered that they also absorb discrete wavelengths. Figure 37.6a shows an absorption experiment in which white light passes through a sample of gas. Without the gas, the white light would expose the film with a continuous rainbow spectrum. Any wavelengths absorbed by the gas are missing, and the film is dark at that wavelength. Figure 37.6b shows, for sodium vapor, that only certain discrete wavelengths are absorbed.

## Figure 37.6




Measuring an absorption spectrum.

Although the emission and absorption spectra of a gas are both discrete, Figure 37.6b shows an important difference: **Every wavelength absorbed by the gas is also emitted, but *not* every emitted wavelength is absorbed.** All the absorption wavelengths are prominent in the emission spectrum, but there are many emission wavelengths for which no absorption occurs.

What causes atoms to emit or absorb light? Why a discrete spectrum? Why are some wavelengths emitted but not absorbed? Why is each

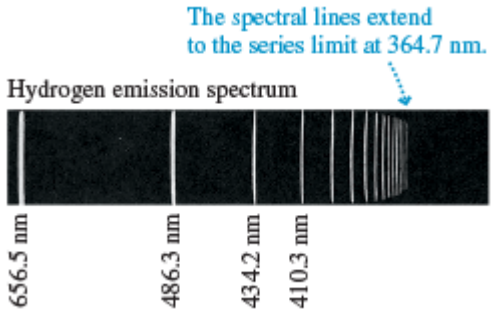
element different? Nineteenth-century physicists struggled with these questions but could not answer them. Classical physics was incapable of providing an understanding of atoms.

The only encouraging sign came from an unlikely source. While the spectra of other atoms have dozens or even hundreds of wavelengths, the emission spectrum of hydrogen, seen in Figure 37.7, is very simple and regular. If any spectrum could be understood, it should be that of the first element in the periodic table. The breakthrough came in 1885, not by an established and recognized scientist but by a Swiss schoolteacher, Johann Balmer. Balmer showed that the wavelengths in the hydrogen spectrum could be represented by the simple formula

**(37.3)**

$$\lambda = \frac{91.18\,\text{nm}}{\left(\frac{1}{2^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)} \qquad n = 3, 4, 5, \ \ldots$$

## Figure 37.7




The hydrogen emission spectrum.

This formula predicts a series of spectral lines of gradually decreasing wavelength, converging to the *series limit* wavelength of 364.7 nm as $n \to \infty$. This series of spectral lines is now called the **Balmer series.**

Later experimental evidence, as ultraviolet and infrared spectroscopy developed, showed that Balmer's result could be generalized to

**(37.4)**

$$\lambda = \frac{91.18\,\text{nm}}{\left(\frac{1}{m^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)} \qquad m = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

$$n = \text{any integer greater than } m$$

We now refer to Equation 37.4 as the **Balmer formula,** although Balmer himself suggested only the original version of Equation 37.3 in which $m = 2$. Other than at the highest levels of resolution, where new details appear that need not concern us in this text, the Balmer formula accurately describes *every* wavelength in the emission spectrum of hydrogen.

The Balmer formula is what we call *empirical knowledge*. It is an accurate mathematical representation found empirically—that is, through experimental evidence—but it does not rest on any physical principles or physical laws. Yet the formula was so simple that it must, everyone agreed, have a simple explanation. It would take 30 years to find it.

## Stop to Think 37.1

These spectra are due to the same element. Which one is an emission spectrum and which is an absorption spectrum?

**a.**

**b.**

# 37.3 Cathode Rays and X Rays



Faraday's invention of the gas discharge tube had two major repercussions. One set of investigations, as we've seen, led to the development of spectroscopy. Another set led to the discovery of the electron.

In addition to the bright color of the gas in a discharge tube, Figure 37.4 shows a separate, constant glow around the negative electrode (i.e., the cathode) called the **cathode glow.** As vacuum technology improved, scientists made two discoveries:

1. At lower pressures, the cathode glow became more extended.
2. If the cathode glow extended to the wall of the glass tube, the glass itself emitted a greenish glow—*fluorescence*—at that point.

In fact, a solid object sealed inside a low-pressure tube casts a *shadow* on the glass wall, as shown in Figure 37.8. This suggests that the cathode emits *rays* of some form that travel in straight lines but are easily blocked. These rays, which are invisible but cause the glass to glow where they strike it, were quickly dubbed **cathode rays.** This name lives on today in the *cathode-ray tube* that forms the picture tube in older televisions and computer-display terminals. But naming the rays did nothing to explain them. What were they?

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**Figure 37.8**

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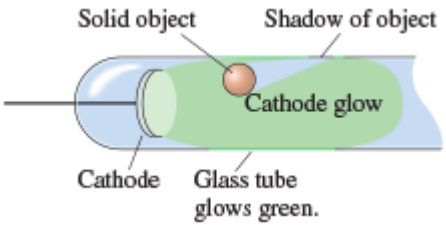
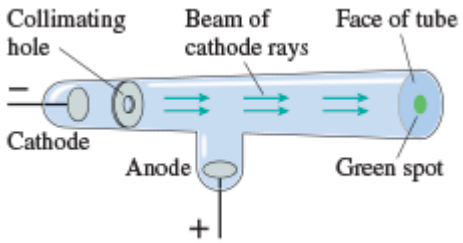



A solid object in the cathode glow casts a shadow.

## Crookes Tubes

The most systematic studies on the new cathode rays were carried out during the 1870s by the English scientist Sir William Crookes. Crookes devised a set of glass tubes, such as the one shown in Figure 37.9, that could be used to make careful studies of cathode rays. These tubes, today called **Crookes tubes,** generate a small glowing spot where the cathode rays strike the face of the tube.

### Figure 37.9




A Crookes tube.

The work of Crookes and others demonstrated that

1. There is an electric current in a tube in which cathode rays are emitted.
2. The rays are deflected by a magnetic field *as if* they are negative charges.
3. Cathodes made of any metal produce cathode rays. Furthermore, the ray properties are independent of the cathode material.

Crookes's experiments led to more questions than they answered. Were the cathode rays some sort of particles? Or a wave? Were the rays themselves the carriers of the electric current, or were they something else that happened to be emitted whenever there was a current? Item 3 is worthy of note because it suggests that the cathode rays are a *fundamental* entity, not a part of the element from which they are emitted.

It is important to realize how difficult these questions were at the time and how experimental evidence was used to answer them. Crookes suggested that molecules in the gas collided with the cathode, somehow acquired a negative charge (i.e., became negative ions), and then "rebounded" with great speed as they were repelled by the negative cathode. These "charged molecules" would travel in a straight line, be deflected by a magnetic field, and cause the tube to glow where they struck the glass.

However, Crookes's hypothesis was immediately attacked. Critics noted that the cathode rays could travel the length of a 90-cm-long tube with no discernible deviation from a straight line. But the mean free path for molecules, due to collisions with other molecules, is only about 6 mm at the pressure in Crookes's tubes. There was no chance at all that molecules could travel in a straight line for 150 times their mean free path!

But if cathode rays were not particles, what were they? An alternative theory was that the cathode rays were electromagnetic waves. After all, light travels in straight lines, casts shadows, and can, under the right circumstances, cause materials to fluoresce. It was known that hot metals emit light—incandescence—so it seemed plausible that the cathode could be emitting waves. The major obstacle for the wave theory was the

deflection of cathode rays by a magnetic field. But the theory of electromagnetic waves was quite new at the time, and many characteristics of these waves were still unknown. Visible light was not deflected by a magnetic field, but perhaps some other form of electromagnetic waves might be so influenced.

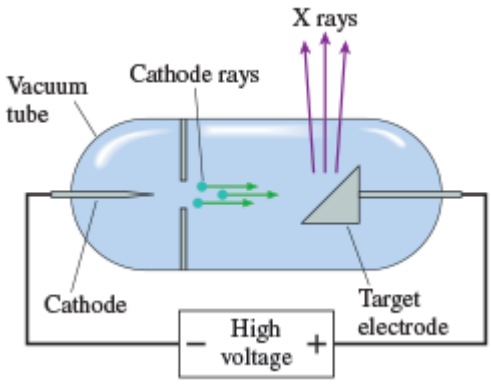
The controversy over particles versus waves was intense. British scientists generally favored particles, but their continental counterparts preferred waves. Such controversies are an integral part of science, for they stimulate the best minds to come forward with new ideas and new experiments.



## X Rays

The German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen, also studying cathode rays, made a remarkable discovery in 1895. He had sealed a cathode and a metal target electrode into a vacuum tube, as shown in Figure 37.10, and then applied a much higher voltage than normally used to produce cathode rays. He happened, by chance, to leave a sealed envelope containing photographic film near the vacuum tube, and was later surprised to discover that the film had been exposed. This serendipitous discovery was the beginning of the study of x rays.

**Figure 37.10**



Röntgen's x-ray tube.

Röntgen quickly found that the vacuum tube was the source of whatever was exposing the film. Not having any idea what was coming from the tube, he called them **x rays,** using the algebraic symbol *x* as meaning "unknown." X rays were unlike anything, particle or wave, ever discovered. Röntgen was not successful at reflecting the rays or at focusing the rays with a lens. He showed that they travel in straight lines, like particles, but they also pass right through most solid materials, something no known particle could do.

Scientists soon began to suspect that x rays were an electromagnetic wave with a wavelength much shorter than that of visible light. However, it wasn't until 20 years after their discovery that this was verified by the diffraction of x rays, showing that they have wavelengths in the range 0.01 nm to 10 nm. At the time, the properties of x rays seemed far outside the scope of Maxwell's theory of electromagnetic waves.

# 37.4 The Discovery of the Electron



Shortly after Röntgen's discovery of x rays, the young English physicist J. J. Thomson began using them to study electrical conduction in gases. He found that x rays could discharge an electroscope and concluded that they must be ionizing the air molecules, thereby making the air conductive.

J. J. Thomson.

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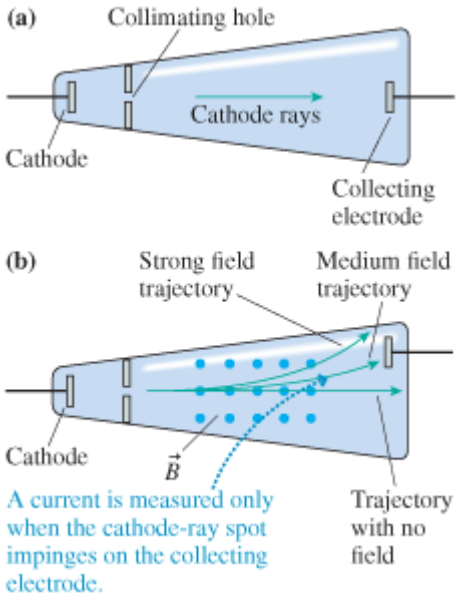
This simple observation was of profound significance. Until then, the only form of ionization known was the creation of positive and negative ions in solutions where, for example, a molecule such as NaCl splits into two smaller charged pieces. Although the underlying process was not yet understood, the fact that two atoms could acquire charge as a molecule splits apart did not jeopardize the idea that the atoms themselves were indivisible. But after observing that even monatomic gases, such as helium, could be ionized by x rays, Thomson realized that **the atom itself must have charged constituents that could be separated!** This was the first direct evidence that the atom is a complex structure, not a fundamental, indivisible unit of matter.

Thomson was also investigating the nature of cathode rays. Other scientists, using a Crookes tube like the one shown in Figure 37.11a, had measured an electric current in a cathode-ray beam. Although its presence seemed to demonstrate that the rays are charged particles, proponents of the wave model argued that the current might be a separate, independent event that just happened to be following the same straight line as the cathode rays.

## Figure 37.11




Experiments to measure the electric current in a cathode-ray tube.

Thomson realized that he could use magnetic deflection of the cathode rays to settle the issue. He built a modified tube, shown in Figure 37.11b, in which the collecting electrode was off to the side. With no magnetic field, the cathode rays struck the center of the tube face and created a greenish spot on the glass. No current was measured under these circumstances. Thomson then placed the tube in a magnetic field to deflect the cathode rays to the side. He could determine their trajectory by the location of the green spot as it moved across the face of the tube. Just at the point when the field was strong enough to deflect the cathode

rays onto the electrode, a current was detected! At an even stronger field, when the cathode rays were deflected completely to the other side of the electrode, the current ceased.

This was the first conclusive demonstration that cathode rays really are negatively charged particles. But why were they not deflected by an electric field? Thomson's experience with the x-ray ionization of gases soon led him to recognize that the rapidly moving cathode-ray particles must be colliding with the few remaining gas molecules in the tube with sufficient energy to *ionize* them. The electric field created by these charges neutralized the field of the electrodes, hence there was no deflection.

Fortunately, vacuum technology was getting ever better. By using the most sophisticated techniques of his day, Thomson was able to lower the pressure to a point where ionization of the gas was not a problem. Then, just as he had expected, the cathode rays *were* deflected by an electric field!

Thomson's experiment was a decisive victory for the charged-particle model, but it still did not indicate anything about the nature of the particles. What were they?

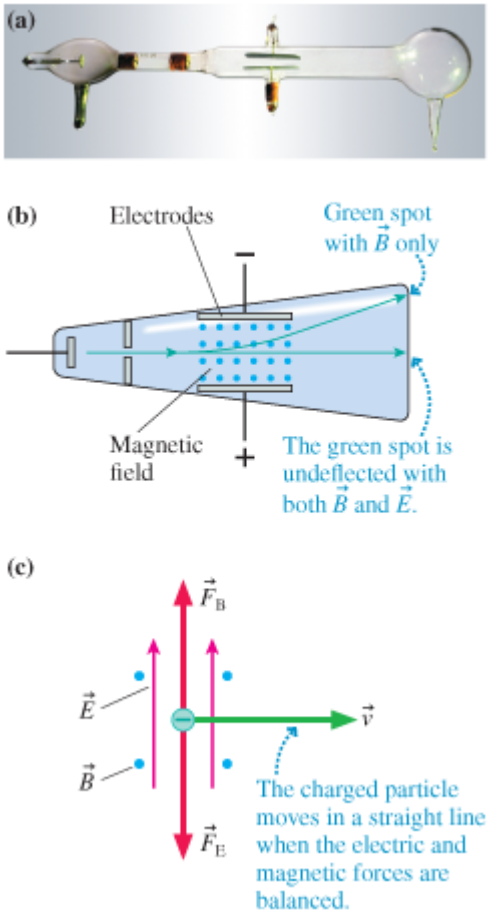
## Thomson's Crossed-Field Experiment

Thomson could measure the deflection of cathode-ray particles for various strengths of the magnetic field, but magnetic deflection depends both on the particle's charge-to-mass ratio $q/m$ *and* on its speed. Measuring the charge-to-mass ratio, and thus learning something about the particles themselves, requires some means of determining their

speed. To do so, Thomson devised the experiment for which he is most remembered.

Thomson built a tube containing the parallel-plate electrodes visible in the photo in Figure 37.12a. He then placed the tube in a magnetic field. Figure 37.12b shows that the electric and magnetic fields were perpendicular to each other, thus creating what came to be known as a **crossed-field experiment.**

## Figure 37.12




Thomson's crossed-field experiment to measure the velocity of cathode rays. The photograph shows his original tube.

The magnetic field, which is perpendicular to the particle's velocity $\vec{v}$, exerts a magnetic force on the charged particle of magnitude

(37.5)

$$F_{\mathrm{B}} = qvB$$

The magnetic field alone would cause a negatively charged particle to move along an *upward* circular arc. As you learned in Section 29.7, the radius of the arc is

(37.6)

$$r = \frac{mv}{qB}$$

It is a straightforward geometry problem to determine the radius of curvature $r$ from the measured deflection of the green spot.

Thomson's new idea was to create an electric field between the parallel-plate electrodes that would exert a *downward* force on the negative charges, pushing them back toward the center of the tube. The magnitude of the electric force on each particle is

(37.7)

$$F_{\mathrm{E}} = qE$$

Thomson adjusted the electric field strength until the cathode-ray beam, in the presence of both electric and magnetic fields, had no deflection and was seen exactly in the center of the tube.



Zero deflection occurs when the magnetic and electric forces exactly balance each other, as Figure 37.12c shows. The force vectors point in opposite directions, and their magnitudes are equal when

$$F_{\mathrm{B}} = qvB = F_{\mathrm{E}} = qE$$

Notice that the charge $q$ cancels. Once $E$ and $B$ are set, a charged particle can pass undeflected through the crossed fields only if its speed is

**(37.8)**

$$v = \frac{E}{B}$$

By balancing the magnetic force against the electric force, Thomson could determine the speed of the charged-particle beam. Once he knew $v$, he could use Equation 37.6 to find the charge-to-mass ratio:

**(37.9)**

$$\frac{q}{m} = \frac{v}{rB}$$

Thomson found that the charge-to-mass ratio of cathode rays is $q/m \approx 1\times10^{11}\,\text{C/kg}$. This seems not terribly accurate in comparison to the modern value of $1.76 \times 10^{11}\,\text{C/kg}$, but keep in mind both the experimental limitations of his day and the fact that, prior to his work, no one had *any* idea of the charge-to-mass ratio.

**Example 37.2 A crossed-field experiment**

An electron is fired between two parallel-plate electrodes that are 5.0 mm apart and 3.0 cm long. A potential difference $\Delta V$ between the electrodes establishes an electric field between them. A 3.0-cm-wide, 1.0 mT magnetic field overlaps the electrodes and is perpendicular to the electric field. When $\Delta V = 0\,\text{V}$, the electron is deflected by 2.0 mm as it passes between the plates. What value of

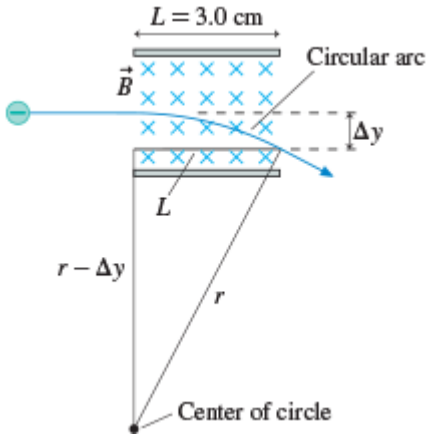
$\Delta V$ will allow the electron to pass through the plates without deflection?

---

**MODEL** Assume that the fields between the electrodes are uniform and that they are zero outside the electrodes.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 37.13 shows an electron passing through the magnetic field between the plates when $\Delta V = 0\,\text{V}$. The curvature has been exaggerated to make the geometry clear.

### Figure 37.13




The electron's trajectory in Example 37.2.

**SOLVE** We can find the needed electric field, and thus $\Delta V$, if we know the electron's speed. We can find the electron's speed from the radius of curvature of its circular arc in a magnetic field. Figure 37.13 shows a right triangle with hypotenuse $r$ and width $L$. We can use the Pythagorean theorem to write

$$(r - \Delta y)^2 + L^2 = r^2$$

where $\Delta y$ is the electron's deflection in the magnetic field. This is easily solved to find the radius of the arc:

$$r = \frac{(\Delta y)^2 + L^2}{2\Delta y} = \frac{(0.0020\,\text{m})^2 + (0.030\,\text{m})^2}{2\,(0.0020\,\text{m})} = 0.226\,\text{m}$$

The speed of an electron traveling along an arc with this radius is found from Equation 37.6:

$$v = \frac{erB}{m} = 4.0 \times 10^7\,\text{m/s}$$

Thus the electric field allowing the electron to pass through without deflection is

$$E = vB = 40,000\ \text{V/m}$$

The electric field of a parallel-plate capacitor of spacing $d$ is related to the potential difference by $E = \Delta V/d$, so the necessary potential difference is

$$\Delta V = Ed = (40,000\,\text{V/m})\,(0.0050\,\text{m}) = 200\,\text{V}$$

**ASSESS** A fairly small potential difference is sufficient to counteract the magnetic deflection.

## The Electron

Thomson next measured $q/m$ for different cathode materials. Finding them all to be the same, he concluded that all metals emit the *same* cathode rays. Thomson then compared his result to the charge-to-mass ratio of the hydrogen ion, known from electrolysis to have a value of $\approx 1 \times 10^8\,\text{C/kg}$. This value was roughly 1000 times smaller than for the cathode-ray particles, which could imply that a cathode-ray particle has a

much larger charge than a hydrogen ion, or a much smaller mass, or some combination of these.

Electrolysis experiments suggested the existence of a basic unit of charge, so it was tempting to assume that the cathode-ray charge was the same as the charge of a hydrogen ion. However, cathode rays were so different from the hydrogen ion that such an assumption could not be justified without some other evidence. To provide that evidence, Thomson called attention to previous experiments showing that cathode rays can penetrate thin metal foils but atoms cannot. This can be true, Thomson argued, only if cathode-ray particles are vastly smaller and thus much less massive than atoms.

In a paper published in 1897, Thomson assembled all of the evidence to announce the discovery that cathode rays are negatively charged particles, that they are much less massive ($\approx 0.1\%$) than atoms, and that they are identical when generated by different elements. In other words, Thomson had discovered a **subatomic particle,** one of the constituents of which atoms themselves are constructed. In recognition of the role this particle plays in electricity, it was later named the **electron.**

## Stop to Think 37.2

Thomson's conclusion that cathode-ray particles are *fundamental* constituents of atoms was based primarily on which observation?

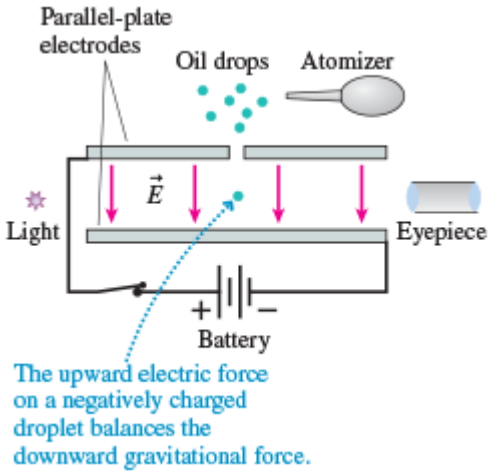
**a.** They have a negative charge.
**b.** They are the same from all cathode materials.
**c.** Their mass is much less than that of hydrogen.
**d.** They penetrate very thin metal foils.

# 37.5 The Fundamental Unit of Charge



Thomson measured the electron's charge-to-mass ratio, but clearly it was desirable to measure the charge $q$ directly. This was done in 1906 by the American scientist Robert Millikan. The **Millikan oil-drop experiment** is illustrated in Figure 37.14. A squeeze-bulb atomizer sprayed out a very fine mist of oil droplets. Millikan found that some of these droplets were charged from friction in the sprayer. The charged droplets slowly settled toward a horizontal pair of parallel-plate electrodes, where a few droplets passed through a small hole in the top plate. Millikan observed the drops by shining a bright light between the plates and using an eyepiece to see the droplets' reflections. He then established an electric field by applying a voltage to the plates.

## Figure 37.14




Millikan's oil-drop apparatus to measure the fundamental unit of charge.

A drop will remain suspended between the plates, moving neither up nor down, if the electric field exerts an upward force on a charged drop that exactly balances the downward gravitational force. The forces balance when

**(37.10)**

$$m_{\text{drop}}g = q_{\text{drop}}E$$

and thus the charge on the drop is measured to be

**(37.11)**

$$q_{\text{drop}} = \frac{m_{\text{drop}}g}{E}$$

Notice that $m$ and $q$ are the mass and charge of the oil droplet, not of an electron. But because the droplet is charged by acquiring (or losing) electrons, the charge of the droplet should be related to the electron's charge.

The field strength $E$ could be determined accurately from the voltage applied to the plates, so the limiting factor in measuring $q_{\text{drop}}$ was Millikan's ability to determine the mass of these small drops. Ideally, the mass could be found by measuring a drop's diameter and using the known density of the oil. However, the drops were too small ($\approx 1\ \mu$m) to measure accurately by viewing through the eyepiece.

Instead, Millikan devised an ingenious method to find the size of the droplets. Objects this small are *not* in free fall. The air resistance forces are so large that the drops fall with a very small but constant speed. The motion of a sphere through a viscous medium is a problem that had been solved in the 19th century, and it was known that the sphere's terminal speed depends on its radius and on the viscosity of air. By timing the

droplets' fall, then using the known viscosity of air, Millikan could calculate their radii, compute their masses, and, finally, arrive at a value for their charge. Although it was a somewhat roundabout procedure, Millikan was able to measure the charge on a droplet with an accuracy of ±0.1%.

Millikan measured many hundreds of droplets under a wide variety of conditions. He found that some of his droplets were positively charged and some negatively charged, but **all had charges that were integer multiples of a certain minimum charge value.** Millikan concluded that "the electric charges found on ions all have either exactly the same value or else some small exact multiple of that value." That value, the *fundamental unit of charge* that we now call *e*, is measured to be



$$e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{C}$$

We can then combine the measured *e* with the measured charge-to-mass ratio $e/m$ to find that the mass of the electron is

$$m_{\text{elec}} = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}\,\text{kg}$$

Taken together, the experiments of Thomson, Millikan, and others provided overwhelming evidence that electric charge comes in discrete units and that *all* charges found in nature are multiples of a fundamental unit of charge we call *e*.

### Example 37.3 Suspending an oil drop

Oil has a density of 860 kg/m$^3$. A 1.0-$\mu$m-diameter oil droplet acquires 10 extra electrons as it is sprayed. What potential

difference between two parallel plates 1.0 cm apart will cause the droplet to be suspended in air?

---

**MODEL** Assume a uniform electric field $E = \Delta V/d$ between the plates.

**SOLVE** The magnitude of the charge on the drop is $q_{\text{drop}} = 10e$. The mass of the charge is related to its density $\rho$ and volume $V$ by

$$m_{\text{drop}} = pV = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 p = 4.50 \times 10^{-16}\,\text{kg}$$

where the droplet's radius is $R = 5.0 \times 10^{-7}\text{m}$. The electric field that will suspend this droplet against the force of gravity is

$$E = \frac{m_{\text{drop}}\,g}{q_{\text{drop}}} = 2760\ \text{V/m}$$

Establishing this electric field between two plates spaced by $d = 0.010\,\text{m}$ requires a potential difference

$$\Delta V = Ed = 27.6\,\text{V}$$

**ASSESS** Experimentally, this is a very convenient voltage.

---

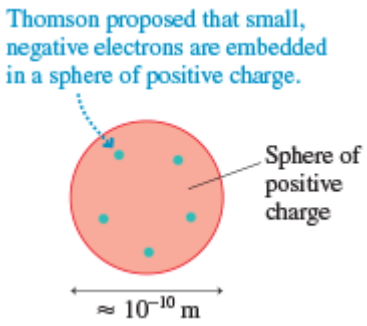
# 37.6 The Discovery of the Nucleus



By 1900, it was clear that atoms are not indivisible but, instead, are constructed of charged particles. Atomic sizes were known to be $\approx 10^{-10}$ m, but the electrons common to all atoms are much smaller and much less massive than the smallest atom. How do they "fit" into the larger atom? What is the positive charge of the atom? Where are the charges located inside the atoms?

Thomson proposed the first model of an atom. Because the electrons are very small and light compared to the whole atom, it seemed reasonable to think that the positively charged part would take up most of the space. Thomson suggested that the atom consists of a spherical "cloud" of positive charge, roughly $10^{-10}$ m in diameter, in which the smaller negative electrons are embedded. The positive charge exactly balances the negative, so the atom as a whole has no net charge. This model of the atom has often been called the "plum-pudding model" or the "raisin-cake model" for reasons that should be clear from Figure 37.15.

**Figure 37.15**




Thomson's raisin-cake model of the atom.

Thomson was never able to make any predictions that would enable his model to be tested, and the Thomson atom did not stand the test of time. His model is of interest today primarily to remind us that our current models of the atom are by no means obvious. Science has many sidesteps and dead ends as it progresses.

One of Thomson's students was a New Zealander named Ernest Rutherford. While Rutherford and Thomson were studying the ionizing effects of x rays, in 1896, the French physicist Antoine Henri Becquerel announced the discovery that some new form of "rays" were emitted by crystals of uranium. These rays, like x rays, could expose film, pass through objects, and ionize the air. Yet they were emitted continuously from the uranium without having to "do" anything to it. This was the discovery of **radioactivity,** a topic we'll study in Chapter 42.

With x rays only a year old and cathode rays not yet completely understood, it was not known whether all these various kinds of rays were truly different or merely variations of a single type. Rutherford immediately began a study of these new rays. He quickly discovered that at least two *different* rays are emitted by a uranium crystal. The first, which he called **alpha rays,** were easily absorbed by a piece of paper. The second, **beta rays,** could penetrate through at least 0.1 inch of metal.

Thomson soon found that beta rays are high-speed electrons emitted by the uranium crystal. Rutherford then showed that alpha rays are *positively* charged particles. By 1906 he had measured their charge-to-mass ratio to be

$$\frac{q}{m} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{e}{m_{\mathrm{H}}}$$

where $m_{\mathrm{H}}$ is the mass of a hydrogen atom. This value could indicate either a singly ionized hydrogen molecule $\mathrm{H}_2^+$ $(q = e,\ m = 2m_{\mathrm{H}})$ *or* a doubly ionized helium atom $\mathrm{He}^{++}$ $(q = 2e,\ m = 4m_{\mathrm{H}})$.

In an ingenious experiment, Rutherford sealed a sample of radium—an emitter of alpha radiation—into a glass tube. Alpha rays could not penetrate the glass, so the particles were contained within the tube. Several days later, Rutherford used electrodes in the tube to create a discharge and observed the spectrum of the emitted light. He found the characteristic wavelengths of helium. Alpha rays (or alpha particles, as we now call them) consist of doubly ionized helium atoms (bare helium nuclei) emitted at high speed $\left(\approx 3 \times 10^7\ \mathrm{m/s}\right)$ from the sample.

## The First Nuclear Physics Experiment

Rutherford realized that he could use these high-speed particles to probe inside other atoms. In 1909, Rutherford and his students set up the experiment shown in Figure 37.16 to shoot alpha particles through very thin metal foils. It was observed that some alpha particles were slightly deflected, but this was not surprising. The positive and negative charges of the atoms exert forces on the positively charged alpha particles as they pass through the foil, but Thomson's raisin-cake model of the atom suggested that repulsive and attractive forces should be roughly balanced, causing only small deflections.

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**Figure 37.16**

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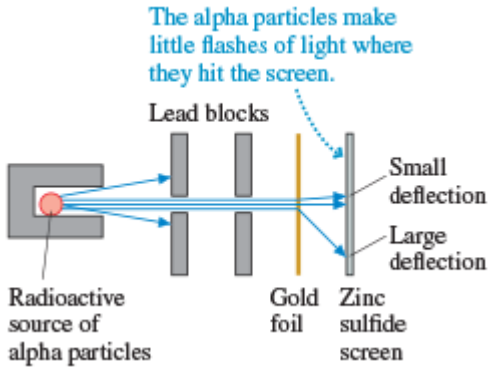


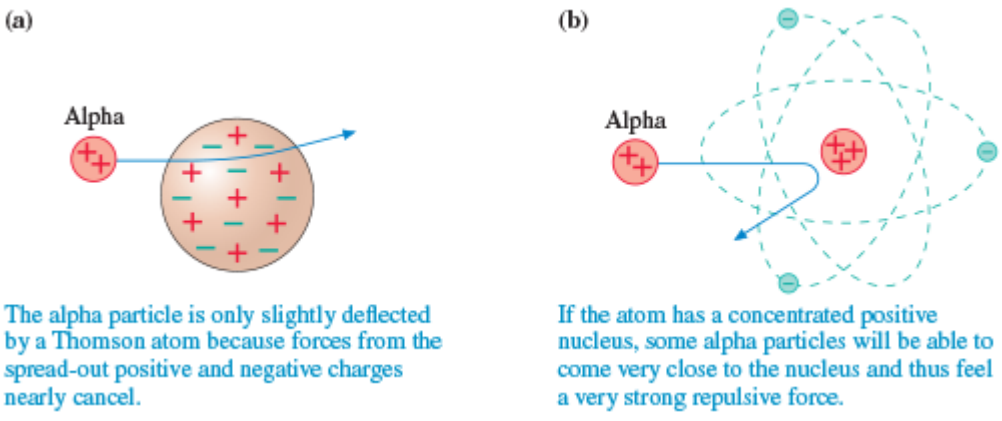

Rutherford's experiment to shoot high-speed alpha particles through a thin gold foil.



At Rutherford's suggestion, his students then set up the apparatus to see if any alpha particles were deflected at *large* angles. It took only a few days to find the answer. Not only were alpha particles deflected at large angles, but a very few were reflected almost straight backward toward the source!

How can we understand this result? Figure 37.17a shows that only a small deflection is expected for an alpha particle passing through a Thomson atom. But if an atom has a small, positive core, such as the one in Figure 37.17b, a few of the alpha particles can come very close to the core. Because the electric force varies with the inverse square of the distance, the very large force of this very close approach can cause a large-angle scattering or a backward deflection of the alpha particle.

## Figure 37.17



Alpha particles interact differently with a concentrated positive nucleus than they would with the spread-out charge in Thomson's model.

Thus the discovery of large-angle scattering of alpha particles led Rutherford to envision an atom in which negative electrons orbit an unbelievably small, massive, positive **nucleus,** rather like a miniature solar system. This is the **nuclear model of the atom.** Notice that nearly all of the atom is empty space—the void!

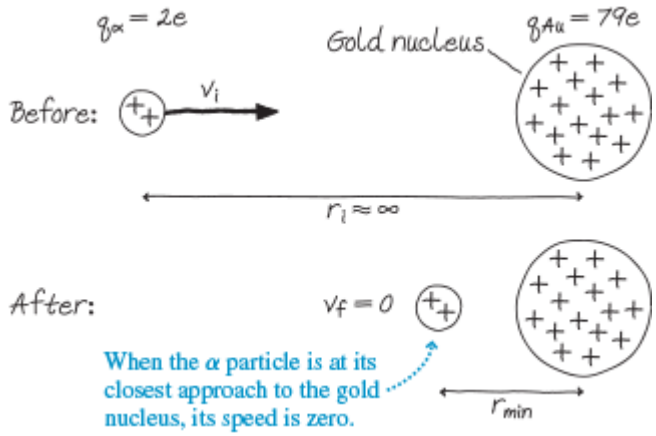
### Example 37.4 A nuclear physics experiment

An alpha particle is shot with a speed of $2.0 \times 10^7$ m/s directly toward the nucleus of a gold atom. What is the distance of closest approach to the nucleus?

**MODEL** Energy is conserved in electric interactions. Assume that the gold nucleus, which is much more massive than the alpha particle, does not move. Also recall that the exterior electric field and potential of a sphere of charge can be found by treating the total charge as a point charge at the center.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 37.18 is a pictorial representation. The motion is in and out along a straight line.

**Figure 37.18**




A before-and-after pictorial representation of an alpha particle colliding with a nucleus.

---

**SOLVE** We are not interested in how long the collision takes or any of the details of the trajectory, so using conservation of energy rather than Newton's laws is appropriate. Initially, when the alpha particle is very far away, the system has only kinetic energy. At the moment of closest approach, just before the alpha particle is reflected, the charges are at rest and the system has only potential energy. The conservation of energy statement $K_\mathrm{f} + U_\mathrm{f} = K_\mathrm{i} + U_\mathrm{i}$ is

$$0 + \frac{1}{4\pi \in_0}\frac{q_\alpha q_\mathrm{Au}}{r_\mathrm{min}} = \frac{1}{2}m{v_\mathrm{i}}^2 + 0$$

where $q_\alpha$ is the alpha-particle charge and we've treated the gold nucleus as a point charge $q_\mathrm{Au}$. The mass $m$ is that of the alpha particle. The solution for $r_\mathrm{min}$ is

$$r_\mathrm{min} = \frac{1}{4\pi \in_0}\frac{2q_\alpha q_\mathrm{Au}}{m{v_\mathrm{i}}^2}$$

The alpha particle is a helium nucleus, so $m = 4\,\mathrm{u} = 6.64 \times 10^{-27}\mathrm{kg}$ and $q_\alpha = 2e = 3.20 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{C}$. Gold has atomic number 79, so $q_\mathrm{Au} = 79e = 1.26 \times 10^{-17}\,\mathrm{C}$. We can then calculate

$$r_\mathrm{min} = 2.7 \times 10^{-14}\,\mathrm{m}$$

This is only about 1/10,000 the size of the atom itself!

**ASSESS** We ignored the atom's electrons in this example. In fact, they make almost no contribution to the alpha particle's trajectory. The alpha particle is exceedingly massive compared to the electrons, and the electrons are spread out over a distance very large compared to the size of the nucleus. Hence the alpha particle easily pushes them aside without any noticeable change in its velocity.

Rutherford went on to make careful experiments of how the alpha particles scattered at different angles. From these experiments he deduced that the diameter of the atomic nucleus is $\approx 1 \times 10^{-14}\text{m} = 10\,\text{fm}$ $\left(1\,\text{fm} = 1\,\text{femtometer} = 10^{-15}\,\text{m}\right)$, increasing a little for elements of higher atomic number and atomic mass.

It may seem surprising to you that the Rutherford model of the atom, with its solar-system analogy, was not Thomson's original choice. However, scientists at the time could not imagine matter having the extraordinarily high density implied by a small nucleus. Neither could they understand what holds the nucleus together, why the positive charges do not push each other apart. Thomson's model, in which the positive charge was spread out and balanced by the negative electrons, actually made more sense. It would be several decades before the forces holding the nucleus together began to be understood, but Rutherford's evidence for a very small nucleus was indisputable.

## Stop to Think 37.3

A radioactive nucleus undergoes alpha decay. Between leaving the nucleus and reaching the detector, the alpha particle

**a.** Speeds up.

**b.** Slows down.

**c.** First speeds up, then slows down.

**d.** Travels at constant speed.

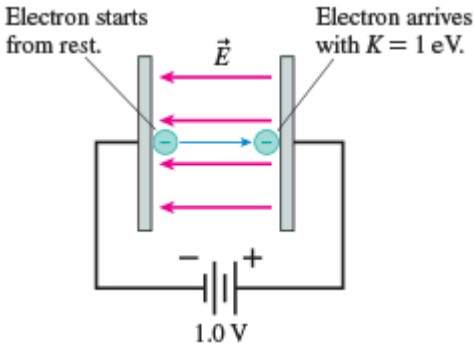
## The Electron Volt

The joule is a unit of appropriate size in mechanics and thermodynamics, where we dealt with macroscopic objects, but it is poorly matched to the needs of atomic physics. It will be very useful to have an energy unit appropriate to atomic and nuclear events.

Figure 37.19 on the next page shows an electron accelerating (in a vacuum) from rest across a parallel-plate capacitor with a 1.0 V potential difference. What is the electron's kinetic energy when it reaches the positive plate? We know from energy conservation that $K_\mathrm{f} + qV_\mathrm{f} = K_\mathrm{i} + qV_\mathrm{i}$, where $U = qV$ is the electric potential energy. $K_\mathrm{i} = 0$ because the electron starts from rest, and the electron's charge is $q = -e$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} K_\mathrm{f} &= -q(V_\mathrm{f} - V_\mathrm{i}) = -q\,\Delta V = e\,\Delta V = \left(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{C}\right)(1.0\,\mathrm{V}) \\ &= 1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{J} \end{aligned}$$

**Figure 37.19**




An electron accelerating across a 1 V potential difference gains 1 eV of kinetic energy.

---

Let us define a new unit of energy, called the **electron volt,** as[1077]

$$1\,\text{eletron volt} \;=\; 1\,\text{eV} \equiv \;1.60\;\times\;10^{-19}\,\text{J}$$

With this definition, the kinetic energy gained by the electron in our example is

$$K_\text{f} = 1\,\text{eV}$$

In other words, **1 electron volt is the kinetic energy gained by an electron (or proton) if it accelerates through a potential difference of 1 volt.**

> **Note**
>
> The abbreviation eV uses a lowercase e but an uppercase V. Units of keV ($10^3$ eV), MeV ($10^6$ eV), and GeV ($10^9$ eV) are common.

The electron volt can be a troublesome unit. One difficulty is its unusual name, which looks less like a unit than, say, “meter” or “second.” A more significant difficulty is that the name suggests a relationship to volts. But *volts* are units of electric potential, whereas this new unit is a unit of energy! It is crucial to distinguish between the *potential V*, measured in

volts, and an *energy* that can be measured either in joules or in electron volts.

> **Note**
>
> To reiterate, the electron volt is a unit of *energy,* convertible to joules, and not a unit of potential. Potential is always measured in volts. However, the joule remains the SI unit of energy. It will be useful to express energies in eV, but you *must* convert this energy to joules before doing most calculations.

**Example 37.5 The speed of an alpha particle**

Alpha particles are usually characterized by their kinetic energy in MeV. What is the speed of an 8.3 MeV alpha particle?

**SOLVE** Alpha particles are helium nuclei, having $m = 4\,\mathrm{u} = 6.64 \times 10^{-27}\,\mathrm{kg}$. The kinetic energy of this alpha particle is $8.3 \times 10^{6}\,\mathrm{eV}$. First, we convert the energy to joules:

$$K = 8.3 \times 10^{6}\,\mathrm{eV} \times \frac{1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{J}}{1.00\,\mathrm{eV}} = 1.33 \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{J}$$

Now we can find the speed:

$$K = \tfrac{1}{2} m v^2 = 1.33 \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{J}$$
$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2K}{m}} = 2.0 \times 10^{7}\,\mathrm{m/s}$$

This was the speed of the alpha particle in Example 37.4.

**Example 37.6 Energy of an electron**

In a simple model of the hydrogen atom, the electron orbits the proton at $2.19 \times 10^6\,\text{m/s}$ in a circle with radius $5.29 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{m}$. What is the atom's energy in eV?

**MODEL** The electron has a kinetic energy of motion, and the electron + proton system has an electric potential energy.

**SOLVE** The potential energy is that of two point charges, with $q_{\text{proton}} = +e$ and $q_{\text{elec}} = -e$. Thus

$$E = K + U = \frac{1}{2} m_{\text{elec}} v^2 + \frac{1}{4\pi \in_0} \frac{(e)(-e)}{r} = -2.17 \times 10^{-18}\,\text{J}$$

Conversion to eV gives

$$E = -2.17 \times 10^{-18}\,\text{J} \times \frac{1\,\text{eV}}{1.60 \times 10^{-19}\text{J}} = -13.6\,\text{eV}$$

**ASSESS** The negative energy reflects the fact that the electron is *bound* to the proton. You would need to *add* energy to remove the electron.

## Using the Nuclear Model

The nuclear model of the atom makes it easy to understand and picture such processes as ionization. Because electrons orbit a positive nucleus, an x-ray photon or a rapidly moving particle, such as another electron, can knock one of the orbiting electrons away, creating a positive ion. Removing one electron makes a singly charged ion, with $q = +e$.

Removing two electrons creates a doubly charged ion, with $q = +2e$. This is shown for lithium (atomic number 3) in Figure 37.20.

## Figure 37.20

Different ionization stages of the lithium atom ($Z = 3$).

The nuclear model also allows us to understand why, during chemical reactions and when an object is charged by rubbing, electrons are easily transferred but protons are not. The protons are tightly bound in the nucleus, shielded by all the electrons, but outer electrons are easily stripped away.

### Example 37.7 The ionization energy of hydrogen

What is the minimum energy required to ionize a hydrogen atom?

**SOLVE** In Example 37.6 we found that the atom's energy is $E_{\text{i}} = -13.6\,\text{eV}$. Ionizing the atom means removing the electron and taking it very far away. As $r \to \infty$, the potential energy becomes zero. Further, using the least possible energy to ionize the atom will leave the electron, when it is very far away, very nearly at rest. Thus the atom's energy after ionization is $E_{\text{f}} = K_{\text{f}} + U_{\text{f}} = 0 + 0 = 0\,\text{eV}$. This is *larger* than $E_{\text{i}}$ by 13.6 eV, so the minimum energy that is required to ionize a hydrogen atom is

13.6 eV. This is called the atom's *ionization energy*. If the electron receives $\geq 13.6\,\text{eV}$ $\left(2.17 \times 10^{-18}\,\text{J}\right)$ of energy from a photon, or in a collision with another electron, or by any other means, it will be knocked out of the atom and leave a $H^+$ ion behind.

## Stop to Think 37.4

Carbon is the sixth element in the periodic table. How many electrons are in a $C^{++}$ ion?

# 37.7 Into the Nucleus



Chapter 42 will discuss nuclear physics in more detail, but it will be helpful to give a brief overview. The relative masses of many of the elements were known from chemistry experiments by the mid-19th century. By arranging the elements in order of ascending mass, and noting recurring regularities in their chemical properties, the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev first proposed the periodic table of the elements in 1872. But what did it mean to say that hydrogen was atomic number 1, helium number 2, lithium number 3, and so on?

It soon became known that hydrogen atoms can be only singly ionized, producing $H^+$. A doubly ionized $H^{++}$ is never observed. Helium, by contrast, can be both singly and doubly ionized, creating $He^+$ and $He^{++}$, but $He^{+++}$ is not observed. It seemed fairly clear, after the work of Thomson and Millikan, that a hydrogen atom contains only one electron and one unit of positive charge, helium has two electrons and two units of positive charge, and so on. Thus the **atomic number** of an element, which is always an integer, describes the number of electrons (of a neutral atom) and the number of units of positive charge in the nucleus. The atomic number is represented by $Z$, so hydrogen is $Z = 1$, helium $Z = 2$, and lithium $Z = 3$. Elements are listed in the periodic table by their atomic number.

Rutherford's discovery of the nucleus soon led to the recognition that the positive charge is associated with a positive subatomic particle called the **proton.** The proton's charge is $+e$, equal in magnitude but opposite in sign to the electron's charge. Further, because nearly all the atomic mass

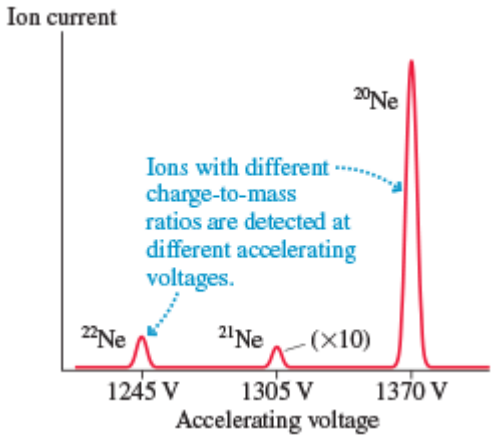
is associated with the nucleus, the proton is much more massive than the electron. According to Rutherford's nuclear model, atoms with atomic number $Z$ consist of $Z$ negative electrons, with net charge $-Ze$, orbiting a massive nucleus that contains protons and has net charge $+Ze$. The Rutherford atom went a long way toward explaining the periodic table.

But there was a problem. Helium, with atomic number 2, has twice as many electrons as hydrogen. Lithium, $Z = 3$, has three electrons. But it was known from chemistry measurements that helium is *four times* as massive as hydrogen and lithium is *seven times* as massive. If a nucleus contains $Z$ protons to balance the $Z$ orbiting electrons, and if nearly all the atomic mass is contained in the nucleus, then helium should be simply twice as massive as hydrogen and lithium three times as massive.

## The Neutron

About 1910, Thomson and his student Francis Aston developed a device called a **mass spectrometer** for measuring the charge-to-mass ratios of atomic ions. As Aston and others began collecting data, they soon found that many elements consist of atoms of *differing* mass! Neon, for example, had been assigned an atomic mass of 20. But Aston found, as the data of Figure 37.21 show, that while 91% of neon atoms have mass $m = 20\,\text{u}$, 9% have $m = 22\,\text{u}$ and a very small percentage have $m = 21\,\text{u}$. Chlorine was found to be a mixture of 75% chlorine atoms with $m = 35\,\text{u}$ and 25% chlorine atoms with $m = 37\,\text{u}$, both having atomic number $Z = 17$.

**Figure 37.21**

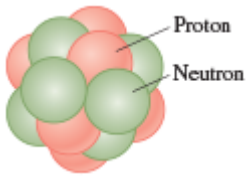



The mass spectrum of neon.

The reason for the different masses was not understood until the discovery, in 1932, of a third subatomic particle. This particle has essentially the same mass as a proton but *no* electric charge. It is called the **neutron.** Neutrons reside in the nucleus, with the protons, where they contribute to the mass of the atom but not to its charge. You'll learn in Chapter 42 that neutrons help provide the "glue" that holds the nucleus together.

The neutron was the missing link needed to explain why atoms of the same element can have different masses. We now know that every atom with atomic number $Z$ has a nucleus containing $Z$ protons with charge $+Ze$. In addition, as shown in Figure 37.22, the nucleus contains $N$ neutrons. There are a *range* of neutron numbers that happily form a nucleus with $Z$ protons, creating a series of nuclei having the same $Z$-value (i.e., they are all the same chemical element) but different masses. Such a series of nuclei are called **isotopes.**

## Figure 37.22

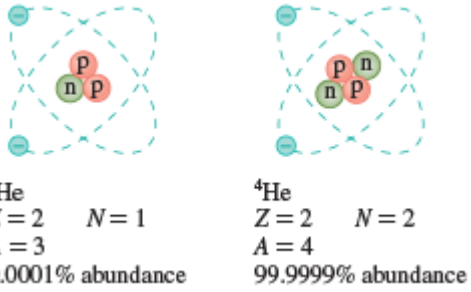


Chemical behavior is determined by the orbiting electrons. All isotopes of one element have the same number $Z$ of orbiting electrons and have the same chemical properties. But the different isotopes can have quite different nuclear properties.

An atom's **mass number** $A$ is defined to be $A = Z + N$. It is the total number of protons and neutrons in a nucleus. The mass number, which is dimensionless, is *not* the same thing as the atomic mass $m$. By definition, $A$ is an integer. But because the proton and neutron masses are both $\approx 1$ u, the mass number $A$ is *approximately* the mass in atomic mass units.

The notation used to label isotopes is ${}^{A}\mathrm{Z}$, where the mass number $A$ is given as a *leading* superscript. The proton number $Z$ is not specified by an actual number but, equivalently, by the chemical symbol for that element. The most common isotope of neon has $Z = 10$ protons and $N = 10$ neutrons. Thus it has mass number $A = 20$ and it is labeled ${}^{20}\mathrm{Ne}$. The neon isotope ${}^{22}\mathrm{Ne}$ has $Z = 10$ protons (that's what makes it neon) and $N = 12$ neutrons. Helium has the two isotopes shown in Figure 37.23. The rare ${}^{3}\mathrm{He}$ is only 0.0001% abundant, but it can be isolated and has important uses in scientific research.

## Figure 37.23




${}^{3}\mathrm{He}$
$Z = 2$ $N = 1$
$A = 3$
0.0001% abundance

${}^{4}\mathrm{He}$
$Z = 2$ $N = 2$
$A = 4$
99.9999% abundance

The two isotopes of helium. $^{3}He$ is only 0.0001% abundant.

## Stop to Think 37.5

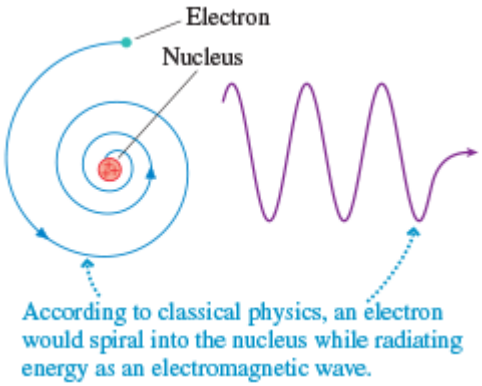
Carbon is the sixth element in the periodic table. How many protons and how many neutrons are there in a nucleus of the isotope $^{14}C$?

# 37.8 Classical Physics at the Limit



Rutherford's nuclear model of the atom matched the experimental evidence about the *structure* of atoms, but it had one serious shortcoming. According to Maxwell's theory of electricity and magnetism, the orbiting electrons in a Rutherford atom should act as small antennas and radiate electromagnetic waves. That sounds encouraging, because we know that atoms can emit light, but the radiation of electromagnetic waves means the atoms would continuously lose energy. As Figure 37.24 shows, this would cause the electrons to spiral into the nucleus! Calculations showed that a Rutherford atom can last no more than about a microsecond. This clearly does not happen.

**Figure 37.24**




The fate of a Rutherford atom.

The experimental efforts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries had been impressive, and there could be no doubt about the existence of electrons, about the small positive nucleus, and about the unique discrete spectrum emitted by each atom. But the theoretical framework for understanding such observations had lagged behind. As the new century

dawned, physicists could not explain the structure of atoms, could not explain the stability of matter, could not explain discrete spectra or blackbody radiation, and could not explain the origin of x rays or radioactivity.

Classical physics had reached its limit, and a whole new generation of brilliant young physicists, with new ideas, was about to take the stage. Among the first was an unassuming young man in Bern, Switzerland. His scholastic record had been mediocre, and the best job he could find upon graduation was as a clerk in the patent office, examining patent applications. His name was Albert Einstein.

### Challenge Example 37.8 Radioactive decay

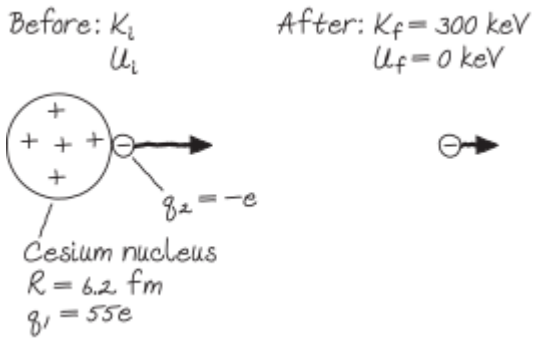
The cesium isotope $^{137}$Cs, with $Z = 55$, is radioactive and decays by beta decay. A beta particle is observed in the laboratory with a kinetic energy of 300 keV. With what kinetic energy was the beta particle ejected from the 12.4-fm-diameter nucleus?

**MODEL** A beta particle is an electron that is ejected from the nucleus of an atom during a radioactive decay. Because the negative electron is attracted to the positive nucleus, it must be ejected at a speed greater than the *escape speed* in order to reach the detector rather than fall back to the nucleus. Energy is conserved in the decay.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 37.25 shows a before-and-after pictorial representation. The electron starts by being ejected from the nucleus with kinetic energy $K_i$. It has electric potential energy $U_i$ due to its interaction with the nucleus. The potential energy due to

the atom's orbiting electrons is negligible because they are so far away in comparison to a nuclear radius. The detected electron is very far from the nucleus, so $U_{\mathrm{f}} = 0$.

**Figure 37.25**




A before-and-after pictorial representation of the beta decay.

**SOLVE** The conservation of energy statement is $K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{f}} = K_{\mathrm{i}} + U_{\mathrm{i}}$. The electron starts outside the nucleus, even though at the surface, so the spherical nucleus can be treated as a point charge with $q_1 = 55e$. The electron has $q_2 = -e$, so the initial electron-nucleus potential energy is

$$\begin{aligned} U_{\mathrm{i}} &= \frac{Kq_1q_2}{r_{\mathrm{i}}} \\ &= \frac{\left(9.0 \times 10^9\,\mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2}\right)\left(55 \times 1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{C}\right)\left(-1.60 \times 10^{-19}\mathrm{C}\right)}{6.20 \times 10^{-15}\,\mathrm{m}} \\ &= \left(-2.04 \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{J}\right) \times \frac{1\,\mathrm{eV}}{1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{J}} = -12.8\,\mathrm{MeV} \end{aligned}$$

To be detected in the laboratory with $K_{\mathrm{f}} = 300\,\mathrm{keV} = 0.3\,\mathrm{MeV}$, the electron had to be ejected from the nucleus with

$$\begin{aligned} K_{\mathrm{i}} &= K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{f}} - U_{\mathrm{i}} = 0.3\,\mathrm{MeV} + 0\,\mathrm{MeV} + 12.8\,\mathrm{MeV} \\ &= 13.1\,\mathrm{MeV} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** A negative electron is very strongly attracted to the nucleus. It's not surprising that it has to be ejected from the nucleus with an enormous amount of kinetic energy to be able to escape at all.

# Summary



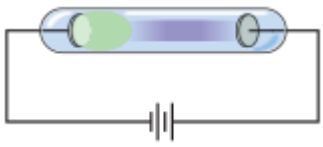
> The goal of Chapter 37 has been to learn about the structure and properties of atoms.

## Important Concepts/Experiments

**Nineteenth-century science**

Faraday's invention of the gas discharge tube launched two important avenues of inquiry:

- Atomic structure.
- Atomic spectra.



**The end of classical physics…**

Atomic spectra had to be related to atomic structure, but no one could understand how. Classical physics could not explain

- The stability of matter.
- Discrete atomic spectra.
- Continuous blackbody spectra.

## Cathode Rays and Atomic Structure

**Thomson** found that cathode rays are negative subatomic particles. These were soon named **electrons**. Electrons are

- Constituents of atoms.
- The fundamental units of negative charge.

**Rutherford** discovered the atomic **nucleus**.

His nuclear model of the atom proposes

- A very small, dense positive nucleus.
- Orbiting negative electrons.

Later, different **isotopes** were recognized to contain different numbers of **neutrons** in a nucleus with the same number of **protons.**

## Atomic Spectra and the Nature of Light

The spectra emitted by the gas in a discharge tube consist of discrete wavelengths.

- Every element has a unique spectrum.

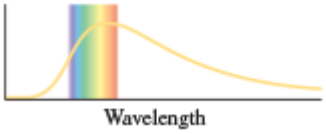
- Every spectral line in an element's absorption spectrum is present in its emission spectrum, but not all emission lines are seen in the absorption spectrum.

The wavelengths of the hydrogen emission spectrum are

$$\lambda = \frac{91.18\text{ nm}}{\left(\frac{1}{m^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)} \qquad \begin{aligned} m &= 1, 2, 3, \ldots \\ n &= \text{ any integer greater than } m \end{aligned}$$

## Blackbody Radiation

- The spectrum is continuous.
- The spectrum depends only on an object's temperature.
- Wien's law: The peak intensity occurs at
  $\lambda\,(\text{in mm}) = \left(2.90 \times 10^6\text{ nm K}\right)/T.$




# Applications

**Millikan's oil-drop experiment** measured the fundamental unit of charge:

$$e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}\text{C}$$

One **electron volt** (1 eV) is the energy an electron or proton (charge $\pm e$) gains by accelerating through a potential difference of 1 V:

$$1\,\mathrm{eV} = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}\mathrm{J}$$

## Terms and Notation

spectrometer

spectrum

continuous spectrum

blackbody radiation

Wien's law

gas discharge tube

discrete spectrum

Balmer series

Balmer formula

cathode glow

cathode rays

Crookes tube

x rays

crossed-field experiment

subatomic particle

electron

Millikan oil-drop experiment

radioactivity

alpha rays

beta rays

nucleus

nuclear model of the atom

electron volt, eV

atomic number, $Z$

proton

mass spectrometer

neutron

isotope

mass number, *A*

# Conceptual Questions 

**1.** A brass plate at room temperature radiates 10 W of blackbody radiation. If the plate is cooled to −30°C, does the peak of maximum radiated intensity shift toward shorter wavelengths, shift toward longer wavelengths, or remain the same? Explain.

**2.** **a.** Summarize the experimental evidence *prior* to the research of Thomson by which you might conclude that cathode rays are some kind of particle.

**b.** Summarize the experimental evidence *prior* to the research of Thomson by which you might conclude that cathode rays are some kind of wave.

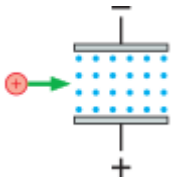
**3.** Thomson observed deflection of the cathode-ray particles due to magnetic and electric fields, but there was no observed deflection due to gravity. Why not?

**4.** What was the significance of Thomson's experiment in which an off-center electrode was used to collect charge deflected by a magnetic field?

**5.** What is the evidence by which we know that an electron from an iron atom is identical to an electron from a copper atom?

**6.** Figure Q37.6 shows a magnetic field between two parallel, charged electrodes. An electron with speed $v_0$ passes between the plates, from left to right, with no deflection. If a proton is fired toward the plates with the same speed $v_0$, will it be deflected up, deflected down, or pass through with no deflection? Explain.

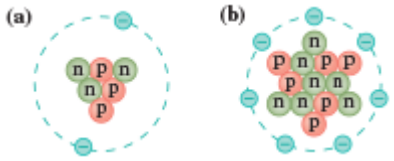
**Figure Q37.6**



7. **a.** Describe the experimental evidence by which we know that the nucleus is made up not just of protons.
   **b.** The neutron is not easy to isolate or control because it has no charge that would allow scientists to manipulate it. What evidence allowed scientists to determine that the mass of the neutron is almost the same as the mass of a proton?
8. Rutherford studied alpha particles using the crossed-field technique Thomson had invented to study cathode rays. Assuming that $v_{\text{alpha}} \approx v_{\text{cathode ray}}$ (which turns out to be true), would the deflection of an alpha particle by a magnetic field be larger than, smaller than, or the same as the deflection of a cathode-ray particle by the same field? Explain.
9. Once Thomson showed that atoms consist of very light negative electrons and a much more massive positive charge, why didn't physicists immediately consider a solar-system model of electrons orbiting a positive nucleus? Why would physicists in 1900 object to such a model?
10. Explain why the observation of alpha particles scattered at very large angles led Rutherford to reject Thomson's model of the atom and to propose a nuclear model.
11. An alpha particle (a bare helium nucleus with $q = +2e$) accelerates across a 100 V potential difference, starting from rest. What is the particle's kinetic energy in eV when it reaches the negative electrode? This question requires no mathematics beyond what you can do in your head.

**12.** Identify the element, the isotope, and the charge state of each atom in Figure Q37.12. Give your answer in symbolic form, such as $^{4}He^{+}$ or $^{8}Be^{-}$.

**Figure Q37.12**




# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 37.2 The Emission and Absorption of Light

**1.** • What are the wavelengths of spectral lines in the Balmer series with $n = 6,\ 8$, and 10?

**2.** • Figure 37.7 identified the wavelengths of four lines in the Balmer series of hydrogen.

**a.** Determine the Balmer formula $n$ and $m$ values for these wavelengths.

**b.** Predict the wavelength of the fifth line in the spectrum.

**3.** • The wavelengths in the hydrogen spectrum with $m = 1$ form a series of spectral lines called the *Lyman series*. Calculate the wavelengths of the first four members of the Lyman series.

**4.** • Two of the wavelengths emitted by a hydrogen atom are 102.6 nm and 1876 nm.

**a.** What are the $m$ and $n$ values for each of these wavelengths?

**b.** For each of these wavelengths, is the light infrared, visible, or ultraviolet?

**5.** •• **INT** A 2.0-cm-diameter metal sphere is glowing red, but a spectrum shows that its emission spectrum peaks at an infrared wavelength of 2.0 $\mu$m. How much power does the sphere radiate? Assume $e = 1$.

**6.** • What temperature, in °C, is a blackbody whose emission spectrum peaks at (a) 300 nm and (b) 3.00 $\mu$m?

**7.** •• **INT** A ceramic cube 3.0 cm on each side radiates heat at 630 W. At what wavelength, in $\mu$m, does its emission spectrum peak? Assume $e = 1$.

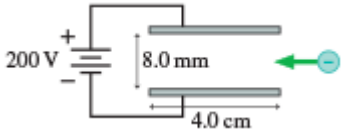
## Section 37.3 Cathode Rays and X Rays

## Section 37.4 The Discovery of the Electron

**8.** • The current in a Crookes tube is 10 nA. How many electrons strike the face of the glass tube each second?

**9.** • **INT** Electrons pass through the parallel electrodes shown in Figure EX37.9 with a speed of $5.0 \times 10^6$ m/s. What magnetic field strength and direction will allow the electrons to pass through without being deflected? Assume that the magnetic field is confined to the region between the electrodes.

**Figure EX37.9**



**10.** • **INT** An electron in a cathode-ray beam passes between 2.5-cm-long parallel-plate electrodes that are 5.0 mm apart. A 2.0 mT, 2.5-cm-wide magnetic field is perpendicular to the electric field between the plates. The electron passes through the electrodes without being deflected if the potential difference between the plates is 600 V.

**a.** What is the electron's speed?

**b.** If the potential difference between the plates is set to zero, what is the electron's radius of curvature in the magnetic field?

## Section 37.5 The Fundamental Unit of Charge

**11.** •• An oil droplet with 15 excess electrons is observed between two parallel electrodes spaced 12 mm apart. The droplet hangs motionless if the upper electrode is 25 V more positive than the lower electrode. The density of the oil is 860 kg/m$^3$. What is the radius of the droplet?

**12.** •• A 0.80-$\mu$m-diameter oil droplet is observed between two parallel electrodes spaced 11 mm apart. The droplet hangs motionless if the upper electrode is 20 V more positive than the lower electrode. The density of the oil is 885 kg/m$^3$.

**a.** What is the droplet's mass?

**b.** What is the droplet's charge?

**c.** Does the droplet have a surplus or a deficit of electrons? How many?

**13.** •• Suppose that in a hypothetical oil-drop experiment you measure the following values for the charges on the drops: $3.99 \times 10^{-19}$ C, $6.65 \times 10^{-19}$ C, $2.66 \times 10^{-19}$C, $10.64 \times 10^{-19}$ C, and $9.31 \times 10^{-19}$C. What is the largest value of the

fundamental unit of charge that is consistent with your measurements?

## Section 37.6 The Discovery of the Nucleus

## Section 37.7 Into the Nucleus

**14.** • Determine:

**a.** The speed of a 7.0 MeV neutron.

**b.** The speed of a 15 MeV helium atom.

**c.** The specific type of particle that has 1.14 keV of kinetic energy when moving with a speed of $2.0 \times 10^7 \mathrm{m/s}$.

**15.** • Determine:

**a.** The speed of a 300 eV electron.

**b.** The speed of a 3.5 MeV $H^+$ ion.

**c.** The specific type of particle that has 2.09 MeV of kinetic energy when moving with a speed of $1.0 \times 10^7 \mathrm{m/s}$.

**16.** •• **INT** Express in eV (or keV or MeV if more appropriate):

**a.** The kinetic energy of a $Li^{++}$ ion that has accelerated from rest through a potential difference of 5000 V.

**b.** The potential energy of two protons 10 fm apart.

**c.** The kinetic energy, just before impact, of a 200 g ball dropped from a height of 1.0 m.

**17.** •• **INT** Express in eV (or keV or MeV if more appropriate):

**a.** The kinetic energy of an electron moving with a speed of $5.0 \times 10^6 \mathrm{m/s}$.

**b.** The potential energy of an electron and a proton 0.10 nm apart.

**c.** The kinetic energy of a proton that has accelerated from rest through a potential difference of 5000 V.

**18.** • **INT** A parallel-plate capacitor with a 1.0 mm plate separation is charged to 75 V. With what kinetic energy, in eV, must a proton be launched from the negative plate if it is just barely able to reach the positive plate?

**19.** • How many electrons, protons, and neutrons are contained in the following atoms or ions: (a) $^{10}B$, (b) $^{13}N^{+}$, and (c) $^{17}O^{+++}$?

**20.** • Identify the isotope that is 11 times as heavy as $^{12}C$ and has 18 times as many protons as $^{6}Li$. Give your answer in the form $^{A}S$, where S is the symbol for the element. See Appendix C: Atomic and Nuclear Data.

**21.** • Write the symbol for an atom or ion with:

**a.** one electron, one proton, and two neutrons.

**b.** seven electrons, eight protons, and ten neutrons.

**22.** • Write the symbol for an atom or ion with:

**a.** five electrons, five protons, and six neutrons.

**b.** five electrons, six protons, and eight neutrons.



**23.** • Consider the gold isotope $^{197}Au$.

**a.** How many electrons, protons, and neutrons are in a neutral $^{197}Au$ atom?

**b.** The gold nucleus has a diameter of 14.0 fm. What is the density of matter in a gold nucleus?

**c.** The density of lead is 11,400 kg/m$^3$. How many times the density of lead is your answer to part b?

**24.** •• **INT** Consider the lead isotope $^{207}Pb$.

**a.** How many electrons, protons, and neutrons are in a neutral $^{207}Pb$ atom?

**b.** The lead nucleus has a diameter of 14.2 fm. What is the electric field strength at the surface of a lead nucleus?

**25.** ••

**a.** A $^{238}$U nucleus has a radius of 7.4 fm. What is the density, in kg/m$^3$, of the nucleus?

**b.** A *neutron star* consists almost entirely of neutrons, created when electrons and protons are squeezed together under immense gravitational pressure, and it has the density of an atomic nucleus. What is the radius, in km, of a neutron star with the mass of the sun?

# Problems

**26.** •• **INT** What is the total energy, in MeV, of

**a.** A proton traveling at 99% of the speed of light?

**b.** An electron traveling at 99% of the speed of light?

**Hint:** This problem uses relativity.

**27.** • **INT** What is the velocity, as a fraction of $c$, of

**a.** A proton with 500 GeV total energy?

**b.** An electron with 2.0 GeV total energy?

**Hint:** This problem uses relativity.

**28.** •• **INT** The Large Hadron Collider accelerates two beams of protons, which travel around the collider in opposite directions, to a total energy of 6.5 TeV per proton. $\left(1\ \text{TeV} = \ 1\ \text{teraelectron volt} = 10^{12}\text{eV}.\right)$ The beams cross at several points, and a few protons undergo head-on collisions. Such collisions usually produce many subatomic particles, but in principle the colliding protons could produce a single subatomic particle at rest. (It would be unstable and would almost instantly decay into other subatomic particles.) What would be the mass, as a multiple of the proton's mass, of such a particle?

**Hint:** This problem uses relativity.

**29.** •• **INT** The Large Hadron Collider accelerates protons to a total energy of 6.5 TeV per proton. $\left(1\ \text{TeV} = \ 1\ \text{teraelectron volt} = 10^{12}\text{eV}.\right)$ What is the speed of a proton that has this energy? Give your answer as fraction of $c$, using as many significant figures as needed.

**Hint:** This problem uses relativity.

**30.** • **INT** You learned in Chapter 36 that mass has an equivalent amount of energy. What are the energy equivalents in MeV of the rest masses of an electron and a proton?

**31.** •• **INT** The factor $\gamma$ appears in many relativistic expressions. A value $\gamma = 1.01$ implies that relativity changes the Newtonian values by approximately 1% and that relativistic effects can no longer be ignored. At what kinetic energy, in MeV, is $\gamma = 1.01$ for (a) an electron, (b) a proton, and (c) an alpha particle?

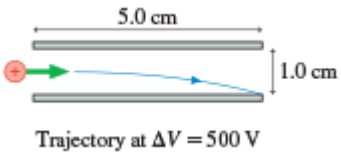
**32.** • **INT** The fission process $\text{n} + {}^{235}\text{U} \rightarrow {}^{236}\text{U} \rightarrow {}^{144}\text{Ba} + {}^{89}\text{Kr} + 3\text{n}$ converts 0.185 u of mass into the kinetic energy of the fission products. What is the total kinetic energy in MeV?

**33.** •• **INT** An electron in a cathode-ray beam passes between 2.5-cm-long parallel-plate electrodes that are 5.0 mm apart. A 1.0 mT, 2.5-cm-wide magnetic field is perpendicular to the electric field between the plates. If the potential difference between the plates is 150 V, the electron passes through the electrodes without being deflected. If the potential difference across the plates is set to zero, through what angle is the electron deflected as it passes through the magnetic field?

**34.** •• **INT** The two 5.0-cm-long parallel electrodes in Figure P37.34 are spaced 1.0 cm apart. A proton enters the plates from one end, an equal distance from both electrodes. A

potential difference $\Delta V = 500$ V across the electrodes deflects the proton so that it strikes the outer end of the lower electrode. What magnetic field strength and direction will allow the proton to pass through undeflected while the 500 V potential difference is applied? Assume that both the electric and magnetic fields are confined to the space between the electrodes.

**Figure P37.34**




**35.** •• **INT** An unknown charged particle passes without deflection through crossed electric and magnetic fields of strengths 187,500 V/m and 0.1250 T, respectively. The particle passes out of the electric field, but the magnetic field continues, and the particle makes a semicircle of diameter 25.05 cm. What is the particle's charge-to-mass ratio? Can you identify the particle?

**36.** •• **INT** In one of Thomson's experiments he placed a thin metal foil in the electron beam and measured its temperature rise. Consider a cathode-ray tube in which electrons are accelerated through a 2000 V potential difference, then strike a 10 mg copper foil. What is the electron-beam current if the foil temperature rises 6.0°C in 10 s? Assume no loss of energy by radiation or other means. The specific heat of copper is 385 J/kg K.

**37.** •• **INT** A neutral lithium atom has three electrons. As you will discover in Chapter 41, two of these electrons form an "inner core," but the third—the valence electron—orbits at much larger

radius. From the valence electron's perspective, it is orbiting a spherical ball of charge having net charge +1$e$ (i.e., the three protons in the nucleus and the two inner-core electrons). The energy required to ionize a lithium atom is 5.14 eV. According to Rutherford's nuclear model of the atom, what are the orbital radius and speed of the valence electron?

**Hint:** Consider the energy needed to remove the electron *and* the force needed to give the electron a circular orbit.

**38.** •• **INT** A hydrogen atom $^{1}$H with 200 eV of kinetic energy has a head-on, perfectly elastic collision with a $^{12}$C atom at rest. Afterward, what is the kinetic energy, in eV, of each atom?

**39.** •• The diameter of an atom is $1.2 \times 10^{-10}$ m and the diameter of its nucleus is $1.0 \times 10^{-14}$ m. What percent of the atom's volume is occupied by mass and what percent is empty space?

**40.** ••• The diameter of an aluminum atom of mass 27 u is approximately $1.2 \times 10^{-10}$ m. The diameter of the nucleus of an aluminum atom is approximately $8 \times 10^{-15}$m. The density of solid aluminum is 2700 kg/m$^3$.

**a.** What is the average density of an aluminum atom?

**b.** Your answer to part a was larger than the density of solid aluminum. This suggests that the atoms in solid aluminum have spaces between them rather than being tightly packed together. What is the average volume per atom in solid aluminum? If this volume is a sphere, what is the radius?

**Hint:** The volume *per* atom is not the same as the volume *of* an atom.

**c.** What is the density of the aluminum nucleus? By what factor is the nuclear density larger than the density of solid aluminum?

**41.** •• **INT** A $^{222}$Rn atom (radon) in a 0.75 T magnetic field undergoes radioactive decay, emitting an alpha particle in a direction perpendicular to $\vec{B}$. The alpha particle begins cyclotron motion with a radius of 45 cm. With what energy, in MeV, was the alpha particle emitted?

**42.** •• **INT** The polonium isotope $^{211}$Po is radioactive and undergoes alpha decay. In the decay process, a $^{211}$Po nucleus at rest explodes into an alpha particle (a $^{4}$He nucleus) and a $^{207}$Pb lead nucleus. The lead nucleus is found to have 0.14 MeV of kinetic energy. The energy released in a nuclear decay is the total kinetic energy of all the decay products. How much energy is released, in MeV, in a $^{211}$Po decay?

**43.** •• **INT** In a head-on collision, the closest approach of a 6.24 MeV alpha particle to the center of a nucleus is 6.00 fm. The nucleus is in an atom of what element? Assume the nucleus remains at rest.

**44.** •• **INT** Through what potential difference would you need to accelerate an alpha particle, starting from rest, so that it will just reach the surface of a 15-fm-diameter $^{238}$U nucleus?

**45.** •• **INT** The oxygen nucleus $^{16}$O has a radius of 3.0 fm.

**a.** With what speed must a proton be fired toward an oxygen nucleus to have a turning point 1.0 fm from the surface? Assume the nucleus remains at rest.

**b.** What is the proton's kinetic energy in MeV?

**46.** •• **INT** To initiate a nuclear reaction, an experimental nuclear physicist wants to shoot a proton *into* a 5.50-fm-diameter $^{12}$C nucleus. The proton must impact the nucleus with a kinetic energy of 3.00 MeV. Assume the nucleus remains at rest.

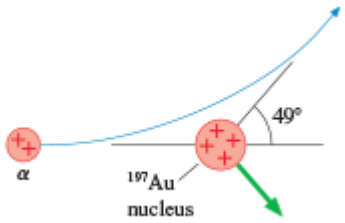
**a.** With what speed must the proton be fired toward the target?

**b.** Through what potential difference must the proton be accelerated from rest to acquire this speed?

## Challenge Problems

**47.** ••• An alpha particle approaches a $^{197}$Au nucleus with a speed of $1.50 \times 10^7 \text{m/s}$. As Figure CP37.47 shows, the alpha particle is scattered at a 49° angle at the slower speed of $1.49 \times 10^7 \text{m/s}$. In what direction does the $^{197}$Au nucleus recoil, and with what speed?

**Figure CP37.47**




**48.** ••• Physicists first attempted to understand the hydrogen atom by applying the laws of classical physics. Consider an electron of mass $m$ and charge $-e$ in a circular orbit of radius $r$ around a proton of charge $+e$.

**a.** Use Newtonian physics to show that the total energy of the atom is $E = -e^2/8\pi\epsilon_0 r$.

**b.** Show that the potential energy is –2 times the electron's kinetic energy. This result is called the *virial theorem*.

**c.** The minimum energy needed to ionize a hydrogen atom (i.e., to remove the electron) is found

experimentally to be 13.6 eV. From this information, what are the electron's speed and the radius of its orbit?

**49.** ••• Consider an oil droplet of mass $m$ and charge $q$. We want to determine the charge on the droplet in a Millikan-type experiment. We will do this in several steps. Assume, for simplicity, that the charge is positive and that the electric field between the plates points upward.

**a.** An electric field is established by applying a potential difference to the plates. It is found that a field of strength $E_0$ will cause the droplet to be suspended motionless. Write an expression for the droplet's charge in terms of the suspending field $E_0$ and the droplet's weight $mg$.

**b.** The field $E_0$ is easily determined by knowing the plate spacing and measuring the potential difference applied to them. The larger problem is to determine the mass of a microscopic droplet. Consider a mass $m$ falling through a viscous medium in which there is a retarding or drag force. For very small particles, the retarding force is given by $F_{\text{drag}} = -bv$ where $b$ is a constant and $v$ the droplet's velocity. The sign recognizes that the drag force vector points upward when the droplet is falling (negative $v$). A falling droplet quickly reaches a constant speed, called the *terminal speed*. Write an expression for the terminal speed $v_{\text{term}}$ in terms of $m$, $g$, and $b$.

**c.** A spherical object of radius $r$ moving slowly through the air is known to experience a retarding force $F_{\text{drag}} = -6\pi\eta\text{rv}$ where $\eta$ is the *viscosity* of the air. Use

this and your answer to part b to show that a spherical droplet of density $\rho$ falling with a terminal velocity $v_{\text{term}}$ has a radius

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{9\eta v_{\text{term}}}{2\rho g}}$$

**d.** Oil has a density 860 kg/m$^3$. An oil droplet is suspended between two plates 1.0 cm apart by adjusting the potential difference between them to 1177 V. When the voltage is removed, the droplet falls and quickly reaches constant speed. It is timed with a stopwatch, and falls 3.00 mm in 7.33 s. The viscosity of air is $1.83 \times 10^{-5}$ kg/ms. What is the droplet's charge?

**e.** How many units of the fundamental electric charge does this droplet possess?

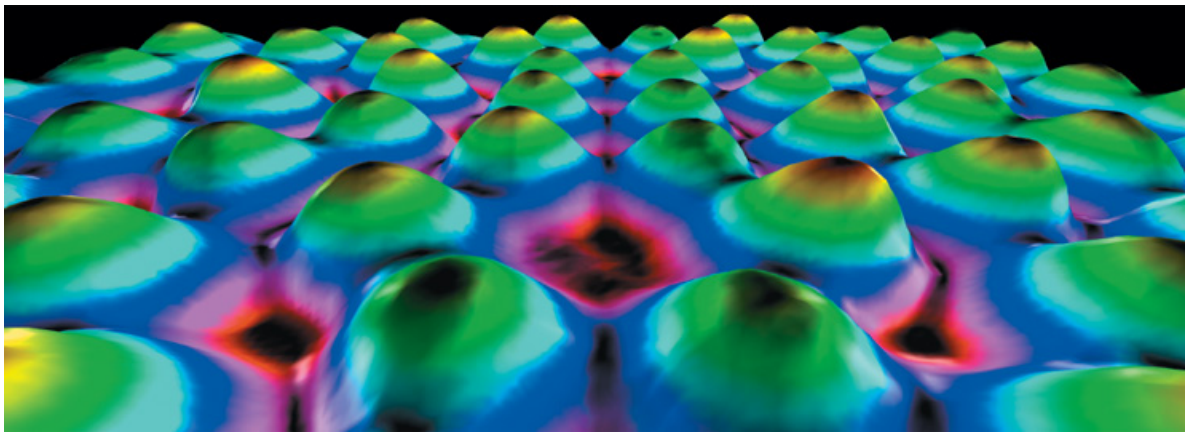
**50.** ••• A classical atom orbiting at frequency *f* would emit electromagnetic waves of frequency *f* because the electron's orbit, seen edge-on, looks like an oscillating electric dipole.

**a.** At what radius, in nm, would the electron orbiting the proton in a hydrogen atom emit light with a wavelength of 600 nm?

**b.** What is the total mechanical energy of this atom?

# Chapter 38
# Quantization





Individual atoms are seen in this scanning tunneling microscope image of the surface of a silicon wafer.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn about the quantization of energy for light and matter.

## What is quantization?

Quantization is the process of changing a continuous variable into a variable that has only discrete values. Energy, in classical physics, can have any value. But things are different at the atomic level.

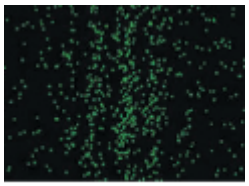
- The energy of a light wave is divided into discrete "chunks," or quanta, called photons.
- The electrons of an atom can exist only in certain states with discrete energies. These are the quantum states of the atom.

## What are photons?

The photon model of light says that light consists of particle-like units called photons.

- The energy of a photon of frequency *f* is quantized: $E_{\text{photon}} = hf$, where *h* is Planck's constant.
- At very low intensity, light is detected as discrete particle-like events.

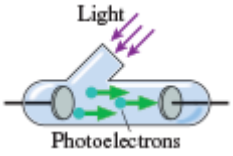
Looking Back Section 33.2 Interference



Photon interference

## What are the consequences of photons?

- Photons explain the photoelectric effect, where short-wavelength light ejects electrons from a metal surface but long-wavelength light does not.
- Photons also explain Compton scattering, where the wavelength of x rays is shifted when the x rays scatter from a target.




## What are matter waves?

You'll learn that particles of matter, such as electrons and neutrons, have wave-like properties and can even undergo

interference. The de Broglie wavelength of a particle of mass *m* and speed *v* is $\lambda = h/mv$, where, again, *h* is Planck's constant.

Electron interference

## What are the consequences of matter waves?

- A wave-like particle confined to a box sets up standing waves as it reflects back and forth. You'll see that this leads to quantized energy levels.
- The quantum theory of matter, beginning with Bohr and continuing with quantum mechanics (see Chapter 40) is based on matter's wave-like properties.

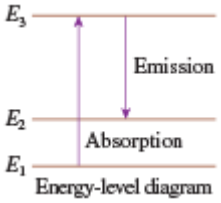
Particle in a box

## What is the Bohr model of the atom?

The Bohr model adds quantum ideas to Rutherford's solar-system atom.

- Electrons can orbit with only certain discrete radii and energies.
- Photons are emitted and absorbed when electrons jump between energy levels.

Looking Back Section 37.6 Rutherford's model



Energy-level diagram

# 38.1 The Photoelectric Effect

1886

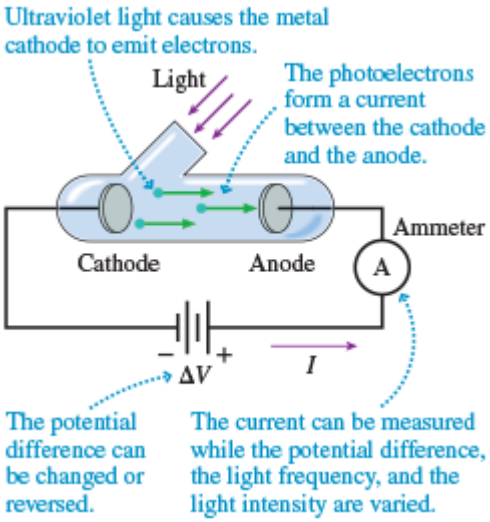
In 1886, Heinrich Hertz, who was the first to demonstrate that electromagnetic waves can be artificially generated, noticed that a negatively charged electroscope could be discharged by shining ultraviolet light on it. Hertz's observation caught the attention of J. J. Thomson, who inferred that the ultraviolet light was causing the electrode to emit electrons, thus restoring itself to electric neutrality. The emission of electrons from a substance due to light striking its surface came to be called the **photoelectric effect.** The emitted electrons are often called *photoelectrons* to indicate their origin, but they are identical in every respect to all other electrons.

Although this discovery might seem to be a minor footnote in the history of science, it soon became a, or maybe *the,* pivotal event that opened the door to new ideas.

## Characteristics of the Photoelectric Effect

It was not the discovery itself that dealt the fatal blow to classical physics, but the specific characteristics of the photoelectric effect found around 1900 by one of Hertz's students, Phillip Lenard. Lenard built a glass tube, shown in Figure 38.1, with two facing electrodes and a window. After removing the air from the tube, he allowed light to shine on the cathode.

**Figure 38.1**




Lenard's experimental device to study the photoelectric effect.

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Lenard found a counterclockwise current (clockwise flow of electrons) through the ammeter whenever ultraviolet light was shining on the cathode. There are no junctions in this circuit, so the current must be the same all the way around the loop. The current in the space between the cathode and the anode consists of electrons moving freely through the evacuated space between the electrodes (i.e., not inside a wire) at the *same rate* (same number of electrons per second) as the current in the wire. There is no current if the electrodes are in the dark, so electrons don't spontaneously leap off the cathode. Instead, the light causes electrons to be ejected from the cathode at a steady rate.

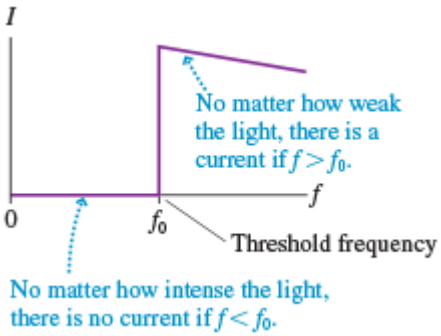
Lenard used a battery to establish an adjustable potential difference $\Delta V$ between the two electrodes. He then studied how the current $I$ varied as the potential difference and the light's frequency and intensity were changed. Lenard made the following observations:

1. The current $I$ is directly proportional to the light intensity. If the light intensity is doubled, the current also doubles.
2. The current appears without delay when the light is applied. To Lenard, this meant within the $\approx 0.1$ s with which his equipment

could respond. Later experiments showed that the current begins in less than 1 ns.

3. Photoelectrons are emitted *only* if the light frequency $f$ exceeds a **threshold frequency** $f_0$. This is shown in the graph of Figure 38.2.

## Figure 38.2

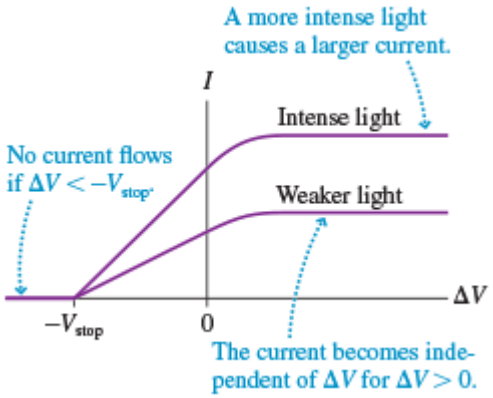



The photoelectric current as a function of the light frequency $f$ for light of constant intensity.



4. The value of the threshold frequency $f_0$ depends on the type of metal from which the cathode is made.
5. If the potential difference $\Delta V$ is more than about 1 V positive (anode positive with respect to the cathode), the current does not change as $\Delta V$ is increased. If $\Delta V$ is made negative (anode negative with respect to the cathode), by reversing the battery, the current decreases until, at some voltage $\Delta V = -V_{\text{stop}}$ the current reaches zero. The value of $V_{\text{stop}}$ is called the **stopping potential.** This behavior is shown in Figure 38.3.

## Figure 38.3




The photoelectric current as a function of the battery potential.

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6. The value of $V_{stop}$ is the same for both weak light and intense light. A more intense light causes a larger current, as Figure 38.3 shows, but in both cases the current ceases when $\Delta V = -V_{stop}$.

> **Note**
>
> We're defining $V_{stop}$ to be a *positive* number. The potential difference that stops the electrons is $\Delta V = -V_{stop}$ with an explicit minus sign.

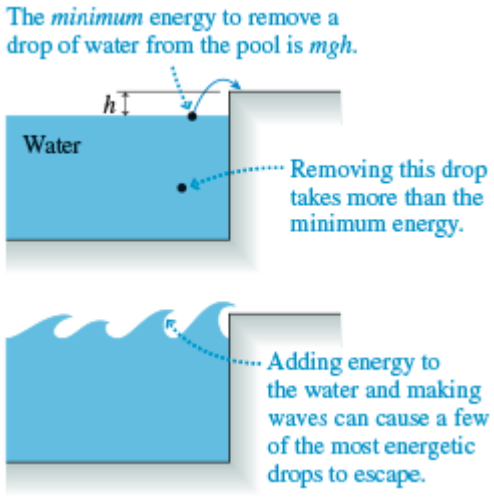
## Classical Interpretation of the Photoelectric Effect

The mere existence of the photoelectric effect is not, as is sometimes assumed, a difficulty for classical physics. You learned in Chapter 22 that electrons are the charge carriers in a metal. The electrons move freely but are bound inside the metal and do not spontaneously spill out of an electrode at room temperature. But a piece of metal heated to a sufficiently high temperature *does* emit electrons in a process called **thermal emission.** The electron gun in an older television or computer

display terminal starts with the thermal emission of electrons from a hot tungsten filament.

A useful analogy, shown in Figure 38.4, is the water in a swimming pool. Water molecules do not spontaneously leap out of the pool if the water is calm. To remove a water molecule, you must do *work* on it to lift it upward, against the force of gravity. A minimum energy is needed to extract a water molecule, namely the energy needed to lift a molecule that is right at the surface. Removing a water molecule that is deeper requires more than the minimum energy. People playing in the pool add energy to the water, causing waves. If sufficient energy is added, a few water molecules will gain enough energy to splash over the edge and leave the pool.

## Figure 38.4




A swimming pool analogy of electrons in a metal.

Similarly, a *minimum* energy is needed to free an electron from a metal. To extract an electron, you would need to exert a force on it and pull it (i.e., do *work* on it) until its speed is large enough to escape. The minimum energy $E_0$ needed to free an electron is called the **work function** of the metal. Some electrons, like the deeper water molecules,

may require more energy than $E_0$ to escape, but all will require *at least* $E_0$. Different metals have different work functions; Table 38.1 provides a short list. Notice that work functions are given in electron volts.

**Table 38.1** 1088

| Element | $E_0$ (eV) |
|---|---|
| Potassium | 2.30 |
| Sodium | 2.75 |
| Aluminum | 4.28 |
| Tungsten | 4.55 |
| Copper | 4.65 |
| Iron | 4.70 |
| Gold | 5.10 |

The work function for some of the elements

Heating a metal, like splashing in the pool, increases the thermal energy of the electrons. At a sufficiently high temperature, the kinetic energy of a small percentage of the electrons may exceed the work function. These electrons can "make it out of the pool" and leave the metal. In practice, there are only a few elements, such as tungsten, for which thermal emission can become significant before the metal melts!

Suppose we could raise the temperature of only the electrons, not the crystal lattice. One possible way to do this is to shine a light wave on the surface. Because electromagnetic waves are absorbed by the conduction electrons, not by the positive ions, the light wave heats only the electrons. Eventually the electrons' energy is transferred to the crystal lattice, via collisions, but if the light is sufficiently intense, the *electron temperature* may be significantly higher than the temperature of the metal. In 1900, it was plausible to think that an intense light source might be able to cause the thermal emission of electrons without melting the metal.

# The Stopping Potential

Photoelectrons leave the cathode with kinetic energy. An electron with energy $E_{\text{elec}}$ inside the metal loses energy $\Delta E$ as it escapes, so it emerges as a photoelectron with $K = E_{\text{elec}} - \Delta E$. The work function energy $E_0$ is the *minimum* energy needed to remove an electron, so the *maximum* possible kinetic energy of a photoelectron is

**(38.1)**

$$K_{\text{max}} = E_{\text{elec}} - E_0$$

Some photoelectrons reach the anode, creating a measurable current, but many do not. However, as Figure 38.5 shows:

- A positive anode attracts the photoelectrons. Once all electrons reach the anode, which happens for $\Delta V$ greater than about 1 V, a further increase in $\Delta V$ does not cause any further increase in the current $I$. That is why the graph lines become horizontal on the right side of Figure 38.3.
- A negative anode repels the electrons. However, photoelectrons leaving the cathode with sufficient kinetic energy can still reach the anode. The current steadily decreases as the anode voltage becomes increasingly negative until, at the stopping potential, *all* electrons are turned back and the current ceases. This was the behavior observed on the left side of Figure 38.3.

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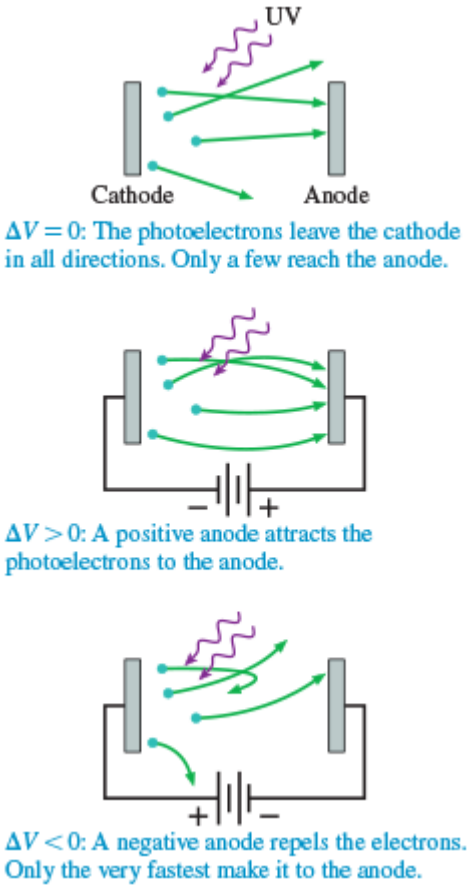
**Figure 38.5**



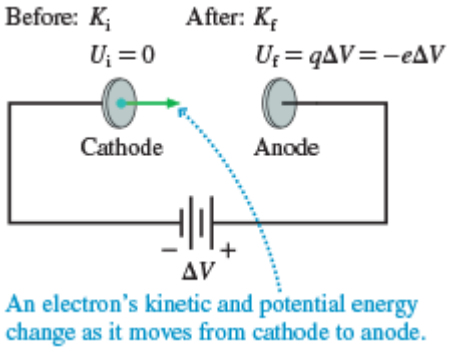

The photoelectron current depends on the anode potential.

Let the cathode be the point of zero potential energy, as shown in Figure 38.6. An electron emitted from the cathode with kinetic energy $K_i$ has initial total energy

$$E_i = K_i + U_i = K_i + 0 = K_i$$



## Figure 38.6




Energy is conserved.

When the electron reaches the anode, which is at potential $\Delta V$ relative to the cathode, it has potential energy $U = q\Delta V = -e\Delta V$ and final total energy

$$E_{\mathrm{f}} = K_{\mathrm{f}} + U_{\mathrm{f}} = K_{\mathrm{f}} - e\,\Delta V$$

From conservation of energy, $E_{\mathrm{f}} = E_{\mathrm{i}}$, the electron's final kinetic energy is

**(38.2)**

$$K_{\mathrm{f}} = K_{\mathrm{i}} + e\,\Delta V$$

The electron speeds up $(K_{\mathrm{f}} > K_{\mathrm{i}})$ if $\Delta V$ is positive. The electron slows down if $\Delta V$ is negative, but it still reaches the anode $(K_{\mathrm{f}} > 0)$ if $K_{\mathrm{i}}$ is large enough.

An electron with initial kinetic energy $K_{\mathrm{i}}$ will stop just as it reaches the anode if the potential difference is $\Delta V = -K_{\mathrm{i}}/e$. The potential difference that turns back the very fastest electrons, those with $K = K_{\max}$, and thus stops the current is

$$\Delta V_{\text{stop fastest electrons}} = -\frac{K_{\max}}{e}$$

By definition, the potential difference that causes the electron current to cease is $\Delta V = -\,V_{\text{stop}}$, where $V_{\text{stop}}$ is the stopping potential. The stopping potential is

**(38.3)**

$$V_{\text{stop}} = \frac{K_{\max}}{e}$$

Thus the stopping potential tells us the maximum kinetic energy of the photoelectrons.

**Example 38.1 The classical photoelectric effect**

A photoelectric-effect experiment is performed with an aluminum cathode. An electron inside the cathode has a speed of $1.5 \times 10^6\ \mathrm{m/s}$. If the potential difference between the anode and cathode is –2.00 V, what is the highest possible speed with which this electron could reach the anode?

**MODEL** Energy is conserved.

**SOLVE** If the electron escapes with the maximum possible kinetic energy, its kinetic energy at the anode will be given by Equation 38.2 with $\Delta V = -2.00$ V. The electron's initial kinetic energy is

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{elec}} &= \tfrac{1}{2}mv^2 = \tfrac{1}{2}(9.11 \times 10^{-31}\ \mathrm{kg})\left(1.5\ \times\ 10^6\ \mathrm{m/s}\right)^2 \\ &= 1.025 \times 10^{-18}\ \mathrm{J} = 6.41\ \mathrm{eV} \end{aligned}$$

Its maximum possible kinetic energy as it leaves the cathode is

$$K_{\mathrm{i}} = K_{\max} = E_{\text{elec}} - E_0 = 2.13\ \mathrm{eV}$$

where $E_0 = 4.28$ eV is the work function of aluminum. Thus the kinetic energy at the anode, given by Equation 38.2, is

$$K_{\mathrm{f}} = K_{\mathrm{i}}\ + e\Delta V = 2.13\ \mathrm{eV}\ - (e)(2.00\ \mathrm{V}) = 0.13\ \mathrm{eV}$$

Notice that the electron loses 2.00 eV of kinetic energy as it moves through the potential difference of –2.00 V, so we can compute the

final kinetic energy in eV without having to convert to joules. However, we do need joules to find the final speed:

$$K_\mathrm{f} = \tfrac{1}{2} m {v_\mathrm{f}}^2 = 0.13 \text{ eV} = 2.1 \times 10^{-20} \text{ J}$$
$$v_\mathrm{f} = \sqrt{\tfrac{2K_\mathrm{f}}{m}} = 2.1 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}$$

## Limits of the Classical Interpretation

A classical analysis might explain observations 1 and 5 above. But nothing in this analysis suggests that there should be a threshold frequency, as Lenard found. If a weak intensity at a frequency just slightly above $f_0$ can generate a current, why can't a strong intensity at a frequency just slightly below $f_0$ do so?

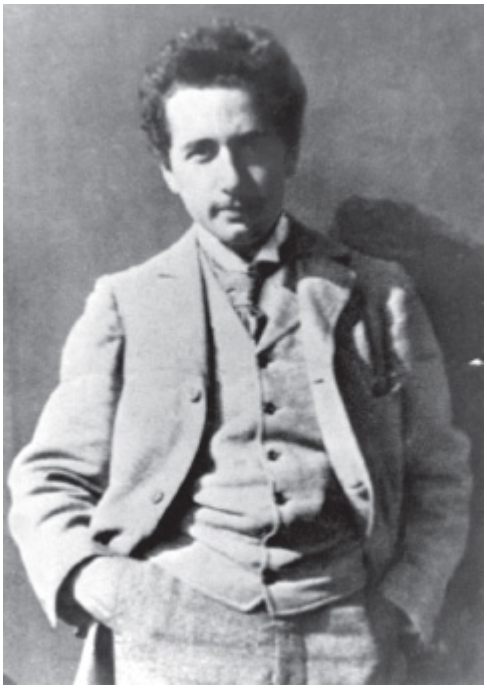
What about Lenard's observation that the current starts instantly? If the photoelectrons are due to thermal emission, it should take some time for the light to raise the electron temperature sufficiently high for some to escape. The experimental evidence was in sharp disagreement. And more intense light would be expected to heat the electrons to a higher temperature. Doing so should increase the maximum kinetic energy of the photoelectrons and thus should increase the stopping potential $V_\text{stop}$. But the stopping potential is the same for strong light as it is for weak light.

Although the mere presence of photoelectrons did not seem surprising, classical physics was unable to explain the observed behavior of the photoelectrons. The threshold frequency and the instant current seemed particularly anomalous.

# 38.2 Einstein's Explanation

1890

In 1905, Einstein published his initial paper on the theory of relativity, the subject for which he is most well known to the general public. He also published another paper, on the nature of light. In it Einstein offered an exceedingly simple but amazingly bold idea to explain Lenard's photoelectric-effect data.



A young Einstein.

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A few years earlier, in 1900, the German physicist Max Planck had been trying to understand the details of the rainbow-like blackbody spectrum of light emitted by a glowing hot object. As we noted in the preceding chapter, this problem didn't yield to a classical physics analysis, but Planck found that he could calculate the spectrum perfectly if he made an unusual assumption. The atoms in a solid vibrate back and forth around their equilibrium positions with frequency $f$. You learned in Chapter 15

that the energy of a simple harmonic oscillator depends on its amplitude and can have *any* possible value. But to predict the spectrum correctly, Planck had to assume that the oscillating atoms are *not* free to have any possible energy. Instead, the energy of an atom vibrating with frequency $f$ has to be one of the specific energies $E = 0,\ hf,\ 2hf,\ 3hf, \ldots$, where $h$ is a constant. That is, the vibration energies are *quantized*.

Planck was able to determine the value of the constant $h$ by comparing his calculations of the spectrum to experimental measurements. The constant that he introduced into physics is now called **Planck's constant.** Its contemporary value is

$$h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34}\ \text{J s} = 4.14 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{eV s}$$

The first value, with SI units, is the proper one for most calculations, but you will find the second to be useful when energies are expressed in eV.

Einstein was the first to take Planck's quantization idea seriously. He went even further and suggested that **electromagnetic radiation itself is quantized!** That is, light is not really a continuous wave but, instead, arrives in small packets or bundles of energy. Einstein called each packet of energy a **light quantum,** and he postulated that the energy of one light quantum is directly proportional to the frequency of the light. That is, each quantum of light has energy

---

**(38.4)**

$$E = hf$$

where $h$ is Planck's constant and $f$ is the frequency of the light.

The idea of light quanta is subtle, so let's look at an analogy with raindrops. A downpour has a torrent of raindrops, but in a light shower the drops are few. The difference between "intense" rain and "weak" rain is the *rate* at which the drops arrive. An intense rain makes a continuous noise on the roof, so you are not aware of the individual drops, but the individual drops become apparent during a light rain.

Similarly, intense light has so many quanta arriving per second that the light seems continuous, but very weak light consists of only a few quanta per second. And just as raindrops come in different sizes, with larger-mass drops having larger kinetic energy, higher-frequency light quanta have a larger amount of energy. Although this analogy is not perfect, it does provide a useful mental picture of light quanta arriving at a surface.

**Example 38.2 Light quanta**

The retina of your eye has three types of color photoreceptors, called *cones*, with maximum sensitivities at 437 nm, 533 nm, and 575 nm. For each, what is the energy of one quantum of light having that wavelength?

**MODEL** The energy of light is quantized.

**SOLVE** Light with wavelength $\lambda$ has frequency $f = c/\lambda$. The energy of one quantum of light at this wavelength is

$$E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

The calculation requires $\lambda$ to be in m, but it is useful to have Planck's constant in eV s. At 437 nm, we have

$$E = \frac{(4.14 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{eV s})(3.00 \times 10^{8}\ \text{m/s})}{437 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{m}} = 2.84\ \text{eV}$$

Carrying out the same calculation for the other two wavelengths gives $E = 2.33$ eV at 533 nm and $E = 2.16$ eV at 575 nm.

**ASSESS** The electron volt turns out to be more convenient than the joule for describing the energy of light quanta. Because these wavelengths span a good fraction of the visible spectrum of 400–700 nm, you can see that visible light corresponds to light quanta having energy of roughly 2–3 eV.

## Einstein's Postulates

Einstein framed three postulates about light quanta and their interaction with matter:

1. Light of frequency $f$ consists of discrete quanta, each of energy $E = hf$. Each photon travels at the speed of light $c$.
2. Light quanta are emitted or absorbed on an all-or-nothing basis. A substance can emit 1 or 2 or 3 quanta, but not 1.5. Similarly, an electron in a metal must absorb an entire quantum of light at once; it cannot absorb half a quantum.
3. A light quantum, when absorbed by a metal, delivers its entire energy to *one* electron.

**Note**

These three postulates—that light comes in chunks, that the chunks cannot be divided, and that the energy of one chunk is delivered to one electron—are crucial for understanding the

> new ideas that will lead to quantum physics. They are completely at odds with the concepts of classical physics, where energy can be continuously divided and shared, so they deserve careful thought.

Let's look at how Einstein's postulates apply to the photoelectric effect. If Einstein is correct, the light of frequency $f$ shining on the metal is a flow of light quanta, each of energy $hf$. Each quantum is absorbed by *one* electron, giving that electron an energy $E_{\text{elec}} = hf$. This leads us to several interesting conclusions:

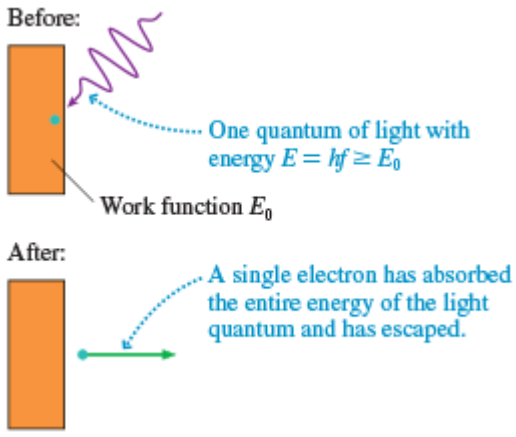


1. An electron that has just absorbed a quantum of light energy has $E_{\text{elec}} = hf$. (The electron's thermal energy at room temperature is so much less than $hf$ that we can neglect it.) Figure 38.7 shows that this electron can escape from the metal, becoming a photoelectron, if

**(38.5)**

$$E_{\text{elec}} = hf \geq E_0$$

**Figure 38.7**




The creation of a photoelectron.

where, you will recall, the work function $E_0$ is the minimum energy needed to free an electron from the metal. As a result, there is a *threshold frequency*

**(38.6)**

$$f_0 = \frac{E_0}{h}$$

for the ejection of photoelectrons. If $f$ is less than $f_0$, even by just a small amount, none of the electrons will have sufficient energy to escape no matter how intense the light. But even very weak light with $f \geq f_0$ will give a few electrons sufficient energy to escape **because each light quantum delivers all of its energy to one electron**. This threshold behavior is exactly what Lenard observed.

> **Note**
>
> The threshold frequency is directly proportional to the work function. Metals with large work functions, such as iron, copper, and gold, exhibit the photoelectric effect only when illuminated by high-frequency ultraviolet light. Photoemission occurs with lower-frequency visible light for metals with smaller values of $E_0$, such as sodium and potassium.

2. A more intense light means *more quanta* of the same energy, not more energetic quanta. These quanta eject a larger number of photoelectrons and cause a larger current, exactly as observed.
3. There is a distribution of kinetic energies, because different photoelectrons require different amounts of energy to escape, but the *maximum* kinetic energy is

**(38.7)**

$$K_{\text{max}} = E_{\text{elec}} - E_0 = hf - E_0$$

As we noted in Equation 38.3, the stopping potential $V_{\text{stop}}$ is directly proportional to $K_{\text{max}}$. Einstein's theory predicts that the stopping potential is related to the light frequency by

**(38.8)**

$$V_{\text{stop}} = \frac{K_{\text{max}}}{e} = \frac{hf - E_0}{e}$$

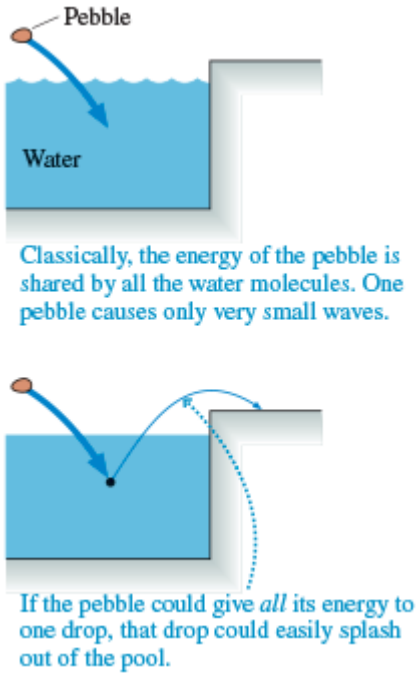
The stopping potential does *not* depend on the intensity of the light. Both weak light and intense light will have the same stopping potential, which Lenard had observed but which could not previously be explained.

4. If each light quantum transfers its energy *hf* to just one electron, that electron *immediately* has enough energy to escape. The current should begin instantly, with no delay, exactly as Lenard had observed.

Using the swimming pool analogy again, Figure 38.8 shows a pebble being thrown into the pool. The pebble increases the energy of the water, but the increase is shared among all the molecules in the pool. The increase in the water's energy is barely enough to make ripples, not nearly enough to splash water out of the pool. But suppose *all* the pebble's energy could go to *one drop* of water that didn't have to share it. That one drop of water could easily have enough energy to leap out of the pool. Einstein's hypothesis that a light quantum transfers all its energy to one electron is equivalent to the pebble transferring all its energy to one drop of water.



**Figure 38.8**




A pebble transfers energy to the water.

## A Prediction

Not only do Einstein's hypotheses explain all of Lenard's observations, they also make a new prediction. According to Equation 38.8, the stopping potential should be a linearly increasing function of the light's frequency $f$. We can rewrite Equation 38.8 in terms of the threshold frequency $f_0 = E_0/h$ as

**(38.9)**

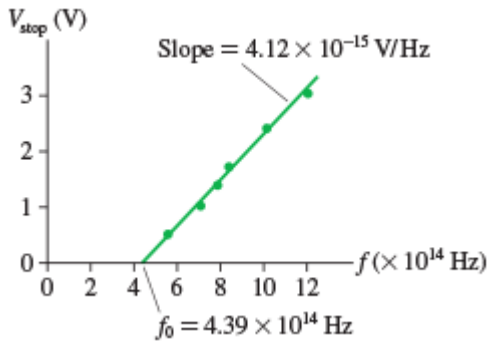
$$V_{\text{stop}} = \frac{h}{e}(f - f_0)$$

A graph of the stopping potential $V_{\text{stop}}$ versus the light frequency $f$ should start from zero at $f = f_0$, then rise linearly with a slope of $h/e$. In fact, the slope of the graph provides a way to measure Planck's constant $h$.

Lenard had not measured the stopping potential for different frequencies, so Einstein offered this as an untested prediction of his postulates. Robert

Millikan, known for his oil-drop experiment to measure $e$, took up the challenge. Some of Millikan's data for a cesium cathode are shown in Figure 38.9. As you can see, Einstein's prediction of a linear relationship between $f$ and $V_{stop}$ was confirmed.

## Figure 38.9




A graph of Millikan's data for the stopping potential as the light frequency is varied.

Millikan measured the slope of his graph and multiplied it by the value of $e$ (which he had measured a few years earlier in the oil-drop experiment) to find $h$. His value agreed with the value that Planck had determined in 1900 from an entirely different experiment. Light quanta, whether physicists liked the idea or not, were real.

### Example 38.3 The photoelectric threshold frequency

What are the threshold frequencies and wavelengths for photoemission from sodium and from aluminum?

**SOLVE** Table 38.1 gives the sodium work function as $E_0 = 2.75$ eV. Aluminum has $E_0 = 4.28$ eV. We can use Equation 38.6, with $h$ in units of eV s, to calculate

$$f_0 = \frac{E_0}{h} = \begin{cases} 6.64 \times 10^{14}\ \text{Hz} & \text{sodium} \\ 10.34 \times 10^{14}\ \text{Hz} & \text{aluminum} \end{cases}$$

These frequencies are converted to wavelengths with $\lambda = c/f$, giving

$$\lambda = \begin{cases} 452\ \text{nm} & \text{sodium} \\ 290\ \text{nm} & \text{aluminum} \end{cases}$$

**ASSESS** The photoelectric effect can be observed with sodium for $\lambda < 452$ nm. This includes blue and violet visible light but not red, orange, yellow, or green. Aluminum, with a larger work function, needs ultraviolet wavelengths $\lambda < 290$ nm.

### Example 38.4 Maximum photoelectron speed

What is the maximum photoelectron speed if sodium is illuminated with light of 300 nm?

**SOLVE** The light frequency is $f = c/\lambda = 1.00 \times 10^{15}$ Hz, so each light quantum has energy $hf = 4.14$ eV. The maximum kinetic energy of a photoelectron is

$$\begin{aligned} K_{\text{max}} &= hf - E_0 = 4.14\ \text{eV} - 2.75\ \text{eV} = 1.39\ \text{eV} \\ &= 2.22 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{J} \end{aligned}$$

Because $K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$, where $m$ is the electron's mass, not the mass of the sodium atom, the maximum speed of a photoelectron leaving the cathode is

$$v_{\text{max}} = \sqrt{\frac{2K_{\text{max}}}{m}} = 6.99 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}$$

Note that we had to convert $K_{max}$ to SI units of J before calculating a speed in m/s.

## Stop to Think 38.1

The work function of metal A is 3.0 eV. Metals B and C have work functions of 4.0 eV and 5.0 eV, respectively. Ultraviolet light shines on all three metals, creating photoelectrons. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the stopping potentials for A, B, and C.

# 38.3 Photons



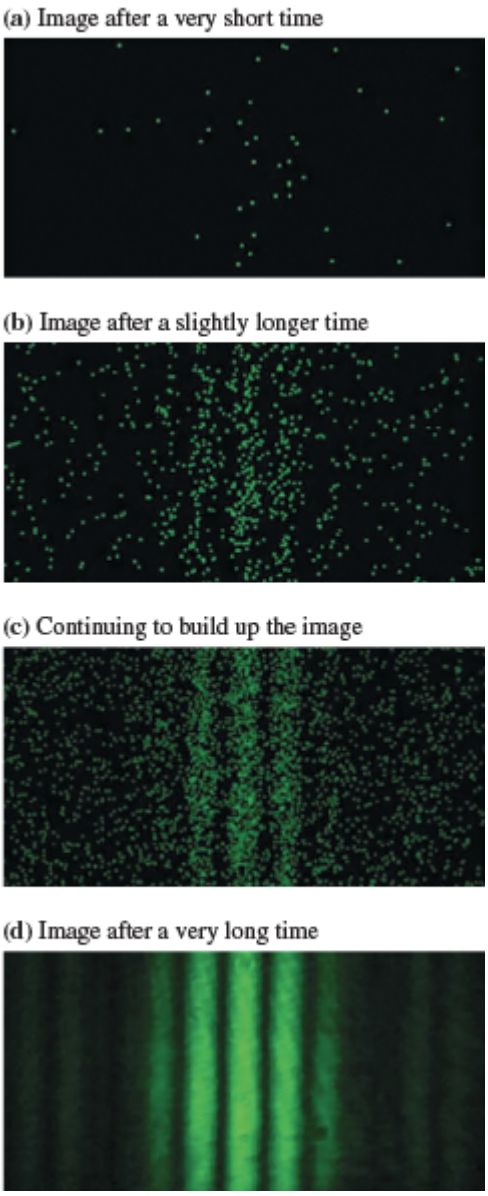
Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1921 not for his theory of relativity, as many suppose, but for his explanation of the photoelectric effect. Although Planck had made the first suggestion, it was Einstein who showed convincingly that energy is quantized. Quanta of light energy were later given the name **photons.**

But just what are photons? To begin our explanation, let's return to the experiment that showed most dramatically the wave nature of light—Young's double-slit interference experiment. We will make a change, though: We will dramatically lower the light intensity by inserting filters between the light source and the slits. The fringes will be too dim to see by eye, so we will replace the viewing screen with a detector that can build up an image over time.

What would we predict for the outcome of this experiment? If light is a wave, there is no reason to think that the nature of the interference fringes will change. The detector should continue to show alternating light and dark bands.

Figure 38.10 shows the actual outcome at four different times. At early times, contrary to our prediction, the detector shows not dim interference fringes but discrete, bright dots. If we didn't know that light is a wave, we would interpret the dots as evidence that light is a stream of some type of particle-like objects. They arrive one by one, seemingly randomly, and each is localized at a specific point on the detector. (Waves, you will recall, are not localized at a specific point in space.)

## Figure 38.10




A double-slit experiment with light of very low intensity.

As the detector builds up the image for a longer period of time, we see that these dots are not entirely random. They are grouped into bands at *exactly* the positions where we expected to see bright constructive-interference fringes. No dot ever appears at points of destructive interference. After a long time, the individual dots overlap and the image looks like the photographs of interference fringes in Chapter 33.

We're detecting individual photons! Most light sources—even very dim sources—emit such vast numbers of photons that you are aware of only their wave-like superposition, just as you notice only the roar of a heavy rain on your roof and not the individual raindrops. But at extremely low intensities the light begins to appear as a stream of individual photons, like the random patter of raindrops when it is barely sprinkling. Each dot on the detector in Figure 38.10 signifies a point where one particle-like photon delivered its energy and caused a measurable signal.

But photons are certainly not classical particles. Classical particles, such as Newton's corpuscles of light, would travel in straight lines through the two slits of a double-slit experiment and make just two bright areas on the detector. Instead, as Figure 38.10 shows, the *particle*-like photons seem to be landing at places where a *wave* undergoes constructive interference, thus forming the bands of dots.

Today, it is quite feasible to do this experiment with a light intensity so low that only one photon at a time is passing through the double-slit apparatus. But if one photon at a time can build up a wave-like interference pattern, what is the photon interfering with? The only possible answer is that **the photon is interfering** *with itself*. Nothing else is present. But if each photon interferes with itself, rather than with other photons, then each photon, despite the fact that it is a particle-like object, must somehow go through *both* slits! Photons seem to be both wave-like *and* particle-like at the same time.

This all seems pretty crazy, but it's the way light actually behaves. **Sometimes light exhibits particle-like behavior and sometimes it exhibits wave-like behavior.** The thing we call *light* is stranger and more complex than it first appeared. Furthermore, as we will see, this half-wave/half-particle behavior is not restricted to light.

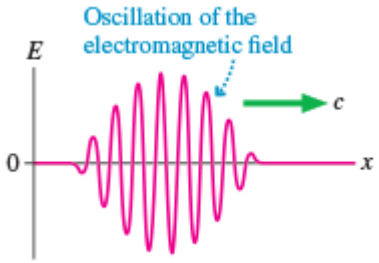
# The Photon Model of Light



The photon model of light is based on the idea that light comes in discrete "chunks" of energy. We say that the energy is *quantized*.

MODEL 38.1 **Photon model of light**

For use when quantum effects are significant.




- Light consists of discrete, massless units called *photons*. A photon travels in vacuum at the speed of light.
- Each photon has energy

$$E_{\text{photon}} = hf$$

  where $f$ is the frequency of the light and $h$ is Planck's constant.
- The superposition of a sufficiently large number of photons has the characteristics of a classical light wave.
- Limitations: Use the photon model for light that is extremely weak or to analyze how light and matter interact at the atomic level. The classical wave and ray models are more appropriate for our everyday experience with light.

Workbook Exercise 16

Photons are sometimes visualized as **wave packets**, as illustrated in the photon model box. This electromagnetic wave has a wavelength and a frequency, yet it is also discrete and fairly localized. But this cannot be exactly what a photon is because a wave packet would take a finite amount of time to be emitted or absorbed. This is contrary to much evidence that the entire photon is emitted or absorbed in a single instant; there is no point in time at which the photon is "half absorbed." The wave packet idea, although useful, is still too classical to represent a photon.

In fact, there simply is no "true" mental representation of a photon. Analogies such as raindrops or wave packets can be useful, but none is perfectly accurate.

## The Photon Rate

Light, in the raindrop analogy, consists of a stream of photons. For monochromatic light of frequency *f*, *N* photons have a total energy $E_{\text{light}} = Nhf$. We are usually more interested in the *power* of the light, or the rate (in joules per second, or watts) at which the light energy is delivered. The power is

**(38.10)**

$$P = \frac{dE_{\text{light}}}{dt} = \frac{dN}{dt}hf = Rhf$$

where $R = dN/dt$ is the *rate* at which photons arrive or, equivalently, the number of photons per second.

### Example 38.5 The photon rate in a laser beam

The 2.0 mW light beam of a red laser pointer ($\lambda = 650$ nm) shines on a screen. How many photons strike the screen each second?

**MODEL** Use the photon model of light.

**SOLVE** The light-beam power, or energy delivered per second, is $P = 2.0\ \text{mW} = 0.0020\ \text{J/s}$. The frequency of the light is $f = c/\lambda = 4.61 \times 10^{14}$ Hz. The number of photons striking the screen per second, which is the *rate* of arrival of photons, is

$$R = \frac{P}{hf} = 6.5 \times 10^{15} \text{ photons per second}$$

**ASSESS** That is a lot of photons per second. No wonder we are not aware of individual photons!

## Stop to Think 38.2

The intensity of a beam of light is increased but the light's frequency is unchanged. Which one (or perhaps more than one) of the following is true?

**a.** The photons travel faster.
**b.** Each photon has more energy.
**c.** The photons are larger.
**d.** There are more photons per second.

# Advanced Topic: Compton Scattering

If you shine a green laser beam on a mirror, it reflects as a green laser beam. Neither the wavelength nor the color of visible light is changed by reflection or by scattering. But in 1922, the American physicist Arthur Compton made the remarkable discovery that x rays scattered from a solid target have a *longer* wavelength than the incident x rays. It is as if a green laser beam were to reflect as a red laser beam.

Compton was soon able to show that what we now call **Compton scattering**, the shifted wavelength of scattered x rays, is exactly what the photon model of light—but not the wave model—predicts. His experiment was perhaps the most convincing demonstration of the reality of photons.

Figure 38.11a shows Compton's experiment: A collimated beam of x rays of known wavelength $\lambda_i$ is incident on a target, and the wavelength $\lambda_s$ is measured of x rays that are scattered at the **scattering angle** $\theta$. X rays, like visible light, interact with the electrons of the target atoms. If x rays are photons, rather than classical waves, then, Compton reasoned, scattering is really an elastic collision of a photon with an electron, not unlike the collision of two billiard balls.

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**Figure 38.11**

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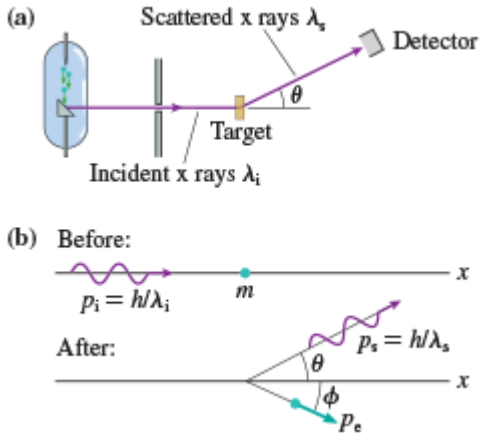



Compton's x-ray scattering experiment. **1096**

Elastic collisions conserve both energy and momentum. We've seen that photons have energy, but what about momentum? You learned in Chapter 31 that light beams do carry momentum, and thus the photons that make up the light beam must have momentum. Specifically, we found that an object that absorbs electromagnetic wave energy $\Delta E$ gains momentum $\Delta p = \Delta E/c$. If the energy absorbed is that of one photon, $hf$, and if the photon vanishes, then momentum conservation dictates that the photon had momentum

**(38.11)**

$$p_{\text{photon}} = \frac{hf}{c} = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

Compton's recognition that photons have momentum was key to his analysis of the experiment.

Figure 38.11b is a before-and-after representation of a scattering event in which an x-ray photon is incident along the $x$-axis. Scattering sends the photon at angle $\theta$ and the electron at angle $\phi$. (X-ray energies are much greater than the ionization energies of atoms, so the influence of the nucleus is small and the electron acts very much like a free electron.)

We need to write equations for both momentum and energy conservation.

Momentum is a vector, and both its $x$- and $y$-components are conserved. This gives, respectively, the two equations

**(38.12)**

$$\frac{h}{\lambda_\text{i}} = \frac{h}{\lambda_\text{s}} \cos\theta + p_\text{e} \cos\phi$$
$$0 = \frac{h}{\lambda_\text{s}} \sin\theta - p_\text{e} \sin\phi$$

where $p_\text{e}$ is the momentum of the scattered electron. The scattered electron is moving at very high speed, so we need to use the Chapter 36 relativistic equation for energy. Initially the electron has only rest energy, $mc^2$, where $m$ is the electron mass. The scattered electron's energy, from Equation 36.45, is $\left((mc^2)^2 + (p_\text{e}c)^2\right)^{1/2}$. Consequently, the energy-conservation equation is

**(38.13)**

$$\frac{hc}{\lambda_\text{i}} + mc^2 = \frac{hc}{\lambda_\text{s}} + \sqrt{(mc^2)^2 + (p_\text{e}c)^2}$$

where we used $f = c/\lambda$ to write the photon energies in terms of wavelength rather than frequency.

Equations 38.12 and 38.13 are three simultaneous equations. After a lot of algebra, which we'll skip, they lead to the quite simple result that x rays scattered at angle $\theta$ have a *wavelength shift*

---

**(38.14)**

$$\Delta\lambda = \lambda_\text{s} - \lambda_\text{i} = \frac{h}{mc}(1 - \cos\theta) \qquad \text{(Compton scattering)}$$

This result is in perfect agreement with Compton's measurements.

### Example 38.6 X-ray scattering

An x-ray scattering experiment uses 22.0 keV photons. By what percent is the wavelength increased for x rays scattered at 90°?

**MODEL** Use the photon model of light.

**SOLVE** The photon energy is $E_{\text{photon}} = hf$, and the wavelength and frequency are related by $f = c/\lambda$. Thus the incident wavelength is

$$\lambda_{\text{i}} = \frac{hc}{E_{\text{photon}}} = 0.0565 \text{ nm}$$

where we converted 22.0 keV to joules before calculating. At $\theta = 90^\circ$, where $\cos\theta = 0$, the scattered x-ray wavelength is

$$\lambda_{\text{s}} = \lambda_{\text{i}} + \frac{h}{mc} = 0.0589 \text{ nm}$$

The wavelength increase of 0.0024 nm is an increase of 4.2%.

**ASSESS** Notice that the wavelength increase of 0.0024 nm is independent of the incident wavelength. Scattered visible light would have its wavelength increased by the same amount, but a 0.0024 nm increase is completely unnoticed when wavelengths are several hundred nm. The increase is significant—and easily measured—for short-wavelength x rays.

# 38.4 Matter Waves and Energy Quantization

Prince Louis-Victor de Broglie was a French graduate student in 1924. It had been 19 years since Einstein had blurred the distinction between a particle and a wave. As de Broglie thought about these issues, it seemed that nature should have some kind of symmetry. If light waves could have a particle-like nature, why shouldn't material particles have some kind of wave-like nature? In other words, could **matter waves** exist?

With no experimental evidence to go on, de Broglie reasoned by analogy with Einstein's equation $E = hf$ for the photon and with some of the ideas of his theory of relativity. The details need not concern us, but they led de Broglie to postulate that *if* a material particle of momentum $p = mv$ has a wave-like nature, then its wavelength must be given by

**(38.15)**

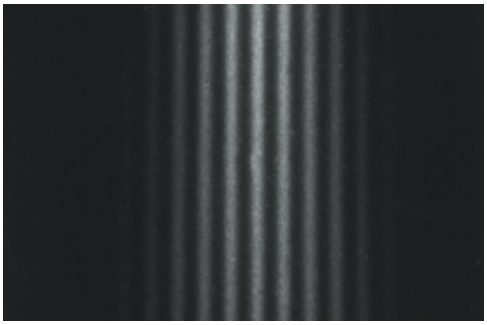
$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$$

where $h$ is Planck's constant. This is called the **de Broglie wavelength.**

For example, an electron with $1.0\ \text{eV} = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{J}$ of kinetic energy has a speed of $5.9 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}$. Although fast by macroscopic standards, this is a slow electron because it gains this speed by accelerating through a potential difference of a mere 1 V. At this speed, its de Broglie wavelength is found to be $\lambda = h/mv = 1.2\ \text{nm}$. This is a small wavelength, but comparable to the wavelengths of x rays and a factor of 10 larger than the spacing of atoms in a crystal.

What does it mean for matter—an electron or a proton or a baseball—to have a wavelength? Would it obey the principle of superposition? Would it exhibit interference and diffraction? The classic test of "waviness" is Young's double-slit experiment. Figure 38.12 shows the intensity pattern recorded after 50 keV electrons passed through two slits separated by 1.0 $\mu$m. The pattern is clearly a double-slit interference pattern, and the spacing of the fringes is exactly as predicted for a wavelength given by de Broglie's formula. And because the electron beam was weak, with one electron at a time passing through the apparatus, it would appear that each electron—like photons—somehow went through both slits, then interfered with itself before striking the detector!

**Figure 38.12**



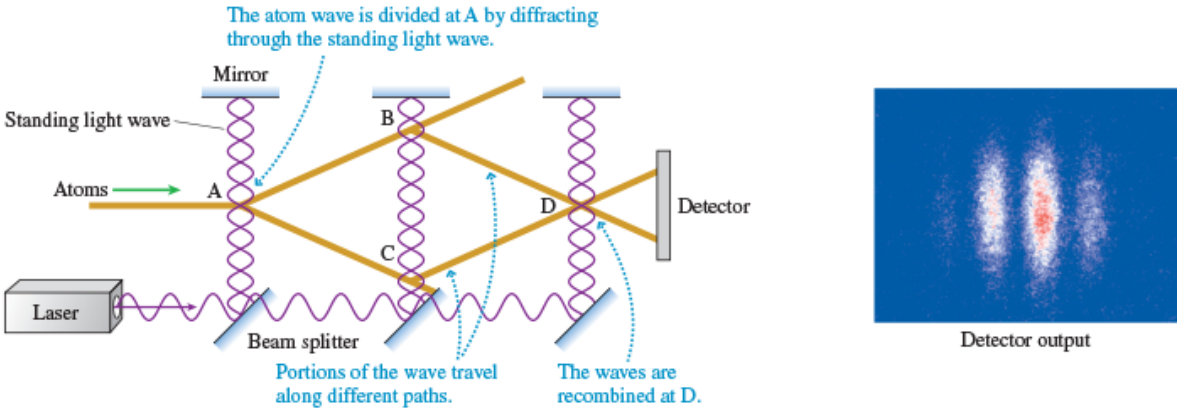
A double-slit interference pattern created with electrons.

Surprisingly, electrons—also neutrons—exhibit all the behavior we associate with waves. But electrons and neutrons are subatomic particles. What about entire atoms, aggregates of many fundamental particles? Amazing as it seems, research during the 1980s demonstrated that whole atoms, and even molecules, can produce interference patterns.

Figure 38.13 shows an *atom interferometer*. You learned in Chapter 33 that an interferometer, such as the Michelson interferometer, works by dividing a wave front into two waves, sending the two waves along

separate paths, then recombining them. For light waves, wave division can be accomplished by sending light through the *periodic* slits in a diffraction grating. In an atom interferometer, the atom's matter wave is divided by sending atoms through the *periodic* intensity of a standing light wave.

## Figure 38.13




An atom interferometer.

You can see in the figure that a laser creates three parallel *standing waves* of light, each with nodes spaced a distance $\lambda/2$ apart. The wavelength is chosen so that the light waves exert small forces on an atom in the laser beam. Because the intensity along a standing wave alternates between maximum at the antinodes and zero intensity at the nodes, an atom crossing the laser beam experiences a *periodic* force field. A particle-like atom would be deflected by this periodic force, but a wave is *diffracted*. After being diffracted by the first standing wave at A, an atom is, in some sense, traveling toward both point B *and* point C.

The second standing wave diffracts the atom waves again at points B and C, directing some of them toward D where, with a third diffraction, they are recombined after having traveled along different paths. The detector

image shows interference fringes, exactly as would be expected for a wave but completely at odds with the expectation for particles.

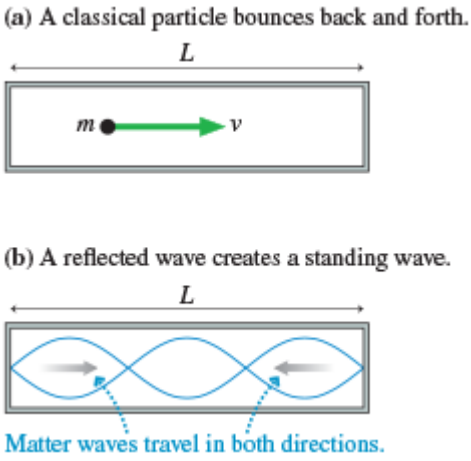
The atom interferometer is fascinating because it completely inverts everything we previously learned about interference and diffraction. The scientists who studied the wave nature of light during the 19th century aimed light (a wave) at a diffraction grating (a periodic structure of matter) and found that it diffracted. Now we aim atoms (matter) at a standing wave (a periodic structure of light) and find that the atoms diffract. The roles of light and matter have been reversed!

## Quantization of Energy

The fact that matter has wave-like properties is not merely a laboratory curiosity; the implications are profound. Foremost among them is that the energy of matter, like that of light, is quantized.

We'll illustrate quantization with a simple system that physicists call "a particle in a box." Figure 38.14a on the next page shows a particle of mass $m$ moving in one dimension as it bounces back and forth with speed $v$ between the ends of a box of length $L$. The width of the box is irrelevant, so we'll call this a *one-dimensional box*. We'll assume that the collisions at the ends are perfectly elastic, so the particle's energy—entirely kinetic—never changes. According to classical physics, there are no restrictions on the particle's speed or energy.

**Figure 38.14**




A particle confined in a box of length $L$.

---

But if matter has wave-like properties, perhaps we should consider the particle in a box to be a *wave* reflecting back and forth between the ends of the box, as shown in Figure 38.14b. These are the conditions that create standing waves. You learned in Section 17.3 that a standing wave of length $L$ *must* have one of the wavelengths given by

**(38.16)**

$$\lambda_n = \frac{2L}{n} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4,\ \ldots$$

If the confined particle has wave-like properties, it should satisfy both Equation 38.16 *and* the de Broglie relationship $\lambda = h/mv$. That is, a particle in a box should obey the relationship

$$\lambda_n = \frac{h}{mv} = \frac{2L}{n}$$

Thus the particle's speed must be

**(38.17)**

$$v_n = n\left(\frac{h}{2Lm}\right) \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

In other words, the particle cannot bounce back and forth with just any speed. Rather, it can have *only* those specific speeds $v_n$, given by Equation 38.17, for which the de Broglie wavelength creates a standing wave in the box.

Thus the particle's energy, which is purely kinetic energy, is

---

**(38.18)**

$$E_n = \frac{1}{2}m{v_n}^2 = n^2\frac{h^2}{8mL^2} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

De Broglie's hypothesis about the wave-like properties of matter leads us to the remarkable conclusion that **a particle confined in a box can have only certain energies.** We say that its energy is **quantized.** The energy of the particle in the box can be $1(h^2/8mL^2)$, or $4(h^2/8mL^2)$, or $9(h^2/8mL^2)$, but it *cannot* have an energy between these values.

The possible values of the particle's energy are called **energy levels,** and the integer $n$ that characterizes the energy levels is called the **quantum number.** The quantum number can be found by counting the antinodes, just as you learned to do for standing waves on a string. The standing wave shown in Figure 38.14 is $n = 3$, thus its energy is $E_3$.

We can rewrite Equation 38.18 in the useful form

**(38.19)**

$$E_n = n^2 E_1$$

where

(38.20)

$$E_1 = \frac{h^2}{8mL^2}$$

is the **fundamental quantum of energy** for a particle in a one-dimensional box. It is analogous to the fundamental frequency $f_1$ of a standing wave on a string.

### Example 38.7 The energy levels of a virus

A 30-nm-diameter virus is about the smallest imaginable macroscopic particle. What is the fundamental quantum of energy for this virus if confined in a one-dimensional cell of length 1.0 $\mu$m? The density of a virus is very close to that of water.

**MODEL** Model the virus as a particle in a box.

**SOLVE** The mass of a virus is $m = \rho V$, where the volume is $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$. A quick calculation shows that a 30-nm-diameter virus has mass $m = 1.4 \times 10^{-20}\text{kg}$. The confinement length is $L = 1.0 \times 10^{-6}\text{m}$. From Equation 38.20, the fundamental quantum of energy is

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 = \frac{h^2}{8mL^2} &= \frac{(6.63 \times 10^{-34}\ \text{J s})^2}{8(1.4 \times 10^{-20}\ \text{kg})(1.0 \times 10^{-6}\text{m})^2} \\ &= 3.9 \times 10^{-36}\ \text{J} = 2.5 \times 10^{-17}\text{eV} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This is such an incredibly small amount of energy that there is no hope of distinguishing between energies of $E_1$ or $4E_1$ or $9E_1$. For any macroscopic particle, even one this tiny, the allowed energies will *seem* to be perfectly continuous. We will not observe the quantization.

### Example 38.8 The energy levels of an electron

As a very simple model of a hydrogen atom, consider an electron confined in a one-dimensional box of length 0.10 nm, about the size of an atom. What are the first three allowed energy levels?

**MODEL** Model the electron as a particle in a box.

**SOLVE** We can use Equation 38.20, with $m_{\text{elec}} = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg and $L = 1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ m, to find that the fundamental quantum of energy is $E_1 = 6.0 \times 10^{-18}$ J $= 38$ eV. Thus the first three allowed energies of an electron in a 0.10 nm box are

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= 38 \text{ eV} \\ E_2 &= 4E_1 = 152 \text{ eV} \\ E_3 &= 9E_1 = 342 \text{ eV} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** You'll soon see that the results are way off. This model of a hydrogen atom is *too* simple to capture essential details. Even so, this model correctly hints that atomic energy levels are in the eV range.

It is the *confinement* of the particle in a box that leads to standing matter waves and thus energy quantization. Our goal is to extend this idea to atoms. An atom is certainly more complicated than a one-dimensional box, but an electron is "confined" within an atom. Thus an electron in an atom must be some kind of three-dimensional standing wave and, like the particle in a box, must have quantized energies. De Broglie's idea is steering us toward a new theory of matter.

## Stop to Think 38.3

What is the quantum number of this particle confined in a box?

# 38.5 Bohr's Model of Atomic Quantization

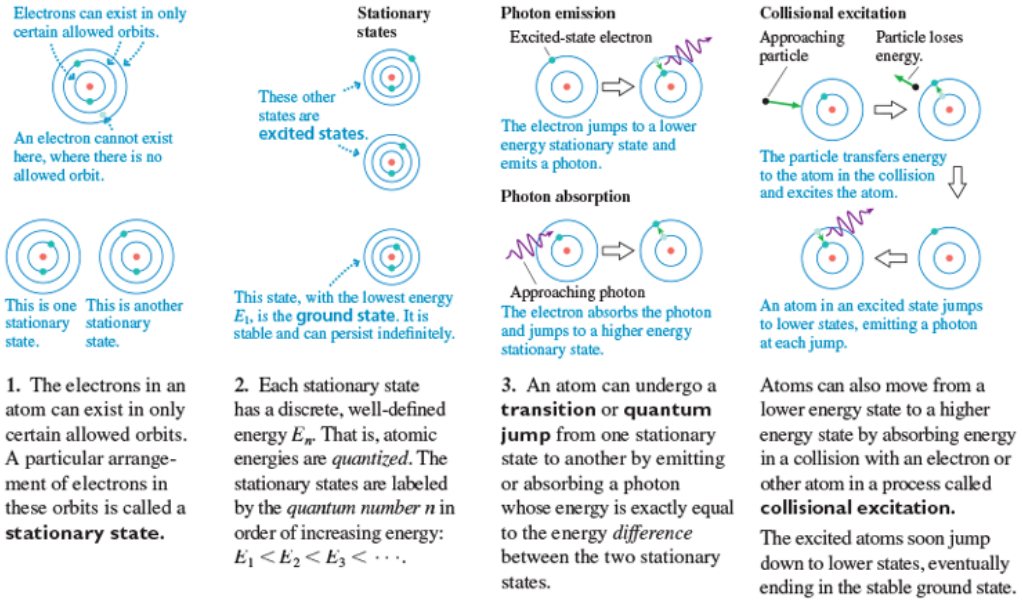


Thomson's electron and Rutherford's nucleus made it clear that the atom has a *structure* of some sort. The challenge at the beginning of the 20th century was to deduce, from experimental evidence, the correct structure. The difficulty of this task cannot be exaggerated. The evidence about atoms, such as observations of atomic spectra, was very indirect, and experiments were carried out with only the simplest measuring devices.

Rutherford's nuclear model was the most successful of various proposals, but Rutherford's model failed to explain why atoms are stable or why their spectra are discrete. A missing piece of the puzzle, although not recognized as such for a few years, was Einstein's 1905 introduction of light quanta. If light comes in discrete packets of energy, which we now call photons, and if atoms emit and absorb light, what does that imply about the structure of the atoms?

This was the question posed by the Danish physicist Niels Bohr. In 1913, Bohr proposed a new model of the atom in which he added quantization to Rutherford's nuclear atom. The basic assumptions of the **Bohr model of the atom** are as follows:

MODEL 38.2 **The Bohr model of the atom**




Bohr's model builds upon Rutherford's model, but it adds two new ideas that are derived from Einstein's ideas of quanta. The first, expressed in assumption 1, is that only certain electron orbits are "allowed" or can exist. The second, expressed in assumption 3, is that **the atom can jump from one state to another by emitting or absorbing a photon of just the right frequency to conserve energy**.

According to Einstein, a photon of frequency $f$ has energy $E_{\text{photon}} = hf$. If an atom jumps from an initial state with energy $E_{\text{i}}$ to a final state with energy $E_{\text{f}}$, energy will be conserved if the atom emits or absorbs a photon with $E_{\text{photon}} = \Delta E_{\text{atom}} = |E_{\text{f}} - E_{\text{i}}|$. This photon must have frequency

**(38.21)**

$$f_{\text{photon}} = \frac{\Delta E_{\text{atom}}}{h} \qquad 1101$$

if it is to add or carry away exactly the right amount of energy. The total energy of the atom-plus-light system is conserved.

> **Note**
>
> When an atom is excited to a higher energy level by absorbing a photon, the photon vanishes. Thus energy conservation requires $E_{\text{photon}} = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}$. When an atom is excited to a higher energy level in a collision with a particle, such as an electron or another atom, the particle still exists after the collision and still has energy. Thus energy conservation requires the less stringent condition $E_{\text{particle}} \geq \Delta E_{\text{atom}}$.

The implications of Bohr's model are profound. In particular:

1. **Matter is stable.** An atom in its ground state has no states of any lower energy to which it can jump. It can remain in the ground state forever.
2. **Atoms emit and absorb a** *discrete spectrum*. Only those photons whose frequencies match the energy *intervals* between the stationary states can be emitted or absorbed. Photons of other frequencies cannot be emitted or absorbed without violating energy conservation.
3. **Emission spectra can be produced by collisions**. In a gas discharge tube, the current-carrying electrons moving through the tube occasionally collide with the atoms. A collision transfers energy to an atom and can kick the atom to an excited state. Once the atom is in an excited state, it can emit photons of light—a discrete emission spectrum—as it jumps back down to lower-energy states.

4. **Absorption wavelengths are a subset of the wavelengths in the emission spectrum.** Recall that all the lines seen in an absorption spectrum are also seen in emission, but many emission lines are *not* seen in absorption. According to Bohr's model, most atoms, most of the time, are in their lowest energy state, the $n = 1$ ground state. Thus the absorption spectrum consists of *only* those transitions such as $1 \rightarrow 2,\ 1 \rightarrow 3,\ \ldots$ in which the atom jumps from $n = 1$ to a higher value of $n$ by absorbing a photon. Transitions such as $2 \rightarrow 3$ are *not* observed because there are essentially no atoms in $n = 2$ at any instant of time. On the other hand, atoms that have been excited to the $n = 3$ state by collisions can emit photons corresponding to transitions $3 \rightarrow 1$ *and* $3 \rightarrow 2$. Thus the wavelength corresponding to $\Delta E_{\text{atom}} = E_3 - E_1$ is seen in both emission and absorption, but transitions with $\Delta E_{\text{atom}} = E_3 - E_2$ occur in emission only.
5. **Each element in the periodic table has a unique spectrum.** The energies of the stationary states are the energies of the orbiting electrons. Different elements, with different numbers of electrons, have different stable orbits and thus different stationary states. States with different energies emit and absorb photons of different wavelengths.

### Example 38.9 The wavelength of an emitted photon

An atom has stationary states with energies $E_j = 4.00$ eV and $E_k = 6.00$ eV. What is the wavelength of a photon emitted in a quantum jump from state *k* to state *j*?

**MODEL** To conserve energy, the emitted photon must have exactly the energy lost by the atom in the quantum jump.

**SOLVE** The atom can jump from the higher energy state $k$ to the lower energy state $j$ by emitting a photon. The atom's change in energy is $\Delta E_{\text{atom}} = |E_j - E_k| = 2.00\ \text{eV}$, so the photon energy must be $E_{\text{photon}} = 2.00\ \text{eV}$.

The photon frequency is

$$f = \frac{E_{\text{photon}}}{h} = \frac{2.00\ \text{eV}}{4.14 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{eV s}} = 4.83 \times 10^{14}\ \text{Hz}$$

The wavelength of this photon is

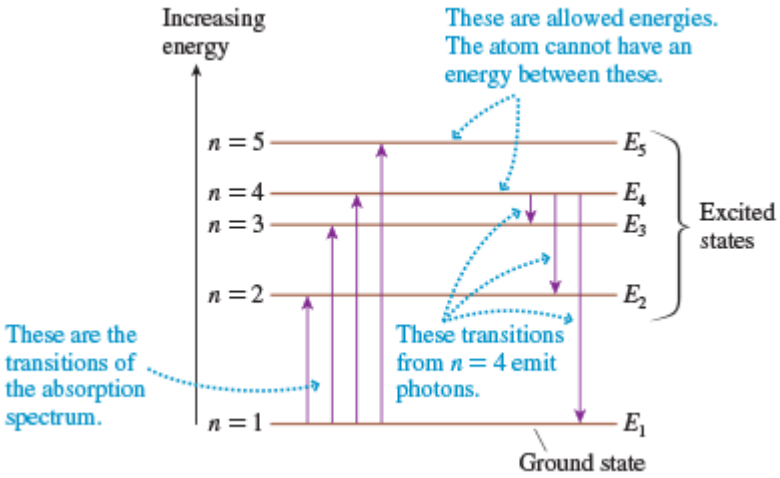
$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = 621\ \text{nm}$$

**ASSESS** 621 nm is a visible-light wavelength. Notice that the wavelength depends on the *difference* between the atom's energy levels, not the *values* of the energies.

## Energy-Level Diagrams

An **energy-level diagram,** such as the one shown in Figure 38.15 on the next page, is a useful pictorial representation of the stationary-state energies. An energy-level diagram is less a graph than it is a picture. The vertical axis represents energy, but the horizontal axis is not a scale. Think of this as a picture of a ladder in which the energies are the rungs of the ladder. The lowest rung, with energy $E_1$, is the ground state. Higher rungs are labeled by their quantum numbers, $n = 2, 3, 4, \ldots$.

## Figure 38.15




An energy-level diagram.

Energy-level diagrams are especially useful for showing transitions, or quantum jumps, in which a photon of light is emitted or absorbed. As examples, Figure 38.15 shows upward transitions in which a photon is absorbed by a ground-state atom ($n = 1$) and downward transitions in which a photon is emitted from an $n = 4$ excited state.

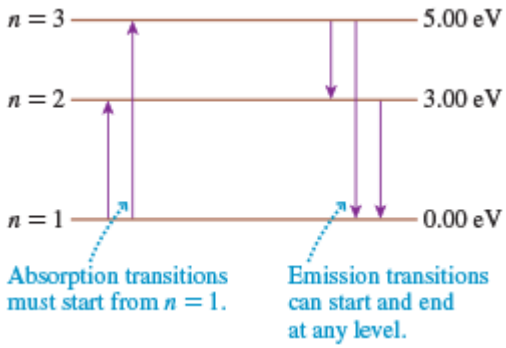
### Example 38.10 Emission and absorption

An atom has stationary states $E_1 = 0.00$ eV, $E_2 = 3.00$ eV, and $E_3 = 5.00$ eV. What wavelengths are observed in the absorption spectrum and in the emission spectrum of this atom?

**MODEL** Photons are emitted when an atom undergoes a quantum jump from a higher energy level to a lower energy level. Photons are absorbed in a quantum jump from a lower energy level to a higher energy level. But most of the atoms are in the $n = 1$ ground state, so the only quantum jumps seen in the absorption spectrum start from the $n = 1$ state.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 38.16 shows an energy-level diagram for the atom.

## Figure 38.16




The atom's energy-level diagram.

**SOLVE** This atom will absorb photons on the $1 \rightarrow 2$ and $1 \rightarrow 3$ transitions, with $\Delta E_{1\rightarrow 2} = 3.00\ \text{eV}$ and $\Delta E_{1\rightarrow 3} = 5.00\ \text{eV}$. From $f = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}/h$ and $\lambda = c/f$, we find that the wavelengths in the absorption spectrum are

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \rightarrow 2 \qquad & f = 3.00\ \text{eV}/h = 7.25 \times 10^{14}\ \text{Hz} \\ & \lambda = 414\ \text{nm (blue)} \\ 1 \rightarrow 3 \qquad & f = 5.00\ \text{eV}/h = 1.21 \times 10^{15}\ \text{Hz} \\ & \lambda = 248\ \text{nm (ultraviolet)} \end{aligned}$$

The emission spectrum will also have the 414 nm and 248 nm wavelengths due to the $2 \rightarrow 1$ and $3 \rightarrow 1$ quantum jumps from excited states 2 and 3 to the ground state. In addition, the emission spectrum will contain the $3 \rightarrow 2$ quantum jump with $\Delta E_{3\rightarrow 2} = -2.00\ \text{eV}$ that is *not* seen in absorption because there are too few atoms in the $n = 2$ state to absorb. We found in Example 38.9 that a 2.00 eV transition corresponds to a wavelength of 621 nm. Thus the emission wavelengths are

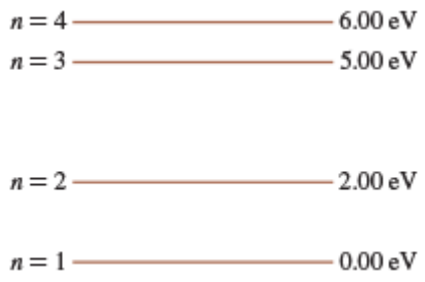
$2 \rightarrow 1 \qquad \lambda = 414 \text{ nm (blue)}$

$3 \rightarrow 1 \qquad \lambda = 248 \text{ nm (ultraviolet)}$

$3 \rightarrow 2 \qquad \lambda = 621 \text{ nm (orange)}$

## Stop to Think 38.4

A photon with a wavelength of 414 nm has energy $E_{\text{photon}} = 3.00 \text{ eV}$. Do you expect to see a spectral line with $\lambda = 414 \text{ nm}$ in the emission spectrum of the atom represented by this energy-level diagram? If so, what transition or transitions will emit it? Do you expect to see a spectral line with $\lambda = 414 \text{ nm}$ in the absorption spectrum? If so, what transition or transitions will absorb it?



# 38.6 The Bohr Hydrogen Atom



Bohr's hypothesis was a bold new idea, yet there was still one enormous stumbling block: What *are* the stationary states of an atom? Everything in Bohr's model hinges on the existence of these stationary states, of there being only certain electron orbits that are allowed. But nothing in classical physics provides any basis for such orbits. And Bohr's model describes only the *consequences* of having stationary states, not how to find them. If such states really exist, we will have to go beyond classical physics to find them.

To address this problem, Bohr did an explicit analysis of the hydrogen atom. The hydrogen atom, with only a single electron, was known to be the simplest atom. Furthermore, as we discussed in Chapter 37, Balmer had discovered a fairly simple formula that characterized the wavelengths in the hydrogen emission spectrum. Anyone with a successful model of an atom was going to have to *predict*, from theory, Balmer's formula for the hydrogen atom.

Bohr's paper followed a rather circuitous line of reasoning. That is not surprising because he had little to go on at the time. But our goal is a clear explanation of the ideas, not a historical study of Bohr's methods, so we are going to follow a different analysis using de Broglie's matter waves. De Broglie did not propose matter waves until 1924, 11 years after Bohr's paper, but with the clarity of hindsight we can see that treating the electron as a wave provides a more straightforward analysis of the hydrogen atom. Although our route will be different from Bohr's, we will

arrive at the same point, and, in addition, we will be in a much better position to understand the work that came after Bohr.

> **Note**
>
> Bohr's analysis of the hydrogen atom is sometimes called the *Bohr atom*. It's important not to confuse this analysis, which applies only to hydrogen, with the more general postulates of the *Bohr model of the atom*. Those postulates, which we looked at in Section 38.5, apply to any atom. To make the distinction clear, we'll call Bohr's analysis of hydrogen the *Bohr hydrogen atom*.

## The Stationary States of the Hydrogen Atom

Figure 38.17 shows a Rutherford hydrogen atom, with a single electron orbiting a nucleus that consists of a single proton. We will assume a circular orbit of radius $r$ and speed $v$. We will also assume, to keep the analysis manageable, that the proton remains stationary while the electron revolves around it. This is a reasonable assumption because the proton is roughly 1800 times as massive as the electron. With these assumptions, the atom's energy is the kinetic energy of the electron plus the potential energy of the electron-proton interaction. This is

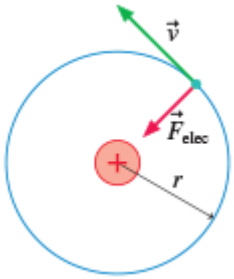
**(38.22)**

$$E = K + U = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{q_{\text{elec}}q_{\text{proton}}}{r} = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 - \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

where we used $q_{\text{elec}} = -e$ and $q_{\text{proton}} = +e$.

---

**Figure 38.17**






A Rutherford hydrogen atom. The size of the nucleus is greatly exaggerated.

> **Note**
>
> $m$ is the mass of the electron, *not* the mass of the entire atom.

Now, the electron, as we are coming to understand it, has both particle-like and wave-like properties. First, let us treat the electron as a charged particle. The proton exerts a Coulomb electric force on the electron:

**(38.23)**

$$\vec{F}_{\text{elec}} = \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{r^2}, \text{ toward center} \right)$$

This force gives the electron an acceleration $\vec{a}_{\text{elec}} = \vec{F}_{\text{elec}}/m$ that also points to the center. This is a centripetal acceleration, causing the particle to move in its circular orbit. The centripetal acceleration of a particle moving in a circle of radius $r$ at speed $v$ *must* be $v^2/r$, thus

**(38.24)**

$$a_{\text{elec}} = \frac{F_{\text{elec}}}{m} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m r^2} = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

Rearranging, we find

**(38.25)**

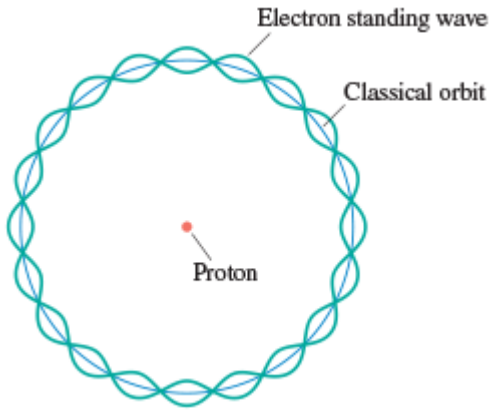
$$v^2 = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m r}$$

Equation 38.25 is a *constraint* on the motion. The speed $v$ and radius $r$ must satisfy Equation 38.25 if the electron is to move in a circular orbit. This constraint is not unique to atoms; we earlier found a similar relationship between $v$ and $r$ for orbiting satellites.

Now let's treat the electron as a de Broglie wave. In Section 38.4 we found that a particle confined to a one-dimensional box sets up a standing wave as it reflects back and forth. A standing wave, you will recall, consists of two traveling waves moving in opposite directions. When the round-trip distance in the box is equal to an integer number of wavelengths ($2L = n\lambda$), the two oppositely traveling waves interfere constructively to set up the standing wave.

Suppose that, instead of traveling back and forth along a line, our wave-like particle travels around the circumference of a circle. The particle will set up a standing wave, just like the particle in the box, if there are waves traveling in both directions and if the round-trip distance is an integer number of wavelengths. This is the idea we want to carry over from the particle in a box. As an example, Figure 38.18 shows a standing wave around a circle with $n = 10$ wavelengths.

**Figure 38.18**




An $n = 10$ electron standing wave around the orbit's circumference.

The mathematical condition for a circular standing wave is found by replacing the round-trip distance $2L$ in a box with the round-trip distance $2\pi r$ on a circle. Thus a circular standing wave will occur when

**(38.26)**

$$2\pi r = n\lambda \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

But the de Broglie wavelength for a particle *has* to be $\lambda = h/p = h/mv$. Thus the standing-wave condition for a de Broglie wave is

$$2\pi r = n\frac{h}{mv}$$

This condition is true only if the electron's speed is

**(38.27)**

$$v_n = \frac{nh}{2\pi mr} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

The quantity $h/2\pi$ occurs so often in quantum physics that it is customary to give it a special name. We define the quantity $\hbar$, pronounced "h bar," as

$$\hbar \equiv \frac{h}{2\pi} = 1.055 \times 10^{-34}\ \text{J s} = 6.58 \times 10^{-16}\ \text{eV s}$$

With this definition, we can write Equation 38.27 as

**(38.28)**

$$v_n = \frac{n\hbar}{mr} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

This, like Equation 38.25, is another relationship between $v$ and $r$. This is the constraint that arises from treating the electron as a wave.

Now if the electron can act as both a particle *and* a wave, then both the Equation 38.25 *and* Equation 38.28 constraints have to be obeyed. That is, $v^2$ as given by the Equation 38.25 particle constraint has to equal $v^2$ of the Equation 38.28 wave constraint. Equating these gives

$$v^2 = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 mr} = \frac{n^2\hbar^2}{m^2r^2}$$

We can solve this equation to find that the radius $r$ is

**(38.29)**

$$r_n = n^2\frac{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}{me^2} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

where we have added a subscript $n$ to the radius $r$ to indicate that it depends on the integer $n$.

The right-hand side of Equation 38.29, except for the $n^2$, is just a collection of constants. Let's group them all together and define the **Bohr radius** $a_\text{B}$ as

$$a_\text{B} = \text{Bohr radius} \equiv \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}{me^2} = 5.29\times10^{-11}\ \text{m} = 0.0529\ \text{nm}$$

With this definition, Equation 38.29 for the radius of the electron's orbit becomes

---

**(38.30)**

$$r_n = n^2 a_\text{B} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

For example, $r_1 = 0.053\ \text{nm},\ r_2 = 0.212\ \text{nm}$, and $r_3 = 0.476\ \text{nm}$.

We have discovered stationary states! That is, **a hydrogen atom can exist *only* if the radius of the electron's orbit is one of the values given by** Equation 38.30. Intermediate values of the radius, such as $r = 0.100\ \text{nm}$, cannot exist because the electron cannot set up a standing wave around the circumference. The possible orbits are *quantized*, with only certain orbits allowed.

The key step leading to Equation 38.30 was the requirement that the electron have wave-like properties in addition to particle-like properties. This requirement leads to quantized orbits, or what Bohr called stationary states. The integer $n$ is thus the *quantum number* that numbers the various stationary states.

## Hydrogen Atom Energy Levels

Now we can make progress quickly. Knowing the possible radii, we can return to Equation 38.28 and find the possible electron speeds to be



---

**(38.31)**

$$v_n = \frac{n\hbar}{mr_n} = \frac{1}{n}\frac{\hbar}{ma_\text{B}} = \frac{v_1}{n} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

where $v_1 = \hbar/ma_\text{B} = 2.19 \times 10^6\ \text{m/s}$ is the electron's speed in the $n = 1$ orbit. The speed decreases as $n$ increases.

Finally, we can determine the energies of the stationary states. From Equation 38.22 for the energy, with Equations 38.30 and 38.31 for $r$

and $v$, we have

**(38.32)**

$$E_n = \frac{1}{2}mv_n{}^2 - \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_n} = \frac{1}{2}m\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{m^2 a_\mathrm{B}{}^2 n^2}\right) - \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 n^2 a_\mathrm{B}}$$

As a homework problem, you can show that this rather messy expression simplifies to

**(38.33)**

$$E_n = -\frac{1}{n^2}\left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^2}{2a_\mathrm{B}}\right)$$

The expression in parentheses is easily evaluated, giving

$$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^2}{2a_\mathrm{B}} = 13.60\ \mathrm{eV}$$

We can then write the energy levels of the stationary states of the hydrogen atom as

---

**(38.34)**

$$E_n = -\frac{13.60\ \mathrm{eV}}{n^2} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3, \ldots$$

This has been a lot of math, so we need to see where we are and what we have learned. Table 38.2 shows values of $r_n$, $v_n$, and $E_n$ evaluated for quantum number values $n = 1$ to 5. We do indeed seem to have discovered stationary states of the hydrogen atom. Each state,

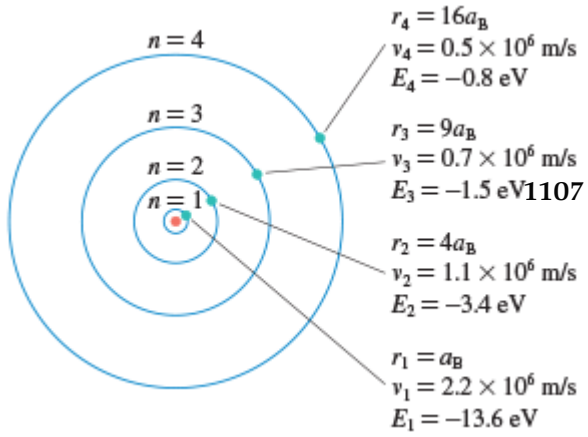
characterized by its quantum number $n$, has a unique radius, speed, and energy. These are displayed graphically in Figure 38.19, in which the orbits are drawn to scale. Notice how the atom's diameter increases very rapidly as $n$ increases. At the same time, the electron's speed decreases.

## Table 38.2

| $n$ | $r_n$(nm) | $v_n$(m/s) | $E_n$(eV) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0.053 | $2.19 \times 10^6$ | −13.60 |
| 2 | 0.212 | $1.09 \times 10^6$ | −3.40 |
| 3 | 0.476 | $0.73 \times 10^6$ | −1.51 |
| 4 | 0.846 | $0.55 \times 10^6$ | −0.85 |
| 5 | 1.322 | $0.44 \times 10^6$ | −0.54 |

Radii, speeds, and energies for the first five states of the Bohr hydrogen atom

## Figure 38.19




The first four stationary states, or allowed orbits, of the Bohr hydrogen atom drawn to scale.

### Example 38.11 Stationary states of the hydrogen atom

Can an electron in a hydrogen atom have a speed of $3.60 \times 10^5$ m/s? If so, what are its energy and the radius of its orbit? What about a speed of $3.65 \times 10^5$ m/s?

**SOLVE** To be in a stationary state, the electron must have speed

$$v_n = \frac{v_1}{n} = \frac{2.19 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}}{n}$$

where $n$ is an integer. A speed of $3.60 \times 10^5$ m/s would require quantum number

$$n = \frac{2.19 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}}{3.60 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}} = 6.08$$

This is not an integer, so the electron can *not* have this speed. But if $v = 3.65 \times 10^5$ m/s, then

$$n = \frac{2.19 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}}{3.65 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}} = 6$$

This is the speed of an electron in the $n = 6$ excited state. An electron in this state has energy

$$E_6 = -\frac{13.60 \text{ eV}}{6^2} = -0.38 \text{ eV}$$

and the radius of its orbit is

$$r_6 = 6^2(5.29 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}) = 1.90 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} = 1.90 \text{ nm}$$

## Binding Energy and Ionization Energy

It is important to understand why the energies of the stationary states are negative. Because the potential energy of two charged particles is $U = q_1 q_2 / 4\pi\epsilon_0 r$, the zero of potential energy occurs at $r = \infty$ where the

particles are infinitely far apart. The state of zero total energy corresponds to having the electron at rest ($K = 0$) and infinitely far from the proton ($U = 0$). This situation, which is the case of two "free particles," occurs in the limit $n \to \infty$, for which $r_n \to \infty$ and $v_n \to 0$.

An electron and a proton bound into an atom have *less* energy than two free particles. We know this because we would have to do work (i.e., add energy) to pull the electron and proton apart. If the bound atom's energy is lower than that of two free particles, and if the total energy of two free particles is zero, then it must be the case that the atom has a *negative* amount of energy.

Thus $|E_n|$ is the **binding energy** of the electron in stationary state $n$. In the ground state, where $E_1 = -13.60\ \text{eV}$, we would have to add 13.60 eV to the electron to free it from the proton and reach the zero energy state of two free particles. We can say that the electron in the ground state is "bound by 13.60 eV." An electron in an $n = 3$ orbit, where it is farther from the proton and moving more slowly, is bound by only 1.51 eV. That is the amount of energy you would have to supply to remove the electron from an $n = 3$ orbit.

Removing the electron entirely leaves behind a positive ion, $H^+$ in the case of a hydrogen atom. (The fact that $H^+$ happens to be a proton does not alter the fact that it is also an atomic ion.) Because nearly all atoms are in their ground state, the binding energy $|E_1|$ of the ground state is called the **ionization energy** of an atom. Bohr's analysis predicts that the ionization energy of hydrogen is 13.60 eV. Figure 38.20 illustrates the ideas of binding energy and ionization energy.



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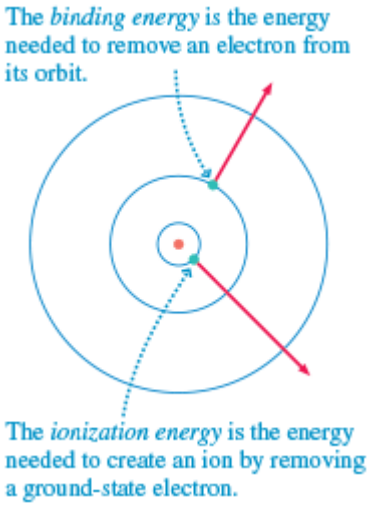
**Figure 38.20**




Binding energy and ionization energy.

We can test this prediction by shooting a beam of electrons at hydrogen atoms. A projectile electron can knock out an atomic electron if its kinetic energy $K$ is greater than the atom's ionization energy, leaving an ion behind. But a projectile electron will be unable to cause ionization if its kinetic energy is less than the atom's ionization energy. This is a fairly straightforward experiment to carry out, and the evidence shows that the ionization energy of hydrogen is, indeed, 13.60 eV.

## Quantization of Angular Momentum

The angular momentum of a particle in circular motion, whether it is a planet or an electron, is

$$L = mvr$$

You will recall that angular momentum is conserved in orbital motion because a central force exerts no torque on the particle. Bohr used conservation of energy explicitly in his analysis of the hydrogen atom, but what role does conservation of angular momentum play?

The condition that a de Broglie wave for the electron set up a standing wave around the circumference was given, in Equation 38.26, as

$$2\pi r = n\lambda = n\frac{h}{mv}$$

Multiplying by $mv$ and dividing by $2\pi$, we can rewrite this equation as

**(38.35)**

$$mvr = n\frac{h}{2\pi} = n\hbar$$

But $mvr$ is the angular momentum $L$ for a particle in a circular orbit. It appears that the angular momentum of an orbiting electron cannot have just any value. Instead, it must satisfy

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**(38.36)**

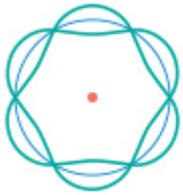
$$L = n\hbar \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$$

Thus angular momentum also is quantized! The electron's angular momentum must be an integer multiple of Planck's constant $\hbar$.

The quantization of angular momentum is a direct consequence of this wave-like nature of the electron. We will find that the quantization of angular momentum plays a major role in the behavior of more complex atoms, leading to the idea of electron shells that you likely have studied in chemistry.

## Stop to Think 38.5

What is the quantum number of this hydrogen atom?



# 38.7 The Hydrogen Spectrum

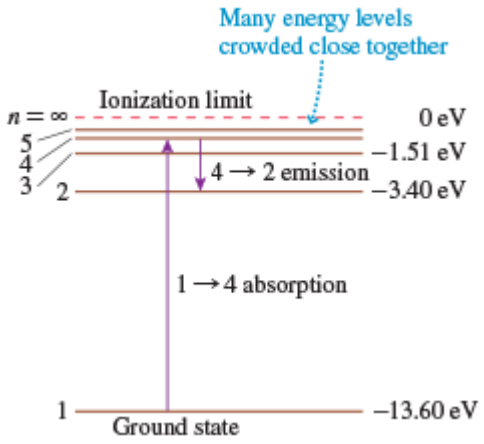


Our analysis of the hydrogen atom has revealed stationary states, but how do we know whether the results make any sense? The most important experimental evidence that we have about the hydrogen atom is its spectrum, so the primary test of the Bohr hydrogen atom is whether it correctly predicts the spectrum.

## The Hydrogen Energy-Level Diagram

Figure 38.21 is an energy-level diagram for the hydrogen atom. As we noted earlier, the energies are like the rungs of a ladder. The lowest rung is the ground state, with $E_1 = -13.60$ eV. The top rung, with $E = 0$ eV, corresponds to a hydrogen ion in the limit $n \to \infty$. This top rung is called the **ionization limit.** In principle there are an infinite number of rungs, but only the lowest few are shown. The higher values of $n$ are all crowded together just below the ionization limit at $n = \infty$.

**Figure 38.21**




The energy-level diagram of the hydrogen atom.

The figure shows a $1 \rightarrow 4$ transition in which a photon is absorbed and a $4 \rightarrow 2$ transition in which a photon is emitted. For two quantum states $m$ and $n$, where $n > m$ and $E_n$ is the higher energy state, an atom can *emit* a photon in an $n \rightarrow m$ transition or *absorb* a photon in an $m \rightarrow n$ transition.

## The Emission Spectrum

According to the third assumption of Bohr's model of atomic quantization, the frequency of the photon emitted in an $n \rightarrow m$ transition is

**(38.37)**

$$f = \frac{\Delta E_{\text{atom}}}{h} = \frac{E_n - E_{\text{m}}}{h}$$

We can use Equation 38.33 for the energies $E_n$ and $E_m$ to predict that the emitted photon has frequency

**(38.38)**

$$\begin{aligned} f &= \frac{1}{h}\left\{\left[-\frac{1}{n^2}\left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^2}{2a_{\text{B}}}\right)\right] - \left[-\frac{1}{m^2}\left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^2}{2a_{\text{B}}}\right)\right]\right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^2}{2ha_{\text{B}}}\left(\frac{1}{m^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

The frequency is a positive number because $m < n$ and thus $1/m^2 > 1/n^2$.

We are more interested in wavelength than frequency, because wavelengths are the quantity measured by experiment. The wavelength of the photon emitted in an $n \rightarrow m$ quantum jump is

(38.39)

$$\lambda_{n\to m} = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{8\pi\epsilon_0 hca_\mathrm{B}/e^2}{\left(\frac{1}{m^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)}$$

This looks rather gruesome, but notice that the numerator is simply a collection of various constants. The value of the numerator, which we can call $\lambda_0$, is

$$\lambda_0 = \frac{8\pi\epsilon_0 hca_\mathrm{B}}{e^2} = 9.112 \times 10^{-8}\ \mathrm{m} = 91.12\ \mathrm{nm}$$

With this definition, our prediction for the wavelengths in the hydrogen emission spectrum is

---

(38.40)

$$\lambda_{n\to m} = \frac{\lambda_0}{\left(\frac{1}{m^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)} \qquad \begin{array}{l} m = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \\ n = \text{ any integer greater than } m \end{array}$$

This should look familiar. It is the Balmer formula from Chapter 37!
However, there is one *slight* difference: Bohr's analysis of the hydrogen atom has predicted $\lambda_0 = 91.12$ nm, whereas Balmer found, from experiment, that $\lambda_0 = 91.18$ nm. Could Bohr have come this close but then fail to predict the Balmer formula correctly?

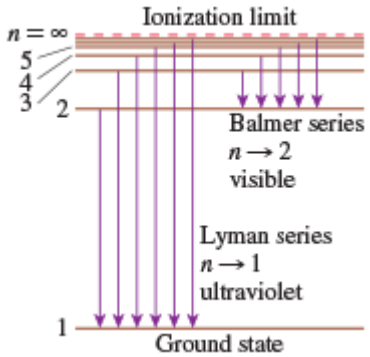
The problem, it turns out, is in our assumption that the proton remains at rest while the electron orbits it. In fact, *both* particles rotate about their common center of mass, rather like a dumbbell with a big end and a small end. The center of mass is very close to the proton, which is far more massive than the electron, but the proton is not entirely motionless.

The good news is that a more advanced analysis can account for the proton's motion. It changes the energies of the stationary states ever so slightly—about 1 part in 2000—but that is precisely what is needed to give a revised value:

$$\lambda_0 = 91.18 \text{ nm when corrected for the nuclear motion}$$

It works! Unlike all previous atomic models, **the Bohr hydrogen atom correctly predicts the discrete spectrum of the hydrogen atom.** Figure 38.22 shows the *Balmer series* and the *Lyman series* transitions on an energy-level diagram. Only the Balmer series, consisting of transitions ending on the $m = 2$ state, gives visible wavelengths, and this is the series that Balmer initially analyzed. The Lyman series, ending on the $m = 1$ ground state, is in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum and was not measured until later. These series, as well as others in the infrared, are observed in a discharge tube where collisions with electrons excite the atoms upward from the ground state to state $n$. They then decay downward by emitting photons. Only the Lyman series is observed in the absorption spectrum because, as noted previously, essentially all the atoms in a quiescent gas are in the ground state.

## Figure 38.22




Transitions producing the Lyman series and the Balmer series of lines in the hydrogen spectrum.

**Example 38.12 Hydrogen absorption**

Whenever astronomers look at distant galaxies, they find that the light has been strongly absorbed at the wavelength of the $1 \rightarrow 2$ transition in the Lyman series of hydrogen. This absorption tells us that interstellar space is filled with vast clouds of hydrogen left over from the Big Bang. What is the wavelength of the $1 \rightarrow 2$ absorption in hydrogen?

1110

**SOLVE** Equation 38.40 predicts the *absorption* spectrum of hydrogen if we let $m = 1$. The absorption seen by astronomers is from the ground state of hydrogen ($m = 1$) to its first excited state ( $n = 2$). The wavelength is

$$\lambda_{1\rightarrow 2} = \frac{91.18 \text{ nm}}{\left(\frac{1}{1^2} - \frac{1}{2^2}\right)} = 121.6 \text{ nm}$$

**ASSESS** This wavelength is far into the ultraviolet. Ground-based astronomy cannot observe this region of the spectrum because the wavelengths are strongly absorbed by the atmosphere, but with space-based telescopes, first widely used in the 1970s, astronomers see 121.6 nm absorption in nearly every direction they look.

## Hydrogen-Like Ions

An ion with a *single* electron orbiting $Z$ protons in the nucleus is called a **hydrogen-like ion.** $Z$ is the atomic number and describes the number of protons in the nucleus. $He^+$, with one electron circling a $Z = 2$ nucleus,

and $Li^{++}$, with one electron and a $Z = 3$ nucleus, are hydrogen-like ions. So is $U^{+91}$, with one lonely electron orbiting a $Z = 92$ uranium nucleus.

Any hydrogen-like ion is simply a variation on the Bohr hydrogen atom. The only difference between a hydrogen-like ion and neutral hydrogen is that the potential energy $-e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0 r$ becomes, instead, $-Ze^2/4\pi\epsilon_0 r$. Hydrogen itself is the $Z = 1$ case. If we repeat the analysis of the previous sections with this one change, we find:

**(38.41)**

$$r_n = \frac{n^2 a_B}{Z} \qquad E_n = -\frac{13.60Z^2 \text{ eV}}{n^2}$$
$$V_n = Z\frac{v_1}{n} \qquad \lambda_0 = \frac{91.18 \text{ nm}}{Z^2}$$

As the nuclear charge increases, the electron moves into a smaller-diameter, higher-speed orbit. Its ionization energy $|E_1|$ increases significantly, and its spectrum shifts to shorter wavelengths. Table 38.3 compares the ground-state atomic diameter $2r_1$, the ionization energy $|E_1|$, and the first wavelength $3 \rightarrow 2$ in the Balmer series for hydrogen and the first two hydrogen-like ions.

**Table 38.3**

| Ion | Diameter $2r_1$ | Ionization energy $\lvert E_1 \rvert$ | Wavelength of $3 \rightarrow 2$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| H $(Z = 1)$ | 0.106 nm | 13.6 eV | 656 nm |
| $He^+$ $(Z = 2)$ | 0.053 nm | 54.4 eV | 164 nm |
| $Li^{++}$ $(Z = 3)$ | 0.035 nm | 122.4 eV | 73 nm |

Comparison of hydrogen-like ions with $Z = 1, 2$, and 3

## Success and Failure

Bohr's analysis of the hydrogen atom seemed to be a resounding success. By introducing Einstein's ideas about light quanta, Bohr was able to provide the first understanding of discrete spectra and to predict the Balmer formula for the wavelengths in the hydrogen spectrum. And the Bohr hydrogen atom, unlike Rutherford's model, was stable. There was clearly some validity to the idea of stationary states.



But Bohr was completely unsuccessful at explaining the spectra of any other neutral atom. His method did not work even for helium, the second element in the periodic table with a mere two electrons. Something inherent in Bohr's assumptions seemed to work correctly for a single electron but not in situations with two or more electrons.

It is important to make a distinction between the Bohr model of atomic quantization, described in Section 38.5, and the Bohr hydrogen atom. The Bohr model assumes that stationary states exist, but it does not say how to find them. We found the stationary states of a hydrogen atom by requiring that an integer number of de Broglie waves fit around the circumference of the orbit, setting up standing waves. The difficulty with more complex atoms is not the Bohr model but the method of finding the stationary states. Bohr's model of the atomic quantization remains valid, and we will continue to use it, but the procedure of fitting standing waves to a circle is just too simple to find the stationary states of complex atoms. We need to find a better procedure.

Einstein, de Broglie, and Bohr carried physics into uncharted waters. Their successes made it clear that the microscopic realm of light and atoms is governed by quantization, discreteness, and a blurring of the distinction between particles and waves. Although Bohr was clearly on the right track, his inability to extend the Bohr hydrogen atom to more complex atoms made it equally clear that the complete and correct theory

remained to be discovered. Bohr's theory was what we now call "semiclassical," a hybrid of classical Newtonian mechanics with the new ideas of quanta. Still missing was a complete theory of motion and dynamics in a quantized universe—a *quantum* mechanics.

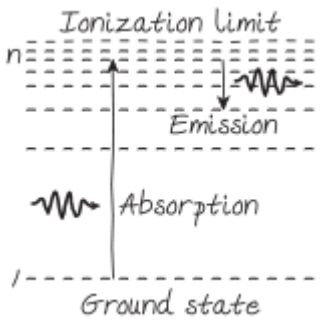
### Challenge Example 38.13 Hydrogen fluorescence

*Fluorescence* is the absorption of light at one wavelength followed by emission at a longer wavelength. Suppose a hydrogen atom in its ground state absorbs an ultraviolet photon with a wavelength of 95.10 nm. Immediately after the absorption, the atom undergoes a quantum jump with $\Delta n = 3$. What is the wavelength of the photon emitted in this quantum jump?

**MODEL** Photons are emitted and absorbed as an atom undergoes quantum jumps from one energy level to another. The Bohr model gives the energy levels of the hydrogen atom.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 38.23 shows the process. To be absorbed, the photon energy has to match exactly the energy *difference* between the ground state of hydrogen and an excited state with quantum number $n$. After excitation, the atom emits a photon as it jumps downward in a $n \rightarrow n - 3$ transition.

**Figure 38.23**



The process of fluorescence in hydrogen. Energy levels are not drawn to scale.

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**SOLVE** The energy of the absorbed photon is

$$E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = \frac{\left(4.14 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{eVs}\right)\left(3.00 \times 10^{8}\ \text{m/s}\right)}{95.10 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{m}} = 13.06\ \text{eV}$$

The atom's initial energy is $E_1 = -13.60$ eV, the energy of the ground state of hydrogen. Absorbing a 13.06 eV photon raises the atom's energy to $E_n = E_1 + 13.06\ \text{eV} = -0.54\ \text{eV}$. The energy levels of hydrogen are given by

$$E_n = -\frac{13.60\ \text{eV}}{n^2}$$

The quantum number of the energy level with –0.54 eV is

$$n = \sqrt{-\frac{13.60\ \text{eV}}{(-0.54\ \text{eV})}} = 5$$

We see that the absorption is a $1 \rightarrow 5$ transition; thus the emission, with $\Delta n = 3$, must be a $5 \rightarrow 2$ transition. The energy of the $n = 2$ state is

$$E_2 = -\frac{13.60\ \text{eV}}{2^2} = -3.40\ \text{eV}$$

Consequently, the energy of the emitted photon is

$$E_{\text{photon}} = \Delta E_{\text{atom}} = (-0.54\ \ \text{eV}) - (-3.40\ \text{eV}) = 2.86\ \text{eV}$$

Inverting the energy-wavelength relationship that we started with, we find

$$\lambda = \frac{hc}{E_{\text{photon}}} = \frac{\left(4.14 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{eVs}\right)\left(3.00 \times 10^{8}\text{m/s}\right)}{2.86\ \text{eV}} = 434\ \text{nm}$$

When atomic hydrogen gas is irradiated with ultraviolet light having a wavelength of 95.10 nm, it fluoresces at the visible wavelength of 434 nm. (It also fluoresces at infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths in downward transitions with other values of $\Delta n$.)

**ASSESS** The $5 \rightarrow 2$ transition is a member of the Balmer series, and a 434 nm spectral line was shown in the hydrogen spectrum of Figure 37.7. It is important to notice that the 13.06 eV photon energy does not match any energy level of the hydrogen atom. Instead, it matches the *difference* between two levels because that conserves energy in a quantum jump between those two levels. Photons with nearby wavelengths, such as 94 nm or 96 nm, would not be absorbed at all because their energy does not match the difference of any two energy levels in hydrogen.

# Summary

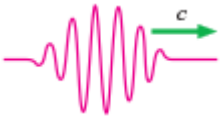


> The goal of Chapter 38 has been to learn about the quantization of energy for light and matter.

## General Principles

### Light has particle-like properties

- The energy of a light wave comes in discrete packets called light quanta or **photons.**




- For light of frequency $f$, the energy of each photon is $E = hf$, where $h$ is **Planck's constant.**
- For a light wave that delivers power $P$, photons arrive at rate $R$ such that $P = Rhf$.
- Photons are "particle-like" but are not classical particles.

### Matter has wave-like properties

- The **de Broglie wavelength** of a "particle" of mass $m$ is $\lambda = h/mv$.
- The wave-like nature of matter is seen in the interference patterns of electrons, neutrons, and entire atoms.
- When a particle is confined, it sets up a de Broglie standing wave. The fact that standing waves have only certain allowed wavelengths

leads to the conclusion that a confined particle has only certain allowed energies. That is, energy is quantized.

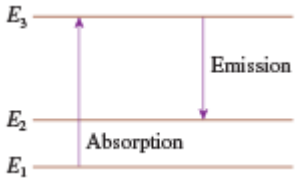
# Important Concepts

## The Photon Model of Light

- Light consists of quanta of energy $E = hf$, and momentum $p = h/\lambda$.
- Quanta are emitted and absorbed on an all-or-nothing basis.
- When a light quantum is absorbed, it delivers all its energy to *one* electron.

## Bohr's Model of the Atom

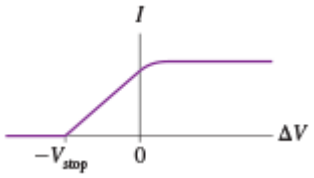
- An atom can exist in only certain stationary states. The allowed energies are quantized. State $n$ has energy $E_n$.
- An atom can jump from one stationary state to another by emitting or absorbing a photon with $E_{\text{photon}} = hf = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}$.
- Atoms can be excited in inelastic collisions.
- Atoms seek the $n = 1$ **ground state.** Most atoms, most of the time, are in the ground state.




# Applications

## Photoelectric effect

Light can eject electrons from a metal only if $f \geq f_0 = E_0/h$, where $E_0$ is the metal's **work function.**




The **stopping potential** that stops even the fastest electrons is

$$V_{\text{stop}} = \frac{h}{e}(f - f_0)$$

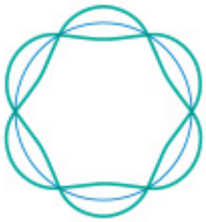
## Particle in a box

A particle confined to a one-dimensional box of length $L$ sets up de Broglie standing waves. The allowed energies are

$$E_n = \tfrac{1}{2}m{v_n}^2 = n^2\frac{h^2}{8mL^2} \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

## The Bohr hydrogen atom

An integer number of de Broglie wavelengths must fit around the circumference of the electron's orbit: $2\pi r = n\lambda$.





This leads to energy quantization with

$$r_n = n^2 a_{\text{B}} \quad v_n = \frac{v_1}{n} \quad E_n = -\frac{13.60\text{eV}}{n^2}$$

where $a_\mathrm{B} = 0.0529\ \mathrm{nm}$ is the **Bohr radius.**

### Compton scattering

When x rays scatter from atoms at angle $\theta$, their wavelength increases by

$$\Delta\lambda = \lambda_\mathrm{s} - \lambda_\mathrm{i} = \frac{h}{mc}(1 - \cos\theta)$$

## Terms and Notation

photoelectric effect

threshold frequency, $f_0$

stopping potential, $V_\mathrm{stop}$

thermal emission

work function, $E_0$

Planck's constant, $h$ or $\hbar$

light quantum

photon

photon model

wave packet

Compton scattering

scattering angle

matter wave

de Broglie wavelength

quantized

energy level

quantum number, $n$

fundamental quantum of energy, $E_1$

Bohr model of the atom

stationary state

excited state

ground state

transition

quantum jump

collisional excitation

energy-level diagram

Bohr radius, $a_B$

binding energy

ionization energy

ionization limit

hydrogen-like ion

# Conceptual Questions 1114

**1.** **a.** A negatively charged electroscope can be discharged by shining an ultraviolet light on it. How does this happen?

**b.** You might think that an ultraviolet light shining on an initially uncharged electroscope would cause the electroscope to become positively charged as photoelectrons are emitted. In fact, ultraviolet light has no noticeable effect on an uncharged electroscope. Why not?

**2.** **a.** Explain why the graphs of Figure 38.3 are mostly horizontal for $\Delta V > 0$.

**b.** Explain why photoelectrons are ejected from the cathode with a range of kinetic energies, rather than all electrons having the same kinetic energy.

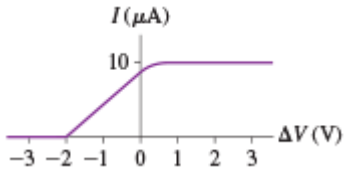
**c.** Explain the reasoning by which we claim that the stopping potential $V_{\text{stop}}$ indicates the maximum kinetic energy of the electrons.

**3.** How would the graph of Figure 38.2 look *if* classical physics provided the correct description of the photoelectric effect? Draw the graph and explain your reasoning. Assume that the light intensity remains constant as its frequency and wavelength are varied.

**4.** How would the graphs of Figure 38.3 look *if* classical physics provided the correct description of the photoelectric effect? Draw the graph and explain your reasoning. Include curves for both weak light and intense light.

5. Figure Q38.5 is the current-versus-potential-difference graph for a photoelectric-effect experiment with an unknown metal. *If* classical physics provided the correct description of the photoelectric effect, how would the graph look if:
    - **a.** The light was replaced by an equally intense light with a shorter wavelength? Draw it.
    - **b.** The metal was replaced by a different metal with a smaller work function? Draw it.

**Figure Q38.5**




6. Metal 1 has a larger work function than metal 2. Both are illuminated with the same short-wavelength ultraviolet light. Do photoelectrons from metal 1 have a higher speed, a lower speed, or the same speed as photoelectrons from metal 2? Explain.
7. Electron 1 is accelerated from rest through a potential difference of 100 V. Electron 2 is accelerated from rest through a potential difference of 200 V. Afterward, which electron has the larger de Broglie wavelength? Explain.
8. An electron and a proton are each accelerated from rest through a potential difference of 100 V. Afterward, which particle has the larger de Broglie wavelength? Explain.
9. Figure Q38.9 is a simulation of the electrons detected behind two closely spaced slits. Each bright dot represents one electron. How will this pattern change if
    - **a.** The electron-beam intensity is increased?
    - **b.** The electron speed is reduced?

**c.** The electrons are replaced by neutrons?

**d.** The left slit is closed?

**Figure Q38.9**

Your answers should consider the number of dots on the screen and the spacing, width, and positions of the fringes.

**10.** Imagine that the horizontal box of Figure 38.14 is instead oriented vertically. Also imagine the box to be on a neutron star where the gravitational field is so strong that the particle in the box slows significantly, nearly stopping, before it hits the top of the box. Make a *qualitative* sketch of the $n = 3$ de Broglie standing wave of a particle in this box.

**Hint:** The nodes are *not* uniformly spaced.

**11.** If an electron is in a *stationary state* of an atom, is the electron at rest? If not, what does the term mean?

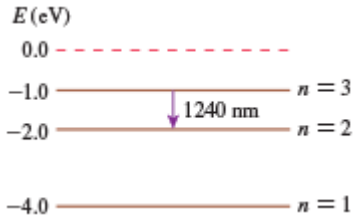
**12.** Figure Q38.12 shows the energy-level diagram of Element X.

**a.** What is the ionization energy of Element X?

**b.** An atom in the ground state absorbs a photon, then emits a photon with a wavelength of 1240 nm. What was the energy of the photon that was absorbed?

**c.** An atom in the ground state has a collision with an electron, then emits a photon with a wavelength of 1240 nm. What conclusion can you draw about the initial kinetic energy of the electron?

**Figure Q38.12**




# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

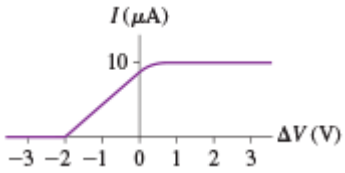
### Section 38.1 The Photoelectric Effect

### Section 38.2 Einstein's Explanation

**1.** • Which metals in Table 38.1 exhibit the photoelectric effect for (a) light with $\lambda = 400$ nm and (b) light with $\lambda = 250$ nm?

**2.** • How many photoelectrons are ejected per second in the experiment represented by the graph of Figure EX38.2?

**Figure EX38.2**




**3.** •• Electrons in a photoelectric-effect experiment emerge from an aluminum surface with a maximum kinetic energy of 1.30 eV. What is the wavelength of the light?

**4.** • Photoelectrons are observed when a metal is illuminated by light with a wavelength less than 388 nm. What is the metal's work function?

**5.** •• You need to design a photodetector that can respond to the entire range of visible light. What is the maximum possible work function of the cathode?

**6.** •• A photoelectric-effect experiment finds a stopping potential of 1.56 V when light of 200 nm is used to illuminate the cathode.

**a.** From what metal is the cathode made?

**b.** What is the stopping potential if the intensity of the light is doubled?

## Section 38.3 Photons

**7.** • What is the wavelength, in nm, of a photon with energy (a) 0.30 eV, (b) 3.0 eV, and (c) 30 eV? For each, is this wavelength visible, ultraviolet, or infrared light?

**8.** •

**a.** Determine the energy, in eV, of a photon with a 550 nm wavelength.

**b.** Determine the wavelength of a 7.5 keV x-ray photon.

**9.** • What is the energy, in eV, of (a) a 450 MHz radio-frequency photon, (b) a visible-light photon with a wavelength of 450 nm, and (c) an x-ray photon with a wavelength of 0.045 nm?

**10.** •• An FM radio station broadcasts with a power of 10 kW at a frequency of 101 MHz.

**a.** How many photons does the antenna emit each second?

**b.** Should the broadcast be treated as an electromagnetic wave or discrete photons? Explain.

**11.** • A red laser with a wavelength of 650 nm and a blue laser with a wavelength of 450 nm emit laser beams with the same light power. How do their rates of photon emission compare? Answer this by computing $R_{\text{red}}/R_{\text{blue}}$.

**12.** • For what wavelength of light does a 100 mW laser deliver $2.50 \times 10^{17}$ photons per second?

**13.** • A 100 W incandescent lightbulb emits about 5 W of visible light. (The other 95 W are emitted as infrared radiation or lost as heat to the surroundings.) The average wavelength of the visible light is about 600 nm, so make the simplifying assumption that all the light has this wavelength. How many visible-light photons does the bulb emit per second?

**14.** •• What is the energy, in keV, of 75 keV x-ray photons that are backscattered (i.e., scattered directly back toward the source) by the electrons in a target?

**15.** •• 55 keV x-ray photons are incident on a target. At what scattering angle do the scattered photons have an energy of 50 keV?

## Section 38.4 Matter Waves and Energy Quantization

**16.** •• At what speed is an electron's de Broglie wavelength (a) 1.0 pm, (b) 1.0 nm, (c) 1.0 $\mu$m, and (d) 1.0 mm?

**17.** •• **INT** What is the de Broglie wavelength of a neutron that has fallen 1.0 m in a vacuum chamber, starting from rest?

**18.** •• **INT** Through what potential difference must an electron be accelerated from rest to have a de Broglie wavelength of 500 nm?



**19.** •

**a.** What is the de Broglie wavelength of a 200 g baseball with a speed of 30 m/s?

**b.** What is the speed of a 200 g baseball with a de Broglie wavelength of 0.20 nm?

**20.** • What is the quantum number of an electron confined in a 3.0-nm-long one-dimensional box if the electron's de Broglie wavelength is 1.0 nm?

**21.** •• The diameter of the nucleus is about 10 fm. What is the kinetic energy, in MeV, of a proton with a de Broglie wavelength of 10 fm?

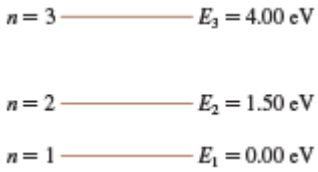
**22.** •• The diameter of the nucleus is about 10 fm. A simple model of the nucleus is that protons and neutrons are confined within a one-dimensional box of length 10 fm. What are the first three energy levels, in MeV, for a proton in such a box?

**23.** •• What is the length of a one-dimensional box in which an electron in the $n = 1$ state has the same energy as a photon with a wavelength of 600 nm?

## Section 38.5 Bohr's Model of Atomic Quantization

**24.** • Figure EX38.24 is an energy-level diagram for a simple atom. What wavelengths, in nm, appear in the atom's (a) emission spectrum and (b) absorption spectrum?

**Figure EX38.24**




**25.** •• An electron with 2.00 eV of kinetic energy collides with the atom shown in Figure EX38.24.

**a.** Is the electron able to excite the atom? Why or why not?

**b.** If your answer to part a was yes, what is the electron's kinetic energy after the collision?

**26.** •• The allowed energies of a simple atom are 0.00 eV, 4.00 eV, and 6.00 eV. An electron traveling with a speed of $1.30 \times 10^6\ \text{m/s}$ collides with the atom. Can the electron excite the atom to the $n = 2$ stationary state? The $n = 3$ stationary state? Explain.

**27.** •• The allowed energies of a simple atom are 0.00 eV, 4.00 eV, and 6.00 eV.

**a.** Draw the atom's energy-level diagram. Label each level with the energy and the quantum number.

**b.** What wavelengths appear in the atom's emission spectrum?

**c.** What wavelengths appear in the atom's absorption spectrum?

## Section 38.6 The Bohr Hydrogen Atom

**28.** • What is the radius of a hydrogen atom whose electron is bound by 0.378 eV?

**29.** •• What is the radius of a hydrogen atom whose electron moves at $7.3 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}$?

**30.** ••

**a.** Calculate the de Broglie wavelength of the electron in the $n = 1$, 2, and 3 states of the hydrogen atom. Use the information in Table 38.2.

**b.** Show numerically that the circumference of the orbit for each of these stationary states is exactly equal to $n$ de Broglie wavelengths.

**c.** Sketch the de Broglie standing wave for the $n = 3$ orbit.

**31.** •• 

**a.** What quantum number of the hydrogen atom comes closest to giving a 100-nm-diameter electron orbit?

**b.** What are the electron's speed and energy in this state?

**32.** •• How much energy does it take to ionize a hydrogen atom that is in its first excited state?

## Section 38.7 The Hydrogen Spectrum

**33.** • Determine the wavelengths of all the possible photons that can be emitted from the $n = 4$ state of a hydrogen atom.

**34.** • Find the radius of the electron's orbit, the electron's speed, and the energy of the atom for the first three stationary states of $He^+$.

**35.** •• What is the third-longest wavelength in the absorption spectrum of hydrogen?

# Problems

**36.** •• In a photoelectric-effect experiment, the wavelength of light shining on an aluminum cathode is decreased from 250 nm to 200 nm. What is the change in the stopping potential?

**37.** •• A ruby laser emits an intense pulse of light that lasts a mere 10 ns. The light has a wavelength of 690 nm, and each pulse has an energy of 500 mJ.

**a.** How many photons are emitted in each pulse?

**b.** What is the *rate* of photon emission, in photons per second, during the 10 ns that the laser is "on"?

**38.** •• **BIO** The wavelengths of light emitted by a firefly span the visible spectrum but have maximum intensity near 550 nm. A

typical flash lasts for 100 ms and has a power output of 1.2 mW. How many photons does a firefly emit in one flash if we assume that all light is emitted at the peak intensity wavelength of 550 nm?



**39.** •• **BIO** *Dinoflagellates* are single-cell organisms that float in the world's oceans. Many types are bioluminescent. When disturbed, a typical bioluminescent dinoflagellate emits $10^8$ photons in a 0.10-s-long flash of wavelength 460 nm. What is the power of the flash?

**40.** •• The maximum kinetic energy of photoelectrons is 2.8 eV. When the wavelength of the light is increased by 50%, the maximum energy decreases to 1.1 eV. What are (a) the work function of the cathode and (b) the initial wavelength of the light?

**41.** •• Potassium and gold cathodes are used in a photoelectric-effect experiment. For each cathode, find:

**a.** The threshold frequency.

**b.** The threshold wavelength.

**c.** The maximum photoelectron ejection speed if the light has a wavelength of 220 nm.

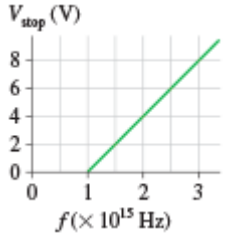
**d.** The stopping potential if the wavelength is 220 nm.

**42.** •• The graph in Figure P38.42 was measured in a photoelectric-effect experiment.

**a.** What is the work function (in eV) of the cathode?

**b.** What experimental value of Planck's constant is obtained from these data?

**Figure P38.42**




**43.** •• In a photoelectric-effect experiment, the stopping potential was measured for several different wavelengths of incident light. The data are as follows:

| Wavelength (nm) | Stopping potential (V) |
|---|---|
| 500 | 0.19 |
| 450 | 0.48 |
| 400 | 0.83 |
| 350 | 1.28 |
| 300 | 1.89 |
| 250 | 2.74 |

Use an appropriate graph of the data to determine (a) the metal used for the cathode and (b) an experimental value for Planck's constant.

**44.** •• A 75 kW radio transmitter emits 550 kHz radio waves uniformly in all directions. At what rate do photons strike a 1.5-m-tall, 3.0-mm-diameter antenna that is 15 km away?

**45.** •• The *cosmic microwave background radiation* is light left over from the Big Bang that has been Doppler-shifted to microwave frequencies by the expansion of the universe. It now fills the universe with 450 photons/$cm^3$ at an average frequency of 160 GHz. How much energy from the cosmic microwave background, in MeV, fills a small apartment that has 95 $m^2$ of floor space and 2.5-m-high ceilings?

**46.** •• **INT** Compton scattering is relevant not only to x-ray photons but, even more so, to higher energy *gamma-ray* photons. Suppose a 350 keV gamma-ray photon backscatters

(i.e., is scattered back toward the source) from a free electron. Afterward, what is the electron's velocity in m/s?

**Hint:** This problem uses relativity.

**47.** •• **INT** The electron interference pattern of Figure 38.12 was made by shooting electrons with 50 keV of kinetic energy through two slits spaced 1.0 $\mu$m. The fringes were recorded on a detector 1.0 m behind the slits.

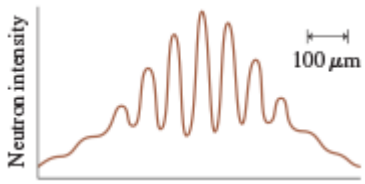
**a.** What was the speed of the electrons? (The speed is large enough to justify using relativity, but for simplicity do this as a nonrelativistic calculation.)

**b.** Figure 38.12 is greatly magnified. What was the actual spacing on the detector between adjacent bright fringes?

**48.** •• **INT** Electrons, all with the same speed, pass through a tiny 15-nm-wide slit and create a diffraction pattern on a detector 50 mm behind the slit. What is the electron's kinetic energy, in eV, if the central maximum has a width of 3.3 mm?

**49.** •• **INT** An experiment was performed in which neutrons were shot through two slits spaced 0.10 mm apart and detected 3.5 m behind the slits. Figure P38.49 shows the detector output. Notice the 100 $\mu$m scale on the figure. To one significant figure, what was the speed of the neutrons?

**Figure P38.49**




**50.** •• An electron confined in a one-dimensional box is observed, at different times, to have energies of 12 eV, 27 eV, and 48 eV.

What is the length of the box?

**51.** •• A *muon*—a subatomic particle with charge –$e$ and a mass 207 times that of an electron—is confined in a 15-pm-long, one-dimensional box. (1 pm = 1 picometer = $10^{-12}$m.) What is the wavelength, in nm, of the photon emitted in a quantum jump from $n = 2$ to $n = 1$?

**52.** •• A proton confined in a one-dimensional box emits a 2.0 MeV gamma-ray photon in a quantum jump from $n = 2$ to $n = 1$. What is the length of the box?



**53.** •• An electron confined in a one-dimensional box emits a 200 nm photon in a quantum jump from $n = 2$ to $n = 1$. What is the length of the box?

**54.** •• **BIO** Consider a small virus having a diameter of 10 nm. The atoms of the intracellular fluid are confined within the virus. Suppose we model the virus as a 10-nm-long "box." What is the ground-state energy (in eV) of a sodium ion confined in this box?

**55.** •• The absorption spectrum of an atom consists of the wavelengths 200 nm, 300 nm, and 500 nm.

**a.** Draw the atom's energy-level diagram.

**b.** What wavelengths are seen in the atom's emission spectrum?

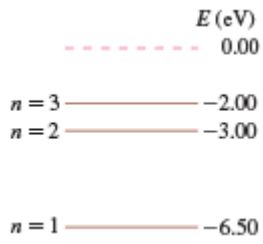
**56.** •• The first three energy levels of the fictitious element X are shown in Figure P38.56.

**a.** What is the ionization energy of element X?

**b.** What wavelengths are observed in the absorption spectrum of element X? Express your answers in nm.

**c.** State whether each of your wavelengths in part b corresponds to ultraviolet, visible, or infrared light.

**Figure P38.56**




**57.** •• The first three energy levels of the fictitious element X were shown in Figure P38.56. An electron with a speed of $1.4 \times 10^6 \text{m/s}$ collides with an atom of element X. Shortly afterward, the atom emits a photon with a wavelength of 1240 nm. What was the electron's speed after the collision? Assume that, because the atom is much more massive than the electron, the recoil of the atom is negligible.

**Hint:** The energy of the photon is *not* the energy transferred to the atom in the collision.

**58.** •• Starting from Equation 38.32, derive Equation 38.33.

**59.** • Calculate *all* the wavelengths of *visible* light in the emission spectrum of the hydrogen atom.

**Hint:** There are infinitely many wavelengths in the spectrum, so you'll need to develop a strategy for this problem rather than using trial and error.

**60.** •• An electron with a speed of $2.1 \times 10^6$ m/s collides with a hydrogen atom, exciting the atom to the highest possible energy level. The atom then undergoes a quantum jump with $\Delta n = 1$. What is the wavelength of the photon emitted in the quantum jump?

**61.** ••

**a.** What wavelength photon does a hydrogen atom emit in a $200 \rightarrow 199$ transition?

**b.** What is the *difference* in the wavelengths emitted in a $199 \rightarrow 2$ transition and a $200 \rightarrow 2$ transition?

**62.** •• Consider a hydrogen atom in stationary state $n$.

**a.** Show that the orbital period of an electron in quantum state $n$ is $T = n^3 T_1$, and find a numerical value for $T_1$.

**b.** On average, an atom stays in the $n = 2$ state for 1.6 ns before undergoing a quantum jump to the $n = 1$ state. On average, how many revolutions does the electron make before the quantum jump?

**63.** •• Draw an energy-level diagram, similar to Figure 38.21, for the $He^+$ ion. On your diagram:

**a.** Show the first five energy levels. Label each with the values of $n$ and $E_n$.

**b.** Show the ionization limit.

**c.** Show all possible emission transitions from the $n = 4$ energy level.

**d.** Calculate the wavelengths (in nm) for each of the transitions in part c and show them alongside the appropriate arrow.

**64.** •• Very large, hot stars—much hotter than our sun—can be identified by the way in which $He^+$ ions in their atmosphere absorb light. What are the three longest wavelengths, in nm, in the Balmer series of $He^+$?

**65.** • What are the wavelengths of the transitions $3 \rightarrow 2, 4 \rightarrow 2$, and $5 \rightarrow 2$ in the hydrogen-like ion $O^{+7}$? In what spectral range do these lie?

**66.** •• The *muon* is a subatomic particle with the same charge as an electron but with a mass that is 207 times greater: $m_\mu = 207 m_e$. Physicists think of muons as "heavy electrons." However, the muon is not a stable particle; it decays with a half-life of 1.5 $\mu$s

into an electron plus two neutrinos. Muons from cosmic rays are sometimes "captured" by the nuclei of the atoms in a solid. A captured muon orbits this nucleus, like an electron, until it decays. Because the muon is often captured into an excited orbit ($n > 1$), its presence can be detected by observing the photons emitted in transitions such as $2 \rightarrow 1$ and $3 \rightarrow 1$. Consider a muon captured by a carbon nucleus ($Z = 6$). Because of its large mass, the muon orbits well *inside* the electron cloud and is not affected by the electrons. Thus the muon "sees" the full nuclear charge $Ze$ and acts like the electron in a hydrogen-like ion.

**a.** What are the orbital radius and speed of a muon in the $n = 1$ ground state? Note that the mass of a muon differs from the mass of an electron.

**b.** What is the wavelength of the $2 \rightarrow 1$ muon transition?

**c.** Is the photon emitted in the $2 \rightarrow 1$ transition infrared, visible, ultraviolet, or x ray?

**d.** How many orbits will the muon complete during 1.5 $\mu$s? Is this a sufficiently large number that the Bohr model "makes sense," even though the muon is not stable?

**67.** •• **INT** Two hydrogen atoms collide head-on. The collision brings both atoms to a halt. Immediately after the collision, both atoms emit a 121.6 nm photon. What was the speed of each atom just before the collision?

**68.** •• **INT** A beam of electrons is incident upon a gas of hydrogen atoms.

**a.** What minimum speed must the electrons have to cause the emission of 656 nm light from the $3 \rightarrow 2$ transition of hydrogen?

**b.** Through what potential difference must the electrons be accelerated to have this speed?

## Challenge Problems

**69.** ••• The electrons in a cathode-ray tube are accelerated through a 250 V potential difference and then shot through a 33-nm-diameter circular aperture. What is the diameter of the bright spot on an electron detector 1.5 m behind the aperture?

**70.** ••• Ultraviolet light with a wavelength of 70.0 nm shines on a gas of hydrogen atoms in their ground states. Some of the atoms are ionized by the light. What is the kinetic energy of the electrons that are freed in this process?

**71.** ••• In the atom interferometer experiment of Figure 38.13, laser-cooling techniques were used to cool a dilute vapor of sodium atoms to a temperature of $0.0010\,\mathrm{K} = 1.0\,\mathrm{mK}$. The ultracold atoms passed through a series of collimating apertures to form the *atomic beam* you see entering the figure from the left. The standing light waves were created from a laser beam with a wavelength of 590 nm.

**a.** What is the rms speed $v_{\mathrm{rms}}$ of a sodium atom ($A = 23$) in a gas at temperature 1.0 mK?

**b.** By treating the laser beam as if it were a diffraction grating, calculate the first-order diffraction angle of a sodium atom traveling with the rms speed of part a.

**c.** How far apart are points B and C if the second standing wave is 10 cm from the first?

**d.** Because interference is observed between the two paths, each individual atom is apparently present at both point B *and* point C. Describe, in your own words,

what this experiment tells you about the nature of matter.

**72.** ••• Consider an electron undergoing cyclotron motion in a magnetic field. According to Bohr, the electron's angular momentum must be quantized in units of $\hbar$.

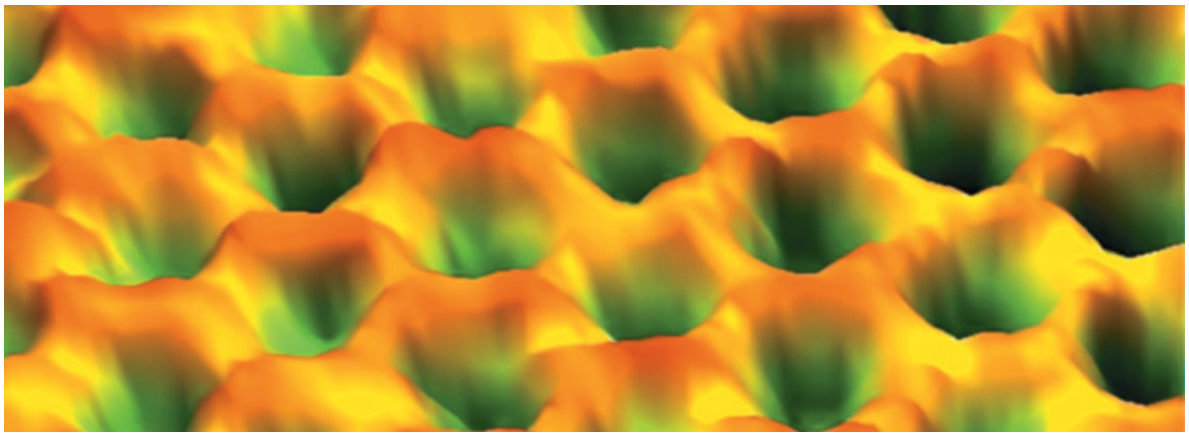
**a.** Show that allowed radii for the electron's orbit are given by $r_n = (n\hbar/eB)^{1/2}$, where $n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$

**b.** Compute the first four allowed radii in a 1.0 T magnetic field.

**c.** Find an expression for the allowed energy levels $E_n$ in terms of $\hbar$ and the cyclotron frequency $f_{\text{cyc}}$.

# Chapter 39
# Wave Functions and Uncertainty





The surface of graphene, imaged with atomic resolution by a scanning tunneling microscope. The hexagonal ridges show the most probable locations of the electrons.

**In This Chapter**

you will learn to use the wave-function description of matter.

## What is quantum mechanics?

Quantum mechanics is the physics of light and matter at the atomic scale. This chapter and the next will introduce the essentials of quantum mechanics in one dimension.

- Quantum mechanics will allow us to understand important properties of atoms and nuclei in Chapters 41 and 42.
- Despite the strange and unfamiliar aspects of quantum mechanics, its predictions are verified with amazing precision.

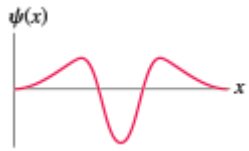
## What is a wave function?

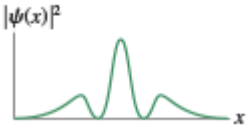
The probability of finding a particle at a particular position $x$ is determined by the particle's wave function $\Psi(x)$. This is a wave-like function that can be used to make probabilistic predictions, but nothing is actually waving.

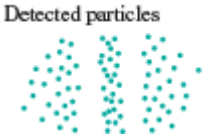
- The wave function is an oscillatory function.
- The square of the wave function is the particle's probability density.
- The particle is most likely to be found near the maxima of the probability density.

This chapter will focus on learning to interpret the wave function.

Looking Back Sections 38.3, 38.4 The photon model and the de Broglie wavelength



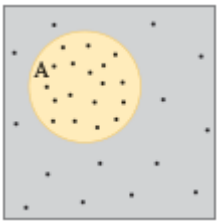




## What role does probability play?

Quantum mechanics deals with probabilities. We cannot know exactly where an electron is or how it's moving, but we can

calculate the probability of locating the electron in a specified region of space.

- In an experiment with $N$ particles, if $N_A$ are detected in some region $A$ of space, then the probability of finding a particle in that region is $P_A = N_A/N$.



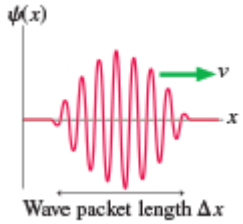

## How are waves and particles reconciled?

The wave function reconciles the experimental evidence that matter has both particle-like and wave-like properties. The probability of detecting a *particle* is governed by a *wave-like* function that can exhibit interference.

## What is Heisenberg's uncertainty principle?

Because matter has wave-like properties, a particle does not have a precise position or speed. Our knowledge of the particle is inherently uncertain. This is reflected in the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, $\Delta x\,\Delta p \geq h/2$, where $\Delta x$ and $\Delta p$ are the position and momentum uncertainty.

Looking Back Section 17.8 Beats


ψ(x)
v
x
Wave packet length Δx

# 39.1 Waves, Particles, and the Double-Slit Experiment

You may feel surprise at how slowly we have been building up to quantum mechanics. Why not just write it down and start using it? There are two reasons. First, quantum mechanics explains microscopic phenomena that we cannot directly sense or experience. It was important to begin by learning how light and atoms behave. Otherwise, how would you know if quantum mechanics explains anything? Second, the concepts we'll need in quantum mechanics are rather abstract. Before launching into the mathematics, we need to establish a connection between theory and experiment.

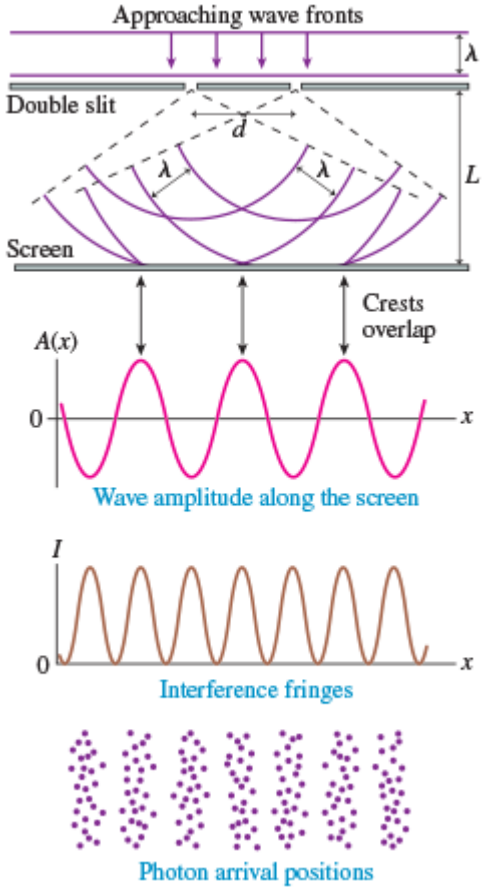
We will make the connection by returning to the double-slit interference experiment, an experiment that goes right to the heart of wave–particle duality. The significance of the double-slit experiment arises from the fact that both light and matter exhibit the same interference pattern. Regardless of whether photons, electrons, or neutrons pass through the slits, their arrival at a detector is a particlelike event. That is, they make a collection of discrete dots on a detector. Yet our understanding of how interference "works" is based on the properties of waves. Our goal is to find the connection between the wave description and the particle description of interference.

Interference fringes in an optical double-slit interference experiment.

# A Wave Analysis of Interference

The interference of light can be analyzed from either a wave perspective or a photon perspective. Let's start with a wave analysis. Figure 39.1 shows light waves passing through a double slit with slit separation $d$. You should recall that the lines in a wavefront diagram represent wave crests, spaced one wavelength apart. The bright fringes of constructive interference occur where two crests or two troughs overlap. The graphs and the picture of the detection screen (notice that they're aligned vertically) show the outcome of the experiment.

**Figure 39.1**




The double-slit experiment with light.

You studied interference and the double-slit experiment in Chapters 17 and 33. The two waves traveling from the slits to the viewing screen are

traveling waves with electric fields

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= e\sin\left(kr_1 - \omega t\right) \\ E_2 &= e\sin\left(kr_2 - \omega t\right) \end{aligned}$$

where $e$ is the amplitude of each wave, $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ is the wave number, and $r_1$ and $r_2$ are the distances from the two slits.



According to the principle of superposition, these two waves add together where they meet at a point on the screen to give a wave with net electric field $E = E_1 + E_2$. Previously we found that the amplitude of the superposition of two sinusoidal waves is

**(39.1)**

$$A(x) = 2e\cos\left(\frac{\pi dx}{\lambda L}\right)$$

where $x$ is the horizontal coordinate on the screen, measured from $x = 0$ in the center.

The function $A(x)$, the top graph in Figure 39.1, is called the *amplitude function*. It describes the amplitude $A$ of the light wave as a function of the position $x$ on the viewing screen. The amplitude function has maxima where two crests from individual waves overlap and add constructively to make a larger wave with amplitude $2e$. $A(x)$ is zero at points where the two individual waves are out of phase and interfere destructively.

If you carry out a double-slit experiment in the lab, what you observe on the screen is the light's *intensity*, not its amplitude. A wave's intensity $I$ is proportional to the *square* of the amplitude. That is, $I \propto A^2$, where $\propto$ is the "is proportional to" symbol. Using Equation 39.1 for the amplitude

at each point, we find the intensity $I(x)$ as a function of position $x$ on the screen is

**(39.2)**

$$I(x) = C\cos^2\left(\frac{\pi dx}{\lambda L}\right)$$

where $C$ is a proportionality constant.

The lower graph in Figure 39.1 shows the intensity as a function of position along the screen. This graph shows the alternating bright and dark interference fringes that you see in the laboratory. In other words, the intensity of the wave is the *experimental reality* that you observe and measure.

# Probability

Before discussing photons, we need to introduce some ideas about probability. Imagine throwing darts at a dart board while blindfolded. Figure 39.2 shows how the board might look after your first 100 throws. From this information, can you predict where your 101st throw is going to land? We'll assume that all darts hit the board.

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**Figure 39.2**

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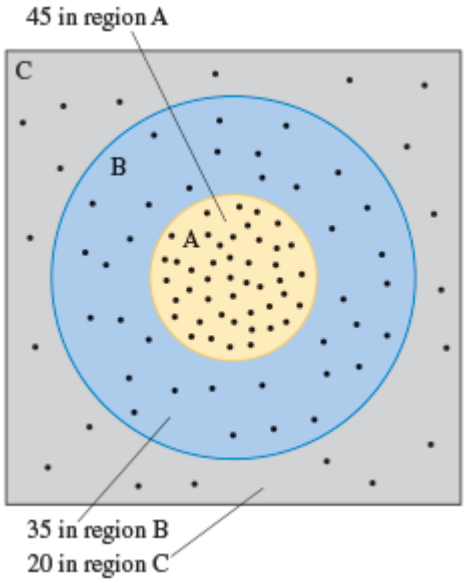



One hundred throws at a dart board.

---

No. The position of any individual dart is *unpredictable*. No matter how hard you try to reproduce the previous throw, a second dart will not land at the same place. Yet there is clearly an overall *pattern* to where the darts strike the board. Even blindfolded, you had a general sense of where the center of the board was, so each dart was *more likely* to land near the center than at the edge.

Although we can't predict where any individual dart will land, we can use the information in Figure 39.2 to determine the *probability* that your next throw will land in region A or region B or region C. Because 45 out of 100 throws landed in region A, we could say that the *odds* of hitting region A are 45 out of 100, or 45%.

Now, 100 throws isn't all that many. If you throw another 100 darts, perhaps only 43 will land in region A. Then maybe 48 of the next 100 throws. Imagine that the total number of throws $N_{\text{tot}}$ becomes extremely large. Then the **probability** that any particular throw lands in region A is defined to be

**(39.3)**

$$P_{\mathrm{A}} = \lim_{N_{\mathrm{tot}} \to \infty} \frac{N_{\mathrm{A}}}{N_{\mathrm{tot}}}$$

In other words, the probability that the outcome will be A is the fraction of outcomes that are A in an enormously large number of trials. Similarly, $P_{\mathrm{B}} = N_{\mathrm{B}}/N_{\mathrm{tot}}$ and $P_{\mathrm{C}} = N_{\mathrm{C}}/N_{\mathrm{tot}}$ as $N_{\mathrm{tot}} \to \infty$. We can give probabilities as either a decimal fraction or a percentage. In this example, $P_{\mathrm{A}} \approx 45\%$, $P_{\mathrm{B}} \approx 35\%$, and $P_{\mathrm{C}} \approx 20\%$. We've used ≈ rather than = because 100 throws isn't enough to determine the probabilities with great precision.

What is the probability that a dart lands in either region A *or* region B? The number of darts landing in either A *or* B is $N_{\mathrm{A\,or\,B}} = N_{\mathrm{A}} + N_{\mathrm{B}}$, so we can use the definition of probability to learn that

**(39.4)**

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\mathrm{A\,or\,B}} &= \lim_{N_{\mathrm{tot}} \to \infty} \frac{N_{\mathrm{A\,or\,B}}}{N_{\mathrm{tot}}} = \lim_{N_{\mathrm{tot}} \to \infty} \frac{N_{\mathrm{A}} + N_{\mathrm{B}}}{N_{\mathrm{tot}}} \\ &= \lim_{N_{\mathrm{tot}} \to \infty} \frac{N_{\mathrm{A}}}{N_{\mathrm{tot}}} + \lim_{N_{\mathrm{tot}} \to \infty} \frac{N_{\mathrm{B}}}{N_{\mathrm{tot}}} = P_{\mathrm{A}} + P_{\mathrm{B}} \end{aligned}$$

That is, **the probability that the outcome will be A *or* B is the sum of $P_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $P_{\mathrm{B}}$.** This important conclusion is a general property of probabilities.

Each dart lands *somewhere* on the board. Consequently, the probability that a dart lands in A *or* B *or* C must be 100%. And, in fact,

$$P_{\mathrm{somewhere}} = P_{\mathrm{A\,or\,B\,or\,C}} = P_{\mathrm{A}} + P_{\mathrm{B}} + P_{\mathrm{C}} = 0.45 + 0.35 + 0.20 = 1.00$$

Thus another important property of probabilities is that **the sum of the probabilities of all possible outcomes must equal 1.**

Suppose exhaustive trials have established that the probability of a dart landing in region A is $P_A$. If you throw $N$ darts, how many do you *expect* to land in A? This value, called the **expected value,** is

**(39.5)**

$$N_{A\,\text{expected}} = NP_A$$

**The expected value is your best prediction of the outcome of an experiment.**

If $P_A = 0.45$, your *best prediction* is that 27 of 60 throws (45% of 60) will land in A. Of course, predicting 27 and actually getting 27 aren't the same thing. You would predict 30 heads in 60 flips of a coin, but you wouldn't be surprised if the actual number were 28 or 31. Similarly, the number of darts landing in region A might be 24 or 29 instead of 27. In general, the agreement between actual values and expected values improves as you throw more darts.



### Stop to Think 39.1

Suppose you roll a die 30 times. What is the expected number of 1's *and* 6's?

## A Photon Analysis of Interference

Now let's look at the double-slit results from a photon perspective. We know, from experimental evidence, that the interference pattern is built up photon by photon. The bottom portion of Figure 39.1 shows the pattern made on a detector after the arrival of the first few dozen

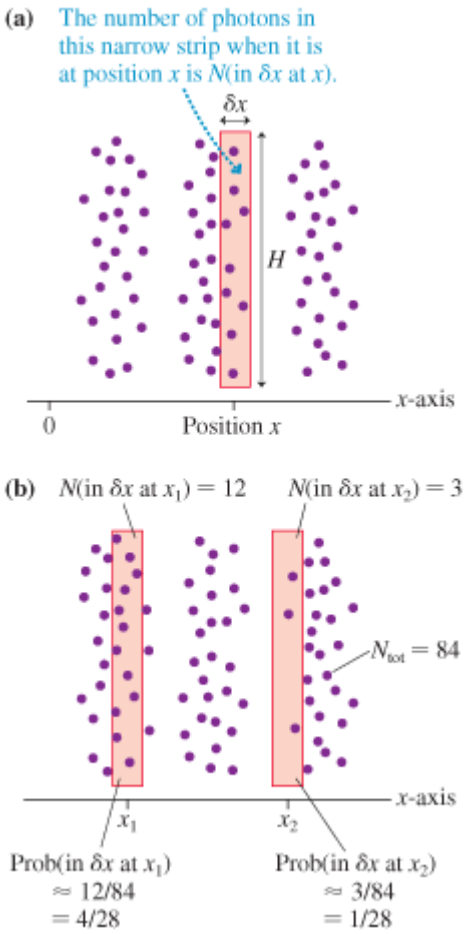
photons. It is clearly a double-slit interference pattern, but it's made, rather like a newspaper photograph, by piling up dots in some places but not others.

The arrival position of any particular photon is *unpredictable*. That is, nothing about how the experiment is set up or conducted allows us to predict exactly where the dot of an individual photon will appear on the detector. Yet there is clearly an overall pattern. There are some positions at which a photon is *more likely* to be detected, other positions at which it is *less likely* to be found.

If we record the arrival positions of many thousands of photons, we will be able to determine the *probability* that a photon will be detected at any given location. If 50 out of 50,000 photons land in one small area of the screen, then each photon has a probability of $50/50{,}000 = 0.001 = 0.1\%$ of being detected there. The probability will be zero at the interference minima because no photons at all arrive at those points. Similarly, the probability will be a maximum at the interference maxima.

Figure 39.3a shows a narrow strip with width $\delta x$ and height $H$. (We will assume that $\delta x$ is very small in comparison with the fringe spacing, so the light's intensity over $\delta x$ is very nearly constant.) Think of this strip as a very narrow detector that can detect and count the photons landing on it. Suppose we place the narrow strip at position $x$. We'll use the notation $N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)$ to indicate the number of photons that hit the detector at this position. The value of $N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)$ varies from point to point. $N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)$ is large if $x$ happens to be near the center of a bright fringe; $N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)$ is small if $x$ is in a dark fringe.

**Figure 39.3**




A strip of width $\delta x$ at position $x$.

---

Suppose $N_{\text{tot}}$ photons are fired at the slits. The *probability* that any one photon ends up in the strip at position $x$ is

**(39.6)**

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = \lim_{N_{\text{tot}} \to \infty} \frac{N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)}{N_{\text{tot}}}$$

As Figure 39.3b shows, Equation 39.6 is an empirical method for determining the probability of the photons hitting a particular spot on the detector.

Alternatively, suppose we can calculate the probabilities from a theory. In that case, the *expected value* for the number of photons landing in the narrow strip when it is at position $x$ is

**(39.7)**

$$N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = N \times \text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)$$

We cannot predict what any individual photon will do, but we can predict the fraction of the photons that should land in this little region of space. Prob(in $\delta x$ at $x$) is the probability that it will happen.

# 39.2 Connecting the Wave and Photon Views[1][2][3]

The wave model of light describes the interference pattern in terms of the wave's intensity $I(x)$, a continuous-valued function. The photon model describes the interference pattern in terms of the probability Prob(in $\delta x$ at $x$) of detecting a photon. These two models are very different, yet Figure 39.1 shows a clear correlation between the *intensity of the wave* and the *probability of detecting photons*. That is, photons are more likely to be detected at those points where the wave intensity is high and less likely to be detected at those points where the wave intensity is low.

The intensity of a wave is $I = P/A$, the ratio of light power $P$ (joules per second) to the area $A$ on which the light falls. The narrow strip in Figure 39.3a has area $A = H\,\delta x$. If the light intensity at position $x$ is $I(x)$, the amount of light energy $E$ falling onto this narrow strip during each second is

**(39.8)**

$$E(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = I(x)\,A = I(x)\,H\,\delta x = H\,I(x)\,\delta x$$

The notation $E(\text{in } \delta x \text{at } x)$ refers to the energy landing on this narrow strip if you place it at position $x$.

From the photon perspective, energy $E$ is due to the arrival of $N$ photons, each of which has energy $hf$. The number of photons that arrive in the strip each second is

(39.9)

$$N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = \frac{E(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)}{hf} = \frac{H}{hf}\, I(x)\, \delta x$$

We can then use Equation 39.6, the definition of probability, to write the *probability* that a photon lands in the narrow strip $\delta x$ at position $x$ as

(39.10)

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = \frac{N(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)}{N_{\text{tot}}} = \frac{H}{hf\, N_{\text{tot}}}\, I(x)\, \delta x$$

Equation 39.10 is a critical link between the wave model and the photon model. It tells us that the probability of detecting a photon is proportional to the intensity of the light at that point and to the width of the detector.

As a final step, recall that the light intensity $I(x)$ is proportional to $|A(x)|^2$, the square of the amplitude function. Consequently,

---

(39.11)

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) \;\propto\; |A(x)|^2\, \delta x$$

where the various constants in Equation 39.10 have all been incorporated into the unspecified proportionality constant of Equation 39.11.

In other words, **the probability of detecting a photon at a particular point is directly proportional to the square of the light-wave amplitude function at that point.** If the wave amplitude at point A is twice that at

point B, then a photon is four times as likely to land in a narrow strip at A as it is to land in an equal-width strip at B.

> **Note**
>
> Equation 39.11 is the connection between the particle perspective and the wave perspective. It relates the probability of observing a particle-like event—the arrival of a photon—to the amplitude of a continuous, classical wave. This connection will become the basis of how we interpret the results of quantum-physics calculations.

## Probability Density

We need one last definition. Recall that the mass of a wire or string of a length $L$ can be expressed in terms of the linear mass density $\mu$ as $m = \mu L$. Similarly, the charge along a length $L$ of wire can be expressed in terms of the linear charge density $\lambda$ as $Q = \lambda L$. If the length had been very short—in which case we might have denoted it as $\delta x$—and if the density varied from point to point, we could have written

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mass}(\text{in length } \delta x \text{ at } x) &= \mu(x)\,\delta x \\ \text{charge}(\text{in length } \delta x \text{ at } x) &= \lambda(x)\,\delta x \end{aligned}$$

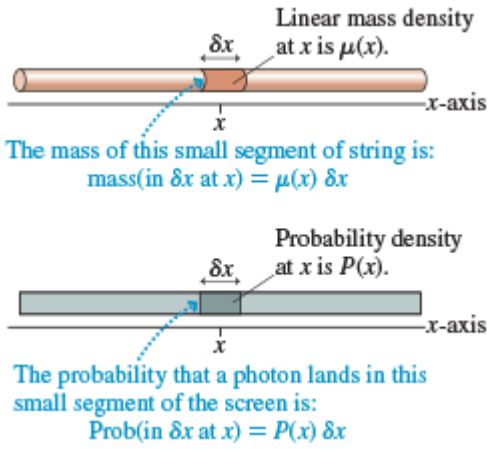
where $\mu(x)$ and $\lambda(x)$ are the linear densities at position $x$. Writing the mass and charge this way separates the role of the density from the role of the small length $\delta x$.

Equation 39.11 looks similar. Using the mass and charge densities as analogies, as shown in Figure 39.4, we can define the **probability density** $P(x)$ such that

(39.12)

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = P(x)\delta x$$

## Figure 39.4




The probability density is analogous to the linear mass density.

In one dimension, probability density has SI units of $m^{-1}$. Thus the probability density multiplied by a length, as in Equation 39.12, yields a dimensionless probability.

> **Note**
>
> *P(x)* itself is *not* a probability, just as the linear mass density *λ* is not, by itself, a mass. You must multiply the probability density by a length, as shown in Equation 39.12, to find an actual probability.

By comparing Equation 39.12 to Equation 39.11, you can see that the photon probability density is directly proportional to the square of the light-wave amplitude:

(39.13)

$$P(x) \propto |A(x)|^2$$

The probability density, unlike the probability itself, is independent of the width $\delta x$ and depends on only the amplitude function.

Although we were inspired by the double-slit experiment, nothing in our analysis actually depends on the double-slit geometry. Consequently, Equation 39.13 is quite general. It says that for *any* experiment in which we detect photons, **the probability density for detecting a photon is directly proportional to the square of the amplitude function of the corresponding electromagnetic wave.** We now have an explicit connection between the wave-like and the particle-like properties of the light.

**Example 39.1 Calculating the probability density**

In an experiment, 6000 out of 600,000 photons are detected in a 1.0-mm-wide strip located at position $x = 50$ cm. What is the probability density at $x = 50$ cm?

**SOLVE** The probability that a photon arrives at this particular strip is

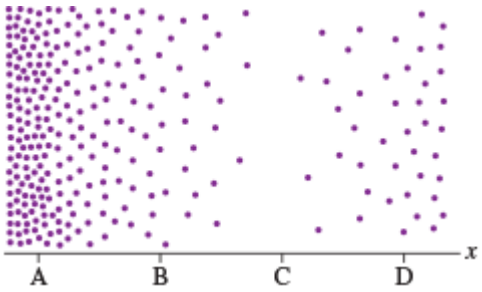
$$\text{Prob}(\text{in 1.0 mm at } x = 50 \text{ cm}) = \frac{6000}{600{,}000} = 0.010$$

Thus the probability density $P(x) = \text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x)/\delta x$ at this position is

$$P(50\,\text{cm}) = \frac{\text{Prob}(\text{in } 1.0\,\text{mm at } x = 50\,\text{cm})}{0.0010\,\text{m}} = \frac{0.010}{0.0010\,\text{m}}$$
$$= 10\,\text{m}^{-1}$$

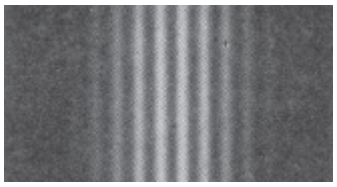
## Stop to Think 39.2

The figure shows the detection of photons in an optical experiment. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the square of the amplitude function of the electromagnetic wave at positions A, B, C, and D.



# 39.3 The Wave Function [1124]

Now let's look at the interference of matter. Electrons passing through a double-slit apparatus create the same interference patterns as photons. The pattern is built up electron by electron, but there is no way to predict where any particular electron will be detected. Even so, we can establish the *probability* of an electron landing in a narrow strip of width $\delta x$ by measuring the positions of many individual electrons.



Electrons create interference fringes.

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For light, we were able to relate the photon probability density $P(x)$ to the amplitude of an electromagnetic wave. But there is no wave for electrons like electromagnetic waves for light. So how do we find the probability density for electrons? We have reached the point where we must make an inspired leap beyond classical physics. Let us *assume* that there is some kind of continuous, wave-like function for matter that plays a role analogous to the electromagnetic amplitude function $A(x)$ for light. We will call this function the **wave function** $\psi(x)$, where $\psi$ is a lowercase Greek psi. The wave function is a function of position, which is why we write it as $\psi(x)$.

To connect the wave function to the real world of experimental measurements, we will interpret $\psi(x)$ in terms of the *probability* of detecting a particle at position $x$. If a matter particle, such as an electron,

is described by the wave function $\psi(x)$, then the probability Prob(in $\delta x$ at $x$) of finding the particle within a narrow region of width $\delta x$ at position $x$ is

**(39.14)**

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = |\psi(x)|^2 \delta x = P(x)\, \delta x$$

That is, the probability density $P(x)$ for finding the particle is

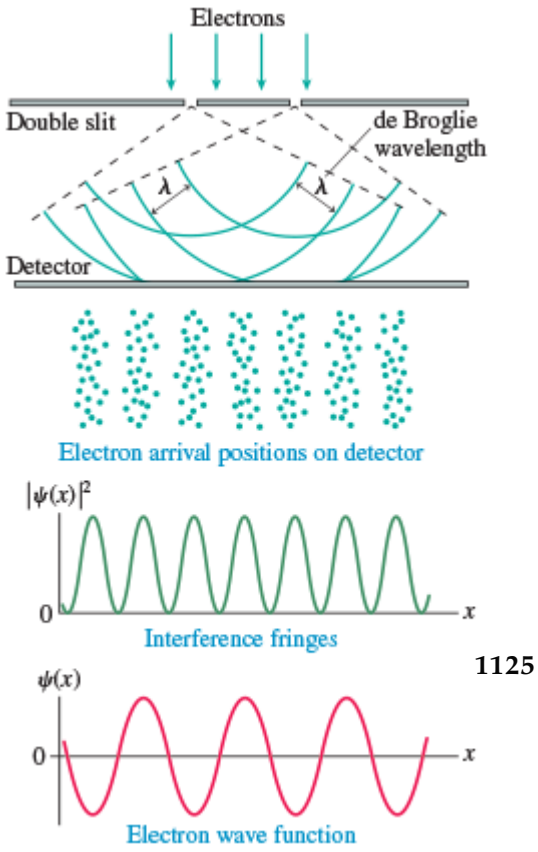
**(39.15)**

$$P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$$

With Equations 39.14 and 39.15, we are *defining* the wave function $\psi(x)$ to play the same role for material particles that the amplitude function $A(x)$ does for photons. The only difference is that $P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$ is for particles, whereas Equation 39.13 for photons is $P(x) \propto |A(x)|^2$. The difference is that the electromagnetic field amplitude $A(x)$ had previously been defined through the laws of electricity and magnetism. $|A(x)|^2$ is *proportional* to the probability density for finding a photon, but it is not directly *the* probability density. In contrast, we do not have any preexisting definition for the wave function $\psi(x)$. Thus we are free to define $\psi(x)$ so that $|\psi(x)|^2$ is *exactly* the probability density. That is why we used = rather than $\propto$ in Equation 39.15.

Figure 39.5 shows the double-slit experiment with electrons. This time we will work backward. From the observed distribution of electrons, which represents the probabilities of their landing in any particular location, we can deduce that $|\psi(x)|^2$ has alternating maxima and zeros. The oscillatory wave function $\psi(x)$ is the square root *at each point* of $|\psi(x)|^2$. Notice the very close analogy with the amplitude function $A(x)$ in Figure 39.1.

## Figure 39.5



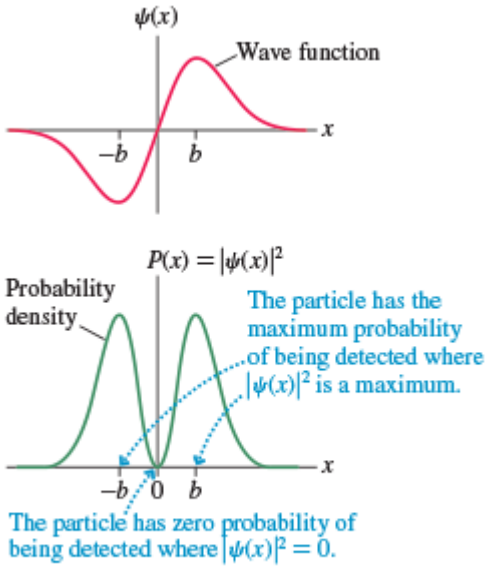

The double-slit experiment with electrons.



> **Note**
>
> $|\psi(x)|^2$ is uniquely determined by the data, but the wave function $\psi(x)$ is *not* unique. The alternative wave function $\psi'(x) = -\psi(x)$—an upside-down version of the graph in Figure 39.5—would be equally acceptable.

Figure 39.6 is a different example of a wave function. After squaring it *at each point,* as shown in the bottom half of the figure, we see that this wave function represents a particle most likely to be detected very near $x = -b$ or $x = +b$. These are the points where $|\psi(x)|^2$ is a maximum. There is zero likelihood of finding the particle right in the center. The particle is more likely to be detected at some positions than at others, but we cannot predict what its exact location will be at any given time.

Figure 39.6




The square of the wave function is the probability density for detecting the electron at position $x$.

> **Note**
>
> One of the difficulties in learning to use the concept of a wave function is coming to grips with the fact that there is no "thing" that is waving. There is no disturbance associated with a physical medium. The wave function $\psi(x)$ is simply a *wave-like function* (i.e., it oscillates between positive and negative values) that can be used to make probabilistic predictions about atomic particles.

# A Little Science Methodology

Equation 39.14 defines the wave function $\psi(x)$ for a particle in terms of the probability of finding the particle at different positions $x$. But our interests go beyond merely characterizing experimental data. We would like to develop a new *theory* of matter. But just what is a theory?

Although this is not a book on scientific methodology, we can loosely say that a physical theory needs two basic ingredients:

1. A *descriptor*, a mathematical quantity used to describe our knowledge of a physical object.
2. One or more *laws* that govern the behavior of the descriptor.

For example, Newtonian mechanics is a theory of motion. The primary descriptor in Newtonian mechanics is a particle's *position* $x(t)$ as a function of time. This describes our knowledge of the particle at all times. The position is governed by *Newton's laws*. These laws, especially the second law, are mathematical statements of how the descriptor changes in response to forces. If we predict $x(t)$ for a known set of forces, we feel confident that an experiment carried out at time $t$ will find the particle right where predicted.

Newton's theory of motion *assumes* that a particle's position is well defined at every instant of time. The difficulty facing physicists early in the 20th century was the astounding discovery that **the position of an atomic-size particle is *not* well defined.** An electron in a double-slit experiment must, in some sense, go through *both* slits to produce an electron interference pattern. It simply does not have a well-defined position as it interacts with the slits. But if the position function $x(t)$ is not a valid descriptor for matter at the atomic level, what is?

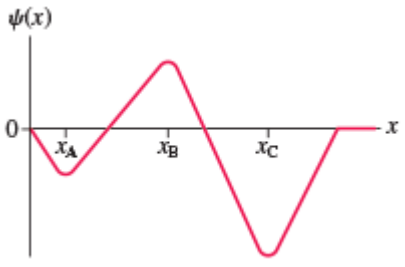
We will assert that the wave function $\psi(x)$ is the *descriptor* of a particle in quantum mechanics. In other words, the wave function tells us everything we can know about the particle. The wave function $\psi(x)$ plays the same leading role in quantum mechanics that the position function $x(t)$ plays in classical mechanics.

Whether this hypothesis has any merit will not be known until we see if it leads to predictions that can be verified. And before we can do that, we need to learn what new law of physics determines the wave function $\psi(x)$ in a given situation. We will answer this question in the next chapter.

It may seem to you, as we go along, that we are simply "making up" ideas. Indeed, that is at least partially true. The inventors of entirely new theories use their existing knowledge as a guide, but ultimately they have to make an inspired guess as to what a new theory should look like. Newton and Einstein both made such leaps, and the inventors of quantum mechanics had to make such a leap. We can attempt to make the new ideas *plausible*, but ultimately a new theory is simply a bold assertion that must be tested against reality via controlled experiments. The wave-function theory of quantum mechanics passed the only test that really matters in science—it works!

## Stop to Think 39.3

This is the wave function of a neutron. At what value of $x$ is the neutron most likely to be found?



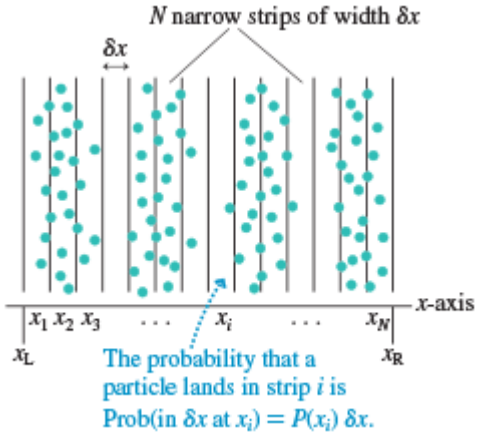
# 39.4 Normalization



In our discussion of probability we noted that the dart has to hit the wall *somewhere*. The mathematical statement of this idea is the requirement that $P_A + P_B + P_C = 1$. That is, the probabilities of all the mutually exclusive outcomes *must* add up to 1.

Similarly, a photon or electron has to land *somewhere* on the detector after passing through an experimental apparatus. Consequently, the probability that it will be detected at *some* position is 100%. To make use of this requirement, consider an experiment in which an electron is detected on the $x$-axis. As Figure 39.7 shows, we can divide the region between positions $x_L$ and $x_R$ into $N$ adjacent narrow strips of width $\delta x$.

**Figure 39.7**




Dividing the entire detector into many small strips of width $\delta x$.

The probability that any particular electron lands in the narrow strip $i$ at position $x_i$ is

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x_i) = P(x_i)\delta x$$

where $P(x_i) = |\psi(x_i)|^2$ is the probability density at $x_i$. The probability that the electron lands in the strip at $x_1$ *or* $x_2$ *or* $x_3$ *or* ... is the sum

**(39.16)**

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Prob (between } x_{\mathrm{L}} \text{and } x_{\mathrm{R}}) &= \text{Prob(in } \delta x \text{ at } x_1) \\ &+ \text{ Prob (in } \delta x \text{ at } x_2) + \ldots \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{N} P(x_i)\,\delta x = \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\psi(x_i)|^2 \delta x\end{aligned}$$

That is, **the probability that the electron lands *somewhere* between $x_{\mathrm{L}}$ and $x_{\mathrm{R}}$ is the sum of the probabilities of landing in each narrow strip.**

If we let the strips become narrower and narrower, then $\delta x \to dx$ and the sum becomes an integral. Thus the probability of finding the particles in the range $x_{\mathrm{L}} \le x \le x_{\mathrm{R}}$ is

**(39.17)**

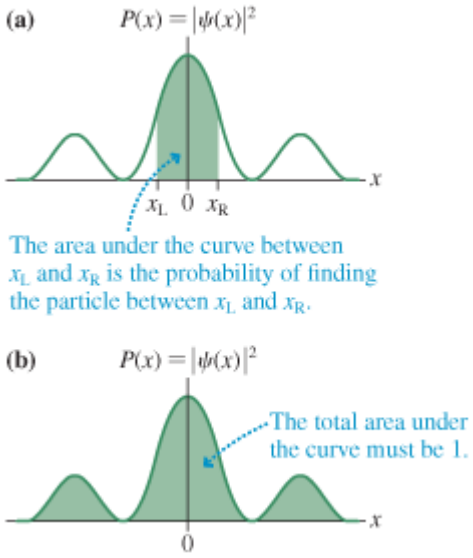
$$\text{Prob (in range } x_{\mathrm{L}} \le x \le x_{\mathrm{R}}) = \int_{x_{\mathrm{L}}}^{x_{\mathrm{R}}} P(x)dx = \int_{x_{\mathrm{L}}}^{x_{\mathrm{R}}} |\psi(x)|^2 dx$$

As Figure 39.8a shows, we can interpret $\text{Prob(in range } x_{\mathrm{L}} \le x \le x_{\mathrm{R}})$ as the area under the probability density curve between $x_{\mathrm{L}}$ and $x_{\mathrm{R}}$.

---

## Figure 39.8

---




The area under the probability density curve is a probability.

---

> **Note**
>
> The integral of Equation 39.17 is needed when the probability density changes over the range $x_L$ to $x_R$. For sufficiently narrow intervals, over which $P(x)$ remains essentially constant, the expression $\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = P(x)\delta x$ is still valid and is easier to use.

Now let the detector become infinitely wide, so that the probability that the electron will arrive *somewhere* on the detector becomes 100%. The statement that the electron has to land *somewhere* on the $x$-axis is expressed mathematically as



**(39.18)**

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(x)dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^2 dx = 1$$

Equation 39.18 is called the **normalization condition.** Any wave function $\psi(x)$ must satisfy this condition; otherwise we would not be able to interpret $|\psi(x)|^2$ as a probability density. As Figure 39.8b shows,

Equation 39.18 tells us that the total area under the probability density curve must be 1.

> **Note**
>
> The normalization condition integrates the *square* of the wave function. We don't have any information about what the integral of $\psi(x)$ might be.

### Example 39.2 Normalizing and interpreting a wave function

Figure 39.9 shows the wave function of a particle confined within the region between $x = 0$ nm and $x = L = 1.0$ nm. The wave function is zero outside this region.

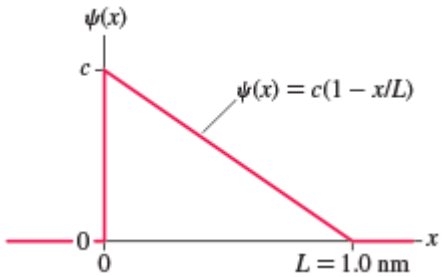
**a.** Determine the value of the constant $c$ that makes this a normalized wave function.

**b.** Draw a graph of the probability density $P(x)$.

**c.** Draw a dot picture showing where the first 40 or 50 particles might be found.

**d.** Calculate the probability of finding the particle in a region of width $\delta x = 0.01$ nm at positions $x_1 = 0.05$ nm, $x_2 = 0.50$ nm, and $x_3 = 0.95$ nm.

**Figure 39.9**




The wave function of Example 39.2.

**MODEL** The probability of finding the particle is determined by the probability density $P(x)$.

**VISUALIZE** The wave function is shown in Figure 39.9.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The wave function is $\psi(x) = c(1 - x/L)$ between 0 and $L$, 0 otherwise. This is a function that decreases linearly from $\psi = c$ at $x = 0$ to $\psi = 0$ at $x = L$. The constant $c$ is the height of this wave function. The particle *has* to be in the region $0 \le x \le L$ with probability 1, and only one value of $c$ will make it so. We can determine $c$ by using Equation 39.18, the normalization condition. The wave function is zero outside the interval from 0 to $L$, so we need to integrate the probability density only from 0 to $L$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \int_0^{\mathrm{L}} |\psi(x)|^2 dx = c^2 \int_0^{\mathrm{L}} \left(1 - \frac{x}{L}\right)^2 dx \\ &= c^2 \int_0^{\mathrm{L}} \left(1 - \frac{2x}{L} + \frac{x^2}{L^2}\right) dx \\ &= c^2 \left[x - \frac{x^2}{L} + \frac{x^3}{3L^2}\right]_0^L = \tfrac{1}{3} c^2 L \end{aligned}$$

The solution for $c$ is

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{3}{L}} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{1.0\ \mathrm{nm}}} = 1.732\ \mathrm{nm}^{-1/2}$$

Note the unusual units for $c$. Although these are not SI units, we can correctly compute probabilities as long as $\delta x$

has units of nm. A multiplicative constant such as $c$ is often called a *normalization constant*.

**b.** The wave function is

$$\psi(x) = (1.732\ \text{nm}^{-1/2})\left(1 - \frac{x}{1.0\ \text{nm}}\right)$$

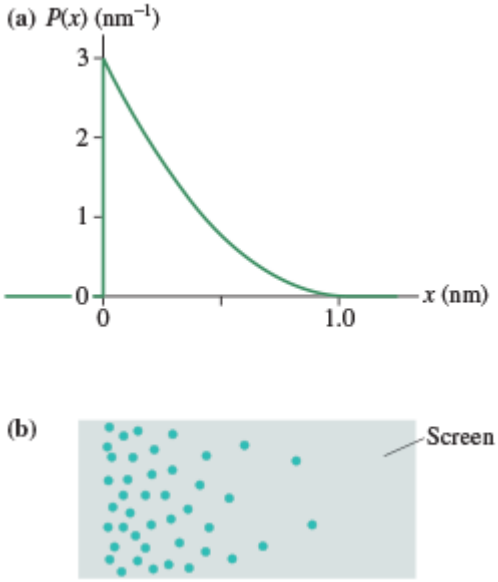
Thus the probability density is

$$P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2 = (3.0\ \text{nm}^{-1})\left(1 - \frac{x}{1.0\ \text{nm}}\right)^2$$

This probability density is graphed in Figure 39.10a.



**Figure 39.10**




The probability density $P(x)$ and the detected positions of particles.

**c.** Particles are most likely to be detected at the left edge of the interval, where the probability density $P(x)$ is maximum. The probability steadily decreases across the interval, becoming zero at $x = 1.0\,\text{nm}$. Figure 39.10b

shows how a group of particles described by this wave function might appear on a detection screen.

**d.** $P(x)$ is essentially constant over the small interval $\delta x = 0.01\,\text{nm}$, so we can use

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = P(x)\delta x = |\psi(x)|^2\,\delta x$$

for the probability of finding the particle in a region of width $\delta x$ at the position $x$. We need to evaluate $|\psi(x)|^2$ at the three positions $x_1 = 0.05\,\text{nm}$, $x_2 = 0.50\,\text{nm}$, and $x_3 = 0.95\,\text{nm}$. Doing so gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Prob}(\text{in } 0.01\text{ nm at } x_1 = 0.05\text{ nm}) &= c^2(1\ - x_1/L)^2\,\delta x \\
&= 0.0270 = 2.70\% \\
\text{Prob}(\text{in } 0.01\text{ nm at } x_2 = 0.50\text{ nm}) &= c^2(1\ - x_2/L)^2\,\delta x \\
&= 0.0075 = 0.75\% \\
\text{Prob}(\text{in } 0.01\text{ nm at } x_3 = 0.95\text{ nm}) &= c^2(1\ - x_3/L)^2\,\delta x \\
&= 0.00008 = 0.008\%
\end{aligned}$$

## Stop to Think 39.4

The value of the constant $a$ is

**a.** $a = 2.0\,\text{mm}^{-1}$

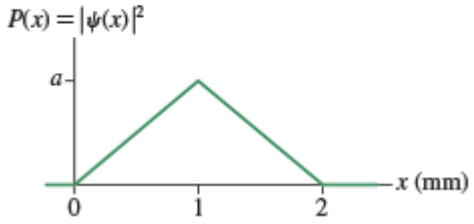
**b.** $a = 1.0\,\text{mm}^{-1}$

**c.** $a = 0.5\,\text{mm}^{-1}$

**d.** $a = 2.0\,\text{mm}^{-1/2}$

**e.** $a = 1.0\,\text{mm}^{-1/2}$

**f.** $a = 0.5\,\text{mm}^{-1/2}$


$P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$
$a$
0
1
2
$x$ (mm)

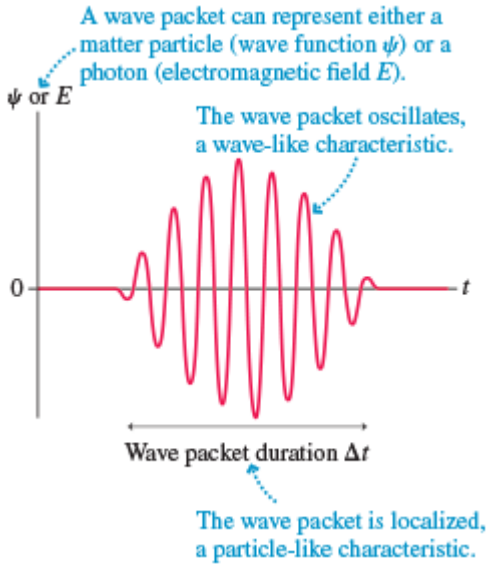
# 39.5 Wave Packets



The classical physics ideas of particles and waves are mutually exclusive. An object can be one or the other, but not both. These classical models fail to describe the wave–particle duality seen at the atomic level. An alternative model with both particle and wave characteristics is a *wave packet*.

Consider the wave shown in Figure 39.11. Unlike the sinusoidal waves we have considered previously, which stretch through time and space, this wave is bunched up, or localized. The localization is a particle-like characteristic. The oscillations are wave-like. Such a localized wave is called a **wave packet.**

**Figure 39.11**




History graph of a wave packet with duration $\Delta t$.

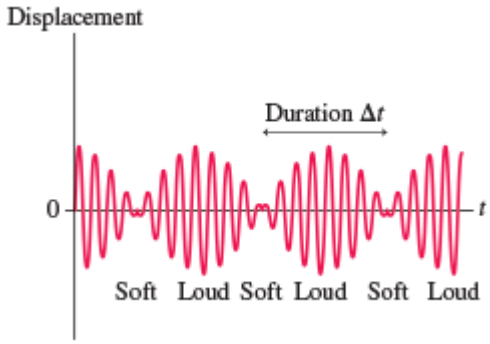
A wave packet travels through space with constant speed $v$, just like a photon in a light wave or an electron in a force-free region. A wave

packet has a wavelength, hence it will undergo interference and diffraction. But because it is also localized, a wave packet has the possibility of making a "dot" when it strikes a detector. We can visualize a light wave as consisting of a very large number of these wave packets moving along together. Similarly, we can think of a beam of electrons as a series of wave packets spread out along a line.

Wave packets are not a perfect model of photons or electrons (we need the full treatment of quantum physics to get a more accurate description), but they do provide a useful way of thinking about photons and electrons in many circumstances.

You might have noticed that the wave packet in Figure 39.11 looks very much like one cycle of a beat pattern. You will recall that beats occur if we superimpose two waves of frequencies $f_1$ and $f_2$ where the two frequencies are very similar: $f_1 \approx f_2$. Figure 39.12, which is copied from Chapter 17 where we studied beats, shows that the loud, soft, loud, soft, ... pattern of beats corresponds to a series of wave packets.

## Figure 39.12




Beats are a series of wave packets.

In Chapter 17, the beat frequency (number of pulses per second) was found to be

**(39.19)**

$$f_{\text{beat}} = |f_1 - f_2| = \Delta f$$

where $\Delta f$ is the *range* of frequencies that are superimposed to form the wave packet. Figure 39.12 defines $\Delta t$ as the duration of each beat or each wave packet. This interval of time is equivalent to the *period* $T_{\text{beat}}$ of the beat. Because period and frequency are inverses of each other, the duration $\Delta t$ is

$$\Delta t = T_{\text{beat}} = \frac{1}{f_{\text{beat}}} = \frac{1}{\Delta f}$$

We can rewrite this as

**(39.20)**

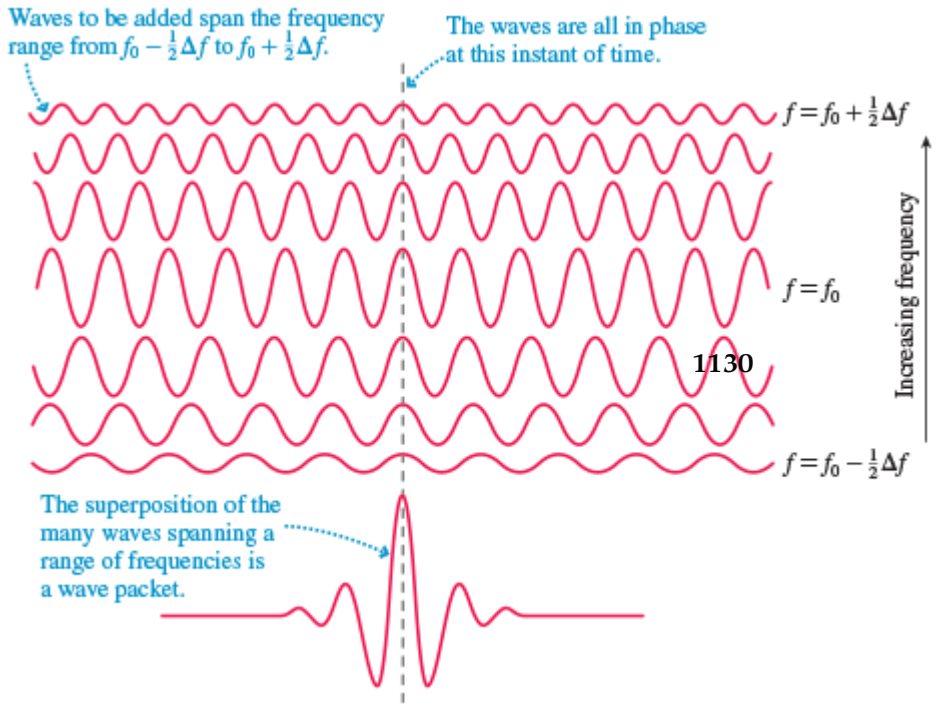
$$\Delta f \Delta t = 1$$

Equation 39.20 is nothing new; we are simply writing what we already knew in a different form. Equation 39.20 is a combination of three things: the relationship $f = 1/T$ between period and frequency, writing $T_{\text{beat}}$ as $\Delta t$, and the specific knowledge that the beat frequency $f_{\text{beat}}$ is the difference $\Delta f$ of the two frequencies contributing to the wave packet. As the frequency separation gets smaller, the duration of each beat gets longer.

When we superimpose two frequencies to create beats, the wave packet repeats over and over. A more advanced treatment of waves, called Fourier analysis, reveals that a single, *nonrepeating* wave packet can be created through the superposition of *many* waves of very similar frequency. Figure 39.13 illustrates this idea. At one instant of time, all the waves interfere constructively to produce the maximum amplitude of

the wave packet. At other times, the individual waves get out of phase and their superposition tends toward zero.

## Figure 39.13




A single wave packet is the superposition of many component waves of similar wavelength and frequency.

Suppose a single nonrepeating wave packet of duration $\Delta t$ is created by the superposition of *many* waves that span a range of frequencies $\Delta f$. We'll not prove it, but Fourier analysis shows that for *any* wave packet

**(39.21)**

$$\Delta f \, \Delta t \approx 1$$

The relationship between $\Delta f$ and $\Delta t$ for a general wave packet is not as precise as Equation 39.20 for beats. There are two reasons for this:

1. Wave packets come in a variety of shapes. The exact relationship between $\Delta f$ and $\Delta t$ depends somewhat on the shape of the wave packet.
2. We have not given a precise definition of $\Delta t$ and $\Delta f$ for a general wave packet. The quantity $\Delta t$ is "about how long the wave packet lasts," while $\Delta f$ is "about the range of frequencies needing to be superimposed to produce this wave packet." For our purposes, we will not need to be any more precise than this.

Equation 39.21 is a purely classical result that applies to waves of any kind. It tells you the range of frequencies you need to superimpose to construct a wave packet of duration $\Delta t$. Alternatively, Equation 39.21 tells you that a wave packet created as a superposition of various frequencies cannot have an arbitrarily short duration but *must* last for a time interval $\Delta t \approx 1/\Delta f$.

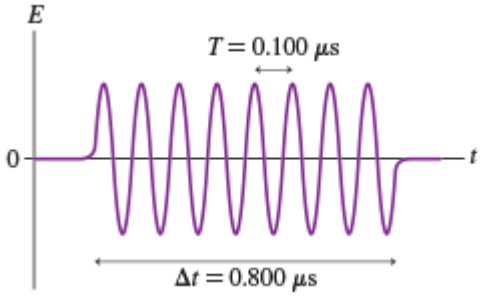
**Example 39.3 Creating radio-frequency pulses**

A short-wave radio station broadcasts at a frequency of 10.000 MHz. What is the range of frequencies of the waves that must be superimposed to broadcast a radio-wave pulse lasting 0.800 $\mu$s?

**MODEL** A pulse of radio waves is an electromagnetic wave packet, hence it must satisfy the relationship $\Delta f\, \Delta t \approx 1$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 39.14 shows the pulse.

**Figure 39.14**




A pulse of radio waves.

**SOLVE** The period of a 10.000 MHz oscillation is 0.100 $\mu$s. A pulse 0.800 $\mu$s in duration is 8 oscillations of the wave. Although the station broadcasts at a nominal frequency of 10.000 MHz, this pulse is not a pure 10.000 MHz oscillation. Instead, the pulse has been created by the superposition of many waves whose frequencies span

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{0.800 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{s}} = 1.250 \times 10^{6}\ \text{Hz} = 1.250\ \text{MHz}$$

This range of frequencies will be centered at the 10.000 MHz broadcast frequency, so the waves that must be superimposed to create this pulse span the frequency range [1131]

$$9.375\ \text{MHz} \leq f \leq 10.625\,\text{MHz}$$

# Bandwidth

Short-duration pulses, like the one in Example 39.3, are used to transmit digital information. Digital signals are sent over a phone line by brief tone pulses, over satellite links by brief radio pulses like the one in the example, and through optical fibers by brief laser-light pulses. Regardless of the type of wave and the medium through which it travels, any wave pulse must obey the fundamental relationship $\Delta f\,\Delta t \approx 1$.

Sending data at a higher rate (i.e., more pulses per second) requires that the pulse duration $\Delta t$ be shorter. But a shorter-duration pulse must be created by the superposition of a *larger* range of frequencies. Thus the medium through which a shorter-duration pulse travels must be physically able to transmit the full range of frequencies.

The range of frequencies that can be transmitted through a medium is called the **bandwidth** $\Delta f_{\text{B}}$ of the medium. The shortest possible pulse that can be transmitted through a medium is

**(39.22)**

$$\Delta t_{\text{min}} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta f_B}$$

A pulse shorter than this would require a larger range of frequencies than the medium can support.

The concept of bandwidth is extremely important in digital communications. A higher bandwidth permits the transmission of shorter pulses and allows a higher data rate. A standard telephone line does not have a very high bandwidth, and that is why a modem is limited to sending data at the rate of roughly 50,000 pulses per second. A 0.80 $\mu$s pulse can't be sent over a phone line simply because the phone line won't transmit the range of frequencies that would be needed.

An optical fiber is a high-bandwidth medium. A fiber has a bandwidth $\Delta f_{\text{B}} > 1\,\text{GHz}$ and thus can transmit laser-light pulses with duration $\Delta t < 1\,\text{ns}$. As a result, more than $10^9$ pulses per second can be sent along an optical fiber, which is why optical-fiber networks now form the backbone of the Internet.

# Uncertainty

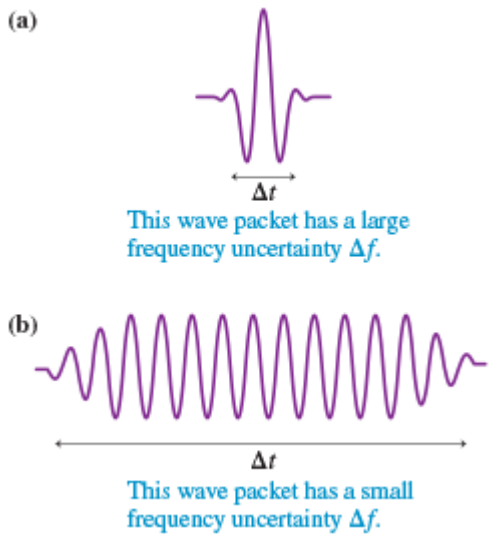
There is another way of thinking about the time-frequency relationship $\Delta f\,\Delta t \approx 1$. Suppose you want to determine *when* a wave packet arrives at a specific point in space, such as at a detector of some sort. At what instant of time can you say that the wave packet is detected? When the front edge arrives? When the maximum amplitude arrives? When the back edge arrives? Because a wave packet is spread out in time, there is not a unique and well-defined time $t$ at which the packet arrives. All we can say is that it arrives within some interval of time $\Delta t$. We are *uncertain* about the exact arrival time.

Similarly, suppose you would like to know the oscillation frequency of a wave packet. There is no precise value for $f$ because the wave packet is constructed from many waves within a range of frequencies $\Delta f$. All we can say is that the frequency is within this range. We are *uncertain* about the exact frequency.

The time-frequency relationship $\Delta f\,\Delta t \approx 1$ tells us that the uncertainty in our knowledge about the arrival time of the wave packet is related to our uncertainty about the packet's frequency. The more precisely and accurately we know one quantity, the less precisely we will be able to know the other.

Figure 39.15 shows two different wave packets. The wave packet of Figure 39.15a is very narrow and thus very localized in time. As it travels, our knowledge of when it will arrive at a specified point is fairly precise. But a very wide range of frequencies $\Delta f$ is required to create a wave packet with a very small $\Delta t$. The price we pay for being fairly certain about the time is a very large uncertainty $\Delta f$ about the frequency of this wave packet.

## Figure 39.15




Two wave packets with different $\Delta t$.

Figure 39.15b shows the opposite situation: The wave packet oscillates many times and the frequency of these oscillations is pretty clear. Our knowledge of the frequency is good, with minimal uncertainty $\Delta f$. But such a wave packet is so spread out that there is a very large uncertainty $\Delta t$ as to its time of arrival.

In practice, $\Delta f\, \Delta t \approx 1$ is really a lower limit. Technical limitations may cause the uncertainties in our knowledge of $f$ and $t$ to be even larger than this relationship implies. Consequently, a better statement about our knowledge of a wave packet is

**(39.23)**

$$\Delta f\, \Delta t \geq 1$$

The fact that waves are spread out makes it meaningless to specify an exact frequency and an exact arrival time simultaneously. This is an inherent feature of waviness that applies to all waves.

## Stop to Think 39.5

What minimum bandwidth must a medium have to transmit a 100-ns-long pulse?

**a.** 1 MHz

**b.** 10 MHz

**c.** 100 MHz

**d.** 1000 MHz

# 39.6 The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle



If matter has wave-like aspects and a de Broglie wavelength, then the expression $\Delta f\,\Delta t \geq 1$ must somehow apply to matter. How? And what are the implications?

Consider a particle with velocity $v_x$ as it travels along the $x$-axis with de Broglie wavelength $\lambda = h/p_x$. Figure 39.11 showed a *history graph* ($\psi$ versus $t$) of a wave packet that might represent the particle as it passes a point on the $x$-axis. It will be more useful to have a *snapshot graph* ($\psi$ versus $x$) of the wave packet traveling along the $x$-axis.

The time interval $\Delta t$ is the duration of the wave packet as the particle passes a point in space. During this interval, the packet moves forward

**(39.24)**

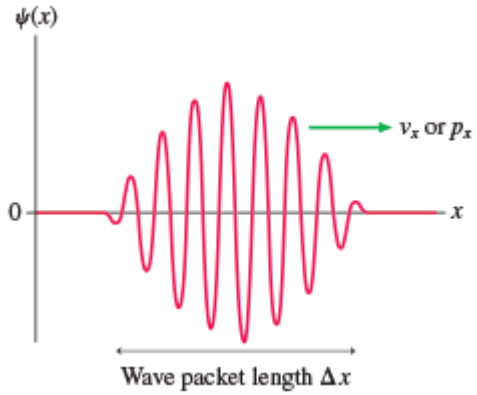
$$\Delta x = v_x\,\Delta t = \frac{p_x}{m}\Delta t$$

where $p_x = mv_x$ is the $x$-component of the particle's momentum. The quantity $\Delta x$, shown in Figure 39.16, is the length or spatial extent of the wave packet. Conversely, we can write the wave packet's duration in terms of its length as

**(39.25)**

$$\Delta t = \frac{m}{p_x}\Delta x$$

## Figure 39.16




A snapshot graph of a wave packet.

You will recall that any wave with sinusoidal oscillations must satisfy the wave condition $\lambda f = v$. For a material particle, where $\lambda$ is the de Broglie wavelength, the frequency $f$ is

$$f = \frac{v}{\lambda} = \frac{p_x/m}{h/p_x} = \frac{p_x^2}{hm}$$

If the momentum $p_x$ should vary by the small amount $\Delta p_x$, the frequency will vary by the small amount $\Delta f$. Assuming that $\Delta f \ll f$ and $\Delta p_x \ll p_x$ (reasonable assumptions), we can treat $\Delta f$ and $\Delta p_x$ as if they were differentials $df$ and $dp_x$. Taking the derivative, we find

**(39.26)**

$$\Delta f = \frac{2p_x\,\Delta p_x}{hm}$$

Multiplying together these expressions for $\Delta t$ and $\Delta f$, we find that

**(39.27)**

$$\Delta f\,\Delta t = \frac{2p_x\,\Delta p_x}{hm}\frac{m\,\Delta x}{p_x} = \frac{2}{h}\Delta x\,\Delta p_x$$

Because $\Delta f \, \Delta t \geq 1$ for any wave, one last rearrangement of Equation 39.27 shows that a matter wave must obey the condition

(39.28)

$$\Delta x \, \Delta p_x \geq \frac{h}{2} \qquad \text{(Heisenberg uncertainty principle)}$$

This statement about the relationship between the position and momentum of a particle was proposed by Werner Heisenberg, creator of one of the first successful quantum theories. Physicists often just call it the **uncertainty principle.**

> **Note**
>
> In statements of the uncertainty principle, the right side is sometimes $h/2$, as we have it, but other times it is just $h$ or contains various factors of $\pi$. The specific number is not especially important because it depends on exactly how $\Delta x$ and $\Delta p$ are defined. The important idea is that the product of $\Delta x$ and $\Delta p_x$ for a particle cannot be significantly less than Planck's constant $h$. A similar relationship for $\Delta_y \, \Delta p_y$ applies along the $y$-axis.

## What Does It Mean?

Heisenberg's uncertainty principle is a statement about our *knowledge* of the properties of a particle. If we want to know *where* a particle is located, we measure its position $x$. That measurement is not absolutely perfect but has some uncertainty $\Delta x$. Likewise, if we want to know *how fast* the

particle is going, we need to measure its velocity $v_x$ or, equivalently, its momentum $p_x$. This measurement also has some uncertainty $\Delta p_x$.



Uncertainties are associated with all experimental measurements, but better procedures and techniques can reduce those uncertainties. Newtonian physics places no limits on how small the uncertainties can be. A Newtonian particle at any instant of time has an exact position $x$ and an exact momentum $p_x$, and with sufficient care we can measure both $x$ and $p_x$ with such precision that the product $\Delta x\,\Delta p_x \rightarrow 0$. There are no inherent limits to our knowledge about a classical, or Newtonian, particle.

Heisenberg, however, made the bold and original statement that our knowledge has real limitations. No matter how clever you are, and no matter how good your experiment, you *cannot* measure both $x$ and $p_x$ simultaneously with arbitrarily good precision. Any measurements you make are limited by the condition that $\Delta x\,\Delta p_x \geq h/2$. **Our knowledge about a particle is *inherently* uncertain.**

Why? Because of the wave-like nature of matter. The "particle" is spread out in space, so there simply is not a precise value of its position $x$. Similarly, the de Broglie relationship between momentum and wavelength implies that we cannot know the momentum of a wave packet any more exactly than we can know its wavelength or frequency. Our belief that position and momentum have precise values is tied to our classical concept of a particle. As we revise our ideas of what atomic particles are like, we will also have to revise our old ideas about position and momentum.

**Example 39.4 The uncertainty of a dust particle**

A 1.0-$\mu$m-diameter dust particle ($m \approx 10^{-15}\,\text{kg}$) is confined within a 10-$\mu$m-long box. Can we know with certainty if the particle is at rest? If not, within what range is its velocity likely to be found?

---

**MODEL** All matter is subject to the Heisenberg uncertainty principle.

**SOLVE** If we know *for sure* that the particle is at rest, then $p_x = 0$ with no uncertainty. That is, $\Delta p_x = 0$. But then, according to the uncertainty principle, the uncertainty in our knowledge of the particle's position would have to be $\Delta x \to \infty$. In other words, we would have no knowledge at all about the particle's position—it could be anywhere! But that is not the case. We know the particle is *somewhere* in the box, so the uncertainty in our knowledge of its position is at most $\Delta x = L = 10\,\mu\text{m}$. With a finite $\Delta f$, the uncertainty $\Delta p_x$ *cannot* be zero. We cannot know with certainty if the particle is at rest inside the box. No matter how hard we try to bring the particle to rest, the uncertainty in our knowledge of the particle's momentum will be $\Delta p_x \approx h/(2\Delta x) = h/2L$. We've assumed the most accurate measurements possible so that the $\geq$ in Heisenberg's uncertainty principle becomes $\approx$. Consequently, the range of possible velocities is

$$\Delta v_x = \frac{\Delta p_x}{m} \approx \frac{h}{2mL} \approx 3.0 \times 10^{-14}\,\text{m/s}$$

This range of possible velocities will be centered on $v_x = 0\,\text{m/s}$ if we have done our best to have the particle be at rest. Thus all we can know with certainty is that the particle's velocity is somewhere within the interval $-1.5 \times 10^{-14}\,\text{m/s} \leq v_x \leq 1.5 \times 10^{-14}\,\text{m/s}$.

**ASSESS** For practical purposes you might consider this to be a satisfactory definition of "at rest." After all, a particle moving with a speed of $1.5 \times 10^{-14}\,\text{m/s}$ would need $6 \times 10^{10}\,\text{s}$ to move a mere 1 mm. That is about 2000 years! Nonetheless, we can't know if the particle is "really" at rest.

### Example 39.5 The uncertainty of an electron

What range of velocities might an electron have if confined to a 0.1-nm-wide region, about the size of an atom?

**MODEL** Electrons are subject to the Heisenberg uncertainty principle.

**SOLVE** The analysis is the same as in Example 39.4. If we know that the electron's position is located within an interval $\Delta x \approx 0.1\,\text{nm}$, then the best we can know is that its velocity is within the range

$$\Delta v_x = \frac{\Delta p_x}{m} \approx \frac{h}{2mL} \approx 4 \times 10^6 \text{m/s}$$



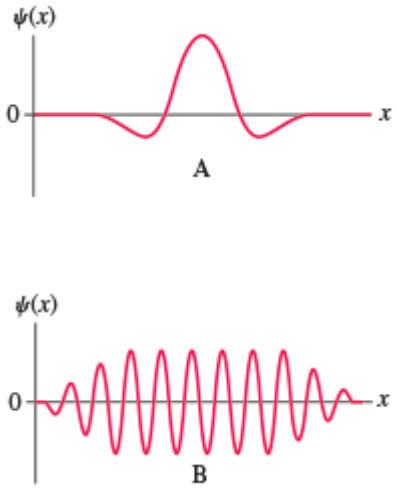
Because the *average* velocity is zero, the best we can say is that the electron's velocity is somewhere in the interval $-2 \times 10^6\,\text{m/s} \le v_x \le 2 \times 10^6\,\text{m/s}$. It is simply not possible to know the electron's velocity any more precisely than this.

**ASSESS** Unlike the situation in Example 39.4, where $\Delta v_x$ was so small as to be of no practical consequence, our uncertainty about the electron's velocity is enormous—about 1% of the speed of light!

Once again, we see that even the smallest of macroscopic objects behaves very much like a classical Newtonian particle. Perhaps a 1-$\mu$m-diameter particle is slightly fuzzy and has a slightly uncertain velocity, but it is far beyond the measuring capabilities of even the very best instruments to detect this wave-like behavior. In contrast, the effects of the uncertainty principle at the atomic scale are stupendous. We are unable to determine the velocity of an electron in an atom-size container to any better accuracy than about 1% of the speed of light.

## Stop to Think 39.6

Which of these particles, A or B, can you locate more precisely?




### Challenge Example 39.6 The probability of finding a particle

A particle is described by the wave function

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ ce^{-x/L} & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

where $L = 1\,\text{nm}$.

**a.** Determine the value of the constant $c$.

**b.** Draw graphs of $\psi(x)$ and the probability density $P(x)$.

**c.** If $10^6$ particles are detected, how many are expected to be found in the region $x \geq 1\,\text{nm}$?

---

**MODEL** The probability of finding a particle is determined by the probability density $P(x)$.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The wave function is an exponential $\psi(x) = ce^{-x/L}$ that extends from $x = 0$ to $x = +\infty$. Equation 39.18, the normalization condition, is

$$1 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^2 dx = c^2 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-2x/L} dx = -\frac{c^2 L}{2} e^{-2x/L}\Big|_0^{\infty} = \frac{c^2 L}{2}$$

We can solve this for the normalization constant $c$:

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{1\,\text{nm}}} = 1.414\,\text{nm}^{-1/2}$$

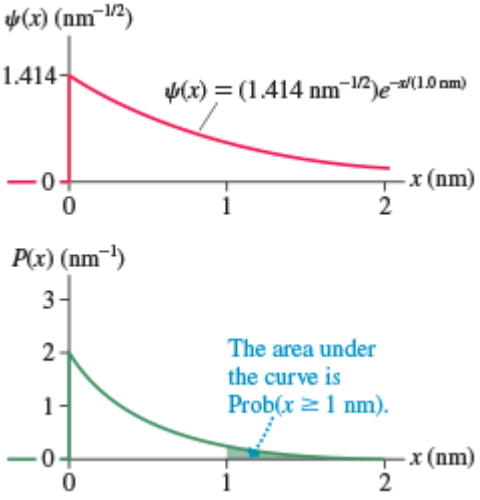
**b.** The probability density is

$$P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2 = (2.0\,\text{nm}^{-1})e^{-2x/(1.0\,\text{nm})}$$

The wave function and the probability density are graphed in Figure 39.17.

---

**Figure 39.17**




The wave function and probability density of Example 39.6.

**c.** The probability of finding a particle in the region $x \geq 1$ nm is the shaded area under the probability density curve in Figure 39.17. We must use Equation 39.17 and integrate to find a numerical value. The probability is

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Prob}(x \geq 1\,\text{nm}) &= \int_{1\,\text{nm}}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^2 dx \\
&= (2.0\,\text{nm}^{-1}) \int_{1\,\text{nm}}^{\infty} e^{-2x/(1.0\,\text{nm})} dx \\
&= (2.0\ \text{nm}^{-1}) \left(-\frac{1.0\ \text{nm}}{2}\right) e^{-2x/(1.0\ \text{nm})} \Big|_{1\ \text{nm}}^{\infty} \\
&= e^{-2} = 0.135 = 13.5\,\%
\end{aligned}$$

The number of particles expected to be found at $x \geq 1$ nm is

$$N_{\text{detected}} = N \times \text{Prob}(x \geq 1\,\text{nm}) = (10^6)(0.135) = 135{,}000$$

**ASSESS** There is a 13.5% chance of detecting a particle beyond 1 nm and thus an 86.5% chance of finding it within the interval $0 \leq x \leq 1$ nm. Unlike classical physics, we cannot make an exact prediction of a particle's position.

# Summary

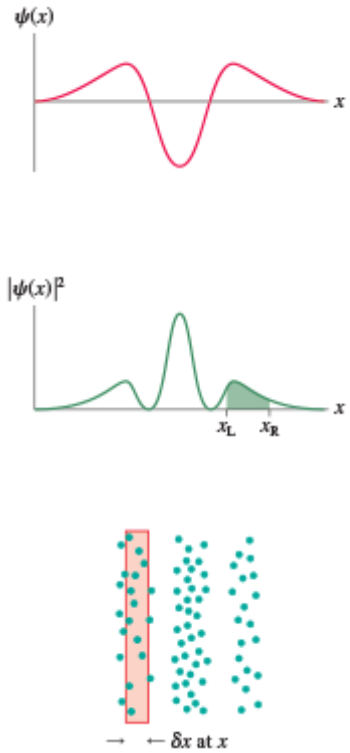


> The goal of Chapter 39 has been to learn to use the wave-function description of matter.

## General Principles

### Wave Functions and the Probability Density

We cannot predict the exact trajectory of an atomic particle such as an electron. The best we can do is to predict the **probability** that a particle will be found in some region of space. The probability is determined by the particle's **wave function** $\psi(x)$.




- $\psi(x)$ is a continuous, wave-like (i.e., oscillatory) function.

- The probability that a particle will be found in the narrow interval $\delta x$ at position $x$ is

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = |\psi(x)|^2 \delta x$$

- $|\psi(x)|^2$ is the **probability density** $P(x)$.
- For the probability interpretation of $\psi(x)$ to make sense, the wave function must satisfy the **normalization condition:**

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(x)\, dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^2 dx = 1$$

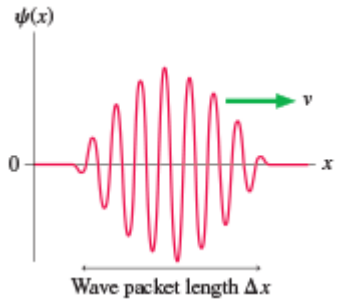
That is, it is certain that the particle is *somewhere* on the $x$-axis.

- For an extended interval

$$\text{Prob}(x_\text{L} \le x \le x_\text{R}) = \int_{x_\text{L}}^{x_\text{R}} |\psi(x)|^2 dx = \text{area under the curve}$$

## Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle

A particle with wave-like characteristics does not have a precise value of position $x$ or a precise value of momentum $p_x$. Both are uncertain. The position uncertainty $\Delta x$ and momentum uncertainty $\Delta p_x$ are related by $\Delta x\, \Delta p_x \ge h/2$. The more you try to pin down the value of one, the less precisely the other can be known.

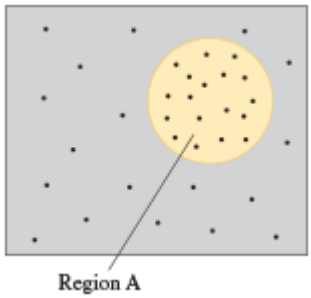


# Important Concepts

The **probability** that a particle is found in region A is

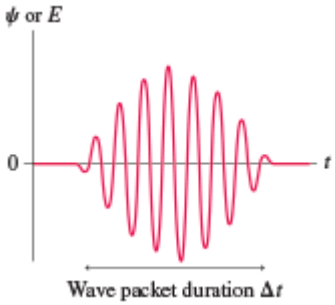
$$P_{\mathrm{A}} = \lim_{N_{\mathrm{tot}} \to \infty} \frac{N_{\mathrm{A}}}{N_{\mathrm{tot}}}$$

If the probability is known, the expected number of A outcomes in $N$ trials is $N_{\mathrm{A}} = NP_{\mathrm{A}}$.




A **wave packet** of duration $\Delta t$ can be created by the superposition of many waves spanning the frequency range $\Delta f$. These are related by

$$\Delta f \, \Delta t \approx 1$$




# Terms and Notation

probability

expected value

probability density, *P(x)*

wave function, $\psi(x)$

normalization condition

wave packet

bandwidth, $\Delta f_B$

uncertainty principle

# Conceptual Questions

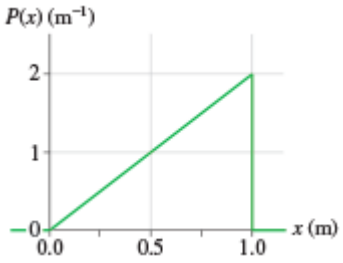


**1.** Figure Q39.1 shows the probability density for photons to be detected on the $x$-axis.

**a.** Is a photon more likely to be detected at $x = 0$ m or at $x = 1$ m? Explain.

**b.** One million photons are detected. What is the expected number of photons in a 1-mm-wide interval at $x = 0.50$ m?

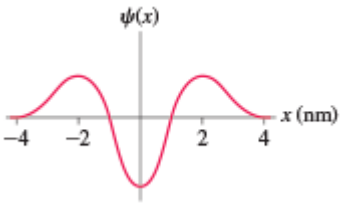
**Figure Q39.1**




**2.** What is the difference between the probability and the probability density?

**3.** For the electron wave function shown in Figure Q39.3, at what position or positions is the electron most likely to be found? Least likely to be found? Explain.

**Figure Q39.3**

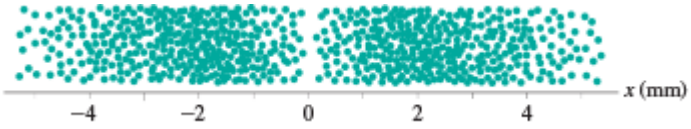


**4.** Figure Q39.4 shows the dot pattern of electrons landing on a screen.

**a.** At what value or values of $x$ is the electron probability density at maximum? Explain.

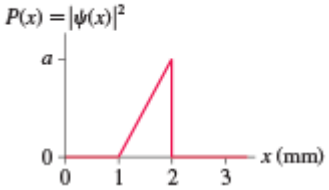
**b.** Can you tell at what value or values of $x$ the electron wave function $\psi(x)$ is most positive? If so, where? If not, why not?

**Figure Q39.4**



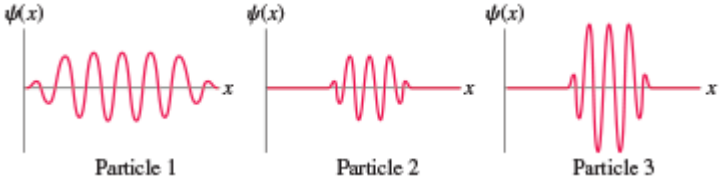

**5.** What is the value of the constant $a$ in Figure Q39.5?

**Figure Q39.5**




**6.** Figure Q39.6 shows wave packets for particles 1, 2, and 3. Which particle can have its velocity known most precisely? Explain.

**Figure Q39.6**



# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 39.1 Waves, Particles, and the Double-Slit Experiment

**1.** • An experiment has four possible outcomes, labeled A to D. The probability of A is $P_A = 40\%$ and of B is $P_B = 30\%$. Outcome C is twice as probable as outcome D. What are the probabilities $P_C$ and $P_D$?

**2.** • Suppose you toss three coins into the air and let them fall on the floor. Each coin shows either a head or a tail.

**a.** Make a table in which you list all the possible outcomes of this experiment. Call the coins A, B, and C.

**b.** What is the probability of getting two heads and one tail?

**c.** What is the probability of getting *at least* two heads?

**3.** • You are dealt 1 card each from 1000 decks of cards. What is the expected number of picture cards (jacks, queens, and kings)?



**4.** • Suppose you draw a card from a regular deck of 52 cards.

**a.** What is the probability that you draw an ace?

**b.** What is the probability that you draw a spade?

**5.** • Make a table in which you list all possible outcomes of rolling two dice. Call the dice A and B. What is the probability of rolling (a) a 7, (b) any double, and (c) a 6 or an 8? You can give the probabilities as fractions, such as 3/36.

## Section 39.2 Connecting the Wave and Photon Views

**6.** •• In one experiment, 6000 photons are detected in a 0.10-mm-wide strip where the amplitude of the electromagnetic wave is 200 V/m. What is the wave amplitude at a nearby 0.20-mm-wide strip where 3000 photons are detected?

**7.** •• In one experiment, 2000 photons are detected in a 0.10-mm-wide strip where the amplitude of the electromagnetic wave is 10 V/m. How many photons are detected in a nearby 0.10-mm-wide strip where the amplitude is 30 V/m?

**8.** •• $1.0 \times 10^{10}$ photons pass through an experimental apparatus. How many of them land in a 0.10-mm-wide strip where the probability density is 20 $m^{-1}$?

**9.** •• When $5 \times 10^{12}$ photons pass through an experimental apparatus, $2.0 \times 10^{9}$ land in a 0.10-mm-wide strip. What is the probability density at this point?

## Section 39.3 The Wave Function

**10.** • What are the units of $\psi$? Explain.

**11.** •• In an interference experiment with electrons, you find the most intense fringe is at $x = 7.0$ cm. There are slightly weaker fringes at $x = 6.0$ and 8.0 cm, still weaker fringes at $x = 4.0$ and 10.0 cm, and two very weak fringes at $x = 1.0$ and 13.0 cm. No electrons are detected at $x < 0$ cm or $x > 14$ cm.

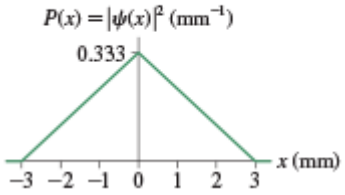
**a.** Sketch a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ for these electrons.

**b.** Sketch a possible graph of $\psi(x)$.

**c.** Are there other possible graphs for $\psi(x)$? If so, draw one.

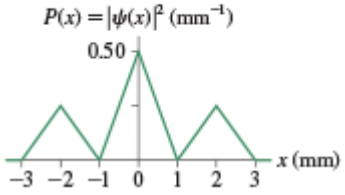
**12.** • Figure EX39.12 shows the probability density for an electron that has passed through an experimental apparatus. If $1.0 \times 10^6$ electrons are used, what is the expected number that will land in a 0.010-mm-wide strip at (a) $x = 0.000$ mm and (b) 2.000 mm?

**Figure EX39.12**




**13.** • Figure EX39.13 shows the probability density for an electron that has passed through an experimental apparatus. What is the probability that the electron will land in a 0.010-mm-wide strip at (a) $x = 0.000$ mm, (b) $x = 0.500$ mm, (c) $x = 1.000$ mm, and (d) $x = 2.000$ mm?

**Figure EX39.13**




## Section 39.4 Normalization

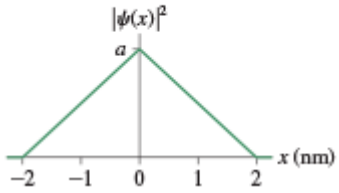
**14.** •• Figure EX39.14 is a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ for an electron.

**a.** What is the value of $a$?

**b.** Draw a graph of the wave function $\psi(x)$. (There is more than one acceptable answer.)

**c.** What is the probability that the electron is located between $x = 1.0$ nm and $x = 2.0$ nm?

**Figure EX39.14**



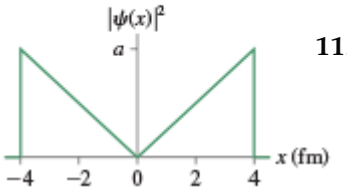

**15.** •• Figure EX39.15 is a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ for a neutron.

**a.** What is the value of $a$?

**b.** Draw a graph of the wave function $\psi(x)$. (There is more than one acceptable answer.)

**c.** What is the probability that the neutron is located at a position with $|x| \geq 2$ fm?

**Figure EX39.15**





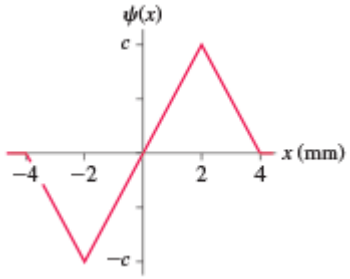

**16.** •• Figure EX39.16 shows the wave function of a neutron.

**a.** What is the value of $c$?

**b.** Draw a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$.

**c.** What is the probability that the neutron is located between $x = -1.0$ nm and $x = 1.0$ nm?

**Figure EX39.16**



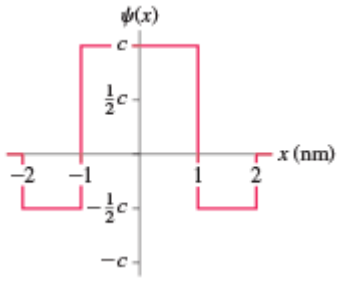

**17.** •• Figure EX39.17 shows the wave function of an electron.

**a.** What is the value of $c$?

**b.** Draw a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$.

**c.** What is the probability that the electron is located between $x = -1.0$ nm and $x = 1.0$ nm?

**Figure EX39.17**




## Section 39.5 Wave Packets

**18.** • Sound waves of 498 Hz and 502 Hz are superimposed at a temperature where the speed of sound in air is 340 m/s. What is the length $\Delta x$ of one wave packet?

**19.** • A 1.5-$\mu$m-wavelength laser pulse is transmitted through a 2.0-GHz-bandwidth optical fiber. How many oscillations are in

the shortest-duration laser pulse that can travel through the fiber?

**20.** •• A radio-frequency amplifier is designed to amplify signals in the frequency range 80 MHz to 120 MHz. What is the shortest-duration radio-frequency pulse that can be amplified without distortion?

**21.** •• What minimum bandwidth is needed to transmit a pulse that consists of 100 cycles of a 1.00 MHz oscillation?

## Section 39.6 The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle

**22.** •• A thin solid barrier in the *xy*-plane has a 10-$\mu$m-diameter circular hole. An electron traveling in the *z*-direction with $v_x = 0$ m/s passes through the hole. Afterward, is it certain that $v_x$ is still zero? If not, within what range is $v_x$ likely to be?

**23.** •• Andrea, whose mass is 50 kg, thinks she's sitting at rest in her 5.0-m-long dorm room as she does her physics homework. Can Andrea be sure she's at rest? If not, within what range is her velocity likely to be?

**24.** •• A proton is confined within an atomic nucleus of diameter 4.0 m. Use a one-dimensional model to estimate the smallest range of speeds you might find for a proton in the nucleus.

**25.** •• What is the minimum uncertainty in position, in nm, of an electron whose velocity is known to be between $3.48 \times 10^5$ m/s and $3.58 \times 10^5$ m/s?

# Problems

**26.** • A 1.0-mm-diameter sphere bounces back and forth between two walls at $x = 0$ mm and $x = 100$ mm. The collisions are perfectly elastic, and the sphere repeats this motion over and

over with no loss of speed. At a random instant of time, what is the probability that the center of the sphere is

**a.** At exactly $x = 50.0$ mm?

**b.** Between $x = 49.0$ mm and $x = 51.0$ mm?

**c.** At $x \geq 75$ mm?

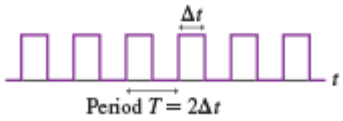
**27.** •• **INT** Ultrasound pulses with a frequency of 1.000 MHz are transmitted into water, where the speed of sound is 1500 m/s. The spatial length of each pulse is 12 mm.

**a.** How many complete cycles are contained in one pulse?

**b.** What range of frequencies must be superimposed to create each pulse?

**28.** •• Figure P39.28 shows a *pulse train*. The period of the pulse train is $T = 2\,\Delta t$, where $\Delta t$ is the duration of each pulse. What is the maximum pulse-transmission rate (pulses per second) through an electronics system with a 200 kHz bandwidth? (This is the bandwidth allotted to each FM radio station.)

**Figure P39.28**




**29.** •• **INT** Consider a single-slit diffraction experiment using electrons. (Single-slit diffraction was described in Section 33.4.) Using Figure 39.5 as a model, draw

**a.** A dot picture showing the arrival positions of the first 40 or 50 electrons.

**b.** A graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ for the electrons on the detection screen.

**c.** A graph of $\psi(x)$ for the electrons. Keep in mind that $\psi$, as a wave-like function, oscillates between positive and

negative.

**30.** • An experiment finds electrons to be uniformly distributed over the interval $0\text{ cm} \le x \le 2\text{ cm}$, with no electrons falling outside this interval.



**a.** Draw a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ for these electrons.

**b.** What is the probability that an electron will land within the interval 0.79 to 0.81 cm?

**c.** If $10^6$ electrons are detected, how many will be detected in the interval 0.79 to 0.81 cm?

**d.** What is the probability density at $x = 0.80$ cm?

**31.** ••• Figure P39.31 shows the wave function of a particle confined between $x = 0$ nm and $x = 1.0$ nm? The wave function is zero outside this region.

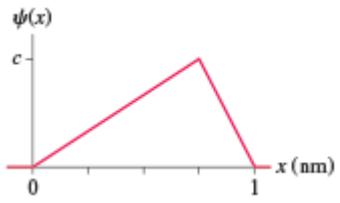
**a.** Determine the value of the constant *c*, as defined in the figure.

**b.** Draw a graph of the probability density $P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$.

**c.** Draw a dot picture showing where the first 40 or 50 particles might be found.

**d.** Calculate the probability of finding the particle in the interval $0\text{ nm} \le x \le 0.25\text{ nm}$.

**Figure P39.31**




**32.** •• Figure P39.32 shows $|\psi(x)|^2$ for the electrons in an experiment.

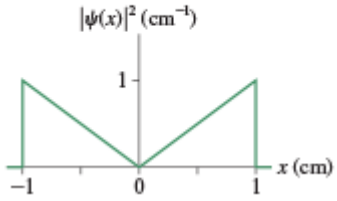
**a.** Is the electron wave function normalized? Explain.

**b.** Draw a graph of $\psi(x)$ over this same interval. Provide a numerical scale on both axes. (There may be more than one acceptable answer.)

**c.** What is the probability that an electron will be detected in a 0.0010-cm-wide region at $x = 0.00$ cm? At $x = 0.50$ cm? At $x = 0.999$ cm?

**d.** If $10^4$ electrons are detected, how many are expected to land in the interval $-0.30 \text{ cm} \le x \le 0.30$ cm?

**Figure P39.32**




**33.** •• Figure P39.33 shows the probability density for finding a particle at position $x$.

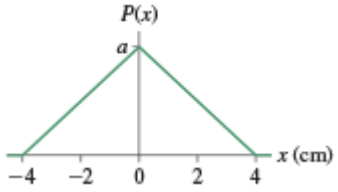
**a.** Determine the value of the constant $a$, as defined in the figure.

**b.** At what value of $x$ are you most likely to find the particle? Explain.

**c.** Within what range of positions centered on your answer to part b are you 75% certain of finding the particle?

**d.** Interpret your answer to part c by drawing the probability density graph and shading the appropriate region.

**Figure P39.33**




**34.** ••• Figure P39.34 shows the wave function of a particle confined between $x = -4.0$ mm and $x = 4.0$ mm. The wave function is zero outside this region.

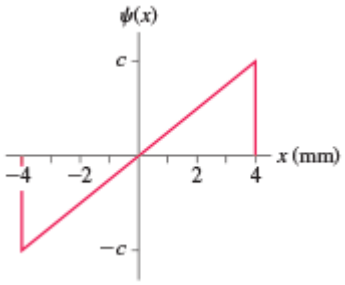
**a.** Determine the value of the constant $c$, as defined in the figure.

**b.** Draw a graph of the probability density $P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$.

**c.** Draw a dot picture showing where the first 40 or 50 particles might be found.

**d.** Calculate the probability of finding the particle in the interval $-2.0 \text{ mm} \le x \le 2.0$ mm.

**Figure P39.34**




**35.** •• **CALC** An electron that is confined to $x \ge 0$ nm has the normalized wave function

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \text{ nm} \\ (1.414 \text{ nm}^{-1/2}) e^{-x/(1.0 \text{ nm})} & x \ge 0 \text{ nm} \end{cases}$$

where $x$ is in nm.

**a.** What is the probability of finding the electron in a 0.010-nm-wide region at $x = 1.0$ nm?

**b.** What is the probability of finding the electron in the interval $0.50 \text{ nm} \le x \le 1.50$ nm?

**36.** •• **CALC** Consider the electron wave function

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} c\sqrt{1 - x^2} & |x| \le 1 \text{ cm} \\ 0 & |x| \ge 1 \text{ cm} \end{cases}$$

where $x$ is in cm.

**a.** Determine the normalization constant $c$.

**b.** Draw a graph of $\psi(x)$ over the interval $-2 \text{ cm} \le x \le 2$ cm. Provide numerical scales on both axes.

**c.** Draw a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ over the interval $-2 \text{ cm} \le x \le 2$ cm. Provide numerical scales. **1140**

**d.** If $10^4$ electrons are detected, how many will be in the interval $0.00 \text{ cm} \le x \le 0.50$ cm?

**37.** •• **CALC** Consider the electron wave function

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} c\sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right) & 0 \le x \le L \\ 0 & x < 0 \text{ or } x > L \end{cases}$$

**a.** Determine the normalization constant $c$. Your answer will be in terms of $L$.

**b.** Draw a graph of $\psi(x)$ over the interval $-L \le x \le 2L$.

**c.** Draw a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ over the interval $-L \le x \le 2L$.

**d.** What is the probability that an electron is in the interval $0 \le x \le L/3$?

**38.** ••• **CALC** A particle is described by the wave function

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} ce^{x/L} & x \leq 0 \text{ mm} \\ ce^{-x/L} & x \geq 0 \text{ mm} \end{cases}$$

where $L = 2.0$ mm.

**a.** Sketch graphs of both the wave function and the probability density as functions of $x$.

**b.** Determine the normalization constant $c$.

**c.** Calculate the probability of finding the particle within 1.0 mm of the origin.

**d.** Interpret your answer to part b by shading the region representing this probability on the appropriate graph in part a.

**39.** •• **CALC** The probability density for finding a particle at position $x$ is

$$P(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{a}{(1-x)} & -1 \text{ mm} \leq x < 0 \text{ mm} \\ b(1-x) & 0 \text{ mm} \leq x \leq 1 \text{ mm} \end{cases}$$

and zero elsewhere.

**a.** You will learn in Chapter 40 that the wave function must be a *continuous* function. Assuming that to be the case, what can you conclude about the relationship between $a$ and $b$?

**b.** Determine values for $a$ and $b$.

**c.** Draw a graph of the probability density over the interval $-2 \text{ mm} \leq x \leq 2 \text{ mm}$.

**d.** What is the probability that the particle will be found to the left of the origin?

**40.** •• A pulse of light is created by the superposition of many waves that span the frequency range $f_0 - \frac{1}{2}\Delta f \le f \le f_0 + \frac{1}{2}\Delta f$, where $f_0 = c/\lambda$ is called the *center frequency* of the pulse. Laser technology can generate a pulse of light that has a wavelength of 600 nm and lasts a mere 6.0 fs ($1\text{ fs} = 1\text{ femtosecond} = 10^{-15}\text{ s}$).

**a.** What is the center frequency of this pulse of light?

**b.** How many cycles, or oscillations, of the light wave are completed during the 6.0 fs pulse?

**c.** What range of frequencies must be superimposed to create this pulse?

**d.** What is the spatial length of the laser pulse as it travels through space?

**e.** Draw a snapshot graph of this wave packet.

**41.** ••• What is the smallest one-dimensional box in which you can confine an electron if you want to know for certain that the electron's speed is no more than 10 m/s?

**42.** •• **INT** You learned in Chapter 37 that, except for hydrogen, the mass of a nucleus with atomic number $Z$ is larger than the mass of the $Z$ protons. The additional mass was ultimately discovered to be due to neutrons, but prior to the discovery of the neutron it was suggested that a nucleus with mass number $A$ might contain $A$ protons and $(A - Z)$ electrons. Such a nucleus would have the mass of $A$ protons, but its net charge would be only $Ze$.

**a.** We know that the diameter of a nucleus is approximately 10 fm. Model the nucleus as a one-dimensional box and find the minimum range of speeds that an electron would have in such a box.

**b.** What does your answer imply about the possibility that the nucleus contains electrons? Explain.

**43.** •• Heavy nuclei often undergo alpha decay in which they emit an alpha particle (i.e., a helium nucleus). Alpha particles are so tightly bound together that it's reasonable to think of an alpha particle as a single unit within the nucleus from which it is emitted.

**a.** A $^{238}$U nucleus, which decays by alpha emission, is 15 fm in diameter. Model an alpha particle within a $^{238}$U nucleus as being in a one-dimensional box. What is the maximum speed an alpha particle is likely to have?

**b.** The probability that a nucleus will undergo alpha decay is proportional to the frequency with which the alpha particle reflects from the walls of the nucleus. What is that frequency (reflections/s) for a maximum-speed alpha particle within a $^{238}$U nucleus?

**44.** ••• **INT** Physicists use laser beams to create an *atom trap* in which atoms are confined within a spherical region of space with a diameter of about 1 mm. The scientists have been able to cool the atoms in an atom trap to a temperature of approximately 1 nK, which is extremely close to absolute zero, but it would be interesting to know if this temperature is close to any limit set by quantum physics. We can explore this issue with a one-dimensional model of a sodium atom in a 1.0-mm-long box.

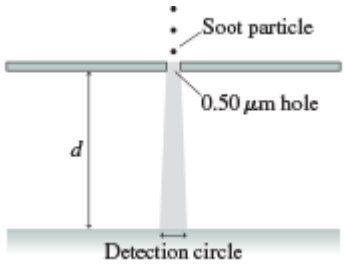
**a.** Estimate the *smallest* range of speeds you might find for a sodium atom in this box.

**b.** Even if we do our best to bring a group of sodium atoms to rest, individual atoms will have speeds within the range you found in part a. Because there's a

distribution of speeds, suppose we estimate that the root-mean-square speed $v_{rms}$ of the atoms in the trap is half the value you found in part a. Use this $v_{rms}$ to estimate the temperature of the atoms when they've been cooled to the limit set by the uncertainty principle.

**45.** •• Soot particles, from incomplete combustion in diesel engines, are typically 15 nm in diameter and have a density of 1200 kg/m$^3$. Figure P39.45 shows soot particles released from rest, in vacuum, just above a thin plate with a 0.50-$\mu$m-diameter hole—roughly the wavelength of visible light. After passing through the hole, the particles fall distance $d$ and land on a detector. If soot particles were purely classical, they would fall straight down and, ideally, all land in a 0.50-$\mu$m-diameter circle. Allowing for some experimental imperfections, any quantum effects would be noticeable if the circle diameter were 2000 nm. How far would the particles have to fall to fill a circle of this diameter?

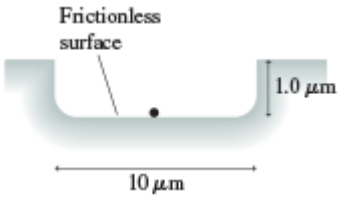
**Figure P39.45**




**46.** •• A small speck of dust with mass $1.0 \times 10^{-13}$ g has fallen into the hole shown in Figure P39.46 and appears to be at rest. According to the uncertainty principle, could this particle have enough energy to get out of the hole? If not, what is the deepest

hole of this width from which it would have a good chance to escape?

## Figure P39.46




**47.** •• **INT**

**a.** Starting with the expression $\Delta f \, \Delta t \approx 1$ for a wave packet, find an expression for the product $\Delta E \, \Delta t$ for a photon.

**b.** Interpret your expression. What does it tell you?

**c.** The Bohr model of atomic quantization says that an atom in an excited state can jump to a lower-energy state by emitting a photon. The Bohr model says nothing about how long this process takes. You'll learn in Chapter 41 that the time any particular atom spends in the excited state before emitting a photon is unpredictable, but the *average lifetime* $\Delta t$ of many atoms can be determined. You can think of $\Delta t$ as being the uncertainty in your knowledge of how long the atom spends in the excited state. A typical value is $\Delta t \approx 10$ ns. Consider an atom that emits a photon with a 500 nm wavelength as it jumps down from an excited state. What is the uncertainty in the energy of the photon? Give your answer in eV.

**d.** What is the *fractional uncertainty* $\Delta E/E$ in the photon's energy?

# Challenge Problems

**48.** ••• **CALC** The probability density of finding a particle somewhere along the $x$-axis is 0 for $x < 1$ mm. At $x = 1$ mm, the probability density is $c$. For $x \geq 1$ mm, the probability density decreases by a factor of 8 each time the distance from the origin is doubled. What is the probability that the particle will be found in the interval $2\text{ mm} \leq x \leq 4\text{ mm}$?

**49.** ••• **CALC** The wave function of a particle is

$$\psi(x) = \sqrt{\frac{b}{\pi(x^2 + b^2)}}$$

where $b$ is a positive constant. Find the probability that the particle is located in the interval $-b \leq x \leq b$.

**50.** ••• **CALC** The wave function of a particle is

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{b}{(1+x^2)} & -1\text{ mm} \leq x < 0\text{ mm} \\ c(1+x)^2 & 0\text{ mm} \leq x \leq 1\text{ mm} \end{cases}$$

and zero elsewhere.

**a.** You will learn in Chapter 40 that the wave function must be a *continuous* function. Assuming that to be the case, what can you conclude about the relationship between $b$ and $c$?

**b.** Draw graphs of the wave function and the probability density over the interval $-2\text{ mm} \leq x \leq 2\text{ mm}$.

**c.** What is the probability that the particle will be found to the right of the origin?

**51.** ••• **CALC** Consider the electron wave function

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} cx & |x| \le 1 \text{ nm} \\ \dfrac{c}{x} & |x| \ge 1 \text{ nm} \end{cases}$$

where $x$ is in nm.

**a.** Determine the normalization constant $c$.

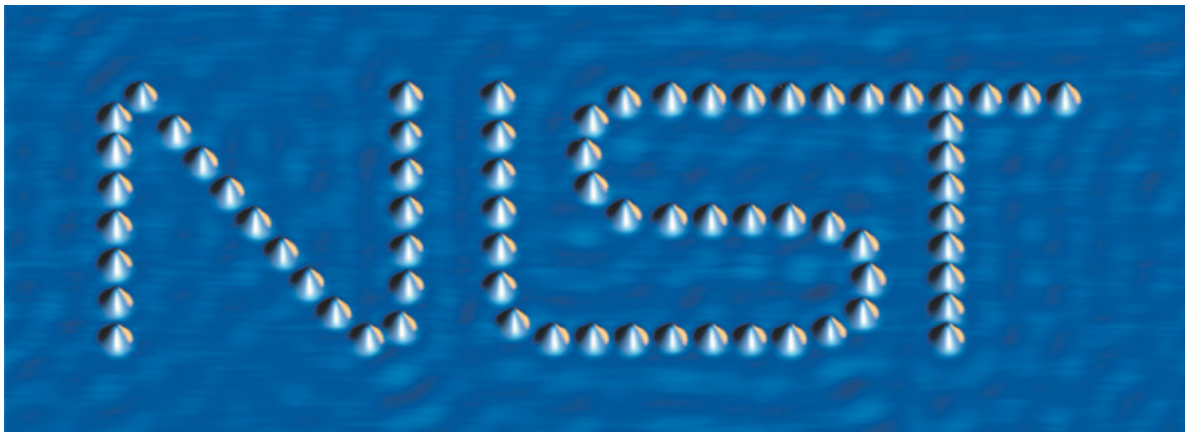
**b.** Draw a graph of $\psi(x)$ over the interval $-5 \text{ nm} \le x \le 5 \text{ nm}$. Provide numerical scales on both axes.

**c.** Draw a graph of $|\psi(x)|^2$ over the interval $-5 \text{ nm} \le x \le 5 \text{ nm}$. Provide numerical scales.

**d.** If $10^6$ electrons are detected, how many will be in the interval $-1.0 \text{ nm} \le x \le 1.0 \text{ nm}$?

# Chapter 40
# One-Dimensional Quantum Mechanics





Seventy cobalt atoms have been manipulated with a scanning tunneling microscope in this example of atomic engineering.

**In This Chapter**

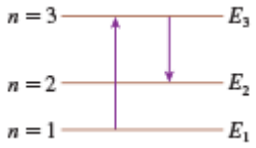
you will learn how to apply the essential ideas of quantum mechanics.

## What is the Schrödinger equation?

The Schrödinger equation is the basic law of quantum mechanics. It plays a role analogous to Newton's second law in classical mechanics.

- The solutions to Schrödinger's equation are the stationary states of the system.
- The Schrödinger equation predicts the quantized energy levels of the system.
- Photons are emitted or absorbed in quantum jumps between energy levels.

Looking Back Sections 39.3, 39.4 Wave functions and normalization

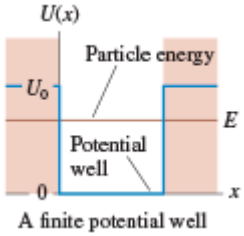



## How can we model quantum systems?

Classical systems respond to forces. In contrast, a quantum system is described by a potential-energy function $U(x)$. You'll learn to use potential wells to model quantum systems. Systems that we'll model in this chapter include

- The rigid box (an infinite potential well).
- The nucleus (a finite potential well).
- The quantum harmonic oscillator.
- The covalent bond.

Looking Back Section 10.5 Energy diagrams



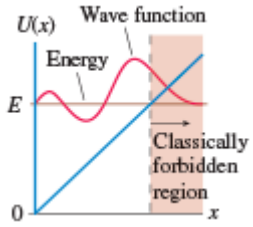
A finite potential well

## What are the properties of a wave function?

Wave-function shapes are determined by the potential-energy function $U(x)$.

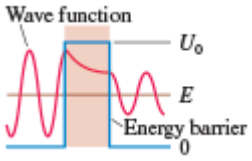
- The wave function oscillates in the region between the classical turning points.

- A particle can penetrate into classically forbidden regions of space, where $E < U$, with an exponentially decaying wave function.




## What is tunneling?

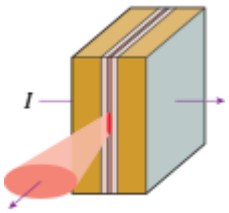
A surprising finding of quantum mechanics is that a particle can pass through an energy barrier that would reflect a classical particle, emerging with no energy loss on the other side. This is called tunneling. This totally nonclassical behavior is the basis of the scanning tunneling microscope.




## How is quantum mechanics used?

Much of modern technology, including semiconductors, rests on the quantum properties of atoms and solids. Examples we'll look at in this chapter include

- Quantum-well lasers.
- Molecular bonds.
- Nuclear energy levels and radiation.
- The scanning tunneling microscope.




Quantum-well laser

# 40.1 The Schrödinger Equation



In the winter of 1925, just before Christmas, the Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger gathered together a few books and headed off to a villa in the Swiss Alps. He had recently learned of de Broglie's 1924 suggestion that matter has wave-like properties, and he wanted some time free from distractions to think about it. Before the trip was over, Schrödinger had discovered the law of quantum mechanics.

Schrödinger's goal was to predict the outcome of atomic experiments, a goal that had eluded classical physics. The mathematical equation that he developed is now called the **Schrödinger equation.** It is the law of quantum mechanics in the same way that Newton's laws are the laws of classical mechanics. It would make sense to call it Schrödinger's law, but by tradition it is called simply the Schrödinger equation.

You learned in Chapter 39 that a matter particle is characterized in quantum physics by its wave function $\psi(x)$. If you know a particle's wave function, you can predict the probability of detecting it in some region of space. That's all well and good, but Chapter 39 didn't provide any method for determining wave functions. The Schrödinger equation is the missing piece of the puzzle. It is an equation for finding a particle's wave function $\psi(x)$.

Erwin Schrödinger.

Consider a particle with mass $m$ and mechanical energy $E$ whose interactions with the environment can be characterized by a one-dimensional potential-energy function $U(x)$. The Schrödinger equation for the particle's wave function is

**(40.1)**

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}[E - U(x)]\,\psi(x) \qquad \text{(the Schrödinger equation)}$$

This is a differential equation whose solution is the wave function $\psi(x)$ that we seek. Our first goal is to learn what this equation means and how it is used.

## Justifying the Schrödinger Equation

The Schrödinger equation can be neither derived nor proved. It is not an outgrowth of any previous theory. Its success depended on its ability to

explain the various phenomena that had refused to yield to a classical-physics analysis and to make new predictions that were subsequently verified.

Although the Schrödinger equation cannot be derived, the reasoning behind it can at least be made *plausible*. De Broglie had postulated a wave-like nature for matter in which a particle of mass $m$, velocity $v$, and momentum $p = mv$ has a wavelength

**(40.2)**

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$$

Schrödinger's goal was to find a *wave equation* for which the solution would be a wave function having the de Broglie wavelength.

An oscillatory wave-like function with wavelength $\lambda$ is



**(40.3)**

$$\psi(x) = \psi_0 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right)$$

where $\psi_0$ is the amplitude of the wave function. Suppose we take a second derivative of $\psi(x)$:

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}\frac{d\psi}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}\left[\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\psi_0 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right)\right] = -\frac{(2\pi)^2}{\lambda^2}\psi_0 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right)$$

We can use Equation 40.3 to write this as

(40.4)

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{(2\pi)^2}{\lambda^2}\psi(x)$$

Equation 40.4 relates the wavelength $\lambda$ to a combination of the wave function $\psi(x)$ and its second derivative.

> **Note**
>
> These manipulations are not specific to quantum mechanics. Equation 40.4 is well known for classical waves, such as sound waves and waves on a string.

Schrödinger's insight was to identify $\lambda$ with the de Broglie wavelength of a particle. We can write the de Broglie wavelength in terms of the particle's kinetic energy $K$ as

(40.5)

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{mv} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2m\left(\frac{1}{2}mv^2\right)}} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2mK}}$$

Notice that **the de Broglie wavelength increases as the particle's kinetic energy decreases.** This observation will play a key role.

If we square this expression for $\lambda$ and substitute it into Equation 40.4, we find

(40.6)

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{(2\pi)^2 2mK}{h^2}\psi(x) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}K\psi(x)$$

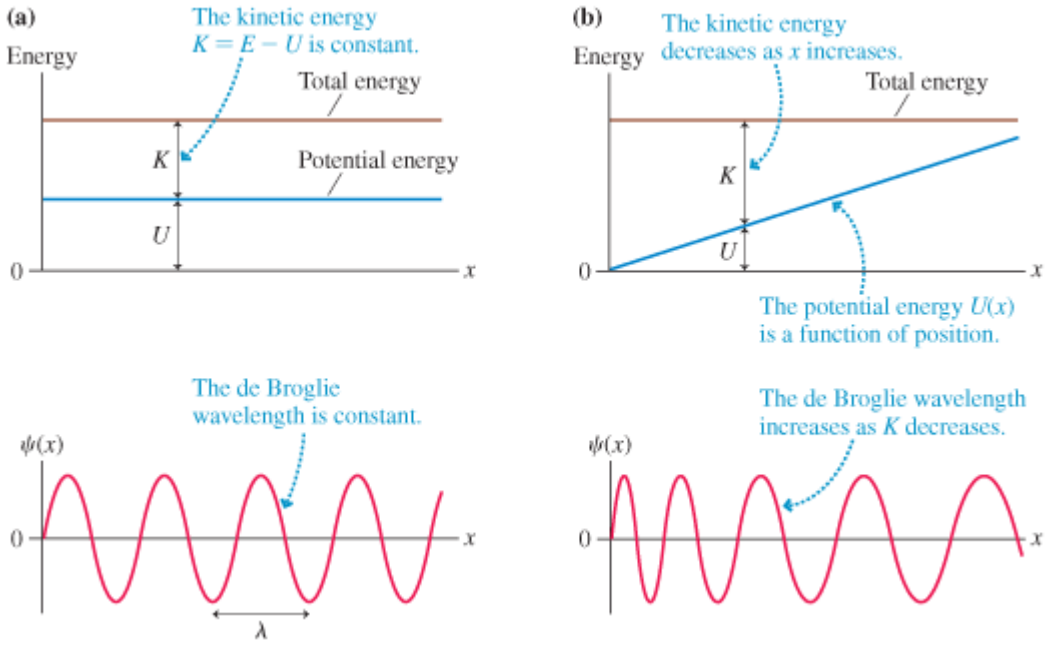
where $\hbar = h/2\pi$. Equation 40.6 is a differential equation for the function $\psi(x)$. The solution to this equation is the sinusoidal wave

function of Equation 40.3, where $\lambda$ is the de Broglie wavelength for a particle with kinetic energy $K$.



Our derivation of Equation 40.6 assumed that the particle's kinetic energy $K$ is constant. The energy diagram of Figure 40.1a reminds you that a particle's kinetic energy remains constant as it moves along the $x$-axis only if its potential energy $U$ is constant. In this case, the de Broglie wavelength is the same at all positions.

## Figure 40.1




The de Broglie wavelength changes as a particle's kinetic energy changes.

In contrast, Figure 40.1b shows the energy diagram for a particle whose kinetic energy is *not* constant. This particle speeds up or slows down as it moves along the $x$-axis, transforming potential energy into kinetic energy or vice versa. Consequently, its de Broglie wavelength changes with position.

Suppose a particle's potential energy—gravitational or electric or any other kind of potential energy—is described by the function $U(x)$. That is,

the potential energy is a *function of position* along the axis of motion. For example, the potential energy of a mass on a spring is $\frac{1}{2}kx^2$.

If $E$ is the particle's total mechanical energy, its kinetic energy at position $x$ is

**(40.7)**

$$K = E - U(x)$$

If we use this expression for $K$ in Equation 40.6, that equation becomes

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}[E - U(x)]\,\psi(x)$$

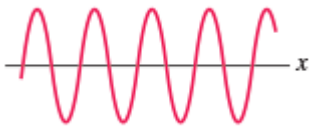
This is Equation 40.1, the Schrödinger equation for the particle's wave function $\psi(x)$.

> **Note**
>
> This has not been a derivation of the Schrödinger equation. We've made a *plausibility argument*, based on de Broglie's hypothesis about matter waves, but only experimental evidence will show if this equation has merit.

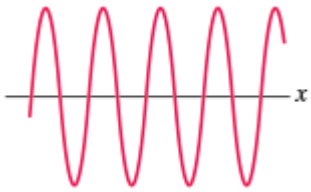
## Stop to Think 40.1

Three de Broglie waves are shown for particles of equal mass. Rank in order, from fastest to slowest, the speeds of particles a, b, and c.

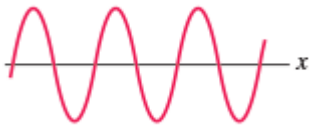
**a.**



**b.**




**c.**




## Quantum-Mechanical Models

Throughout this text, we've emphasized the importance of *models*. To understand the motion of an object, we made simplifying assumptions: that the object could be represented by a particle, that friction could be described in a simple way, that air resistance could be neglected, and so on. Models allowed us to understand the primary features of an object's motion without getting lost in the details.

The same holds true in quantum mechanics. The exact description of a microscopic atom or a solid is extremely complicated. Our only hope for using quantum mechanics effectively is to make a number of simplifying assumptions—that is, to make a **quantum-mechanical model** of the situation. Much of this chapter will be about building and using quantum-mechanical models.

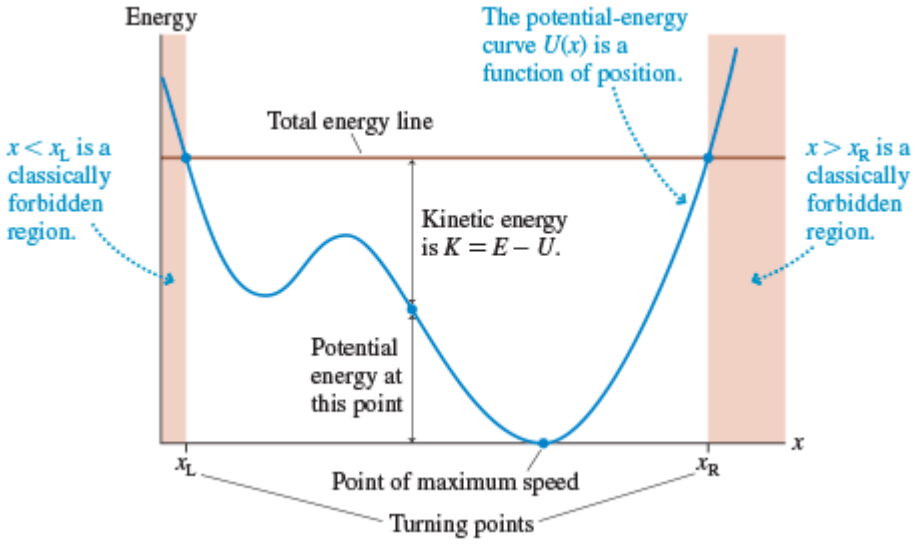
The test of a model's success is its agreement with experimental measurement. Laboratory experiments cannot measure $\psi(x)$, and they rarely make direct measurements of probabilities. Thus it will be

important to tie our models to measurable quantities such as wavelengths, charges, currents, times, and temperatures.

There's one very important difference between models in classical mechanics and quantum mechanics. Classical models are described in terms of *forces*, and Newton's laws are a connection between force and motion. The Schrödinger equation for the wave function is written in terms of *energies*. Consequently, quantum-mechanical modeling involves finding a potential-energy function $U(x)$ that describes a particle's interactions with its environment.

Figure 40.2 reminds you how to interpret an energy diagram. We will use energy diagrams extensively in this and the remaining chapters to portray quantum-mechanical models. **A review of Section 10.5, where energy diagrams were introduced, is highly recommended.**

## Figure 40.2




Interpreting an energy diagram.

# 40.2 Solving the Schrödinger Equation



The Schrödinger equation is a second-order differential equation, meaning that it is a differential equation for $\psi(x)$ involving its second derivative. However, this textbook does not assume that you know how to solve differential equations. As we did with Newton's laws, we will restrict ourselves to situations for which you already have the mathematical skills from your calculus class.

The solution to an algebraic equation is simply a number. For example, $x = 3$ is the solution to the equation $2x = 6$. In contrast, the solution to a differential equation is a *function*. You saw this idea in the preceding section, where Equation 40.6 was constructed so that the function $\psi(x) = \psi_0 \sin(2\pi x/\lambda)$ was a solution.

The Schrödinger equation can't be solved until the potential-energy function $U(x)$ has been specified. Different potential-energy functions result in different wave functions, just as different forces lead to different trajectories in classical mechanics. Once $U(x)$ has been specified, the solution of the differential equation is a *function* $\psi(x)$. We will usually display the solution as a graph of $\psi(x)$ versus $x$.

## Restrictions and Boundary Conditions

Not all functions $\psi(x)$ make *acceptable* solutions to the Schrödinger equation. That is, some functions may satisfy the Schrödinger equation but not be physically meaningful. We have previously encountered

restrictions in our solutions of algebraic equations. We insist, for physical reasons, that masses be positive rather than negative numbers, that positions be real rather than imaginary numbers, and so on. Mathematical solutions not meeting these restrictions are rejected as being unphysical.

Because we want to interpret $|\psi(x)|^2$ as a probability density, we have to insist that the function $\psi(x)$ be one for which this interpretation is possible. The conditions or restrictions on acceptable solutions are called the **boundary conditions.** You will see, in later examples, how the boundary conditions help us choose the correct solution for $\psi(x)$. The primary conditions the wave function must obey are:

1. $\psi(x)$ is a continuous function.
2. $\psi(x) = 0$ if $x$ is in a region where it is physically impossible for the particle to be.
3. $\psi(x) \to 0$ as $x \to +\infty$ and $x \to -\infty$.
4. $\psi(x)$ is a normalized function.

The last is not, strictly speaking, a boundary condition but is an auxiliary condition we require for the wave function to have a useful interpretation. Boundary condition 3 is needed to enable the normalization integral $\int |\psi(x)|^2 \, dx$ to converge.

Once boundary conditions have been established, there are several approaches to solving the Schrödinger equation: Use general mathematical techniques for solving second-order differential equations, solve the equation numerically on a computer, or make a physically informed guess.

More advanced courses make extensive use of the first and second approaches. However, we are not assuming a knowledge of differential equations, so you will not be asked to use these methods. The third, although it sounds almost like cheating, is widely used in simple situations where we can use physical arguments to infer the form of the wave function. The upcoming examples will illustrate this third approach.

A quadratic algebraic equation has two different solutions. Similarly, a second-order differential equation has two independent[1146] solutions $\psi_1(x)$ and $\psi_2(x)$. By "independent solutions" we mean that $\psi_2(x)$ is not just a constant multiple of $\psi_1(x)$, such as $3\psi_1(x)$, but that $\psi_1(x)$ and $\psi_2(x)$ are totally different functions.

Suppose that $\psi_1(x)$ and $\psi_2(x)$ are known to be two independent solutions of the Schrödinger equation. A theorem you will learn in differential equations states that a *general solution* of the equation can be written as

**(40.8)**

$$\psi(x) = A\psi_1(x) + B\psi_2(x)$$

where $A$ and $B$ are constants whose values are determined by the boundary conditions. Equation 40.8 is a powerful statement, although one that will make more sense after you see it applied in upcoming examples. The main point is that **if we can find two independent solutions $\psi_1(x)$ and $\psi_2(x)$ by guessing, then Equation 40.8 is the general solution to the Schrödinger equation.**

# Quantization

We've asserted that the Schrödinger equation is the law of quantum mechanics, but thus far we've not said anything about quantization. Although the particle's total energy $E$ appears in the Schrödinger equation, it is treated in the equation as an unspecified constant. However, it will turn out that there are *no* acceptable solutions for most values of $E$. That is, there are no functions $\psi(x)$ that satisfy both the Schrödinger equation *and* the boundary conditions. Acceptable solutions exist only for *discrete* values of $E$. The energies for which solutions exist are the quantized energies of the system. Thus, as you'll see, the Schrödinger equation has quantization built in.

## Problem Solving in Quantum Mechanics

Our problem-solving strategy for classical mechanics focused on identifying and using forces. In quantum mechanics we're interested in *energy* rather than forces. The critical step in solving a problem in quantum mechanics is to determine the particle's potential-energy function $U(x)$. Identifying the interactions that cause a potential energy is the *physics* of the problem. Once the potential-energy function is known, it is "just mathematics" to solve for the wave function.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 40.1 Quantum-mechanics problems**

**Mastering Physics**

**MODEL** Determine a potential-energy function that describes the particle's interactions. Make simplifying assumptions.

**VISUALIZE** The potential-energy curve is the pictorial representation.

- Draw the potential-energy curve.
- Identify known information.
- Establish the boundary conditions that the wave function must satisfy.

**SOLVE** The Schrödinger equation is the mathematical representation.

- Utilize the boundary conditions.
- Normalize the wave functions.
- Draw graphs of $\psi(x)$ and $|\psi(x)|^2$.
- Determine the allowed energy levels.
- Calculate probabilities, wavelengths, or other specific quantities.

**ASSESS** Check that your result has the correct units, is reasonable, and answers the question.

---

The solutions to the Schrödinger equation are the *stationary states* of the system. Bohr had postulated the existence of stationary states, but he didn't know how to find them. Now we have a strategy for finding them.

Bohr's idea of transitions, or quantum jumps, between stationary states remains very important in Schrödinger's quantum mechanics. The system can jump from one stationary state, characterized by wave function $\psi_{\text{i}}(x)$ and energy $E_{\text{i}}$, to another state, characterized by $\psi_{\text{f}}(x)$ and $E_{\text{f}}$, by emitting or absorbing a photon of frequency

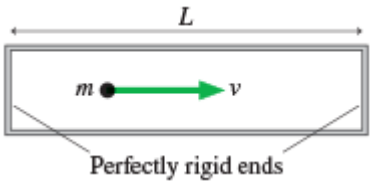
$$f = \frac{\Delta E}{h} = \frac{|E_{\text{f}} - E_{\text{i}}|}{h}$$

Thus the solutions to the Schrödinger equation will allow us to predict the emission and absorption spectra of a quantum system. These predictions will test the validity of Schrödinger's theory.

# 40.3 A Particle in a Rigid Box: Energies and Wave Functions

Figure 40.3 shows a particle of mass $m$ confined in a rigid, one-dimensional box of length $L$. The walls of the box are assumed to be perfectly rigid, and the particle undergoes perfectly elastic reflections from the ends. This situation, which we looked at in Chapter 38, is known as a "particle in a box."

**Figure 40.3**




A particle in a rigid box of length $L$.

A classical particle bounces back and forth between the walls of the box. There are no restrictions on the speed or kinetic energy of a classical particle. In contrast, a wave-like particle characterized by a de Broglie wavelength sets up a standing wave as it reflects back and forth. In Chapter 38, we found that a standing de Broglie wave automatically leads to energy quantization. That is, only certain discrete energies are allowed. However, our hypothesis of a de Broglie standing wave was just a guess, with no real justification, because we had no theory about how a wave-like particle ought to behave.

We will now revisit this problem from the new perspective of quantum mechanics. The basic questions we want to answer in this, and any

quantum-mechanics problem, are:

- What are the allowed energies of the particle?
- What is the wave function associated with each energy?
- In which part of the box is the particle most likely to be found?

We can use Problem-Solving Strategy 40.1 to answer these questions.

## Model: Identify a Potential-Energy Function

By a *rigid box* we mean a box whose walls are so sturdy that they can confine a particle no matter how fast the particle moves. Furthermore, the walls are so stiff that they do not flex or give as the particle bounces. No real container has these attributes, so the rigid box is a *model* of a situation in which a particle is extremely well confined. Our first task is to characterize the rigid box in terms of a potential-energy function.

Let's establish a coordinate axis with the boundaries of the box at $x = 0$ and $x = L$. The rigid box has three important characteristics:

1. The particle can move freely between 0 and $L$ at constant speed and thus with constant kinetic energy.
2. No matter how much kinetic energy the particle has, its turning points are at $x = 0$ and $x = L$.
3. The regions $x < 0$ and $x > L$ are forbidden. The particle cannot leave the box.

A potential-energy function that describes the particle in this situation is

**(40.9)**

$$U_{\text{rigid box}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 \le x \le L \\ \infty & x < 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x > L \end{cases}$$

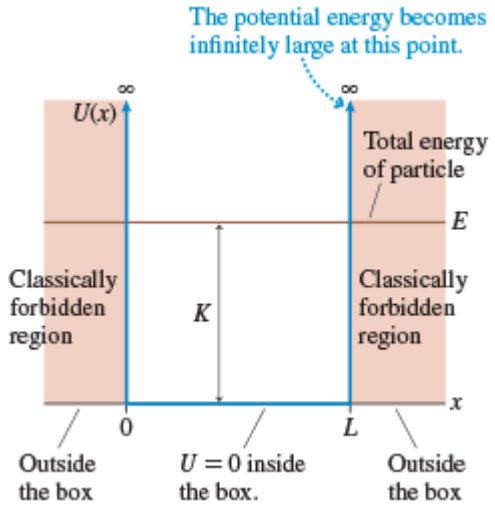
Inside the box, the particle has only kinetic energy. The infinitely high potential-energy barriers prevent the particle from ever having $x < 0$ or $x > L$ no matter how much kinetic energy it may have. It is this potential energy for which we want to solve the Schrödinger equation.

## Visualize: Establish Boundary Conditions

Figure 40.4 is the energy diagram of a particle in the rigid box. You can see that $U = 0$ and $E = K$ inside the box. The upward arrows labeled $\infty$ indicate that the potential energy becomes infinitely large at the walls of the box ($x = 0$ and $x = L$).

**Figure 40.4**






The energy diagram of a particle in a rigid box of length $L$.

> **Note**
>
> Figure 40.4 is not a picture of the box. It is a graphical representation of the particle's total, kinetic, and potential energy.

Next, we need to establish the boundary conditions that the solution must satisfy. Because it is physically impossible for the particle to be outside the box, we require

**(40.10)**

$$\psi(x) = 0 \quad \text{for } x < 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x > L$$

That is, there is zero probability $(\text{i.e.,} |\psi(x)|^2 = 0)$ of finding the particle outside the box.

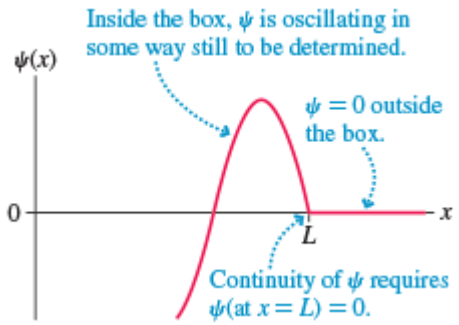
Furthermore, the wave function must be a *continuous* function. That is, there can be no break in the wave function at any point. Because the solution is zero everywhere outside the box, continuity requires that the wave function inside the box obey the two conditions

**(40.11)**

$$\psi(\text{at } x = 0) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \psi(\text{at } x = L) = 0$$

In other words, as Figure 40.5 shows, the oscillating wave function inside the box must go to zero at the boundaries to be continuous with the wave function outside the box. This requirement of the wave function is equivalent to saying that a standing wave on a string must have a node at the ends.

## Figure 40.5



# Solve I: Find the Wave Functions

At all points *inside* the box the potential energy is $U(x) = 0$. Thus the Schrödinger equation inside the box is

**(40.12)**

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}\psi(x)$$

There are two aspects to solving this equation:

1. For what values of $E$ does Equation 40.12 have physically meaningful solutions?
2. What are the solutions $\psi(x)$ for those values of $E$?

To begin, let's simplify the notation by defining $\beta^2 = 2mE/\hbar^2$. Equation 40.12 is then

**(40.13)**

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\beta^2\psi(x)$$

We're going to solve this differential equation by guessing! Can you think of any functions whose second derivative is a *negative* constant times the function itself? Two such functions are



**(40.14)**

$$\psi_1(x) = \sin\beta x \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_2(x) = \cos\beta x$$

Both are solutions to Equation 40.13 because

$$\frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} = \frac{d^2}{dx^2}(\sin \beta x) = -\beta^2 \sin \beta x = -\beta^2 \psi_1(x)$$
$$\frac{d^2\psi_2}{dx^2} = \frac{d^2}{dx^2}(\cos\ \beta x) = -\beta^2 \cos \beta x = -\beta^2 \psi_2(x)$$

Furthermore, these are *independent* solutions because $\psi_2(x)$ is not a multiple or a rearrangement of $\psi_1(x)$. Consequently, according to Equation 40.8, the general solution to the Schrödinger equation for the particle in a rigid box is

**(40.15)**

$$\psi(x) = A\, sin\, \beta x + B\, cos\, \beta x$$

where

**(40.16)**

$$\beta = \frac{\sqrt{2mE}}{\hbar}$$

The constants $A$ and $B$ must be determined by using the boundary conditions of Equation 40.11. First, the wave function must go to zero at $x = 0$. That is,

**(40.17)**

$$\psi(\text{at } x = 0) = A \cdot 0 + B \cdot 1 = 0$$

This boundary condition can be satisfied only if $B = 0$. The cos $\beta x$ term may satisfy the differential equation in a mathematical sense, but it is not a physically meaningful solution for this problem because it does not satisfy the boundary conditions. Thus the physically meaningful solution is

$$\psi(x) = A \sin \beta x$$

The wave function must also go to zero at $x = L$. That is,

**(40.18)**

$$\psi(\text{at } x = L) = A \sin \beta L = 0$$

This condition could be satisfied by $A = 0$, but then we wouldn't have a wave function at all! Fortunately, that isn't necessary. This boundary condition is also satisfied if $\sin \beta L = 0$, which requires

**(40.19)**

$$\beta L = n\pi \quad \text{or} \quad \beta_n = \frac{n\pi}{L} \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

Notice that $n$ starts with 1, not 0. The value $n = 0$ would give $\beta = 0$ and make $\psi = 0$ at all points, a physically meaningless solution.

Thus the solutions to the Schrödinger equation for a particle in a rigid box are

**(40.20)**

$$\psi_n(x) = A \sin \beta_n x = A \sin \left( \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

We've found a whole *family* of solutions, each corresponding to a different value of the integer $n$. These wave functions represent the stationary states of the particle in the box. The constant $A$ remains to be determined.

## Solve II: Find the Allowed Energies

Equation 40.16 defined $\beta$. The boundary condition of Equation 40.19 then placed restrictions on the possible values of $\beta$:

**(40.21)**

$$\beta_n = \frac{\sqrt{2mE_n}}{\hbar} = \frac{n\pi}{L} \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

where the value of $\beta$ and the energy associated with the integer $n$ have been labeled $\beta_n$ and $E_n$. We can solve for $E_n$ by squaring both sides:

---

**(40.22)**

$$E_n = n^2 \frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2mL^2} = n^2 \frac{h^2}{8mL^2} \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$



where, in the last step, we used the definition $\hbar = h/2\pi$. For a particle in a box, **these energies are the only values of *E* for which there are physically meaningful solutions to the Schrödinger equation.** That is, the particle's energy is quantized! It is worth emphasizing that quantization is not inherent in the wave function itself but arises because the boundary conditions—the physics of the situation—are satisfied by only a small subset of the mathematical solutions to the Schrödinger equation.

It is useful to write the energies of the stationary states as

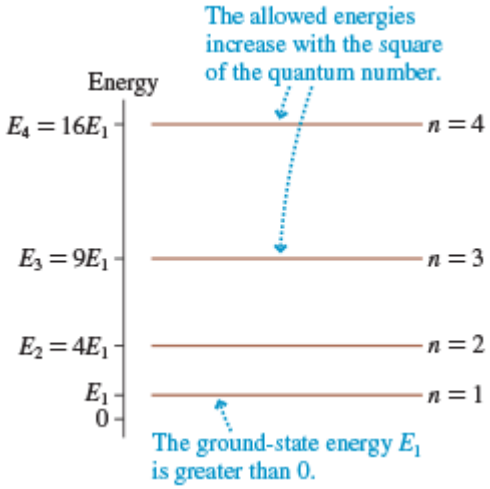
**(40.23)**

$$E_n = n^2 E_1$$

where $E_n$ is the energy of the stationary state with *quantum number* $n$. The smallest possible energy $E_1 = h^2/8mL^2$ is the energy of the $n = 1$ *ground state*. These allowed energies are shown in the *energy-level diagram* of Figure 40.6. Recall, from Chapter 38, that an energy-level diagram is

not a graph (the horizontal axis doesn't represent anything) but a "ladder" of allowed energies.

## Figure 40.6




The energy-level diagram for a particle in a box.

Equation 40.22 is identical to the energies we found in Chapter 38 by requiring the de Broglie wave of a particle in a box to form a standing wave. Only now we have a theory that tells not only the energies but also the wave functions.

### Example 40.1 An electron in a box

An electron is confined to a rigid box. What is the length of the box if the energy difference between the first and second states is 3.0 eV?

**MODEL** Model the electron as a particle in a rigid one-dimensional box of length $L$.

**SOLVE** The first two quantum states, with $n = 1$ and $n = 2$, have energies $E_1$ and $E_2 = 4E_1$. Thus the energy difference between the states is

$$\Delta E = 3E_1 = \frac{3h^2}{8mL^2} = 3.0 \text{ eV} = 4.8 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

The length of the box for which $\Delta E = 3.0$ eV is

$$L = \sqrt{\frac{3h^2}{8m\,\Delta E}} = 6.14 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m} = 0.614 \text{ nm}$$

**ASSESS** The expression for $E_1$ is in SI units, so energies must be in J, not eV.

## Solve III: Normalize the Wave Functions

We can determine the constant $A$ by requiring the wave functions to be normalized. The normalization condition, which we found in Chapter 39, is

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^2 \, dx = 1$$

This is the mathematical statement that the particle must be *somewhere* on the $x$-axis. The integration limits extend to $\pm\infty$, but here we need to integrate only from 0 to $L$ because the wave function is zero outside the box. Thus

**(40.24)**

$$\int_0^L |\psi_n(x)|^2 \, dx = A_n^2 \int_0^L \sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx = 1$$

or

**(40.25)**

$$A_n = \left[ \int_0^L \sin^2 \left( \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) \, dx \right]^{-1/2}$$

We placed a subscript $n$ on $A_n$ because it is possible that the normalization constant is different for each wave function in the family. This is a standard integral. We will leave it as a homework problem for you to show that its value, for any $n$, is

**(40.26)**

$$A_n = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \cdots$$

We now have a complete solution to the problem. The normalized wave function for the particle in quantum state $n$ is

---

**(40.27)**

$$\psi_n(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\dfrac{2}{L}} \sin \left( \dfrac{n\pi x}{L} \right) & 0 \leq x \leq L \\ 0 & x < 0 \,\text{and}\, x > L \end{cases}$$

# 40.4 A Particle in a Rigid Box: Interpreting the Solution

Our solution to the quantum-mechanical problem of a particle in a box tells us that:

1. The particle must have energy $E_n = n^2 E_1$, where $n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ is the quantum number. $E_1 = h^2/8mL^2$ is the energy of the $n = 1$ ground state.
2. The wave function for a particle in quantum state $n$ is

$$\psi_n(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) & 0 \le x \le L \\ 0 & x < 0 \text{ and } x > L \end{cases}$$

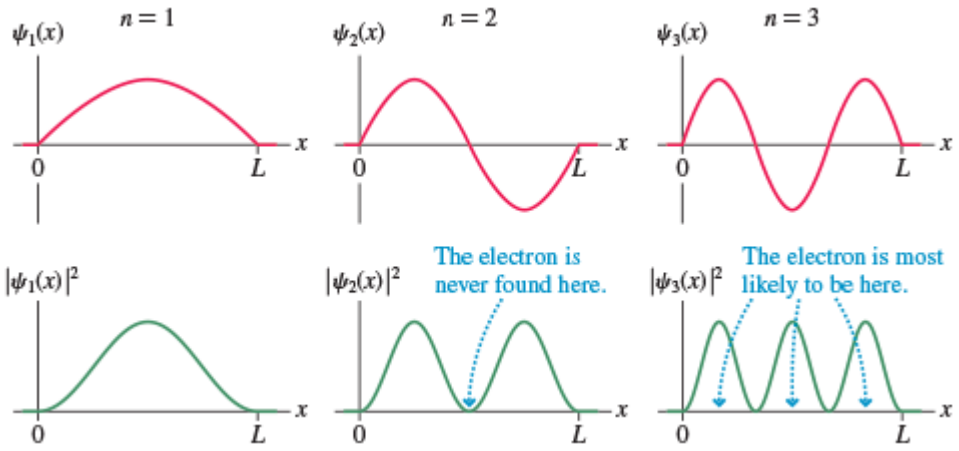
   These are the stationary states of the system.
3. The probability density for finding the particle at position $x$ inside the box is

**(40.28)**

$$P_n(x) = |\psi_n(x)|^2 = \frac{2}{L}\sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

A graphical presentation will make these results more meaningful. Figure 40.7 shows the wave functions $\psi(x)$ and the probability densities $P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$ for quantum states $n = 1$ to 3. Notice that the wave functions go to zero at the boundaries and thus are continuous with $\psi = 0$ outside the box.

## Figure 40.7

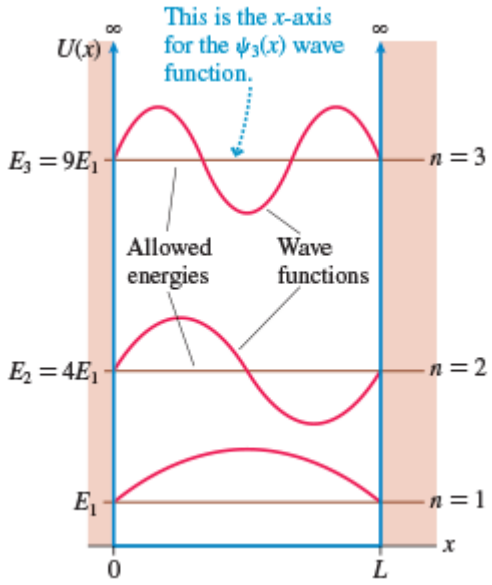



Wave functions and probability densities for a particle in a rigid box of length $L$.

The wave functions $\psi(x)$ for a particle in a rigid box are analogous to standing waves on a string that is tied at both ends. You can see that **$\psi_n(x)$ has $(n-1)$ nodes (zeros), excluding the ends, and $n$ antinodes (maxima and minima).** This is a general result for any wave function, not just for a particle in a rigid box.

Figure 40.8 shows another way in which energies and wave functions are shown graphically in quantum mechanics. First, the graph shows the potential-energy function $U(x)$ of the particle. Second, the allowed energies are shown as horizontal lines (total energy lines) across the potential-energy graph. These are labeled with the quantum number $n$ and the energy $E_n$. Third—and this is a bit tricky—the wave function for each $n$ is drawn *as if* the energy line were the zero of the $y$-axis. That is, the graph of $\psi_n(x)$ is drawn on top of the $E_n$ energy line. This allows energies and wave functions to be displayed simultaneously, but it does *not* imply that $\psi_2$ is in any sense "above" $\psi_1$. Both oscillate sinusoidally about zero, as Figure 40.7 shows.

## Figure 40.8




An alternative way to show the potential-energy diagram, the energies, and the wave functions.

### Example 40.2 Energy levels and quantum jumps

A semiconductor device known as a *quantum-well device* is designed to "trap" electrons in a 1.00-nm-wide region. Treat this as a one-dimensional problem.

**a.** What are the energies of the first three quantum states?

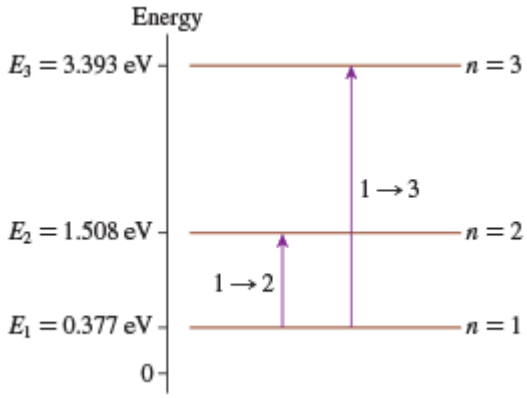
**b.** What wavelengths of light can these electrons absorb?

**MODEL** Model an electron in a quantum-well device as a particle confined in a rigid box of length $L = 1.00\,\text{nm}$.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 40.9 shows the first three energy levels and the transitions by which an electron in the ground state can absorb a photon.



Figure 40.9




Energy levels and quantum jumps for an electron in a quantum-well device.

---

**SOLVE**

**a.** The particle's mass is $m = m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg. The allowed energies, in both J and eV, are

$$E_1 = \frac{h^2}{8mL^2} = 6.03 \times 10^{-20} \text{ J} = 0.377 \text{ eV}$$
$$E_2 = 4E_1 = 1.508 \text{ eV}$$
$$E_3 = 9E_1 = 3.393 \text{ eV}$$

**b.** An electron spends most of its time in the $n = 1$ ground state. According to Bohr's model of stationary states, the electron can absorb a photon of light and undergo a transition, or quantum jump, to $n = 2$ or $n = 3$ if the light has frequency $f = \Delta E/h$. The wavelengths, given by $\lambda = c/f = hc/\Delta E$, are

$$\lambda_{1\rightarrow 2} = \frac{hc}{E_2 - E_1} = 1098 \text{ nm}$$
$$\lambda_{1\rightarrow 3} = \frac{hc}{E_3 - E_1} = 411 \text{ nm}$$

**ASSESS** In practice, various complications usually make the $1 \rightarrow 3$ transition unobservable. But quantum-well devices do indeed

exhibit strong absorption and emission at the $\lambda_{1\to 2}$ wavelength. In this example, which is typical of quantum-well devices, the wavelength is in the near-infrared portion of the spectrum. Devices such as these are used to construct the semiconductor lasers used in DVD players and laser printers.

**Note**

The wavelengths of light emitted or absorbed by a quantum system are determined by the *difference* between two allowed energies. Quantum jumps involve two stationary states.

## Zero-Point Motion

The lowest energy state in Example 40.2, the ground state, has $E_1 = 0.38\,\text{eV}$. There is no stationary state having $E = 0$. Unlike a classical particle, **a quantum particle in a box cannot be at rest!** No matter how much its energy is reduced, such as by cooling it toward absolute zero, it cannot have energy less than $E_1$.

The particle motion associated with energy $E_1$, called the **zero-point motion,** is a consequence of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle. Because the particle is somewhere in the box, its position uncertainty is $\Delta x = L$. If the particle were at rest in the box, we would know that its velocity and momentum are exactly zero with *no* uncertainty: $\Delta p_x = 0$. But then $\Delta x\,\Delta p_x = 0$ would violate the Heisenberg uncertainty principle. One of the conclusions that follow from the uncertainty principle is that **a confined particle cannot be at rest.**

Although the particle's position and velocity are uncertain, the particle's energy in each state can be calculated with a high degree of precision. This distinction between a precise energy and uncertain position and velocity seems strange, but it is just our old friend the standing wave. In order to *have* a stationary state at all, the de Broglie waves have to form standing waves. Only for very precise frequencies, and thus precise energies, can the standing-wave pattern appear.

### Example 40.3 Nuclear energies



Protons and neutrons are tightly bound within the nucleus of an atom. If we use a one-dimensional model of a nucleus, what are the first three energy levels of a neutron in a 10-fm-diameter nucleus ($1\,\text{fm} = 10^{-15}\,\text{m}$)?

**MODEL** Model the nucleus as a one-dimensional box of length $L = 10\,\text{fm}$. The neutron is confined within the box.

**SOLVE** The energy levels, with $L = 10\,\text{fm}$ and $m = m_\text{n} = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}\,\text{kg}$, are

$$E_1 = \frac{h^2}{8mL^2} = 3.29 \times 10^{-13}\,\text{J} = 2.06\,\text{MeV}$$
$$E_2 = 4E_1 = 8.24\,\text{MeV}$$
$$E_3 = 9E_1 = 18.54\,\text{MeV}$$

**ASSESS** You've seen that an electron confined in an atom-size space has energies of a few eV. A neutron confined in a nucleus-size space has energies of a few *million* eV.

## Example 40.4 The probabilities of locating the particle

A particle in a rigid box of length $L$ is in its ground state.

**a.** Where is the particle most likely to be found?

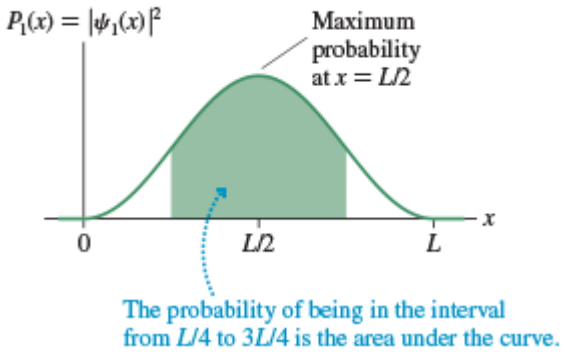
**b.** What are the probabilities of finding the particle in an interval of width $0.01L$ at $x = 0.00L$, $0.25L$, and $0.50L$?

**c.** What is the probability of finding the particle between $L/4$ and $3L/4$?

**MODEL** The wave functions for a particle in a rigid box have been determined.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 40.10 shows the probability density $P_1(x) = |\psi_1(x)|^2$ in the ground state.

### Figure 40.10




Probability density for a particle in the ground state.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The particle is most likely to be found at the point where the probability density $P(x)$ is a maximum. You can see

from Figure 40.10 that the point of maximum probability for $n = 1$ is $x = L/2$.

**b.** For a *small* width $\delta x$, the probability of finding the particle in $\delta x$ at position $x$ is

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = P_1(x)\,\delta x = |\psi_1(x)|^2\,\delta x = \frac{2}{L}\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)\delta x$$

The interval $\delta x = 0.01L$ is sufficiently small for this to be valid. The probabilities of finding the particle are

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{Prob}(\text{in } 0.01L \text{ at } x = 0.00L) = 0.000 = 0.0\,\% \\
&\text{Prob}(\text{in } 0.01L \text{ at } x = 0.25L) = 0.010 = 1.0\,\% \\
&\text{Prob}(\text{in } 0.01L \text{ at } x = 0.50L) = 0.020 = 2.0\,\%
\end{aligned}$$

**c.** You learned in Chapter 39 that the probability of being in an interval is the area under the probability-density curve. We calculate this by integrating:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Prob}\left(\text{in interval}\frac{1}{4}L\,\text{to}\frac{3}{4}L\right) &= \int_{L/4}^{3L/4} P_1(x)\,dx \\
&= \frac{2}{L}\int_{L/4}^{3L/4}\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)dx \\
&= \left[\frac{x}{L} - \frac{1}{\pi}\sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)\right]_{L/4}^{3L/4} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\pi} = 0.818
\end{aligned}$$

The integral of $\sin^2$ was taken from the table of integrals in Appendix A.

**ASSESS** If a particle in a box is in the $n = 1$ ground state, there is an 81.8% chance of finding it in the center half of the box. The

probability is greater than 50% because, as you can see in Figure 40.10, the probability density $P_1(x)$ is larger near the center of the box than near the boundaries.

This has been a lengthy presentation of the particle-in-a-box problem. However, it was important that we explore the method of solution completely. Future examples will now go more quickly because many of the issues discussed here will not need to be repeated.

## Stop to Think 40.2

A particle in a rigid box in the $n = 2$ stationary state is most likely to be found

**a.** In the center of the box.
**b.** One-third of the way from either end.
**c.** One-quarter of the way from either end.
**d.** It is equally likely to be found at any point in the box.

# 40.5 The Correspondence Principle



Suppose we confine an electron in a microscopic box, then allow the box to get bigger and bigger. What started out as a quantum-mechanical situation should, when the box becomes macroscopic, eventually look like a classical-physics situation. Similarly, a classical situation such as two charged particles revolving about each other should begin to exhibit quantum behavior as the orbit size becomes smaller and smaller.

These examples suggest that there should be some in-between size, or energy, for which the quantum-mechanical solution corresponds in some way to the solution of classical mechanics. Niels Bohr put forward the idea that the *average* behavior of a quantum system should begin to look like the classical solution in the limit that the quantum number becomes very large—that is, as $n \to \infty$. Because the radius of the Bohr hydrogen atom is $r = n^2 a_{\mathrm{B}}$, the atom becomes a macroscopic object as $n$ becomes very large. Bohr's idea, that the quantum world should blend smoothly into the classical world for high quantum numbers, is today known as the **correspondence principle.**

Our quantum knowledge of a particle in a box is given by its probability density

**(40.29)**

$$P_{\text{quant}}(x) = |\psi_n(x)|^2 = \frac{2}{L}\sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

To what classical quantity can the probability density be compared as $n \to \infty$?

Interestingly, we can also define a classical probability density $P_{\text{class}}(x)$. A classical particle follows a well-defined trajectory, but suppose we observe the particle at random times. For example, suppose the box containing a classical particle has a viewing window. The window is normally closed, but at random times, selected by a random-number generator, the window opens for a brief interval $\delta t$ and you can measure the particle's position. When the window opens, what is the probability that the particle will be in a narrow interval $\delta x$ at position $x$?

The probability of finding a classical particle within a small interval $\delta x$ is equal to the *fraction of its time* that it spends passing through $\delta x$. That is, you're more likely to find the particle in those intervals $\delta x$ where it spends lots of time, less likely to find it in a $\delta x$ where it spends very little time.

Consider a classical particle oscillating back and forth between two turning points with period $T$. The time it spends moving from one turning point to the other is $\frac{1}{2}T$. As it moves between the turning points, it passes once through the interval $\delta x$ at position $x$, taking time $\delta t$ to do so. Consequently, the probability of finding the particle within this interval is

**(40.30)**

$$\text{Prob}_{\text{class}}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = \text{fraction of time spent in } \delta x = \frac{\delta t}{\frac{1}{2}T}$$

The amount of time needed to pass through $\delta x$ is $\delta t = \delta x / v(x)$, where $v(x)$ is the particle's velocity at position $x$. Thus the probability of finding the particle in the interval $\delta x$ at position $x$ is

**(40.31)**

$$\text{Prob}_{\text{class}}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = \frac{\delta x / v(x)}{\frac{1}{2}T} = \frac{2}{Tv(x)}\,\delta x$$

You learned in Chapter 39 that the probability is related to the probability density by

$$\text{Prob}_{\text{class}}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = P_{\text{class}}(x)\,\delta x$$

Thus the classical probability density for finding a particle at position $x$ is

**(40.32)**

$$P_{\text{class}}(x) = \frac{2}{Tv(x)}$$

where the velocity $v(x)$ is expressed as a function of $x$. **Classically, a particle is more likely to be found where it is moving slowly, less likely to be found where it is moving quickly.**

> **Note**
>
> Our derivation of Equation 40.32 made no assumptions about the particle's motion other than the requirement that it be periodic. This is the classical probability density for any oscillatory motion.

Figure 40.11a is the motion diagram of a classical particle in a rigid box of length $L$. The particle's speed is a *constant* $v(x) = v_0$ as it bounces back and forth between the walls. The particle travels distance $2L$ during one round trip, so the period is $T = 2L/v_0$. Consequently, the classical probability density for a particle in a box is

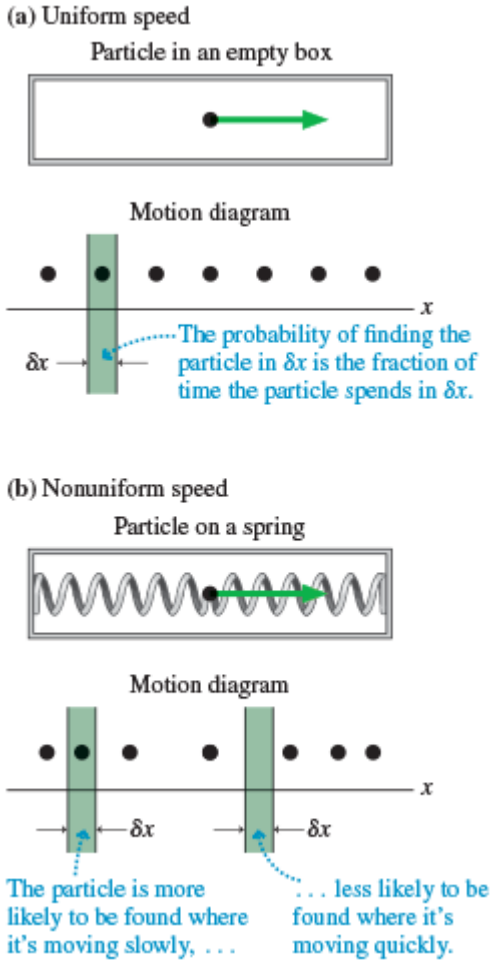
**(40.33)**



$$P_{\text{class}}(x) = \frac{2}{(2L/v_0)v_0} = \frac{1}{L}$$

$P_{class}(x)$ is independent of $x$, telling us that the particle is equally likely to be found *anywhere* in the box.

## Figure 40.11




The classical probability density is indicated by the density of dots in a motion diagram.

In contrast, Figure 40.11b shows a particle with nonuniform speed. A mass on a spring slows down near the turning points, so it spends more time near the ends of the box than in the middle. Consequently the classical probability density for this particle is a maximum at the edges and a minimum at the center. We'll look at this classical probability density again later in the chapter.

**Example 40.5 The classical probability of locating the particle**

A classical particle is in a rigid 10-cm-long box. What is the probability that, at a random instant of time, the particle is in a 1.0-mm-wide interval at the center of the box?

**SOLVE** The particle's probability density is

$$P_{\text{class}}(x) = \frac{1}{L} = \frac{1}{10\text{ cm}} = 0.10\text{ cm}^{-1}$$

The probability that the particle is in an interval of width $\delta x = 1.0\,\text{mm} = 0.10\,\text{cm}$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x = 5\,\text{cm}) &= P(x)\delta x = (0.10\,\text{cm}^{-1})\,(0.10\,\text{cm}) \\ &= 0.010 = 1.0\,\%\end{aligned}$$

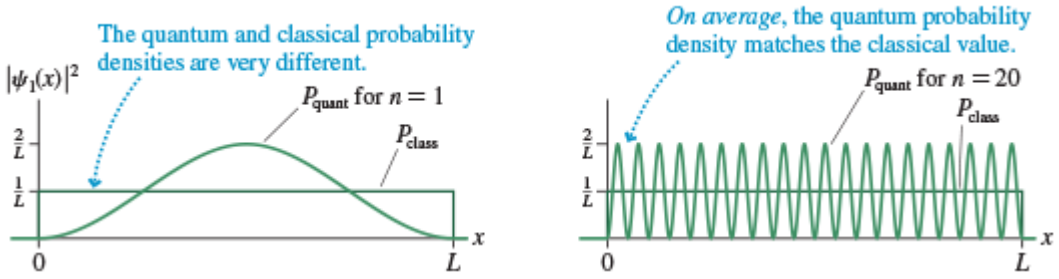
**ASSESS** The classical probability is 1.0% because 1.0 mm is 1% of the 10 cm length.

Figure 40.12 shows the quantum and the classical probability densities for the $n = 1$ and $n = 20$ quantum states of a particle in a rigid box. Notice that:

- The quantum probability density oscillates between a minimum of 0 and a maximum of $2/L$, so it oscillates around the classical probability density $1/L$.
- For $n = 1$, the quantum and classical probability densities are quite different. The ground state of the quantum system will be very nonclassical.

- For $n = 20$, *on average* the quantum particle's behavior looks very much like that of the classical particle.

## Figure 40.12




The quantum and classical probability densities for a particle in a box.

As $n$ gets even bigger and the number of oscillations increases, the probability of finding the particle in an interval $\delta x$ will be the same for both the quantum and the classical particles as long as $\delta x$ is large enough to include several oscillations of the wave function. As Bohr predicted, the quantum-mechanical solution "corresponds" to the classical solution in the limit $n \to \infty$.

# 40.6 Finite Potential Wells[156]

Figure 40.4, the potential-energy diagram for a particle in a rigid box, is an example of a **potential well,** so named because the graph of the potential-energy "hole" looks like a well from which you might draw water. The rigid box was an *infinite* potential well. There was no chance that a particle inside could escape the infinitely high walls.

A more realistic model of a confined particle is the *finite* potential well shown in Figure 40.13a on the next page. A particle with total energy $E < U_0$ is confined within the well, bouncing back and forth between turning points at $x = 0$ and $x = L$. The regions $x < 0$ and $x > L$ are **classically forbidden regions** for a particle with $E < U_0$. However, the particle will escape the well if it manages to acquire energy $\mathrm{E} > U_0$.

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**Figure 40.13**

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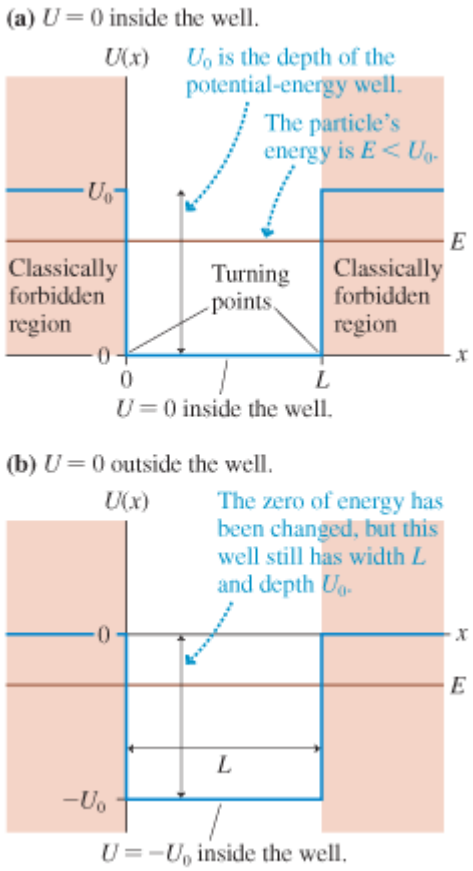


A finite potential well of width $L$ and depth $U_0$.

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For example, consider an electron confined within a metal or semiconductor. An electron with energy less than the work function moves freely until it reaches the edge, where it reflects to stay within the solid. But the electron *can* escape if it somehow—such as absorbing energy from a photon—acquires an energy larger than the work function. Similarly, a neutron is confined within the nucleus by the nuclear force, but it *can* escape the nucleus if it has enough energy. The electron, the neutron, and many other particles that are confined can be modeled as a particle in a finite potential well, so it is one of the most important models in quantum mechanics.

Figure 40.13b is the same potential well, simply redrawn to place the zero of potential energy—which, you will recall, is arbitrary—at the level of the "energy plateau." Both have width $L$ and depth $U_0$ so both have the

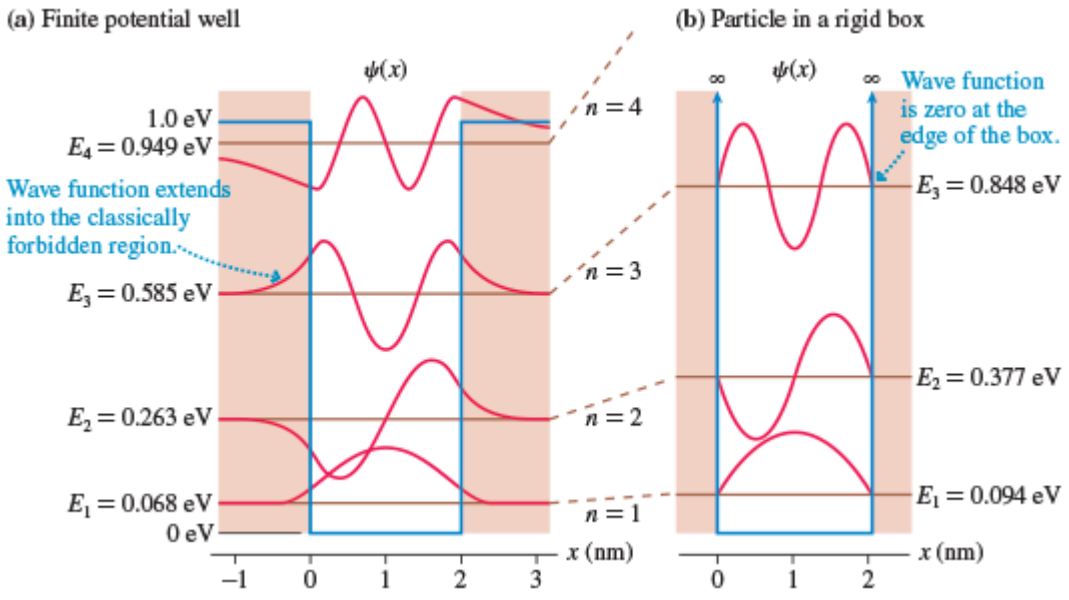
same wave functions and the same energy levels relative to the bottom of the well. Which one we use is a matter of convenience.

Although it is possible to solve the Schrödinger equation exactly for the finite potential well, the result is cumbersome and not especially illuminating. Instead, we'll present the results of numerical calculations. The derivation of the wave functions and energy levels is not as important as understanding and interpreting the results.



As a first example, consider an electron in a 2.0-nm-wide potential well of depth $U_0 = 1.0\,\text{eV}$. These are reasonable parameters for an electron in a semiconductor device. Figure 40.14a is a graphical presentation of the allowed energies and wave functions. For comparison, Figure 40.14b shows the first three energy levels and wave functions for a rigid box ($U_0 \to \infty$) with the same 2.0 nm width.

## Figure 40.14




Energy levels and wave functions for a finite potential well. For comparison, the energies and wave functions are shown for a rigid box of equal width.

The quantum-mechanical solution for a particle in a finite potential well has some important properties:

- The particle's energy is quantized. A particle in the potential well *must* be in one of the stationary states with quantum numbers $n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$.
- There are only a finite number of **bound states**—four in this example, although the number will be different in other examples. These wave functions represent electrons confined to, or bound in, the potential well. There are no stationary states with $E > U_0$ because such a particle would not remain in the well.
- The wave functions are qualitatively similar to those of a particle in a rigid box, but the energies are somewhat lower. This is because the wave functions are slightly more spread out horizontally. A slightly longer de Broglie wavelength corresponds to a lower velocity and thus a lower energy.
- Most interesting, perhaps, is that the wave functions of Figure 40.14a extend into the classically forbidden regions. It is as though a tennis ball penetrated partly *through* the racket's strings before bouncing back, but without breaking the strings.

**Example 40.6 Absorption spectrum of an electron**

What wavelengths of light are absorbed by a semiconductor device in which electrons are confined in a 2.0-nm-wide region with a potential-energy depth of 1.0 eV?

**MODEL** The electron is in the finite potential well whose energies and wave functions were shown in Figure 40.14a.

**SOLVE** Photons can be absorbed if their energy $E_{\text{photon}} = hf$ exactly matches the energy difference $\Delta E$ between two energy levels. Because most electrons are in the $n = 1$ ground state, the absorption transitions are $1 \rightarrow 2$, $1 \rightarrow 3$, and $1 \rightarrow 4$.

The absorption wavelengths $\lambda = c/f$ are

$$\lambda_{n \rightarrow m} = \frac{hc}{\Delta E} = \frac{hc}{|E_n - E_m|}$$

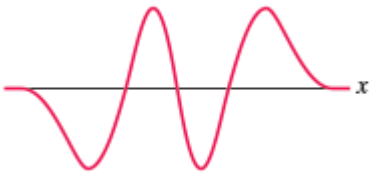
For this example, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_{1-2} &= 0.195 \text{ eV} \qquad \lambda_{1 \rightarrow 2} = 6.37\ \mu\text{m} \\ \Delta E_{1-3} &= 0.517 \text{ eV} \qquad \lambda_{1 \rightarrow 3} = 2.40\ \mu\text{m} \\ \Delta E_{1-4} &= 0.881 \text{ eV} \qquad \lambda_{1 \rightarrow 4} = 1.41\ \mu\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** These transitions are all infrared wavelengths.

### Stop to Think 40.3

This is a wave function for a particle in a finite quantum well. What is the particle's quantum number?






## The Classically Forbidden Region

The extension of a particle's wave functions into the classically forbidden region is an important difference between classical and quantum physics. Let's take a closer look at the wave function in the region $x \geq L$ of Figure 40.13a. The potential energy in the classically forbidden region is $U_0$; thus the Schrödinger equation for $x \geq L$ is

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}(E - U_0)\psi(x)$$

We're assuming a confined particle, with $E$ less than $U_0$, so $E - U_0$ is negative. It will be useful to reverse the order of the two energies and write

**(40.34)**

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = \frac{2m}{\hbar^2}(U_0 - E)\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\eta^2}\psi(x)$$

where

**(40.35)**

$$\eta^2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m(U_0 - E)}$$

is a *positive* constant. As a homework problem, you can show that the units of $\eta$ are meters.

The Schrödinger equation of Equation 40.34 is one we can solve by guessing. We simply need to think of two functions whose second derivatives are a positive constant times the functions themselves. Two such functions, as you can quickly confirm, are $e^{x/\eta}$ and $e^{-x/\eta}$. Thus, according to Equation 40.8, the general solution of the Schrödinger equation for $x \geq L$ is

**(40.36)**

$$\psi(x) = Ae^{x/\eta} + Be^{-x/\eta} \quad \text{for } x \geq L$$

One requirement of the wave function is that $\psi \to 0$ as $x \to \infty$. The function $e^{x/\eta}$ diverges as $x \to \infty$, so the only way to satisfy this requirement is to set $A = 0$. Thus

**(40.37)**

$$\psi(x) = Be^{-x/\eta} \quad \text{for } x \geq L$$

This is an exponentially decaying function. Notice that all the wave functions in Figure 40.14a look like exponential decays for $x > L$.

The wave function must also be continuous. Suppose the oscillating wave function within the potential well ($x \leq L$) has the value $\psi_{\text{edge}}$ when it reaches the classical boundary at $x = L$. To be continuous, the wave function of Equation 40.37 has to match this value at $x = L$. That is,

**(40.38)**

$$\psi(\text{at } x = L) = Be^{-L/\eta} = \psi_{\text{edge}}$$

This boundary condition at $x = L$ is sufficient to determine that the constant $B$ is

**(40.39)**

$$B = \psi_{\text{edge}} e^{L/\eta}$$

If we use the Equation 40.39 result for $B$ in Equation 40.37, we find that the wave function in the classically forbidden region of a finite potential well is

(40.40)

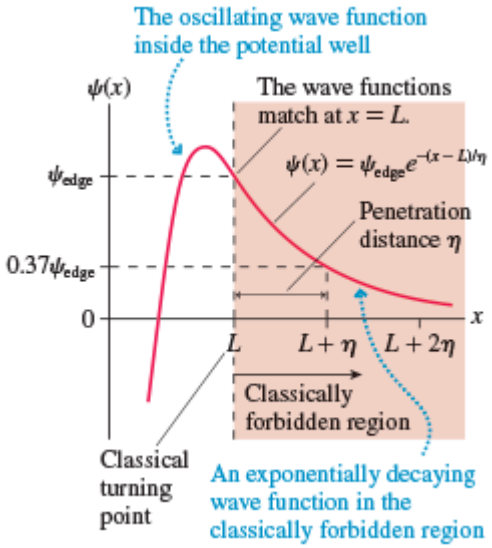
$$\psi(x) = \psi_{\text{edge}} e^{-(x-L)/\eta} \quad \text{for } x \geq L$$

In other words, **the wave function oscillates until it reaches the classical turning point at $x = L$, then it decays exponentially within the classically forbidden region.** A similar analysis could be done for $x \leq 0$.

Figure 40.15 shows the wave function in the classically forbidden region. You can see that the wave function at $x = L + \eta$ has decreased to

$$\psi(\text{at } x = L + \eta) = e^{-1}\psi_{\text{edge}} = 0.37\psi_{\text{edge}}$$

## Figure 40.15




The wave function in the classically forbidden region.

Although an exponential decay does not have a sharp ending point, the parameter $\eta$ measures "about how far" the wave function extends past the classical turning point before the probability of finding the particle has

decreased nearly to zero. This distance is called the **penetration distance:**

(40.41)

$$\text{penetration distance } \eta = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(U_0 - E)}}$$

A classical particle reverses direction at the $x = L$ turning point. But atomic particles are not classical. Because of wave–particle duality, an atomic particle is "fuzzy" with no well-defined edge. Thus an atomic particle can spread a distance of roughly $\eta$ into the classically forbidden region.

The penetration distance is unimaginably small for any macroscopic mass, but it can be significant for atomic particles. Notice that the penetration distance depends inversely on the quantity $U_0 - E$, the distance of the energy level below the top of the potential well. You can see in Figure 40.14a that $\eta$ is much larger for the $n = 4$ state, near the top of the potential well, than for the $n = 1$ state.

> **Note**
>
> In making use of Equation 40.41, you *must* use SI units of J *s* for $\hbar$ and J for the energies. The penetration distance $\eta$ is then in meters.

**Example 40.7 Penetration distance of an electron**

An electron is confined in a 2.0-nm-wide region with a potential-energy depth of 1.00 eV. What are the penetration distances into the classically forbidden region for an electron in the $n = 1$ and $n = 4$ states?

**MODEL** The electron is in the finite potential well whose energies and wave functions were shown in Figure 40.14a.

**SOLVE** The ground state has $U_0 - E_1 = 1.000\,\text{eV} - 0.068\,\text{eV} = 0.932\,\text{eV}$. Similarly, $U_0 - E_4 = 0.051\,\text{eV}$ in the $n = 4$ state. We can use Equation 40.41 to calculate

$$\eta = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(U_0 - E)}} = \begin{cases} 0.20\text{ nm} & n = 1 \\ 0.86\text{ nm} & n = 4 \end{cases}$$

**ASSESS** These values are consistent with Figure 40.14a.



# Quantum-Well Devices

In Part VI we developed a model of electrical conductivity in which the valence electrons of a metal form a loosely bound "sea of electrons." The typical speed of an electron is the rms speed:

$$v_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{3k_{\text{B}}T}{m}}$$

where $k_{\text{B}}$ is Boltzmann's constant. Hence at room temperature, where $v_{\text{rms}} \approx 1 \times 10^5\ \text{m/s}$, the de Broglie wavelength of a typical conduction electron is

$$\lambda \approx \frac{h}{mv_{\text{rms}}} \approx 7 \text{ nm}$$

There is a range of wavelengths because the electrons have a range of speeds, but this is a typical value.

You've now seen many times that wave effects are significant only when the sizes of physical structures are comparable to or smaller than the wavelength. Because the de Broglie wavelength of conduction electrons is only a few nm, quantum effects are insignificant in electronic devices whose features are larger than about 100 nm. The electrons in macroscopic devices can be treated as classical particles, which is how we analyzed electric current in Chapter 27.

However, devices smaller than about 100 nm do exhibit quantum effects. Some semiconductor devices, such as the semiconductor lasers used in fiber-optic communications, now incorporate features only a few nm in size. Quantum effects play an important role in these devices.

Figure 40.16a shows a *semiconductor diode laser* through which a current travels from left to right. In the center is a very thin layer of the semiconductor gallium arsenide (GaAs). It is surrounded on either side by layers of gallium aluminum arsenide (GaAlAs), and these in turn are embedded within the larger structure of the diode. The electrons within the central GaAs layer begin to emit laser light when the current through the diode exceeds a *threshold current*. The laser beam diverges because of diffraction through the "slit" of the GaAs layer, with the wider axis of the laser beam corresponding to the narrower portion of the lasing region.

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**Figure 40.16**

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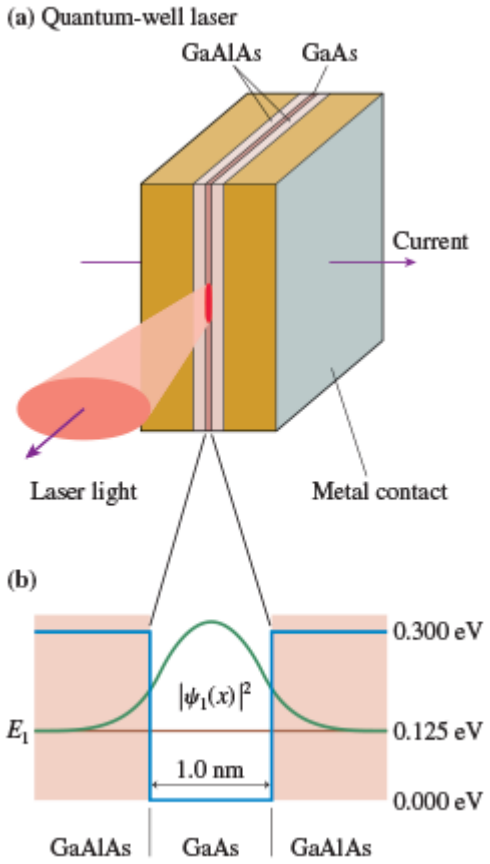



A semiconductor diode laser with a single quantum well.

You can learn in a solid-state physics or materials engineering course that the electric potential energy of an electron is slightly lower in GaAs than in GaAlAs. This makes the GaAs layer a potential well for electrons, with higher-potential-energy GaAlAs "walls" on either side. As a result, the electrons become trapped within the thin GaAs layer. Such a device is called a **quantum-well laser.**

As an example, Figure 40.16b shows a quantum-well device with a 1.0-nm-thick GaAs layer in which the electron's potential energy is 0.300 eV lower than in the surrounding GaAlAs layers. A numerical solution of the Schrödinger equation finds that this potential well has only a *single* quantum state, $n = 1$ with $E_1 = 0.125\,\text{eV}$. Every electron trapped in this quantum well has the *same* energy—a very nonclassical result! The fact that the electron energies are so well defined, in contrast to the range of electron energies in bulk material, is what makes this a useful device. You

can also see from the probability density $|\psi|^2$ that the electrons are more likely to be found in the center of the layer than at the edges. This concentration of electrons makes it easier for the device to begin laser action.

## Nuclear Physics

The nucleus of an atom consists of an incredibly dense assembly of protons and neutrons. The positively charged protons exert extremely strong electric repulsive forces on each other, so you might wonder how the nucleus keeps from exploding. During the 1930s, physicists found that protons and neutrons also exert an *attractive* force on each other. This force, one of the fundamental forces of nature, is called the *strong force*. It is the force that holds the nucleus together.

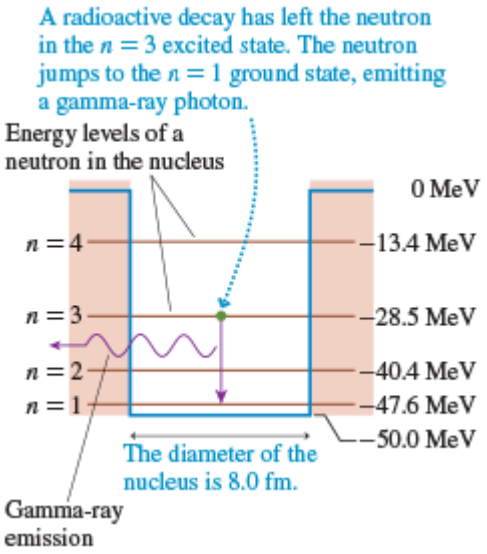
The primary characteristic of the strong force, other than its strength, is that it is a *short-range* force. The attractive strong force between two *nucleons* (a nucleon is either a proton or a neutron; the strong force does not distinguish between them) rapidly decreases to zero if they are separated by more than about 2 fm. This is in sharp contrast to the long-range nature of the electric force.

A reasonable model of the nucleus is to think of the protons and neutrons as particles in a nuclear potential well that is created by the strong force. The diameter of the potential well is equal to the diameter of the nucleus (this varies with atomic mass), and nuclear physics experiments have found that the depth of the potential well is ≈ 50 MeV.

The real potential well is three-dimensional, but let's make a simplified model of the nucleus as a one-dimensional potential well. Figure 40.17 shows the potential energy of a neutron along an $x$-axis passing through

the center of the nucleus. Notice that the zero of energy has been chosen such that a "free" neutron, one outside the nucleus, has $E = 0$. Thus the potential energy inside the nucleus is –50 MeV. The 8.0 fm diameter shown is appropriate for a nucleus having atomic mass number $A \approx 40$, such as argon or potassium. Lighter nuclei will be a little smaller, heavier nuclei somewhat larger. (The potential-energy diagram for a proton is similar, but is complicated a bit by the electric potential energy.)

## Figure 40.17




There are four allowed energy levels for a neutron in this nuclear potential well.

A numerical solution of the Schrödinger equation finds the four stationary states shown in Figure 40.17. The wave functions have been omitted, but they look essentially identical to the wave functions in Figure 40.14a. The major point to note is that the allowed energies differ by several *million* electron volts! These are enormous energies compared to those of an electron in an atom or a semiconductor. But recall that the energies of a particle in a rigid box, $E_n = n^2h^2/8mL^2$, are proportional to $1/L^2$. Our previous examples, with nanometer-size boxes, found energies in the eV range. When the box size is reduced to femtometers, the energies jump up into the MeV range.

It often happens that the nuclear decay of a radioactive atom leaves a neutron in an excited state. For example, Figure 40.17 shows a neutron that has been left in the $n = 3$ state by a previous radioactive decay. This neutron can now undergo a quantum jump to the $n = 1$ ground state by emitting a photon with energy

$$E_{\text{photon}} = E_3 - E_1 = 19.1 \text{ MeV}$$

and wavelength

$$\lambda_{\text{photon}} = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{hc}{E_{\text{photon}}} = 6.50 \times 10^{-5} \text{ nm}$$

This photon is ≈ $10^7$ times more energetic, and its wavelength ≈ $10^7$ times smaller, than the photons of visible light! These extremely high-energy photons are called **gamma rays.** Gamma-ray emission is, indeed, one of the primary processes in the decay of radioactive elements.

Our one-dimensional model cannot be expected to give accurate results for the energy levels or gamma-ray energies of any specific nucleus. Nonetheless, this model does provide a reasonable understanding of the energy-level structure in nuclei and correctly predicts that nuclei can emit photons having energies of several million electron volts. This model, when extended to three dimensions, becomes the basis for the *shell model* of the nucleus in which the protons and neutrons are grouped in various shells analogous to the electron shells around an atom that you remember from chemistry. You can learn more about nuclear physics and the shell model in Chapter 42.

# 40.7 Wave-Function Shapes



Bound-state wave functions are standing de Broglie waves. In addition to boundary conditions, two other factors govern the shapes of wave functions:

1. The de Broglie wavelength is inversely dependent on the particle's speed. Consequently, the node spacing is smaller (shorter wavelength) where the kinetic energy is larger, and the spacing is larger (longer wavelength) where the kinetic energy is smaller.
2. A classical particle is more likely to be found where it is moving more slowly. In quantum mechanics, the probability of finding the particle increases as the wave-function amplitude increases. Consequently, the wave-function amplitude is larger where the kinetic energy is smaller, and it is smaller where the kinetic energy is larger.

We can use this information to draw reasonably accurate wave functions for the different allowed energies in a potential-energy well.

TACTICS BOX 40.1 **Drawing wave functions**

**Mastering Physics**

1. Draw a graph of the potential energy $U(x)$. Show the allowed energy $E$ as a horizontal line. Locate the classical turning points.

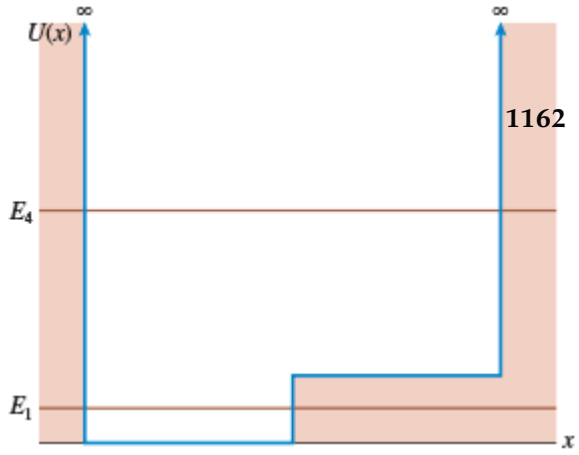
2. Draw the wave function as a continuous, oscillatory function between the turning points. The wave function for quantum state $n$ has $n$ antinodes and $(n-1)$ nodes (excluding the ends).
3. Make the wavelength longer (larger node spacing) and the amplitude higher in regions where the kinetic energy is smaller. Make the wavelength shorter and the amplitude lower in regions where the kinetic energy is larger.
4. Bring the wave function to zero at the edge of an infinitely high potential-energy "wall."
5. Let the wave function decay exponentially inside a classically forbidden region where $E < U$. The penetration distance $\eta$ increases as $E$ gets closer to the top of the potential-energy well.

Workbook Exercises 10, 11, 12, 13

**Example 40.8 Sketching wave functions**

Figure 40.18 shows a potential-energy well and the allowed energies for the $n = 1$ and $n = 4$ quantum states. Sketch the $n = 1$ and $n = 4$ wave functions.

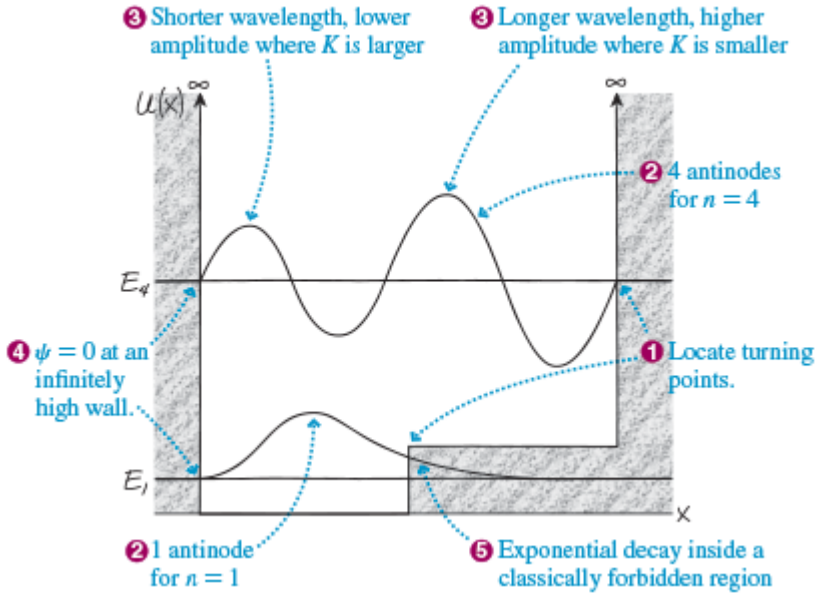
**Figure 40.18**




A potential-energy well.

**VISUALIZE** The steps of Tactics Box 40.1 have been followed to sketch the wave functions shown in Figure 40.19.

## Figure 40.19

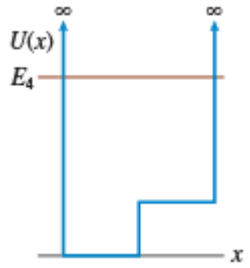



The $n = 1$ and $n = 4$ wave functions.

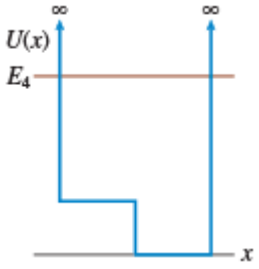
## Stop to Think 40.4

For which potential energy $U(x)$ is this an appropriate $n = 4$ wave function?

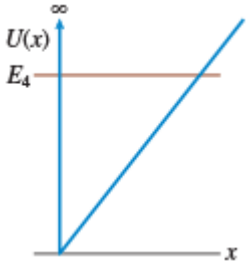
**a.**



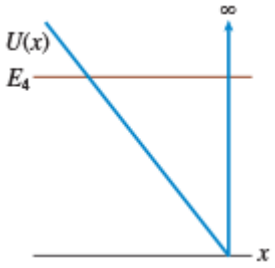

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**



# 40.8 The Quantum Harmonic Oscillator



Simple harmonic motion is exceptionally important in classical physics, where it serves as a prototype for more complex oscillations. As you might expect, a microscopic oscillator—the **quantum harmonic oscillator**—is equally important as a model of oscillations at the atomic level.

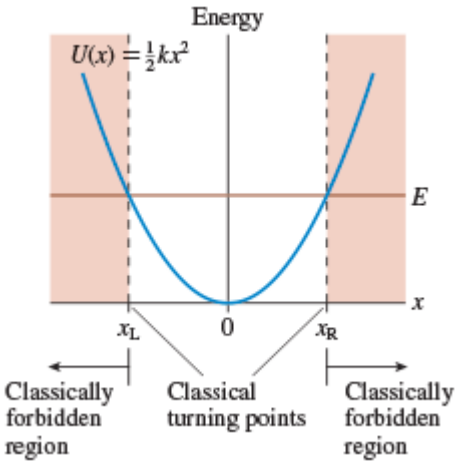
The defining characteristic of simple harmonic motion is a linear restoring force: $F = -kx$, where $k$ is the spring constant. The corresponding potential-energy function, as you learned in Chapter 10, is

**(40.42)**

$$U(x) = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

where we'll assume that the equilibrium position is $x_e = 0$. The potential energy of a harmonic oscillator is shown in Figure 40.20. It is a potential-energy well with curved sides.

**Figure 40.20**




The potential energy of a harmonic oscillator.

---

A classical particle of mass $m$ oscillates with angular frequency

**(40.43)**

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

between the two turning points where the energy line crosses the parabolic potential-energy curve. As you've learned, this classical description fails if $m$ represents an atomic particle, such as an electron or an atom. In that case, we need to solve the Schrödinger equation to find the wave functions.

The Schrödinger equation for a quantum harmonic oscillator is

**(40.44)**

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}\left(E - \frac{1}{2}kx^2\right)\psi(x)$$

where we used $U(x) = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$. We will assert, without deriving them, that the wave functions of the first three states are

**(40.45)**

$$\psi_1(x) = A_1 e^{-x^2/2b^2}$$

$$\psi_2(x) = A_2 \frac{x}{b} e^{-x^2/2b^2}$$

$$\psi_3(x) = A_3 \left(1 - \frac{2x^2}{b^2}\right) e^{-x^2/2b^2}$$

where

**(40.46)**

$$b = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}}$$

The constant $b$ has dimensions of length. We will leave it as a homework problem for you to show that $b$ is the classical turning point of an oscillator in the $n = 1$ ground state. The constants $A_1$, $A_2$, and $A_3$ are normalization constants. For example, $A_1$ can be found by requiring

**(40.47)**

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left|\psi_1(x)\right|^2 dx = A_1^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/b^2} dx = 1$$

The completion of this calculation also will be left as a homework problem.

As expected, stationary states of a quantum harmonic oscillator exist only for certain discrete energy levels, the quantum states of the oscillator. The allowed energies are given by the simple equation

---

**(40.48)**

$$E_n = \left(n - \frac{1}{2}\right)\hbar\omega \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \cdots$$

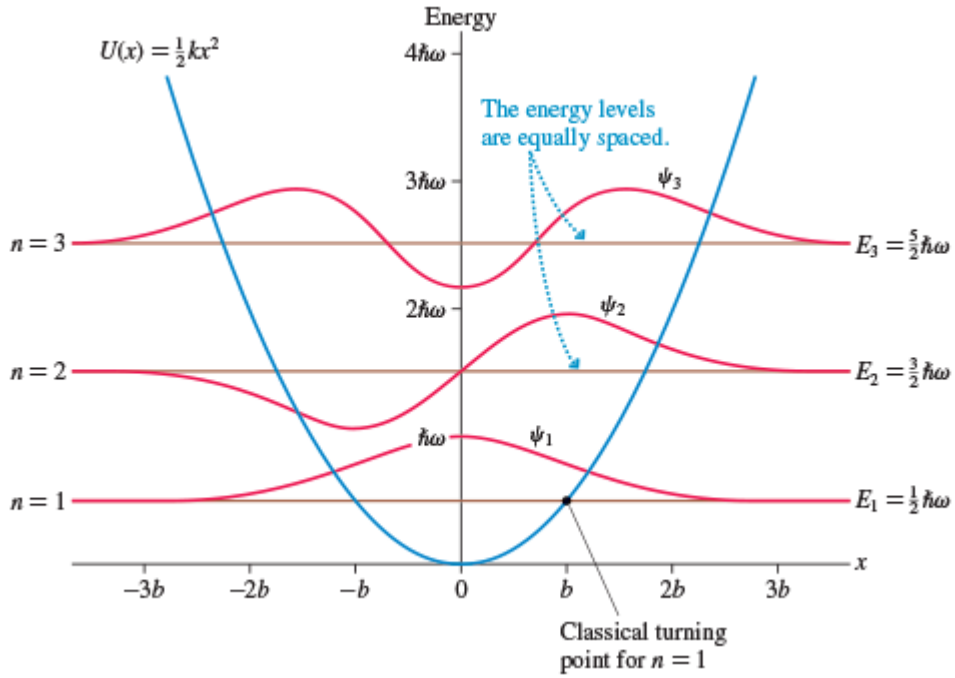
where $\omega$ is the classical angular frequency, Equation 40.43, and $n$ is the quantum number.

> **Note**
>
> The ground-state energy of the quantum harmonic oscillator is $E_1 = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega$. An atomic mass on a spring can *not* be brought to rest. This is a consequence of the uncertainty principle.



Figure 40.21 shows the first three energy levels and wave functions of a quantum harmonic oscillator. Notice that the energy levels are equally spaced by $\Delta E = \hbar\omega$. This result differs from the particle in a box, where the energy levels get increasingly farther apart. Also notice that the wave functions, like those of the finite potential well, extend beyond the turning points into the classically forbidden region.

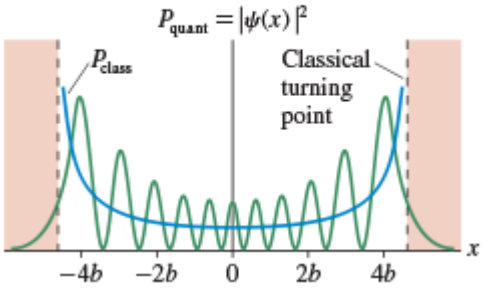
**Figure 40.21**




The first three energy levels and wave functions of a quantum harmonic oscillator.

Figure 40.22 shows the probability density $|\psi(x)|^2$ for the $n = 11$ state of a quantum harmonic oscillator. Notice how the node spacing and the amplitude both increase as the particle moves away from the equilibrium position at $x = 0$. This is consistent with item 3 of Tactics Box 40.1. The particle slows down as it moves away from the origin, causing its de Broglie wavelength *and* the probability of finding it to increase.

## Figure 40.22




The quantum and classical probability densities for the $n = 11$ state of a quantum harmonic oscillator.

Section 40.5 introduced the classical probability density $P_{\text{class}}(x)$ and noted that a classical particle is most likely to be found where it is moving the slowest. Figure 40.22 shows $P_{\text{class}}(x)$ for a classical particle with the same total energy as the $n = 11$ quantum state. You can see that *on average* the quantum probability density $|\psi(x)|^2$ mimics the classical probability density. This is just what the correspondence principle leads us to expect.

**Example 40.9 Light emission by an oscillating electron**

An electron in a harmonic-oscillator potential well emits light of wavelength 600 nm as it jumps from one level to the next lowest level. What is the "spring constant" of the restoring force?

**MODEL** The electron is a quantum harmonic oscillator.

**SOLVE** A photon is emitted as the electron undergoes the quantum jump $n \rightarrow n - 1$. We can use Equation 40.48 for the energy levels to find that the electron loses energy

$$\Delta E = E_n - E_{n-1} = \left(n - \frac{1}{2}\right)\hbar\omega_e - \left(n - 1 - \frac{1}{2}\right)\hbar\omega_e = \hbar\omega_e$$

$\Delta E = \hbar\omega_e$ for *all* transitions, independent of $n$, because the energy levels of the quantum harmonic oscillator are equally spaced. We need to distinguish the harmonic oscillations of the electron from the oscillations of the light wave, hence the subscript e on $\omega_e$.

The emitted photon has energy $E_{\text{photon}} = hf_{\text{ph}} = \Delta E$. Thus

$$\hbar\omega_e = \frac{h}{2\pi}\omega_e = hf_{\text{ph}} = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

The wavelength of the light is $\lambda = 600\ \text{nm}$, so the classical angular frequency of the oscillating electron is

$$\omega_e = 2\pi \frac{c}{\lambda} = 3.14 \times 10^{15}\ \text{rad/s}$$

The electron's angular frequency is related to the spring constant of the restoring force by

$$\omega_e = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

Thus $k = m\omega_e{}^2 = 9.0\ \text{N/m}$.

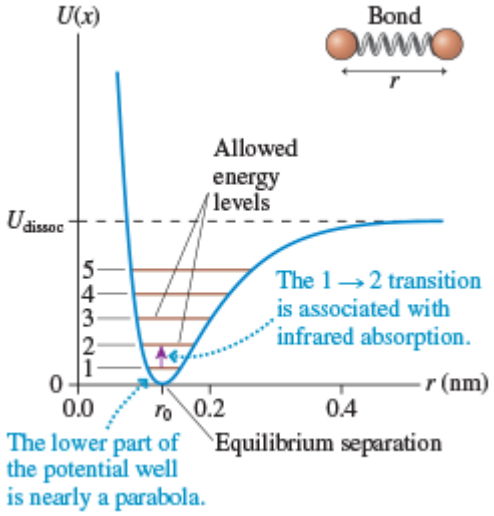
## Molecular Vibrations

We've made many uses of the idea that atoms are held together by spring-like molecular bonds. We've always assumed that the bonds could be modeled as classical springs. The classical model is acceptable for some purposes, but it fails to explain some important features of molecular vibrations. Not surprisingly, the quantum harmonic oscillator is a better model of a molecular bond.

Figure 40.23 shows the potential energy of two atoms connected by a molecular bond. Nearby atoms attract each other through a polarization force, much as a charged rod picks up small pieces of paper. If the atoms get too close, a *repulsive* force between the negative electrons pushes them apart. The equilibrium separation at which the attractive and repulsive forces are balanced is $r_0$, and two classical atoms would be at rest at this separation. But quantum particles, even in their lowest energy

state, have $E > 0$. Consequently, the molecule *vibrates* as the two atoms oscillate back and forth along the bond.

## Figure 40.23




The potential energy of a molecular bond and a few of the allowed energies.

$U_{\text{dissoc}}$ is the energy at which the molecule will *dissociate* and the two atoms will fly apart. Dissociation can occur at very high temperatures or after the molecule has absorbed a high-energy (ultraviolet) photon, but under typical conditions a molecule has energy $E \ll U_{\text{dissoc}}$. In other words, the molecule is in an energy level near the bottom of the potential well.

You can see that the lower portion of the potential well is very nearly a parabola. Consequently, we can model a molecular bond as a quantum harmonic oscillator. The energy associated with the molecular vibration is quantized and can have *only* the values

**(40.49)**

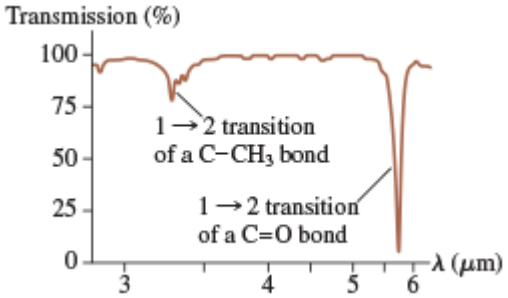
$$E_{\text{vib}} \approx \left(n - \frac{1}{2}\right)\hbar\omega \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$

where $\omega$ is the angular frequency with which the atoms would vibrate if the bond were a classical spring. The molecular potential-energy curve is not exactly that of a harmonic oscillator, hence the $\approx$ sign, but the model is very good for low values of the quantum number $n$. The energy levels calculated by Equation 40.49 are called the **vibrational energy levels** of the molecule. The first few vibrational energy levels are shown in Figure 40.23.

At room temperature, most molecules are in the $n = 1$ vibrational ground state. Their vibrational motion can be excited by absorbing photons of frequency $f = \Delta E/h$. This frequency is usually in the infrared region of the spectrum, and these *vibrational transitions* give each molecule a unique and distinctive infrared absorption spectrum.

As an example, Figure 40.24 shows the infrared absorption spectrum of acetone. The vertical axis is the percentage of the light intensity passing all the way through the sample. The sample is essentially transparent at most wavelengths (transmission $\approx$ 100%), but there are two prominent absorption features. The transmission drops to $\approx$ 75% at $\lambda = 3.3\ \mu$m and to a mere 7% at $\lambda = 5.8\ \mu$m. The 3.3 $\mu$m absorption is due to the $n = 1$ to $n = 2$ transition in the vibration of a C–$CH_3$ carbon-methyl bond. The 5.8 $\mu$m absorption is the $1 \rightarrow 2$ transition of a vibrating C = O carbon-oxygen double bond.

## Figure 40.24



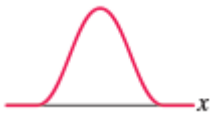
The absorption spectrum of acetone.

Absorption spectra are known for thousands of molecules, and chemists routinely use absorption spectroscopy to identify the chemicals in a sample. A specific bond has the same absorption wavelength regardless of the larger molecule in which it is embedded; thus the presence of that absorption wavelength is a "signature" that the bond is present within a molecule.

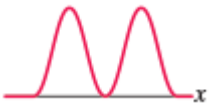
## Stop to Think 40.5

Which probability density represents a quantum harmonic oscillator with $E = \frac{5}{2}\hbar\omega$?

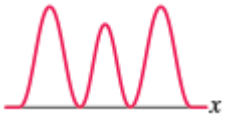
**a.**



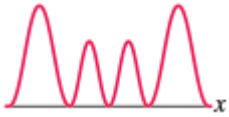

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**



# 40.9 More Quantum Models



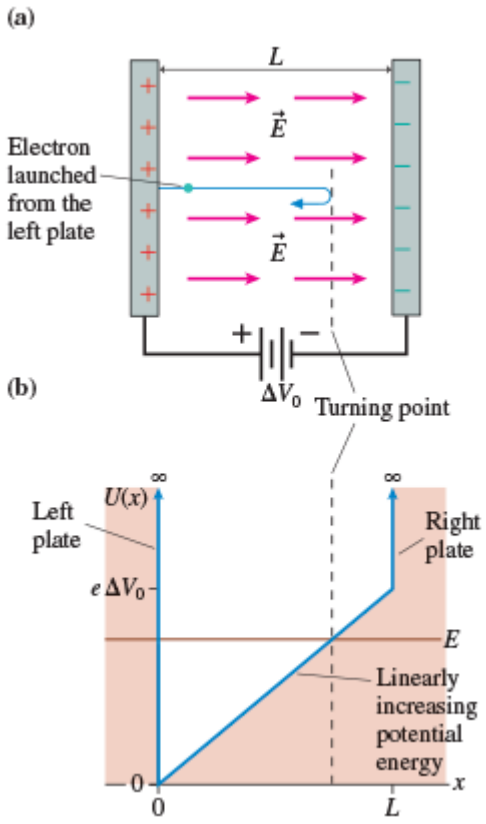
In this section we'll look at two more examples of quantum-mechanical models.

## A Particle in a Capacitor

Many semiconductor devices are designed to confine electrons within a layer only a few nanometers thick. If a potential difference is applied across the layer, the electrons act very much as if they are trapped within a microscopic capacitor.

Figure 40.25a shows two capacitor plates separated by distance $L$. The left plate is positive, so the electric field points to the right with strength $E = \Delta V_0/L$. Because of its negative charge, an electron launched from the left plate is slowed by a *retarding* force. The electron makes it across to the right plate if it starts with sufficient kinetic energy; otherwise, it reaches a turning point and then is pushed back toward the positive plate.

**Figure 40.25**




An electron in a capacitor.

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This classical analysis is a valid model of a macroscopic capacitor. But if $L$ becomes sufficiently small, comparable to the de Broglie wavelength of an electron, then the wave-like properties of the electron cannot be ignored. We need a quantum-mechanical model.

Let's establish a coordinate system with $x = 0$ at the left plate and $x = L$ at the right plate. We define the electric potential to be zero at the positive plate. The potential *decreases* in the direction of the field, so the potential inside the capacitor (see Section 25.5) is

$$V(x) = -Ex = -\frac{\Delta V_0}{L}x$$

The electron, with charge $q = -e$, has potential energy

(40.50)

$$U(x) = qV(x) = +\frac{e\,\Delta V_0}{L}x \qquad 0 < x < L$$

This potential energy increases linearly for $0 < x < L$. If we assume that the capacitor plates act like the walls of a rigid box, then $U(x) \to \infty$ at $x = 0$ and $x = L$.

Figure 40.25b shows the electron's potential-energy function. It is the particle-in-a-rigid-box potential with a sloping "floor" due to the electric field. The figure also shows the total energy line $E$ of an electron in the capacitor. The energy is purely kinetic at $x = 0$, where $K = E$, but it is converted to potential energy as the electron moves to the right. The right turning point occurs where the energy line $E$ crosses the potential-energy curve $U(x)$. If the electron is a classical particle, it must reverse direction at this point.

> **Note**
>
> This is also the shape of the potential energy for a microscopic bouncing ball that is trapped between a floor at $y = 0$ and a ceiling at $y = L$.

It is physically impossible for the electron to be outside the capacitor, so the wave function must be zero for $x < 0$ and $x > L$. The continuity of $\psi$ requires the same boundary conditions as for a particle in a rigid box: $\psi = 0$ at $x = 0$ and at $x = L$. The wave functions inside the capacitor are too complicated to find by guessing, so we have solved the Schrödinger equation numerically and will present the results graphically.

Figure 40.26 shows the wave functions and probability densities for the first five quantum states of an electron confined in a 5.0-nm-thick layer that has a 0.80 V potential difference across it. Each allowed energy is

represented as a horizontal line, with the numerical values shown on the right. They range from $E_1 = 0.23\,\text{eV}$ up to $E_5 = 0.81\,\text{eV}$. An electron *must* have one of the allowed energies shown in the figure. An electron cannot have $E = 0.30\,\text{eV}$ in this capacitor because no de Broglie wave with that energy can match the necessary boundary conditions.

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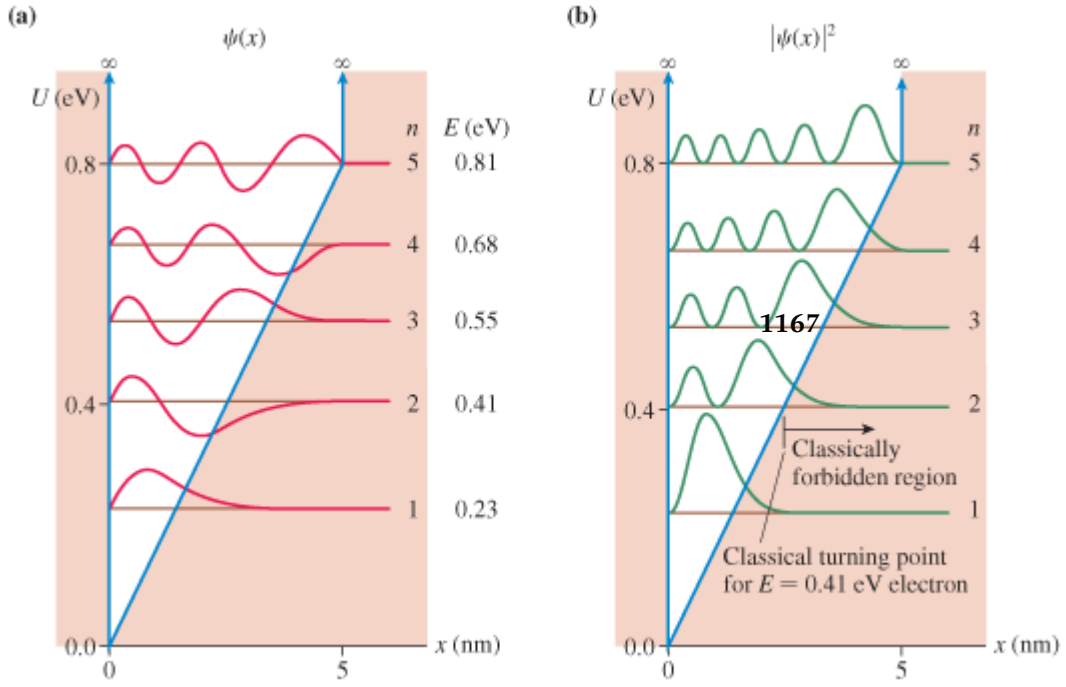
## Figure 40.26




Energy levels, wave functions, and probability densities for an electron in a 5.0-nm-wide capacitor with a 0.80 V potential difference.

---

> **Note**
>
> Remember that each wave function and probability density is graphed as if its energy line is the zero of the *y*-axis.

We can make some observations about the Schrödinger equation solutions:

1. The energies $E_n$ become more closely spaced as $n$ increases, at least to $n = 5$. This contrasts with the particle in a box, for which $E_n$ became more widely spaced.

2. The spacing between the nodes of a wave function is not constant but increases toward the right. This is because an electron on the right side of the capacitor has less kinetic energy and thus a slower speed and a larger de Broglie wavelength.
3. The height of the probability density $|\psi|^2$ increases toward the right. That is, we are more likely to find the electron on the right side of the capacitor than on the left. But this also makes sense if, classically, the electron is moving more slowly when on the right side and thus spending more time there than on the left side.
4. The electron penetrates *beyond* the classical turning point into the classically forbidden region.

**Example 40.10 The emission spectrum of an electron in a capacitor**

What are the wavelengths of photons emitted by electrons in the $n = 4$ state of Figure 40.26?

**SOLVE** Photon emission occurs as the electrons make $4 \rightarrow 3$, $4 \rightarrow 2$, and $4 \rightarrow 1$ quantum jumps. In each case, the photon frequency is $f = \Delta E/h$ and the wavelength is

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{hc}{\Delta E}$$

The energies of the quantum jumps, which can be read from Figure 40.26a, are $\Delta E_{4\rightarrow 3} = 0.13$ eV, $\Delta E_{4\rightarrow 2} = 0.27$ eV, and $\Delta E_{4\rightarrow 1} = 0.45$ eV. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_{4\rightarrow 3} &= 9500 \text{ nm} = 9.5\ \mu\text{m}\\ \lambda_{4\rightarrow 2} &= 4600 \text{ nm} = 4.6\ \mu\text{m}\\ \lambda_{4\rightarrow 1} &= 2800 \text{ nm} = 2.8\ \mu\text{m}\end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The $n = 4$ electrons in this device emit three distinct infrared wavelengths.

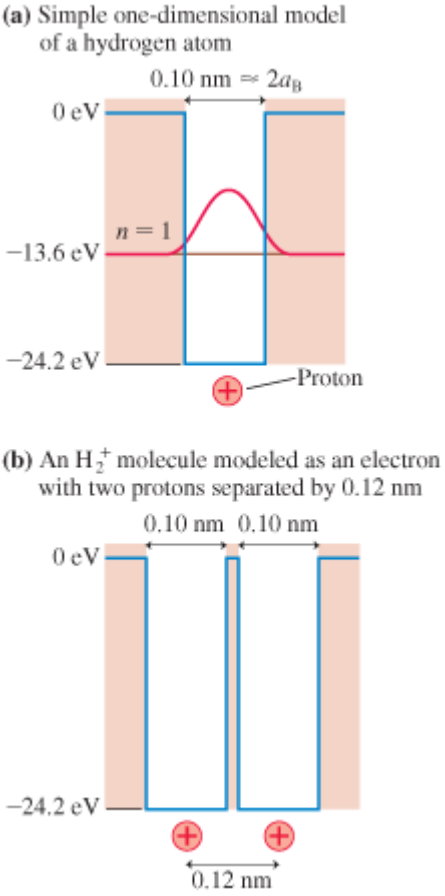
## The Covalent Bond

You probably recall from chemistry that a **covalent molecular bond,** such as the bond between the two atoms in molecules such as $H_2$ and $O_2$, is a bond in which the electrons are shared between the atoms. The basic idea of covalent bonding can be understood with a one-dimensional quantum-mechanical model.

The simplest molecule, the hydrogen molecular ion $H_2{}^+$, consists of two protons and one electron. Although it seems surprising that such a system could be stable, the two protons form a molecular bond with one electron. This is the simplest covalent bond.

How can we model the $H_2{}^+$ ion? To begin, Figure 40.27a shows a one-dimensional model of a hydrogen *atom* in which the electron's Coulomb potential energy, with its $1/r$ dependence, has been approximated by a finite potential well of width $0.10\,\text{nm}\,(\approx 2a_\text{B})$ and depth 24.2 eV. You learned in Chapter 38 that an electron in the ground state of the Bohr hydrogen atom orbits the proton with radius $r_1 = a_\text{B}$ (the Bohr radius) and energy $E_1 = -13.6\,\text{eV}$. A numerical solution of the Schrödinger equation finds that the ground-state energy of this finite potential well is $E_1 = -13.6\,\text{eV}$. This model of a hydrogen atom is very oversimplified, but it does have the correct size and ground-state energy.

**Figure 40.27**




A molecule can be modeled as two closely spaced potential wells, one representing each atom.

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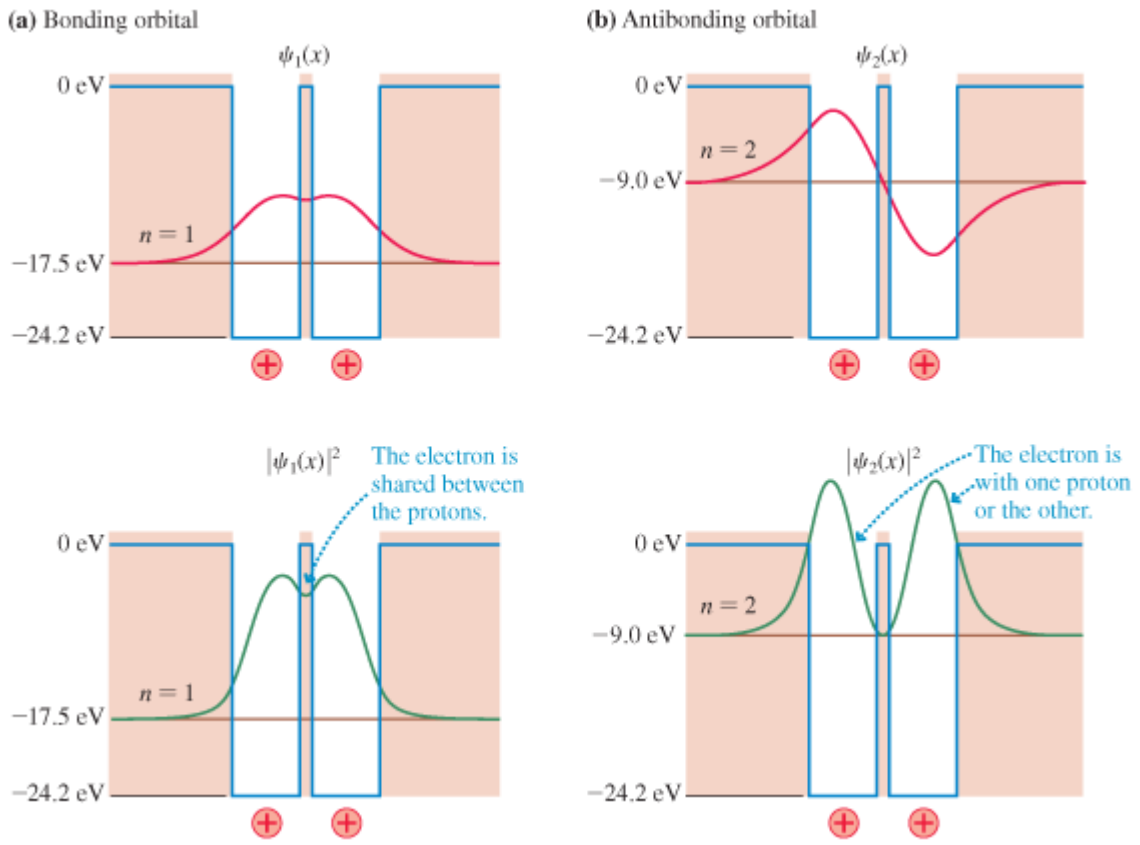
We can model $H_2^+$ by bringing two of these potential wells close together. The molecular bond length of $H_2^+$ is known to be $\approx 0.12\,\text{nm}$, so Figure 40.27b shows potential wells with 0.12 nm between their centers. This is a model of $H_2^+$, not a complete $H_2$ molecule, because this is the potential energy of a single electron. (Modeling $H_2$ is more complex because we would need to consider the repulsion between the two electrons.)



Figure 40.28 on the next page shows the allowed energies, wave functions, and probability densities for an electron with this potential energy. The $n = 1$ wave function has a high probability of being found within the classically forbidden region *between* the two protons. In other

words, an electron in this quantum state really is "shared" by the protons and spends most of its time between them.

## Figure 40.28




The wave functions and probability densities of the electron in $H_2^+$.

In contrast, an electron in the $n = 2$ energy level has zero probability of being found between the two protons because the $n = 2$ wave function has a node at the center. The probability density shows that an $n = 2$ electron is "owned" by one proton or the other rather than being shared.

To learn the consequences of these wave functions we need to calculate the total energy of the molecule: $E_{\text{mol}} = E_{\text{p-p}} + E_{\text{elec}}$. The $n = 1$ and $n = 2$ energies shown in Figure 40.28 are the energies $E_{\text{elec}}$ of the electron. At the same time, the protons repel each other and have electric

potential energy $E_{\text{p–p}}$. It's not hard to calculate that $E_{\text{p–p}} = 12.0\,\text{eV}$ for two protons separated by 0.12 nm. Thus

$$E_{\text{mol}} = E_{\text{p–p}} + E_{\text{elec}} = \begin{cases} 12.0\text{ eV} - 17.5\text{ eV} = -5.5\text{ eV} & n = 1 \\ 12.0\text{ eV} - \ 9.0\text{ eV} = +3.0\text{ eV} & n = 2 \end{cases}$$

The $n = 1$ molecular energy is less than zero, showing that this is a *bound state*. The $n = 1$ wave function is called a **bonding molecular orbital.** Although the protons repel each other, the shared electron provides sufficient "glue" to hold the system together. The $n = 2$ molecular energy is positive, so this is *not* a bound state. The system would be more stable as a hydrogen atom and a distant proton. The $n = 2$ wave function is called an **antibonding molecular orbital.**

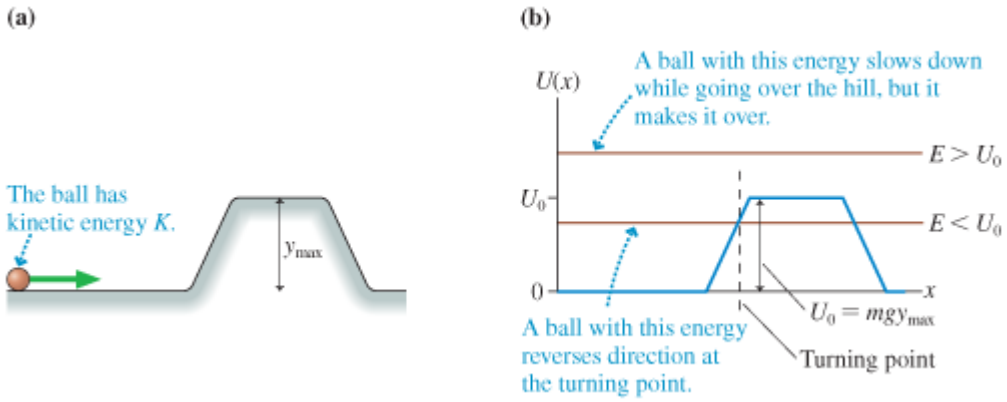
Both $E_{\text{elec}}$ and $E_{\text{p–p}}$ depend on the separation between the protons, which we assumed to be 0.12 nm in this calculation. If we were to calculate and graph $E_{\text{mol}}$ for many different values of the proton separation, the graph would look like the molecular-bond energy curve shown in Figure 40.23. In other words, a molecular bond has an equilibrium length where the bond energy is a minimum *because* of the interplay between $E_{\text{p–p}}$ and $E_{\text{elec}}$.

Although real molecular wave functions are more complex than this one-dimensional model, the $n = 1$ wave function captures the essential idea of a covalent bond. Notice that a "classical" molecule cannot have a covalent bond because the electron would not be able to exist in the classically forbidden region. Covalent bonds can be understood only within the context of quantum mechanics. In fact, the explanation of molecular bonds was one of the earliest successes of quantum mechanics.

# 40.10 Quantum-Mechanical Tunneling

Figure 40.29a shows a ball rolling toward a hill. A ball with sufficient kinetic energy can go over the top of the hill, slowing down as it ascends and speeding up as it rolls down the other side. A ball with insufficient energy rolls partway up the hill, then reverses direction and rolls back down.

**Figure 40.29**




A hill is an energy barrier to a rolling ball.

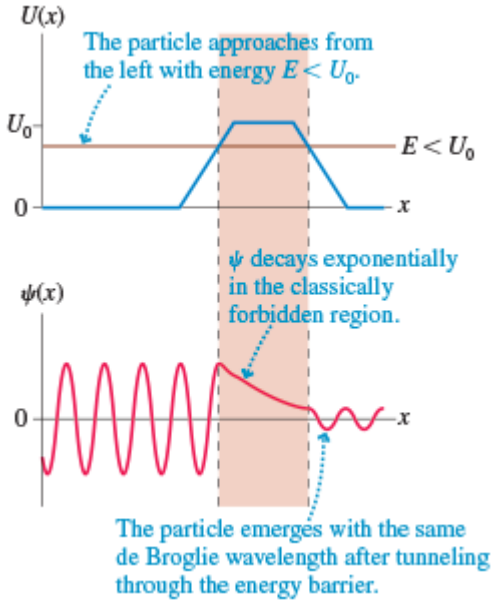
We can think of the hill as an "energy barrier" of height $U_0 = mgy_{\max}$. As Figure 40.29b shows, a ball incident from the left with energy $E > U_0$ can go over the barrier (i.e., roll over the hill), but a ball with $E < U_0$ will reflect from the energy barrier at the turning point. According to the laws of classical physics, a ball that is incident on the energy barrier from the left with $E < U_0$ will never be found on the right side of the barrier.

> **Note**
>
> Figure 40.29b is not a "picture" of the energy barrier. And

> when we say that a ball with energy $E > U_0$ can go "over" the barrier, we don't mean that the ball is thrown from a higher elevation in order to go over the top of the hill. The ball rolls *on the ground* the entire time, as Figure 40.29a shows, and Figure 40.29b describes the kinetic and potential energy of the ball as it rolls. A higher total energy line means a larger initial kinetic energy, not a higher elevation.

Figure 40.30 shows the situation from the perspective of quantum mechanics. As you've learned, quantum particles can penetrate with an exponentially decreasing wave function into the classically forbidden region of an energy barrier. Suppose that the barrier is very narrow. Although the wave function decreases within the barrier, starting at the classical turning point, it hasn't vanished when it reaches the other side. In other words, there is some probability that a quantum particle will pass *through* the barrier and emerge on the other side!

## Figure 40.30




A quantum particle can penetrate through the energy barrier.

It is very much as if the ball of Figure 40.29a gets to the turning point and then, instead of reversing direction and rolling back down, tunnels its way *through* the hill and emerges on the other side. Although this feat is strictly forbidden in classical mechanics, it is apparently acceptable behavior for quantum particles. The process is called **quantum-mechanical tunneling.**

The process of tunneling through a potential-energy barrier is one of the strangest and most unexpected predictions of quantum mechanics. Yet it does happen, and you will see that it even has many practical applications.



> **Note**
>
> The word "tunneling" is used as a metaphor. If a classical particle really did tunnel, it would expend energy doing so and emerge on the other side with less energy. Quantum-mechanical tunneling requires no expenditure of energy. The total energy line is at the same height on both sides of the barrier. A particle that tunnels through a barrier emerges with *no* loss of energy. That is why the de Broglie wavelength is the same on both sides of the potential barrier in Figure 40.30.

To simplify our analysis of tunneling, Figure 40.31 shows an idealized energy barrier of height $U_0$ and width $w$. We've superimposed the wave function on top of the energy diagram so that you can see how it aligns with the potential energy. The wave function to the left of the barrier is a sinusoidal oscillation with amplitude $A_\text{L}$. The wave function *within* the barrier is the decaying exponential we found in Equation 40.40:

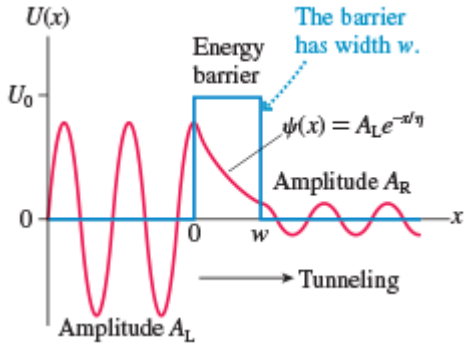
**(40.51)**

$$\psi_\text{in}\,(0 \le x \le w) = \psi_\text{edge} e^{-x/n} = A_\text{L} e^{-x/n}$$

where we've assumed $\psi_{\text{edge}} = A_{\text{L}}$. The penetration distance $\eta$ was given in Equation 40.41 as

$$\eta = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m\,(U_0 - E)}}$$

## Figure 40.31




Tunneling through an idealized energy barrier.

> **Note**
>
> You *must* use SI units when calculating values of $\eta$. Energies must be in J and $\hbar$ in J s. The penetration distance $\eta$ has units of meters.

The wave function decreases exponentially within the barrier, but before it can decay to zero, it emerges again on the right side $(x > w)$ as an oscillation with amplitude

**(40.52)**

$$A_{\text{R}} = \psi_{\text{in}}(\text{at } x = w) = A_{\text{L}} e^{-w/\eta}$$

The probability that the particle is to the left of the barrier is proportional to $|A_{\text{L}}|^2$, and the probability of finding it to the right of the barrier is proportional to $|A_{\text{R}}|^2$. Thus the probability that a particle striking the barrier from the left will emerge on the right is

(40.53)

$$P_{\text{tunnel}} = \frac{|A_{\text{R}}|^2}{|A_{\text{L}}|^2} = \left(e^{-w/\eta}\right)^2 = e^{-2w/\eta}$$

This is the probability that a particle will tunnel through the energy barrier.

Now, our analysis, we have to say, has not been terribly rigorous. For example, we assumed that the oscillatory wave functions on the left and the right were exactly at a maximum where they reached the barrier at $x = 0$ and $x = w$. There is no reason this has to be the case. We have taken other liberties, which experts will spot, but—fortunately—it really makes no difference. Our result, Equation 40.53, turns out to be perfectly adequate for most applications of tunneling.

Because the tunneling probability is an exponential function, it is *very* sensitive to the values of $w$ and $\eta$. The tunneling probability can be substantially reduced by even a small increase in the thickness of the barrier. The parameter $\eta$, which measures how far the particle can penetrate into the barrier, depends both on the particle's mass and on $U_0 - E$. A particle with $E$ only slightly less than $U_0$ will have a larger value of $\eta$ and thus a larger tunneling probability than will an identical particle with less energy.

**Example 40.11 Electron tunneling**

**a.** Find the probability that an electron will tunnel through a 1.0-nm-wide energy barrier if the electron's energy is 0.10

eV less than the height of the barrier.

**b.** Find the tunneling probability if the barrier in part a is widened to 3.0 nm.

**c.** Find the tunneling probability if the electron in part a is replaced by a proton with the same energy.

---

**SOLVE**

**a.** An electron with energy 0.10 eV less than the height of the barrier has $U_0 - E = 0.10\,\text{eV} = 1.60 \times 10^{-20}\,\text{J}$. Thus its penetration distance is

$$\begin{aligned}\eta &= \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(U_0 - E)}} \\ &= \frac{1.05 \times 10^{-34}\,\text{J s}}{\sqrt{2(9.11 \times 10^{-31}\,\text{kg})(1.60 \times 10^{-20}\,\text{J})}} \\ &= 6.18 \times 10^{-10}\,\text{m} = 0.618\,\text{nm}\end{aligned}$$

The probability that this electron will tunnel through a barrier of width $w = 1.0\,\text{nm}$ is

$$P_{\text{tunnel}} = e^{-2w/\eta} = e^{-2(1.0\,\text{nm})/(0.618\,\text{nm})} = 0.039 = 3.9\,\%$$

**b.** Changing the width to $w = 3.0\,\text{nm}$ has no effect on $\eta$. The new tunneling probability is

$$\begin{aligned}P_{\text{tunnel}} &= e^{-2w/\eta} = e^{-2(3.0\,\text{nm})/(0.618\,\text{nm})} = 6.0 \times 10^{-5} \\ &= 0.006\,\%\end{aligned}$$

Increasing the width by a factor of 3 decreases the tunneling probability by a factor of 660!

**c.** A proton is more massive than an electron. Thus a proton with $U_0 - E = 0.10\,\text{eV}$ has $\eta = 0.014\,\text{nm}$. Its probability of tunneling through a 1.0-nm-wide barrier is

$$P_{\text{tunnel}} = e^{-2w/\eta} = e^{-2(1.0\text{ nm})/(0.014\text{ nm})} \approx 1 \times 10^{-64}$$

For practical purposes, the probability that a proton will tunnel through this barrier is zero.

**ASSESS** If the probability of a proton tunneling through a mere 1 nm is only $10^{-64}$, you can see that a macroscopic object will "never" tunnel through a macroscopic distance!

Quantum-mechanical tunneling seems so obscure that it is hard to imagine practical applications. Surprisingly, it is the physics behind one of today's most important technical tools, as we describe in the next section.

## The Scanning Tunneling Microscope

Diffraction limits the resolution of an optical microscope to objects no smaller than about a wavelength of light—roughly 500 nm. This is more than 1000 times the size of an atom, so there is no hope of resolving atoms or molecules via traditional optical microscopy. Electron microscopes are similarly limited by the de Broglie wavelength of the electrons. Their resolution is much better than that of an optical microscope, but still not quite at the level of resolving individual atoms.

This situation changed dramatically in 1981 with the invention of the **scanning tunneling microscope,** or STM as it is usually called. The STM

allowed scientists, for the first time, to "see" surfaces literally atom by atom. The atomic-resolution photos at the beginning of Chapter 39 and this chapter demonstrate the power of an STM. These pictures and many others you have likely seen (but may not have known where they came from) are stupendous, but how are they made?

Figure 40.32a shows how the scanning tunneling microscope works. A conducting probe with a *very* sharp tip, just a few atoms wide, is brought to within a few tenths of a nanometer of a surface. Preparing the tips and controlling the spacing are both difficult technical challenges, but scientists have learned how to do both. Once positioned, the probe can mechanically scan back and forth across the surface.



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**Figure 40.32**

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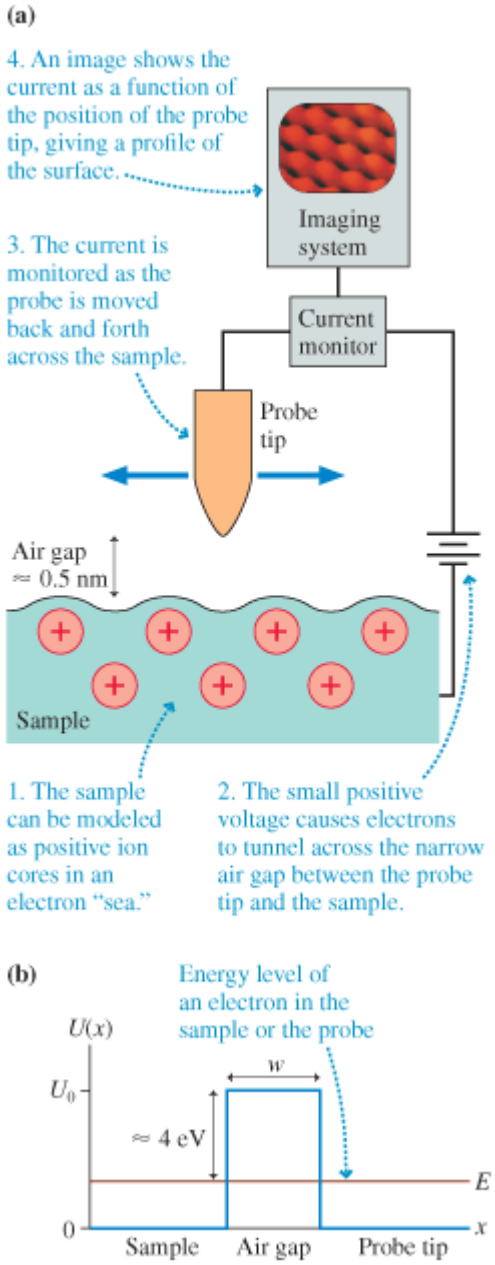


A scanning tunneling microscope.

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When we analyzed the photoelectric effect, you learned that electrons are bound inside metals by an amount of energy called the *work function* $E_0$. A typical work function is 4 or 5 eV. This is the energy that must be supplied—by a photon or otherwise—to remove an electron from the metal. In other words, the electron's energy in the metal is $E_0$ less than its energy outside the metal.

This fact is the basis for the potential-energy diagram of Figure 40.32b. The small air gap between the sample and the probe tip is a potential-energy barrier. The energy of an electron in the metal of the sample or the probe tip is lower than the energy of an electron in the air by ≈ 4 eV, the work function. The absorption of a photon with $E_{\text{photon}} > 4\,\text{eV}$ would lift the electron *over* the barrier, from the sample to the probe. This is just the photoelectric effect. Alternatively, electrons can tunnel *through* the barrier if it is sufficiently narrow. This creates a *tunneling current* from the sample into the probe.

In operation, the tunneling current is recorded as the probe tip scans across the surface. You saw above that the tunneling current is extremely sensitive to the barrier thickness. As the tip scans over the position of an atom, the gap decreases by ≈ 0.1 nm and the current increases. The gap is larger when the tip is between atoms, so the current drops. Today's STMs can sense changes in the gap of as little as 0.001 nm, or about 1% of an atomic diameter! The images you see are computer-generated from the current measurements at each position.

The STM has revolutionized the science and engineering of microscopic objects. STMs are now used to study everything from how surfaces corrode and oxidize, a topic of great practical importance in engineering, to how biological molecules are structured. Another example of quantum mechanics working for you!

## Stop to Think 40.6

A particle with energy $E$ approaches an energy barrier with height $U_0 > E$. If $U_0$ is slowly decreased, the probability that the particle reflects from the barrier

**a.** Increases.

**b.** Decreases.

**c.** Does not change.

### Challenge Example 40.12 Tunneling in semiconductors

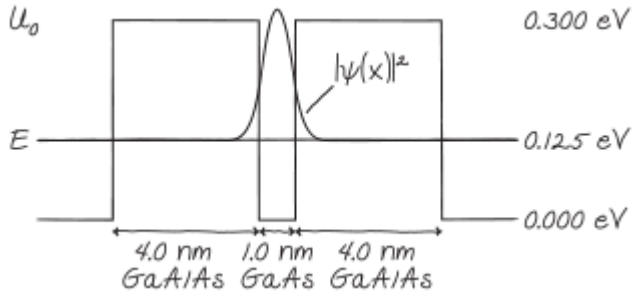
Quantum-mechanical tunneling can be important in semiconductors. Consider a 1.0-nm-thick layer of GaAs sandwiched between 4.0-nm-thick layers of GaAlAs. This is the situation explored in Figure 40.16, where we learned that the electron's potential energy is 0.300 eV lower in GaAs than in GaAlAs. An electron in the GaAs layer can tunnel through the GaAlAs to escape, but this doesn't happen instantly. In quantum mechanics, we can't predict exactly when tunneling will occur, only the probability of it happening. Estimate the time at which the probability of escape has reached 50%.

**MODEL** We can model this problem by thinking of the electron as a particle bouncing back and forth between the walls of the potential well. Each time it hits a wall, it has probability $P_{\text{tunnel}}$ of tunneling and probability $P_{\text{reflect}} = 1 - P_{\text{tunnel}}$ of reflecting. The tunneling probability depends on the height and thickness of a potential barrier.

**VISUALIZE** Figure 40.33 shows the potential well. An electron in a 0.300-eV-deep, 1.0-nm-wide well is exactly the situation of Figure 40.16, so we know that the electron has a single quantum state with $E_1 = 0.125\,\text{eV}$. The wave function decreases exponentially

with distance into the potential barriers, but a very tiny amplitude—too small to see here—still exists at the far edge of the barrier.

**Figure 40.33**




The potential energy of an electron in a layer of GaAs sandwiched between layers of GaAlAs.

**SOLVE** Each time the electron collides with a wall of the potential well, its probability of tunneling through is $P_{\text{tunnel}} = e^{-2w/\eta}$. The penetration distance $\eta$ depends on $U_0 - E$, the "distance" from the energy level to the top of the barrier, which in this case is

$$U_0 - E = 0.300 \text{ eV} - 0.125 \text{ eV} = 0.175 \text{ eV} = 2.8 \times 10^{-20} \text{ J}$$

Using this value, we can calculate the penetration distance to be

$$\eta = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(U_0 - E)}} = 0.465 \text{ nm}$$

We then find the probability of tunneling through a 4.0-nm-wide barrier to be

$$P_{\text{tunnel}} = e^{-2w/\eta} = 3.4 \times 10^{-8}$$

It's a very small probability, as expected. The probability of *not* tunneling, of reflecting back into the well, is then

$$P_{\text{reflect}} = 1 - P_{\text{tunnel}} = 0.999999966$$

You've seen that the probability of A *or* B happening is $P_{\text{A}} + P_{\text{B}}$. Similarly, the probability of A *and* B happening, assuming they are independent events, is $P_{\text{A}} \times P_{\text{B}}$. The probability of a head in a coin toss is $\frac{1}{2}$. If you toss two coins, the probability that A is a head *and* B is a head is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$. If you toss three coins, the probability that all three are heads is $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{8}$. If the electron is still in the potential well after *N* bounces, it had to reflect *N* times. The probability of this happening is

$$P_{\text{in well}} = P_{\text{reflect}} \times P_{\text{reflect}} \times P_{\text{reflect}} \times \cdots \times P_{\text{reflect}} = (P_{\text{reflect}})^N$$

Because $P_{\text{reflect}} < 1$, the probability of still being in the potential well decreases as *N* increases.

We've focused not on $P_{\text{escape}}$ but on $P_{\text{in well}} = 1 - P_{\text{escape}}$ because staying in the well requires *N* specific events to happen. Escape, on the other hand, could have occurred on any of *N* attempts, so a direct calculation of $P_{\text{escape}}$ is much more complicated. If the probability of escape is 50%, then it's also 50% probable that the electron is still in the potential well. We can find the number of reflections needed to get to the 50% probability by taking the logarithm of both sides of the equation:

$$\log(P_{\text{in well}}) = \log\left((P_{\text{reflect}})^N\right) = N \log(P_{\text{reflect}})$$

$$N = \frac{\log(P_{\text{in well}})}{\log(P_{\text{reflect}})} = \frac{\log(0.50)}{\log(0.999999966)} = 2.0 \times 10^7$$

After 20 million reflections, the electron is 50% likely to have escaped. Although that's a large number of reflections, it doesn't take long because the electron is moving only a very small distance between reflections at a fairly high speed. The electron's energy

inside the potential well is entirely kinetic, $K = E = 0.125\,\text{eV} = 2.0 \times 10^{-20}\,\text{J}$, so its speed is

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2K}{m}} = 2.1 \times 10^{5}\ \text{m/s}$$

The time between reflections is the time needed to travel across the 1.0-nm-wide GaAs layer:

$$\Delta t = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{m}}{2.1 \times 10^{5}\ \text{m/s}} = 4.8 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{s}$$

Thus the time needed for $2.0 \times 10^{7}$ reflections is

$$t_{50\%} = N\ \Delta t = 9.6 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{s} = 96\ \text{ns}$$

Because we're making only an estimate, we can say that an electron has a 50% probability of tunneling out of the GaAs layer within about 100 ns.

**ASSESS** Even though the tunneling probability is very tiny, tunneling takes place very rapidly on a human time scale. An increasing number of semiconductor devices make practical use of this *tunneling current*. Note that no energy is lost in the tunneling process; "tunneling" is a metaphor, not a process that requires work. The electron emerges with 0.125 eV of kinetic energy.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 40 has been to learn how to apply the essential ideas of quantum mechanics.

## General Principles

### The Schrödinger Equation

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}[E - U(x)]\psi(x)$$

This equation determines the wave function $\psi(x)$ and, through $\psi(x)$, the probabilities of finding a particle of mass $m$ with potential energy $U(x)$.

### Solving Quantum-Mechanics Problems

**MODEL** Determine an appropriate potential-energy function $U(x)$.

**VISUALIZE** Draw the potential-energy curve.

- Establish boundary conditions.

**SOLVE** Draw graphs of $\psi(x)$ and $|\psi(x)|^2$.

- Determine the allowed energy levels.
- Calculate probabilities, wavelengths, and other quantities.

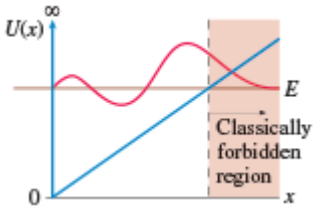
**ASSESS** Does the result have correct units and answer the question?

### Boundary conditions

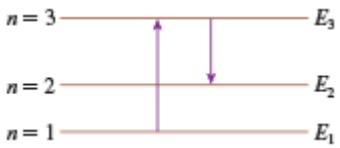
- $\psi(x)$ is a continuous function.
- $\psi(x) \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$.
- $\psi(x) = 0$ in a region where it is physically impossible for the particle to be.
- $\psi(x)$ is normalized.

### Shapes of wave functions

- The wave function oscillates in the region between the classical turning points.
- State $n$ has $n$ antinodes.
- Node spacing and amplitude increase as kinetic energy $K$ decreases.
- $\psi(x)$ decays exponentially in a classically forbidden region.




**Quantum-mechanical models** are characterized by the particle's potential-energy function $U(x)$.

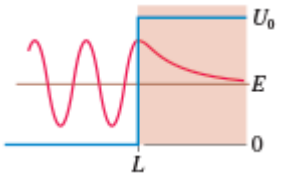



- Wave-function solutions exist for only certain values of $E$. Thus energy is quantized.
- Photons are emitted or absorbed in quantum jumps.

## Important Concepts

## Quantum-mechanical tunneling

A wave function can penetrate into a classically forbidden region with

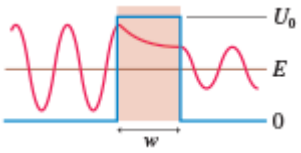



$$\psi(x) = \psi_{\text{edge}} e^{-(x-L)/\eta}$$

where the **penetration distance** is

$$\eta = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(U_0 - E)}}$$

The probability of tunneling through a barrier of width $w$ is




$$P_{\text{tunnel}} = e^{-2w/\eta}$$

The **correspondence principle** says that the quantum world blends smoothly into the classical world for high quantum numbers. This is seen by comparing $|\psi(x)|^2$ to the classical probability density

$$P_{\text{class}} = \frac{2}{Tv(x)}$$

$P_{\text{class}}$ expresses the idea that a classical particle is more likely to be found where it is moving slowly.

# Applications



**Particle in a rigid box:** $E_n = n^2 \dfrac{h^2}{8mL^2} \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$

**Quantum harmonic oscillator:** $E_n = (n - \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$

Other applications were studied through numerical solution of the Schrödinger equation.

# Terms and Notation

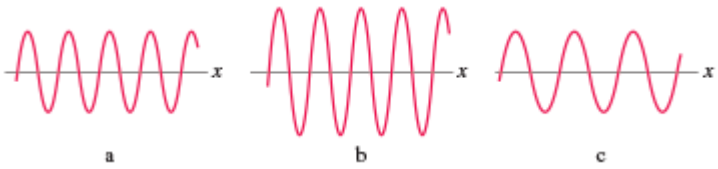
Schrödinger equation
quantum-mechanical model
boundary conditions
zero-point motion
correspondence principle
potential well
classically forbidden regions
bound state
penetration distance, $\eta$
quantum-well laser
gamma rays
quantum harmonic oscillator
vibrational energy levels
covalent molecular bond
bonding molecular orbital
antibonding molecular orbital
quantum-mechanical tunneling
scanning tunneling microscope (STM)

# Conceptual Questions



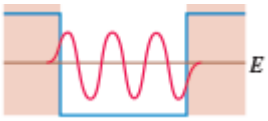
1. Figure Q40.1 shows the de Broglie waves of three equal-mass particles. Which one is moving most slowly? Explain.

**Figure Q40.1**



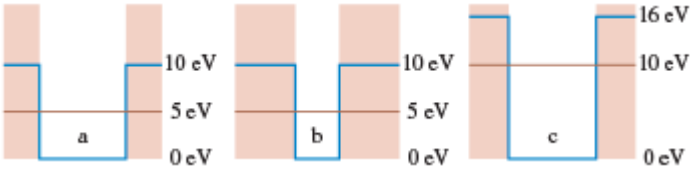

2. The correspondence principle says that the *average* behavior of a quantum system should begin to look like the Newtonian solution in the limit that the quantum number becomes very large. What is meant by "the *average* behavior" of a quantum system?
3. A particle in a potential well is in the $n = 5$ quantum state. How many peaks are in the probability density $p(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$ ?
4. What is the quantum number of the particle in Figure Q40.4? How can you tell?

**Figure Q40.4**




5. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the penetration distances $\eta_a$ to $\eta_c$ of the wave functions corresponding to the three energy levels in Figure Q40.5.

## Figure Q40.5

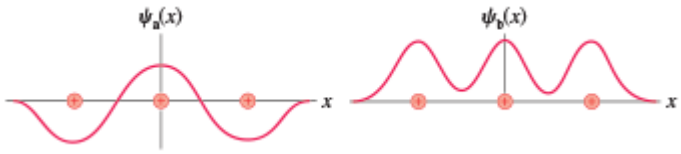



**6.** Consider a quantum harmonic oscillator.

- **a.** What happens to the spacing between the nodes of the wave function as | x | increases? Why?
- **b.** What happens to the heights of the antinodes of the wave function as | x | increases? Why?
- **c.** Sketch a reasonably accurate graph of the $n = 8$ wave function of a quantum harmonic oscillator.

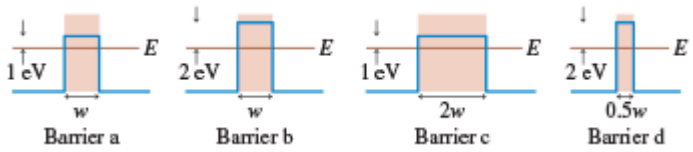
**7.** Figure Q40.7 shows two possible wave functions for an electron in a linear triatomic molecule. Which of these is a bonding orbital and which is an antibonding orbital? Explain how you can distinguish them.

## Figure Q40.7




**8.** Four quantum particles, each with energy $E$, approach the potential-energy barriers seen in Figure Q40.8 from the left. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the tunneling probabilities $(P_{\text{tunnel}})$ to $(P_{\text{tunnel}})_{\text{d}}$.

## Figure Q40.8




**9.** An electron has a 0.0100 probability (a 1.00% chance) of tunneling through a potential barrier. If the width of the barrier is doubled, will the tunneling probability be 0.0050, 0.0025, or 0.0001? Explain.

# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Sections 40.3– 40.4 A Particle in a Rigid Box

**1.** • The electrons in a rigid box emit photons of wavelength 1484 nm during the $3 \rightarrow 2$ transition.

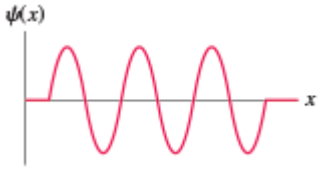
**a.** What kind of photons are they—infrared, visible, or ultraviolet?

**b.** How long is the box in which the electrons are confined?

**2.** •• An electron in a rigid box absorbs light. The longest wavelength in the absorption spectrum is 600 nm. How long is the box?

**3.** •• Figure EX40.3 shows the wave function of an electron in a rigid box. The electron energy is 25 eV. How long is the box?

**Figure EX40.3**

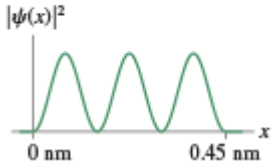



**4.** •• Figure EX40.4 shows the wave function of an electron in a rigid box. The electron energy is 12.0 eV. What is the energy, in eV, of the next higher state?

**Figure EX40.4**

**5.** •• Figure EX40.5 is the probability density for an electron in a rigid box. What is the electron's energy, in eV?

**Figure EX40.5**




**6.** • A 16-nm-long box has a thin partition that divides the box into a 4-nm-long section and a 12-nm-long section. An electron confined in the shorter section is in the $n = 2$ state. The partition is briefly withdrawn, then reinserted, leaving the electron in the longer section of the box. What is the electron's quantum state after the partition is back in place?

## Section 40.6 Finite Potential Wells

**7.** • Show that the penetration distance $\eta$ has units of m.

**8.** •

**a.** Sketch graphs of the probability density $|\psi(x)|^2$ for the four states in the finite potential well of Figure 40.14a. Stack them vertically, similar to the Figure 40.14a graphs of $\psi(x)$.

**b.** What is the probability that a particle in the $n = 2$ state of the finite potential well will be found at the center of the well? Explain.

**c.** Is your answer to part b consistent with what you know about standing waves? Explain.

**9.** • A finite potential well has depth $U_0 = 2.00\,\text{eV}$. What is the penetration distance for an electron with energy (a) 0.50 eV, (b) 1.00 eV, and (c) 1.50 eV?

**10.** •• The energy of an electron in a 2.00-eV-deep potential well is 1.50 eV. At what distance into the classically forbidden region has the amplitude of the wave function decreased to 25% of its value at the edge of the potential well?

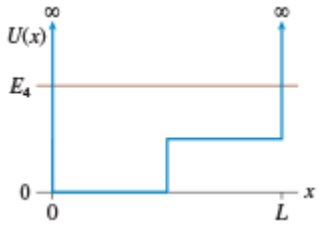
**11.** •• An electron in a finite potential well has a 1.0 nm penetration distance into the classically forbidden region. How far below $U_0$ is the electron's energy?

**12.** •• A helium atom is in a finite potential well. The atom's energy is 1.0 eV below $U_0$. What is the atom's penetration distance into the classically forbidden region?

## Section 40.7 Wave-Function Shapes

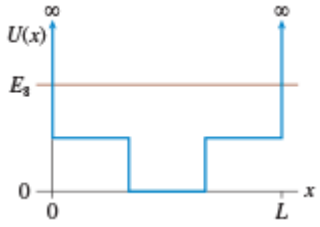
**13.** • Sketch the $n = 4$ wave function for the potential energy shown in Figure EX40.13.

**Figure EX40.13**



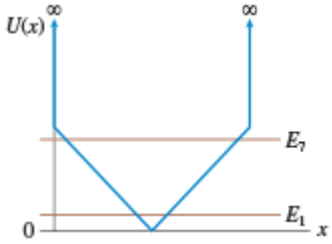

**14.** • Sketch the $n = 8$ wave function for the potential energy shown in Figure EX40.14.

**Figure EX40.14**



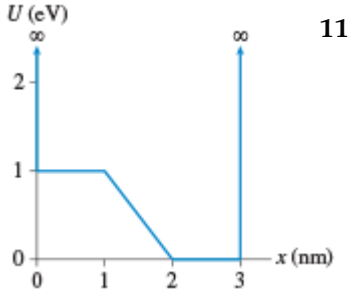

**15.** • Sketch the $n = 1$ and $n = 7$ wave functions for the potential energy shown in Figure EX40.15.

**Figure EX40.15**




**16.** • The graph in Figure EX40.16 shows the potential-energy function $U(x)$ of a particle. Solution of the Schrödinger equation finds that the $n = 3$ level has $E_3 = 0.5\,\text{eV}$ and that the $n = 6$ level has $E_6 = 2.0\,\text{eV}$.

**Figure EX40.16**




**a.** Redraw this figure and add to it the energy lines for the $n = 3$ and $n = 6$ states.

**b.** Sketch the $n = 3$ and $n = 6$ wave functions. Show them as oscillating about the appropriate energy line.

## Section 40.8 The Quantum Harmonic Oscillator

## Section 40.9 More Quantum Models

**17.** • **INT** An electron is confined in a harmonic potential well that has a spring constant of 2.0 N/m

**a.** What are the first three energy levels of the electron?

**b.** What wavelength photon is emitted if the electron undergoes a $3 \rightarrow 1$ quantum jump?

**18.** • **INT** Two adjacent energy levels of an electron in a harmonic potential well are known to be 2.0 eV and 2.8 eV. What is the spring constant of the potential well?

**19.** • **INT** An electron confined in a harmonic potential well emits a 1200 nm photon as it undergoes a $3 \rightarrow 2$ quantum jump. What is the spring constant of the potential well?

**20.** •• An electron in a harmonic potential well absorbs a photon with a wavelength of 400 nm as it undergoes a $1 \rightarrow 2$ quantum jump. What wavelength is absorbed in a $1 \rightarrow 3$ quantum jump?

**21.** •• **INT** An electron is confined in a harmonic potential well that has a spring constant of 12.0 N/m. What is the longest

wavelength of light that the electron can absorb?

**22.** •• Use the data from Figure 40.24 to calculate the first three vibrational energy levels of a C = O carbon-oxygen double bond.

**23.** •• **CALC** Verify that the $n = 1$ wave function $\psi_1(x)$ of the quantum harmonic oscillator really is a solution of the Schrödinger equation. That is, show that the right and left sides of the Schrödinger equation are equal if you use the $\psi_1(x)$ wave function.

## Section 40.10 Quantum-Mechanical Tunneling

**24.** •• An electron approaches a 1.0-nm-wide potential-energy barrier of height 5.0 eV. What energy electron has a tunneling probability of (a) 10%, (b) 1.0%, and (c) 0.10%?

**25.** ••• What is the probability that an electron will tunnel through a 0.45 nm gap from a metal to a STM probe if the work function is 4.0 eV?

# Problems

**26.** •• **CALC** Suppose that $\psi_1(x)$ and $\psi_2(x)$ are both solutions to the Schrödinger equation for the same potential energy $U(x)$. Prove that the superposition $\psi(x) = A\,\psi_1\,(x) + B\psi_2(x)$ is also a solution to the Schrödinger equation.

**27.** •• A 2.0-$\mu$m-diameter water droplet is moving with a speed of 1.0 $\mu$m/s in a 20-$\mu$m-long box.

**a.** Estimate the particle's quantum number.

**b.** Use the correspondence principle to determine whether quantum mechanics is needed to understand

the particle's motion or if it is "safe" to use classical physics.

**28.** •• Figure 40.27a modeled a hydrogen atom as a finite potential well with rectangular edges. A more realistic model of a hydrogen atom, although still a one-dimensional model, would be the electron + proton electrostatic potential energy in one dimension:

$$U(x) = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |x|}$$

**a.** Draw a graph of $U(x)$ versus $x$. Center your graph at $x = 0$.

**b.** Despite the divergence at $x = 0$, the Schrödinger equation can be solved to find energy levels and wave functions for the electron in this potential. Draw a horizontal line across your graph of part a about one-third of the way from the bottom to the top. Label this line $E_2$, then, on this line, sketch a plausible graph of the $n = 2$ wave function.

**c.** Redraw your graph of part a and add a horizontal line about two-thirds of the way from the bottom to the top. Label this line $E_3$, then, on this line, sketch a plausible graph of the $n = 3$ wave function.

**29.** •• **INT** Model an atom as an electron in a rigid box of length 0.100 nm, roughly twice the Bohr radius.

**a.** What are the four lowest energy levels of the electron?

**b.** Calculate all the wavelengths that would be seen in the emission spectrum of this atom due to quantum jumps between these four energy levels. Give each wavelength a label $\lambda_{n\to m}$ to indicate the transition.

**c.** Are these wavelengths in the infrared, visible, or ultraviolet portion of the spectrum?

**d.** The stationary states of the Bohr hydrogen atom have negative energies. The stationary states of this model of the atom have positive energies. Is this a physically significant difference? Explain.

**e.** Compare this model of an atom to the Bohr hydrogen atom. In what ways are the two models similar? Other than the signs of the energy levels, in what ways are they different?

**30.** ••

**a.** Derive an expression for $\lambda_{2\to1}$, the wavelength of light emitted by a particle in a rigid box during a quantum jump from $n = 2$ to $n = 1$.

**b.** In what length rigid box will an electron undergoing a $2 \to 1$ transition emit light with a wavelength of 694 nm? This is the wavelength of a ruby laser.

**31.** •• **CALC** Show that the normalization constant $A_n$ for the wave functions of a particle in a rigid box has the value given in Equation 40.26.

**32.** •• A particle confined in a rigid one-dimensional box of length 10 fm has an energy level $E_n = 32.9\,\text{MeV}$ and an adjacent energy level $E_{n+1} = 51.4\,\text{MeV}$.

**a.** Determine the values of $n$ and $n + 1$.

**b.** Draw an energy-level diagram showing all energy levels from 1 through $n + 1$. Label each level and write the energy beside it.

**c.** Sketch the $n + 1$ wave function on the $n + 1$ energy level.

**d.** What is the wavelength of a photon emitted in the $n + 1 \rightarrow n$ transition? Compare this to a typical visible-light wavelength.

**e.** What is the mass of the particle? Can you identify it?

**33.** •• **CALC** Consider a particle in a rigid box of length $L$. For each of the states $n = 1$, $n = 2$, and $n = 3$:

**a.** Sketch graphs of $|\psi(x)|^2$. Label the points $x = 0$ and $x = L$.

**b.** Where, in terms of $L$, are the positions at which the particle is *most* likely to be found?

**c.** Where, in terms of $L$, are the positions at which the particle is *least* likely to be found?

**d.** Determine, by examining your $|\psi(x)|^2$ graphs, if the probability of finding the particle in the left one-third of the box is less than, equal to, or greater than $\frac{1}{3}$. Explain your reasoning.

**e.** *Calculate* the probability that the particle will be found in the left one-third of the box.

**34.** •• **CALC** A neutron is confined in a 10-fm-diameter nucleus. If the nucleus is modeled as a one-dimensional rigid box, what is the probability that a neutron in the ground state is less than 2.0 fm from the edge of the nucleus?

**35.** •• For the quantum-well laser of Figure 40.16, *estimate* the probability that an electron will be found within one of the GaAlAs layers rather than in the GaAs layer. Explain your reasoning.

**36.** ••• For a particle in a finite potential well of width $L$ and depth $U_0$, what is the ratio of the probability $\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x = L + \eta)$ to the probability $\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x = L)$?

**37.** •• A typical electron in a piece of metallic sodium has energy $-E_0$ compared to a free electron, where $E_0$ is the 2.7 eV work function of sodium.

**a.** At what distance *beyond* the surface of the metal is the electron's probability density 10% of its value *at* the surface?

**b.** How does this distance compare to the size of an atom?

**38.** •• **INT** Show that the constant $b$ used in the quantum-harmonic-oscillator wave functions (a) has units of length and (b) is the classical turning point of an oscillator in the $n = 1$ ground state.

**39.** •• **CALC**

**a.** Determine the normalization constant $A_1$ for the $n = 1$ ground-state wave function of the quantum harmonic oscillator. Your answer will be in terms of $b$.

**b.** Write an expression for the probability that a quantum harmonic oscillator in its $n = 1$ ground state will be found in the classically forbidden region.

**c.** (Optional) Use a numerical integration program to evaluate your probability expression of part b.

**Hint:** It helps to simplify the integral by making a change of variables to $u = x/b$.

**40.** •• **INT**

**a.** Derive an expression for the classical probability density $P_{\text{class}}(x)$ for a simple harmonic oscillator with amplitude $A$.

**b.** Graph your expression between $x = -A$ and $x = +A$.

**c.** Interpret your graph. Why is it shaped as it is?

**41.** •• **INT**

**a.** Derive an expression for the classical probability density $P_{\text{class}}(y)$ for a ball that bounces between the ground and height $h$. The collisions with the ground are perfectly elastic.

**b.** Graph your expression between $y = 0$ and $y = h$.

**c.** Interpret your graph. Why is it shaped as it is?

**42.** ••• **CALC** A particle of mass $m$ has the wave function

$$\psi(x) = Ax \exp(-x^2/a^2)$$

when it is in an allowed energy level with $E = 0$.

**a.** Draw a graph of $\psi(x)$ versus $x$.

**b.** At what value or values of $x$ is the particle most likely to be found?

**c.** Find and graph the potential-energy function $U(x)$.

**43.** •• Figure 40.17 showed that a typical nuclear radius is 4.0 fm. As you'll learn in Chapter 42, a typical energy of a neutron bound inside the nuclear potential well is $E_n = -20\,\text{MeV}$. To find out how "fuzzy" the edge of the nucleus is, what is the neutron's penetration distance into the classically forbidden region as a fraction of the nuclear radius?

**44.** •• Even the smoothest mirror finishes are "rough" when viewed at a scale of 100 nm. When two very smooth metals are placed in contact with each other, the actual distance between the surfaces varies from 0 nm at a few points of real contact to ≈ 100 nm. The average distance between the surfaces is ≈ 50 nm. The work function of aluminum is 4.3 eV. What is the probability that an electron will tunnel between two pieces of aluminum that are 50 nm apart? Give your answer as a power of 10 rather than a power of $e$.

**45.** •• A proton's energy is 1.0 MeV below the top of a 10-fm-wide energy barrier. What is the probability that the proton will tunnel through the barrier?

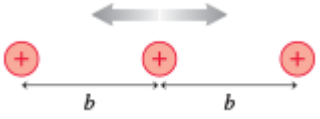
## Challenge Problems

**46.** ••• In a nuclear physics experiment, a proton is fired toward a $Z = 13$ nucleus with the diameter and neutron energy levels shown in Figure 40.17. The nucleus, which was initially in its ground state, subsequently emits a gamma ray with wavelength $1.73 \times 10^{-4}$ nm. What was the *minimum* initial speed of the proton?

**Hint:** Don't neglect the proton-nucleus collision.

**47.** ••• In most metals, the atomic ions form a regular arrangement called a *crystal lattice*. The conduction electrons in the sea of electrons move through this lattice. Figure CP40.47 is a one-dimensional model of a crystal lattice. The ions have mass $m$, charge $e$, and an equilibrium separation $b$.

**Figure CP40.47**




**a.** Suppose the middle charge is displaced a very small distance ($x \ll b$) from its equilibrium position while the outer charges remain fixed. Show that the net electric force on the middle charge is given approximately by

$$F = -\frac{e^2}{b^3 \pi \epsilon_0} x$$

In Other words, the charge experiences a linear restoring force.

**b.** Suppose this crystal consists of aluminum ions with an equilibrium spacing of 0.30 nm. What are the energies of the four lowest vibrational states of these ions?

**c.** What wavelength photons are emitted during quantum jumps between *adjacent* energy levels? Is this wavelength in the infrared, visible, or ultraviolet portion of the spectrum?

**48.** •••

**a.** What is the probability that an electron will tunnel through a 0.50 nm air gap from a metal to a STM probe if the work function is 4.0 eV?

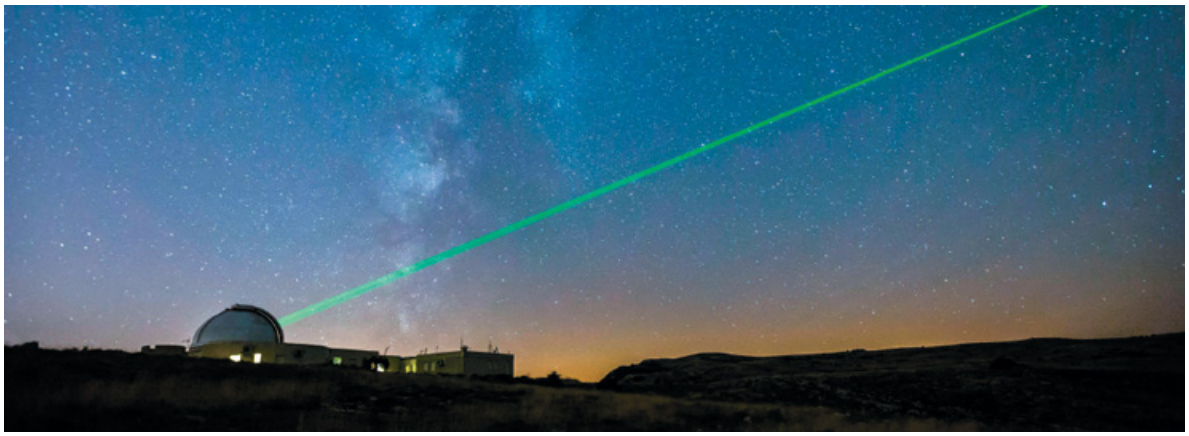
**b.** The probe passes over an atom that is 0.050 nm "tall." By what factor does the tunneling current increase?

**c.** If a 10% current change is reliably detectable, what is the smallest height change the STM can detect?

**49.** ••• Tennis balls traveling faster than 100 mph routinely bounce off tennis rackets. At some sufficiently high speed, however, the ball will break through the strings and keep going. The racket is a potential-energy barrier whose height is the energy of the slowest string-breaking ball. Suppose that a 100 g tennis ball traveling at 200 mph is just sufficient to break the 2.0-mm-thick strings. Estimate the probability that a 120 mph ball will tunnel through the strings without breaking them. Give your answer as a power of 10 rather than a power of *e*.

# Chapter 41
# Atomic Physics





Lasers are one of the most important applications of the quantum-mechanical properties of atoms and light.

**In This Chapter**

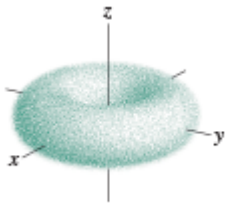
you will learn about the structure and properties of atoms.

## What is the quantum model of hydrogen?

A hydrogen atom has a three-dimensional wave function that gives the probability of locating the electron in a region of space.

- Three quantum numbers are needed.
- Both energy and angular momentum are quantized.
- The probability density shows electron clouds rather than well-defined orbits.
- A fourth quantum number describes the electron's spin, an inherent magnetic moment that can point up or down.

Looking Back Chapter 39 Wave functions




## How do multielectron atoms differ?

Quantum mechanics also explains the properties of multielectron atoms, including their energy levels, ionization energies, and spectra.

- We'll use energy-level diagrams to understand which states are occupied and how spectra are produced.
- The Pauli exclusion principle—that only one electron can occupy each quantum state—is the key to understanding the periodic table of the elements.

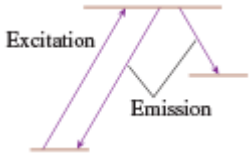
Looking Back Chapter 38 The Bohr model

## What determines an atom's spectrum?

You'll learn to interpret atomic spectra in terms of excitation followed by emission.

- Excitation can be by collision with a particle or the absorption of a photon.
- An excited state has a lifetime of typically a few nanoseconds.

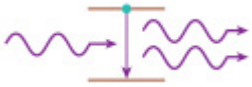
- Emission obeys selection rules that allow some quantum jumps but not others.




## How does a laser work?

Lasers work because of stimulated emission of light, where an incoming photon causes an excited state to emit an identical photon.

- A laser requires a population inversion, with more atoms in an excited state than in a lower energy level.
- Lasers can be continuous or pulsed.



## Why is atomic physics important?

Matter consists of atoms. A quantum understanding of atoms is the basis for modern chemistry and material science. Lasers depend on the quantum properties of atoms. Atomic clocks provide the precise timekeeping needed for GPS measurements and the World Wide Web. Optical techniques with atoms have revolutionized our ability to image the details of cells. And the new field of quantum computing relies on a precise manipulation of atomic energy levels.

# 41.1 The Hydrogen Atom: Angular Momentum and Energy

Bohr's concept of stationary states provided a means of understanding both the stability of atoms and the quantum jumps that lead to discrete spectra. Yet, as we have seen, the Bohr model was not successful for any neutral atom other than hydrogen. This chapter is an overview of how quantum mechanics finally provides us with an understanding of atomic structure and atomic properties.

Let's begin with a quantum-mechanical model of the hydrogen atom. As you learned in Chapter 40, the problem-solving procedure in quantum mechanics consists of two basic steps:

1. Specify a potential-energy function.
2. Solve the Schrödinger equation to find the wave functions, allowed energy levels, and other quantum properties.

The first step is easy. The proton and electron are charged particles with $q = \pm e$, so the potential energy of a hydrogen atom as a function of the electron distance $r$ is

**(41.1)**

$$U(r) = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^2}{r}$$

The difficulty arises with the second step. The Schrödinger equation of Chapter 40 was for one-dimensional problems. Atoms are three-

dimensional, and the three-dimensional Schrödinger equation turns out to be a partial differential equation whose solution is outside the scope of this textbook. Consequently, we'll present results without derivation or proof. The good news is that you have learned enough quantum mechanics to interpret and use the results.

## Stationary States of Hydrogen

In one dimension, energy quantization appeared as a consequence of *boundary conditions* on the wave function. That is, only for certain discrete energies, characterized by the quantum number $n$, did solutions to the Schrödinger equation satisfy the boundary conditions. In three dimensions, the wave function must satisfy *three* different boundary conditions. Consequently, solutions to the three-dimensional Schrödinger equation have *three* quantum numbers and *three* quantized parameters.

Solutions to the Schrödinger equation for the hydrogen atom potential energy exist only if three conditions are satisfied:

**1.** The atom's energy must be one of the values

**(41.2)**

$$E_n = -\frac{1}{n^2}\left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^2}{2a_\mathrm{B}}\right) = -\frac{13.60\,\mathrm{eV}}{n^2} \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \cdots$$

where $a_\mathrm{B} = 4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2/me^2 = 0.0529$ nm is the Bohr radius. The integer $n$ is called the **principal quantum number.** These

energies are the same as those predicted by the Bohr model of the hydrogen atom.

2. The orbital angular momentum $L$ of the electron's orbit must be one of the values

(41.3)

$$L = \sqrt{l\,(l+1)}\hbar \qquad l = 0,\ 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \cdots,\ n-1$$

The integer $l$ is called the **orbital quantum number.**

3. The $z$-component of the angular momentum $L_z$ must be one of the values



(41.4)

$$L_z = m\hbar \qquad m = -l, -l+1,\ \cdots,\ 0,\ \cdots,\ l-1,\ l$$

The integer $m$ is called the **magnetic quantum number.**

In other words, each stationary state of the hydrogen atom is identified by a triplet of quantum numbers ($n$, $l$, $m$). Each quantum number is associated with a physical property of the atom.

> **Note**
>
> The energy of the stationary state depends only on the principal quantum number *n*, not on *l* or *m*.

**Example 41.1 Listing quantum numbers**

List all possible states of a hydrogen atom that have energy $E = -3.40\,\text{eV}$.

**SOLVE** Energy depends only on the principal quantum number $n$. States with $E = -3.40\,\text{eV}$ have

$$n = \sqrt{\frac{-13.60\,\text{eV}}{-3.40\,\text{eV}}} = 2$$

An atom with principal quantum number $n = 2$ could have either $l = 0$ or $l = 1$, but $l \geq 2$ is excluded by the rule $l \leq n - 1$. If $l = 0$, the only possible value for the magnetic quantum number $m$ is $m = 0$. If $l = 1$, then the atom could have $m = -1$, $m = 0$, or $m = +1$. Thus the possible quantum numbers are

| $n$ | $l$ | $m$ |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2 | 1 | −1 |

These four states all have the same energy.

Hydrogen turns out to be unique. For all other elements, the allowed energies depend on both $n$ and $l$ (but not $m$). Consequently, it is useful to label the stationary states by their values of $n$ and $l$. The lowercase letters shown in Table 41.1 are customarily used to represent the various values of quantum number $l$. These symbols come from spectroscopic notation used in prequantum-mechanics days, when some spectral lines were classified as **s**harp, others as **p**rincipal, and so on.

**Table 41.1**

| $l$ | Symbol |
|---|---|
| 0 | $s$ |
| 1 | $p$ |
| 2 | $d$ |
| 3 | $f$ |

Symbols used to represent quantum number $l$

Using these symbols, we call the ground state of the hydrogen atom, with $n = 1$ and $l = 0$, the $1s$ state. The $3d$ state has $n = 3$, $l = 2$. In Example 41.1, we found one $2s$ state (with $l = 0$) and three $2p$ states (with $l = 1$), all with the same energy.

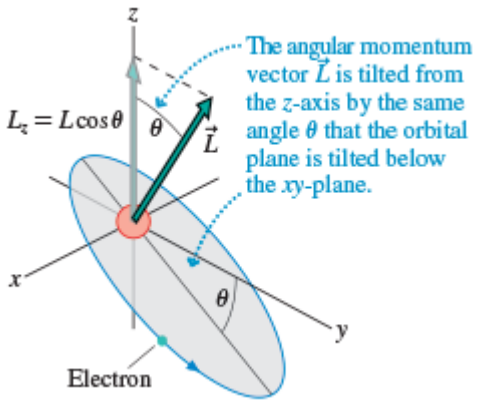
## Angular Momentum Is Quantized

A planet orbiting the sun has two different angular momenta: *orbital angular momentum* due to its orbit around the sun (a 365-day period for the earth) and *rotational angular momentum* as it rotates on its axis (a 24-hour period for the earth). We introduced angular momentum in Chapter 12, and a brief review of Section 12.11 is highly recommended.

A classical model of the hydrogen atom would be similar. Although a circular orbit is possible, it's more likely that the electron would follow an elliptical orbit with the proton at one focus of the ellipse. Further, the orbit need not lie in the $xy$-plane. Figure 41.1 shows a classical orbit tilted at angle $\theta$ below the $xy$-plane. The electron, like a planet, has orbital angular momentum, and Figure 41.1 reminds you that the orbital angular momentum vector $\vec{L}$ is perpendicular to the plane of the orbit. (The electron also has a quantum version of rotational angular momentum, called *spin*, that we'll introduce in Section 41.3.) The

orbital angular momentum vector has component $L_z = L\cos\theta$ along the $z$-axis.

## Figure 41.1




The angular momentum of an elliptical orbit.

Classically, $L$ and $L_z$ can have any values. Not so in quantum mechanics. Quantum conditions 2 and 3 tell us that **the electron's orbital angular momentum is quantized.** The magnitude of the orbital angular momentum must be one of the discrete values

$$L = \sqrt{l(l+1)}\hbar = 0,\ \sqrt{2}\hbar,\ \sqrt{6}\hbar,\ \sqrt{12}\hbar,\ \ldots$$

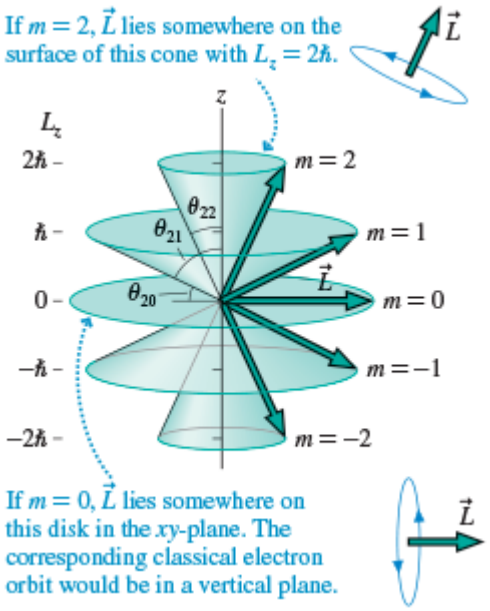
where $l$ is an integer. Simultaneously, the $z$-component $L_z$ must have one of the values $L_z = m\hbar$, where $m$ is an integer between –$l$. and $l$. No other values of $L$ or $L_z$ allow the wave function to satisfy the boundary conditions.

The quantization of angular momentum places restrictions on the shape and orientation of the electron's orbit. To see this, consider a hydrogen atom with orbital quantum number $l = 2$. In this state, the *magnitude* of the electron's angular momentum must be $L = \sqrt{6}\hbar = 2.45\hbar$. Furthermore, the angular momentum vector must point in a *direction*

such that $L_z = m\hbar$, where $m$ is one of only five integers in the range $-2 \leq m \leq 2$.

The combination of these two requirements allows $\vec{L}$ to point only in certain directions in space, as shown in Figure 41.2. This is a rather unusual figure that requires a little thought to understand. Suppose $m = 0$ and thus $L_z = 0$. With no $z$-component, the angular momentum vector $\vec{L}$ must lie somewhere in the $xy$-plane. Furthermore, because the length of $\vec{L}$ is constrained to be $2.45\hbar$, the tip of $\vec{L}$ must lie somewhere on the circle labeled $m = 0$. These values of $\vec{L}$ correspond to classical orbits tipped into a vertical plane.

## Figure 41.2




The five possible orientations of the angular momentum vector for $l = 2$.

Similarly, $m = 2$ requires $\vec{L}$ to lie along the surface of the cone whose height is $2\hbar$ and whose side has length $2.45\hbar$. These values of $\vec{L}$ correspond to classical orbits tilted slightly out of the $xy$-plane. Notice that $\vec{L}$ **cannot point directly along the $z$-axis.** The maximum possible

value of $L_z$, when $m = l$, is $(L_z)_{\max} = l\hbar$. But $l < \sqrt{l\,(l+1)}$, so $(L_z)_{\max} < L$. The angular momentum vector *must* have either an $x$- or a $y$-component (or both). In other words, the corresponding classical orbit cannot lie in the $xy$-plane.

An angular momentum vector $\vec{L}$ tilted at angle $\theta$ from the $z$-axis corresponds to an orbit tilted at angle $\theta$ out of the $xy$-plane. The quantization of angular momentum restricts the orbital planes to only a few discrete angles. For quantum state $(n, l, m)$, the angle of the angular momentum vector is

**(41.5)**

$$\theta_{lm} = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{L_z}{L}\right) = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{m\hbar}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}\hbar}\right) = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{m}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}}\right)$$



Angles $\theta_{22}$, $\theta_{21}$, and $\theta_{20}$ are labeled in Figure 41.2. Orbital planes at other angles are not allowed because they don't satisfy the quantization conditions for angular momentum.

**Example 41.2 The angle of the angular momentum vector**

What is the angle between $\vec{L}$ and the $z$-axis for a hydrogen atom in the stationary state $(n, l, m) = (4, 2, 1)$?

**SOLVE** The angle $\theta_{21}$ is labeled in Figure 41.2. The state $(4, 2, 1)$ has $l = 2$ and $m = 1$, thus

$$\theta_{21} = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\right) = 66^\circ$$

**ASSESS** This quantum state corresponds to a classical orbit tilted 66° away from the $xy$-plane.

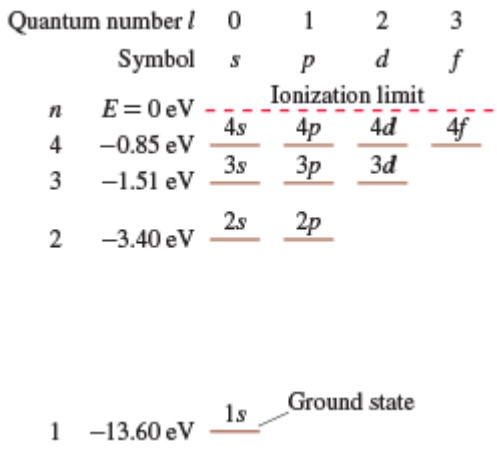
**Note**

The ground state of hydrogen, with $l = 0$, has *zero* angular momentum. A classical particle cannot orbit unless it has angular momentum, but apparently a quantum particle does not have this requirement.

## Energy Levels of the Hydrogen Atom

The energy of the hydrogen atom is quantized. Only those energies given by Equation 41.2 allow the wave function to satisfy the boundary conditions. The allowed energies of hydrogen depend only on the principal quantum number $n$, but for other atoms the energies will depend on both $n$ and $l$. In anticipation of using both quantum numbers, Figure 41.3 is an *energy-level diagram* for the hydrogen atom in which the rows are labeled by $n$ and the columns by $l$. The left column contains all of the $l = 0$ $s$ states, the next column is the $l = 1$ $p$ states, and so on.

**Figure 41.3**



Energy-level diagram for the hydrogen atom.

Because the quantum condition of Equation 41.3 requires $n > l$, the $s$ states begin with $n = 1$, the $p$ states begin with $n = 2$, and the $d$ states with $n = 3$. That is, the lowest-energy $d$ state is $3d$ because states with $n = 1$ or $n = 2$ cannot have $l = 2$. For hydrogen, where the energy levels do not depend on $l$, the energy-level diagram shows that the $3s$, $3p$, and $3d$ states have equal energy. Figure 41.3 shows only the first few energy levels for each value of $l$, but there really are an infinite number of levels, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, crowding together beneath $E = 0$. The dashed line at $E = 0$ is the atom's *ionization limit*, the energy of a hydrogen atom in which the electron has been moved infinitely far away to form an $H^+$ ion.

The lowest energy state, the $1s$ state with $E_1 = -13.60\,\text{eV}$, is the *ground state* of hydrogen. The value $|E_1| = 13.60\,\text{eV}$ is the **ionization energy**, the *minimum* energy that would be needed to form a hydrogen ion by removing the electron from the ground state. All of the states with $n > 1$ (i.e., the states with energy higher than the ground state) are *excited states*.

## Stop to Think 41.1

What are the quantum numbers $n$ and $l$ for a hydrogen atom with $E = -(13.60/9)\,\text{eV}$ and $L = \sqrt{2}\hbar$?

# 41.2 The Hydrogen Atom: Wave Functions and Probabilities

You learned in Chapter 40 that the probability of finding a particle in a small interval of width $\delta x$ at the position $x$ is given by

$$\text{Prob}\,(\text{in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = |\psi(x)|^2 \delta x = P(x)\,\delta x$$

where $P(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$ is the probability density. This interpretation of $|\psi(x)|^2$ as a probability density lies at the heart of quantum mechanics. However, $P(x)$ was for a one-dimensional wave function.

The red color of this nebula is due to the emission of light from hydrogen atoms. The atoms are excited by intense ultraviolet light from the star in the center. They then emit red light ($\lambda = 656$ nm) in a $3 \rightarrow 2$ transition, part of the Balmer series of spectral lines emitted by hydrogen.

---

For a three-dimensional atom, the wave function is $\psi(x, y, z)$, a function of three variables. We now want to consider the probability of finding a particle in a small *volume* of space $\delta V$ at the position described by the three coordinates $(x, y, z)$. This probability is

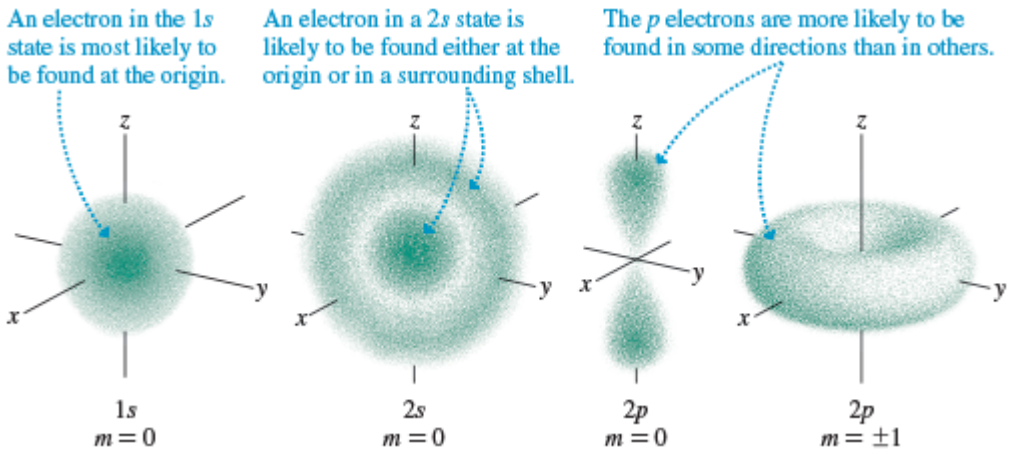
(41.6)

$$\text{Prob } (\text{in } \delta V \text{ at } x,\ y,\ z) = |\psi(x, y, z)|^2 \delta V$$

We can still interpret the square of the wave function as a probability density.

In one-dimensional quantum mechanics we could simply graph $P(x)$ versus $x$. Portraying the probability density of a three-dimensional wave function is more of a challenge. One way to do so, shown in Figure 41.4, is to use denser shading to indicate regions of larger probability density. That is, the amplitude of $\psi$ is larger and the electron is more likely to be found in regions where the shading is darker. These figures show the probability densities of the 1*s*, 2*s*, and 2*p* states of hydrogen. As you can see, the probability density in three dimensions creates what is often called an **electron cloud** around the nucleus.

## Figure 41.4




The probability densities of the electron in the 1*s*, 2*s*, and 2*p* states of hydrogen.

These figures contain a lot of information. For example, notice how the *p* electrons have directional properties. These directional properties allow *p* electrons to "reach out" toward nearby atoms, forming molecular bonds.

The quantum mechanics of bonding goes beyond what we can study in this text, but the electron-cloud pictures of the *p* electrons begin to suggest how bonds could form.

## Radial Wave Functions

In practice, the probability of finding the electron at a certain point in space is often less useful than the probability of finding the electron at a certain *distance* from the nucleus. That is, what is the probability that the electron is to be found within the small range of distances $\delta r$ at the distance $r$?

It turns out that the solutions to the three-dimensional Schrödinger equation, the wave functions $\psi(x, y, z)$, can be written in a form that focuses on the electron's radial distance $r$ from the proton. The portion of the wave function that depends only on $r$ is called the **radial wave function.** These functions, which depend on the quantum numbers $n$ and $l$, are designated $R_{nl}(r)$. The first three radial wave functions are

**(41.7)**

$$R_{1s}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi {a_\text{B}}^3}}\, e^{-r/a_\text{B}}$$

$$R_{2s}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi {a_\text{B}}^3}} \left(1 - \frac{r}{2a_\text{B}}\right) e^{-r/2a_\text{B}}$$

$$R_{2p}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{24\pi {a_\text{B}}^3}} \left(\frac{r}{2a_\text{B}}\right) e^{-r/2a_\text{B}}$$

where $a_\text{B}$ is the Bohr radius.

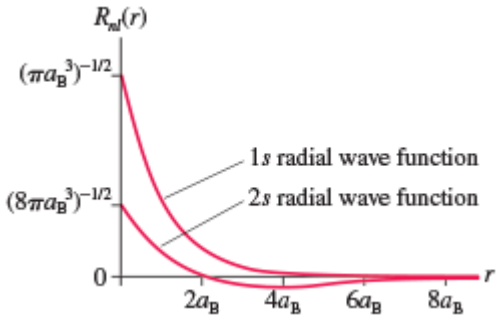
The radial wave functions may seem mysterious, because we haven't shown where they come from, but they are essentially the same as the

one-dimensional wave functions $\psi(x)$ you learned to work with in Chapter 40. In fact, these radial wave functions are mathematically similar to the one-dimensional wave functions of the simple harmonic oscillator. One important difference, however, is that $r$ ranges from 0 to $\infty$. For one-dimensional wave functions, $x$ ranged from $-\infty$ to $\infty$.

> **Note**
>
> Don't be confused by the notation. $R$ is not a radius but, like $\psi$, is the symbol for a wave function, the *radial* wave function. It is a function of the distance $r$ from the proton.

Figure 41.5 shows the radial wave functions for the 1*s* and 2*s* states. Notice that the radial wave function is nonzero at $r = 0$, the position of the nucleus. This is surprising, but it is consistent with our observation in Figure 41.4 that the 1*s* and 2*s* electrons have a strong probability of being found at the origin.

## Figure 41.5



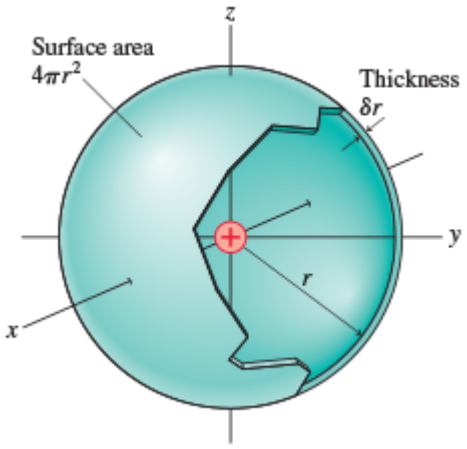

The 1*s* and 2*s* radial wave functions of hydrogen.

Our purpose for introducing the radial wave functions was to determine the probability of finding the electron a certain *distance* from the nucleus. Figure 41.6 shows a shell of radius $r$ and thickness $\delta r$ centered on the nucleus. The probability of finding the electron at distance $r$ from the nucleus is equivalent to the probability that the electron is located

somewhere within this shell. The volume of a thin shell is its surface area multiplied by its thickness $\delta r$. The surface area of a sphere is $4\pi r^2$, so the volume of this thin shell is

$$\delta V = 4\pi r^2 \, \delta r$$

## Figure 41.6




The radial probability density gives the probability of finding the electron in a spherical shell of thickness $\delta r$ at radius $r$.

Just as $|\psi(x)|^2$ is the probability in one dimension of finding a particle within an interval $\delta x$, the probability of locating the electron within this spherical shell can be written in terms of the *radial* wave function $R_{nl}(r)$ as



**(41.8)**

$$\text{Prob}\,(\text{in } \delta r \text{ at } r) = \left|R_{nl}\,(r)\right|^2 \delta V = 4\pi r^2 \left|R_{nl}\,(r)\right|^2 \delta r$$

If we define the **radial probability density** $P_r(r)$ for state $nl$ as

**(41.9)**

$$P_r\,(r) = 4\pi r^2 \left|R_{nl}\,(r)\right|^2$$

then, exactly analogous to the one-dimensional quantum mechanics of Chapter 40, we can write the probability of finding the electron within a small interval $\delta r$ at distance $r$ as

**(41.10)**

$$\text{Prob}\,(\text{in } \delta r \text{ at } r) = P_r\,(r)\,\delta r$$

The radial probability density tells us the relative likelihood of finding the electron at distance $r$ from the nucleus. The volume factor $4\pi r^2$ reflects the fact that more space is available in a shell of larger $r$, and this additional space increases the probability of finding the electron at that distance.

The probability of finding the electron between $r_{\text{min}}$ and $r_{\text{max}}$ is

**(41.11)**

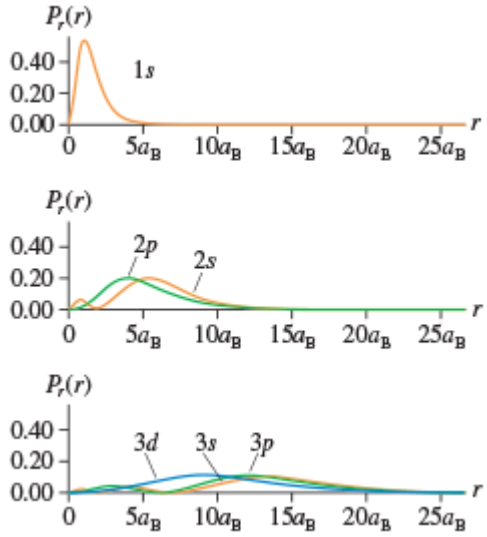
$$\text{Prob}(r_{\text{min}} \le r \le r_{\text{max}}) = \int_{r_{\text{min}}}^{r_{\text{max}}} P_r(r)\,dr = 4\pi \int_{r_{\text{min}}}^{r_{\text{max}}} r^2 |R_{nl}(r)|^2\,dr$$

The electron must be *somewhere* between $r = 0$ and $r = \infty$, so the integral of $P_r(r)$ between 0 and $\infty$ must equal 1. This normalization condition was used to determine the constants in front of the radial wave functions of Equations 41.7.

Figure 41.7 shows the radial probability densities for the $n = 1$, 2, and 3 states of the hydrogen atom. You can see that the $1s$, $2p$, and $3d$ states, with maxima at $a_{\text{B}}$, $4a_{\text{B}}$ and $9a_{\text{B}}$, respectively, are following the pattern $r_{\text{peak}} = n^2 a_{\text{B}}$ of the radii of the orbits in the Bohr hydrogen atom. There we simply bent a one-dimensional de Broglie wave into a circle of that radius. Now we have a three-dimensional wave function for which the electron is *most likely* to be this distance from the nucleus, although it

*could* be found at other values of $r$. Quantum mechanics reproduces some aspects of the Bohr hydrogen atom.

**Figure 41.7**

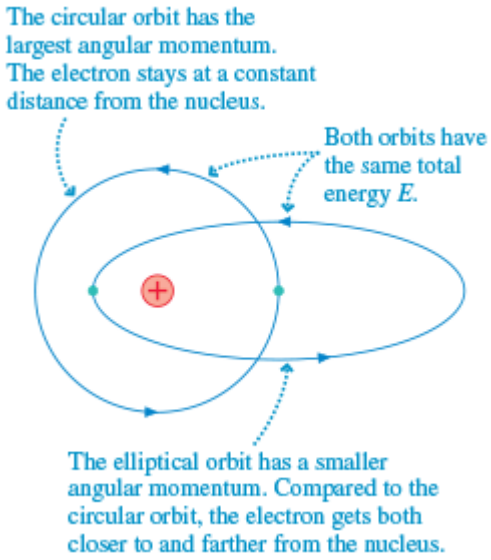



The radial probability densities for $n$ = 1, 2, and 3.

## Angular Momentum and Orbit Shapes

But why is it the 3*d* state that agrees with the Bohr atom rather than 3*s* or 3*p*? All states with the same value of $n$ form a collection of "orbits" having the same energy. In Figure 41.8, the state with $l = n - 1$ has the largest angular momentum of the group. Consequently, **the maximum-*l* state corresponds to a circular classical orbit and matches the circular orbits of the Bohr atom.**

**Figure 41.8**




More circular orbits have larger angular momenta.

States with smaller $l$ correspond to elliptical classical orbits. You can see in Figure 41.7 that the radial probability density of a 3*s* electron has a peak close to the nucleus. The 3*s* electron also has a good chance of being found *farther* from the nucleus than a 3*d* electron, suggesting an orbit that alternately swings in near the nucleus, then moves out past the circular orbit. This distinction between circular and elliptical orbits will be important when we discuss the energy levels in multielectron atoms.



> **Note**
>
> In quantum mechanics, nothing is really orbiting. However, the probability densities for the electron to be, or not to be, any given distance from the nucleus mimic certain aspects of classical orbits. They provide a useful analogy.

You can see in Figure 41.7 that the most likely distance from the nucleus of an $n = 1$ electron is approximately $a_B$. The distance of an $n = 2$ electron is most likely to be between about $3a_B$ and $7a_B$. An $n = 3$ electron is most likely to be found between about $8a_B$ and $15a_B$. In other words, the radial probability densities give the clear impression that each value of $n$ has a fairly well-defined range of radii where the electron is

most likely to be found. This is the basis of the **shell model** of the atom that is used in chemistry.

However, there's one significant puzzle. In Figure 41.4, the fuzzy sphere representing the 1*s* ground state is densest at the center, where the electron is most likely to be found. This maximum density at $r = 0$ agrees with the 1*s* radial wave function of Figure 41.5, which is a maximum at $r = 0$, but it seems to be in sharp disagreement with the 1*s* graph of Figure 41.7, which is *zero* at the nucleus and peaks at $r = a_B$.

To resolve this puzzle, we must distinguish between the probability density $|\psi(x, y, z)|^2$ and the *radial* probability density $P_r(r)$. The 1*s* wave function, and thus the 1*s* probability density, really does peak at the nucleus. But $|\psi(x, y, z)|^2$ is the probability of being in a small volume $\delta V$, such as a small box with sides $\delta x$,$\delta y$, and $\delta z$, whereas $P_r(r)$ is the probability of being in a spherical shell of thickness $\delta r$. Compared to $r = 0$, the probability density $|\psi(x, y, z)|^2$ is smaller at any *one* point having $r = a_B$. But the volume of *all* points with $r \approx a_B$ (i.e., the volume of the spherical shell at $r = a_B$) is so large that the radial probability density $P_r$ peaks at this distance.

To use a mass analogy, consider a fuzzy ball that is densest at the center. Even though the density away from the center has decreased, a spherical shell of modest radius $r$ can have *more total mass* than a small-radius spherical shell of the same thickness simply because it has so much more volume.

**Example 41.3 Maximum probability**

Show that an electron in the $2p$ state is most likely to be found at $r = 4a_B$.

**SOLVE** We can use the $2p$ radial wave function from Equations 41.7 to write the radial probability density

$$P_r(r) = 4\pi r^2 |R_{2p}(r)|^2 = 4\pi r^2 \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{24\pi {a_B}^3}} \left( \frac{r}{2a_B} \right) e^{-r/2a_B} \right]^2$$
$$= Cr^4 e^{-r/a_B}$$

where $C = \left(24 {a_B}^5\right)^{-1}$ is a constant. This expression for $P_r(r)$ was graphed in Figure 41.7.

Maximum probability occurs at the point where the first derivative of $P_r(r)$ is zero:

$$\frac{dP_r}{dr} = C(4r^3)\left(e^{-r/a_B}\right) + C(r^4)\left(\frac{-1}{a_B} e^{-r/a_B}\right)$$
$$= Cr^3 \left(4 - \frac{r}{a_B}\right) e^{-r/a_B} = 0$$

This expression is zero only if $r = 4a_B$, so $Pr(r)$ is maximum at $r = 4a_B$. An electron in the $2p$ state is most likely to be found at this distance from the nucleus.

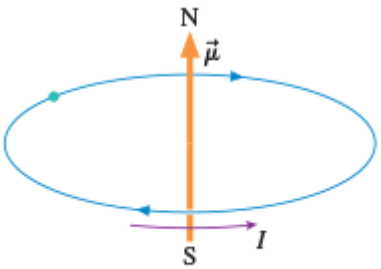
## Stop to Think 41.2

How many maxima will there be in a graph of the radial probability density for the $4s$ state of hydrogen?

# 41.3 The Electron's Spin 1186

Recall, from Chapter 29, that an orbiting electron generates a microscopic *magnetic moment* $\vec{\mu}$. Figure 41.9 reminds you that a magnetic moment, like a compass needle, has north and south poles. Consequently, a magnetic moment in an external magnetic field experiences forces and torques. In the early 1920s, the German physicists Otto Stern and Walter Gerlach developed a technique to measure the magnetic moments of atoms. Their apparatus, shown in Figure 41.10, prepares an *atomic beam* by evaporating atoms out of a hole in an "oven." These atoms, traveling in a vacuum, pass through a *nonuniform* magnetic field. Reducing the size of the upper pole tip makes the field stronger toward the top of the magnet, weaker toward the bottom.

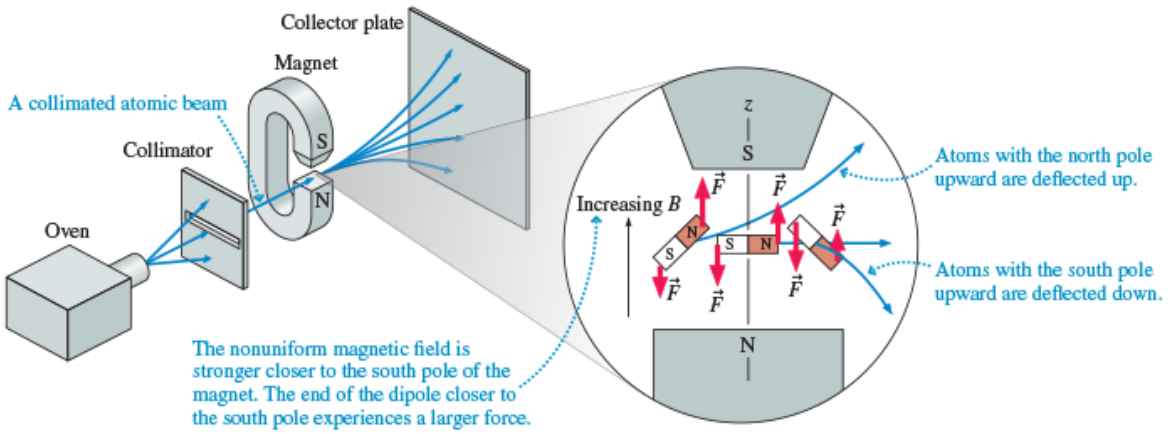
**Figure 41.9**




An electron current loop generates a magnetic moment with north and south magnetic poles.

An orbiting electron generates a magnetic moment.

**Figure 41.10**



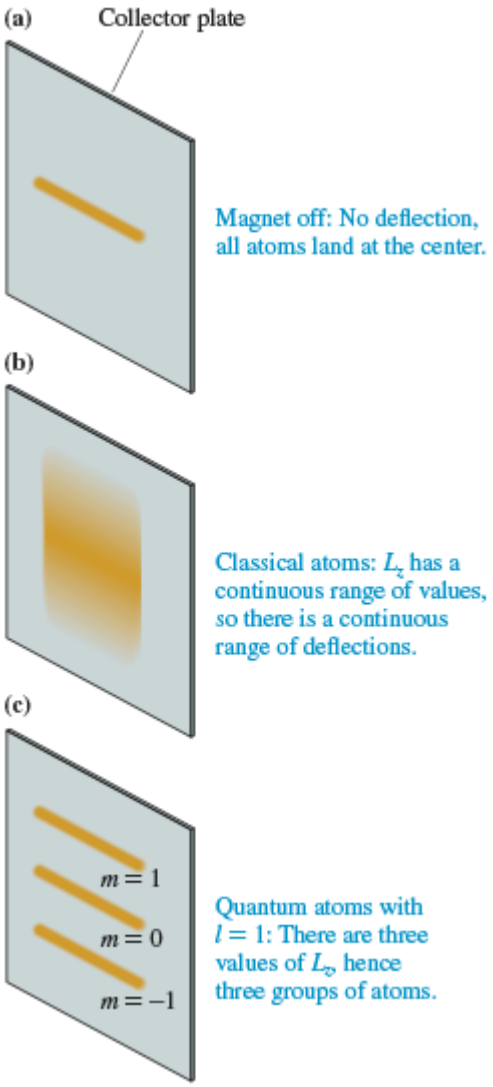

The Stern-Gerlach experiment.

A magnetic moment experiences a *net force* in the nonuniform magnetic field because the field exerts forces of different strengths on the moment's north and south poles. If we define a $z$-axis to point upward, then an atom whose magnetic moment vector $\vec{\mu}$ is tilted upward ($\mu_z > 0$) has an upward force on its north pole that is larger than the downward force on its south pole. As the figure shows, this atom is deflected upward as it passes through the magnet. A downward-tilted magnetic moment ($\mu_z < 0$) experiences a net downward force and is deflected downward. A magnetic moment perpendicular to the field ($\mu_z = 0$) feels no net force and passes through the magnet without deflection. In other words, an atom's deflection as it passes through the magnet is proportional to $\mu_z$, the $z$-component of its magnetic moment.

It's not hard to show that an atom's magnetic moment is proportional to the electron's orbital angular momentum: $\vec{\mu} \propto \vec{L}$. Because the deflection of an atom depends on $\mu_z$, measuring the deflections in a nonuniform field provides information about the $L_z$ values of the atoms. The measurements are made by allowing the atoms to stick on a collector plate at the end of the apparatus. After the experiment, the collector plate is removed and examined to learn how the atoms were deflected.

With the magnet off, the atoms pass through without deflection and land along a narrow line at the center, as shown in Figure 41.11a. If the orbiting electrons are classical particles, they should have a continuous range of angular momenta. Turning on the magnet should produce a continuous range of vertical deflections, and the distribution of atoms collected on the plate should look like Figure 41.11b. But if angular momentum is *quantized*, as Bohr had suggested several years earlier, the atoms should be deflected to discrete positions on the collector plate.

## Figure 41.11



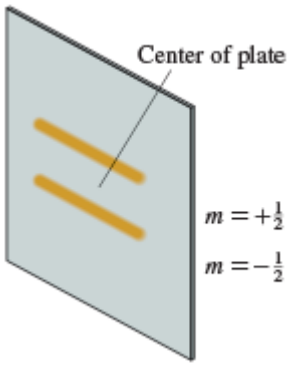

Distribution of the atoms on the collector plate.

For example, an atom with $l = 1$ has three distinct values of $L_z$ corresponding to quantum numbers $m = -1$, 0, and 1. This leads to a prediction of the three distinct groups of atoms shown in Figure 41.11c. There should always be an *odd* number of groups because there are $2l + 1$ values of $L_z$.

## The Discovery of Spin

In 1927, with Schrödinger's quantum theory brand new, the Stern-Gerlach technique was used to measure the magnetic moment of hydrogen atoms. The ground state of hydrogen is 1*s*, with $l = 0$, so the atoms should have *no* magnetic moment and there should be *no* deflection at all. Instead, the experiment produced the two-peaked distribution shown in Figure 41.12.

**Figure 41.12**




The outcome of the Stern-Gerlach experiment for hydrogen atoms.

Because the hydrogen atoms were deflected, they *must* have a magnetic moment. But where does it come from if $L = 0$? Even stranger was the deflection into two groupings, rather than an odd number. The deflection is proportional to $L_z$, and $L_z = m\hbar$ where $m$ ranges in integer steps from $-l$ to $+l$ The experimental results would make sense only if $l = \frac{1}{2}$,

allowing $m$ to take the two possible values $-\frac{1}{2}$ and $+\frac{1}{2}$. But according to Schrödinger's theory, the quantum numbers $l$ and $m$ must be integers.

An explanation for these observations was soon suggested, then confirmed: The electron has an *inherent* magnetic moment. After all, the electron has an inherent gravitational character, its mass $m_e$, and an inherent electric character, its charge $q_e = -e$. These are simply part of what an electron is. Thus it is plausible that an electron should also have an inherent magnetic character described by a built-in magnetic moment $\vec{\mu}_e$. A classical electron, if thought of as a little ball of charge, could spin on its axis as it orbits the nucleus. A spinning ball of charge would have a magnetic moment associated with its angular momentum. This inherent magnetic moment of the electron is what caused the unexpected deflection in the Stern-Gerlach experiment.



If the electron has an inherent magnetic moment, it must have an inherent angular momentum. This angular momentum is called the electron's **spin,** which is designated $\vec{S}$. The outcome of the Stern-Gerlach experiment tells us that the *z*-component of this spin angular momentum is

---

**(41.12)**

$$S_z = m_s\hbar \quad \text{where } m_s = +\tfrac{1}{2} \text{ or } -\tfrac{1}{2}$$

The quantity $m_s$ is called the **spin quantum number.**

The *z*-component of the spin angular momentum vector is determined by the electron's orientation. The $m_s = +\frac{1}{2}$ state, with $S_z = +\frac{1}{2}\hbar$, is called

the **spin-up** state, and the $m_s = -\frac{1}{2}$ state is called the **spin-down** state. It is convenient to picture a little angular momentum vector that can be drawn $\uparrow$ for an $m_s = +\frac{1}{2}$ state and $\downarrow$ for an $m_s = -\frac{1}{2}$ state. We will use this notation in the next section. Because the electron must be either spin-up or spin-down, a hydrogen atom in the Stern-Gerlach experiment will be deflected either up or down. This causes the two groups of atoms seen in Figure 41.12. No atoms have $S_z = 0$, so there are no undeflected atoms in the center.

> **Note**
>
> The atom has spin angular momentum *in addition* to any orbital angular momentum that the electrons may have. Only in *s* states, for which $L = 0$, can we see the effects of "pure spin."

The spin angular momentum *S* is analogous to Equation 41.3 for *L:*

**(41.13)**

$$S = \sqrt{s(s+1)}\hbar = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\hbar$$

where *s* is a quantum number with the single value $S = \frac{1}{2}$. *S* is the *inherent* angular momentum of the electron. Because of the single value of *s*, physicists usually say that the electron has "spin one-half." Figure 41.13, which should be compared to Figure 41.2, shows that the terms "spin-up" and "spin-down" refer to $S_z$, not the full spin angular momentum. As was the case with $\vec{L}$, it's not possible for $\vec{S}$ to point along the *z*-axis.

---

**Figure 41.13**

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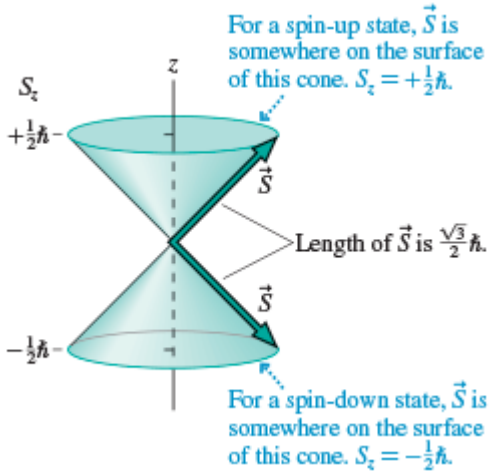



The spin angular momentum has two possible orientations.

---

> **Note**
>
> The term "spin" must be used with caution. Although a classical charged particle could generate a magnetic moment by spinning, the electron most assuredly is *not* a classical particle. It is not spinning in any literal sense. It simply has an inherent magnetic moment, just as it has an inherent mass and charge, and that magnetic moment makes it look *as if* the electron is spinning. It is a convenient figure of speech, not a factual statement. **The electron has a spin, but it is not a spinning electron!**

The electron's spin has significant implications for atomic structure. The solutions to the Schrödinger equation could be described by the three quantum numbers $n$, $l$, and $m$, but the Stern-Gerlach experiment implies that this is not a complete description of an atom. Knowing that a ground-state atom has quantum numbers $n = 1$, $l = 0$, and $m = 0$ is not sufficient to predict whether the atom will be deflected up or down in a nonuniform magnetic field. We need to add the spin quantum number $m_s$ to make our description complete. (Strictly speaking, we also need to add the quantum number $s$, but it provides no additional information because its value never changes.) So we really need *four* quantum numbers ($n$, $l$,

$m$, $m_s$) to characterize the stationary states of the atom. The spin orientation does not affect the atom's energy, so a ground-state electron in hydrogen could be in either the $\left(1, 0, 0, +\frac{1}{2}\right)$ spin-up state or the $\left(1, 0, 0, -\frac{1}{2}\right)$ spin-down state.

The fact that $s$ has the single value $s = \frac{1}{2}$ has other interesting implications. The correspondence principle tells us that a quantum particle begins to "act classical" in the limit of large quantum numbers. But $s$ cannot become large! **The electron's spin is an intrinsic quantum property of the electron that has *no* classical counterpart.**

## Stop to Think 41.3

Can the spin angular momentum vector lie in the $xy$-plane? Why or why not?

# 41.4 Multielectron Atoms [1188]

The Schrödinger-equation solution for the hydrogen atom matches the experimental evidence, but so did the Bohr hydrogen atom. The real test of Schrödinger's theory is how well it works for multielectron atoms. A neutral multielectron atom consists of $Z$ electrons surrounding a nucleus with $Z$ protons and charge $+Ze$. $Z$, the *atomic number*, is the order in which elements are listed in the periodic table. Hydrogen is $Z = 1$, helium $Z = 2$, lithium $Z = 3$, and so on.

The potential-energy function of a multielectron atom is that of $Z$ electrons interacting with the nucleus *and* $Z$ electrons interacting *with each other.* The electron-electron interaction makes the atomic-structure problem more difficult than the solar-system problem, and it proved to be the downfall of the simple Bohr model. The planets in the solar system do exert attractive gravitational forces on each other, but their masses are so much less than that of the sun that these planet-planet forces are insignificant for all but the most precise calculations. Not so in an atom. The electron charge is the same as the proton charge, so the electron-electron repulsion is just as important to atomic structure as is the electron-nucleus attraction.

The potential energy due to electron-electron interactions fluctuates rapidly in value as the electrons move and the distances between them change. Rather than treat this interaction in detail, we can reasonably consider each electron to be moving in an *average* potential due to all the other electrons. That is, electron $i$ has potential energy

**(41.14)**

$$U(r_i) = -\frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_i} + U_{\text{elec}}(r_i)$$

where the first term is the electron's interaction with the $Z$ protons in the nucleus and $U_{\text{elec}}$ is the average potential energy due to all the other electrons. Because each electron is treated independently of the other electrons, this approach is called the **independent particle approximation,** or **IPA**. This approximation allows the Schrödinger equation for the atom to be broken into $Z$ separate equations, one for each electron.

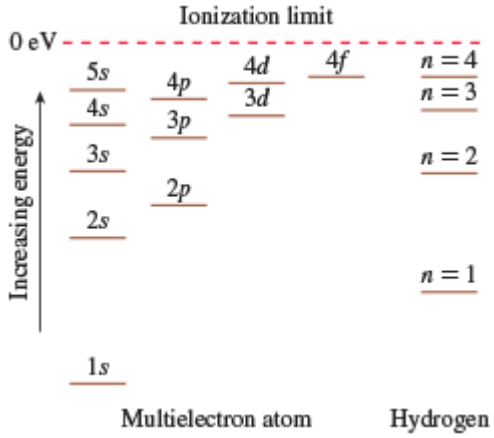
A major consequence of the IPA is that **each electron can be described by a wave function having the same four quantum numbers $n$, $l$, $m$, and $m_s$ used to describe the single electron of hydrogen.** Because $m$ and $ms$ do not affect the energy, we can still refer to electrons by their $n$ and $l$ quantum numbers, using the same labeling scheme that we used for hydrogen.

A major difference, however, is that the energy of an electron in a multielectron atom depends on both $n$ *and* $l$. Whereas the $2s$ and $2p$ states in hydrogen had the same energy, their energies are different in a multielectron atom. The difference arises from the electron-electron interactions that do not exist in a single-electron hydrogen atom.

Figure 41.14 shows an energy-level diagram for the electrons in a multielectron atom. For comparison, the hydrogen-atom energies are shown on the right edge of the figure. The comparison is quite interesting. States in a multielectron atom that have small values of $l$ are significantly lower in energy than the corresponding state in hydrogen. For each $n$, the energy increases as $l$ increases until the maximum-$l$ state

has an energy very nearly that of the same $n$ in hydrogen. Can we understand this pattern?

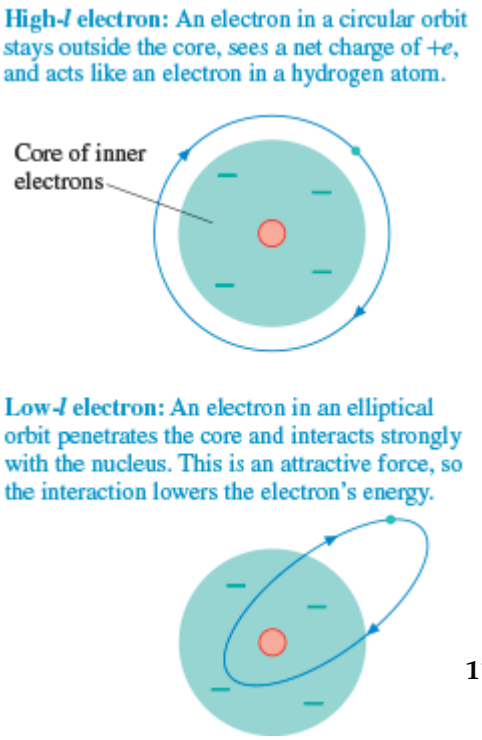
## Figure 41.14




An energy-level diagram for electrons in a multielectron atom.

Indeed we can. Recall that states of lower $l$ correspond to elliptical classical orbits and the highest-$l$ state corresponds to a circular orbit. Except for the smallest values of $n$, an electron in a circular orbit spends most of its time *outside* the electron cloud of the remaining electrons. This is illustrated in Figure 41.15. The outer electron is orbiting a ball of charge consisting of $Z$ protons and $(Z-1)$ electrons. This ball of charge has *net* charge $q_{\text{net}} = +e$, so the outer electron "thinks" it is orbiting a proton. An electron in a maximum-$l$ state is nearly indistinguishable from an electron in the hydrogen atom; thus its energy is very nearly that of hydrogen.

## Figure 41.15






High-$l$ and low-$l$ orbitals in a multielectron atom.

The low-$l$ states correspond to elliptical orbits. A low-$l$ electron penetrates in very close to the nucleus, which is no longer shielded by the other electrons. The electron's interaction with the $Z$ protons in the nucleus is much stronger than the interaction it would have with the single proton in a hydrogen nucleus. This strong interaction *lowers* its energy in comparison to the same state in hydrogen.

As we noted earlier, a quantum electron does not really orbit. Even so, the probability density of a 3$s$ electron has in-close peaks that are missing in the probability density of a 3$d$ electron, as you should confirm by looking back at Figure 41.7. Thus a low-$l$ electron really does have a likelihood of being at small $r$, where its interaction with the $Z$ protons is strong, whereas a high-$l$ electron is most likely to be farther from the nucleus.

## The Pauli Exclusion Principle

By definition, the ground state of a quantum system is the state of lowest energy. What is the ground state of an atom in which Z electrons orbit a nucleus with $Z$ protons? Because the 1$s$ state is the lowest energy state in the independent particle approximation, it seems that the ground state should be one in which all $Z$ electrons are in the 1$s$ state. However, this idea is not consistent with the experimental evidence.

In 1925, the young Austrian physicist Wolfgang Pauli hypothesized that no two electrons in a quantum system can be in the same quantum state. That is, **no two electrons can have exactly the same set of quantum numbers** ($n$, $l$, $n$, $m_s$). If one electron is present in a state, it *excludes* all others. This statement, which is called the **Pauli exclusion principle,** turns out to be an extremely profound statement about the nature of matter.

The exclusion principle is not applicable to the hydrogen atom, which has only a single electron. But in helium, with $Z = 2$ electrons, we must make sure that the two electrons are in different quantum states. This is not difficult. For a 1$s$ state, with $l = 0$, the only possible value of the magnetic quantum number is $m = 0$. But there are *two* possible values of $m_s$, namely $+\frac{1}{2}$ and $-\frac{1}{2}$. If a first electron is in the spin-up 1$s$ state $(1, 0, 0, +\frac{1}{2})$, a second 1$s$ electron can still be added to the atom as long as it is in the spin-down state $(1, 0, 0, -\frac{1}{2})$. This is shown schematically in Figure 41.16a, where the dots represent electrons on the rungs of the "energy ladder" and the arrows represent spin-up or spin-down.

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**Figure 41.16**

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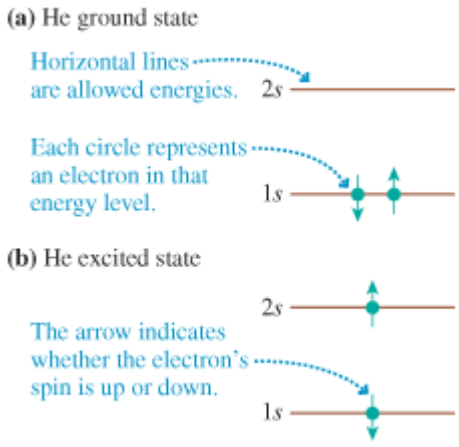



The ground state and the first excited state of helium.

The Pauli exclusion principle does not prevent both electrons of helium from being in the 1*s* state as long as they have opposite values of $m_s$, so we predict this to be the ground state. A list of an atom's occupied energy levels is called its **electron configuration.** The electron configuration of the helium ground state is written $1s^2$, where the superscript 2 indicates two electrons in the 1*s* energy level. An excited state of the helium atom might be the electron configuration 1*s*2*s*. This state is shown in Figure 41.16b. Here, because the two electrons have different values of $n$, there is no restriction on their values of $m_s$.

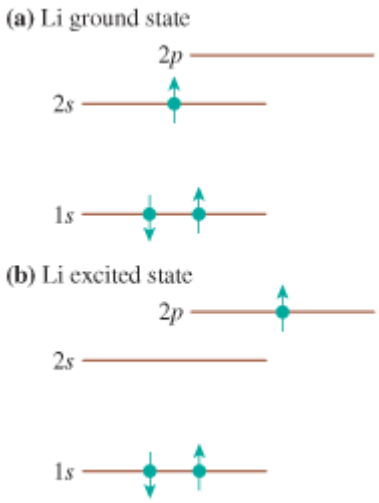
The states $(1, 0, 0, +\frac{1}{2})$ and $(1, 0, 0, -\frac{1}{2})$ are the only two states with $n = 1$. The ground state of helium has one electron in each of these states, so all the possible $n = 1$ states are filled. Consequently, the electron configuration $1s^2$ is called a **closed shell.** Because the two electron magnetic moments point in opposite directions, we can predict that helium has *no* net magnetic moment and will be undeflected in a Stern-Gerlach apparatus. This prediction is confirmed by experiment.

The next element, lithium, has $Z = 3$ electrons. The first two electrons can go into 1*s* states, with opposite values of $m_s$, but what about the third electron? The $1s^2$ shell is closed, and there are no additional quantum

states having $n = 1$. The only option for the third electron is the next energy state, $n = 2$. The $2s$ and $2p$ states had equal energies in the hydrogen atom, but they do *not* in a multielectron atom. As Figure 41.14 showed, a lower-$l$ state has lower energy than a higher-$l$ state with the same $n$. The $2s$ state of lithium is lower in energy than $2p$, so lithium's third ground-state electron will be $2s$. This requires $l = 0$ and $m = 0$ for the third electron, but the value of $m_s$ is not relevant because there is only a single electron in $2s$. Figure 41.17a shows the electron configuration with the $2s$ electron being spin-up, but it could equally well be spin-down. The electron configuration for the lithium ground state is written $1s^2 2s$. This indicates two $1s$ electrons and a single $2s$ electron.



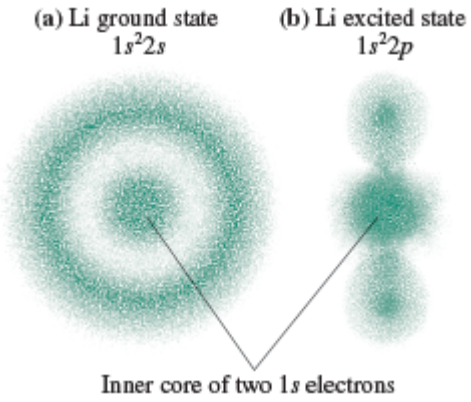
## Figure 41.17




The ground state and the first excited state of lithium.

Figure 41.18a shows the probability density of electrons in the $1s^2 2s$ ground state of lithium. You can see the $2s$ electron shell surrounding the inner $1s^2$ core. For comparison, Figure 41.18b shows the *first excited state* of lithium, in which the $2s$ electron has been excited to the $2p$ energy level. This forms the $1s^2 2p$ configuration, also shown in Figure 41.17b.

## Figure 41.18




Electron clouds for two lithium electron configurations.

The Schrödinger equation accurately predicts the energies of the $1s^2 2s$ and the $1s^2 2p$ configurations of lithium, but the Schrödinger equation does not tell us which states the electrons actually occupy. The electron spin and the Pauli exclusion principle were the final pieces of the puzzle. Once these were added to Schrödinger's theory, the initial phase of quantum mechanics was complete. Physicists finally had a successful theory for understanding the structure of atoms.

# 41.5 The Periodic Table of the Elements



The 19th century was a time when scientists were discovering new elements and studying their chemical properties. Several chemists in the 1860s began to point out the regular recurrence of chemical properties. For example, there are obvious similarities among the alkali metals lithium, sodium, potassium, and cesium. But attempts at organization were hampered by the fact that many elements had yet to be discovered.

The Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeléev was the first to propose, in 1867, a *periodic* arrangement of the elements. He did so by explicitly pointing out "gaps" where, according to his hypothesis, undiscovered elements should exist. He could then predict the expected properties of the missing elements. The subsequent discovery of these elements verified Mendeléev's organizational scheme, which came to be known as the *periodic table of the elements*.

Figure 41.19 shows a modern periodic table. (A larger version can be found in Appendix B.) The significance of the periodic table to a physicist is the implication that there is a basic regularity or periodicity to the *structure* of atoms. Any successful theory of the atom needs to explain *why* the periodic table looks the way it does.

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**Figure 41.19**

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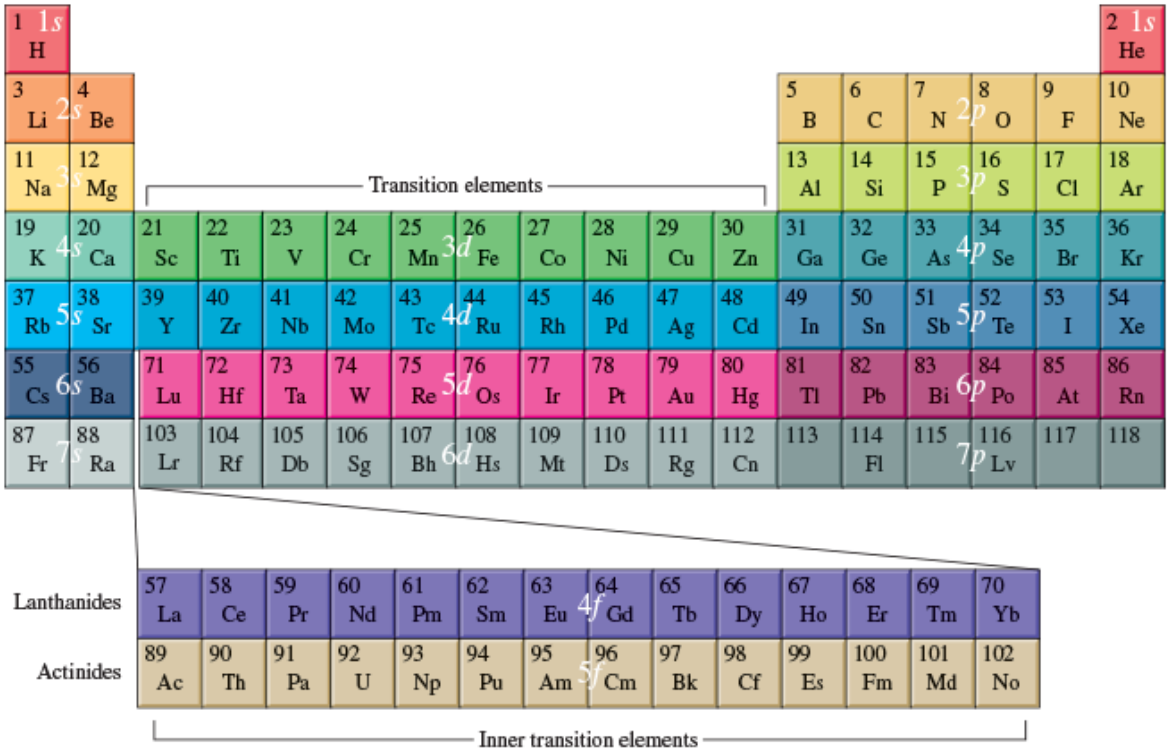



The modern periodic table of the elements, showing the atomic number $Z$ of each.

## The First Two Rows

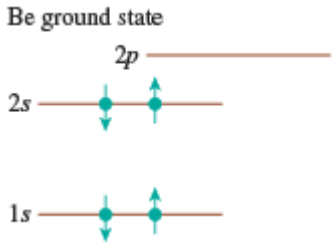
Quantum mechanics successfully explains the structure of the periodic table. We need three basic ideas to see how this works:

1. The energy levels of an atom are found by solving the Schrödinger equation for multielectron atoms. Figure 41.14, a very important figure for understanding the periodic table, showed that the energy depends on the quantum numbers $n$ and $l$.
2. For each value $l$ of the orbital quantum number, there are $2l + 1$ possible values of the magnetic quantum number $m$ and, for each of these, two possible values of the spin quantum number $m_s$. Consequently, each energy *level* in Figure 41.14 is actually $2(2l + 1)$ different *states*. Each of these states has the same energy.

3. The ground state of the atom is the lowest-energy electron configuration that is consistent with the Pauli exclusion principle.

We used these ideas in the last section to look at the elements helium ($Z = 2$) and lithium ($Z = 3$). Four-electron beryllium ($Z = 4$) comes next. The first two electrons go into 1*s* states, forming a closed shell, and the third goes into 2*s*. There is room in the 2*s* level for a second electron as long as its spin is opposite that of the first 2*s* electron. Thus the third and fourth electrons occupy states $(2, 0, 0, +\frac{1}{2})$ and $(2, 0, 0, -\frac{1}{2})$. These are the only two possible 2*s* states. All the states with the same values of $n$ and $l$ are called a **subshell,** so the fourth electron closes the 2*s* subshell. (The outer two electrons are called a subshell, rather than a shell, because they complete only the 2*s* possibilities. There are still spaces for 2*p* electrons.) The ground state of beryllium, shown in Figure 41.20, is $1s^2 2s^2$.

## Figure 41.20




The ground state of beryllium ($Z = 4$).

These principles can continue to be applied as we work our way through the elements. There are $2l + 1$ values of $m$ associated with each value of $l$, and each of these can have $m_s = \pm\frac{1}{2}$. This gives, altogether, $2(2l + 1)$ distinct quantum states in each $nl$ subshell. Table 41.2 lists the number of states in each subshell.



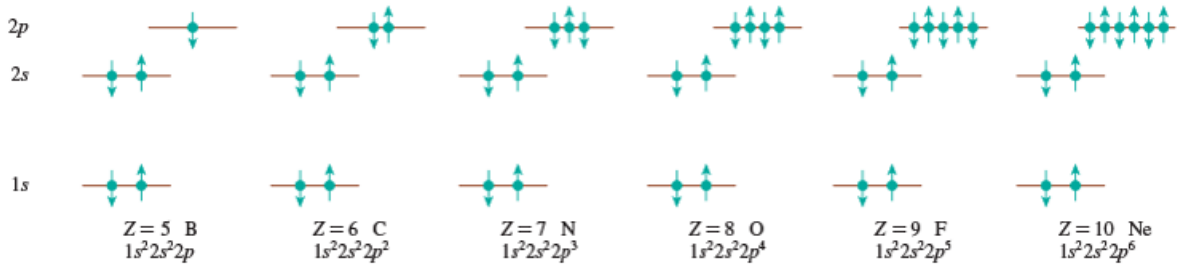
## Table 41.2

| Subshell | $l$ | Number of states |
|---|---|---|
| $s$ | 0 | 2 |
| $p$ | 1 | 6 |
| $d$ | 2 | 10 |
| $f$ | 3 | 14 |

Number of states in each subshell of an atom

Boron ($1s^2 2s^2 2p$) opens the $2p$ subshell. The remaining possible $2p$ states are filled as we continue across the second row of the periodic table. These elements are shown in Figure 41.21. With neon ($1s^2 2s^2 2p^6$), which has six $2p$ electrons, the $n = 2$ shell is complete, and we have another closed shell. The second row of the periodic table is eight elements wide because of the two $2s$ electrons *plus* the six $2p$ electrons needed to fill the $n = 2$ shell.

**Figure 41.21**




Filling the $2p$ subshell with the elements boron through neon.

# Elements with Z > 10

The third row of the periodic table is similar to the second. The two $3s$ states are filled in sodium and magnesium. The two columns on the left of the periodic table represent the two electrons that can go into an $s$ subshell. Then the six $3p$ states are filled, one by one, in aluminum through argon. The six columns on the right represent the six electrons of

the $p$ subshell. Argon ($Z = 18$, $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6$) is another inert gas, although this may seem surprising because the $3d$ subshell is still open.

The fourth row is where the periodic table begins to get complicated. You might expect the closure of the $3p$ subshell in argon to be followed, starting with potassium ($Z = 19$), by filling the $3d$ subshell. But if you look back at Figure 41.14, where the energies of the different $nl$ states are shown, you will see that the $3d$ state is slightly *higher* in energy than the $4s$ state. Because the ground state is the *lowest energy state* consistent with the Pauli exclusion principle, potassium finds it more favorable to fill a $4s$ state than to fill a $3d$ state. Thus the ground-state configuration of potassium is $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s$ rather than the expected $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d$.

At this point, we begin to see a competition between increasing $n$ and decreasing $l$. The highly elliptical characteristic of the $4s$ state brings part of its orbit in so close to the nucleus that its energy is less than that of the more circular $3d$ state. The $4p$ state, though, reverts to the "expected" pattern. We find that

$$E_{4s} < E_{3d} < E_{4p}$$

so the states across the fourth row are filled in the order $4s$, then $3d$, and finally $4p$.

Because there had been no previous $d$ states, the $3d$ subshell "splits open" the periodic table to form the 10-element-wide group of *transition elements*. Most commonly occurring metals are transition elements, and their metallic properties are determined by their partially filled $d$ subshell. The $3d$ subshell closes with zinc, at $Z = 30$, then the next six elements fill the $4p$ subshell up to krypton, at $Z = 36$.

Things get even more complex starting in the sixth row, but the ideas are familiar. The $l = 3$ subshell ($f$ electrons) becomes a possibility with $n = 4$, but it turns out that the $5s$, $5p$, and $6s$ states are all lower in energy than $4f$. Not until barium ($Z = 56$) fills the $6s$ subshell (and lanthanum ($Z = 57$) adds a $5d$ electron) is it energetically favorable to add a $4f$ electron. Immediately after barium you have to switch down to the *lanthanides* at the bottom of the table. The lanthanides fill in the $4f$ states.

The $4f$ subshell is complete with $Z = 70$ ytterbium. Then $Z = 71$ lutetium through $Z = 80$ mercury complete the transition-element $5d$ subshell, followed by the $6p$ subshell in the six elements thallium through radon at the end of the sixth row. Radon, the last inert gas, has $Z = 86$ electrons and the ground-state configuration

$$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2 3d^{10} 4p^6 5s^2 4d^{10} 5p^6 6s^2 4f^{14} 5d^{10} 6p^6$$

This is frightening to behold, but we can now understand it!

**Example 41.4 The ground state of arsenic**

Predict the ground-state electron configuration of arsenic.

**SOLVE** The periodic table shows that arsenic (As) has $Z = 33$, so we must identify the states of 33 electrons. Arsenic is in the fourth row, following the first group of transition elements. Argon ($Z = 18$) filled the $3p$ subshell, then calcium ($Z = 20$) filled the $4s$ subshell. The next 10 elements, through zinc ($Z = 30$), filled the $3d$ subshell. The $4p$ subshell starts filling with gallium ($Z = 31$), and arsenic is the third element in this group, so it will have three $4p$ electrons. Thus the ground-state configuration of arsenic is

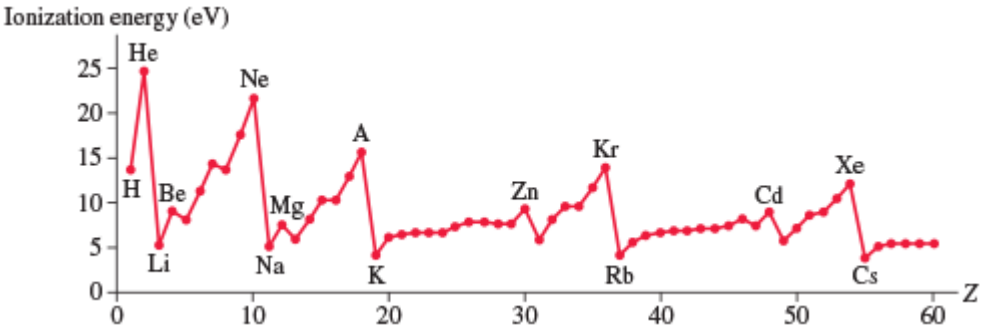
$$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2 3d^{10} 4p^3$$

The white lettering on the periodic table of Figure 41.19 summarizes the results, showing the subshells as they are filled. It is especially important to note how the electron's spin is absolutely essential for understanding the periodic table. Explaining the periodic table of the elements is a remarkable success of the quantum model of the atom.

## Ionization Energies

Ionization energy is the minimum energy needed to remove a ground-state electron from an atom and leave a positive ion behind. The ionization energy of hydrogen is 13.60 eV because the ground-state energy is $E_1 = -13.60\,\text{eV}$. Figure 41.22 shows the experimentally measured ionization energies of the first 60 elements in the periodic table.

**Figure 41.22**




Ionization energies of the elements up to $Z = 60$.

The ionization energy is different for each element, but there's a clear pattern to the values. Ionization energies are ≈ 5 eV for the alkali metals, on the left edge of the periodic table, then increase steadily to ≥15 eV for

the inert gases before plunging back to ≈ 5 eV. Can the quantum theory of atoms explain this recurring pattern in the ionization energies?

Indeed it can. The inert-gas elements (helium, neon, argon, …) in the right column of the periodic table have *closed shells.* A closed shell is a very stable structure, and that is why these elements are chemically nonreactive (i.e., inert). It takes a large amount of energy to pull an electron out of a stable closed shell; thus the inert gases have the largest ionization energies.

The alkali metals, in the left column of the periodic table, have a single *s*-electron outside a closed shell. This electron is easily disrupted, which is why these elements are highly reactive and have the lowest ionization energies. Between the edges of the periodic table are elements such as beryllium ($1s^2 2s^2$) with a closed $2s$ subshell. You can see in Figure 41.22 that the closed subshell gives beryllium a larger ionization energy than its neighbors lithium ($1s^2 2s$) or boron ($1s^2 2s^2 2p$). However, a closed subshell is not nearly as tightly bound as a closed shell, so the ionization energy of beryllium is much less than that of helium or neon.

All in all, you can see that the basic idea of shells and subshells, which follows from the Schrödinger-equation energy levels and the Pauli principle, provides a good understanding of the recurring features in the ionization energies.

## Stop to Think 41.4

Is the electron configuration $1s^2 2s^2 2p^4 3s$ a ground-state configuration or an excited-state configuration?

**a.** Ground-state

**b.** Excited-state

**c.** It's not possible to tell without knowing which element it is.

# 41.6 Excited States and Spectra

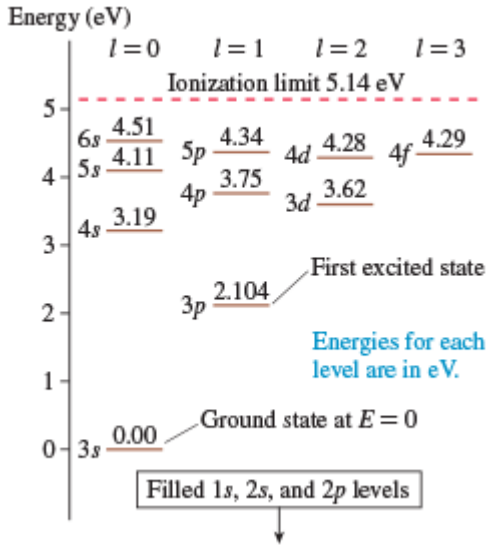


The periodic table organizes information about the *ground states* of the elements. These states are chemically most important because most atoms spend most of the time in their ground states. All the chemical ideas of valence, bonding, reactivity, and so on are consequences of these ground-state atomic structures. But the periodic table does not tell us anything about the excited states of atoms. It is the excited states that hold the key to understanding atomic spectra, and that is the topic to which we turn next.

Sodium ($Z = 11$) is a multielectron atom that we will use as a prototypical atom. The ground-state electron configuration of sodium is $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s$. The first 10 electrons completely fill the $n = 1$ and $n = 2$ shells, creating a *neon core*, while the $3s$ electron is a valence electron. It is customary to represent this configuration as [Ne]$3s$ or, more simply, as just $3s$.

The excited states of sodium are produced by raising the valence electron to a higher energy level. The electrons in the neon core are unchanged. Thus the excited states can be labeled [Ne]$nl$ or, more simply, just $nl$. Figure 41.23 is an energy-level diagram showing the ground state and some of the excited states of sodium. Notice that the $1s$, $2s$, and $2p$ states of the neon core are not shown on the diagram. These states are filled and unchanging, so only the states available to the valence electron are shown.

**Figure 41.23**




The [Ne]3*s* ground state of the sodium atom and some of the excited states.

Figure 41.23 has a new feature: The zero of energy has been shifted to the ground state. As we have discovered many times, the zero of energy can be located where it is most convenient. For analyzing spectra it is convenient to let the ground state have $E = 0$. With this choice, the excited-state energies tell us how far each state is above the ground state. The ionization limit now occurs at the value of the atom's ionization energy, which is 5.14 eV for sodium.

The first energy level above 3*s* is 3*p*, so the *first excited state* of sodium is $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3p$, written as [Ne]3*p* or, more simply, 3*p*. The valence electron is excited, while the core electrons are unchanged. This state is followed, in order of increasing energy, by [Ne]4*s*, [Ne]3*d*, and [Ne]4*p*. Notice that the order of excited states is exactly the same order (3*p*–4*s*–3*d*–4*p*) that explained the fourth row of the periodic table.

Other atoms with a single valence electron have energy-level diagrams similar to that of sodium. Things get more complicated when there is more than one valence electron, so we'll defer those details to more advanced courses. Nevertheless, you already can *utilize* the information

shown on an energy-level diagram without having to understand precisely *why* each level is where it is.

## Excitation by Absorption

Left to itself, an atom will be in its lowest-energy ground state. How does an atom get into an excited state? The process of getting an atom into an excited state is called **excitation**, and there are two basic mechanisms: absorption and collision. We'll begin by looking at excitation by absorption.

One postulate of the Bohr model is that an atom can jump from one stationary state, of energy $E_1$, to a higher-energy state $E_2$ by absorbing a photon of frequency

**(41.15)**

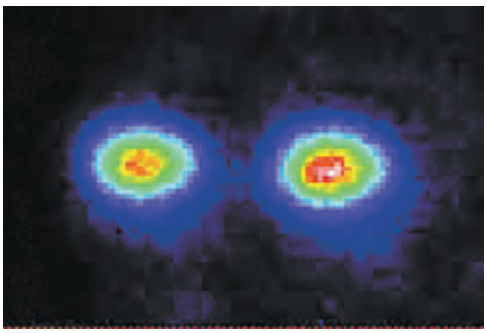
$$f = \frac{\Delta E_{\text{atom}}}{h} = \frac{E_2 - E_1}{h}$$

Because we are interested in spectra, it is more useful to write Equation 41.15 in terms of the wavelength:

**(41.16)**

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{hc}{\Delta E_{\text{atom}}} = \frac{1240\ \text{eV nm}}{\Delta E\,(\text{in eV})}$$

The final expression, which uses the value $hc = 1240\,\text{eV nm}$, gives the wavelength in nanometers *if* $\Delta E_{\text{atom}}$ is in electron volts.



The dots of light are being emitted by two beryllium ions held in a device called an ion trap. Each ion, which is excited by an invisible ultraviolet laser, emits about $10^6$ visible-light photons per second.

---

Bohr's idea of quantum jumps remains an integral part of our interpretation of the results of quantum mechanics. By absorbing a photon, an atom jumps from its ground state to one of its excited states. However, a careful analysis of how the electrons in an atom interact with a light wave shows that not every conceivable transition can occur. The **allowed transitions** must satisfy a **selection rule:** A transition (either absorption or emission) from a state in which the valence electron has orbital quantum number $l_1$ to another with orbital quantum number $l_2$ is allowed only if



---

**(41.17)**

$$\Delta l = |l_2 - l_1| = 1 \quad \text{(selection rule for emission and absorption)}$$

That is, the electron's orbital quantum number must change by exactly 1. Thus an atom in an $s$ state ($l = 0$) can absorb a photon and be excited to a $p$ state ($l = 1$) but *not* to another $s$ state or to a $d$ state. An atom in a $p$ state ($l = 1$) can emit a photon by dropping to a lower-energy $s$ state *or* to a lower-energy $d$ state but not to another $p$ state.

### Example 41.5 Absorption in hydrogen

What is the longest wavelength in the absorption spectrum of hydrogen? What is the transition?

**SOLVE** The longest wavelength corresponds to the smallest energy change $\Delta E_{\text{atom}}$. Because the atom starts from the $1s$ ground state, the smallest energy change occurs for absorption to the first $n = 2$ excited state. The energy change is

$$\Delta E_{\text{atom}} = E_2 - E_1 = \frac{-13.6\,\text{eV}}{2^2} - \frac{-13.6\,\text{eV}}{1^2} = 10.2\,\text{eV}$$

The wavelength of this transition is

$$\lambda = \frac{1240\,\text{eV nm}}{10.2\,\text{eV}} = 122\,\text{nm}$$

This is an ultraviolet wavelength. Because of the selection rule, the transition is $1s \rightarrow 2p$, not $1s \rightarrow 2s$.

### Example 41.6 Absorption in sodium

What is the longest wavelength in the absorption spectrum of sodium? What is the transition?

**SOLVE** The sodium ground state is [Ne]$3s$. The lowest excited state is the $3p$ state. $3s \rightarrow 3p$ is an allowed transition ($\Delta l = 1$), so this is the longest wavelength. You can see from the data in Figure 41.23 that $\Delta E_{\text{atom}} = 2.104\,\text{eV}$ for this transition.

The corresponding wavelength is

$$\lambda = \frac{1240\,\text{eV nm}}{2.104\,\text{eV}} = 589\,\text{nm}$$

**ASSESS** This wavelength (yellow color) is a prominent feature in the spectrum of sodium. Because the ground state has $l = 0$, absorption *must* be to a $p$ state. The $s$ states and $d$ states of sodium cannot be excited by absorption.

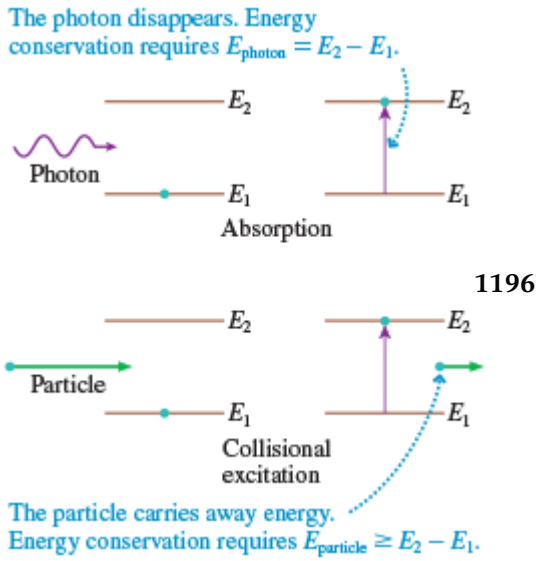
## Collisional Excitation

An electron moving with a speed of $1.0 \times 10^6$ m/s has a kinetic energy of 2.85 eV. If this particle collides with a ground-state sodium atom, a portion of its energy can be used to excite the atom to its $3p$ state. This process is called **collisional excitation** of the atom.

Collisional excitation differs from excitation by absorption in one very fundamental way. In absorption, the photon disappears. Consequently, *all* of the photon's energy must be transferred to the atom. Conservation of energy requires $E_{\text{photon}} = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}$. In contrast, the particle is still present after collisional excitation and can carry away some kinetic energy. That is, the particle does *not* have to transfer its entire energy to the atom. If the particle has an incident energy of 2.85 eV, it could transfer 2.10 eV to the sodium atom, thereby exciting it to the $3p$ state, and depart the collision with an energy of 0.75 eV.

To excite the atom, the incident energy of the particle merely has to *exceed* $\Delta E_{\text{atom}}$. That is $E_{\text{particle}} \geq \Delta E_{\text{atom}}$. There's a threshold energy for exciting the atom, but no upper limit. It is all a matter of energy conservation. Figure 41.24 shows the idea graphically.

## Figure 41.24




Excitation by photon absorption and electron collision.

Collisional excitation by electrons is the predominant method of excitation in electrical discharges such as fluorescent lights, street lights, and neon signs. A gas is placed in a tube at reduced pressure (≈ 1 mm of Hg), then a fairly high voltage (≈ 1000 V) between electrodes at the ends of the tube causes the gas to ionize, creating a current in which both ions and electrons are charge carriers. The mean free path of electrons between collisions is large enough for the electrons to gain several eV of kinetic energy as they accelerate in the electric field. This energy is then transferred to the gas atoms upon collision. The process does not work at atmospheric pressure because the mean free path between collisions is too short for the electrons to gain enough kinetic energy to excite the atoms.

> **Note**
>
> There are no selection rules for collisional excitation. Any state can be excited if the colliding particle has sufficient energy.

**Example 41.7 Excitation of hydrogen**

Can an electron traveling at $2.0 \times 10^6$ m/s cause a hydrogen atom to emit the prominent red spectral line ($\lambda = 656$ nm) in the Balmer series?

**MODEL** The electron must have sufficient energy to excite the upper state of the transition.

**SOLVE** The electron's energy is $E_{\text{elec}} = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = 11.4\,\text{eV}$. This is significantly larger than the 1.89 eV energy of a photon with wavelength 656 nm, but don't confuse the energy of the photon with the energy of the excitation. The red spectral line in the Balmer series is emitted by an $n = 3$ to $n = 2$ quantum jump with $\Delta E_{\text{atom}} = 1.89\,\text{eV}$. But to cause this emission, the electron must excite an atom from its *ground state*, with $n = 1$, up to the $n = 3$ level. The necessary excitation energy is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta E_{\text{atom}} &= E_3 - E_1 = (-1.51\,\text{eV}) - (-13.60\,\text{eV}) \\ &= 12.09\,\text{eV}\end{aligned}$$

The electron does *not* have sufficient energy to excite the atom to the state from which the emission would occur.

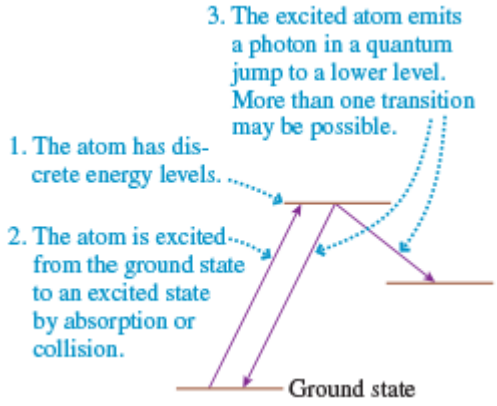
## Emission Spectra

The absorption of light is an important process, but it is the emission of light that really gets our attention. The overwhelming bulk of sensory information that we perceive comes to us in the form of light. With the small exception of cosmic rays, all of our knowledge about the cosmos

comes to us in the form of light and other electromagnetic waves emitted in various processes.

Understanding emission hinges on the three ideas shown in Figure 41.25. Once we have determined the energy levels of an atom, by solving the Schrödinger equation, we can immediately predict its emission spectrum. Conversely, we can use the measured emission spectrum to determine an atom's energy levels.

## Figure 41.25

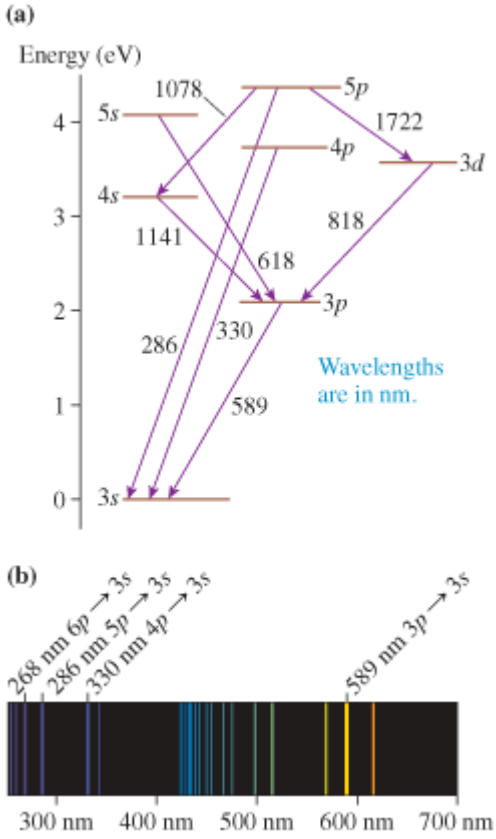



Generation of an emission spectrum.

As an example, Figure 41.26a shows some of the transitions and wavelengths observed in the emission spectrum of sodium. This diagram makes the point that each wavelength represents a quantum jump between two well-defined energy levels. Notice that the selection rule $\Delta l = 1$ is being obeyed in the sodium spectrum. The $5p$ levels can undergo quantum jumps to $3s$, $4s$, or $3d$ but *not* to $3p$ or $4p$.



## Figure 41.26




The emission spectrum of sodium.

Figure 41.26b shows the emission spectrum of sodium as it would be recorded in a spectrometer. (Many of the lines seen in this spectrum start from higher excited states that are not seen in the rather limited energy-level diagram of Figure 41.26a.) By comparing the spectrum to the energy-level diagram, you can recognize that the spectral lines at 589 nm, 330 nm, 286 nm, and 268 nm form a *series* of lines due to all the possible $np \rightarrow 3s$ transitions. They are the dominant features in the sodium spectrum.

The most obvious visual feature of sodium emission is its bright yellow color, produced by the emission wavelength of 589 nm. This is the basis of the *flame test* used in chemistry to test for sodium: A sample is held in a Bunsen burner, and a bright yellow glow indicates the presence of sodium. The 589 nm emission is also prominent in the pinkish-yellow glow of the common sodium-vapor street lights. These operate by

creating an electrical discharge in sodium vapor. Most sodium-vapor lights use high-pressure lamps to increase their light output. The high pressure, however, causes the formation of $Na_2$ molecules, and these molecules, which have a different spectral fingerprint, emit the pinkish portion of the light.

Some cities close to astronomical observatories use low-pressure sodium lights, and these emit the distinctive yellow 589 nm light of sodium. The glow of city lights is a severe problem for astronomers, but the very specific 589 nm emission from sodium is easily removed with a *sodium filter*. The light from the telescope is passed through a container of sodium vapor, and the sodium atoms *absorb* only the unwanted 589 nm photons without disturbing any other wavelengths! However, this cute trick does not work for the other wavelengths emitted by high-pressure sodium lamps or light from other sources.

## Color in Solids

It is worth concluding this section with a few remarks about color in solids. Whether it is the intense multihued colors of a stained glass window, the bright colors of flowers or paint, or the deep luminescent red of a ruby, most of the colors we perceive in our lives come from solids rather than free atoms. The basic principles are the same, but the details are different for solids.

An excited atom in a gas has little choice but to give up its energy by emitting a photon. Its only other option, which is rare for gas atoms, is to collide with another atom and transfer its energy into the kinetic energy of recoil. But the atoms in a solid are in intimate contact with each other at all times. Although an excited atom in a solid has the option of

emitting a photon, it is often more likely that the energy will be converted, via interactions with neighboring atoms, to the thermal energy of the solid. A process in which an atom is de-excited without radiating is called a **nonradiative transition.**

This is what happens in pigments, such as those in paints, plants, and dyes. Pigment molecules absorb certain wavelengths of light but not other wavelengths. The energy-level structure of a molecule is complex, so the absorption consists of "bands" of wavelengths rather than discrete spectral lines. But instead of re-radiating the energy by photon emission, as a free atom would, the pigment molecules undergo nonradiative transitions and convert the energy into increased thermal energy. That is why darker objects get hotter in the sun than lighter objects.

The colors in a stained-glass window are due to the selective absorption of light.

---

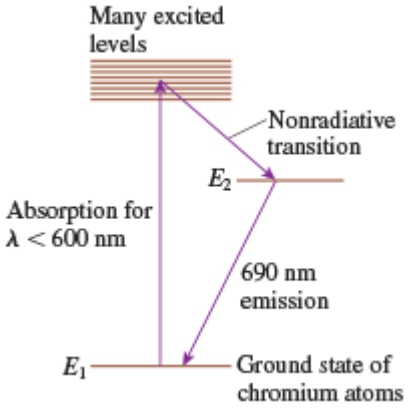
When light falls on an object, it can be either absorbed or reflected. If *all* wavelengths are reflected, the object is perceived as white. Any wavelengths absorbed by the pigments are removed from the reflected light. A pigment with blue-absorbing properties converts the energy of blue-wavelength photons into thermal energy, but photons of other wavelengths are reflected without change. A blue-absorbing pigment

reflects the red and yellow wavelengths, causing the object to be perceived as the color orange!

Some solids, though, are a little different. The color of many minerals and crystals is due to so-called *impurity atoms* embedded in them. For example, the gemstone ruby is a very simple and common crystal of aluminum oxide, called corundum, that happens to have chromium atoms present at the concentration of about one part in a thousand. Pure corundum is transparent, so all of a ruby's color comes from these chromium impurity atoms.

Figure 41.27 shows what happens when ruby is illuminated by white light. The chromium atoms have a group of excited states that absorb all wavelengths shorter than about 600 nm—that is, everything except orange and red. Unlike the pigments in red glass, which convert all the absorbed energy into thermal energy, the chromium atoms dissipate only a small amount of heat as they undergo a nonradiative transition to another excited state. From there they emit a photon with $\lambda = hc/(E_2 - E_1) \approx 690\,\text{nm}$ (dark red color) as they jump back to the ground state.

## Figure 41.27

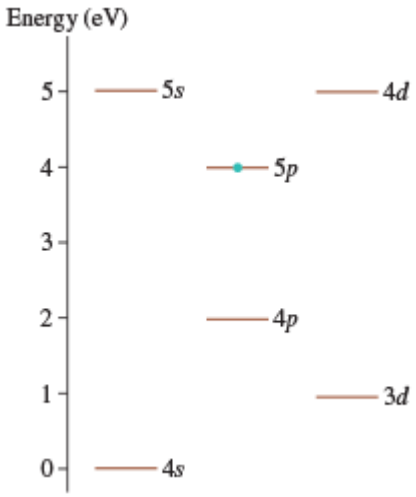



Absorption and emission in a crystal of ruby.

The net effect is that short-wavelength photons, rather than being completely absorbed, are *re-radiated* as longer-wavelength photons. This is why rubies sparkle and have such intense color, whereas red glass is a dull red color. The color of other minerals and gems is due to different impurity atoms, but the principle is the same.

## Stop to Think 41.5

In this hypothetical atom, what is the photon energy $E_{\text{photon}}$ of the longest-wavelength photons emitted by atoms in the $5p$ state?




**a.** 1.0 eV

**b.** 2.0 eV

**c.** 3.0 eV

**d.** 4.0 eV

# 41.7 Lifetimes of Excited States

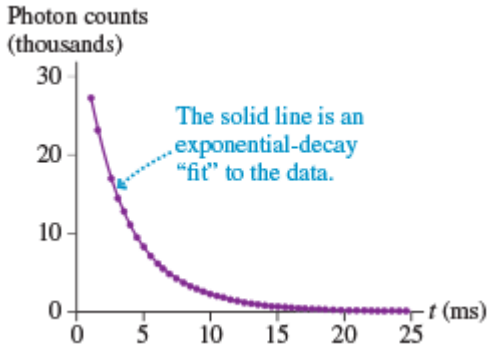


Excitation of an atom, by either absorption or collision, leaves it in an excited state. From there it jumps back to a lower energy level by emitting a photon. How long does this process take? There are actually two questions here. First, how long does an atom remain in an excited state before undergoing a quantum jump to a lower state? Second, how long does the transition last as the quantum jump is occurring?

Our best understanding of the quantum physics of atoms is that quantum jumps are instantaneous. The absorption or emission of a photon is an all-or-nothing event, so there is not a time when a photon is "half emitted." The prediction that quantum jumps are instantaneous has troubled many physicists, but careful experimental tests have never revealed any evidence that the jump itself takes a measurable amount of time.

The time spent in the excited state, waiting to make a quantum jump, is another story. Figure 41.28 shows experimental data for the length of time that doubly charged xenon ions $Xe^{++}$ spend in a certain excited state. In this experiment, a pulse of electrons was used to excite the atoms to the excited state. The number of excited-state atoms was then monitored by detecting the photons emitted—one by one!—as the excited atoms jumped back to the ground state. The number of photons emitted at time $t$ is directly proportional to the number of excited-state atoms present at time $t$. As the figure shows, the number of atoms in the excited state decreases *exponentially* with time, and virtually all have decayed within 25 ms of their creation.

## Figure 41.28




Experimental data for the photon emission rate from an excited state in $Xe^{++}$.

Figure 41.28 has two important implications. First, atoms spend time in the excited state before undergoing a quantum jump back to a lower state. Second, the length of time spent in the excited state is not a constant value but varies from atom to atom. If every excited xenon ion lived for 5 ms in the excited state, then we would detect *no* photons for 5 ms, a big burst right at 5 ms as they all decay, then no photons after that. Instead, the data tell us that there is a *range* of times spent in the excited state. Some undergo a quantum jump and emit a photon after 1 ms, others after 5 ms or 10 ms, and a few wait as long as 20 or 25 ms.

Consider an experiment in which $N_0$ excited atoms are created at time $t = 0$. As the curve in Figure 41.28 shows, the number of excited atoms remaining at time $t$ is well described by the exponential function

**(41.18)**

$$N_{\text{exc}} = N_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

where $\tau$ is the point in time at which $e^{-1} = 0.368 = 36.8\%$ of the original atoms remain in the excited state. Thus 63.2% of the atoms, nearly two-thirds, have emitted a photon and jumped to the lower state by time $t = \tau$. The interval of time $\tau$ is called the **lifetime** of the excited state.

From Figure 41.28 we can deduce that the lifetime of this state in $Xe^{++}$ is $\approx$ 4 ms because that is the point in time at which the curve has decayed to 36.8% of its initial value.

This lifetime in $Xe^{++}$ is abnormally long, which is why the state was studied. More typical excited-state lifetimes are a few nanoseconds. Table 41.3 gives some measured values of excited-state lifetimes. Whatever the value of $\tau$, the number of excited-state atoms decreases exponentially. Why is this?

**Table 41.3**

| Atom | State | Lifetime (ns) |
|---|---|---|
| Hydrogen | $2p$ | 1.6 |
| Sodium | $3p$ | 17 |
| Neon | $3p$ | 20 |
| Potassium | $4p$ | 26 |

Some excited-state lifetimes



# The Decay Equation

Quantum mechanics is about probabilities. We cannot say exactly where the electron is located, but we can use quantum mechanics to calculate the *probability* that the electron is located in a small interval $\Delta x$ at position $x$. Similarly, we cannot say exactly when an excited electron will undergo a quantum jump and emit a photon. However, we can use quantum mechanics to find the *probability* that the electron will undergo a quantum jump during a small time interval $\Delta t$ at time $t$.

Let us assume that the probability of an excited atom emitting a photon during time interval $\Delta t$ is *independent* of how long the atom has been waiting in the excited state. For example, a newly excited atom may have

a 10% probability of emitting a photon within the 1 ns interval from 0 ns to 1 ns. If it survives until $t = 7\,\text{ns}$, our assumption is that it still has a 10% probability of emitting a photon during the 1 ns interval from 7 ns to 8 ns.

This assumption, which can be justified with a detailed analysis, is similar to flipping coins. The probability of a head on your first flip is 50%. If you flip seven heads in a row, the probability of a head on your eighth flip is still 50%. It is *unlikely* that you will flip seven heads in a row, but doing so does not influence the eighth flip. Likewise, it may be *unlikely* for an excited atom to live for 7 ns, but doing so does not affect its probability of emitting a photon during the next 1 ns.

If $\Delta t$ is small, the probability of photon emission during time interval $\Delta t$ is directly proportional to $\Delta t$. That is, if the emission probability in 1 ns is 1%, it will be 2% in 2 ns and 0.5% in 0.5 ns. (This logic fails if $\Delta t$ gets too big. If the probability is 70% in 20 ns, we can *not* say that the probability would be 140% in 40 ns because a probability > 1 is meaningless.) We will be interested in the limit $\Delta t \to dt$, so the concept is valid and we can write

**(41.19)**

$$\text{Prob}\,(\text{emission in } \Delta t \text{ at time } t) = r\,\Delta t$$

where $r$ is called the **decay rate** because the number of excited atoms decays with time. It is a probability *per second*, with units of $\text{s}^{-1}$, and thus is a rate. For example, if an atom has a 5% probability of emitting a photon during a 2 ns interval, its decay rate is

$$r = \frac{P}{\Delta t} = \frac{0.05}{2\,\text{ns}} = 0.025\,\text{ns}^{-1} = 2.5 \times 10^{7}\,\text{s}^{-1}$$

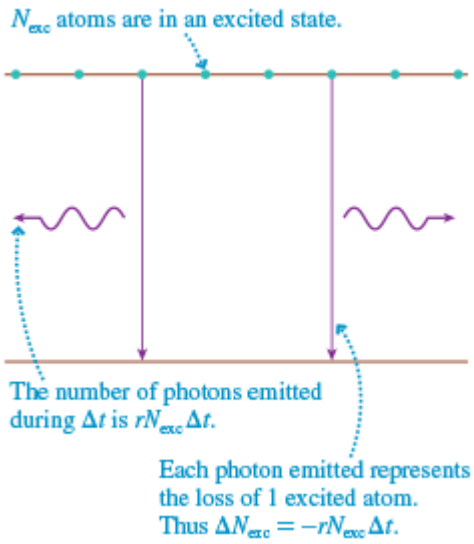
> **Note**
>
> Equation 41.19 is directly analogous to $\text{Prob}\,(\text{found in } \delta x \text{ at } x) = P\delta x$, where $P$, which had units of $\text{m}^{-1}$, was the probability density.

Figure 41.29 shows $N_{\text{exc}}$ atoms in an excited state. During a small time interval $\Delta t$, the number of these atoms that we expect to undergo a quantum jump and emit a photon is $N_{\text{exc}}$ multiplied by the probability of decay. That is,

**(41.20)**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{number of photons in } \Delta t \text{ at time } t &= N_{\text{exc}} \times \text{Prob}(\text{emission in } \Delta t \text{ at } t) \\ &= rN_{\text{exc}}\,\Delta t \end{aligned}$$

## Figure 41.29




The number of atoms that emit photons during $\Delta t$ is directly proportional to the number of excited atoms.



Now the *change* in $N_{\text{exc}}$ is the *negative* of Equation 41.20. For example, suppose 1000 excited atoms are present at time $t$ and each has a 5% probability of emitting a photon in the next 1 ns. On average, the number of photons emitted during the next 1 ns will be $1000 \times 0.05 = 50$.

Consequently, the number of excited atoms changes by $\Delta N_{\text{exc}} = -50$, with the minus sign indicating a decrease.

Thus the *change* in the number of atoms in the excited state is

**(41.21)**

$$\Delta N_{\text{exc}} \left(\text{in } \Delta t \text{ at } t\right) = -N_{\text{exc}} \times \text{ Prob}\left(\text{decay in } \Delta t \text{ at } t\right) = -rN_{\text{exc}}\ \Delta t$$

Now let $\Delta t \to dt$. Then $\Delta N_{\text{exc}} \to dN_{\text{exc}}$ and Equation 41.21 becomes

**(41.22)**

$$\frac{dN_{\text{exc}}}{dt} = -rN_{\text{exc}}$$

Equation 41.22 is a *rate equation* because it describes the *rate* at which the excited-state population changes. If $r$ is large, the population will decay at a rapid rate and will have a short lifetime. Conversely, a small value of $r$ implies that the population will decay slowly and will live a long time.

The rate equation is a differential equation, but we solved a similar equation for *RC* circuits in Chapter 28. First, we rewrite Equation 41.22 as

$$\frac{dN_{\text{exc}}}{N_{\text{exc}}} = -r\,dt$$

Then we integrate both sides from $t = 0$, when the initial excited-state population is $N_0$, to an arbitrary time $t$ when the population is $N_{\text{exc}}$. That is,

(41.23)

$$\int_{N_0}^{N_{\text{exc}}} \frac{dN_{\text{exc}}}{N_{\text{exc}}} = -r \int_0^t dt$$

Both are well-known integrals, giving

$$\ln N_{\text{exc}} \Big|_{N_0}^{N_{\text{exc}}} = \ln N_{\text{exc}} - \ln N_0 = \ln \left( \frac{N_{\text{exc}}}{N_0} \right) = -rt$$

We can solve for the number of excited atoms at time $t$ by taking the exponential of both sides, then multiplying by $N_0$. Doing so gives

(41.24)

$$N_{\text{exc}} = N_0 e^{-rt}$$

Notice that $N_{\text{exc}} = N_0$ at $t = 0$, as expected. Equation 41.24, the *decay equation*, shows that the excited-state population decays exponentially with time, as we saw in the experimental data of Figure 41.28.

It will be more convenient to write Equation 41.24 as

---

(41.25)

$$N_{\text{exc}} = N_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

where

---

(41.26)

$$\tau = \frac{1}{r} = \text{the } lifetime \text{ of the excited state}$$

This is the definition of the lifetime we used in Equation 41.18 to describe the experimental results. The lifetime is the inverse of the decay rate $r$.

**Example 41.8 The lifetime of an excited state in mercury**

The mercury atom has two valence electrons. One is always in the $6s$ state, the other is in a state with quantum numbers $n$ and $l$. One of the excited states in mercury is the state designated $6s6p$. The decay rate of this state is $7.7 \times 10^8\ \mathrm{s}^{-1}$.

**a.** What is the lifetime of this state?

**b.** If $1.0 \times 10^{10}$ mercury atoms are created in the $6s6p$ state at $t = 0$, how many photons will be emitted during the first 1.0 ns?

**SOLVE**

**a.** The lifetime is

$$\tau = \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{7.7 \times 10^8\ \mathrm{s}^{-1}} = 1.3 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{s} = 1.3\ \mathrm{ns}$$

**b.** If there are $N_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{10}$ excited atoms at $t = 0$, the number still remaining at $t = 1.0\ \mathrm{ns}$ is

$$N_{\mathrm{exc}} = N_0 e^{-t/\tau} = (1.0 \times 10^{10})\, e^{-(1.0\ \mathrm{ns})/(1.3\ \mathrm{ns})} = 4.6 \times 10^9$$

This result implies that $5.4 \times 10^9$ atoms undergo quantum jumps during the first 1.0 ns. Each of these atoms emits one photon, so the number of photons emitted during the first 1.0 ns is $5.4 \times 10^9$.

## Stop to Think 41.6

An equal number of excited A atoms and excited B atoms are created at $t = 0$. The decay rate of B atoms is twice that of A atoms: $r_{\mathrm{B}} = 2r_{\mathrm{A}}$. At $t = \tau_{\mathrm{A}}$ (i.e., after one lifetime of A atoms has elapsed), the ratio $N_{\mathrm{B}}/N_{\mathrm{A}}$ of the number of excited B atoms to the number of excited A atoms is

**a.** $> 2$

**b.** 2

**c.** 1

**d.** $\frac{1}{2}$

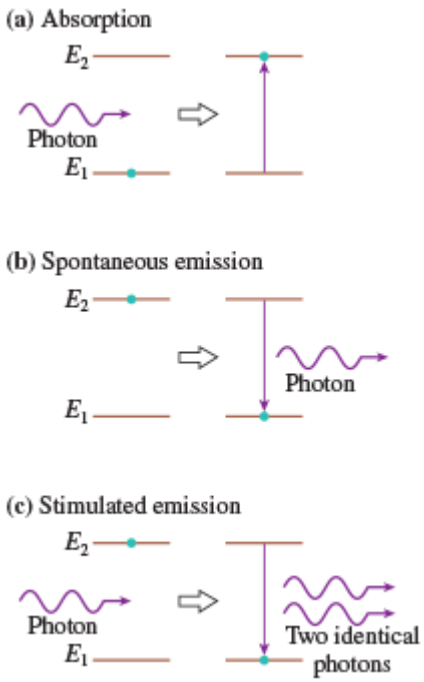
**e.** $< \frac{1}{2}$

# 41.8 Stimulated Emission and Lasers



We have seen that an atom can jump from a lower-energy level $E_1$ to a higher-energy level $E_2$ by absorbing a photon. Figure 41.30a illustrates the basic absorption process, with a photon of frequency $f = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}/h$ disappearing as the atom jumps from level 1 to level 2. Once in level 2, as shown in Figure 41.30b, the atom can emit a photon of the same frequency as it jumps back to level 1. This transition is called **spontaneous emission.**

## Figure 41.30




Three types of radiative transitions.

In 1917, four years after Bohr's proposal of stationary states in atoms but still prior to de Broglie and Schrödinger, Einstein was puzzled by how quantized atoms reach thermodynamic equilibrium in the presence of electromagnetic radiation. Einstein found that absorption and

spontaneous emission were not sufficient to allow a collection of atoms to reach thermodynamic equilibrium. To resolve this difficulty, Einstein proposed a third mechanism for the interaction of atoms with light.

The left half of Figure 41.30c shows a photon with frequency $f = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}/h$ approaching an *excited* atom. If a photon can induce the $1 \rightarrow 2$ transition of absorption, then Einstein proposed that it should also be able to induce a $2 \rightarrow 1$ transition. In a sense, this transition is a *reverse absorption*. But to undergo a reverse absorption, the atom must *emit* a photon of frequency $f = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}/h$. The end result, as seen in the right half of Figure 41.30c, is an atom in level 1 plus *two* photons! Because the first photon induced the atom to emit the second photon, this process is called **stimulated emission.**

Stimulated emission occurs only if the first photon's frequency exactly matches the $E_2 - E_1$ energy difference of the atom. This is precisely the same condition that absorption has to satisfy. More interesting, the emitted photon is *identical* to the incident photon. This means that as the two photons leave the atom they have exactly the same frequency and wavelength, are traveling in exactly the same direction, and are exactly in phase with each other. In other words, **stimulated emission produces a second photon that is an exact clone of the first.**

Stimulated emission is of no importance in most practical situations. Atoms typically spend only a few nanoseconds in an excited state before undergoing spontaneous emission, so the atom would need to be in an extremely intense light wave for stimulated emission to occur prior to spontaneous emission. Ordinary light sources are not nearly intense enough for stimulated emission to be more than a minor effect; hence it was many years before Einstein's prediction was confirmed. No one had doubted Einstein because he had clearly demonstrated that stimulated

emission was necessary to make the energy equations balance, but it seemed no more important than would pennies to a millionaire balancing her checkbook. At least, that is, until 1960, when a revolutionary invention appeared that made explicit use of stimulated emission: the laser.

## Lasers

The word **laser** is an acronym for **l**ight **a**mplification by the **s**timulated **e**mission of **r**adiation. The first laser, a ruby laser, was demonstrated in 1960, and several other kinds of lasers appeared within a few months. The driving force behind much of the research was the American physicist Charles Townes. Townes was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1964 for the invention of the maser, an earlier device using microwaves, and his theoretical work leading to the laser.

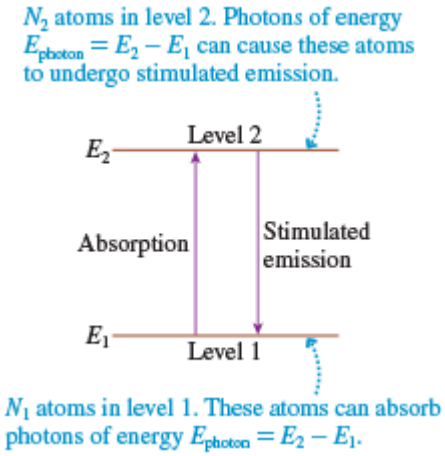
Today, lasers do everything from being the light source in fiber-optic communications to measuring the distance to the moon and from playing your DVD to performing delicate eye surgery. But what is a laser? Basically it is a device that produces a beam of highly *coherent* and essentially monochromatic (single-color) light as a result of stimulated emission. **Coherent** light is light in which all the electromagnetic waves have the same phase, direction, and amplitude. It is the coherence of a laser beam that allows it to be very tightly focused or to be rapidly modulated for communications.



Let's take a brief look at how a laser works. Figure 41.31 represents a system of atoms that have a lower energy level $E_1$ and a higher energy level $E_2$. Suppose there are $N_1$ atoms in level 1 and $N_2$ atoms in level 2. Left to themselves, all the atoms would soon end up in level 1 because of

the spontaneous emission $2 \rightarrow 1$. To prevent this, we can imagine that some type of excitation mechanism, perhaps an electrical discharge, is continuing to produce new excited atoms in level 2.

## Figure 41.31




Energy levels 1 and 2, with populations $N_1$ and $N_2$.

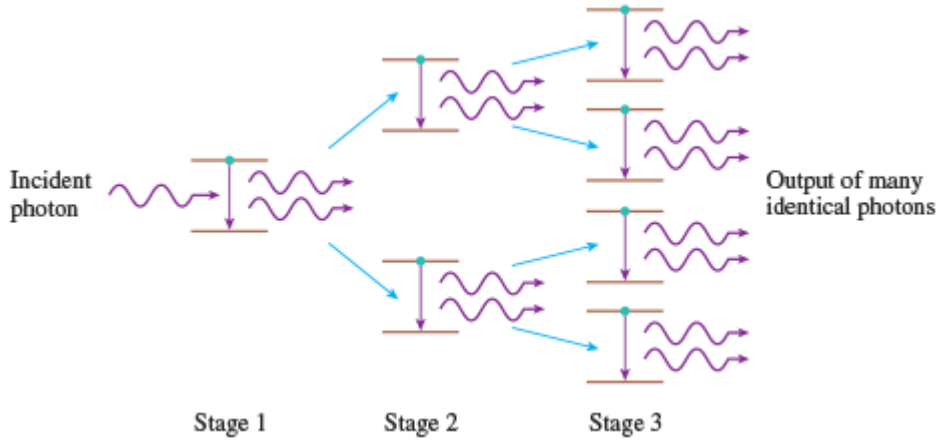
Let a photon of frequency $f = (E_2 - E_1)/h$ be incident on this group of atoms. Because it has the correct frequency, it could be absorbed by one of the atoms in level 1. Another possibility is that it could cause stimulated emission from one of the level 2 atoms. Ordinarily $N_2 \ll N_1$, so absorption events far outnumber stimulated emission events. Even if a few photons were generated by stimulated emission, they would quickly be absorbed by the vastly larger group of atoms in level 1.

Charles Townes.

But what if we could somehow arrange to place *every* atom in level 2, making $N_1 = 0$? Then the incident photon, upon encountering its first atom, will cause stimulated emission. Where there was initially one photon of frequency *f*, now there are two. These will strike two additional excited-state atoms, again causing stimulated emission. Then there will be four photons. As Figure 41.32 shows, there will be a *chain reaction* of stimulated emission until all $N_2$ atoms emit a photon of frequency *f*.



## Figure 41.32

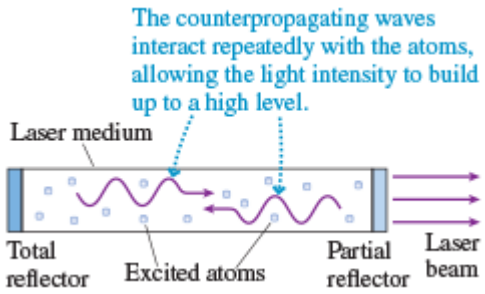



Stimulated emission creates a chain reaction of photon production in a population of excited atoms.

In stimulated emission, each emitted photon is *identical* to the incident photon. The chain reaction of Figure 41.32 will lead not just to $N_2$ photons of frequency $f$, but to $N_2$ identical photons, all traveling together in the same direction with the same phase. If $N_2$ is a large number, as would be the case in any practical device, the one initial photon will have been amplified into a gigantic coherent pulse of light! A collection of excited-state atoms is called an *optical amplifier*.

As Figure 41.33 shows, the stimulated emission is sustained by placing the *lasing medium*—the sample of atoms that emits the light—in an **optical cavity** consisting of two facing mirrors. One of the mirrors will be partially transmitting so that some of the light emerges as the *laser beam*.

## Figure 41.33




Lasing takes place in an optical cavity.

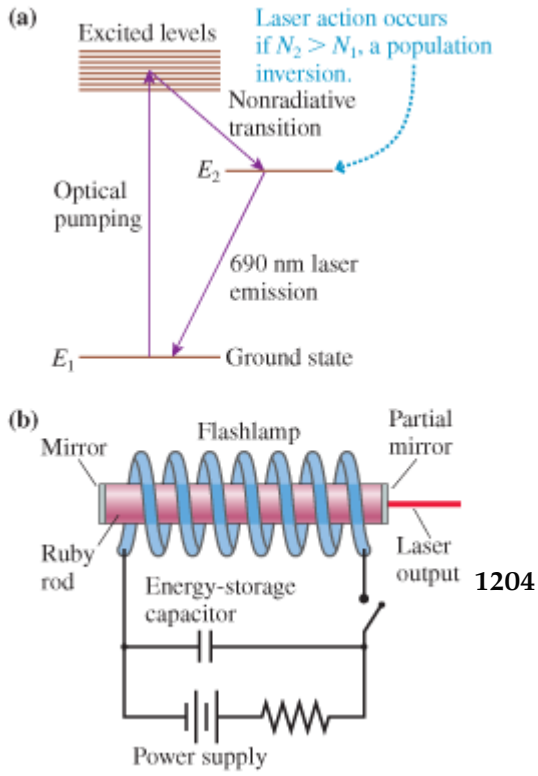
Although the chain reaction of Figure 41.32 illustrates the idea most clearly, it is not necessary for every atom to be in level 2 for amplification to occur. All that is needed is to have $N_2 > N_1$ so that stimulated emission exceeds absorption. Such a situation is called a **population inversion.** The process of obtaining a population inversion is called **pumping,** and we will look at two specific examples. Pumping is the technically difficult part of designing and building a laser because normal excitation mechanisms do not create population inversions. In fact, lasers

would likely have been discovered accidentally long before 1960 if population inversions were easy to create.

## The Ruby Laser

The first laser to be developed was a ruby laser. Figure 41.34a shows the energy-level structure of the chromium atoms that gives ruby its optical properties. Normally, the number of atoms in the ground-state level $E_1$ far exceeds the number of excited-state atoms with energy $E_2$. That is, $N_2 \ll N_1$. Under these circumstances 690 nm light is absorbed rather than amplified. But suppose that we could *rapidly* excite more than half the chromium atoms to level $E_2$. Then we would have a population inversion ($N_2 > N_1$) between levels $E_1$ and $E_2$.

**Figure 41.34**




A flashlamp-pumped ruby laser.

This can be accomplished by *optically pumping* the ruby with a very intense pulse of white light from a *flashlamp*. A flashlamp is like a camera flash, only vastly more intense. In the basic arrangement of Figure 41.34b, a helical flashlamp is coiled around a ruby rod that has mirrors bonded to its end faces. The lamp is fired by discharging a high-voltage capacitor through it, creating a very intense light pulse lasting just a few microseconds. This intense light excites nearly all the chromium atoms from the ground state to the upper energy levels. From there, they quickly ($\approx 10^{-8}$ s) decay nonradiatively to level 2. With $N_2 > N_1$, a population inversion has been created.

Once a photon initiates the laser pulse, the light intensity builds quickly into a brief but incredibly intense burst of light. A typical output pulse lasts 10 ns and has an energy of 1 J. This gives a *peak power* of

$$P = \frac{\Delta E}{\Delta t} = \frac{1\,\text{J}}{10^{-8}\,\text{s}} = 10^8\,\text{W} = 100\,\text{MW}$$

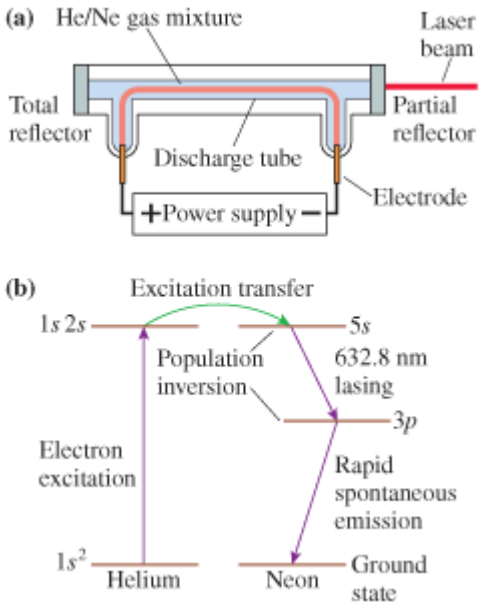
One hundred megawatts of light power! That is more than the electrical power used by a small city. The difference, of course, is that a city consumes that power continuously but the laser pulse lasts a mere 10 ns. The laser cannot fire again until the capacitor is recharged and the laser rod cooled. A typical firing rate is a few pulses per second, so the laser is "on" only a few billionths of a second out of each second.

Ruby lasers have been replaced by other pulsed lasers that, for various practical reasons, are easier to operate. However, they all operate with the same basic idea of rapid optical pumping to upper states, rapid nonradiative decay to level 2 where the population inversion is formed, then rapid buildup of an intense optical pulse.

# The Helium-Neon Laser

The familiar red laser used in lecture demonstrations, laboratories, and supermarket checkout scanners is the helium-neon laser, often called a HeNe laser. Its output is a *continuous*, rather than pulsed, wavelength of 632.8 nm. The medium of a HeNe laser is a mixture of ≈ 90% helium and ≈ 10% neon gases. As Figure 41.35a shows, the gases are sealed in a glass tube, then an electrical discharge is established along the bore of the tube. Two mirrors are bonded to the ends of the discharge tube, one a total reflector and the other having ≈ 2% transmission so that the laser beam can be extracted.

## Figure 41.35




A HeNe laser.

The atoms that lase are the neon atoms, but the pumping method involves the helium atoms. The electrons in the discharge collisionally excite the $1s2s$ state of helium. This state has a very low spontaneous decay rate (i.e., a very long lifetime) because a decay back to the $1s^2$ state would violate the $\Delta l$ selection rule, so it is possible to build up a fairly

large population (but not an inversion) of excited helium atoms in the $1s2s$ state. The energy of the $1s2s$ state is 20.6 eV.

Interestingly, an excited state of neon, the $5s$ state, also has an energy of 20.6 eV. If a $1s2s$ excited helium atom collides with a ground-state neon atom, as frequently happens, the excitation energy can be transferred from one atom to the other! Written as a chemical reaction, the process is

$$\mathrm{He}^* + \mathrm{Ne} \rightarrow \mathrm{He} + \mathrm{Ne}^*$$

where the asterisk indicates the atom is in an excited state. This process, **excitation transfer,** is very efficient for the $5s$ state because the process is *resonant*—a perfect energy match. Thus the two-step process of collisional excitation of helium, followed by excitation transfer between helium and neon, pumps the neon atoms into the excited $5s$ state. This is shown in Figure 41.35b.

The $5s$ energy level in neon is ≈ 1.95 eV above the $3p$ state. The $3p$ state is very nearly empty of population, both because it is not efficiently populated in the discharge and because it undergoes very rapid spontaneous emission to the $3s$ states. Thus the large number of atoms pumped into the $5s$ state creates a population inversion with respect to the lower $3p$ state. These are the necessary conditions for laser action.

Because the lower level of the laser transition is normally empty of population, placing only a small fraction of the neon atoms in the $5s$ state creates a population inversion. Thus a fairly modest pumping action is sufficient to create the inversion and start the laser. Furthermore, a HeNe laser can maintain a *continuous* inversion and thus sustain continuous lasing. The electrical discharge continuously creates $5s$ excited atoms in the upper level, via excitation transfer, and the rapid spontaneous decay

of the $3p$ atoms from the lower level keeps its population low enough to sustain the inversion.

A typical helium-neon laser has a power output of $1\,\text{mW} = 10^{-3}\,\text{J/s}$ at $632.8\,\text{nm}$ in a 1-mm-diameter laser beam. As you can show in a homework problem, this output corresponds to the emission of $3.2 \times 10^{15}$ photons per second. Other continuous lasers operate by similar principles, but can produce much more power. The argon laser, which is widely used in scientific research, can produce up to 20 W of power at green and blue wavelengths. The carbon dioxide laser produces output power in excess of 1000 W at the infrared wavelength of 10.6 $\mu$m. It is used in industrial applications for cutting and welding.

**Example 41.9 An ultraviolet laser**

An ultraviolet laser generates a 10 MW, 5.0-ns-long light pulse at a wavelength of 355 nm. How many photons are in each pulse?

**SOLVE** The energy of each light pulse is the power multiplied by the duration:

$$E_{\text{pulse}} = P\,\Delta t = (1.0 \times 10^{7}\,\text{W})\,(5.0 \times 10^{-9}\,\text{s}) = 0.050\,\text{J}$$

Each photon in the pulse has energy

$$E_{\text{photon}} = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = 3.50\,\text{eV} = 5.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{J}$$

Because $E_{\text{pulse}} = NE_{\text{photon}}$, the number of photons is

$$N = E_{\text{pulse}}/E_{\text{photon}} = 8.9 \times 10^{16}\,\text{photons}$$

### Challenge Example 41.10 Electron probability in hydrogen

What is the probability that a 1*s* hydrogen electron is found at a distance from the proton that is less than half the Bohr radius?

**MODEL** The Schrödinger model of the hydrogen atom represents the electron as a wave function. We can't say exactly where the electron is, but we can calculate the probability of finding it in a specified region of space.

**SOLVE** We're interested in finding the electron not at a certain *point* in space but within a certain *distance* from the nucleus. For this we use the radial probability density

$$P_r(r) = 4\pi r^2 |R_{nl}(r)|^2$$

where $R_{nl}(r)$ is the radial wave function, rather than the square of the wave function $\psi(x, y, z)$. The probability of finding the electron at a distance between $r_{\text{min}}$ and $r_{\text{max}}$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Prob}(r_{\text{min}} \le r \le r_{\text{max}}) &= \int_{r_{\text{min}}}^{r_{\text{max}}} P_r(r)\, dr \\ &= 4\pi \int_{r_{\text{min}}}^{r_{\text{max}}} r^2 |R_{nl}(r)|^2\, dr\end{aligned}$$

The 1*s* radial wave function was given in Equations 41.7:

$$R_{1s}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a_{\text{B}}^3}} e^{-r/a_{\text{B}}}$$

where $a_{\text{B}}$ is the Bohr radius. We specify that the electron is less than half the Bohr radius from the proton by setting $r_{\text{min}} = 0$ and

$r_{\max} = \frac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}$. Thus the probability we seek is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Prob}(r \leq \tfrac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}) &= 4\pi \int_0^{a_{\mathrm{B}}/2} r^2 |R_{1s}(r)|^2 \, dr \\ &= \frac{4\pi}{\pi {a_{\mathrm{B}}}^3} \int_0^{a_{\mathrm{B}}/2} r^2 e^{-2r/a_{\mathrm{B}}} \, dr\end{aligned}$$

To evaluate this integral, it will be useful to change variables. Let $u = 2r/a_{\mathrm{B}}$, so that the exponential can be written more simply as $e^{-u}$. Turning this around, we have $r = \frac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}u$ and thus

$$r^2 dr = \left(\tfrac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}u\right)^2 \left(\tfrac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}du\right) = \frac{1}{8}{a_{\mathrm{B}}}^3 u^2 du$$

A change of variables requires a corresponding change of limits: When $r = 0$, $u = 0$ also; when $r = \frac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}$, $u = 1$. With these substitutions, the probability calculation becomes

$$\mathrm{Prob}\left(r \leq \tfrac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}\right) = \tfrac{1}{2}\int_0^1 u^2 e^{-u} \, du$$

This looks much nicer! Notice that all the $a_{\mathrm{B}}$ have disappeared, so our answer will be a numerical value.

This is not an easy integral, but it is a common one. It can be found in integral tables, such as in Appendix A, or evaluated with mathematical software. The result is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Prob}\left(r \leq \tfrac{1}{2}a_{\mathrm{B}}\right) &= \tfrac{1}{2}\left[-(u^2 + 2u + 2)e^{-u}\right]_0^1 \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}(2 - 5e^{-1}) = 0.080\end{aligned}$$

The probability that a 1*s* hydrogen electron is less than half the Bohr radius from the proton is 0.080, or 8.0%.

**ASSESS** The probability is small, but that is not unexpected. The graph of the radial probability density in Figure 41.7 shows that the probability peaks at $r = a_B$ and then decreases rapidly as $r \to 0$. We can see that the area under that curve from $r = 0$ to $r = \frac{1}{2}a_B$ is not large. The electron can be found much closer to the proton than one Bohr radius, but not with a large probability.

# Summary



> The goal of Chapter 41 has been to learn about the structure and properties of atoms.

## Important Concepts

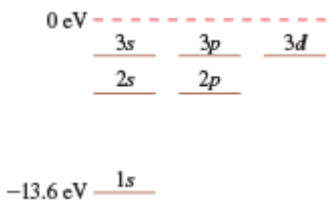
### Hydrogen Atom

The three-dimensional Schrödinger equation has stationary-state solutions for the hydrogen atom potential energy only if three conditions are satisfied:

- Energy $E_n = -13.60\ \text{eV}/n^2 \qquad n = 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots$
- Angular momentum $L = \sqrt{l(l+1)}\hbar \qquad l = 0,\ 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots,\ n-1$
- $z$-component of angular momentum

$$L_z = m\hbar \qquad m = -l,\ -l+1,\ \ldots,\ 0,\ \ldots,\ l-1,\ l$$

Each state is characterized by **quantum numbers** $(n, l, m)$, but the energy depends only on $n$.

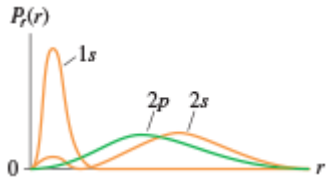



The probability of finding the electron within a small distance interval $\delta r$ at distance $r$ is

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta r \text{ at } r) = P_r(r)\delta r$$

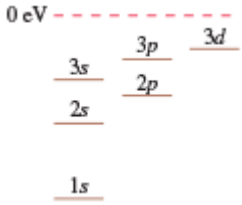
where $P_r(r) = 4\pi r^2 |R_{\text{nl}}(r)|^2$ is the **radial probability density.**

Graphs of $P_r(r)$ suggest that the electrons are arranged in shells.

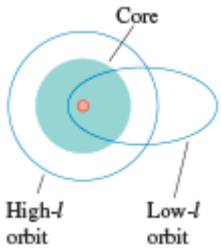



## Multielectron Atoms

The potential energy is electron-nucleus plus electron-electron. In the **independent particle approximation,** each electron is described by the same quantum numbers ($n$, $l$, $m$, $m_s$) used for the hydrogen atom. The energy of a state depends on $n$ and $l$. For each $n$, energy increases as $l$ increases.




- High-$l$ states correspond to circular orbits. These stay outside the core.
- Low-$l$ states correspond to elliptical orbits. These penetrate the core to interact more strongly with the nucleus. This interaction lowers their energy.




## Electron spin

The electron has an inherent angular momentum $\vec{S}$ and magnetic moment $\vec{\mu}$ *as if* it were spinning. The spin angular momentum has a fixed magnitude $S = \sqrt{s(s+1)}\hbar$, where $s = \frac{1}{2}$. The $z$-component is $S_z = m_s\hbar$, where $m_s = \pm\frac{1}{2}$. These two states are called **spin-up** and **spin-down.** Each atomic state is fully characterized by the four quantum numbers ($n$, $l$, $m$, $m_s$).

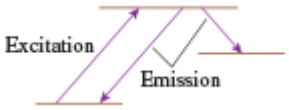
The **Pauli exclusion principle** says that no more than one electron can occupy each quantum state. The periodic table of the elements is based on the fact that the ground state is the lowest-energy electron configuration compatible with the Pauli principle.

# Applications

**Atomic spectra** are generated by excitation followed by a photon-emitting quantum jump.

- Excitation by absorption or collision
- Quantum-jump selection rule $\Delta l = \pm 1$





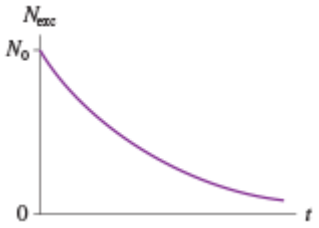

## Lifetimes of excited states

The excited-state population decreases exponentially as

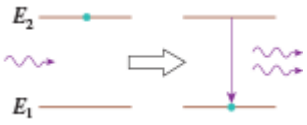
$$N_{\text{exc}} = N_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

where $\tau = 1/r$ is the **lifetime** and $r$ is the **decay rate.** It's not possible to predict when a particular atom will decay, but the *probability* is

$$\text{Prob}(\text{in } \delta t \text{ at } t) = r\,\delta t$$




**Stimulated emission** of an excited state can be caused by a photon with $E_{\text{photon}} = E_2 - E_1$. Laser action can occur if $N_2 > N_1$, a condition called a population inversion.




# Terms and Notation

principal quantum number, $n$

orbital quantum number, $l$

magnetic quantum number, $m$

ionization energy

electron cloud

radial wave function, $R_{nl}(r)$

radial probability density, $P_r(r)$

shell model

spin

spin quantum number, $m_s$

spin-up

spin-down

independent particle approximation (IPA)

Pauli exclusion principle

electron configuration

closed shell

subshell

excitation

allowed transition

selection rule

collisional excitation

nonradiative transition

lifetime, $\tau$

decay rate, $r$

spontaneous emission

stimulated emission

laser

coherent

optical cavity

population inversion

pumping

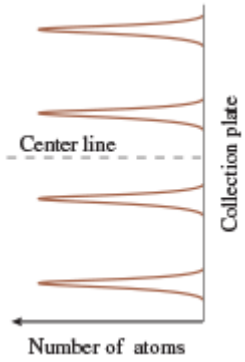
excitation transfer

# Conceptual Questions



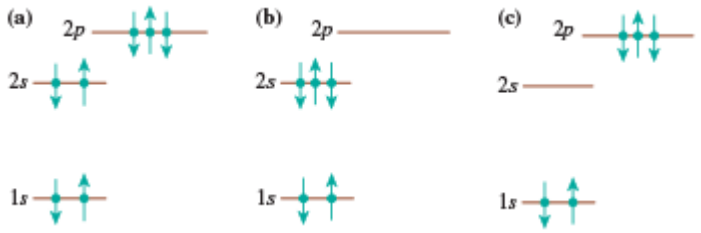
1. Consider the three hydrogen-atom states $6p$, $5d$, and $4f$. Which has the highest energy?
2. What is the difference between the *probability density* and the *radial probability density?*
3. What is the difference between $l$ and $L$?
4. What is the difference between $s$ and $S$?
5. Figure Q41.5 shows the outcome of a Stern-Gerlach experiment with atoms of element X.

**Figure Q41.5**



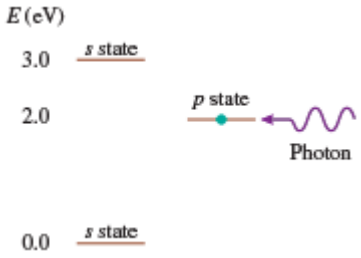

   a. Do the peaks represent different values of the atom's total angular momentum or different values of the $z$-component of its angular momentum? Explain.
   b. What angular momentum quantum numbers characterize these four peaks?
6. Does each of the configurations in Figure Q41.6 represent a possible electron configuration of an element? If so, (i) identify the element and (ii) determine whether this is the ground state or an excited state. If not, why not?

**Figure Q41.6**




7. What *is* an atom's ionization energy? In other words, if you know the ionization energy of an atom, what is it that you know about the atom?
8. Figure 41.22 shows that the ionization energy of cadmium ($Z = 48$) is larger than that of its neighbors. Why is this?
9. A neon discharge tube emits a bright reddish-orange spectrum, but a glass tube filled with neon is completely transparent. Why doesn't the neon in the tube absorb orange and red wavelengths?
10. The hydrogen atom 1*s* wave function is a maximum at $r = 0$. But the 1*s* radial probability density, shown in Figure 41.7, peaks at $r = a_B$ and is zero at $r = 0$. Explain this paradox.
11. In a multielectron atom, the lowest-*l* state for each *n* (2*s*, 3*s*, 4*s*, etc.) is significantly lower in energy than the hydrogen state having the same *n*. But the highest-*l* state for each *n* (2*p*, 3*d*, 4*f*, etc.) is very nearly equal in energy to the hydrogen state with the same *n*. Explain.
12. In Figure Q41.12, a photon with energy 2.0 eV is incident on an atom in the *p* state. Does the atom undergo an absorption transition, a stimulated emission transition, or neither? Explain.

**Figure Q41.12**




# Exercises and Problems

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Sections 41.1–41.2 The Hydrogen Atom

**1.** • List the quantum numbers, excluding spin, of (a) all possible $3p$ states and (b) all possible $3d$ states.

**2.** • What is the angular momentum of a hydrogen atom in (a) a $6s$ state and (b) a $4f$ state? Give your answers as a multiple of $\hbar$.

**3.** • What is the maximum possible angular momentum $L$ (as a multiple of $\hbar$) of a hydrogen atom with energy –0.544eV?

**4.** • A hydrogen atom has orbital angular momentum $3.65 \times 10^{-34}$ J s.

**a.** What letter ($s$, $p$, $d$, or $f$) describes the electron?

**b.** What is the atom's minimum possible energy? Explain.

**5.** • What are $E$ and $L$ (as a multiple of $\hbar$) of a hydrogen atom in the $6f$ state?

### Section 41.3 The Electron's Spin

**6.** • How many lines of atoms would you expect to see on the collector plate of a Stern-Gerlach apparatus if the experiment is

done with (a) lithium and (b) beryllium? Explain.

**7.** •• When all quantum numbers are considered, how many different quantum states are there for a hydrogen atom with $n = 1$? with $n = 2$? with $n = 3$? List the quantum numbers of each state.

## Section 41.4 Multielectron Atoms

## Section 41.5 The Periodic Table of the Elements

**8.** • Predict the ground-state electron configurations of Mg, Sr, and Ba.

**9.** • Predict the ground-state electron configurations of Al, Ga, and In.

**10.** • Identify the element for each of these electron configurations. Then determine whether this configuration is the ground state or an excited state.

**a.** $1s^2 2s^2 2p^5$

**b.** $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2 3d^{10} 4p$

**11.** • Identify the element for each of these electron configurations. Then determine whether this configuration is the ground state or an excited state.

**a.** $1s^2 2s^2 2p^5 3s$

**b.** $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2 3d^2$

**12.** • Draw a series of pictures, similar to Figure 41.21, for the ground states of K, Sc, Co, and Ge.

**13.** • Draw a series of pictures, similar to Figure 41.21, for the ground states of Ca, Ni, As, and Kr.

## Section 41.6 Excited States and Spectra

**14.** • Show that $hc = 1240\,\text{eV nm}$.

**15.** •• What is the electron configuration of the second excited state of lithium?

**16.** •

**a.** Is a $4p \rightarrow 4s$ transition allowed in sodium? If so, what is its wavelength (in nm)? If not, why not?

**b.** Is a $3d \rightarrow 4s$ transition allowed in sodium? If so, what is its wavelength (in nm)? If not, why not?

**17.** •• **INT** An electron accelerates through a 12.5 V potential difference, starting from rest, and then collides with a hydrogen atom, exciting the atom to the highest energy level allowed. List all the possible quantum-jump transitions by which the excited atom could emit a photon and the wavelength (in nm) of each.

## Section 41.7 Lifetimes of Excited States

**18.** • $1.0 \times 10^6$ sodium atoms are excited to the $3p$ state at $t = 0\,\text{s}$. How many of these atoms remain in the $3p$ state at (a) $t = 10\,\text{ns}$, (b) $t = 30\,\text{ns}$, and (c) $t = 100\,\text{ns}$?

**19.** • An excited state of an atom has a 25 ns lifetime. What is the probability that an excited atom will emit a photon during a 0.50 ns interval?

**20.** •• $1.0 \times 10^6$ atoms are excited to an upper energy level at $t = 0\,\text{s}$. At the end of 20 ns, 90% of these atoms have undergone a quantum jump to the ground state.

**a.** How many photons have been emitted?

**b.** What is the lifetime of the excited state?

**21.** •• A hydrogen atom is in the $2p$ state. How much time must elapse for there to be a 1.0% chance that this atom will undergo a quantum jump to the ground state?

**22.** •• $1.00 \times 10^6$ sodium atoms are excited to the $3p$ state at $t = 0\,\text{s}$. At what time have $8.0 \times 10^5$ photons been emitted?

## Section 41.8 Stimulated Emission and Lasers

**23.** • A 1.0 mW helium-neon laser emits a visible laser beam with a wavelength of 633 nm. How many photons are emitted per second?

**24.** • A laser emits $1.0 \times 10^{19}$ photons per second from an excited state with energy $E_2 = 1.17\,\text{eV}$. The lower energy level is $E_1 = 0\,\text{eV}$.

**a.** What is the wavelength of this laser?

**b.** What is the power output of this laser?

**25.** •• **BIO** In LASIK surgery, a laser is used to reshape the cornea of the eye to improve vision. The laser produces extremely short pulses of light, each containing 1.0 mJ of energy.

**a.** There are $9.7 \times 10^{14}$ photons in each pulse. What is the wavelength of the laser?

**b.** Each pulse lasts a mere 20 ns. What is the average power delivered to the cornea during a pulse?

# Problems

**26.** ••

**a.** Draw a diagram similar to Figure 41.2 to show all the possible orientations of the angular momentum vector $\vec{L}$ for the case $l = 3$. Label each $\vec{L}$ with the appropriate value of $m$.



**b.** What is the minimum angle between $\vec{L}$ and the z-axis?

**27.** •• There exist subatomic particles whose spin is characterized by $s = 1$, rather than the $s = \frac{1}{2}$ of electrons. These particles are said to have a spin of one.

**a.** What is the magnitude (as a multiple of $\hbar$) of the spin angular momentum $S$ for a particle with a spin of one?

**b.** What are the possible values of the spin quantum number?

**c.** Draw a vector diagram similar to Figure 41.13 to show the possible orientations of $\vec{S}$.

**28.** •• A hydrogen atom has $l = 2$. What are the (a) minimum (as a multiple of $\hbar$) and (b) maximum values of the quantity $(L_x^2 + L_y^2)^{1/2}$?

**29.** •• A hydrogen atom in its fourth excited state emits a photon with a wavelength of 1282 nm. What is the atom's maximum possible orbital angular momentum (as a multiple of $\hbar$) after the emission?

**30.** • Calculate (a) the radial wave function and (b) the radial probability density at $r = \frac{1}{2}a_B$ for an electron in the 1$s$ state of hydrogen. Give your answers in terms of $a_B$.

**31.** •• For an electron in the 1$s$ state of hydrogen, what is the probability of being in a spherical shell of thickness $0.010a_B$ at distance (a) $\frac{1}{2}a_B$, (b) $a_B$, and (c) $2a_B$ from the proton?

**32.** •• **CALC** Prove that the normalization constant of the 1$s$ radial wave function of the hydrogen atom is $\left(\pi {a_B}^3\right)^{-1/2}$, as given in Equations 41.7.

**Hint:** A useful definite integral is

$$\int_0^\infty x^n e^{-\alpha x}\, dx = \frac{n!}{\alpha^{n+1}}$$

**33.** •• **CALC** Prove that the normalization constant of the $2p$ radial wave function of the hydrogen atom is $(24\pi {a_\text{B}}^3)^{-1/2}$, as shown in Equations 41.7.

**Hint:** See the hint in Problem 32.

**CALC** | |

**a.** Calculate and graph the hydrogen radial wave function $R_{2p}(r)$ over the interval $0 \leq r \leq 8a_\text{B}$.

**b.** Determine the value of $r$ (in terms of $a_\text{B}$) for which $R_{2p}(r)$ is a maximum.

**c.** Example 41.3 and Figure 41.7 showed that the radial probability density for the $2p$ state is a maximum at $r = 4a_\text{B}$. Explain why this differs from your answer to part b.

**35.** •• **CALC** Prove that the radial probability density peaks at $r = a_\text{B}$ for the $1s$ state of hydrogen.

**36.** •• In general, an atom can have both orbital angular momentum and spin angular momentum. The *total* angular momentum is defined to be $\vec{J} = \vec{L} + \vec{S}$. The total angular momentum is quantized in the same way as $\vec{L}$ and $\vec{S}$. That is, $J = \sqrt{j\,(j+1)}\hbar$, where $j$ is the total angular momentum quantum number. The $z$-component of $\vec{J}$ is $J_z = L_z + S_z = m_j\hbar$, where $m_j$ goes in integer steps from $-j$ to $+j$. Consider a hydrogen atom in a $p$ state, with $l = 1$.

**a.** $L_z$ has three possible values and $S_z$ has two. List all possible combinations of $L_z$ and $S_z$. For each, compute $J_z$ and determine the quantum number $m_j$. Put your results in a table.

**b.** The number of values of $J_z$ that you found in part a is too many to go with a single value of $j$. But you should

be able to divide the values of $J_z$ into two groups that correspond to two values of $j$. What are the allowed values of $j$? Explain. In a classical atom, there would be no restrictions on how the two angular momenta $\vec{L}$ and $\vec{S}$ can combine. Quantum mechanics is different. You've now shown that there are only two allowed ways to add these two angular momenta.

**37.** •

**a.** What downward transitions are possible for a sodium atom in the 6*s* state? (See Figure 41.23.)

**b.** What are the wavelengths of the photons emitted in each of these transitions?

**38.** •• The $5d \rightarrow 3p$ transition in the emission spectrum of sodium has a wavelength of 499 nm. What is the energy of the $5d$ state?

**39.** ••• A sodium atom emits a photon with wavelength 818 nm shortly after being struck by an electron. What minimum speed did the electron have before the collision?

**40.** •• The ionization energy of an atom is known to be 5.5 eV. The emission spectrum of this atom contains only the four wavelengths 310.0 nm, 354.3 nm, 826.7 nm, and 1240.0 nm. Draw an energy-level diagram with the fewest possible energy levels that agrees with these experimental data. Label each level with an appropriate $l$ quantum number.

**Hint:** Don't forget about the $\Delta l$ selection rule.

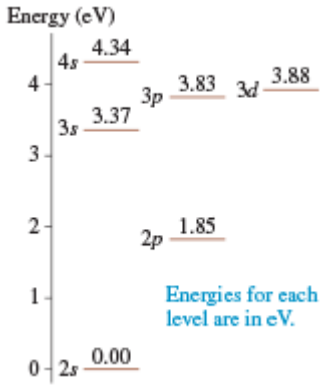
**41.** • Figure P41.41 shows the first few energy levels of the lithium atom. Make a table showing all the allowed transitions in the emission spectrum. For each transition, indicate

**a.** The wavelength, in nm.

**b.** Whether the transition is in the infrared, the visible, or the ultraviolet spectral region.

**c.** Whether or not the transition would be observed in the lithium absorption spectrum.

## Figure P41.41



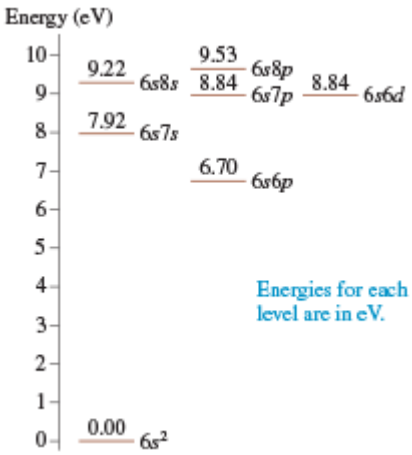

**42.** •• Figure P41.42 shows a few energy levels of the mercury atom.



**a.** Make a table showing all the allowed transitions in the emission spectrum. For each transition, indicate the photon wavelength, in nm.

**b.** What minimum speed must an electron have to excite the 492-nm-wavelength blue emission line in the Hg spectrum?

## Figure P41.42



**43.** •• Suppose you put five electrons into a 0.50-nm-wide one-dimensional rigid box (i.e., an infinite potential well).

**a.** Use an energy-level diagram to show the electron configuration of the ground state.

**b.** What is the ground-state energy—that is, the total energy of all five electrons in the ground-state configuration?

**44.** •• Three electrons are in a one-dimensional rigid box (i.e., an infinite potential well) of length 0.50 nm. Two are in the $n = 1$ state and one is in the $n = 6$ state. The selection rule for the rigid box allows only those transitions for which $\Delta n$ is odd.

**a.** Draw an energy-level diagram. On it, show the filled levels and show all transitions that could emit a photon.

**b.** What are all the possible wavelengths that could be emitted by this system?

**45.** •• An atom in an excited state has a 1.0% chance of emitting a photon in 0.10 ns. What is the lifetime of the excited state?

**46.** ••

**a.** What is the decay rate for the $2p$ state of hydrogen?

**b.** During what interval of time will 10% of a sample of $2p$ hydrogen atoms decay?

**47.** ••

**a.** Find an expression in terms of $\tau$ for the *half-life* $t_{1/2}$ of a sample of excited atoms. The half-life is the time at which half of the excited atoms have undergone a quantum jump and emitted a photon.

**b.** What is the half-life of the $3p$ state of sodium?

**48.** •• **BIO** In fluorescence microscopy, an important tool in biology, a laser beam is absorbed by target molecules in a

sample. These molecules are then imaged by a microscope as they emit longer-wavelength photons in quantum jumps back to lower energy levels, a process known as *fluorescence*. A variation on this technique is *two-photon excitation*. If two photons are absorbed simultaneously, their energies add. Consequently, a molecule that is normally excited by a photon of energy $E_{\text{photon}}$ can be excited by the simultaneous absorption of two photons having half as much energy. For this process to be useful, the sample must be irradiated at the very high intensity of at least $10^{32}\ \text{photons}/\text{m}^2\ \text{s}$. This is achieved by concentrating the laser power into very short pulses (100 fs pulse length) and then focusing the laser beam to a small spot. The laser is fired at the rate of $10^8$ pulses each second. Suppose a biologist wants to use two-photon excitation to excite a molecule that in normal fluorescence microscopy would be excited by a laser with a wavelength of 420 nm. If she focuses the laser beam to a 2.0-$\mu$m-diameter spot, what minimum energy must each pulse have?

**49.** •• A ruby laser emits a 100 MW, 10-ns-long pulse of light with a wavelength of 690 nm. How many chromium atoms undergo stimulated emission to generate this pulse?

**50.** •• An electrical discharge in a neon-filled tube maintains a *steady* population of $1.0 \times 10^9$ atoms in an excited state with $\tau = 20\,\text{ns}$. How many photons are emitted per second from atoms in this state?

**51.** •• The 1997 Nobel Prize in physics went to Steven Chu, Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, and William Phillips for their development of techniques to slow, stop, and "trap" atoms with laser light. To see how this works, consider a beam of rubidium atoms $(\text{mass}\ 1.4 \times 10^{-25}\,\text{kg})$ traveling at 500 m/s after being

evaporated out of an oven. A laser beam with a wavelength of 780 nm is directed against the atoms. This is the wavelength of the $5s \rightarrow 5p$ transition in rubidium, with $5s$ being the ground state, so the photons in the laser beam are easily absorbed by the atoms. After an average time of 15 ns, an excited atom spontaneously emits a 780-nm-wavelength photon and returns to the ground state.

**a.** The energy-momentum-mass relationship of Einstein's theory of relativity is $E^2 = p^2c^2 + m^2c^4$. A photon is massless, so the momentum of a photon is $p = E_{\text{photon}}/c$. Assume that the atoms are traveling in the positive $x$-direction and the laser beam in the negative $x$-direction. What is the initial momentum of an atom leaving the oven? What is the momentum of a photon of light?

**b.** The total momentum of the atom and the photon must be conserved in the absorption processes. As a consequence, how many photons must be absorbed to bring the atom to a halt?

> **Note**
>
> Momentum is also conserved in the emission processes. However, spontaneously emitted photons are emitted in random directions. Averaged over many absorption/emission cycles, the net recoil of the atom due to emission is zero and can be ignored.

**c.** Assume that the laser beam is so intense that a ground-state atom absorbs a photon instantly. How much time is required to stop the atoms?

**d.** Use Newton's second law in the form $F = \Delta p/\Delta t$ to calculate the force exerted on the atoms by the photons. From this, calculate the atoms' acceleration as they slow.

**e.** Over what distance is the beam of atoms brought to a halt?

## Challenge Problems

**52.** ••• **CALC** Two excited energy levels are separated by the very small energy difference $\Delta E$. As atoms in these levels undergo quantum jumps to the ground state, the photons they emit have nearly identical wavelengths $\lambda$.

**a.** Show that the wavelengths differ by

$$\Delta\lambda = \frac{\lambda^2}{hc}\Delta E$$

**b.** In the Lyman series of hydrogen, what is the wavelength difference between photons emitted in the $n = 20$ to $n = 1$ transition and photons emitted in the $n = 21$ to $n = 1$ transition?

**53.** ••• **CALC** What is the probability of finding a $1s$ hydrogen electron at distance $r > a_B$ from the proton?

**54.** ••• **CALC** Prove that the most probable distance from the proton of an electron in the $2s$ state of hydrogen is $5.236a_B$.

**55.** ••• **CALC** Find the distance, in terms of $a_B$, between the two peaks in the radial probability density of the $2s$ state of hydrogen.

**Hint:** This problem requires a numerical solution.

**56.** ••• **CALC** Suppose you have a machine that gives you pieces of candy when you push a button. Eighty percent of the time, pushing the button gets you two pieces of candy. Twenty percent of the time, pushing the button yields 10 pieces. The *average* number of pieces per push is $N_{\text{avg}} = 2 \times 0.80 + 10 \times 0.20 = 3.6$. That is, 10 pushes should get you, on average, 36 pieces. Mathematically, the average value when the probabilities differ is $N_{\text{avg}} = \sum(N_i \times \text{Probability of}\, i)$. We can do the same thing in quantum mechanics, with the difference that the sum becomes an integral. If you measured the distance of the electron from the proton in many hydrogen atoms, you would get many values, as indicated by the radial probability density. But the *average* value of $r$ would be

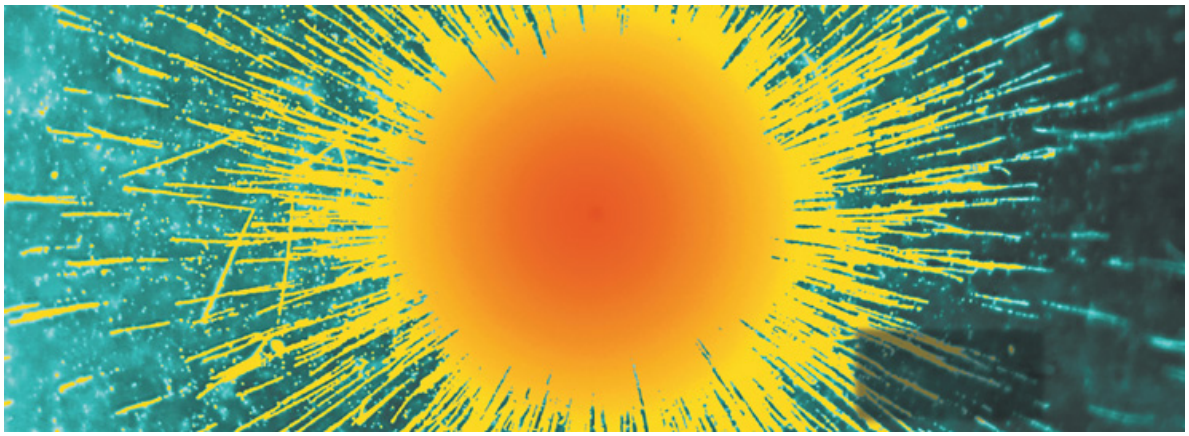
$$r_{\text{avg}} = \int_0^\infty r P_r(r)\, dr$$

Calculate the average value of $r$ in terms of $a_{\text{B}}$ for the electron in the 1$s$ and the 2$p$ states of hydrogen.

**57.** ••• An atom in an excited state has a 1.0% chance of emitting a photon in 0.20 ns. How long will it take for 25% of a sample of excited atoms to decay?

# Chapter 42
# Nuclear Physics





A photographic emulsion records the tracks of alpha particles emitted by a speck of radium.

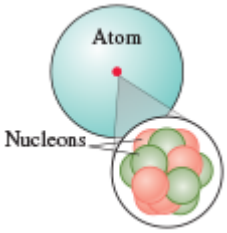
**In This Chapter**

you will learn about the nucleus and some applications of nuclear physics.

## What is the structure of an atomic nucleus?

You will learn how the nucleus is constructed and what holds it together.

- The nucleus consists of protons and neutrons. Both are known as nucleons.
- The diameter of the nucleus is only a few femtometers.

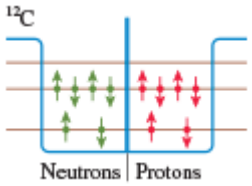


Looking Back Sections 37.6, 37.7 The nucleus

## Can quantum mechanics explain the nucleus?

The nucleus is held together by a new force of nature, the strong force.

- The strong force is a short-range force.
- A quantum shell model for nucleons, analogous to the electron shells in atoms, explains many nuclear properties.

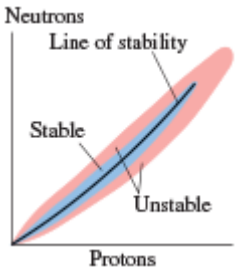



Looking Back Section 40.6 Potential wells

## Which isotopes are stable?

More than 3000 isotopes are known, but only 266 have a stable nucleus.

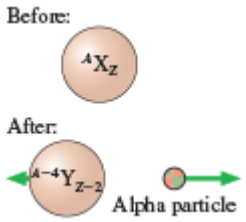
- In a graph of neutron number versus proton number, the stable nuclei all cluster near a well-defined line of stability.
- We also see that the number of neutrons grows faster than the number of protons.



## What is radioactivity?

Radioactivity is the emission of high-energy particles when unstable nuclei decay.

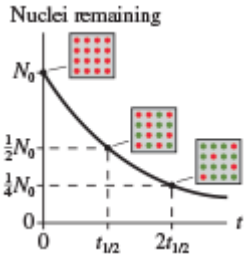
- Alpha decay: Emission of a $^4$He nucleus.
- Beta decay: Emission of an electron or positron.
- Gamma decay: Emission of a high-energy photon.




## What is a half-life?

The number of unstable nuclei in a sample decreases exponentially with time.

- The time in which half the nuclei decay is called the half-life of the isotope.
- Decayed nuclei don't vanish. They become a different nucleus called the daughter nucleus.




## How is nuclear physics useful?

The atomic nucleus is surprisingly useful. Nuclear medicine uses weak radioactive isotopes to image the body and strong beams of nuclear radiation to kill tumors. Engineers trace the motions

of gases and liquids with radioactive isotopes. Archeologists and geologists date artifacts and lava flows by observing the decay of radiation. Nuclear energy is a significant source of carbon-free electricity. And all the atoms in our bodies other than hydrogen were created billions of years ago by nuclear fusion reactions in a supernova.

# 42.1 Nuclear Structure 1211

The 1890s was a decade of mysterious rays. Cathode rays were being studied in several laboratories, and, in 1895, Röntgen discovered x rays. In 1896, after hearing of Röntgen's discovery, the French scientist A. H. Becquerel wondered if mineral crystals that fluoresce after exposure to sunlight were emitting x rays. He put a piece of film in an opaque envelope, then placed a crystal on top and left it in the sun. To his delight, the film in the envelope was exposed.

Becquerel thought he had discovered x rays coming from crystals, but his joy was short lived. He soon found that the film could be exposed equally well simply by being stored in a closed drawer with the crystals. Further investigation showed that the crystal, which happened to be a mineral containing uranium, was spontaneously emitting some new kind of ray. Rather than finding x rays, as he had hoped, Becquerel had discovered what became known as *radioactivity*.

Ernest Rutherford soon took up the investigation and found not one but three distinct kinds of rays emitted from crystals containing uranium. Not knowing what they were, he named them for their ability to penetrate matter and ionize air. The first, which caused the most ionization and penetrated the least, he called *alpha rays*. The second, with intermediate penetration and ionization, were *beta rays*, and the third, with the least ionization but the largest penetration, became *gamma rays*.

Within a few years, Rutherford was able to show that alpha rays are helium nuclei emitted from the crystal at very high velocities. These became the projectiles that he used in 1909 to probe the structure of the

atom. The outcome of that experiment, as you learned in Chapter 37, was Rutherford's discovery that atoms have a very small, dense nucleus at the center.

Rutherford's discovery of the nucleus may have settled the question of atomic structure, but it raised many new issues for scientific research. Foremost among them were:

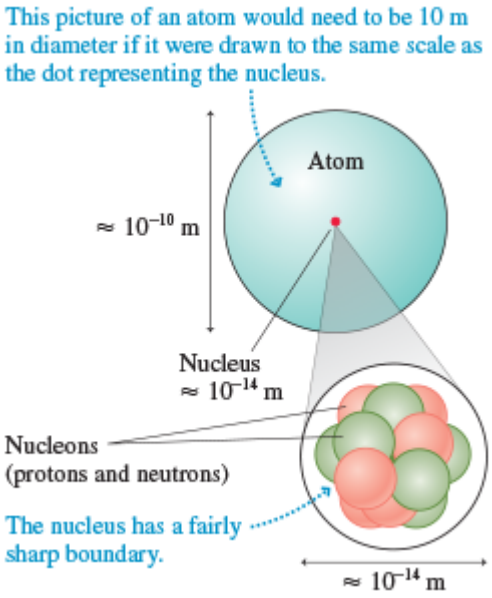
- What is nuclear matter? What are its properties?
- What holds the nucleus together? Why doesn't the repulsive electrostatic force blow it apart?
- What is the connection between the nucleus and radioactivity?

These questions marked the beginnings of **nuclear physics**, the study of the properties of the atomic nucleus.

## Nucleons

The nucleus is a tiny speck in the center of a vastly larger atom. As Figure 42.1 shows, the nuclear diameter of roughly $10^{-14}$ m is only about 1/10,000 the diameter of the atom. Even so, the nucleus is more than 99.9% of the atom's mass. What we call *matter* is overwhelmingly empty space!

**Figure 42.1**




The nucleus is a tiny speck within an atom.

The nucleus is composed of two types of particles: ~~1212~~*protons* and *neutrons*, which together are referred to as **nucleons**. The role of the neutrons, which have nothing to do with keeping electrons in orbit, is an important issue that we'll address in this chapter. Table 42.1 summarizes the basic properties of protons and neutrons.

## Table 42.1

| | Proton | Neutron |
|---|---|---|
| Number | $Z$ | $N$ |
| Charge $q$ | $+e$ | 0 |
| Spin $s$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Mass, in u | 1.00728 | 1.00866 |

Protons and neutrons

As you can see, protons and neutrons are virtually identical other than that the proton has one unit of the fundamental charge $e$ whereas the neutron is electrically neutral. The neutron is slightly more massive than the proton, but the difference is very small, only about 0.1%. Notice that the proton and neutron, like the electron, have an *inherent angular*

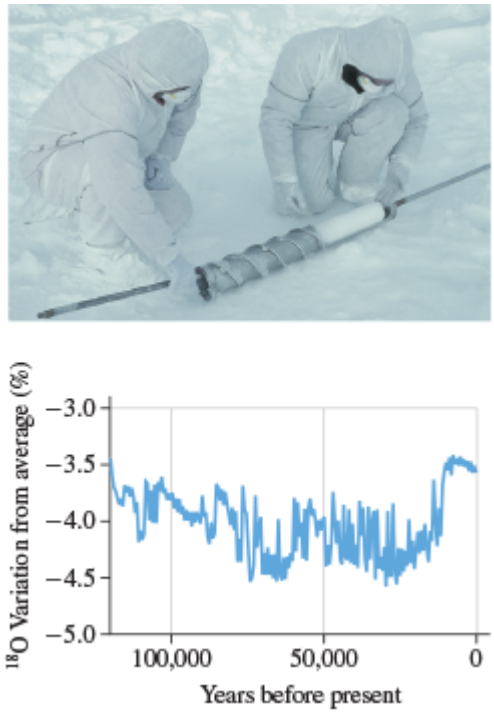
*momentum* and magnetic moment with spin quantum number $s = \frac{1}{2}$. As a consequence, protons and neutrons obey the Pauli exclusion principle.

The number of protons $Z$ is the element's **atomic number**. In fact, an element is identified by the number of protons in the nucleus, not by the number of orbiting electrons. Electrons are easily added and removed, forming negative and positive ions, but doing so doesn't change the element. The **mass number** $A$ is defined to be $A = Z + N$, where $N$ is the **neutron number**. The mass number is the total number of nucleons in a nucleus.

> **Note**
>
> The mass number, which is dimensionless, is *not* the same thing as the atomic mass $m$. We'll look at actual atomic masses later.

## Isotopes and Isobars

It was discovered early in the 20th century that not all atoms of the same element (same $Z$) have the same mass. There are a *range* of neutron numbers that happily form a nucleus with $Z$ protons, creating a group of nuclei having the same $Z$-value (i.e., they are all the same chemical element) but different $A$-values. The atoms of an element with different values of $A$ are called **isotopes** of that element.




When water freezes to make snow crystals, the fraction of molecules containing $^{18}O$ is greater for snow that forms at higher atmospheric temperatures. Snow accumulating over tens of thousands of years has built up a thick ice sheet in Greenland. A core sample of this ice gives a record of the isotopic composition of the snow that fell over this time period. Higher numbers on the graph correspond to higher average temperatures. Broad trends, such as the increase in temperature at the end of the last ice age, are clearly seen.

---

Chemical behavior is determined by the orbiting electrons. All isotopes of one element have the same number of orbiting electrons (if the atoms are electrically neutral) and thus have the same chemical properties, but different isotopes of the same element can have quite different nuclear properties.

**1213**

The notation used to label isotopes is $^{A}Z$, where the mass number $A$ is given as a *leading* superscript. The proton number $Z$ is not specified by an actual number but, equivalently, by the chemical symbol for that element. Hence ordinary carbon, which has six protons and six neutrons in the nucleus, is written $^{12}C$ and pronounced “carbon twelve.” The radioactive form of carbon used in carbon dating is $^{14}C$. It has six protons, making it carbon, and eight neutrons.

More than 3000 isotopes are known. The majority of these are **radioactive**, meaning that the nucleus is not stable but, after some period of time, will either fragment or emit some kind of subatomic particle in an effort to reach a more stable state. Many of these radioactive isotopes are created by nuclear reactions in the laboratory and have only a fleeting existence. Only 266 isotopes are **stable** (i.e., nonradioactive) and occur in nature. We'll begin to look at the issue of nuclear stability in the next section.

The *naturally occurring* nuclei include the 266 stable isotopes and a handful of radioactive isotopes with such long half-lives, measured in billions of years, that they also occur naturally. The most well-known example of a naturally occurring radioactive isotope is the uranium isotope $^{238}$U. For each element, the fraction of naturally occurring nuclei represented by one particular isotope is called the **natural abundance** of that isotope.

Although there are many radioactive isotopes of the element iodine, iodine occurs *naturally* only as $^{127}$I. Consequently, we say that the natural abundance of $^{127}$I is 100%. Most elements have multiple naturally occurring isotopes. The natural abundance of $^{14}$N is 99.6%, meaning that 996 out of every 1000 naturally occurring nitrogen atoms are the isotope $^{14}$N. The remaining 0.4% of naturally occurring nitrogen is the isotope $^{15}$N, with one extra neutron.

A series of nuclei having the same $A$-value (the same mass number) but different values of $Z$ and $N$ are called **isobars**. For example, the three nuclei $^{14}$C, $^{14}$N, and $^{14}$O are isobars with $A = 14$. Only $^{14}$N is stable; the other two are radioactive.

# Atomic Mass

You learned in Chapter 18 that atomic masses are specified in terms of the *atomic mass unit* u, defined such that the atomic mass of the isotope $^{12}$C is exactly 12 u. The conversion to SI units is

$$1\ \text{u} = 1.6605 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg}$$

Alternatively, we can use Einstein's $E_0 = mc^2$ to express masses in terms of their energy equivalent. The energy equivalent of 1 u of mass is

**(42.1)**

$$\begin{aligned} E_0 &= (1.6605 \times 10^{-27}\,\text{kg})\,(2.9979 \times 10^{8}\,\text{m/s})^2 \\ &= 1.4924 \times 10^{-10}\,\text{J} = 931.49\,\text{MeV} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the atomic mass unit can be written

$$1\ \text{u} = 931.49\ \text{MeV}/c^2$$

It may seem unusual, but the units MeV/$c^2$ are units of mass.

> **Note**
>
> We're using more significant figures than usual. Many nuclear calculations look for the small difference between two masses that are almost the same. Those two masses must be calculated or specified to four or five significant figures if their difference is to be meaningful.

Table 42.2 shows the atomic masses of the electron, the nucleons, and three important light elements. Appendix C contains a more complete list. Notice that the mass of a hydrogen atom is the sum of the masses of a proton and an electron. But a quick calculation shows that the mass of a

helium atom (2 protons, 2 neutrons, and 2 electrons) is 0.03038 u less than the sum of the masses of its constituents. The difference is due to the binding energy of the nucleus, a topic we'll look at in Section 42.2.



**Table 42.2**

| Particle | Symbol | Mass (u) | Mass (MeV/$c^2$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Electron | e | 0.00055 | 0.51 |
| Proton | p | 1.00728 | 938.28 |
| Neutron | n | 1.00866 | 939.57 |
| Hydrogen | $^{1}$H | 1.00783 | 938.79 |
| Deuterium | $^{2}$H | 2.01410 | 1876.12 |
| Helium | $^{4}$He | 4.00260 | 3728.40 |

Some atomic masses

The isotope $^{2}$H is a hydrogen atom in which the nucleus is not simply a proton but a proton and a neutron. Although the isotope is a form of hydrogen, it is called **deuterium**. The natural abundance of deuterium is 0.015%, or about 1 out of every 6700 hydrogen atoms. Water made with deuterium (sometimes written $D_2O$ rather than $H_2O$) is called *heavy water*.

> **Note**
>
> Don't let the name *deuterium* cause you to think this is a different element. Deuterium is an isotope of hydrogen. Chemically, it behaves just like ordinary hydrogen.

The *chemical* atomic mass shown on the periodic table of the elements is the *weighted average* of the atomic masses of all naturally occurring isotopes. For example, chlorine has two stable isotopes: $^{35}$Cl, with $m = 34.97\,\text{u}$, is 75.8% abundant and $^{37}$Cl, at 36.97 u, is 24.2% abundant. The average, weighted by abundance, is

$0.758 \times 34.97 + 0.242 \times 36.97 = 35.45$. This is the value shown on the periodic table and is the correct value for most chemical calculations, but it is not the mass of any particular isotope of chlorine.

> **Note**
>
> The atomic masses of the proton and the neutron are both ≈ 1 u. Consequently, the value of the mass number *A* is *approximately* the atomic mass in u. The approximation $m \approx A\,\text{u}$ is sufficient in many contexts, such as when we're calculating the masses of atoms in the kinetic theory of gases, but in nuclear physics calculations, we almost always need the more accurate mass values that you find in Table 42.2 or Appendix C.

## Nuclear Size and Density

Unlike the atom's electron cloud, which is quite diffuse, the nucleus has a fairly sharp boundary. Experimentally, the radius of a nucleus with mass number *A* is found to be

**(42.2)**

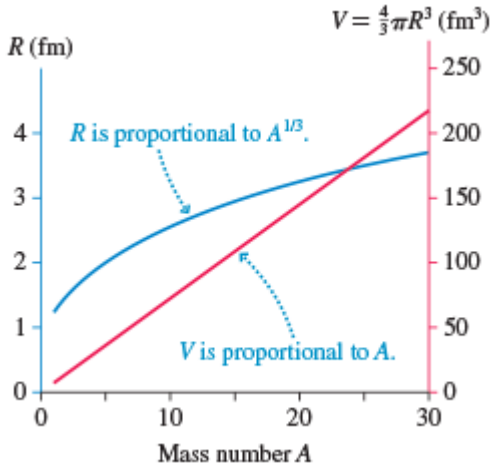
$$R = r_0 A^{1/3}$$

where $r_0 = 1.2\,\text{fm}$. Recall that $1\,\text{fm} = 1\,\text{femtometer} = 10^{-15}\,\text{m}$.

As Figure 42.2 shows, the radius is proportional to $A^{1/3}$. Consequently, the volume of the nucleus (proportional to $R^3$) is directly proportional to $A$, the number of nucleons. A nucleus with twice as many nucleons will occupy twice as much volume. This finding has three implications:

- Nucleons are incompressible. Adding more nucleons doesn't squeeze the inner nucleons into a smaller volume.
- The nucleons are tightly packed, looking much like the drawing in Figure 42.1.
- Nuclear matter has a constant density.

## Figure 42.2




The nuclear radius and volume as a function of $A$.

In fact, we can use Equation 42.2 to calculate the density of nuclear matter. Consider a nucleus with mass number $A$. Its mass, within 1%, is $A$ atomic mass units. Thus

**(42.3)**

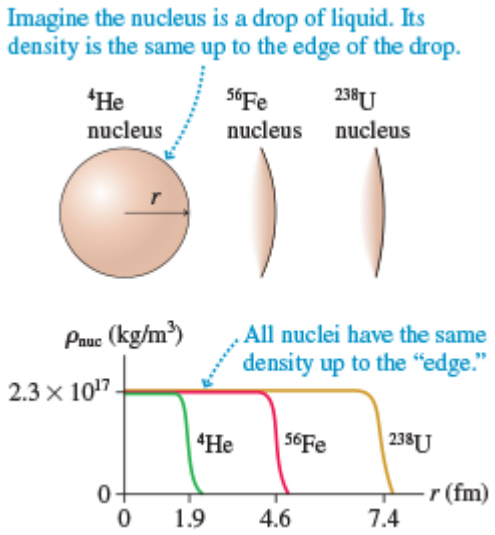
$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{\text{nuc}} &\approx \frac{A\ \text{u}}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R^3} = \frac{A\ \text{u}}{\frac{4}{3}\pi {r_0}^3 A} = \frac{1\ \text{u}}{\frac{4}{3}\pi {r_0}^3} = \frac{1.66 \times 10^{-27}\ \text{kg}}{\frac{4}{3}\pi\left(1.2 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{m}\right)^3} \\ &= 2.3 \times 10^{17}\ \text{kg/m}^3\end{aligned}$$

The fact that $A$ cancels means that **all nuclei have this density.** It is a staggeringly large density, roughly $10^{14}$ times larger than the density of familiar liquids and solids. One early objection to Rutherford's model of a nuclear atom was that matter simply couldn't have a density this high.

Although we have no direct experience with such matter, nuclear matter really is this dense.

Figure 42.3 shows the density profiles of three nuclei. The constant density right to the edge is analogous to that of a drop of incompressible liquid, and, indeed, one successful model of many nuclear properties is called the **liquid-drop model**. Notice that the range of nuclear radii, from small helium to large uranium, is not quite a factor of 4. The fact that $^{56}$Fe is a fairly typical atom in the middle of the periodic table is the basis for our earlier assertion that the nuclear diameter is roughly $10^{-14}$ m, or 10 fm.

## Figure 42.3




Density profiles of three nuclei.

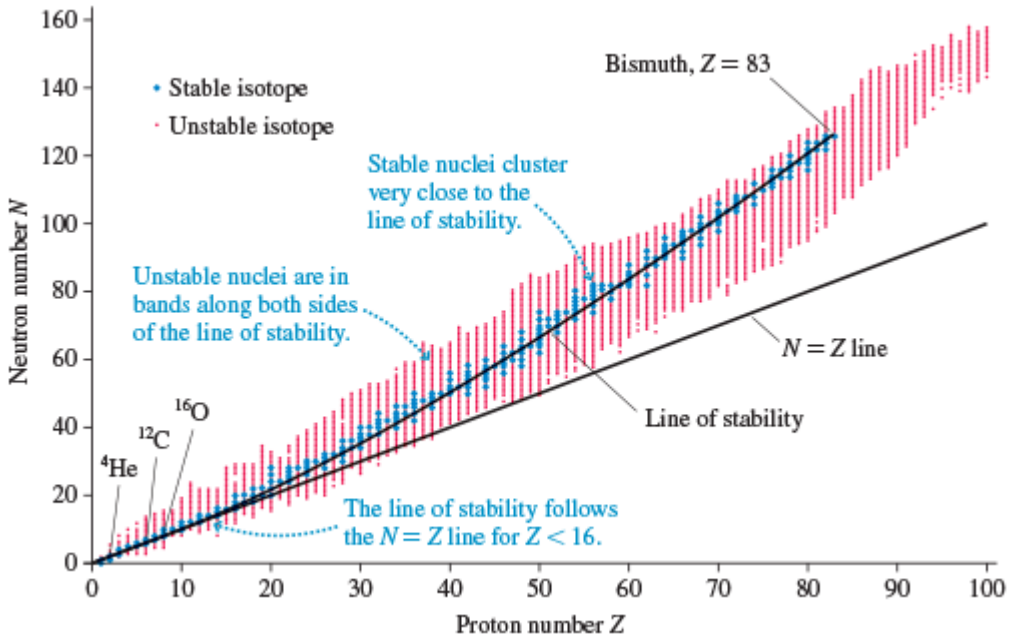
### Stop to Think 42.1

Three electrons orbit a neutral $^{6}$Li atom. How many electrons orbit a neutral $^{7}$Li atom?

# 42.2 Nuclear Stability 

We've noted that fewer than 10% of the known nuclei are stable (i.e., not radioactive). Because nuclei are characterized by two independent numbers, $N$ and $Z$, it is useful to show the known nuclei on a plot of neutron number $N$ versus proton number $Z$. Figure 42.4 shows such a plot. Stable nuclei are represented by blue diamonds and unstable, radioactive nuclei by red dots.

## Figure 42.4




Stable and unstable nuclei shown on a plot of neutron number $N$ versus proton number $Z$.

We can make several observations from this graph:

- The stable nuclei cluster very close to the curve called the **line of stability**.
- There are no stable nuclei with $Z > 83$ (bismuth).

- Unstable nuclei are in bands along both sides of the line of stability.
- The lightest elements, with $Z < 16$, are stable when $N \approx Z$. The familiar elements $^{4}\text{He}$, $^{12}\text{C}$, and $^{16}\text{O}$ all have equal numbers of protons and neutrons.
- As $Z$ increases, the number of neutrons needed for stability grows increasingly larger than the number of protons. The $N/Z$ ratio is $\approx 1.2$ at $Z = 40$ but has grown to $\approx 1.5$ at $Z = 80$.

### Stop to Think 42.2

The isobars corresponding to one specific value of $A$ are found on the plot of Figure 42.4 along

**a.** A vertical line.

**b.** A horizontal line.

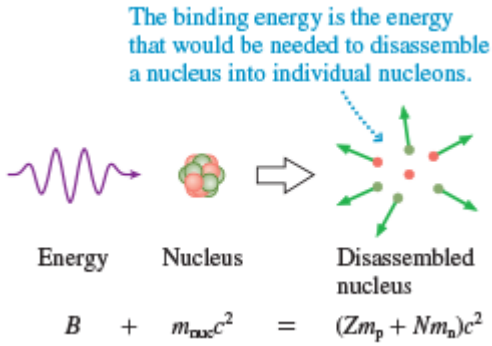
**c.** A diagonal line that goes up and to the left.

**d.** A diagonal line that goes up and to the right.

## Binding Energy

A nucleus is a *bound system*. That is, you would need to supply energy to disperse the nucleons by breaking the nuclear bonds between them. Figure 42.5 shows this idea schematically.

**Figure 42.5**




The nuclear binding energy.

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You learned a similar idea in atomic physics. The energy levels of the hydrogen atom are negative numbers because the bound system has less energy than a free proton and electron. The energy you must supply to an atom to remove an electron is called the *ionization energy*.

In much the same way, the energy you would need to supply to a nucleus to disassemble it into individual protons and neutrons is called the **binding energy**. Whereas ionization energies of atoms are only a few eV, the binding energies of nuclei are tens or hundreds of MeV, energies large enough that their mass equivalent is not negligible.

Consider a nucleus with mass $m_{\text{nuc}}$. It is found experimentally that $m_{\text{nuc}}$ is *less* than the total mass $Zm_{\text{p}} + Nm_{\text{n}}$ of the $Z$ protons and $N$ neutrons that form the nucleus, where $m_{\text{p}}$ and $m_{\text{n}}$ are the masses of the proton and neutron. That is, the energy equivalent $m_{\text{nuc}}c^2$ of the nucleus is less than the energy equivalent $(Zm_{\text{p}} + Nm_{\text{n}})\,c^2$ of the individual nucleons. The binding energy $B$ of the nucleus (not the entire atom) is defined as



**(42.4)**

$$B = (Zm_{\text{p}} + Nm_{\text{n}} - m_{\text{nuc}})\,c^2$$

This is the energy you would need to supply to disassemble the nucleus into its pieces.

The practical difficulty is that laboratory scientists use mass spectroscopy to measure *atomic* masses, not nuclear masses. The atomic mass $m_{\text{atom}}$ is $m_{\text{nuc}}$ plus the mass $Zm_{\text{e}}$ of $Z$ orbiting electrons. (Strictly speaking, we should allow for the binding energy of the electrons, but these binding energies are roughly a factor of $10^6$ smaller than the nuclear binding energies and can be neglected in all but the most precise measurements and calculations.)

Fortunately, we can switch from the nuclear mass to the atomic mass by the simple trick of both adding and subtracting $Z$ electron masses. We begin by writing Equation 42.4 in the equivalent form

**(42.5)**

$$B = (Zm_{\text{p}} + Zm_{\text{e}} + Nm_{\text{n}} - m_{\text{nuc}} - Zm_{\text{e}})\,c^2$$

Now $m_{\text{nuc}} + Zm_{\text{e}} = m_{\text{atom}}$, the atomic mass, and $Zm_{\text{p}} + Zm_{\text{e}} = Z(m_{\text{p}} + m_{\text{e}}) = Zm_{\text{H}}$, where $m_{\text{H}}$ is the mass of a hydrogen *atom*. Finally, we use the conversion factor $1\ \text{u} = 931.49\ \text{MeV}/c^2$ to write $c^2 = 931.49\ \text{MeV/u}$. The binding energy is then

**(42.6)**

$$B = (Zm_{\text{H}} + Nm_{\text{n}} - m_{\text{atom}}) \times (931.49\ \text{MeV/u})$$
$$\text{(binding energy)}$$

where all three masses are in atomic mass units.

**Example 42.1 The binding energy of iron**

What is the binding energy of the $^{56}$Fe nucleus?

**SOLVE** The isotope $^{56}$Fe has $Z = 26$ and $N = 30$. The atomic mass of $^{56}$Fe, found in Appendix C, is 55.9349 u. Thus the mass difference between the $^{56}$Fe nucleus and its constituents is

$$\Delta m = 26(1.0078\ \text{u}) + 30(1.0087\ \text{u}) - 55.9349\ \text{u} = 0.529\ \text{u}$$

where, from Table 42.2, 1.0078 u is the mass of the hydrogen atom. Thus the binding energy of $^{56}$Fe is

$$B = (0.529\ \text{u}) \times (931.49\ \text{MeV/u}) = \overset{1217}{493}\ \text{MeV}$$

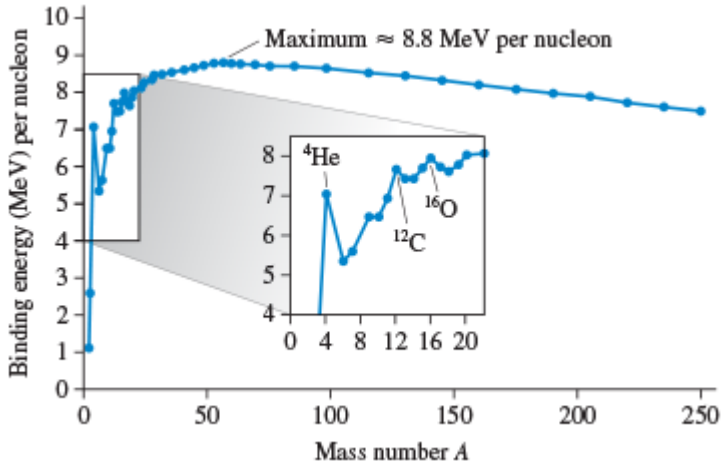
**ASSESS** The binding energy is extremely large, the energy equivalent of more than half the mass of a proton or a neutron.

The nuclear binding energy increases as $A$ increases simply because there are more nuclear bonds. A more useful measure for comparing one nucleus to another is the quantity $B/A$, called the *binding energy per nucleon*. Iron, with $B = 493\,\text{MeV}$ and $A = 56$, has 8.80 MeV per nucleon. This is the amount of energy, on average, you would need to supply in order to remove *one* nucleon from the nucleus. Nuclei with larger values of $B/A$ are more tightly held together than nuclei with smaller values of $B/A$.

Figure 42.6 is a graph of the binding energy per nucleon versus mass number $A$. The line connecting the points is often called the **curve of binding energy**. This curve has three important features:

- There are peaks in the binding energy curve at $A = 4$, 12, and 16. The one at $A = 4$, corresponding to $^4$He, is especially pronounced. As you'll see, these peaks, which represent nuclei more tightly bound than their neighbors, are due to *closed shells* in much the same way that the graph of atomic ionization energies (see Figure 41.22) peaked for closed electron shells.
- The binding energy per nucleon is *roughly* constant at at $\approx 8\,\text{MeV}$ per nucleon for $A > 20$. This suggests that, as a nucleus grows, there comes a point where the nuclear bonds are *saturated*. Each nucleon interacts only with its nearest neighbors, the ones it's actually touching. This, in turn, implies that the nuclear force is a *short-range* force.
- The curve has a broad maximum at $A \approx 60$. This will be important for our understanding of radioactivity. In principle, heavier nuclei could become *more* stable (more binding energy per nucleon) by breaking into smaller pieces. Lighter nuclei could become *more* stable by fusing together into larger nuclei. There may not always be a mechanism for such nuclear transformations to take place, but *if* there is a mechanism, it is energetically favorable for it to occur.

## Figure 42.6




The curve of binding energy.

# 42.3 The Strong Force 1218

Rutherford's discovery of the atomic nucleus was not immediately accepted by all scientists. Their primary objection was that the protons would blow themselves apart at tremendously high speeds due to the extremely large electrostatic forces between them at a separation of a few femtometers. No known force could hold the nucleus together.

It soon became clear that a previously unknown force of nature operates within the nucleus to hold the nucleons together. This new force had to be stronger than the repulsive electrostatic force; hence it was named the **strong force**. It is also called the *nuclear force.*

The strong force has four important properties:

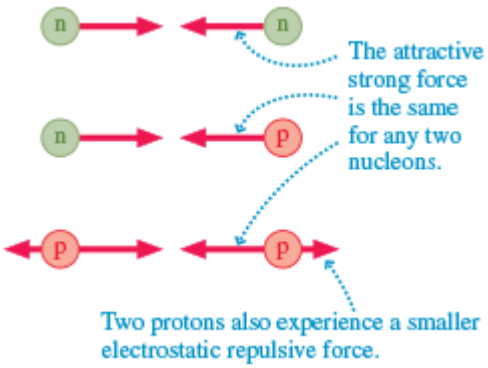
1. It is an *attractive* force between any two nucleons.
2. It does not act on electrons.
3. It is a *short-range* force, acting only over nuclear distances.
4. Over the range where it acts, it is *stronger* than the electrostatic force that tries to push two protons apart.

The fact that the strong force is short-range, in contrast to the long-range $1/r^2$ electric, magnetic, and gravitational forces, is apparent from the fact that we see no evidence for nuclear forces outside the nucleus.

Figure 42.7 summarizes the three interactions that take place within the nucleus. Whether the strong force between two protons is the same strength as the force between two neutrons or between a proton and a neutron is an important question that can be answered experimentally.

The primary means of investigating the strong force is to accelerate a proton to very high speed, using a cyclotron or some other particle accelerator, then to study how the proton is scattered by various target materials.

**Figure 42.7**



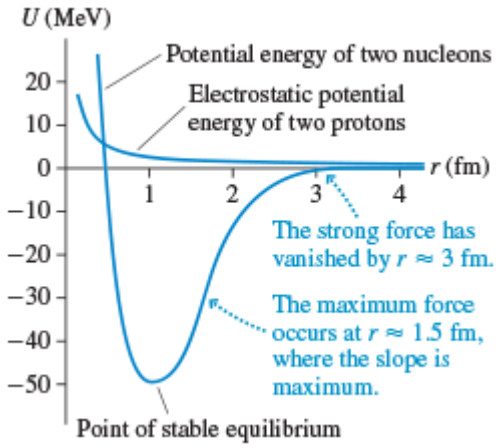

The strong force is the same between any two nucleons.

The conclusion of many decades of research is that the strong force between two nucleons is independent of whether they are protons or neutrons. Charge is the basis for electromagnetic interactions, but it is of no relevance to the strong force. Protons and neutrons are identical as far as nuclear forces are concerned.

## Potential Energy

Unfortunately, there's no simple formula to calculate the strong force or the potential energy of two nucleons interacting via the strong force. Figure 42.8 is an experimentally determined potential-energy diagram for two interacting nucleons, with $r$ the distance between their centers. The potential-energy minimum at $r \approx 1$ fm is a point of stable equilibrium.

**Figure 42.8**




The potential-energy diagram for two nucleons interacting via the strong force.

Recall that the force is the negative of the slope of a potential-energy diagram. The steeply rising potential for $r < 1\,\text{fm}$ represents a strongly repulsive force. That is, the nucleon "cores" strongly repel each other if they get too close together. The force is attractive for $r > 1\,\text{fm}$, where the slope is positive, and it is strongest where the slope is steepest, at $r \approx 1.5\,\text{fm}$. The strength of the force quickly decreases for $r > 1.5\,\text{fm}$ and is zero for $r > 3\,\text{fm}$. That is, the strong force represented by this potential energy is effective only over a very short range of distances.

Notice how small the electrostatic energy of two protons is in comparison to the potential energy of the strong force. At $r \approx 1.0\,\text{fm}$, the point of stable equilibrium, the magnitude of the nuclear potential energy is ≈ 100 times larger than the electrostatic potential energy.

We earlier asked what role neutrons play. Why does a nucleus need neutrons? The answer is related to the short range of the strong force. *All* protons in the nucleus exert repulsive electrostatic forces on each other, but, because of the short range of the strong force, a proton feels an attractive force only from the very few other protons with which it is in close contact. Even though the strong force at its maximum is much larger than the electrostatic force, there wouldn't be enough attractive

nuclear bonds for an all-proton nucleus to be stable. Because neutrons participate in the strong force but exert no repulsive forces, **the neutrons provide the extra "glue" that holds the nucleus together.** In small nuclei, where most nucleons are in contact, one neutron per proton is sufficient for stability. Hence small nuclei have $N \approx Z$. But as the nucleus grows, the repulsive force increases faster than the binding energy. More neutrons are needed for stability, causing heavy nuclei to have $N > Z$.

# 42.4 The Shell Model



Figure 42.8 showed the potential energy of *two* interacting nucleons. To solve Schrödinger's equation for the nucleus, we would need to know the total potential energy of *all* interacting nucleon pairs within the nucleus, including both the strong force and the electrostatic force. This is far too complex to be a tractable problem.

Maria Goeppert-Mayer received the 1963 Nobel Prize in physics for her work in nuclear physics.

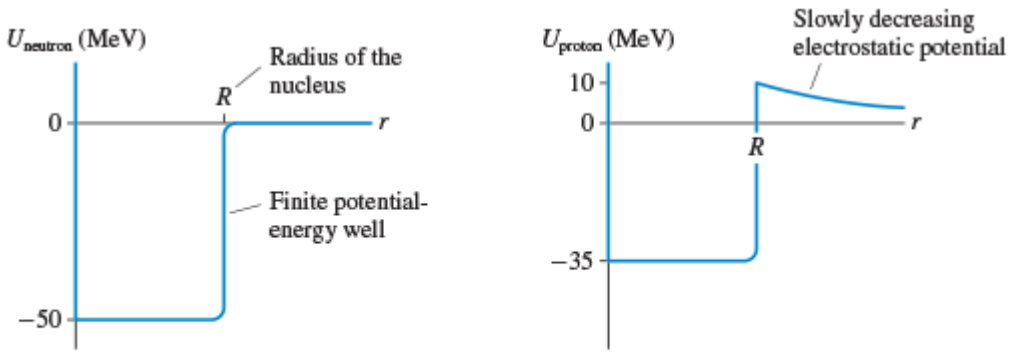
---

We faced a similar situation with multielectron atoms. Calculating an atom's exact potential energy is exceedingly complicated. To simplify the problem, we made a *model* of the atom in which each electron moves independently with an *average* potential energy due to the nucleus and all other electrons. That model, although not perfect, correctly predicted electron shells and explained the periodic table of the elements.

The **shell model** of the nucleus, using multielectron atoms as an analogy, was proposed in 1949 by Maria Goeppert-Mayer. The shell model considers each nucleon to move independently with an *average* potential energy due to the strong force of all the other nucleons. For the protons, we also have to include the electrostatic potential energy due to the other protons.

Figure 42.9 shows the average potential energy of a neutron and a proton. Here $r$ is the distance from the center of the nucleus, not the nucleon–nucleon distance as it was in Figure 42.8. On average, a nucleon's interactions with neighboring nucleons are independent of the nucleon's position inside the nucleus; hence the constant potential energy inside the nucleus. You can see that, to a good approximation, a nucleon appears to be a particle in a finite potential well, a quantum-mechanics problem you studied in Chapter 40.

## Figure 42.9




The average neutron potential energy is due to the strong force.

The average proton potential energy is due to the strong force and the electric force. This potential-well depth is for $Z \approx 30$.

The average potential energy of a neutron and a proton.

Three observations are worthwhile:

1. The depth of the neutron's potential-energy well is ≈ 50 MeV for all nuclei. The radius of the potential-energy well is the nuclear

radius $R = r_0 A^{1/3}$.

2. For protons, the positive electrostatic potential energy "lifts" the potential-energy well. The lift varies from essentially none for very light elements to a significant fraction of the well depth for very heavy elements. The potential energy shown in the figure would be appropriate for a nucleus with $Z \approx 30$.
3. Outside the nucleus, where the strong force has vanished, a proton's potential energy is $U = (Z-1)e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0 r$ due to its electrostatic interaction with the $(Z-1)$ other protons within the nucleus. This positive potential energy decreases slowly with increasing distance.

The task of quantum mechanics is to solve for the energy levels and wave functions of the nucleons in these potential-energy wells. Once the energy levels are found, we build up the nuclear state, just as we did with atoms, by placing all the nucleons in the lowest energy levels consistent with the Pauli principle. The Pauli principle affects nucleons, just as it did electrons, because they are spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ particles. Each energy level can hold only a certain number of spin-up particles and spin-down particles, depending on the quantum numbers. Additional nucleons have to go into higher energy levels.

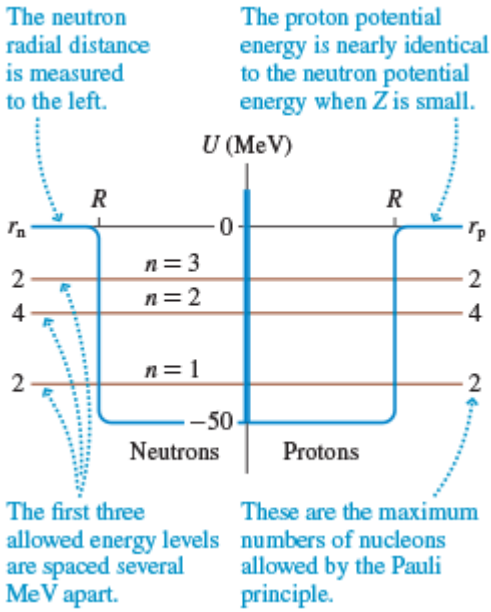
## Low-Z Nuclei

As an example, we'll consider the energy levels of low-Z nuclei $(Z < 8)$. Because these nuclei have so few protons, we can use a reasonable approximation that neglects the electrostatic potential energy due to proton-proton repulsion and considers only the much larger nuclear potential energy. In that case, the proton and neutron potential-energy wells and energy levels are the same.

Figure 42.10 shows the three lowest energy levels and the maximum number of nucleons that the Pauli principle allows in each. Energy values vary from nucleus to nucleus, but the spacing between these levels is several MeV. It's customary to draw the proton and neutron potential-energy diagrams and energy levels back to back. Notice that the radial axis for the proton potential-energy well points to the right, while the radial axis for the neutron potential-energy well points to the left.



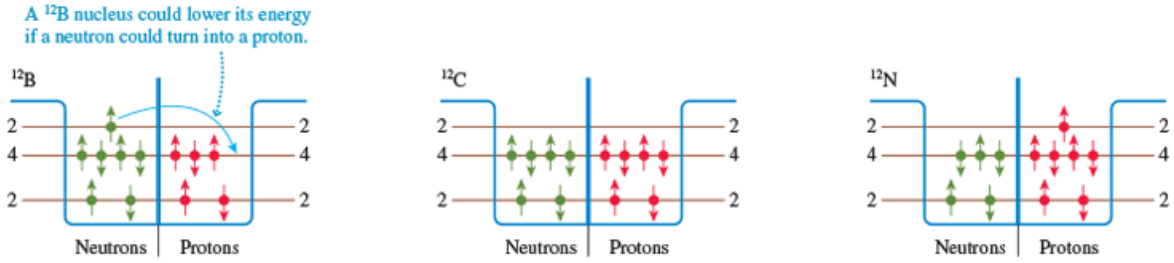
## Figure 42.10




The three lowest energy levels of a low-$Z$ nucleus. The neutron energy levels are on the left, the proton energy levels on the right.

Let's apply this model to the $A = 12$ isobar. Recall that an isobar is a series of nuclei with the same total number of neutrons and protons. Figure 42.11 shows the energy-level diagrams of $^{12}$B, $^{12}$C, and $^{12}$N. Look first at $^{12}$C, a nucleus with six protons and six neutrons. You can see that exactly six protons are allowed in the $n = 1$ and $n = 2$ energy levels. Likewise for the six neutrons. Thus $^{12}$C has a closed $n = 2$ proton shell and a closed $n = 2$ neutron shell.

## Figure 42.11




The $A = 12$ isobar has to place 12 nucleons in the lowest available energy levels.

> **Note**
>
> Protons and neutrons are different particles, so the Pauli principle is not violated if a proton and a neutron have the same quantum numbers.

$^{12}$N has seven protons and five neutrons. The sixth proton fills the $n = 2$ proton shell, so the seventh proton has to go into the $n = 3$ energy level. The $n = 2$ neutron shell has one vacancy because there are only five neutrons. $^{12}$B is just the opposite, with the seventh neutron in the $n = 3$ energy level. You can see from the diagrams that the $^{12}$B and $^{12}$N nuclei have significantly more energy—by several MeV—than $^{12}$C.

In atoms, electrons in higher energy levels decay to lower energy levels by emitting a photon as the electron undergoes a quantum jump. That can't happen here because the higher-energy nucleon in $^{12}$B is a neutron whereas the vacant lower energy level is that of a proton. But an analogous process could occur *if* a neutron could somehow turn into a proton. And that's exactly what happens! We'll explore the details in Section 42.6, but both $^{12}$B and $^{12}$N decay into $^{12}$C in the process known as *beta decay*.

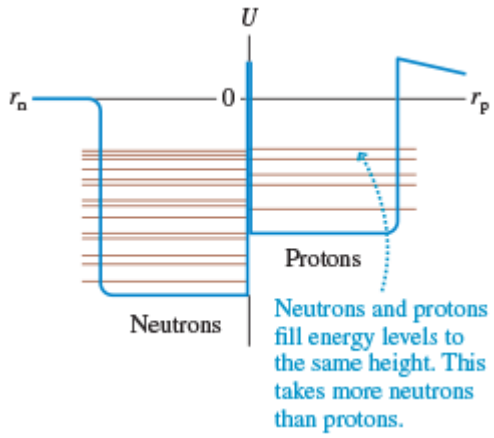
$^{12}$C is just one of three low-$Z$ nuclei in which both the proton and neutron shells are full. The other two are $^{4}$He (filling both $n = 1$ shells

with $Z = 2$, $N = 2$) and $^{16}O$ (filling both $n = 3$ shells with $Z = 8$, $N = 8$). If the analogy with closed electron shells is valid, these nuclei should be more tightly bound than nuclei with neighboring values of $A$. And indeed, we've already noted that the curve of binding energy (Figure 42.6) has peaks at $A = 4$, 12, and 16. The shell model of the nucleus satisfactorily explains these peaks. Unfortunately, the shell model quickly becomes much more complex as we go beyond $n = 3$. Heavier nuclei do have closed shells, but there's no evidence for them in the curve of binding energy.

## High-Z Nuclei

We can use the shell model to give a qualitative explanation for one more observation, although the details are beyond the scope of this text. Figure 42.12 shows the neutron and proton potential-energy wells of a high-Z nucleus. In a nucleus with many protons, the electrostatic potential energy lifts the proton potential-energy well higher than the neutron potential-energy well. Protons and neutrons now have a different set of energy levels.

**Figure 42.12**




The proton energy levels are displaced upward in a high-Z nucleus.

As a nucleus is "built," by the addition of protons and neutrons, the proton energy well and the neutron energy well must fill to just about the same height. If there were neutrons in energy levels above vacant proton levels, the nucleus would lower its energy by using beta decay to change the neutron into a proton. Similarly, beta decay would change a proton into a neutron if there were a vacant neutron energy level beneath a filled proton level. **The net result of beta decay is to keep the levels on both sides filled to just about the same energy.**

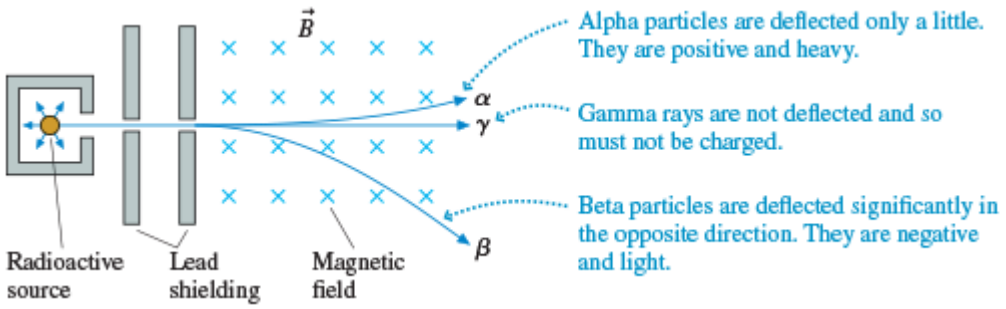
Because the neutron potential-energy well starts at a lower energy, *more neutron states* are available than proton states. Consequently, a high-$Z$ nucleus will have more neutrons than protons. This conclusion is consistent with our observation in Figure 42.4 that $N > Z$ for heavy nuclei.

# 42.5 Radiation and Radioactivity



Becquerel's 1896 discovery of "rays" from crystals of uranium prompted a burst of activity. In England, J. J. Thomson and, especially, his student and protégé Ernest Rutherford worked to identify the unknown rays. Using combinations of electric and magnetic fields, much as Thomson had done in his investigations of cathode rays, they found three distinct types of radiation. Figure 42.13 shows the basic experimental procedure, and Table 42.3 on the next page summarizes the results.

## Figure 42.13




Identifying radiation by its deflection in a magnetic field.

## Table 42.3

| Radiation | Identification | Charge | Stopped by |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Alpha, $\alpha$** | $^4$He nucleus | $+2e$ | Sheet of paper |
| **Beta, $\beta$** | Electron | $-e$ | Few mm of aluminum |
| **Gamma, $\gamma$** | High-energy photon | 0 | Many cm of lead |

Three types of radiation

Within a few years, as Rutherford and others deduced the basic structure of the atom, it became clear that these emissions of radiation were coming from the atomic nucleus. We now define *radioactivity* or

*radioactive decay* to be the spontaneous emission of particles or high-energy photons from unstable nuclei as they decay from higher-energy to lower-energy states. Radioactivity has nothing to do with the orbiting valence electrons.

> **Note**
>
> The term "radiation" merely means something that is *radiated outward,* similar to the word "radial." Electromagnetic waves are often called "electromagnetic radiation." Infrared waves from a hot object are referred to as "thermal radiation." Thus it was no surprise that these new "rays" were also called radiation. Unfortunately, the general public has come to associate the word "radiation" with *nuclear radiation,* something to be feared. It is important, when you use the term, to be sure you're not conveying a wrong impression to a listener or a reader.

## Ionizing Radiation

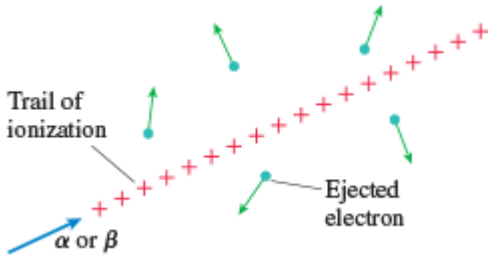
Electromagnetic waves, from microwaves through ultraviolet radiation, are absorbed by matter. The absorbed energy increases an object's thermal energy and its temperature, which is why objects sitting in the sun get warm.

In contrast to visible-light photon energies of a few eV, the energies of the alpha and beta particles and the gamma-ray photons of nuclear decay are typically in the range 0.1–10 MeV, a factor of roughly $10^6$ larger. These energies are much larger than the ionization energies of atoms and molecules. Rather than simply being absorbed and increasing an object's thermal energy, nuclear radiation *ionizes* matter and *breaks* molecular

bonds. Nuclear radiation (and also x rays, which behave much the same in matter) is called **ionizing radiation**.

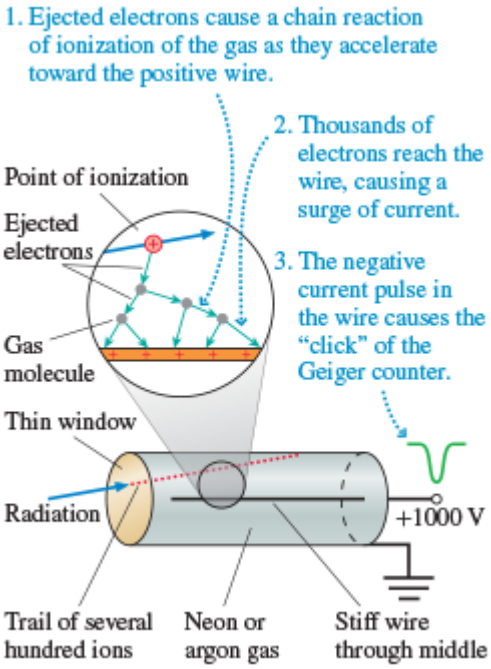
An alpha or beta particle traveling through matter creates a trail of ionization, as shown in Figure 42.14. Because the ionization energy of an atom is ≈ 10 eV, a particle with 1 MeV of kinetic energy can ionize ≈ 100,000 atoms or molecules before finally stopping. The low-mass electrons are kicked sideways, but the much more massive positive ions barely move and form the trail. This ionization is the basis for the **Geiger counter**, one of the most well-known detectors of nuclear radiation. Figure 42.15 shows how a Geiger counter works. The important thing to remember is that a Geiger counter detects only *ionizing radiation*.

## Figure 42.14




Alpha and beta particles create a trail of ionization as they pass through matter.

## Figure 42.15




A Geiger counter.

Ionizing radiation damages materials. Ions drive chemical reactions that wouldn't otherwise occur. Broken molecular bonds alter the workings of molecular machinery, especially in large biological molecules. It is through these mechanisms—ionization and bond breaking—that nuclear radiation can cause mutations or tumors. We'll look at the biological issues in Section 42.7.

> **Note**
>
> Ionizing radiation causes structural damage to materials, but **irradiated objects do not become radioactive.** Ionization drives chemical processes involving the electrons. An object could become radioactive only if its nuclei were somehow changed, and that does not happen.

## Stop to Think 42.3

A very bright spotlight shines on a Geiger counter. Does it click?

# Nuclear Decay and Half-Lives

Rutherford discovered experimentally that the number of radioactive atoms in a sample decreases exponentially with time. The reason is that radioactive decay is a *random process*. That is, we can predict only the *probability* that a nucleus will decay, not the exact moment. We encountered exactly this situation when we investigated the lifetimes of excited states of atoms in Section 41.7.

As we did with atoms, let $r$ be the *decay rate*, the probability of decay within the next second by the emission of an alpha or beta particle or a gamma-ray photon. Then the probability of decay within a small time interval $\Delta t$ is

**(42.7)**

$$\text{Prob}(\text{decay in time interval } \Delta t) = r\,\Delta t$$

This equation was also the starting point in our analysis of the spontaneous emission of photons by atoms. The mathematical analysis is exactly the same as in Section 41.7, to which you should refer, leading to the exponential-decay equation

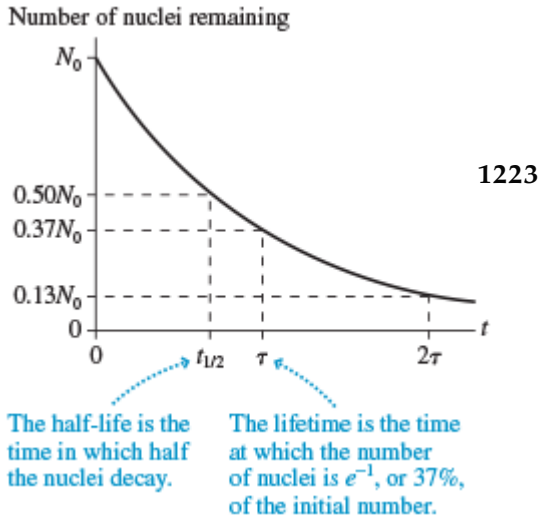
**(42.8)**

$$N = N_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

where $\tau = 1/r$ is the *lifetime* of the nucleus.

Figure 42.16 shows the decrease of $N$ with time. The number of radioactive nuclei decreases from $N_0$ at $t = 0$ to $e^{-1}N_0 = 0.368N_0$ at time $t = \tau$. In practical terms, the number decreases by roughly two-thirds during one lifetime.

## Figure 42.16






The number of radioactive atoms decreases exponentially with time.

> **Note**
>
> An important aspect of exponential decay is that you can choose any instant you wish to be $t = 0$. The number of radioactive nuclei present at that instant is $N_0$. If at one instant you have 10,000 radioactive nuclei whose lifetime is $\tau = 10\,\text{min}$, you'll have roughly 3680 nuclei 10 min later. The fact that you may have had more than 10,000 nuclei earlier isn't relevant.

In practice, it's much easier to measure the time at which half of a sample has decayed than the time at which 36.8% has decayed. Let's define the **half-life** $t_{1/2}$ as the time interval in which half of a sample of radioactive atoms decays. The half-life is shown in Figure 42.16.

The half-life is easily related to the lifetime $\tau$ because we know, by definition, that $N = \frac{1}{2}N_0$ at $t = t_{1/2}$. Thus, according to Equation 42.8, 

**(42.9)**

$$\frac{N_0}{2} = N_0 e^{-t_{1/2}/\tau}$$

The $N_0$ cancels, and we can then take the natural logarithm of both sides to find

**(42.10)**

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\ln 2 = -\frac{t_{1/2}}{\tau}$$

With one final rearrangement we have

**(42.11)**

$$t_{1/2} = \tau \ln 2 = 0.693\tau$$

Equation 42.8 can be written in terms of the half-life as

---

**(42.12)**

$$N = N_0\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/t_{1/2}}$$

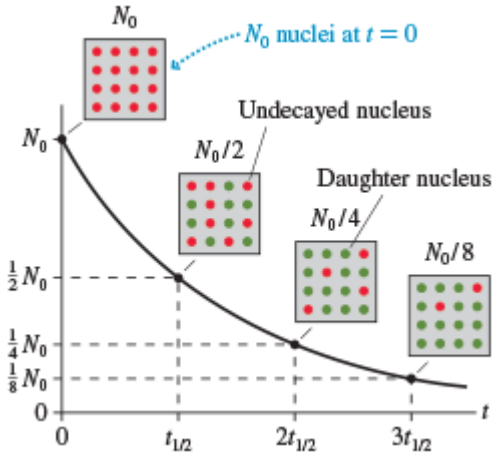
Thus $N = N_0/2$ at $t = t_{1/2}$, $N = N_0/4$ at $t = 2t_{1/2}$, $N = N_0/8$ at $t = 3t_{1/2}$, and so on. **No matter how many nuclei there are, the number decays by half during the next half-life.**

> **Note**
>
> Half the nuclei decay during one half-life, but don't fall into the trap of thinking that all will have decayed after two half-lives.

Figure 42.17 shows the half-life graphically. This figure also conveys two other important ideas:

1. Nuclei don't vanish when they decay. The decayed nuclei have merely become some other kind of nuclei, called the *daughter nuclei*.
2. The decay process is random. We can predict that half the nuclei will decay in one half-life, but we can't predict which ones.

## Figure 42.17




Half the nuclei decay during each half-life.

Each radioactive isotope, such as $^{14}C$, has its own half-life. That half-life doesn't change with time as a sample decays. If you've flipped a coin 10 times and, against all odds, seen 10 heads, you may feel that a tail is overdue. Nonetheless, the probability that the next flip will be a head is still 50%. After 10 half-lives have gone by, $(1/2)^{10} = 1/1024$ of a radioactive sample is still there. There was nothing special or distinctive

about these nuclei, and, despite their longevity, each remaining nucleus has exactly a 50% chance of decay during the next half-life.

### Example 42.2 The decay of iodine

The iodine isotope $^{131}\text{I}$, which has an eight-day half-life, is used in nuclear medicine. A sample of $^{131}\text{I}$ containing $2.00 \times 10^{12}$ atoms is created in a nuclear reactor.

**a.** How many $^{131}\text{I}$ atoms remain 36 hours later when the sample is delivered to a hospital?

**b.** The sample is constantly getting weaker, but it remains usable as long as the number of $^{131}\text{I}$ atoms exceeds $5.0 \times 10^{11}$. What is the maximum delay before the sample is no longer usable?

**MODEL** The number of $^{131}\text{I}$ atoms decays exponentially.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The half-life is $t_{1/2} = 8\boxed{\text{Unknown node type: span}} = 192\,\text{h}$. After 36 h have elapsed,

$$N = (2.00 \times 10^{12})\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{36/192} = 1.76 \times 10^{12}\ \text{nuclei}$$

**b.** The time after creation at which $5.0 \times 10^{11}$ $^{131}\text{I}$ atoms remain is given by

$$5.0 \times 10^{11} = 0.50 \times 10^{12} = (2.0 \times 10^{12})\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/8}\boxed{\text{Unknown node type: span}}$$

To solve for $t$, we first write this as

$$\frac{0.50}{2.00} = 0.25 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/8}$$ Unknown node type: span

Now we take the logarithm of both sides. Either natural logarithms or base-10 logarithms can be used, but we'll use natural logarithms:

$$\ln(0.25) = -1.39 = \frac{t}{t_{1/2}}\ln(0.5) = -0.693\frac{t}{t_{1/2}}$$

Solving for $t$ gives

$$t = 2.00t_{1/2} = 16$$ Unknown node type: span

**ASSESS** The weakest usable sample is one-quarter of the initial sample. You saw in Figure 42.17 that a radioactive sample decays to one-quarter of its initial number in 2 half-lives.

## Activity

The **activity** $R$ of a radioactive sample is the number of decays per second. This is simply the absolute value of $dN/dt$, or

**(42.13)**

$$R = \left|\frac{dN}{dt}\right| = rN = rN_0e^{-t/\tau} = R_0e^{-t/\tau} = R_0\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/t_{1/2}}$$

where $R_0 = rN_0$ is the activity at $t = 0$. The activity of a sample decreases exponentially along with the number of remaining nuclei.

The SI unit of activity is the **becquerel**, defined as

$$1 \text{ becquerel} = 1 \text{ Bq} \equiv 1 \text{ decay/s or } 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

An older unit of activity, but one that continues in widespread use, is the **curie**. The curie was originally defined as the activity of 1 g of radium. Today, the conversion factor is

$$1 \text{ curie} = 1 \text{ Ci} \equiv 3.7 \times 10^{10} \text{ Bq}$$

One curie is a substantial activity. The radioactive samples used in laboratory experiments are typically $\approx 1\ \mu$Ci or, equivalently, $\approx 40{,}000$ Bq. These samples can be handled with only minor precautions. Larger sources of radioactivity require lead shielding and special precautions to prevent exposure to high levels of radiation.



**Example 42.3 A laboratory source**

The isotope $^{137}$Cs is a standard laboratory source of gamma rays. The half-life of $^{137}$Cs is 30 years.

**a.** How many $^{137}$Cs atoms are in a 5.0 $\mu$Ci source?

**b.** What is the activity of the source 10 years later?

**MODEL** The number of $^{137}$Cs atoms decays exponentially.

**SOLVE**

**a.** The number of atoms can be found from $N_0 = R_0/r$. The activity in SI units is

$$R = 5.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{Ci} \times \frac{3.7 \times 10^{10}\ \text{Bq}}{1\ \text{Ci}} = 1.85 \times 10^{5}\ \text{Bq}$$

To find the decay rate, first convert the half-life to seconds:

$$t_{1/2} = 30\ \text{years} \times \frac{3.15 \times 10^{7}\ \text{s}}{1\ \text{years}} = 9.45 \times 10^{8}\ \text{s}$$

Then

$$r = \frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}} = 7.33 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{s}^{-1}$$

Thus the number of $^{137}$Cs atoms is

$$N_0 = \frac{R_0}{r} = \frac{1.85 \times 10^{5}\ \text{Bq}}{7.33 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{s}^{-1}} = 2.5 \times 10^{14}\ \text{atoms}$$

**b.** The activity decreases exponentially, just like the number of nuclei. After 10 years,

$$R = R_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/t_{1/2}} = (5.0\ \mu\text{Ci})\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{10/30} = 4.0\ \mu\text{Ci}$$

**ASSESS** Although $N_0$ is a very large number, it is a very small fraction ($\approx 10^{-10}$) of a mole. The sample is about 60 ng (nanograms) of $^{137}$Cs.

## Radioactive Dating

Many geological and archeological samples can be dated by measuring the decays of naturally occurring radioactive isotopes. Because we have no way to know $N_0$, the initial number of radioactive nuclei, radioactive dating depends on the use of ratios.

A researcher is extracting a small sample of an ancient bone. She will determine the age of the bone by measuring the ratio of $^{14}C$ to $^{12}C$.

---

The most well-known dating technique is carbon dating. The carbon isotope $^{14}C$ has a half-life of 5730 years, so any $^{14}C$ present when the earth formed 4.5 billion years ago would long since have decayed away. Nonetheless, $^{14}C$ is present in atmospheric carbon dioxide because high-energy cosmic rays collide with gas molecules high in the atmosphere. These cosmic rays are energetic enough to create $^{14}C$ nuclei from nuclear reactions with nitrogen and oxygen nuclei. The creation and decay of $^{14}C$ have reached a steady state in which the $^{14}C/^{12}C$ ratio is $1.3 \times 10^{-12}$. That is, atmospheric carbon dioxide has $^{14}C$ at the concentration of 1.3 parts per trillion. As small as this is, it's easily measured by modern chemical techniques.

All living organisms constantly exchange carbon dioxide with the atmosphere, so the $^{14}C/^{12}C$ ratio in living organisms is also $1.3 \times 10^{-12}$. When an organism dies, the $^{14}C$ in its tissue begins to decay and no new $^{14}C$ is added. Objects are dated by comparing the measured $^{14}C/^{12}C$ ratio to the $1.3 \times 10^{-12}$ value of living material.

Carbon dating is used to date skeletons, wood, paper, fur, food material, and anything else made of organic matter. It is quite accurate for ages to about 15,000 years, roughly three half-lives of $^{14}$C. Beyond that, the difficulty of measuring such a small ratio and some uncertainties about the cosmic ray flux in the past combine to decrease the accuracy. Even so, items are dated to about 50,000 years with a fair degree of reliability.

Other isotopes with longer half-lives are used to date geological samples. Potassium-argon dating, using $^{40}$K with a half-life of 1.25 billion years, is especially useful for dating rocks of volcanic origin.

### Example 42.4 Carbon dating

Archeologists excavating an ancient hunters' camp have recovered a 5.0 g piece of charcoal from a fireplace. Measurements on the sample find that the $^{14}$C activity is 0.35 Bq. What is the approximate age of the camp?

**MODEL** Charcoal, from burning wood, is almost pure carbon. The number of $^{14}$C atoms in the wood has decayed exponentially since the branch fell off a tree. Because wood rots, it is reasonable to assume that there was no significant delay between when the branch fell off the tree and the hunters burned it.

**SOLVE** The $^{14}$C/$^{12}$C ratio was $1.3 \times 10^{-12}$ when the branch fell from the tree. We first need to determine the present ratio, then use the known $^{14}$C half-life $t_{1/2} = 5730$ years to calculate the time needed to reach the present ratio. The number of ordinary $^{12}$C nuclei in the sample is

$$\begin{aligned} N(^{12}\mathrm{C}) &= \left(\frac{5.0\ \mathrm{g}}{12\ \mathrm{g/mol}}\right)(6.02\times10^{23}\ \mathrm{atoms/mol}) \\ &= 2.5\times10^{23}\ \mathrm{nuclei} \end{aligned}$$

The number of $^{14}$C nuclei can be found from the activity to be $N(^{14}\mathrm{C}) = R/r$, but we need to determine the $^{14}$C decay rate $r$. After converting the half-life to seconds, $t_{1/2} = 5730\,\mathrm{years} = 1.807\times10^{11}\,\mathrm{s}$, we can compute

$$r = \frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{t_{1/2}/\ln 2} = 3.84\times10^{-12}\ \mathrm{s^{-1}}$$

Thus

$$N(^{14}\mathrm{C}) = \frac{R}{r} = \frac{0.35\ \mathrm{Bq}}{3.84\times10^{-12}\ \mathrm{s^{-1}}} = 9.1\times10^{10}\ \mathrm{nuclei}$$

and the present $^{14}$C/$^{12}$C ratio is $N(^{14}\mathrm{C})/N(^{12}\mathrm{C}) = 0.36\times10^{-12}$. Because this ratio has been decaying with a half-life of 5730 years, the time needed to reach the present ratio is found from

$$0.36\times10^{-12} = (1.3\times10^{-12})\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/t_{1/2}}$$

To solve for $t$, we first write this as

$$\frac{0.36}{1.3} = 0.277 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/t_{1/2}}$$

Now we take the logarithm of both sides:

$$\ln(0.277) = -1.28 = \frac{t}{t_{1/2}}\ln(0.5) = -0.693\frac{t}{t_{1/2}}$$

Thus the age of the hunters' camp is

$$t = 1.85t_{1/2} = 11{,}000 \text{ years}$$

**ASSESS** This is a realistic example of how radioactive dating is done.

## Stop to Think 42.4

A sample starts with 1000 radioactive atoms. How many halflives have elapsed when 750 atoms have decayed?

**a.** 0.25

**b.** 1.5

**c.** 2.0

**d.** 2.5

# 42.6 Nuclear Decay Mechanisms



This section will look in more detail at the mechanisms of the three types of radioactive decay.

## Alpha Decay

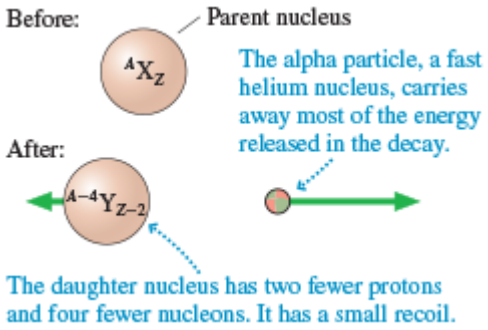
An alpha particle, symbolized as $\alpha$, is a $^4$He nucleus, a strongly bound system of two protons and two neutrons. An unstable nucleus that ejects an alpha particle will lose two protons and two neutrons, so we can write the decay as

**(42.14)**

$$^{A}\mathrm{X}_{z} \rightarrow ^{A-4}\mathrm{Y}_{Z-2} + \alpha + \text{energy}$$

Figure 42.18 shows the alpha-decay process. The original nucleus X is called the **parent nucleus**, and the decay-product nucleus Y is the **daughter nucleus**. This reaction can occur only when the mass of the parent nucleus is greater than the mass of the daughter nucleus plus the mass of an alpha particle. This requirement is met for heavy, high-$Z$ nuclei well above the maximum on the Figure 42.6 curve of binding energy. It is energetically favorable for these nuclei to eject an alpha particle because the daughter nucleus is more tightly bound than the parent nucleus.

**Figure 42.18**




Alpha decay.

Although the mass requirement is based on the nuclear masses, we can express it—as we did the binding energy equation—in terms of atomic masses. The energy released in an alpha decay, essentially all of which goes into the alpha particle's kinetic energy, is

**(42.15)**

$$\Delta E \approx K_\alpha = (m_{\rm X} - m_{\rm Y} - m_{\rm He})c^2$$

### Example 42.5 Alpha decay of uranium

The uranium isotope $^{238}$U undergoes alpha decay to $^{234}$Th. The atomic masses are 238.0508 u for $^{238}$U and 234.0436 u for $^{234}$Th. What is the kinetic energy, in MeV, of the alpha particle?

**MODEL** Essentially all of the energy release $\Delta E$ goes into the alpha particle's kinetic energy.

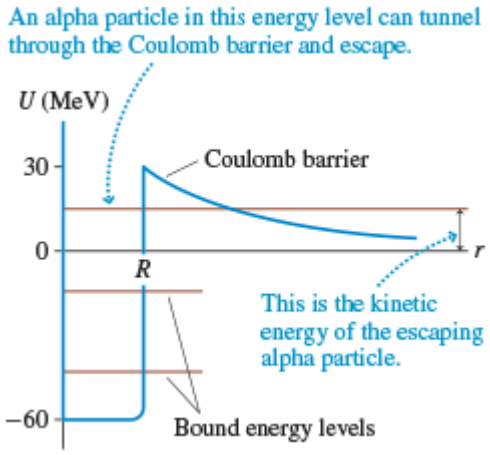
**SOLVE** The atomic mass of helium is 4.0026 u. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} K_\alpha &= (238.0508\ \text{u} - 234.0436\ \text{u} - 4.0026\ \text{u})c^2 \\ &= \left(0.0046\ \text{u} \times \frac{931.5\ \text{MeV}/c^2}{1\ \text{u}}\right) c^2 = 4.3\ \text{MeV} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** This is a typical alpha-particle energy. Notice how the $c^2$ canceled from the calculation so that we never had to evaluate $c^2$.

Alpha decay is a purely quantum-mechanical effect. Figure 42.19 shows the potential energy of an alpha particle, where the $^4$He nucleus of an alpha particle is so tightly bound that we can think of it as existing "prepackaged" inside the parent nucleus. Both the depth of the energy well and the height of the Coulomb barrier are twice those of a proton because the charge of an $\alpha$ particle is $2e$.

## Figure 42.19




The potential-energy diagram of an alpha particle in the parent nucleus.

Because of the high Coulomb barrier (alpha decay occurs only in high-$Z$ nuclei), there may be one or more allowed energy levels with $E > 0$. Energy levels with $E < 0$ are completely bound, but an alpha particle in an energy level with $E > 0$ can *tunnel* through the Coulomb barrier and escape. That is exactly how alpha decay occurs.

Energy must be conserved, so the kinetic energy of the escaping $\alpha$ particle is the height of the energy level above $E = 0$. That is, potential energy is

transformed into kinetic energy as the particle escapes. Notice that the width of the barrier decreases as $E$ increases. The tunneling probability depends very sensitively on the barrier width, as you learned in conjunction with the scanning tunneling microscope. Thus an alpha particle in a higher energy level should have a *shorter half-life* and escape with *more kinetic energy*. The full analysis is beyond the scope of this text, but this prediction is in excellent agreement with measured energies and half-lives.

## Beta Decay

Beta decay was initially associated with the emission of an electron $e^-$, the beta particle. It was later discovered that some nuclei can undergo beta decay by emitting a positron $e^+$, the antiparticle of the electron, although this decay mode is not as common. A positron is identical to an electron except that it has a positive charge. To be precise, the emission of an electron is called *beta-minus decay* and the emission of a positron is *beta-plus decay*.



A typical example of beta-minus decay occurs in the carbon isotope $^{14}C$, which undergoes the beta-decay process $^{14}\mathrm{C} \rightarrow 14^{\mathrm{N}} + \mathrm{e}^-$. Carbon has $Z = 6$ and nitrogen has $Z = 7$. Because $Z$ increases by 1 but $A$ doesn't change, it appears that a neutron within the nucleus has changed itself into a proton and an electron. That is, the basic beta-minus decay process appears to be

**(42.16)**

$$\mathrm{n} \rightarrow \mathrm{p}^+ + \mathrm{e}^-$$

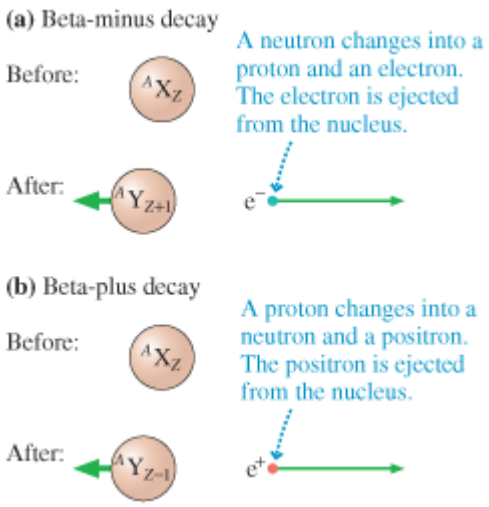
Indeed, a free neutron turns out *not* to be a stable particle. It decays with a half-life of approximately 10 min into a proton and an electron. This decay is energetically allowed because $m_{\mathrm{n}} > m_{\mathrm{p}} + m_{\mathrm{e}}$. Furthermore, it conserves charge.

Whether a neutron *within* a nucleus can decay depends on the masses of the parent and daughter nuclei. The electron is ejected from the nucleus in beta-minus decay, but the proton is not. Thus the decay process shown in Figure 42.20a is

**(42.17)**

$$^{A}\mathrm{X}_{Z} \rightarrow {}^{A}\mathrm{Y}_{Z+1} + \mathrm{e}^{-} + \text{energy} \qquad (\text{beta-minus decay})$$

## Figure 42.20




Beta decay.

Energy is released because the mass decreases in this process, but we have to be careful when calculating the mass loss. Although not explicitly shown in Equation 42.17, the daughter $^{A}\mathrm{Y}$ is actually the ionized atom

$^{A}\mathrm{Y}^{+}$ because it gained a proton but didn't gain an orbital electron. Its mass is the atomic mass of $^{A}\mathrm{Y}$ *minus* the mass of an electron. But the full right-hand side of the reaction includes an additional electron, the beta particle, so the total mass of the decay products is simply the atomic mass of $^{A}\mathrm{Y}$.

Consequently, the energy released in beta-minus decay, based on the mass loss, is

**(42.18)**

$$\Delta E = (m_{\mathrm{X}} - m_{\mathrm{Y}})c^2$$

The energy release has to be positive, so we see that **beta-minus decay occurs only if $m_{\mathrm{X}} > m_{\mathrm{Y}}$.** $^{14}\mathrm{C}$ can undergo beta-minus decay to $^{14}\mathrm{N}$ because $m(^{14}\mathrm{C}) > m(^{14}\mathrm{N})$. But $m(^{12}\mathrm{C}) < m(^{12}\mathrm{N})$, so $^{12}\mathrm{C}$ is stable and its neutrons cannot decay.

> **Note**
>
> The electron emitted in beta-minus decay has nothing to do with the atom's orbital electrons. The beta particle is created in the nucleus and ejected directly from the nucleus when a neutron is transformed into a proton and an electron.

Beta-plus decay is the conversion of a proton into a neutron and a positron:

**(42.19)**

$$\mathrm{p}^{+} \rightarrow \mathrm{n} + \mathrm{e}^{+}$$

The full decay process, shown in Figure 42.20b, is

**(42.20)**

$$^{A}\mathrm{X}_{Z} \rightarrow {}^{A}\mathrm{Y}_{Z-1} + \mathrm{e}^{+} + \text{energy} \qquad \text{(beta-plus decay)}$$

Beta-plus decay does *not* happen for a free proton because $m_{\mathrm{p}} < m_{\mathrm{n}}$. It *can* happen within a nucleus as long as energy is conserved for the entire nuclear system.

In our earlier discussion of Figure 42.11 we noted that the $^{12}$B and $^{12}$N nuclei could reach a lower energy state if a proton could change into a neutron, and vice versa. Now we see that such a change can occur if the energy conditions are favorable. And, indeed, $^{12}$B undergoes beta-minus decay to $^{12}$C while $^{12}$N undergoes beta-plus decay to $^{12}$C.



In general, beta decay is a process used by nuclei with too many neutrons or too many protons in order to move closer to the line of stability in Figure 42.4.

A third form of beta decay occurs in some nuclei that have too many protons but not enough mass to undergo beta-plus decay. In this case, a proton changes into a neutron by "capturing" an electron from the innermost shell of orbiting electrons (an $n = 1$ electron). The process is

**(42.21)**

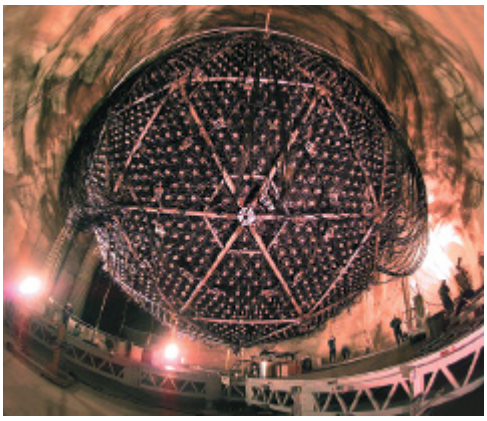
$$\mathrm{p}^{+} + \text{orbital } \mathrm{e}^{-} \rightarrow \mathrm{n}$$

This form of beta decay is called **electron capture**, abbreviated EC. The net result, $^{A}\mathrm{X}_{Z} \rightarrow {}^{A}\mathrm{Y}_{Z-1}$, is the same as beta-plus decay but without the emission of a positron. Electron capture is the only nuclear decay mechanism that involves the orbital electrons.

# The Weak Interaction

We've presented beta decay as if it were perfectly normal for one kind of matter to change spontaneously into a completely different kind of matter. For example, it would be energetically favorable for a large truck to spontaneously turn into a Cadillac and a VW Beetle, ejecting the Beetle at high speed. But it doesn't happen.

Once you stop to think of it, the process $n \rightarrow p^+ + e^-$ seems ludicrous, not because it violates mass-energy conservation but because we have no idea *how* a neutron could turn into a proton. Alpha decay may be a strange process because tunneling in general goes against our commonsense notions, but it is a perfectly ordinary quantum-mechanical process. Now we're suggesting that one of the basic building blocks of matter can somehow morph into a different basic building block.



The Super Kamiokande neutrino detector in Japan looks for the neutrinos emitted from nuclear fusion reactions in the core of the sun.

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To make matters more confusing, measurements in the 1930s found that beta decay didn't seem to conserve either energy or momentum. Faced with these difficulties, the Italian physicist Enrico Fermi made two bold suggestions:

1. A previously unknown fundamental force of nature is responsible for beta decay. This force, which has come to be known as the **weak interaction**, has the ability to turn a neutron into a proton, and vice versa.
2. The beta-decay process emits a particle that, at that time, had not been detected. This new particle has to be electrically neutral, in order to conserve charge, and it has to be much less massive than an electron. Fermi called it the **neutrino**, meaning "little neutral one." Energy and momentum really are conserved, but the neutrino carries away some of the energy and momentum of the decaying nucleus. Thus experiments that detect only the electron seem to violate conservation laws.

The neutrino is represented by the symbol $\nu$, a lowercase Greek nu. The beta-decay processes that Fermi proposed are

**(42.22)**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{n} &\rightarrow \mathrm{p}^{+} + \mathrm{e}^{-} + \bar{\nu} \\ \mathrm{p}^{+} &\rightarrow \mathrm{n} + \mathrm{e}^{+} + \nu \end{aligned}$$

The symbol $\bar{\nu}$ is an *antineutrino*, although the reason one is a neutrino and the other an antineutrino need not concern us here. Figure 42.21 shows that the electron and antineutrino (or positron and neutrino) *share* the energy released in the decay.

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**Figure 42.21**

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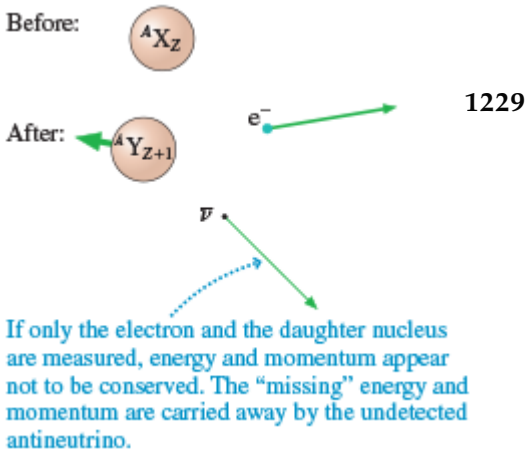





A more accurate picture of beta decay includes neutrinos.

The neutrino interacts with matter so weakly that a neutrino can pass straight through the earth with only a very slight chance of a collision. Trillions of neutrinos created by nuclear fusion reactions in the core of the sun are passing through your body every second. Neutrino interactions are so rare that the first laboratory detection did not occur until 1956, over 20 years after Fermi's proposal.

It was initially thought that the neutrino had not only zero charge but also zero mass. However, experiments in the 1990s showed that the neutrino mass, although very tiny, is not zero. The best current evidence suggests a mass about one-millionth the mass of an electron. Experiments now under way will attempt to determine a more accurate value.

**Example 42.6 Beta decay of $^{14}$C**

How much energy is released in the beta-minus decay of $^{14}$C?

**MODEL** The decay is $^{14}\mathrm{C} \rightarrow {}^{14}\mathrm{N} + \mathrm{e}^{-} + \bar{\nu}$.

**SOLVE** In Appendix C we find $m(^{14}\text{C}) = 14.003\,242$ u and $m(^{14}\text{N}) = 14.003\,074$ u. The mass difference is a mere 0.000 168 u, but this is the mass that is converted into the kinetic energy of the escaping particles. The energy released is

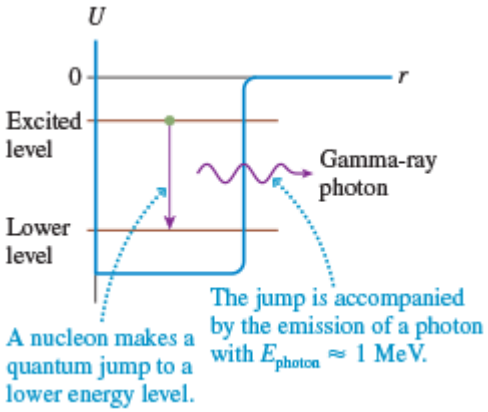
$$E = (\Delta m)c^2 = (0.000\,168\text{ u}) \times (931.5\text{ MeV/u}) = 0.156\text{ MeV}$$

**ASSESS** This energy is shared between the electron and the antineutrino.

## Gamma Decay

Gamma decay is the easiest form of nuclear decay to understand. You learned that an atomic system can emit a photon with $E_{\text{photon}} = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}$ when an electron undergoes a quantum jump from an excited energy level to a lower energy level. Nuclei are no different. A proton or a neutron in an excited nuclear state, such as the one shown in Figure 42.22, can undergo a quantum jump to a lower-energy state by emitting a high-energy photon. This is the gamma-decay process.

**Figure 42.22**



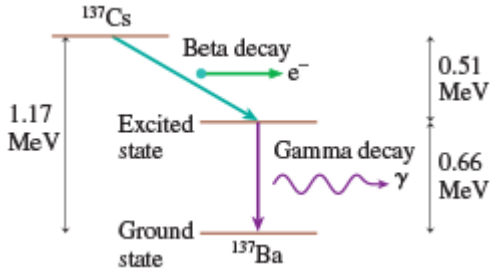

Gamma decay.

The spacing between atomic energy levels is only a few eV. Nuclear energy levels, by contrast, are typically 1 MeV apart. Hence gamma-ray photons have $E_{\text{gamma}} \approx 1\,\text{MeV}$. Photons with this much energy have tremendous penetrating power and deposit an extremely large amount of energy at the point where they are finally absorbed.

Nuclei left to themselves are usually in their ground states and thus cannot emit gamma-ray photons. However, alpha and beta decay often leave the daughter nucleus in an excited nuclear state, so gamma emission is usually found to accompany alpha and beta emission.

The cesium isotope $^{137}$Cs is a good example. We noted earlier that $^{137}$Cs is used as a laboratory source of gamma rays. Actually, $^{137}$Cs undergoes beta-minus decay to $^{137}$Ba. Figure 42.23 shows the full process. A $^{137}$Cs nucleus undergoes beta-minus decay by emitting an electron and an antineutrino, which share between them a total energy of 0.51 MeV. The half-life for this process is 30 years. This leaves the daughter $^{137}$Ba nucleus in an excited state 0.66 MeV above the ground state. The excited Ba nucleus then decays within a few seconds to the ground state by emitting a 0.66 MeV gamma-ray photon. Thus a $^{137}$Cs sample *is* a source of gamma-ray photons, but the photons are actually emitted by barium nuclei rather than cesium nuclei.

## Figure 42.23




The decay of $^{137}$Cs involves both beta and gamma decay.

# Decay Series

A radioactive nucleus decays into a daughter nucleus. In many cases, the daughter nucleus is also radioactive and decays to produce its own daughter nucleus. The process continues until reaching a daughter nucleus that is stable. The sequence of isotopes, starting with the original unstable isotope and ending with the stable isotope, is called a **decay series.**

Decay series are especially important for very heavy nuclei. As an example, Figure 42.24 shows the decay series of $^{235}U$, an isotope of uranium with a 700-million-year half-life. This is a very long time, but it is only about 15% the age of the earth, thus most (but not all) of the $^{235}U$ nuclei present when the earth was formed have now decayed. There are many unstable nuclei along the way, but all $^{235}U$ nuclei eventually end as the $^{207}Pb$ isotope of lead, a stable nucleus.

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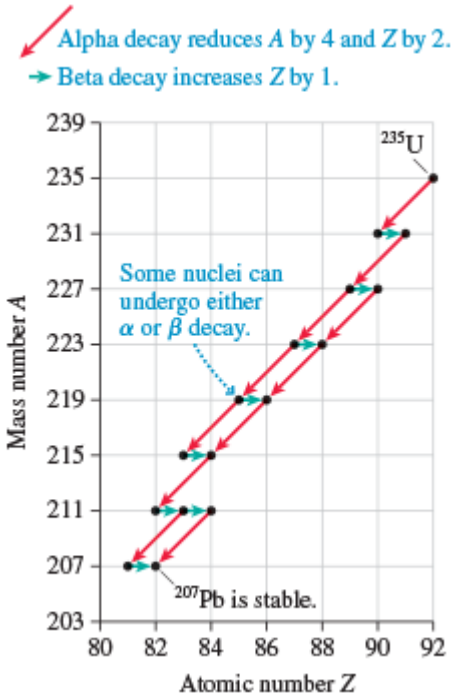
**Figure 42.24**



The decay series of $^{235}$U.

Notice that some nuclei can decay by either alpha *or* beta decay. Thus there are a variety of paths that a decay can follow, but they all end at the same point.

## Stop to Think 42.5

The cobalt isotope $^{60}\text{Co}\,(Z = 27)$ decays to the nickel isotope $^{60}\text{Ni}(Z = 28)$. The decay process is

**a.** Alpha decay.
**b.** Beta-minus decay.
**c.** Beta-plus decay.
**d.** Electron capture.
**e.** Gamma decay.

# 42.7 Biological Applications of Nuclear Physics

Nuclear physics has brought both peril and promise to society. Radiation can cause tumors, but it also can be used to cure some cancers. This section is a brief survey of medical and biological applications of nuclear physics.

## Radiation Dose

Nuclear radiation, which is ionizing radiation, disrupts a cell's machinery by altering and damaging the biological molecules. The consequences of this disruption vary from genetic mutations to uncontrolled cell multiplication (i.e., tumors) to cell death.

Beta and gamma radiation can penetrate the entire body and damage internal organs. Alpha radiation has less penetrating ability, but it deposits all its energy in a very small, localized volume. Internal organs are usually safe from alpha radiation, but the skin is very susceptible, as are the lungs if radioactive dust is inhaled.

Biological effects of radiation depend on two factors. The first is the physical factor of how much energy is absorbed by the body. The second is the biological factor of how tissue reacts to different forms of radiation.

The **absorbed dose** of radiation is the energy of ionizing radiation absorbed per kilogram of tissue. The SI unit of absorbed dose is the **gray,** abbreviated Gy. It is defined as

$$1\,\text{gray} = 1\,\text{Gy} \equiv 1.00\,\text{J/kg of absorbed energy}$$

The absorbed dose depends only on the energy absorbed, not at all on the type of radiation or on what the absorbing material is.

Biologists and biophysicists have found that a 1 Gy dose of gamma rays and a 1 Gy dose of alpha particles have different biological consequences. To account for such differences, the **relative biological effectiveness (RBE)** is defined as the biological effect of a given dose relative to the biological effect of an equal dose of x rays.

Table 42.4 shows the relative biological effectiveness of different forms of radiation. Larger values correspond to larger biological effects. Beta radiation and neutrons have a range of values because the biological effect varies with the energy of the particle. Alpha radiation has the largest RBE because the energy is deposited in the smallest volume.

**Table 42.4**

| Radiation type | RBE |
|---|---|
| X rays | 1 |
| Gamma rays | 1 |
| Beta particles | 1–2 |
| Neutrons | 5–20 |
| Alpha particles | 20 |

Relative biological effectiveness of radiation

The product of the absorbed dose with the RBE is called the **dose equivalent.** Dose equivalent is measured in **sieverts,** abbreviated Sv. To be precise,

$$\text{dose equivalent in Sv} = \text{absorbed dose in Gy} \times \text{RBE}$$

1 Sv of radiation produces the same biological damage regardless of the type of radiation. An older but still widely used unit for dose equivalent is the **rem,** defined as $1\,\text{rem} = 0.010\,\text{Sv}$. Small radiation doses are measured in millisievert (mSv) or millirem (mrem).

### Example 42.7 Radiation exposure

A 75 kg laboratory technician working with the radioactive isotope $^{137}$Cs receives an accidental 1.0 mSv exposure. $^{137}$Cs emits 0.66 MeV gamma-ray photons. How many gamma-ray photons are absorbed in the technician's body?

**MODEL** The radiation dose is a combination of deposited energy and biological effectiveness. The RBE for gamma rays is 1. Gamma rays are penetrating, so this is a whole-body exposure.

**SOLVE** The absorbed dose is the dose in Sv divided by the RBE. In this case, because $\text{RBE} = 1$, the dose is $0.0010\,\text{Gy} = 0.0010\,\text{J/kg}$. This is a whole-body exposure, so the total energy deposited in the technician's body is 0.075 J. The energy of each absorbed photon is 0.66 MeV, but this value must be converted into joules. The number of photons in 0.075 J is

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \frac{0.075\,\text{J}}{(6.6 \times 10^5\,\text{eV/photon})(1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{J/eV})} \\ &= 7.1 \times 10^{11}\,\text{photons} \end{aligned}$$

**ASSESS** The energy deposited, 0.075 J, is very small. Radiation does its damage not by thermal effects, which would require substantially more energy, but by ionization.

Table 42.5 gives some basic information about radiation exposure. We are all exposed to a continuous natural background of radiation from cosmic rays and from naturally occurring radioactive atoms (uranium and other atoms in the uranium decay series) in the ground, the atmosphere, and even the food we eat. This background averages about 3 mSv per year, although there are wide regional variations depending on the soil type and the elevation. (Higher elevations have a larger exposure to cosmic rays.)

**Table 42.5**

| Radiation source | Typical exposure (mSv) |
|---|---|
| CT scan | 10 |
| Natural background (1 year) | 3 |
| Mammogram x ray | 0.8 |
| Chest x ray | 0.3 |
| Dental x ray | 0.03 |

Radiation exposure

Medical x rays vary significantly. The average person in the United States receives approximately 0.6 mSv per year from all medical sources. All other sources, such as fallout from atmospheric nuclear tests many decades ago, nuclear power plants, and industrial uses of radioactivity, add up to less than 0.1 mSv per year.

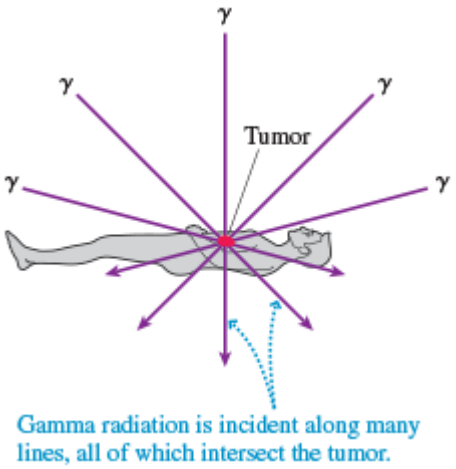
The question inevitably arises: What is a safe dose? This remains a controversial topic and the subject of ongoing research. The effects of large doses of radiation are easily observed. The effects of small doses are hard to distinguish from other natural and environmental causes. Thus there's no simple or clear definition of a safe dose. A prudent policy is to avoid unnecessary exposure to radiation but not to worry over exposures less than the natural background. It's worth noting that the $\mu$Ci

radioactive sources used in laboratory experiments provide exposures *much* less than the natural background, even if used on a regular basis.

## Medical Uses of Radiation

Radiation can be put to good use killing cancer cells. This area of medicine is called *radiation therapy*. Gamma rays are the most common form of radiation, often from the isotope $^{60}$Co. As Figure 42.25 shows, the gamma rays are directed along many different lines, all of which intersect the tumor. The goal is to provide a lethal dose to the cancer cells without overexposing nearby tissue. The patient and the radiation source are rotated around each other under careful computer control to deliver the proper dose.

**Figure 42.25**




Radiation therapy is designed to deliver a lethal dose to the tumor without damaging nearby tissue.

Other tumors are treated by surgically implanting radioactive "seeds" within or next to the tumor. Alpha particles, which are very damaging locally but don't penetrate far, can be used in this fashion.

Radioactive isotopes are also used as *tracers* in diagnostic procedures. This technique is based on the fact that all isotopes of an element have identical chemical behavior. As an example, a radioactive isotope of iodine is used in the diagnosis of certain thyroid conditions. Iodine is an essential element in the body, and it concentrates in the thyroid gland. A doctor who suspects a malfunctioning thyroid gland gives the patient a small dose of sodium iodide in which some of the normal $^{127}I$ atoms have been replaced with $^{131}I$. (Sodium iodide, which is harmless, dissolves in water and can simply be drunk.) The $^{131}I$ isotope, with a half-life of eight days, undergoes beta decay and subsequently emits a gamma-ray photon that can be detected.

The radioactive iodine concentrates inside the thyroid gland within a few hours. The doctor then monitors the gamma-ray photon emissions over the next few days to see how the iodine is being processed within the thyroid and how quickly it is eliminated from the body.

Other important radioactive tracers include the chromium isotope $^{51}Cr$, which is taken up by red blood cells and can be used to monitor blood flow, and the xenon isotope $^{133}Xe$, which is inhaled to reveal lung functioning. Radioactive tracers are *noninvasive*, meaning that the doctor can monitor the inside of the body without surgery.

## Magnetic Resonance Imaging

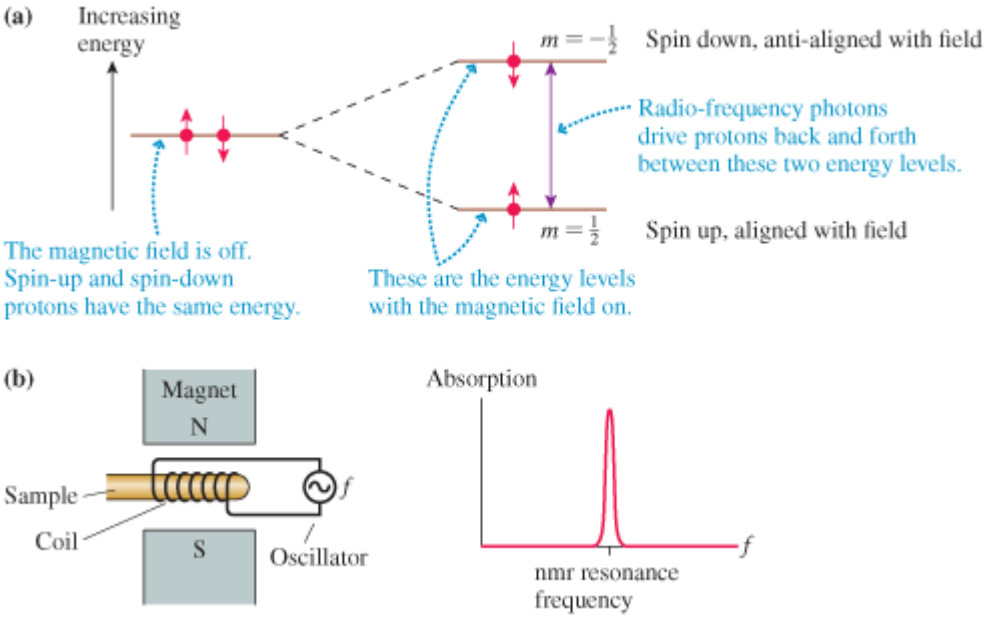
The proton, like the electron, has an inherent angular momentum (spin) and an inherent magnetic moment. You can think of the proton as being like a little compass needle that can be in one of two positions, the positions we call spin-up and spin-down.

Radiation therapy is a beneficial use of nuclear physics.

A compass needle aligns itself with an external magnetic field. This is the needle's lowest-energy position. Turning a compass needle by hand is like rolling a ball uphill; you're giving it energy, but, like the ball rolling downhill, it will realign itself with the lowest-energy position when you remove your finger. There is, however, an *unstable equilibrium* position, like a ball at the top of a hill, in which the needle is anti-aligned with the field. The slightest jostle will cause it to flip around, but the needle will be steady in its upside-down configuration if you can balance it perfectly.

A proton in a magnetic field behaves similarly, but with a major difference: Because the proton's energy is quantized,[1233] the proton cannot assume an intermediate position. It's either aligned with the magnetic field (the spin-up orientation) or anti-aligned (spin-down). Figure 42.26a shows these two quantum states. Turning on a magnetic field lowers the energy of a spin-up proton and increases the energy of an anti-aligned, spin-down proton. In other words, the magnetic field creates an *energy difference* between these states.

## Figure 42.26




Nuclear magnetic resonance is possible because spin-up and spin-down protons have slightly different energies in a magnetic field.

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The energy difference is very tiny, only about $10^{-7}$ eV. Nonetheless, photons whose energy matches the energy difference cause the protons to move back and forth between these two energy levels as the photons are absorbed and emitted. In effect, the photons are causing the proton's spin to flip back and forth rapidly. The photon frequency, which depends on the magnetic field strength, is typically about 100 MHz, similar to FM radio frequencies.

Figure 42.26b shows how this behavior is put to use. A sample containing protons is placed in a magnetic field. A coil is wrapped around the sample, and a variable-frequency AC source drives a current through this coil. The protons absorb power from the coil when its frequency is just right to flip the spin back and forth; otherwise, no power is absorbed. A *resonance* is seen by scanning the coil through a small range of frequencies.

This technique of observing the spin flip of nuclei (the technique also works for nuclei other than hydrogen) in a magnetic field is called

**nuclear magnetic resonance,** or nmr. It has many applications in physics, chemistry, and materials science. Its medical use exploits the fact that tissue is mostly water, and two out of the three nuclei in a water molecule are protons. Thus the human body is basically a sample of protons, with the proton density varying as the tissue density varies.

The medical procedure known as **magnetic resonance imaging,** or **MRI**, places the patient in a spatially varying magnetic field. The variations in the field cause the proton absorption frequency to vary from point to point. From the known shape of the field and measurements of the frequencies that are absorbed, and how strongly, sophisticated computer software can transform the raw data into detailed images such as the one shown in Figure 42.27.

## Figure 42.27

Magnetic resonance imaging shows internal organs in exquisite detail.

As an interesting footnote, the technique was still being called *nuclear magnetic resonance* when it was first introduced into medicine. Unfortunately, doctors soon found that many patients were afraid of it because of the word "nuclear." Hence the alternative term "magnetic resonance imaging" was coined. It is true that the public perception of

nuclear technology is not always positive, but equally true that nuclear physics has made many important and beneficial contributions to society.

### Challenge Example 42.8 A radioactive tracer

An 85 kg patient swallows a 30 $\mu$Ci beta emitter that is to be used as a tracer. The isotope's half-life is 5.0 days. The average energy of the beta particles is 0.35 MeV, and they have an RBE (relative biological effectiveness) of 1.5. Ninety percent of the beta particles are stopped inside the patient's body and 10% escape. What total dose equivalent does this patient receive?

**MODEL** Beta radiation penetrates the body—enough that 10% of the particles escape—so this is a whole-body exposure. Even the escaping particles probably deposit some energy in the body, but we'll assume that the dose is from only those particles that stop inside the body.

**SOLVE** The dose equivalent is the absorbed dose in Gy multiplied by the RBE of 1.5. The absorbed dose is the energy absorbed per kilogram of tissue, so we need to find the total energy absorbed from the time the patient swallows the emitter until it has all decayed. The sample's initial activity $R_0$ is related to the nuclear decay rate $r$ and the initial number of radioactive atoms $N_0$ by $R_0 = rN_0$. Thus the number of radioactive atoms in the sample, all of which are going to decay and emit a beta particle, is

$$N_0 = \frac{R_0}{r} = \tau R_0 = \frac{t_{1/2}}{\ln 2} R_0$$

In developing this relationship, we used first the fact that the lifetime $\tau$ is the inverse of the decay rate, then the connection between the lifetime and the half-life.

The initial activity is given in microcuries. Converting to becquerels, we have

$$\begin{aligned} R_0 &= (30 \times 10^{-6}\,\text{Ci}) \times \frac{3.7 \times 10^{10}\,\text{Bq}}{1\,\text{Ci}} \\ &= 1.1 \times 10^{6}\,\text{Bq} = 1.1 \times 10^{6}\,\text{decays/s} \end{aligned}$$

The half-life in seconds is

$$t_{1/2} = 5.0 \boxed{\text{Unknown node type: span}} \times \frac{86{,}400\,\text{s}}{1\,\text{day}} = 4.3 \times 10^{5}\,\text{s}$$

Thus the total number of beta decays over the course of several weeks, as the sample completely decays, is

$$N_0 = \frac{t_{1/2}}{\ln 2} R_0 = \frac{(4.3 \times 10^{5}\,\text{s})\,(1.1 \times 10^{6}\,\text{decays/s})}{\ln 2} = 6.8 \times 10^{11}$$

Ninety percent of these decays deposit, on average, 0.35 MeV in the body, so the absorbed energy is

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{abs}} &= (0.90)(6.8 \times 10^{11}) \left( (3.5 \times 10^{5}\,\text{eV}) \times \frac{1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{J}}{1\,\text{eV}} \right) \\ &= 0.034\,\text{J} \end{aligned}$$

This is not a lot of energy in an absolute sense, but it is all damaging, ionizing radiation. The absorbed dose is

$$\text{absorbed dose} = \frac{0.034\,\text{J}}{85\,\text{kg}} = 4.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{Gy}$$

and thus the dose equivalent is

$$\text{dose equivalent} = 1.5 \times (4.0 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{Gy}) = 0.60\,\text{mSv}$$

**ASSESS** This dose, typical of many medical uses of radiation, is about 20% of the yearly radiation dose from the natural background. Although one should always avoid unnecessary radiation, this dose would not cause concern if there were a medical reason for it.

# Summary

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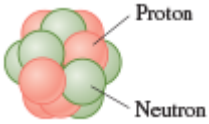
> The goal of Chapter 42 has been to learn about the nucleus and some applications of nuclear physics.

## General Principles

### The Nucleus

The nucleus is a small, dense, positive core at the center of an atom.




$Z$ protons: charge $+e$, spin $\frac{1}{2}$

$N$ neutrons: charge 0, spin $\frac{1}{2}$

The **mass number** is $A = Z + N$.

The nuclear radius is $R = r_0 A^{1/3}$, where $r_0 = 1.2\,\text{fm}$. Typical radii are a few fm.

### Nuclear forces

**Attractive strong force**

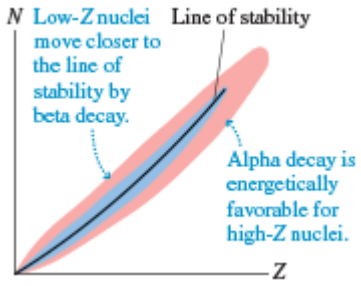
- Acts between any two nucleons
- Is short range, <3 fm
- Is felt between nearest neighbors

**Repulsive electric force**

- Acts between two protons
- Is long range
- Is felt across the nucleus

## Nuclear Stability

Most nuclei are not **stable**. Unstable nuclei undergo **radioactive decay**. Stable nuclei cluster along the **line of stability** in a plot of the isotopes.



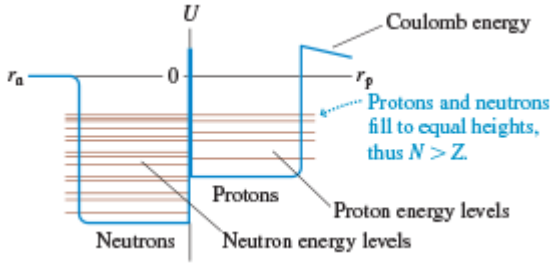

Three mechanisms by which unstable nuclei decay:

| Decay | Particle | Mechanism | Energy | Penetration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $\alpha$ | $^4$He nucleus | tunneling | few MeV | low |
| $\beta$ | $e^-$ | $n \rightarrow p^+ + e^-$ | $\approx$ 1 MeV | medium |
| | $e^+$ | $p^+ \rightarrow n + e^+$ | $\approx$ 1 MeV | medium |
| $\gamma$ | photon | quantum jump | $\approx$ 1 MeV | high |

# Important Concepts

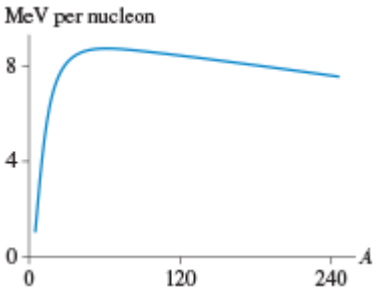
## Shell model

Each nucleon moves with an average potential energy due to all other nucleons.




## Curve of binding energy

The average binding energy per nucleon has a broad maximum at $A \approx 60$.




# Applications

## Radioactive decay

The number of undecayed nuclei decreases exponentially with time $t$:

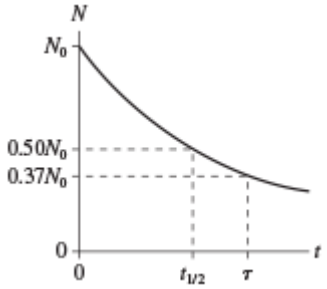
$$\begin{aligned} N &= N_0 \exp\left(-t/\tau\right) \\ &= N_0 (1/2)^{t/t_{1/2}} \end{aligned}$$

The lifetime $\tau$ is $1/r$, where $r$ is the decay rate.

The **half-life**

$t_{1/2} = \tau \ln 2 = 0.693\tau$

is the time in which half of any sample decays.




## Measuring radiation

The **activity** $R = rN$ of a radioactive sample, measured in becquerels or curies, is the number of decays per second.

The **absorbed dose** is measured in grays, where

$$1\ \text{Gy} \equiv 1.00\ \text{J/kg of absorbed energy}$$

The **relative biological effectiveness** (RBE) is the biological effect of a dose relative to the biological effects of x rays.

The **dose equivalent** is measured in Sv, where $\text{Sv} = \text{Gy} \times \text{RBE}$. One Sv of radiation produces the same biological effect regardless of the type of radiation. Dose equivalent is also measured in rem, where $1\,\text{rem} = 0.010\,\text{Sv}$.

# Terms and Notation

nuclear physics

nucleon

atomic number, $Z$

mass number, $A$

neutron number, $N$

isotope

radioactive

stable

natural abundance

isobar

deuterium

liquid-drop model

line of stability

binding energy, $B$

curve of binding energy

strong force

shell model

alpha decay

beta decay

gamma decay

ionizing radiation

Geiger counter

half-life, $t_{1/2}$

activity, $R$

becquerel, Bq

curie, Ci

parent nucleus

daughter nucleus

electron capture

weak interaction

neutrino

decay series

absorbed dose

gray, Gy

relative biological effectiveness (RBE)

dose equivalent

sievert, Sv

rem

nuclear magnetic resonance (nmr)

magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

# Conceptual Questions



**1.** Consider the atoms $^{16}$O, $^{18}$O, $^{18}$F, $^{18}$Ne, and $^{20}$Ne. Some of the following questions may have more than one answer. Give all answers that apply.

- **a.** Which are isotopes?
- **b.** Which are isobars?
- **c.** Which have the same chemical properties?
- **d.** Which have the same number of neutrons?

**2.**

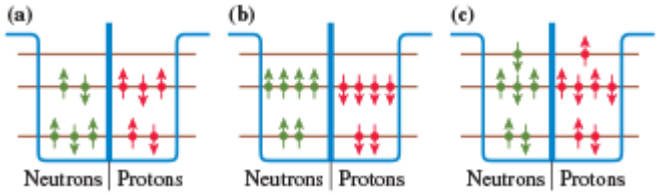
- **a.** Is the binding energy of a nucleus with $A = 200$ more than, less than, or equal to the binding energy of a nucleus with $A = 60$? Explain.
- **b.** Is a nucleus with $A = 200$ more tightly bound, less tightly bound, or bound equally tightly as a nucleus with $A = 60$? Explain.

**3.**

- **a.** How do we know the strong force exists?
- **b.** How do we know the strong force is short range?

**4.** Does each nuclear energy-level diagram in Figure Q42.4 represent a nuclear ground state, an excited nuclear state, or an impossible nucleus? Explain.

**Figure Q42.4**




**5.** Are the following decays possible? If not, why not?

**a.** $^{232}\text{Th}\,(Z = 90) \longrightarrow {}^{236}\text{U}\,(Z = 92) + \alpha$

**b.** $^{238}\text{Pu}\,(Z = 94) \longrightarrow {}^{236}\text{U}\,(Z = 92) + \alpha$

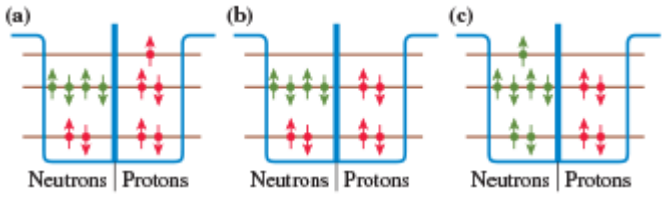
**c.** $^{11}\text{B}\,(Z = 5) \longrightarrow {}^{11}\text{B}\,(Z = 5) + \gamma$

**d.** $^{33}\text{P}\,(Z = 15) \longrightarrow {}^{32}\text{S}\,(Z = 16) + \text{e}^-$

**6.** Nucleus A decays into nucleus B with a half-life of 10 s. At $t = 0$ s, there are 1000 A nuclei and no B nuclei. At what time will there be 750 B nuclei?

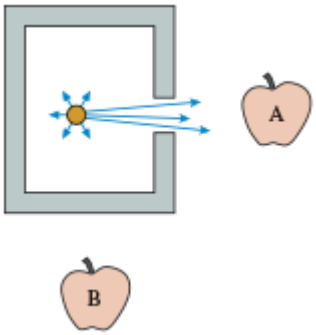
**7.** What kind of decay, if any, can occur for the nuclei in Figure Q42.7?

**Figure Q42.7**




**8.** Apple A in Figure Q42.8 is strongly irradiated by nuclear radiation for 1 hour. Apple B is not irradiated. Afterward, in what ways are apples A and B different?

**Figure Q42.8**




**9.** The three isotopes $^{212}$Po, $^{137}$Cs, and $^{90}$Sr decay as $^{212}\text{Po} \rightarrow {}^{208}\text{Pb} + \alpha$, $^{137}\text{Cs} \rightarrow {}^{137}\text{Ba} + \text{e}^- + \gamma$, and $^{90}\text{Sr} \rightarrow {}^{90}\text{Y} + \text{e}^-$.

Which of these isotopes would be most useful as a biological tracer? Why?

# Exercises and Problems

**See Appendix C for data on atomic masses, isotopic abundance, radioactive decay modes, and half-lives.**

Problems labeled **INT** integrate material from earlier chapters.

## Exercises

### Section 42.1 Nuclear Structure

**1.** • How many protons and how many neutrons are in (a) $^{6}$Li, (b) $^{54}$Cr, (c) $^{54}$Fe, and (d) $^{220}$Rn?

**2.** • How many protons and how many neutrons are in (a) $^{3}$He, (b) $^{32}$P, (c) $^{32}$S, and (d) $^{238}$U?

**3.** • Calculate the nuclear diameters of (a) $^{4}$He, (b) $^{56}$Fe, and (c) $^{238}$U.

**4.** • Calculate the mass, radius, and density of the nucleus of (a) $^{7}$Li and (b) $^{207}$Pb. Give all answers in SI units.

**5.** •• Which stable nuclei have a diameter of 7.46 fm?

### Section 42.2 Nuclear Stability

**6.** • Use data in Appendix C to make your own chart of stable and unstable nuclei, similar to Figure 42.4, for all nuclei with $Z \leq 8$. Use a blue or black dot to represent stable isotopes, a red dot to represent isotopes that undergo beta-minus decay,

and a green dot to represent isotopes that undergo beta-plus decay or electron-capture decay.

**7.** •

**a.** What is the smallest value of $A$ for which there are two stable nuclei? What are they?

**b.** For which values of $A$ less than this are there *no* stable nuclei?

**8.** • Calculate (in MeV) the total binding energy and the binding energy per nucleon for $^{3}$H and for $^{3}$He.

**9.** • Calculate (in MeV) the total binding energy and the binding energy per nucleon for $^{129}$I and for $^{129}$Xe.

**10.** •• Calculate (in MeV) the binding energy per nucleon for $^{3}$He and $^{4}$He. Which is more tightly bound?

**11.** •• Calculate (in MeV) the binding energy per nucleon for $^{14}$O and $^{16}$O. Which is more tightly bound?

**12.** • Calculate the chemical atomic mass of silicon.

## Section 42.3 The Strong Force

**13.** •• **INT** Use the potential-energy diagram in Figure 42.8 to estimate the strength of the strong force between two nucleons separated by 1.5 fm.

**14.** •• **INT** Use the potential-energy diagram in Figure 42.8 to sketch an approximate graph of the strong force between two nucleons versus the distance $r$ between their centers.

**15.** •• **INT** Use the potential-energy diagram in Figure 42.8 to estimate the ratio of the gravitational potential energy to the nuclear potential energy for two neutrons separated by 1.0 fm.

## Section 42.4 The Shell Model

**16.** •

**a.** Draw energy-level diagrams, similar to Figure 42.11, for all $A = 10$ nuclei listed in Appendix C. Show all the occupied neutron and proton levels.

**b.** Which of these nuclei are stable? What is the decay mode of any that are radioactive?

**17.** •

**a.** Draw energy-level diagrams, similar to Figure 42.11, for all $A = 14$ nuclei listed in Appendix C. Show all the occupied neutron and proton levels.

**b.** Which of these nuclei are stable? What is the decay mode of any that are radioactive?

## Section 42.5 Radiation and Radioactivity

**18.** • The barium isotope $^{131}$Ba has a half-life of 12 days. A 250 $\mu$g sample of $^{131}$Ba is prepared. What is the mass of $^{131}$Ba after (a) 1 day, (b) 10 days, and (c) 100 days?

**19.** • The radium isotope $^{226}$Ra has a half-life of 1600 years. A sample begins with $1.00 \times 10^{10}$ $^{226}\text{Ra}$ atoms. How many are left after (a) 200 years, (b) 2000 years, and (c) 20,000 years?

**20.** • A sample of $1.0 \times 10^{10}$ atoms that decay by alpha emission has a half-life of 100 min. How many alpha particles are emitted between $t = 50\,\text{min}$ and $t = 200\,\text{min}$?

**21.** • The radioactive hydrogen isotope $^{3}$H, called *tritium*, has a half-life of 12 years.

**a.** What are the decay mode and the daughter nucleus of tritium?

**b.** What are the lifetime and the decay rate of tritium?

**22.** •• What is the half-life in days of a radioactive sample with $5.0 \times 10^{15}$ atoms and an activity of $5.0 \times 10^{8}$ Bq?

**23.** •• The half-life of $^{60}$Co is 5.27 years. The activity of a $^{60}$Co sample is $3.50 \times 10^9$ Bq. What is the mass of the sample?



## Section 42.6 Nuclear Decay Mechanisms

**24.** • Identify the unknown isotope X in the following decays.

**a.** $\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{224}\mathrm{Ra} + \alpha$

**b.** $\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{207}\mathrm{Pb} + \mathrm{e}^- + \bar{\nu}$

**c.** ${}^{7}\mathrm{Be} + \mathrm{e}^- \rightarrow \mathrm{X} + \nu$

**d.** $\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{60}\mathrm{Ni} + \gamma$

**25.** • Identify the unknown isotope X in the following decays.

**a.** ${}^{230}\mathrm{Th} \rightarrow \mathrm{X} + \alpha$

**b.** ${}^{35}\mathrm{S} \rightarrow \mathrm{X} + \mathrm{e}^- + \bar{\nu}$

**c.** $\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{40}\mathrm{K} + \mathrm{e}^+ + \nu$

**d.** ${}^{24}\mathrm{Na} \rightarrow {}^{24}\mathrm{Mg} + \mathrm{e}^- + \bar{\nu} \rightarrow \mathrm{X} + \gamma$

**26.** •

**a.** What are the isotopic symbols of all $A = 17$ isobars?

**b.** Which of these are stable nuclei?

**c.** For those that are not stable, identify both the decay mode and the daughter nucleus.

**27.** •

**a.** What are the isotopic symbols of all $A = 19$ isobars?

**b.** Which of these are stable nuclei?

**c.** For those that are not stable, identify both the decay mode and the daughter nucleus.

**28.** •• An unstable nucleus undergoes alpha decay with the release of 5.52 MeV of energy. The combined mass of the parent and daughter nuclei is 452 u. What was the mass number of the parent nucleus?

**29.** •• What is the energy (in MeV) released in the alpha decay of $^{239}$Pu?

**30.** • What is the total energy (in MeV) released in the beta-minus decay of $^{24}$Na?

**31.** •• What is the total energy (in MeV) released in the beta-minus decay of $^{3}$H?

**32.** •• What is the total energy (in MeV) released in the beta decay of a neutron?

## Section 42.7 Biological Applications of Nuclear Physics

**33.** • **BIO** The doctors planning a radiation therapy treatment have determined that a 100 g tumor needs to receive 0.20 J of gamma radiation. What is the dose in grays?

**34.** • **BIO** 1.5 Gy of gamma radiation are directed into a 150 g tumor during radiation therapy. How much energy does the tumor absorb?

**35.** • **BIO** How many grays of gamma-ray photons cause the same biological damage as 30 Gy of alpha radiation?

**36.** •• **BIO** A 50 kg laboratory worker is exposed to 20 mJ of beta radiation with $\mathrm{RBE} = 1.5$. What is the dose equivalent in mrem?

# Problems

**37.** •• **INT** Particle accelerators fire protons at target nuclei so that investigators can study the nuclear reactions that occur. In one experiment, the proton needs to have 20 MeV of kinetic energy as it impacts a $^{207}$Pb nucleus. With what initial kinetic energy (in MeV) must the proton be fired toward the lead target? Assume the nucleus stays at rest.

**Hint:** The proton is not a point particle.

**38.** •• **INT**

**a.** What initial speed must an alpha particle have to just touch the surface of a $^{197}$Au gold nucleus before being turned back? Assume the nucleus stays at rest.

**b.** What is the initial energy (in MeV) of the alpha particle?

**Hint:** The alpha particle is not a point particle.

**39.** •• **INT** Stars are powered by nuclear reactions that fuse hydrogen into helium. The fate of many stars, once most of the hydrogen is used up, is to collapse, under gravitational pull, into a *neutron star.* The force of gravity becomes so large that protons and electrons are fused into neutrons in the reaction $\mathrm{p}^+ + \mathrm{e}^- \rightarrow \mathrm{n} + \nu$. The entire star is then a tightly packed ball of neutrons with the density of nuclear matter.

**a.** Suppose the sun collapses into a neutron star. What will its radius be? Give your answer in km.

**b.** The sun's rotation period is now 27 days. What will its rotation period be after it collapses?

Rapidly rotating neutron stars emit pulses of radio waves at the rotation frequency and are known as *pulsars.*

**40.** •• The element gallium has two stable isotopes: $^{69}$Ga with an atomic mass of 68.92 u and $^{71}$Ga with an atomic mass of 70.92 u. A periodic table shows that the chemical atomic mass of gallium is 69.72 u. What is the percent abundance of $^{69}$Ga?

**41.** •• You learned in Chapter 41 that the binding energy of the electron in a hydrogen atom is 13.6 eV.

**a.** By how much does the mass decrease when a hydrogen atom is formed from a proton and an electron? Give

your answer both in atomic mass units and as a percentage of the mass of the hydrogen atom.

**b.** By how much does the mass decrease when a helium nucleus is formed from two protons and two neutrons? Give your answer both in atomic mass units and as a percentage of the mass of the helium nucleus.

**c.** Compare your answers to parts a and b. Why do you hear it said that mass is "lost" in nuclear reactions but not in chemical reactions?

**42.** •• Use the graph of binding energy to estimate the total energy released if three $^{4}$He nuclei fuse together to form a $^{12}$C nucleus.

**43.** •• Use the graph of binding energy to estimate the total energy released if a nucleus with mass number 240 fissions into two nuclei with mass number 120.

**44.** •• Could a $^{56}$Fe nucleus fission into two $^{28}$Al nuclei? Your answer, which should include some calculations, should be based on the curve of binding energy.

**45.** •• **INT** What energy (in MeV) alpha particle has a de Broglie wavelength equal to the diameter of a $^{238}$U nucleus?

**46.** •• The activity of a sample of the cesium isotope $^{137}$Cs, with a half-life of 30 years, is $2.0 \times 10^{8}$ Bq. Many years later, after the sample has fully decayed, how many beta particles will have been emitted?

**47.** •• What is the age in years of a bone in which the $^{14}$C/$^{12}$C ratio is measured to be $1.65 \times 10^{-13}$?

**48.** •• A 1 Ci source of radiation is a significant source. $^{238}$U is an alpha emitter. What mass of $^{238}$U has an activity of 1 Ci?

**49.** •• $^{137}$Cs is a common product of nuclear fission. Suppose an accident spills 550 mCi of $^{137}$Cs in a lab room.

**a.** What mass of $^{137}$Cs is spilled?

**b.** If the spill is not cleaned up, how long will it take until the radiation level drops to an acceptable level, for a room this size, of 25 mCi?

**50.** •• **BIO** A 115 mCi radioactive tracer is made in a nuclear reactor. When it is delivered to a hospital 16 hours later its activity is 95 mCi. The lowest usable level of activity is 10 mCi.

**a.** What is the tracer's half-life?

**b.** For how long after delivery is the sample usable?

**51.** ••• **INT** The radium isotope $^{223}$Ra, an alpha emitter, has a half-life of 11.43 days. You happen to have a 1.0 g cube of $^{223}$Ra, so you decide to use it to boil water for tea. You fill a well-insulated container with 100 mL of water at 18°C and drop in the cube of radium. How long will it take the water to boil?

**52.** •• How many half-lives must elapse until (a) 90% and (b) 99% of a radioactive sample of atoms has decayed?

**53.** •• A sample contains radioactive atoms of two types, A and B. Initially there are five times as many A atoms as there are B atoms. Two hours later, the numbers of the two atoms are equal. The half-life of A is 0.50 hour. What is the half-life of B?

**54.** •• Radioactive isotopes often occur together in mixtures. Suppose a 100 g sample contains $^{131}$Ba, with a half-life of 12 days, and $^{47}$Ca, with a half-life of 4.5 days. If there are initially twice as many calcium atoms as there are barium atoms, what will be the ratio of calcium atoms to barium atoms 2.5 weeks later?

**55.** •• The half-life of the uranium isotope $^{235}$U is 700 million years. The earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old. How much more $^{235}$U was there when the earth formed than there is today? Give your answer as the then-to-now ratio.

**56.** •• **BIO** A chest x ray uses 10 keV photons with an RBE of 0.85. A 60 kg person receives a 0.30 mSv dose from one chest x ray that exposes 25% of the patient's body. How many x ray photons are absorbed in the patient's body?

**57.** •• **BIO** The rate at which a radioactive tracer is lost from a patient's body is the rate at which the isotope decays *plus* the rate at which the element is excreted from the body. Medical experiments have shown that stable isotopes of a particular element are excreted with a 6.0 day half-life. A radioactive isotope of the same element has a half-life of 9.0 days. What is the effective half-life of the isotope, in days, in a patient's body?

**58.** •• **BIO** The plutonium isotope $^{239}$Pu has a half-life of 24,000 years and decays by the emission of a 5.2 MeV alpha particle. Plutonium is not especially dangerous if handled because the activity is low and the alpha radiation doesn't penetrate the skin. However, there are serious health concerns if even the tiniest particles of plutonium are inhaled and lodge deep in the lungs. This could happen following any kind of fire or explosion that disperses plutonium as dust. Let's determine the level of danger.

**a.** Soot particles are roughly 1 $\mu$m in diameter, and it is known that these particles can go deep into the lungs. How many atoms are in a 1.0-$\mu$m-diameter particle of $^{239}$Pu? The density of plutonium is 19,800 kg/m$^3$.

**b.** What is the activity, in Bq, of a 1.0-$\mu$m-diameter particle?

**c.** The activity of the particle is very small, but the penetrating power of alpha particles is also very small. The alpha particles are all stopped, and each deposits its energy in a 50-$\mu$m-diameter sphere around the

particle. What is the dose, in mSv/year, to this small sphere of tissue in the lungs? Assume that the tissue density is that of water.

**d.** Is this exposure likely to be significant? How does it compare to the natural background of radiation exposure?



**59.** •• **BIO** The uranium isotope $^{238}$U is naturally present at low levels in many soils. One of the nuclei in the decay series of $^{238}$U is the radon isotope $^{222}$Rn, which decays by emitting a 5.50 MeV alpha particle with $t_{1/2} = 3.82$ days. Radon is a gas, and it tends to seep from soil into basements. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that homeowners take steps to remove radon, by pumping in fresh air, if the radon activity exceeds 4 pCi per liter of air.

**a.** How many $^{222}$Rn atoms are there in 1 m$^3$ of air if the activity is 4 pCi/L?

**b.** The range of alpha particles in air is ≈ 3. Suppose we model a person as a 180-cm-tall, 25-cm-diameter cylinder with a mass of 65 kg. Only decays within 3 cm of the cylinder can cause exposure, and only ≈ 50% of the decays direct the alpha particle toward the person. Determine the dose in mSv per year for a person who spends the entire year in a room where the activity is 4 pCi/L.

**c.** Does the EPA recommendation seem appropriate? Why?

## Challenge Problems

**60.** ••• The technique known as potassium-argon dating is used to date old lava flows. The potassium isotope $^{40}$K has a 1.28-billion-year half-life and is naturally present at very low levels. $^{40}$K decays by two routes: 89% undergo beta-minus decay into $^{40}$Ca while 11% undergo electron capture to become $^{40}$Ar. Argon is a gas, and there is no argon in flowing lava because the gas escapes. Once the lava solidifies, any argon produced in the decay of $^{40}$K is trapped inside and cannot escape. A geologist brings you a piece of solidified lava in which you find the $^{40}$Ar/$^{40}$K ratio to be 0.013. What is the age of the rock?

**61.** ••• Beta-plus decay is ${}^{A}\mathrm{X}_{Z} \rightarrow {}^{A}\mathrm{Y}_{Z-1} + \mathrm{e}^{+} + v$.

**a.** Determine the mass threshold for beta-plus decay. That is, what is the minimum atomic mass $m_{\mathrm{X}}$ for which this decay is energetically possible? Your answer will be in terms of the atomic mass $m_{\mathrm{Y}}$ and the electron mass $m_{\mathrm{e}}$.

**b.** Can $^{13}$N undergo beta-plus decay into $^{13}$C? If so, how much energy is released in the decay?

**62.** ••• All the very heavy atoms found in the earth were created long ago by nuclear fusion reactions in a supernova, an exploding star. The debris spewed out by the supernova later coalesced into the gases from which the sun and the planets of our solar system were formed. Nuclear physics suggests that the uranium isotopes $^{235}$U and $^{238}$U should have been created in roughly equal numbers. Today, 99.28% of uranium is $^{238}$U and only 0.72% is $^{235}$U. How long ago did the supernova occur?

**63.** ••• Alpha decay occurs when an alpha particle tunnels through the Coulomb barrier. Figure CP42.63 shows a simple one-dimensional model of the potential-energy well of an alpha particle in a nucleus with $A \approx 235$. The 15 fm width of this one-

dimensional potential-energy well is the *diameter* of the nucleus. Further, to keep the model simple, the Coulomb barrier has been modeled as a 20-fm-wide, 30-MeV-high rectangular potential-energy barrier. The goal of this problem is to calculate the half-life of an alpha particle in the energy level $E = 5.0\,\text{MeV}$.

**a.** What is the kinetic energy of the alpha particle while inside the nucleus? What is its kinetic energy after it escapes from the nucleus?

**b.** Consider the alpha particle within the nucleus to be a point particle bouncing back and forth with the kinetic energy you found in part a. What is the particle's *collision rate,* the number of times per second it collides with a wall of the potential?

**c.** What is the tunneling probability $P_{\text{tunnel?}}$

**d.** $P_{\text{tunnel}}$ is the probability that on any one collision with a wall the alpha particle tunnels through instead of reflecting. The probability of *not* tunneling is $1 - P_{\text{tunnel}}$. Hence the probability that the alpha particle is still inside the nucleus after $N$ collisions is $(1-P_{\text{tunnel}})^N \approx 1-NP_{\text{tunnel}}$, where we've used the binomial approximation because $P_{\text{tunnel}} \ll 1$. The half-life is the *time* at which half the nuclei have not yet decayed. Use this to determine (in years) the half-life of the nucleus.

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**Figure CP42.63**

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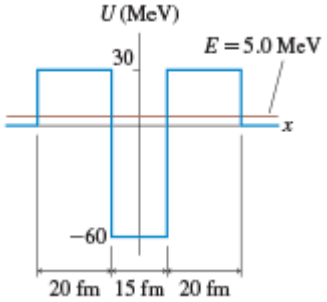



**64.** ••• It might seem strange that in beta decay the positive proton, which is repelled by the positive nucleus, remains in the nucleus while the negative electron, which is attracted to the nucleus, is ejected. To understand beta decay, let's analyze the decay of a free neutron that is at rest in the laboratory. We'll ignore the antineutrino and consider the decay $n \rightarrow p^+ + e^-$. The analysis requires the use of relativistic energy and momentum, from Chapter 36.

**a.** What is the total kinetic energy, in MeV, of the proton and electron?

**b.** Write the equation that expresses the conservation of relativistic energy for this decay. Your equation will be in terms of the three masses $m_n$, $m_p$, and $m_e$ and the relativistic factors $\gamma_p$ and $\gamma_e$.

**c.** Write the equation that expresses the conservation of relativistic momentum for this decay. Let $v$ represent speed, rather than velocity, then write any minus signs explicitly.

**d.** You have two simultaneous equations in the two unknowns $v_p$ and $v_e$. To help in solving these, first prove that $\gamma v = (\gamma^2 - 1)^{1/2} c$.

**e.** Solve for $v_p$ and $v_e$. (It's easiest to solve for $\gamma_p$ and $\gamma_e$, then find $v$ from $\gamma$. First get an algebraic expression for

each, in terms of the masses. Then evaluate each, giving $v$ as a fraction of $c$.

**f.** Calculate the kinetic energy in MeV of the proton and the electron. Verify that their sum matches your answer to part a.

**g.** Now explain why the electron is ejected in beta decay while the proton remains in the nucleus.

# Knowledge Structure Part VIII: Relativity and Quantum Physics

## Key Findings: What are the overarching findings of Part VIII?

Relativity and quantum physics are the cornerstones of modern physics.

- Relativity:
  - Light speed is the same in all inertial reference frames.
  - Space and time are relative.
  - Energy and mass are interchangeable.
- Quantum physics:
  - Light has particle-like properties.
  - Matter has wave-like properties.
  - Quantum systems are described by wave functions.

## Laws: What laws and principles of physics govern relativity and quantum physics?

**Principle of relativity**

All the laws of physics are the same in all inertial reference frames.

**Schrödinger equation**

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}[E - U(x)]\,\psi(x)$$

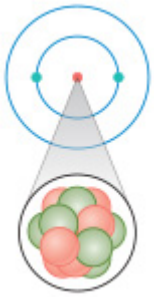
**Pauli exclusion principle**

No more than one electron or nucleon can occupy the same quantum state.

# Models: What are the most important models used in quantum physics?

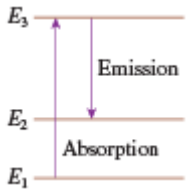
## Atomic model

- A tiny, dense, positive nucleus is surrounded by negative electrons.
- The electrons can occupy only certain stationary states. The lowest-energy stationary state is the ground state.
- The nucleus consists of protons and neutrons—called nucleons—held together by the strong force.



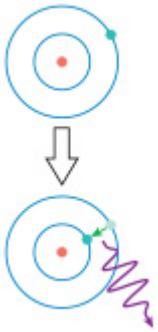
## Other models

- In quantum mechanics, a stationary state is described by a wave function. The square of the wave function is the probability density for finding the particle in a specific region of space. Energy is quantized and shown on an energy-level diagram.



### Photon model

- Light consists of discrete, massless photons that travel in vacuum at the speed of light.
- A photon has energy $E = hf$.
- Photons are emitted and absorbed on an all-or-nothing basis when a quantum system jumps from one energy level to another.



- Quantum models we analyzed:
  - A particle in a rigid box
  - A particle in a finite well
  - A quantum harmonic oscillator
  - A covalent bond

## Tools: What are the most important tools introduced in Part VIII?

### Relativity

- Space and time depend on the motion of experimenters relative to events.
  - Time dilation: $\Delta t = \Delta\tau/\sqrt{1-\beta^2}$
  - Length contraction: $L = \sqrt{1-\beta^2}\ell$
- Mass and energy are interchangeable.

- Total energy: $\mathrm{E} = \gamma_\mathrm{p} mc^2 = E_0 + K$
- Rest energy: $E_0 = mc^2$

## Light and matter

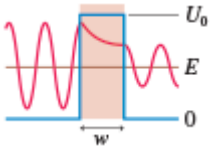
- Photon energy is $E = hf = hc\,/\,\lambda$.
- The de Broglie wavelength is $\lambda = h/mv$.
- The particle-in-a-box energy levels are

$$E_n = n^2 \frac{h^2}{8mL^2}$$

## Quantum mechanics

- A particle is described by its wave function $\psi(x)$.
  - $p(x) = |\,\psi(x)\,|^2$ is the probability density for finding the particle.
  - The probability of finding a particle in the interval $x_\mathrm{L} \leq x \leq x_\mathrm{R}$ is

$$\mathrm{prob} = \int_{x_\mathrm{L}}^{x_\mathrm{R}} |\psi(x)|^2 dx$$




- The probability of tunneling through a barrier of width $w$ is

$$P_\mathrm{tunnel} = e^{-2w/\eta}$$

  where the penetration distance is

$$\eta = \hbar / \sqrt{2m\,(U_0 - E)}$$

- Heisenberg uncertainty is $\Delta x\, \Delta p \geq h/2$.

## Atoms and nuclei

- Atomic energies (except for hydrogen) depend on quantum numbers $n$ and $l$.
  - Hydrogen energies: $E_n = -13.60/n^2$ eV.
  - The Pauli exclusion principle predicts the ground-state electron configuration.
  - A photon with $E_{\text{photon}} = \Delta E_{\text{atom}}$ is absorbed or emitted in a quantum jump.
- Excited-state and unstable-nuclei populations decrease exponentially with time:

$$N = N_0 e^{-t/\tau} = N_0 \left(\tfrac{1}{2}\right)^{t/t_{1/2}}$$

  $\tau$ is the lifetime and $t_{1/2} = \tau \ln 2$ is the half-life.
- Nuclear decay modes are:
  - Alpha: Emission of a $^4$He nucleus.
  - Beta: Emission of an electron or positron.
  - Gamma: Emission of a photon.

# Appendix A
# Mathematics Review



## Algebra

### Using exponents:

$$a^{-x} = \frac{1}{a^x}$$

$$a^x a^y = a^{(x+y)}$$

$$\frac{a^x}{a^y} = a^{(x-y)}$$

$$(a^x)^y = a^{xy}$$

$$a^0 = 1$$

$$a^1 = a$$

$$a^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a}$$

### Fractions:

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)\left(\frac{c}{d}\right) = \frac{ac}{bd}$$

$$\frac{a/b}{c/d} = \frac{ad}{bc}$$

$$\frac{1}{1/a} = a$$

### Logarithms:

If $a = e^x$, then $\ln(a) = x$

$\ln(e^x) = x$

$e^{\ln(x)} = x$

$\ln(ab) = \ln(a) + \ln(b)$

$\ln\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = \ln(a) - \ln(b)$

$\ln(a^n) = n\ln(a)$

The expression $\ln(a + b)$ cannot be simplified.

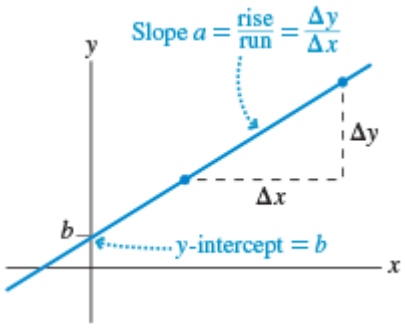
## Linear equations:

The graph of the equation $y = ax + b$ is a straight line. $a$ is the slope of the graph. $b$ is the $y$-intercept.

## Proportionality:

To say that $y$ is proportional to $x$, written $y \propto x$, means that $y = ax$, where $a$ is a constant. Proportionality is a special case of linearity. A graph of a proportional relationship is a straight line that passes through the origin. If $y \propto x$, then

$$\frac{y_1}{y_2} = \frac{x_1}{x_2}$$



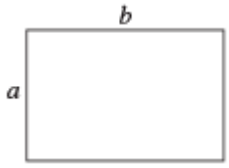
## Quadratic equation:

The quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ has the two solutions $x = \dfrac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

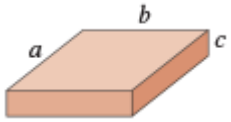
# Geometry and Trigonometry

## Area and volume:

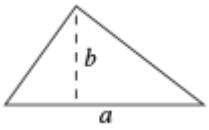
Rectangle $A = ab$



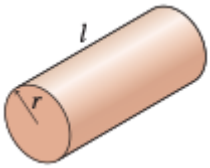

Rectangular box $V = abc$




Triangle $A = \dfrac{1}{2}ab$

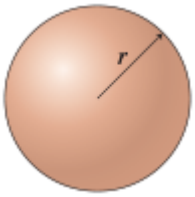



Right circular cylinder $V = \pi r^2 l$



Circle $C = 2\pi r$
$A = \pi r^2$

Sphere $A = 4\pi r^2$
$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

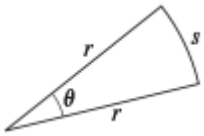



## Arc length and angle:

The angle $\theta$ in radians is defined as $\theta = s/r$.

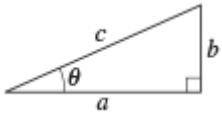
The arc length that spans angle $\theta$ is $s = r\theta$.

$2\pi\,\text{rad} = 360^\circ$




## Right triangle:

Pythagorean theorem $c = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ or $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$




$\sin\theta = \frac{b}{c} = \frac{\text{far side}}{\text{hypotenuse}}$ $\theta = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{b}{c}\right)$

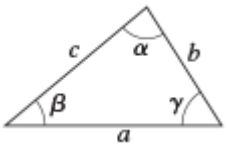
$$\cos\theta = \frac{a}{c} = \frac{\text{adjacent side}}{\text{hypotenuse}} \qquad \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{a}{c}\right)$$

$$\tan\theta = \frac{b}{a} = \frac{\text{far side}}{\text{adjacent side}} \qquad \theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)$$

## General triangle:

$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 180^\circ = \pi \text{ rad}$

Law of cosines $c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab\cos\gamma$




## Identities:

$$\tan\alpha = \frac{\sin\alpha}{\cos\alpha}$$

$$\sin^2\alpha + \cos^2\alpha = 1$$

$$\sin(-\alpha) = -\sin\alpha$$

$$\cos(-\alpha) = \cos\alpha$$

$$\sin(\alpha \pm \beta) = \sin\alpha\cos\beta \pm \cos\alpha\sin\beta \qquad \text{A-2}$$

$$\cos(\alpha \pm \beta) = \cos\alpha\cos\beta \mp \sin\alpha\sin\beta$$

$$\sin(2\alpha) = 2\sin\alpha\cos\alpha$$

$$\cos(2\alpha) = \cos^2\alpha - \sin^2\alpha$$

$$\sin(\alpha \pm \pi/2) = \pm\cos\alpha$$

$$\cos(\alpha \pm \pi/2) = \mp\sin\alpha$$

$$\sin(\alpha \pm \pi) = -\sin\alpha$$

$$\cos(\alpha \pm \pi) = -\cos\alpha$$

# Expansions and Approximations

## Binomial expansion:

$$(1+x)^n = 1 + nx + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}x^2 + \cdots$$

## Binomial approximation:

$$(1+x)^n \approx 1 + nx \quad \text{if} \quad x \ll 1$$

## Trigonometric expansions:

$$\sin\alpha = \alpha - \frac{\alpha^3}{3!} + \frac{\alpha^5}{5!} - \frac{\alpha^7}{7!} + \cdots \text{ for } \alpha \text{ in rad} \qquad \text{A-3}$$

$$\cos\alpha = 1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2!} + \frac{\alpha^4}{4!} - \frac{\alpha^6}{6!} + \cdots \text{ for } \alpha \text{ in rad}$$

## Small-angle approximation:

If $\alpha \ll 1$ rad, then $\sin\alpha \approx \tan\alpha \approx \alpha$ and $\cos\alpha \approx 1$.

The small-angle approximation is excellent for $\alpha < 5^\circ$ ($\approx 0.1$ rad) and generally acceptable up to $\alpha \approx 10^\circ$.

# Calculus

The letters *a* and *n* represent constants in the following derivatives and integrals.

## Derivatives

$$\frac{d}{dx}(a) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(ax)) = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(ax) = a$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^{ax}) = ae^{ax}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{a}{x}\right) = -\frac{a}{x^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin(ax)) = a\cos(ax)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(ax^n) = anx^{n-1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos(ax)) = -a\sin(ax)$$

## Integrals

$$\int x\,dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2$$

$$\int x^2\,dx = \frac{1}{3}x^3$$

$$\int \frac{1}{x^2}\,dx = -\frac{1}{x}$$

$$\int x^n\,dx = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} \quad n \neq 1$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{x} = \ln x$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{a+x} = \ln(a+x)$$

$$\int \frac{x\,dx}{a+x} = x - a\ln\left(a+x\right)$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2 \pm a^2}} = \ln\left(x + \sqrt{x^2 \pm a^2}\right)$$

$$\int \frac{x\,dx}{\sqrt{x^2 \pm a^2}} = \sqrt{x^2 \pm a^2}$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{x^2 + a^2} = \frac{1}{a}\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\left(x^2 + a^2\right)^2} = \frac{1}{2a^3}\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) + \frac{x}{2a^2\left(x^2 + a^2\right)}$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\left(x^2 \pm a^2\right)^{3/2}} = \frac{\pm x}{a^2\sqrt{x^2 \pm a^2}}$$

$$\int \frac{x\,dx}{\left(x^2 \pm a^2\right)^{3/2}} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 \pm a^2}}$$

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

$$\int xe^{-x}\,dx = -\left(x+1\right)e^{-x}$$

$$\int x^2e^{-x}\,dx = -\left(x^2 + 2x + 2\right)e^{-x}$$

$$\int \sin\left(ax\right)\,dx = -\frac{1}{a}\cos\left(ax\right)$$

$$\int \cos\left(ax\right)\,dx = \frac{1}{a}\sin\left(ax\right)$$

$$\int \sin^2\left(ax\right)\,dx = \frac{x}{2} - \frac{\sin\left(2ax\right)}{4a}$$

$$\int \cos^2\left(ax\right)\,dx = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sin\left(2ax\right)}{4a}$$

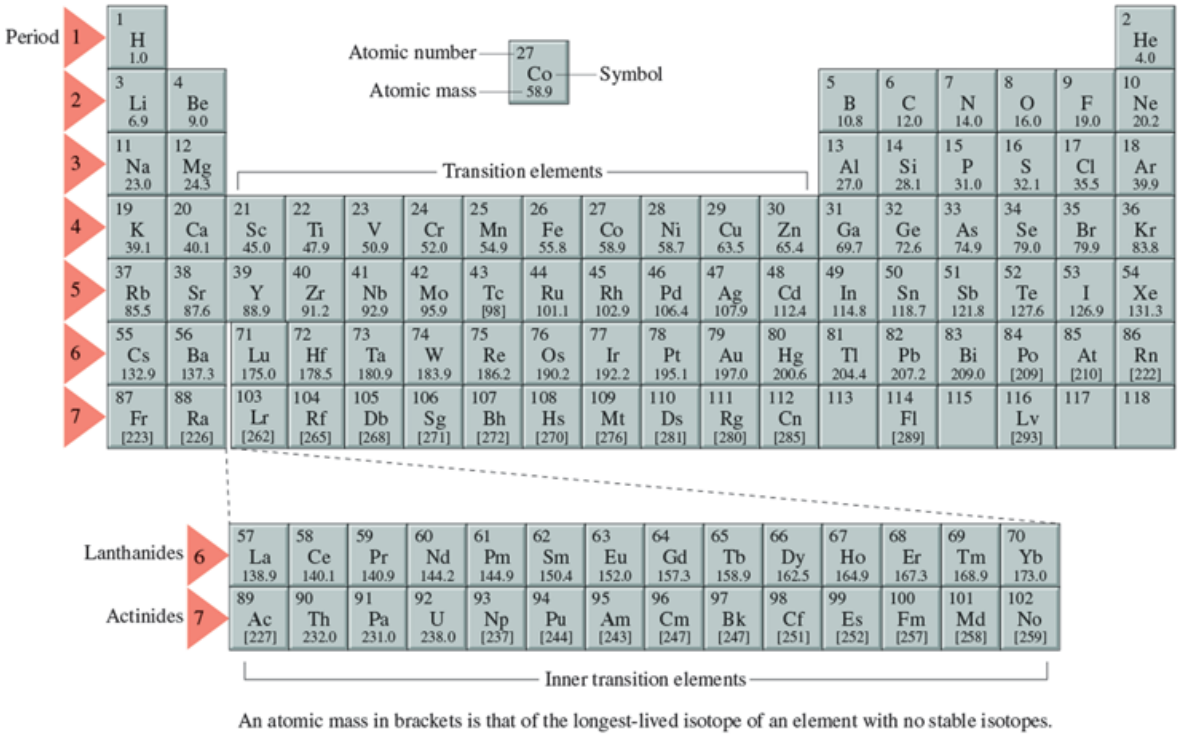
$$\int_0^\infty x^n e^{-ax}\,dx = \frac{n!}{a^{n+1}}$$

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2}\,dx = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$$

# Appendix B



# Periodic Table of Elements




An atomic mass in brackets is that of the longest-lived isotope of an element with no stable isotopes.

# Appendix C
# Atomic and Nuclear Data



| Atomic Number ($Z$) | Element | Symbol | Mass Number ($A$) | Atomic Mass (u) | Percent Abundance | Decay Mode | Half-Life $t_{1/2}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | (Neutron) | n | 1 | 1.008 665 | | $\beta^-$ | 10.4 min |
| 1 | Hydrogen | H | 1 | 1.007 825 | 99.985 | stable | |
| | Deuterium | D | 2 | 2.014 102 | 0.015 | stable | |
| | Tritium | T | 3 | 3.016 049 | | $\beta^-$ | 12.33 yr |
| 2 | Helium | He | 3 | 3.016 029 | 0.000 1 | stable | |
| | | | 4 | 4.002 602 | 99.999 9 | stable | |
| | | | 6 | 6.018 886 | | $\beta^-$ | 0.81 s |
| 3 | Lithium | Li | 6 | 6.015 121 | 7.50 | stable | |
| | | | 7 | 7.016 003 | 92.50 | stable | |
| | | | 8 | 8.022 486 | | $\beta^-$ | 0.84 s |
| 4 | Beryllium | Be | 7 | 7.016 928 | | EC | 53.3 days |
| | | | 9 | 9.012 174 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 10 | 10.013 534 | | $\beta^-$ | $1.5 \times 10^6$ yr |
| 5 | Boron | B | 10 | 10.012 936 | 19.90 | stable | |
| | | | 11 | 11.009 305 | 80.10 | stable | |
| | | | 12 | 12.014 352 | | $\beta^-$ | 0.020 2 s |
| 6 | Carbon | C | 10 | 10.016 854 | | $\beta^+$ | 19.3 s |
| | | | 11 | 11.011 433 | | $\beta^+$ | 20.4 min |
| | | | 12 | 12.000 000 | 98.90 | stable | |
| | | | 13 | 13.003 355 | 1.10 | stable | |
| | | | 14 | 14.003 242 | | $\beta^-$ | 5 730 yr |
| | | | 15 | 15.010 599 | | $\beta^-$ | 2.45 s |
| 7 | Nitrogen | N | 12 | 12.018 613 | | $\beta^+$ | 0.011 0 s |
| | | | 13 | 13.005 738 | | $\beta^+$ | 9.96 min |
| | | | 14 | 14.003 074 | 99.63 | stable | |
| | | | 15 | 15.000 108 | 0.37 | stable | |
| | | | 16 | 16.006 100 | | $\beta^-$ | 7.13 s |
| | | | 17 | 17.008 450 | | $\beta^-$ | 4.17 s |
| 8 | Oxygen | O | 14 | 14.008 595 | | EC | 70.6 s |
| | | | 15 | 15.003 065 | | $\beta^+$ | 122 s |
| | | | 16 | 15.994 915 | 99.76 | stable | |
| | | | 17 | 16.999 132 | 0.04 | stable | |
| | | | 18 | 17.999 160 | 0.20 | stable | |
| | | | 19 | 19.003 577 | | $\beta^-$ | 26.9 s |
| 9 | Fluorine | F | 17 | 17.002 094 | | EC | 64.5 s |
| | | | 18 | 18.000 937 | | $\beta^+$ | 109.8 min |
| | | | 19 | 18.998 404 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 20 | 19.999 982 | | $\beta^-$ | 11.0 s |
| 10 | Neon | Ne | 19 | 19.001 880 | | $\beta^+$ | 17.2 s |
| | | | 20 | 19.992 435 | 90.48 | stable | |
| | | | 21 | 20.993 841 | 0.27 | stable | |
| | | | 22 | 21.991 383 | 9.25 | stable | |

| Atomic Number ($Z$) | Element | Symbol | Mass Number ($A$) | Atomic Mass (u) | Percent Abundance | Decay Mode | Half-Life $t_{1/2}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Sodium | Na | 22 | 21.994 434 | | $\beta^+$ | 2.61 yr |
| | | | 23 | 22.989 770 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 24 | 23.990 961 | | $\beta^-$ | 14.96 hr |
| 12 | Magnesium | Mg | 24 | 23.985 042 | 78.99 | stable | |
| | | | 25 | 24.985 838 | 10.00 | stable | |
| | | | 26 | 25.982 594 | 11.01 | stable | |
| 13 | Aluminum | Al | 27 | 26.981 538 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 28 | 27.981 910 | | $\beta^-$ | 2.24 min |
| 14 | Silicon | Si | 28 | 27.976 927 | 92.23 | stable | |
| | | | 29 | 28.976 495 | 4.67 | stable | |
| | | | 30 | 29.973 770 | 3.10 | stable | |
| | | | 31 | 30.975 362 | | $\beta^-$ | 2.62 hr |
| 15 | Phosphorus | P | 30 | 29.978 307 | | $\beta^+$ | 2.50 min |
| | | | 31 | 30.973 762 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 32 | 31.973 908 | | $\beta^-$ | 14.26 days |
| 16 | Sulfur | S | 32 | 31.972 071 | 95.02 | stable | |
| | | | 33 | 32.971 459 | 0.75 | stable | |
| | | | 34 | 33.967 867 | 4.21 | stable | |
| | | | 35 | 34.969 033 | | $\beta^-$ | 87.5 days |
| | | | 36 | 35.967 081 | 0.02 | stable | |
| 17 | Chlorine | Cl | 35 | 34.968 853 | 75.77 | stable | |
| | | | 36 | 35.968 307 | | $\beta^-$ | $3.0 \times 10^5$ yr |
| | | | 37 | 36.965 903 | 24.23 | stable | |
| 18 | Argon | Ar | 36 | 35.967 547 | 0.34 | stable | |
| | | | 38 | 37.962 732 | 0.06 | stable | |
| | | | 39 | 38.964 314 | | $\beta^-$ | 269 yr |
| | | | 40 | 39.962 384 | 99.60 | stable | |
| | | | 42 | 41.963 049 | | $\beta^-$ | 33 yr |
| 19 | Potassium | K | 39 | 38.963 708 | 93.26 | stable | |
| | | | 40 | 39.964 000 | 0.01 | $\beta^+$ | $1.28 \times 10^9$ yr |
| | | | 41 | 40.961 827 | 6.73 | stable | |
| 20 | Calcium | Ca | 40 | 39.962 591 | 96.94 | stable | |
| | | | 42 | 41.958 618 | 0.64 | stable | |
| | | | 43 | 42.958 767 | 0.13 | stable | |
| | | | 44 | 43.955 481 | 2.08 | stable | |
| | | | 47 | 46.954 547 | | $\beta^-$ | 4.5 days |
| | | | 48 | 47.952 534 | 0.18 | stable | |
| 24 | Chromium | Cr | 50 | 49.946 047 | 4.34 | stable | |
| | | | 52 | 51.940 511 | 83.79 | stable | |
| | | | 53 | 52.940 652 | 9.50 | stable | |
| | | | 54 | 53.938 883 | 2.36 | stable | |
| 26 | Iron | Fe | 54 | 53.939 613 | 5.9 | stable | |
| | | | 55 | 54.938 297 | | EC | 2.7 yr |
| | | | 56 | 55.934 940 | 91.72 | stable | |
| | | | 57 | 56.935 396 | 2.1 | stable | |
| | | | 58 | 57.933 278 | 0.28 | stable | |

| Atomic Number ($Z$) | Element | Symbol | Mass Number ($A$) | Atomic Mass (u) | Percent Abundance | Decay Mode | Half-Life $t_{1/2}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | Cobalt | Co | 59 | 58.933 198 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 60 | 59.933 820 | | $\beta^-$ | 5.27 yr |
| 28 | Nickel | Ni | 58 | 57.935 346 | 68.08 | stable | |
| | | | 60 | 59.930 789 | 26.22 | stable | |
| | | | 61 | 60.931 058 | 1.14 | stable | |
| | | | 62 | 61.928 346 | 3.63 | stable | |
| | | | 64 | 63.927 967 | 0.92 | stable | |
| 29 | Copper | Cu | 63 | 62.929 599 | 69.17 | stable | |
| | | | 65 | 64.927 791 | 30.83 | stable | |
| 47 | Silver | Ag | 107 | 106.905 091 | 51.84 | stable | |
| | | | 109 | 108.904 754 | 48.16 | stable | |
| 48 | Cadmium | Cd | 106 | 105.906 457 | 1.25 | stable | |
| | | | 109 | 108.904 984 | | EC | 462 days |
| | | | 110 | 109.903 004 | 12.49 | stable | |
| | | | 111 | 110.904 182 | 12.80 | stable | |
| | | | 112 | 111.902 760 | 24.13 | stable | |
| | | | 113 | 112.904 401 | 12.22 | stable | |
| | | | 114 | 113.903 359 | 28.7 | stable | |
| | | | 116 | 115.904 755 | 7.49 | stable | |
| 53 | Iodine | I | 127 | 126.904 474 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 129 | 128.904 984 | | $\beta^-$ | $1.6 \times 10^7$ yr |
| | | | 131 | 130.906 124 | | $\beta^-$ | 8 days |
| 54 | Xenon | Xe | 128 | 127.903 531 | 1.9 | stable | |
| | | | 129 | 128.904 779 | 26.4 | stable | |
| | | | 130 | 129.903 509 | 4.1 | stable | |
| | | | 131 | 130.905 069 | 21.2 | stable | |
| | | | 132 | 131.904 141 | 26.9 | stable | |
| | | | 133 | 132.905 906 | | $\beta^-$ | 5.4 days |
| | | | 134 | 133.905 394 | 10.4 | stable | |
| | | | 136 | 135.907 215 | 8.9 | stable | |
| 55 | Cesium | Cs | 133 | 132.905 436 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 137 | 136.907 078 | | $\beta^-$ | 30 yr |
| 56 | Barium | Ba | 131 | 130.906 931 | | EC | 12 days |
| | | | 133 | 132.905 990 | | EC | 10.5 yr |
| | | | 134 | 133.904 492 | 2.42 | stable | |
| | | | 135 | 134.905 671 | 6.59 | stable | |
| | | | 136 | 135.904 559 | 7.85 | stable | |
| | | | 137 | 136.905 816 | 11.23 | stable | |
| | | | 138 | 137.905 236 | 71.70 | stable | |
| 79 | Gold | Au | 197 | 196.966 543 | 100 | stable | |
| 81 | Thallium | Tl | 203 | 202.972 320 | 29.524 | stable | |
| | | | 205 | 204.974 400 | 70.476 | stable | |
| | | | 207 | 206.977 403 | | $\beta^-$ | 4.77 min |
| 82 | Lead | Pb | 204 | 203.973 020 | 1.4 | stable | |
| | | | 205 | 204.974 457 | | EC | $1.5 \times 10^7$ yr |

| Atomic Number ($Z$) | Element | Symbol | Mass Number ($A$) | Atomic Mass (u) | Percent Abundance | Decay Mode | Half-Life $t_{1/2}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 206 | 205.974 440 | 24.1 | stable | |
| | | | 207 | 206.975 871 | 22.1 | stable | |
| | | | 208 | 207.976 627 | 52.4 | stable | |
| | | | 210 | 209.984 163 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 22.3 yr |
| | | | 211 | 210.988 734 | | $\beta^-$ | 36.1 min |
| 83 | Bismuth | Bi | 208 | 207.979 717 | | EC | $3.7 \times 10^5$ yr |
| | | | 209 | 208.980 374 | 100 | stable | |
| | | | 211 | 210.987 254 | | $\alpha$ | 2.14 min |
| | | | 215 | 215.001 836 | | $\beta^-$ | 7.4 min |
| 84 | Polonium | Po | 209 | 208.982 405 | | $\alpha$ | 102 yr |
| | | | 210 | 209.982 848 | | $\alpha$ | 138.38 days |
| | | | 215 | 214.999 418 | | $\alpha$ | 0.001 8 s |
| | | | 218 | 218.008 965 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 3.10 min |
| 85 | Astatine | At | 218 | 218.008 685 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 1.6 s |
| | | | 219 | 219.011 294 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 0.9 min |
| 86 | Radon | Rn | 219 | 219.009 477 | | $\alpha$ | 3.96 s |
| | | | 220 | 220.011 369 | | $\alpha$ | 55.6 s |
| | | | 222 | 222.017 571 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 3.823 days |
| 87 | Francium | Fr | 223 | 223.019 733 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 22 min |
| 88 | Radium | Ra | 223 | 223.018 499 | | $\alpha$ | 11.43 days |
| | | | 224 | 224.020 187 | | $\alpha$ | 3.66 days |
| | | | 226 | 226.025 402 | | $\alpha$ | 1 600 yr |
| | | | 228 | 228.031 064 | | $\beta^-$ | 5.75 yr |
| 89 | Actinium | Ac | 227 | 227.027 749 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 21.77 yr |
| | | | 228 | 228.031 015 | | $\beta^-$ | 6.15 hr |
| 90 | Thorium | Th | 227 | 227.027 701 | | $\alpha$ | 18.72 days |
| | | | 228 | 228.028 716 | | $\alpha$ | 1.913 yr |
| | | | 229 | 229.031 757 | | $\alpha$ | 7 300 yr |
| | | | 230 | 230.033 127 | | $\alpha$ | 75.000 yr |
| | | | 231 | 231.036 299 | | $\alpha, \beta^-$ | 25.52 hr |
| | | | 232 | 232.038 051 | 100 | $\alpha$ | $1.40 \times 10^{10}$ yr |
| | | | 234 | 234.043 593 | | $\beta^-$ | 24.1 days |
| 91 | Protactinium | Pa | 231 | 231.035 880 | | $\alpha$ | 32.760 yr |
| | | | 234 | 234.043 300 | | $\beta^-$ | 6.7 hr |
| 92 | Uranium | U | 233 | 233.039 630 | | $\alpha$ | $1.59 \times 10^5$ yr |
| | | | 234 | 234.040 946 | | $\alpha$ | $2.45 \times 10^5$ yr |
| | | | 235 | 235.043 924 | 0.72 | $\alpha$ | $7.04 \times 10^8$ yr |
| | | | 236 | 236.045 562 | | $\alpha$ | $2.34 \times 10^7$ yr |
| | | | 238 | 238.050 784 | 99.28 | $\alpha$ | $4.47 \times 10^9$ yr |
| 93 | Neptunium | Np | 236 | 236.046 560 | | EC | $1.15 \times 10^5$ yr |
| | | | 237 | 237.048 168 | | $\alpha$ | $2.14 \times 10^6$ yr |
| 94 | Plutonium | Pu | 238 | 238.049 555 | | $\alpha$ | 87.7 yr |
| | | | 239 | 239.052 157 | | $\alpha$ | $2.412 \times 10^4$ yr |
| | | | 240 | 240.053 808 | | $\alpha$ | 6 560 yr |
| | | | 242 | 242.058 737 | | $\alpha$ | $3.73 \times 10^6$ yr |

# Answers

## Answers to Stop to Think Questions and Odd-Numbered Exercises and Problems

### Chapter 1

#### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **B.** The images of B are farther apart, so it travels a larger distance than does A during the same intervals of time.

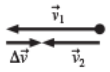
**2.** **a.** Dropped ball.

**b.** Dust particle.

**c.** Descending rocket.

**3.** **e.** The average velocity vector is found by connecting one dot in the motion diagram to the next.

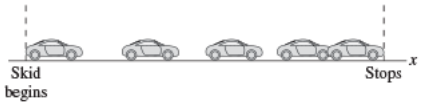
**4.** **b.** $\vec{v}_2 = \vec{v}_1 + \Delta\vec{v}$, and $\Delta\vec{v}$ points in the direction of $\vec{a}$.



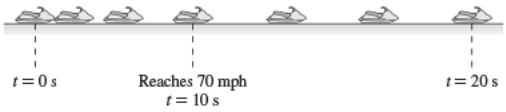

**5.** **d > c > b = a.**

#### Exercises and Problems

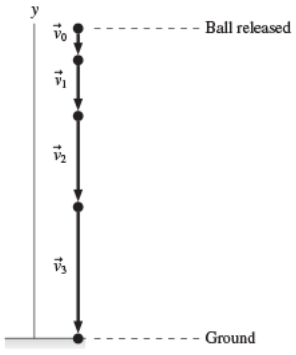
**1.**




**3.**

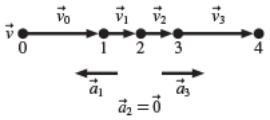



**5.**

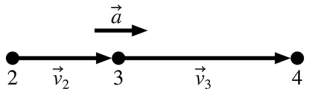


Processing math: 48%

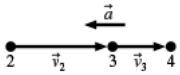
**9.**



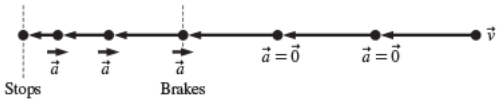

**11.** **a.**



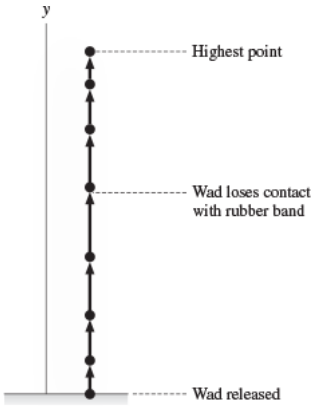

**b.**



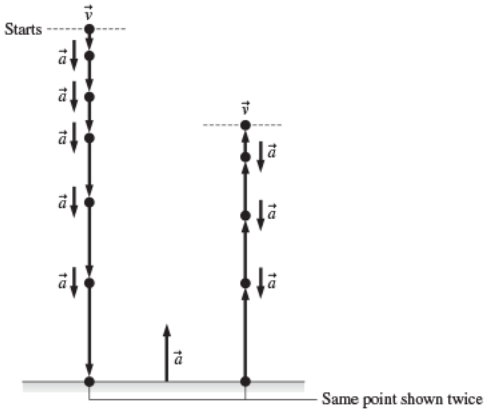

**13.**



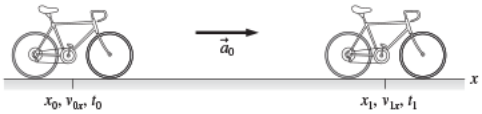

**15.**




**17.**




**21.**




Known

$v_{0x} = 0$ m/s $t_0 = 0$ s $x_0 = 0$ m

$a_{0x} = 1.5$ m/s$^2$

$v_{1x} = 7.5$ m/s

Find

$x_1$

Processing math: 48%

**23.** **a.** 1

**b.** 3

**c.** 2

**d.** 5

**25.** **a.** 1.9 m

**b.** $1.09 \times 10^{14}$ s

**c.** $2.2 \times 10^{-14}$ m/s

**d.** $5.7 \times 10^{10}$ m$^2$

**27.** **a.** 7 m

**b.** 100,000 m

**c.** 30 m/s

**d.** 0.2 m

**29.** **a.** 32,590

**b.** 9.0

**c.** 0.237

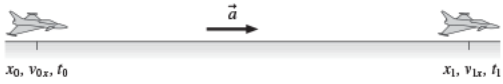
**d.** 4.78

**31.** **a.** 15 m

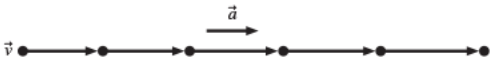
**33.** 32 ms

**35.**

**Pictorial representation**




**Motion diagram**




Known

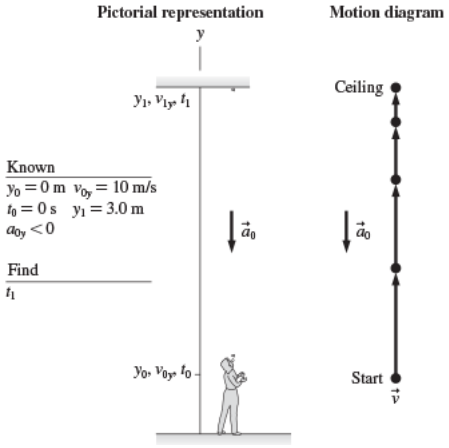
| | |
|---|---|
| $x_0 = 0$ m | $x_1 = 4$ km |
| $v_{0x} = 300$ m/s | $t_0 = 0$ s |

Find

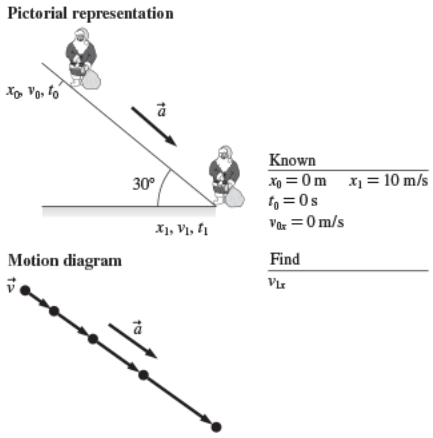
$a_x$

**37.**

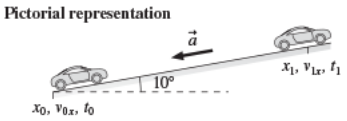
Processing math: 48%

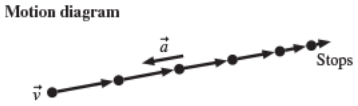



**39.**




**41.**

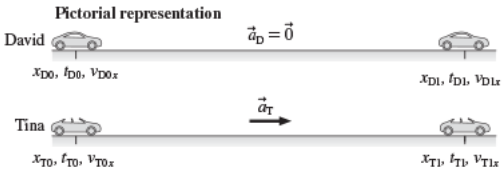


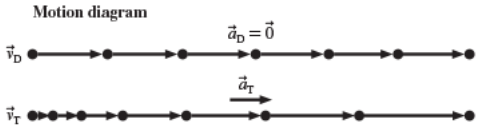




Known
$x_0 = 0$ m $v_{1x} = 0$ m/s
$t_0 = 0$ s
$v_{0x} = 30$ m/s

Find
$x_1$

**43.**



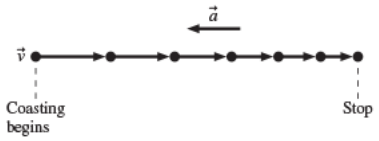




Known
$x_{D0} = 0$ m $x_{T0} = 0$ m
$t_{D0} = 0$ s $t_{T0} = 0$ s
$v_{D0x} = 30$ m/s $v_{T0x} = 0$ m/s
$a_{D0x} = 0$ m/s$^2$
$a_T = 2.0$ m/s$^2$

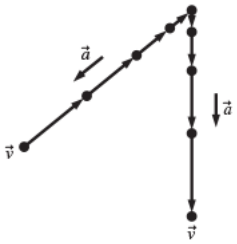
Find
$x_{T1}$

Processing math: 48%

**49.** **a.**




**51.** **a.**




**53.** Smallest: $6.4 \times 10^3\ \text{m}^2$, largest: $8.3 \times 10^3\ \text{m}^2$

**55.** $2.9 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}^3$

**57.** **a.** $83.3\ \text{kg/m}^3$

**b.** 810 Kg/m$^3$

## Chapter 2

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **d.** The particle starts with positive $x$ and moves to negative $x$.

**2.** **c.** The velocity is the slope of the position graph. The slope is positive and constant until the position graph crosses the axis, then positive but decreasing, and finally zero when the position graph is horizontal.

**3.** **b.** A constant positive $v_x$ corresponds to a linearly increasing $x$, starting from $x_i = -10\ \text{m}$. The constant negative $v_x$ then corresponds to a linearly decreasing $x$.

**4.** **a** and **b.** The velocity is constant while $a = 0$; it decreases linearly while $a$ is negative. Graphs a, b, and c all have the same acceleration, but only graphs a and b have a positive initial velocity that represents a particle moving to the right.

**5.** **d.** The acceleration vector points downhill (negative $s$-direction) and has the constant value $-g \sin\theta$ throughout the motion.

**6.** **c.** Acceleration is the slope of the graph. The slope is zero at B. Although the graph is steepest at A, the slope at that point is negative, and so $a_A < a_B$. Only C has a positive slope, so $a_C > a_B$.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** Beth

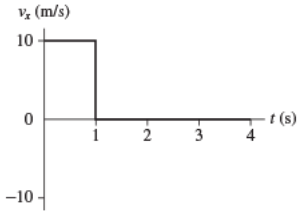
**b.** 20 min

**3.** **a.** −200 m/min, +333 m/min

**b.** +120 m/min

Processing math: 48%

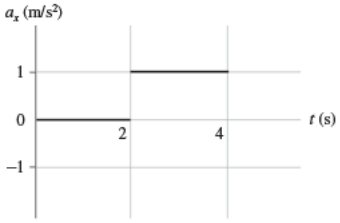
**5.** **a.**




**b.** None

**7.** 8.0 cm

**9.**




**11.** **a.** 10 m

**b.** 2.0 m/s

**c.** $-2.0\ \text{m/s}^2$

**13.** **a.** $2.7\ \text{m/s}^2$

**b.** $1.3 \times 10^2\ \text{m} = 4.3 \times 10^2\ \text{feet}$

**15.** **a.** 360 d

**b.** $4.6 \times 10^{15}\ \text{m}$

**c.** 0.49

**17.** $2.8\ \text{m/s}^2$

**19.** 216 m

**21.** 3.2 s

**23.** 5.2 cm

**25.** 73 m

**27.** 265 m

**29.** **a.** 16 m/s

**b.** 31 m

**31.** 16 m/s

Processing math: 48%

**a.** 21 m

**b.** 26 m/s

**c.** 24 m/s$^2$

**35.** **a.** 0 s and 3 s

**b.** 12 m and −18 m/s$^2$; −15 m and 18 m/s$^2$

**37.** **a.** −10 m/s

**b.** −20 m/s

**c.** 95 m/s

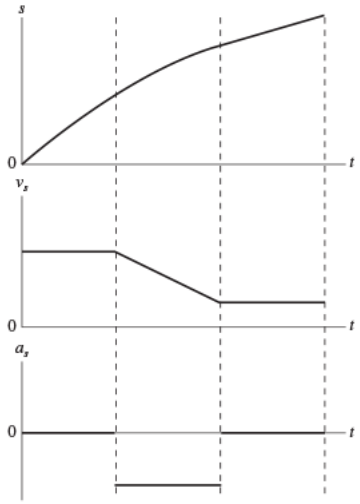
**39.** **a.** 2 s, 5 s

**b.** −3 m/s$^2$, 3 m/s$^2$

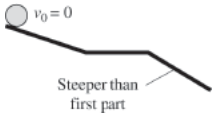
**41.** **a.** 20 s

**b.** 667 m

**43.**




**45.**




**47.** **a.** Yes

**b.** 35 s

**c.** No

**49.** **a.** 5 m

**b.** 22 m/s

Processing math: 48%

m/s

**53.** Yes, 10 m

**55.**

**a.** 54.8 km

**b.** 228 s

**57.** 19.7 m

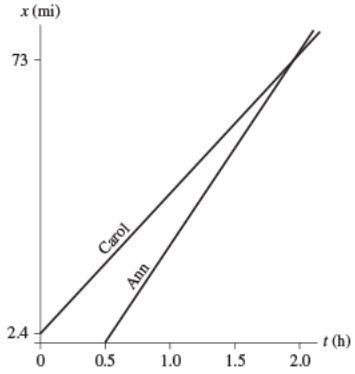
**59.** 55 cm

**61.**

**a.** 2.0 h

**b.** 73 m

**c.**




**63.** $v_f = \sqrt{2gh}$

**65.** 17 cm

**67.** 14 m/s

**69.** 0.36 m

**71.** 4.4 m/s$^2$

**73.** $gh/d$

**77.** c. 17.2 m/s

**79.** c. 750 m

**81.**

**a.** 10 s

**b.** 3.8 m/s$^2$

**c.** 5.6%

**83.** 12.5 m/s

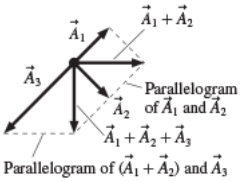
**85.** 4500 m/s$^2$

## Chapter 3

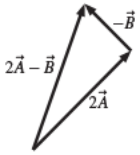
### Think Questions

Processing math: 48%

**1.** **c.** The graphical construction of $\vec{A}_1 + \vec{A}_2 + \vec{A}_3$ is shown in the figure.




**2.** **a.** The graphical construction of $2\vec{A} - \vec{B}$ is shown in the figure.

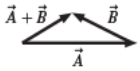



**3.** $C_x = -4$ cm, $C_y = 2$ cm.

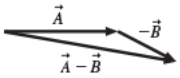
**4.** **c.** Vector $\vec{C}$ points to the left and down, so both $C_x$ and $C_y$ are negative. $C_x$ is in the numerator because it is the side opposite $\phi$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.**




**b.**




**3.** **a.** $E\sin\theta,\ -E\cos\theta$

**b.** $E\cos\phi,\ -E\sin\phi$

**5.** 8 m

**7.** **a.** 3.8 m/s, 6.5 m/s

**b.** −1.3 m/s$^2$, 0.80 m/s$^2$

**c.** −30 N, 40 N

**9.** 100 m, west

**11.** **a.** 7.6, 67°

**b.** 4.9 m/s$^2$, 66°

**c.** 18 m/s, 38°

**d.** 4.0 m, 34°

Processing math: 48%

**13.** **a.** $1\hat{\imath} + 3\hat{\jmath}$

**b.**

Known

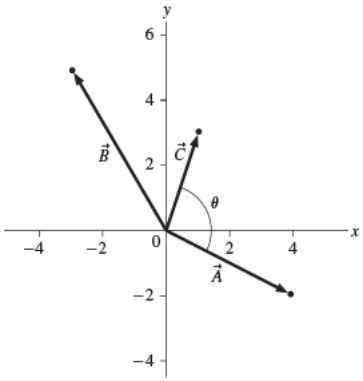
$\vec{A} = 4\hat{\imath} - 2\hat{\jmath}$

$\vec{B} = -3\hat{\imath} + 5\hat{\jmath}$

Find

$\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$

$C$ and $\theta$




**c.** 3.2, 72° above the +$x$-axis

**15.** **a.** $-1\hat{\imath} + 11\hat{\jmath}$

**c.** 11, 5.2° ccw from the +$y$-axis

**17.** **a.** 2.8

**b.** 4.1

**c.** 6.1

**19.** $v_x = -50$ m/s, $v_y = -87$ m/s

**21.** $B = 2.2$ T, $\theta = 27°$

**23.** **a.** 0 m, 26 m, 160 m

**b.** $\vec{v}(t) = (10\hat{\imath} + 8.0\hat{\jmath})\, t$ m/s

**c.** 0 m/s, 26 m/s, and 6 m/s

**25.** $\vec{C} = 0.8\hat{\imath} - 4.5\hat{\jmath}$

**27.** $\vec{B} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\hat{\imath} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\hat{\jmath}$

**29.** **a.** $\Delta\vec{r} = (1.7\text{ cm})\hat{\imath} - (3.0\text{ cm})\hat{\jmath}$

**b.** $\Delta\vec{r} = 0.0$ cm

**31.** 90 m, 46° south of west

**33.** $v_x = 3.7$ m/s, $v_y = 2.6$ m/s

**35.** **a.** −3.4 m/s

**b.** −9.4 m/s

Processing math: 48%

**37.** 280 N, 350 N

**39.** 570 N, −380 N

**41.** 5.2 $\mu$m/s at 27° below the positive $x$-axis

**43.** 4.4 units at 83° below the negative $x$-axis

**45.** 7.3 N at 79° below the negative $x$-axis

# Chapter 4

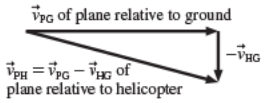
## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **c.** $v = 0$ requires both $v_x = 0$ and $v_y = 0$. Neither $x$ nor $y$ can be changing.

**2.** **d.** The parallel component of $\vec{a}$ is opposite $\vec{v}$ and will cause the particle to slow down. The perpendicular component of $\vec{a}$ will cause the particle to change direction downward.

**3.** **d.** A projectile's acceleration $\vec{a} = -g\hat{j}$ does not depend on its mass. The second marble has the same initial velocity and the same acceleration, so it follows the same trajectory and lands at the same position.

**4.** **f.** The plane's velocity relative to the helicopter is $\vec{v}_{PH} = \vec{v}_{PG} + \vec{v}_{GH} = \vec{v}_{PG} - \vec{v}_{HG}$, where G is the ground. The vector addition shows that $\vec{v}_{PH}$ is to the right and down with a magnitude greater than the 100 m/s of $\vec{v}_{PG}$.




**5.** **b.** An initial cw rotation causes the particle's angular position to become increasingly negative. The speed drops to half after reversing direction, so the slope becomes positive and is half as steep as the initial slope. Turning through the same angle returns the particle to $\theta = 0°$.

**6.** $\boldsymbol{a_b > a_e > a_a = a_c > a_d}$. Centripetal acceleration is $v^2/r$. Doubling $r$ decreases $a_r$ by a factor of 2. Doubling $v$ increases $a_r$ by a factor of 4. Reversing direction doesn't change $a_r$.

**7.** **c.** $\omega$ is negative because the rotation is cw. Because $\omega$ is negative but becoming *less* negative, the change $\Delta\omega$ is *positive*. So $\alpha$ is positive.

## Exercises and Problems

**3.** C

**5.** E

**7.** 2.2 m/s$^2$

**9.** $(2\hat{i} - 8\hat{j})$ m/s$^2$

**11.** 19.6 m

**13.** [illegible] m

Processing math: 48%

**15.** $r = 16.4$ m

**17.** $v_x = 27.7$ m/s

**19.** 30 s

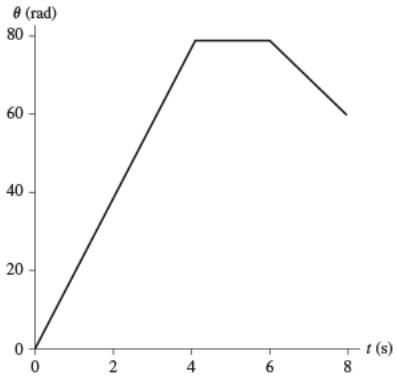
**21.**

**a.** 42° west of north

**b.** 45 s

**23.** 10 rev

**25.**




**27.**

**a.** 4.7 rad/s

**b.** 1.3 s

**29.** 680 km/h, 1040 mph

**31.** 43 m

**33.**

**a.** $3.0 \times 10^4$ m/s

**b.** $2.0 \times 10^{-7}$ rad/s

**c.** $6.0 \times 10^{-3}$ m/s$^2$

**35.** $v = 5.7$ m/s, $a_r = 108$ m/s$^2$

**37.**

**a.** 3.75 rad/s

**b.** 5.0 rad/s

**c.** 5.0 rad/s

**39.** 98 rpm

**41.** 47 rad/s$^2$

**43.** 38 rev

**45.** $\left(\frac{1}{2}bt^2 + v_{0x}\right)\hat{i} + \left(e^{-ct} + v_{0x}\right)\hat{j}$

Processing math: 48%

**47.** **a.** $\frac{v_0^2 \sin^2\theta}{2g}$

**b.** 14.4 m, 28.8 m, 43.2 m

**49.** **a.** 12 m/s

**b.** 0.90 m

**51.** Clears by 1.0 m

**53.** 7.4 m/s

**55.** **a.** 13 m/s

**b.** 48°

**57.** 470 $m/s^2$

**59.** 4.8 m/s

**61.** **a.** 39 mi

**b.** 20 mph

**63.** No. The angular acceleration is negative.

**65.** **a.** $1.75 \times 10^4$ $m/s^2$

**b.** $4.4 \times 10^3$ $m/s^2$

**67.** **a.** $3.07 \times 10^3$ m/s **b.** 0.223 $m/s^2$

**69.** **a.** 100 $rad/s^2$

**b.** 50 rev

**71.** 0.75 $rad/s^2$

**73.** **a.** $v = \sqrt{2\alpha\,\Delta\theta R}$

**b.** $a = 2\alpha\,\Delta\theta R$

**75.** 1940 rpm

**77.** 550 rpm

**79.** b. 30 m west

**81.** 34.3°

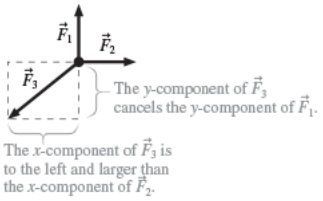
**83.** 3.8 m

Processing math: 48%

# Chapter 5

## Stop to Think Questions

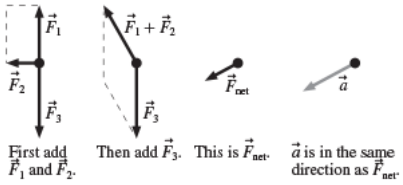
**1.** **c.**




**2.** **a, b, and d.** Friction and the normal force are the only contact forces. Nothing is touching the rock to provide a "force of the kick."

**3.** **b.** Acceleration is proportional to force, so doubling the number of rubber bands doubles the acceleration of the original object from 2 m/s$^2$ to 4 m/s$^2$. But acceleration is also inversely proportional to mass. Doubling the mass cuts the acceleration in half, back to 2 m/s$^2$.

**4.** **d.**




**5.** **c.** The acceleration vector points downward as the elevator slows. $\vec{F}_{net}$ points in the same direction as $\vec{a}$, so $\vec{F}_{net}$ also points down. This will be true if the tension is less than the gravitational force: $T < F_G$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** Gravity, normal force, static friction

**3.** Gravity, normal force, kinetic friction

**5.** Gravity, drag

**7.** **a.** 2.4 m/s$^2$

**b.** 0.60 m/s$^2$

**9.** $m_1 = 0.080$ kg, $m_3 = 0.50$ kg

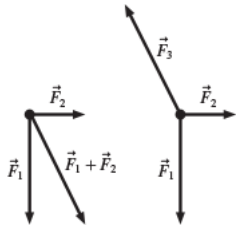
**11.** 1.5 J

**13.** **a.** 4 m/s$^2$

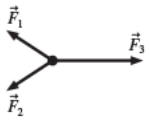
**b.** 2 m/s$^2$

**15.** 25 kg

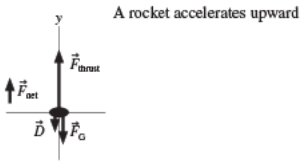
Processing math: 48%



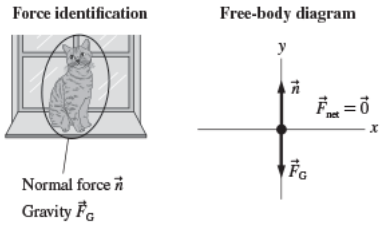

**19.**



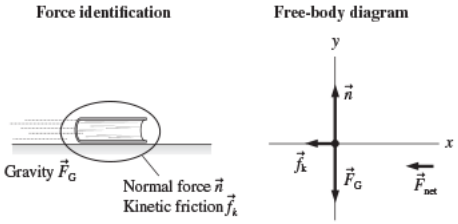

**21.**



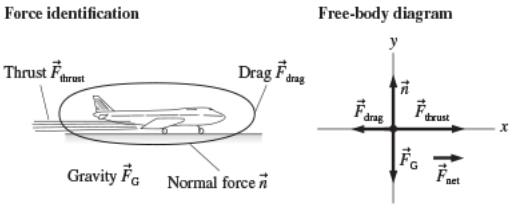

**23.**



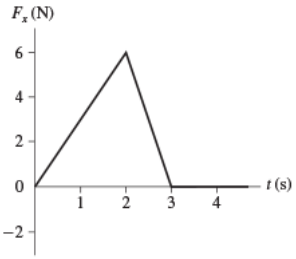

**25.**




**27.**




**29.**




**31.**

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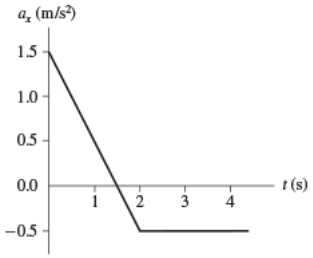


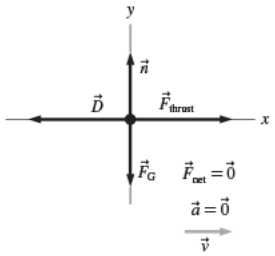

**33.** **a.** 16 m/s²

**b.** 4.0 m/s²

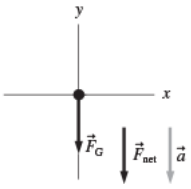
**c.** 8.0 m/s²

**d.** 32 m/s²

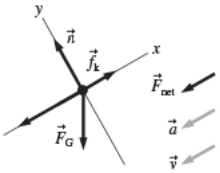
**35.**



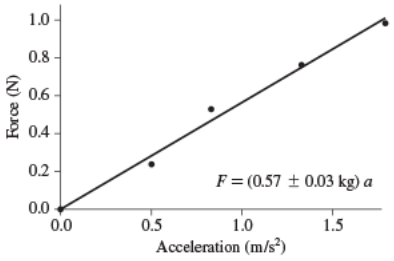

**37.**




**39.**




**41.** **a.**




**b.** Yes. 0 m/s², 0 N

**c.** 57 kg

**43.**

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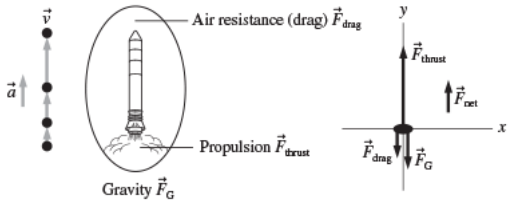
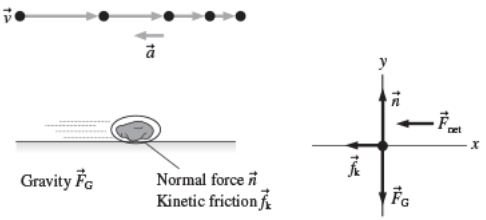
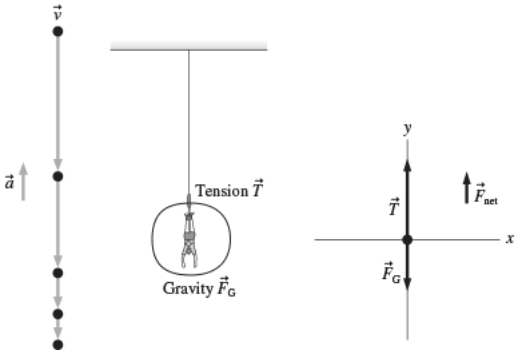


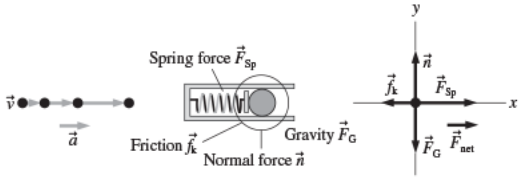

47.




49.




51.

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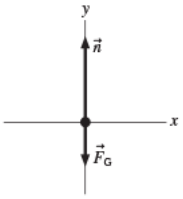
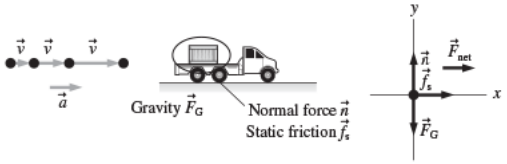
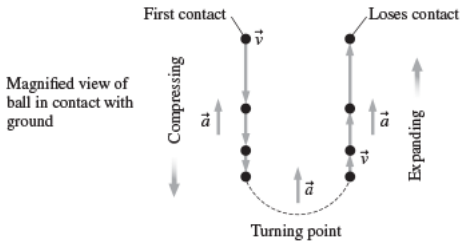



55.




57. **a.**

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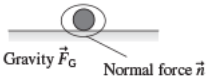
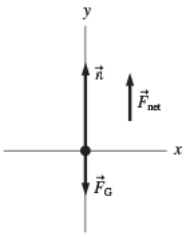
**b.**




**c.**




# Chapter 6

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **a.** The lander is descending and slowing. The acceleration vector points upward, and so $\vec{F}_{net}$ points upward. This can be true only if the thrust has a larger magnitude than the weight.

**2.** **a.** You are descending and slowing, so your acceleration vector points upward and there is a net upward force on you. The floor pushes up against your feet harder than gravity pulls down.

**3.** $f_b > f_c = f_d = f_e > f_a$. Situations c, d, and e are all kinetic friction, which does not depend on either velocity or acceleration. Kinetic friction is smaller than the maximum static friction that is exerted in b. $f_a = 0$ because no friction is needed to keep the object at rest.

**4.** **d.** The ball is shot *down* at 30 m/s, so $v_{0y} = -30$ m/s. This exceeds the terminal speed, so the upward drag force is *larger* than the downward weight force. Thus the ball *slows down* even though it is "falling." It will slow until $v_y = -15$ m/s, the terminal velocity, then maintain that velocity.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 94 N, 58° below the horizontal

**3.** 510 N

**5.** 160 N

**7.** **a.** 0.0036 N

**b.** 0.010 N

**9.** $a_x = 1.5$ m/s$^2$, $a_y = 0$ m/s$^2$

**11.** 0 m/s$^2$, 4 m/s

**13.** **a.** 490 N

**b.** 490 N

**c.** 740 N

**d.** 240 N

Processing math: 48%

**15.** 40 s

**17.**

**a.** 540 N

**b.** $m = 55$ kg; $mg = 210$ N

**19.**

**a.** $7.8 \times 10^2$ N

**b.** 1.1 kN

**21.**

**a.** 3.96 N

**b.** 2.32 N

**23.** $5.90 \times 10^{-3}$ m/s$^2$

**25.** Yes

**27.** 9 m/s

**29.** 10,000 N

**31.** $2.6 \times 10^3$ m

**33.** 190,000 N

**35.** 140 m/s

**37.** 4.5 m/s

**39.** 6400 N, 4380 N

**41.**

**a.** 59 N

**b.** 68°

**c.** 79 N

**43.** 59 N

**45.**

**a.** $v(h) = \sqrt{2\left(\frac{F_{\text{thrust}}}{m} - g\right)h}$

**b.** 54 m/s

**47.** 2800 kg

**49.**

**a.** 16.9 m/s

**b.** 229 m

**51.**

**a.** 3.8 m

**b.** 7.0 m/s

Processing math: 48%

**53.** $T_{\max} = (M + m)\mu_s g$

**55.**

**a.** Yes

**b.** Yes

**57.** Stay at rest

**59.**

**a.** $-5g$

**b.** $3g$

**61.**

**a.** 0 N

**b.** 220 N

**63.**

**a.** $\frac{F_0}{m}\frac{T}{2}$

**b.** $\frac{F_0}{m}\frac{T^2}{3}$

**65.**

**a.** $9.4 \times 10^{-10}$ N, $5.7 \times 10^{-13}$ N

**b.** 1.8 m/s², 130 m/s²

**67.**

**a.** $v_{\text{term}} = \frac{mg}{6\pi\eta R}$

**b.** 27 min

**69.**

**b.** 32 m/s

**71.**

**c.** 144 N

**73.**

**b.** $v_x(L) = \sqrt{L\left(\frac{2F_0}{m} - \mu_0 g\right)}$

**75.**

**a.** $a_x = (2x)g$

**b.** 3.9 m/s²

**77.**

**b.** $v_x(x) = v_0 - \frac{6\pi\eta R}{m}x$

**c.** Not reasonable

## Chapter 7

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **The crate's gravitational force and the normal force are incorrectly identified as an action/reaction pair.** The normal force should be paired with a downward force of the crate on the ground. Gravity is the pull of the entire earth, so $\vec{F}_G$ should be paired with a force pulling up on the entire earth.

Processing math: 48%

**2.** **c.** Newton's third law says that the force of A on B is *equal* and opposite to the force of B on A. This is always true. The mass of the objects isn't relevant. **A-10**

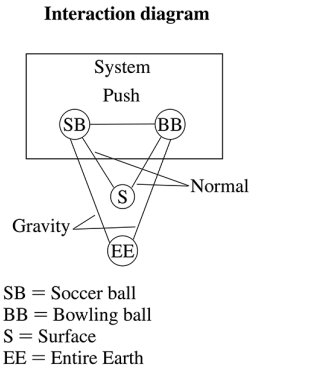
**3.** **b.** $F_{\text{B on H}} = F_{\text{H on B}}$ and $F_{\text{A on B}} = F_{\text{B on A}}$ because these are action/reaction pairs. Box B is slowing down and therefore must have a net force to the left. So from Newton's second law we also know that $F_{\text{H on B}} > F_{\text{A on B}}$.

**4.** **Equal to.** Each block is hanging in equilibrium, with no net force, so the upward tension force is $mg$.

**5.** **Less than.** Block B is *accelerating* downward, so the net force on B must point down. The only forces acting on B are the tension and gravity, so $T_{\text{S on B}} < \left(F_{\text{G}}\right)_{\text{B}}$.

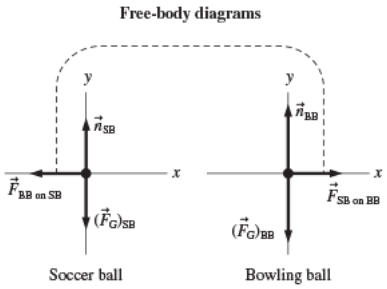
## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.**

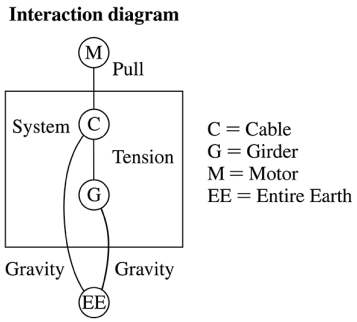



**b.** The system is the soccer ball and bowling ball.

**c.**




**3.** **a.**

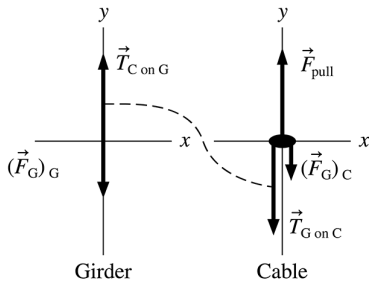



**b.** The system is the cable and the girder.

**c.**

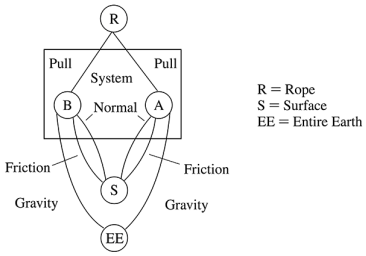
Processing math: 48%

**Free-body diagrams**




**5.** **a.**

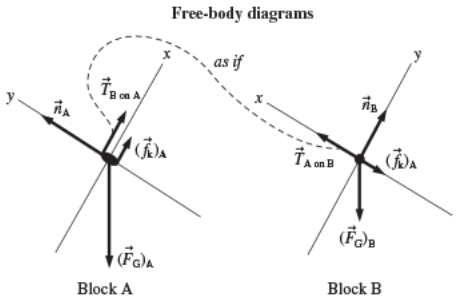
**Interaction diagram**




**b.** The system is block A and block B.

**c.**

**Free-body diagrams**




**7.** $m_{\text{A}} = 12$ kg

**9.** **a.** 6 N

**b.** 10 N

**11.** 440 N

**13.** 42 m

**15.** 6.5 m/s$^2$

**17.** 590 N

**19.** 250 N

**21.** 9800 N

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N, 36°

**25.** 99 kg

**27.**

**a.** 4.0 N

**b.** 3.0 N

**29.** No

**31.**

**a.** 2800 N

**b.** 2800 N

**c.** Cheek, not forehead

**33.** 1.5 s

**35.** 1.8 s

**37.** $T_1 = 100$ N, $T_2 = T_3 = T_5 = F = 50$ N, and $T_4 = 150$ N

**39.**

**a.** 1.8 kg

**b.** 1.3 m/s$^2$

**41.**

**a.** 0.67 m

**b.** Slides back down

**43.**

**a.** $8.2 \times 10^3$ N

**b.** $4.8 \times 10^2$ N

**45.** $4.0 \times 10^2$ N

**47.** $2.4 \times 10^{-6}$ N

**49.** $F = \left(m_1 + m_2\right)g\tan\theta$

**53.** 1.8 m/s$^2$

**55.** 2.8 m/s$^2$

**57.** 920 g

## Chapter 8

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **d.** The parallel component of $\vec{F}$ is opposite $\vec{v}$ and will cause the particle to slow down. The perpendicular component of $\vec{F}$ will cause the particle to change directions in a downward direction.

**2.** $\boldsymbol{T}_\mathbf{d} > \boldsymbol{T}_\mathbf{b} = \boldsymbol{T}_\mathbf{e} > \boldsymbol{T}_\mathbf{c} > \boldsymbol{T}_\mathbf{a}$. The center-directed force is $m\omega^2 r$. Changing $r$ by a factor of 2 changes the tension by a factor of 2, but changing $\omega$ by a factor of 2 changes the tension by a factor of 4.

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**3.** **b.** The car is moving in a circle, so there must be a net force toward the center of the circle. The circle is below the car, so the net force must point downward. This can be true only if $F_G > n$.

**4.** **c.** The ball does not have a "memory" of its previous motion. The velocity $\vec{v}$ is straight up at the instant the string breaks. The only force on the ball after the string breaks is the gravitational force, straight down. This is just like tossing a ball straight up.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 39 m

**3.** c. 0.107°

**5.** 9.4 kN, static friction

**7.** **a.** 3.9 m/s

**b.** 6.2 N

**9.** $2.01 \times 10^{20}$ N

**11.** 45 s

**13.** $v = \sqrt{\frac{m_2 rg}{m_1}}$

**15.** $6.0 \times 10^{-3}$ m/s$^2$

**17.** **a.** 24.0 h

**b.** 0.223 m/s$^2$

**c.** 0 N

**19.** 12 m/s

**21.** 20 m/s

**23.** **a.** 3.77 m/s, 0.95 m/s$^2$

**b.** 0.90

**c.** 1.1

**25.** **a.** 4.9 N

**b.** 2.9 N

**c.** 32 N

**27.** 1.6 s

**29.** **a.** $2.2 \times 10^6$ N

**b.** −27°

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**33.** 0.034 N

**35.** 8.6 m

**37.**

**a.** 165 m

**b.** Straight line

**41.**

**a.** $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{g}{L\sin\theta}}$

**b.** 72 rpm

**43.** 0.79 N

**45.**

**a.** 2.9 m/s

**b.** 14 N

**47.**

**a.** $T = \frac{mgL}{\sqrt{L^2 - r^2}}$

**b.** $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{g}{\sqrt{L^2 - r^2}}}$

**c.** 5.0 N, 30 rpm

**49.** 24 rpm

**51.**

**a.** 320 N, 1400 N

**b.** 5.7 s

**53.** 0. 38 N

**55.**

**a.** $\sqrt{gL}$

**b.** 5.9 mph

**57.** 1.4 m to the right

**59.** 13 N

**61.**

**a.** 1.90 m/s$^2$ at 21°

**b.** 15.7 m/s

**63.**

**a.** 3.8 m/s

**b.** 19 m/s$^2$

**65.** b. 19.8 m/s

Processing math: 48%

**a.** $\theta = \frac{1}{2}\tan^{-1}(mg/F)$

**b.** 11.5%

**69.** $\sqrt{gL}$

## Chapter 9

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **a.** Kinetic energy depends linearly on the mass but on the *square* of the velocity. A factor of 2 change in velocity is more significant than a factor of 2 change in mass.

**2.** **Positive.** The force (gravity) and the displacement are in the same direction. The rock gains kinetic energy.

**3.** **Positive.** Each puck experiences a force in the direction of motion, which is a positive amount of work. The net force is zero, but the total work is not zero because the pucks have different displacements.

**4.** **c.** The upward tension force is opposite the displacement, so it does negative work. The downward gravitational force is parallel to the displacement, so it does positive work.

**5.** **c.** $W = F(\Delta r)\cos\theta$. The 10 N force at 90° does no work at all. Because $\cos 60° = \frac{1}{2}$, the 8 N force does less work than the 6 N force.

**6.** **Zero.** The road does exert a forward force on the car, but the point of application does not move because the tires are not skidding on the road. The car's increasing kinetic energy is a transformation of chemical energy to kinetic energy, not a transfer of energy from the road to the car.

**7.** $\boldsymbol{k_a > k_b > k_c}$. The spring constant is the slope of the force-versus-displacement graph.

**8.** **Zero.** The wall exerts a force on the right end of the spring, but the point of application does not move.

**9.** $\boldsymbol{P_b > P_a = P_c > P_d}$. The work done is $mg\Delta y$, so the power output is $mg\Delta y/\Delta t$. Runner b does the same work as runner a, but in less time. The ratio $m/\Delta t$ is the same for runners a and c. Runner d does twice the work of a, but takes more than twice as long.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** The bullet

**3.** 2.0

**5.** **a.** 5.3 J

**b.** 0 J

**7.** 0 J

**9.** **a.** 1.9 J

**b.** 26 m/s

**11.** **a.** −2

**b.** 0

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**13.** 125°

**15.**

**a.** −2.7

**b.** −20

**c.** 10

**17.**

**a.** 0.20 J

**b.** 3.0 m/s

**19.** 1.7 kJ, 1.1 kJ, −2.0 kJ

**21.** 11 m/s

**23.** $\frac{1}{3}qd^3$

**25.** 38 N

**27.**

**a.** $3.9 \times 10^2$ N/m

**b.** 17.5 cm

**29.**

**a.** 49 N

**b.** 1450 N/m

**c.** 3.4 cm

**31.** 1360 m/s

**33.** 0.037

**35.** 540 J

**37.**

**a.** $W_{\text{net}} = 176$ J

**b.** $P = 59$ W

**41.** Runner: $P_{\text{avg}} = 1.2$ kW; greyhound: $P_{\text{avg}} = 2.0$ kW

**43.**

**a.** $-9.8 \times 10^4$ J

**b.** $1.1 \times 10^5$ J

**c.** $1.0 \times 10^4$ J

**45.** 2.4 m/s

**47.** $2h$

**49.**

**a.** 2.2 m/s

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**b.** 0.0058

**51.** **a.** 2.9 J

**b.** 3.6%

**53.** **a.** $Gm_1m_2\left(\frac{1}{x_2}-\frac{1}{x_1}\right)$

**b.** $6.8 \times 10^4$ m/s

**55.** 19 m/s

**57.** 33 N/m

**59.** 3.7 m/s

**61.** $3.9 \times 10^5$ kg/s

**63.** 1.4 kW

**65.** $1.2 \times 10^8$ ly

**71.** 24 W

## Chapter 10

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** $(U_G)_c > (U_G)_b = (U_G)_d > (U_G)_a$. Gravitational potential energy depends only on height, not on speed.

**2.** **b.** Potential energy depends only on the vertical displacement. At the elevation of the dashed line, both have gained the same gravitational potential energy, so both have lost the same kinetic energy.

**3.** $v_a = v_b = v_c = v_d$. Her increase in kinetic energy depends only on the vertical distance through which she falls, not on the shape of the slide.

**4.** **c.** Constant speed means no change of kinetic energy. But for motion on a slope, constant speed requires friction. All the gravitational potential energy is being transformed into thermal energy.

**5.** **c.** $U_{Sp}$ depends on $d^2$. Doubling the compression increases $U_{Sp}$ by a factor of 4. All potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy, so $K$ increases by a factor of 4. But $K$ depends on $v^2$, so $v$ increases by only a factor of 2.

**6.** $x = 6$ **m.** From the graph, the particle's potential energy at $x = 1$ m is $U = 3$ J. Its total energy is thus $E = K + U = 4$ J. A TE line at 4 J crosses the PE curve at $x = 6$ m.

**7.** **e.** Force is the negative of the slope of the potential-energy diagram. At $x = 4$ m the potential energy has risen by 4 J over a distance of 2 m, so the slope is 2 J/m = 2 N.

The system is losing potential energy as the weight falls. It's gaining speed, so some $U$ is tranformed into $K$. Energy is also being transferred out of the system to the environment via negative work done by the rope

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tension. The system is not isolated, so neither $E_{mech}$ nor $E_{sys}$ is conserved.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** $\Delta K_{tot} = 17\text{ J}, \Delta U_{int} = 0$

**b.** $\Delta K_{tot} = 17\text{ J}, \Delta U_{int} = -5\text{ J}$

**3.** $\Delta U = 2.9 \times 10^6\text{ J}$

**5.** **a.** 13 m/s

**b.** 14 m/s

**7.** 7.7 m/s

**9.** 1.4 m/s

**11.** 1.4 m/s

**13.** 81 m/s

**15.** 0.632 m

**17.** 2.0 m/s

**19.** 3.0 m/s

**21.** 9.7 J

**23.** $v_0/\sqrt{2}$

**25.** 3.5 m/s, 2.8 m/s, 4.5 m/s

**27.** **a.** 7.7 m/s

**b.** 10 m/s

**29.** 6.3 m/s

**31.** $-60$ N at $x = 1$ m, 15 N at $x = 4$ m

**33.** 2.5 N, 0.40 N, 0.16 N

**35.** **a.** 50 J

**b.** 50 J

**c.** 50 J, yes

**37.**

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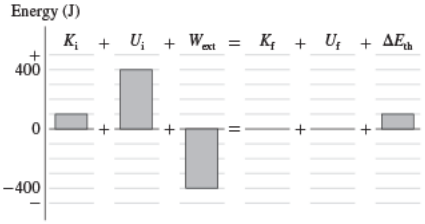


**39.** −1 J of work is done to the environment

**41.** 2.3 m/s

**43.**

**a.** $2.2 \times 10^4$ N/m

**b.** 19 m/s

**45.** $\frac{5}{2}R$

**47.** 65 g

**49.** 0.54 m

**51.**

**a.** 1.7 m/s

**b.** No

**53.**

**a.** 0.51 m

**b.** 0.38 m

**55.** $1.37 \times 10^8$ m/s

**57.**

**a.** $\frac{\pi}{3}$ and $\frac{2\pi}{3}$

**b.** $\frac{\pi}{3}$ is unstable, $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ is stable

**59.**

**a.** 20 J, 40 J, 60 J, 70 J

**b.** 2.6 m

**61.**

**a.** $-\pi B/L$

**b.** $-AL$

**c.** $-2AL + \pi B/L$

**63.**

**a.** $a^2b$

**b.** $a^2b$

**c.** Yes

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**71.** 11 m

**73.** 6.7 m

# Chapter 11

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **f.** The cart is initially moving in the negative $x$-direction, so $p_{ix} = -20$ kg m/s. After it bounces, $p_{fx} = -10$ kg m/s. Thus $\Delta p = (10 \text{ kg m/s}) - (-20 \text{ kg m/s}) = 30$ kg m/s.

**2.** **b.** The clay ball goes from $v_{ix} = v$ to $v_{fx} = 0$, so $J_{clay} = \Delta p_x = -mv$. The rubber ball rebounds, going from $v_{ix} = v$ to $v_{fx} = -v$ (same speed, opposite direction). Thus $J_{rubber} = \Delta p_x = -2mv$. The rubber ball has a larger momentum change, and this requires a larger impulse.

**3.** **Less than.** The ball's momentum $m_B v_B$ is the same in both cases. Momentum is conserved, so the *total* momentum is the same after both collisions. The ball that rebounds from C has *negative* momentum, so C must have a larger momentum than A.

**4.** **c.** Momentum conservation requires $(m_1 + m_2) \times v_f = m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2$. Because $v_1 > v_2$, it must be that $(m_1 + m_2) \times v_f = m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 > m_1 v_2 + m_2 v_2 = (m_1 + m_2) v_2$. Thus $v_f > v_2$. Similarly, $v_2 < v_1$, so $(m_1 + m_2) v_f = m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 < m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_1 = (m_1 + m_2) v_1$. Thus $v_f < v_1$. The collision causes $m_1$ to slow down and $m_2$ to speed up.

**5.** **Right end.** The pieces started at rest, so the total momentum of the system is zero. It's an isolated system, so the total momentum after the explosion is still zero. The 6 g piece has momentum $6v$. The 4 g piece, with velocity $-2v$, has momentum $-8v$. The combined momentum of these two pieces is $-2v$. In order for $P$ to be zero, the third piece must have a *positive* momentum ($+2v$) and thus a positive velocity.

**6.** **e.** Momentum is conserved, so the total momentum of the two pieces must be the initial $2\hat{\imath}$ kg m/s. $\vec{p}_1 = 2\hat{\jmath}$ kg m/s, so $\vec{p}_2$ has to be $(2\hat{\imath} - 2\hat{\jmath})$ kg m/s.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 75 m/s

**3.** 4.0 Ns

**5.** $1.0 \times 10^3$ N

**7.** 80 m/s to the left

**9.** 3.0 m/s to the right

**11.** **a.** $1.5 \times 10^4$ Ns

**b.** 30 s, 110 m/s

**13.** 6.0 m/s

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**15.** 1.4 m/s

**17.** $v_0$

**19.** 2.0 mph

**21.** 7.6 cm in the direction Brutus was running

**23.** $-1.69 \times 10^7$ m/s, $3.1 \times 10^6$ m/s

**25.**

**a.** 2.6 m/s

**b.** 33 cm

**27.**

**a.** 1.92 m/s

**b.** 1.90 m/s

**29.** 13 s

**31.** $(1\hat{\imath} + 5\hat{\jmath})$ kg m/s

**33.** 45° north of east at 1.7 m/s

**35.** 1800 m/s

**37.** 1000 m/s

**39.**

**a.** 6.4 m/s

**b.** $F_{\text{avg}} = 3.6 \times 10^2 \text{ N} = 612\left(F_{\text{G}}\right)_{\text{B}}$

**41.** $9.3 \times 10^2$ N

**43.** $12t$ N

**45.**

**a.** $6.7 \times 10^{-8}$ m/s

**b.** $2.2 \times 10^{-10}\%$

**47.** $v_0/\sqrt{2}$, 45 ° east of north

**49.**

**a.** $v_{\text{bullet}} = \frac{m+M}{m}\sqrt{2\mu_{\text{k}}gd}$

**b.** $4.4 \times 10^2$ m/s

**51.** $4.0 \times 10^2$ m

**53.** 0.021 m/s

**55.** 25.8 cm

**57.**

**a.** $v_m = \frac{m+M}{m}\sqrt{5Rg}$

**b.** $v_m = \frac{1}{2}\frac{m+M}{m}\sqrt{5Rg}$

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**59.** 14 m

**61.** 16 m/s

**63.** 7.9 m/s

**65.** **a.** 100 g ball: 5.3 m/s to the left; 200 g ball: 1.7 m/s to the right

**b.** Both balls: 0.67 m/s to the left

**67.** 14.0 u

**69.** **a.** $-1.4 \times 10^{-22}$ kg m/s

**b.**, **c.** $1.4 \times 10^{-22}$ kg m/s in the direction of the electron

**71.** 0.85 m/s, 72° below the $+x$-axis

**73.** 780 m/s, 1900 m/s, 4000 m/s

**79.** 5.7 m/s

**81.** 90 m/s

**83.** 8 bullets

## Chapter 12

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **b.** The center of the hitting end is *closer* to the center of mass, so it must have *more* mass.

**2.** **b.** Rotational kinetic energy depends on the angular velocity and the moment of inertia. Both have the same angular velocity, but a cylindrical shell has a larger moment of inertia than a solid cylinder with the same mass and radius.

**3.** $I_a > I_d > I_b > I_c$. The moment of inertia is smaller when the mass is more concentrated near the rotation axis.

**4.** $\tau_e > \tau_a = \tau_d > \tau_b > \tau_c$. The tangential component in e is larger than 2 N.

**5.** $\alpha_b > \alpha_a > \alpha_c = \alpha_d$. Angular acceleration is proportional to torque and inversely proportional to the moment of inertia. Torque depends on the radius, whereas moment of inertia depends on the square of the radius as well as the mass. Thus angular acceleration is proportional to $F/r$.

**6.** **c.** The scale exerts an upward force at half the distance from the pivot as the weight's downward force. To exert an equal but opposite torque for static equilibrium requires twice the force.

**7.** **d.** There is no net torque on the bucket + rain system, so the angular momentum is conserved. The addition of mass on the outer edge of the circle increases $I$, so $\omega$ must decrease. Mechanical energy is not conserved because the raindrop collisions are inelastic.

### Exercises and Problems

Processing math: 48%

**1.** **a.** $4.2 \times 10^2$ rad/s$^2$

**b.** 8.3 rev

**3.** **a.** 1.5 m/s

**b.** 13 rev

**5.** $4.7 \times 10^6$ m

**7.** 8.0 cm, 5.0 cm

**9.** 2.4 m/s

**11.** **a.** 0.032 kg m$^2$

**b.** 16 J

**13.** **a.** 0.063 m, 0.050 m

**b.** 0.0082 kg m$^2$

**15.** **a.** (0.060 m, 0.040 m)

**b.** 0.0020 kg m$^2$

**c.** 0.0013 kg m$^2$

**17.** **a.** 6.9 kg m$^2$

**b.** 4.1 kg m$^2$

**19.** 50 N

**21.** 15 N m

**23.** **a.** $\tau = 32$ N m



**b.** $\tau = 22$ N m

**25.** 0.50 rad/s

**27.** **a.** $1.75 \times 10^{-3}$ N m

**b.** 50 rev

**29.** 1.4 m

**31.** $F_1 = 0.75$ kN, $F_2 = 1.0$ kN

**33.** **a.** $6.4 \times 10^2$ rpm

Processing math: 48%

**b.** 40 m/s

**c.** 0 m/s

**35.** **a.** 88 rad/s

**b.** 2/7

**37.** **a.** $\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (17, \text{ out of the page})$

**b.** $\vec{C} \times \vec{D} = \vec{0}$

**39.** **a.** $\vec{D} = n\hat{i}$, where $n$ could be any real number

**b.** $\vec{E} = 2\hat{j}$

**c.** $\vec{F} = 1\hat{k}$

**41.** $-(38 \text{ N m})\hat{k}$

**43.** $-0.025\,\hat{i}\,\text{kg m}^2/\text{s}$

**45.** 91 rpm

**47.** 83 rpm

**49.** 1.8 J

**51.** $\frac{L^2}{4}\left(\frac{M}{3} + m_1 + \frac{m_2}{4}\right)$

**53.** $\frac{M}{3L}[(L-d)^3 + d^3]$

**55.** **a.** $I_{\text{disk}} = \frac{1}{2}M(R^2 + r^2)$

**c.** 1.4 m/s or 75%

**57.** 0.91 m

**59.** 15,300 N

**61.** Yes, $d_{\max} = \frac{25}{24}L$

**63.** 800 N

**65.** **a.** $a = \frac{m_2 g}{m_1 + m_2}$, $T = \frac{m_1 m_2 g}{m_1 + m_2}$

**b.** $a = \frac{m_2 g}{m_1 + m_2 + \frac{1}{2}m_p}$, $T_1 = \frac{m_1 m_2 g}{m_1 + m_2 + \frac{1}{2}m_p}$, $T_2 = \frac{m_2(m_1 + \frac{1}{2}m_p)g}{m_1 + m_2 + \frac{1}{2}m_p}$

**67.** 0.52 N

**69.** 4.3 m

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**73.** **a.** $\sqrt{\frac{3}{4}Lg}$

**b.** $\sqrt{\frac{3}{4}Lg}$

**75.** $h = 2.7(R - r)$

**79.** 50 rpm

**81.** 22 rpm

**83.** **a.** 137 km

**b.** $8.6 \times 10^6$ m/s

**85.** **a.** $2.9 \times 10^{-5}$ N m

**b.** 7.0 m/s

**87.** **a.** kg/m$^3$

**b.** $\frac{12M}{L^3}$

**c.** $\frac{3}{20}ML^2$

**89.** $v_f = \frac{1}{5}v_0$ to the right

# Chapter 13

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **e.** The acceleration decreases inversely with the square of the distance. At height $R_e$, the distance from the center of the earth is $2R_e$.

**2.** **c.** Newton's third law requires $F_{1 \text{ on } 2} = F_{2 \text{ on } 1}$.

**3.** **b.** $g_{surface} = GM/R^2$. Because of the square, a radius twice as large balances a mass four times as large.

**4.** In absolute value, $\boldsymbol{U_e} > \boldsymbol{U_a} = \boldsymbol{U_b} = \boldsymbol{U_d} > \boldsymbol{U_c}$. $|U_G|$ is proportional to $m_1m_2/r$.

**5.** **a.** $T^2$ is proportional to $r^3$, or $T$ is proportional to $r^{3/2}$. $4^{3/2} = 8$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** $6.00 \times 10^{-4}$

**3.** **a.** $6.7 \times 10^{-9}$ N

**b.** $6.8 \times 10^{-9}$

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**7.** 12 cm

**9.**

**a.** 1.62 $m/s^2$

**b.** 25.9 $m/s^2$

**11.** 1.35 $m/s^2$

**13.** $0.58R_e$

**15.** 39 m

**17.** 10 km/s

**19.** 4.3 km/s

**21.**

**a.** $1.80 \times 10^7$ m

**b.** 9.41 km/s

**23.** 33 km/s

**25.** $M_p = 1.5 \times 10^{25}$ kg, $M_s = 5.2 \times 10^{30}$ kg

**27.** $2.9 \times 10^9$ m

**29.** $1.0 \times 10^{26}$ kg

**31.** 1.44 km/s, $1.72 \times 10^7$ m

**33.**

**a.** 7.0 m/s

**b.** 12 m/s

**35.**

**a.** $1.3 \times 10^{-6}$ N, 83° cw from the $+y$-axis

**b.** $2.3 \times 10^{27}$ N, 7.5° ccw from the $-y$-axis.

**37.** $-1.48 \times 10^{-7}$ J

**39.** 46 kg and 104 kg

**41.** $2000R_e$

**43.** $4.2 \times 10^5$ m

**45.** 1.6 s

**47.**

**a.** 2.3 km/s

**b.** 11 km/s

**49.** $0.414R$

Processing math: 48%

$10^8$ J

**53.** $1.8 \times 10^{25}$ J

**55.**

**a.** 0.17 m/s

**b.** $1.0 \times 10^{13}$ kg

**c.** 0.84 m/s

**57.** $T = \left[ \frac{4\pi^2 r^3}{G} \frac{1}{(M + m/4)} \right]^{1/2}$

**59.**

**a.** $6.3 \times 10^4$ m/s

**b.** $1.3 \times 10^{12}$ m/s$^2$

**c.** $1.3 \times 10^{12}$ N

**d.** $6.29 \times 10^{-4}$ s

**e.** $1.5 \times 10^6$ m

**61.** 10 yr

**63.**

**a.** 14,000 km

**b.** 2000 km

**67.** $3.0 \times 10^4$ m/s

**69.**

**a.** $5.8 \times 10^{22}$ kg

**b.** $1.3 \times 10^6$ m

**71.**

**b.** $v_1 = 7730$ m/s, $v_1' = 10,160$ m/s

**c.** $2.17 \times 10^{10}$ J

**d.** $v_2' = 1600$ m/s, $v_2 = 3070$ m/s

**e.** $3.43 \times 10^9$ J

**f.** $2.52 \times 10^{10}$ J

# Chapter 14

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** $\rho_a = \rho_b = \rho_c$. Density depends only on what the object is made of, not how big the pieces are.

**2.** **c.** These are all open tubes, so the liquid rises to the same height in all three despite their different shapes.

Processing math: 48%

**3.** $F_b > F_a = F_c$. The masses in c do not add. The pressure underneath each of the two large pistons is $mg/A^2$, and the pressure under the small piston must be the same.

**4.** **b.** The weight of the displaced water equals the weight of the ice cube. When the ice cube melts and turns into water, that amount of water will exactly fill the volume that the ice cube is now displacing.

**5.** **1 cm³/s out.** The fluid is incompressible, so the sum of what flows in must match the sum of what flows out. 13 cm³/s is known to be flowing in, while 12 cm³/s flows out. An additional 1 cm³/s must flow out to achieve balance.

**6.** $h_b > h_d > h_c > h_a$. The liquid level is higher where the pressure is lower. The pressure is lower where the flow speed is higher. The flow speed is highest in the narrowest tube, zero in the open air.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 50 mL

**3.** **a.** $8.1 \times 10^2$ kg/m³

**b.** $8.4 \times 10^2$ kg/m³

**5.** $2.4 \times 10^3$ kg

**7.** 38 cm

**9.** $1.2 \times 10^5$ Pa

**11.** 0.64 kN

**13.** 10.3 m

**15.** 3.2 m

**17.** $6.7 \times 10^2$ kg/m³

**19.** 750 kg/m³

**21.** 1.9 N

**23.** $2.49 \times 10^3$ kg/m³

**25.** 1.1 kN

**27.** $1.27v_0$

**29.** 2.12 m/s

**31.** **a.** 0.38 N

**b.** 20 m/s

**33.** 1.0 cm

**a.** $5.1 \times 10^7$ Pa

Processing math: 48%

**b.** −0.025

**c.** 1056 kg/m$^3$

**37.** 2.4 $\mu$m

**39.** **a.** $2.9 \times 10^4$ N

**b.** 30 players

**41.** 27 psi

**43.** 55 cm

**45.** **a.** Down by 3.0 cm

**b.** 3.5 cm

**47.** **a.** $F = \rho g D W L$

**b.** $F = \frac{1}{2}\rho g D^2 L$

**c.** 0.78 kN, 1.4 kN

**49.** 8.01%

**51.** $\left(\rho - \rho_1\right)/\left(\rho_2 - \rho_1\right)$

**53.** 0.16 kg

**55.** $m = 29$ g, $\rho = 1.1 \times 10^3$ kg/m$^3$

**57.** 5.5 m/s

**59.** 187 nm/s

**61.** 76 cm

**63.** 4.0 cm

**65.** **a.** Lower

**b.** 0.83 kPa

**c.** Blow out

**67.** **a.** $v_1 = 1.4 \times 10^2$ m/s, $v_2 = 5.8$ m/s

**b.** $4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ m$^3$/s

**69.** **a.** $v_{\text{hole}} A_{\text{hole}} = \pi r^2 \sqrt{\frac{2gd}{1-(r/R)^4}}$

Processing math: 48%

**b.** 1.1 mm/min

**71.** 14 cm

**73.** $\frac{h}{l} = \left(1 - \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_f}\right)^{1/3}$

**75.**

**a.** $\frac{2R^2 g}{9\eta}(\rho - \rho_f)$

**b.** $v_t(1 - e^{(-6t\pi\eta R/m)})$

**c.** 3.1 s

## Chapter 15

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **c.** $v_{max} = 2\pi A/T$. Doubling $A$ and $T$ leaves $v_{max}$ unchanged.

**2.** **d.** Think of circular motion. At 45°, the particle is in the first quadrant (positive $x$) and moving to the left (negative $v_x$).

**3.** **c > b > a = d.** Energy conservation $\frac{1}{2}kA^2 = \frac{1}{2}m(v_{max})^2$ gives $v_{max} = \sqrt{k/mA}$. $k$ or $m$ has to be increased or decreased by a factor of 4 to have the same effect as increasing or decreasing $A$ by a factor of 2.

**4.** **c.** $v_x = 0$ because the slope of the position graph is zero. The negative value of $x$ shows that the particle is left of the equilibrium position, so the restoring force is to the right.

**5.** **c.** The period of a pendulum does not depend on its mass.

**6.** $\tau_d > \tau_b = \tau_c > \tau_a$. The time constant is the time to decay to 37% of the initial height. The time constant is independent of the initial height.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.**

**a.** 3.3 s

**b.** 0.30 Hz

**c.** 1.9 rad/s

**d.** 0.25 m

**e.** 0.48 m/s

**3.** 2.27 ms

**5.**

**a.** 20 cm

**b.** 0.13 Hz

**c.** 60°

**7.**

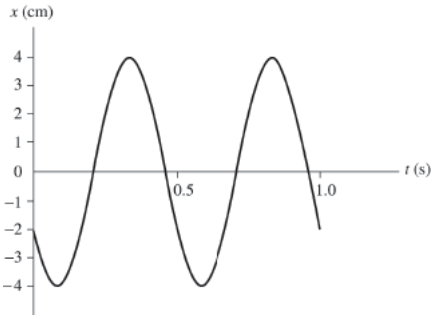
**a.** $-\frac{1}{3}\pi$ rad

**b.** 13.6 cm/s

Processing math: 48%

**c.** 15.7 cm/s

**9.**




**11.** $x(t) = (4.0\text{ cm})\cos\left[(8.0\pi\text{ rad/s})t - \frac{1}{2}\pi\text{ rad}\right]$

**13.**

**a.** $\phi_0 = -\frac{2}{3}\pi\text{ rad, or } -120°$

**b.** $\phi = -\frac{2}{3}\pi\text{ rad}, 0\text{ rad}, \frac{2}{3}\pi\text{ rad}, \frac{4}{3}\pi\text{ rad}$

**15.** 5.48 N/m

**17.**

**a.** 2.0 cm

**b.** 0.63 s

**c.** 5.0 N/m

**d.** $-\frac{1}{4}\pi\text{ rad}$

**e.** 14 cm/s

**f.** 20 cm/s

**g.** $1.00 \times 10^{-3}$ J

**h.** 1.5 cm/s

**19.** 0.13 s

**21.**

**a.** 25 N/m

**b.** 0.90 s

**c.** 0.70 m/s

**23.** 3.5 Hz

**25.** 36 cm

**27.** 33 cm

**29.** 3.67 $m/s^2$

**31.** 54 cm

Processing math: 48% s

**35.** 250 N/m

**37.** 0.0955 s

**41.** 1.02 m/s

**43.**

**a.** 55 kg

**b.** 0.73 m/s

**45.**

**a.** 3.2 Hz

**b.** 7.1 cm

**c.** 5.0 J

**47.** 1.6 Hz

**49.** $8.1 \times 10^9\ \text{N/m}^2$

**51.**

**a.** $4.7 \times 10^4\ \text{N/m}$

**b.** 1.8 Hz

**53.** $5.0 \times 10^2\ \text{m/s}$

**55.**

**a.** 7.5 m

**b.** 0.45 m/s

**57.**

**a.** 0.84 s

**b.** 7.1°

**59.** $8.7 \times 10^{-2}\ \text{kg m}^2$

**61.**

**a.** 2.0 Hz

**b.** 1.2 cm

**63.** $7.9 \times 10^{13}$ Hz

**65.** $5.86\ \text{m/s}^2$

**67.**

**a.** 9.5 N/m

**b.** 0.010 kg/s

**69.** 25 s

**71.** 21 oscillations

**75.** $\sqrt{\frac{f_1^2 f_2^2}{\quad + f_2^2}}$

Processing math: 48%

**77.** $\frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{5g}{7R}}$

**79.** 1.8 Hz

**81.** 0.58 s

## Chapter 16

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **d and e.** The wave speed depends on properties of the medium, not on how you generate the wave. For a string, $v = \sqrt{T_s/\mu}$. Increasing the tension or decreasing the linear density (lighter string) will increase the wave speed.

**2.** **b.** The wave is traveling to the right at 2.0 m/s, so each point on the wave passes $x = 0$ m, the point of interest, 2.0 s before reaching $x = 4.0$ m. The graph has the same shape, but everything happens 2.0 s earlier.

**3.** **d.** The wavelength—the distance between two crests—is seen to be 10 m. The frequency is $f = v/\lambda = (50 \text{ m/s})/(10 \text{ m}) = 5$ Hz.

**4.** $n_c > n_a > n_b$. $\lambda = \lambda_{vac}/n$, so a shorter wavelength corresponds to a larger index of refraction.

**5.** **e.** A crest and an adjacent trough are separated by $\lambda/2$. This is a phase difference of $\pi$ rad.

**6.** **c.** Any factor-of-2 change in intensity changes the sound intensity level by 3 dB. One trumpet is $\frac{1}{4}$ the original number, so the intensity has decreased by two factors of 2.

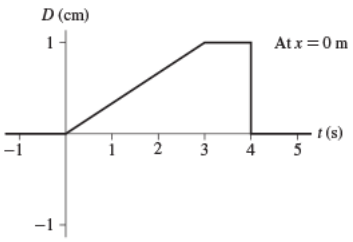
**7.** **c.** Zack hears a higher frequency as he and the source approach. Amy is moving with the source, so $f_{Amy} = f_0$.

### Exercises and Problems

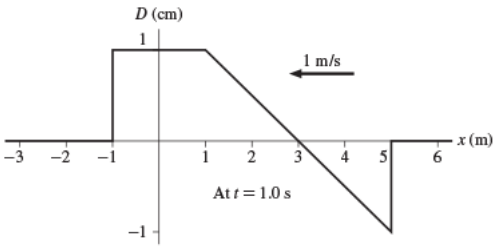
**1.** 141 m/s

**3.** 2.0 m

**5.**




**7.**

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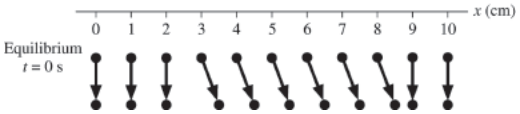



**11.** **a.** 4.2 m

**b.** 48 Hz

**13.** **a.** 20 Hz

**b.** 2.3 m

**c.** 46 m/s

**15.** $v = \sqrt{d/c}$

**17.** **a.** 3.2 mm

**b.** $9.3 \times 10^{10}$ Hz

**19.** **a.** $6.67 \times 10^{14}$ Hz

**b.** $4.62 \times 10^{14}$ Hz

**c.** 1.44

**21.** **a.** 10 GHz

**b.** 0.17 ms

**23.** **a.** $8.6 \times 10^{8}$ Hz

**b.** 23 cm

**25.** **a.** $1.88 \times 10^{8}$ m/s

**b.** $4.48 \times 10^{14}$ Hz

**27.** **a.** 311 m/s

**b.** 361 m/s

**29.** 40 cm

**31.** 2.5 m

**33.** $3.4 \times 10^{-6}$ J

**35.** **a.** $1.1 \times 10^{-3}$ W/m$^2$

**b.** $1.1 \times 10^{-7}$ J

Processing math: 48%

**37.** 2700 W/m$^2$, 1400 W/m$^2$, 610 W/m$^2$

**39.** 5.0 W

**41.**

**a.** 432 Hz

**b.** 429 Hz

**43.** 86 m/s

**45.**

**a.** 0.80 m

**b.** $-\frac{\pi}{2}$rad

**c.** $D(x, t) = (2.0\text{ mm}) \sin\left(2.5\pi x - 10\pi t - \frac{1}{2}\pi\right)$

**47.** 2.3 m, 1.7 m

**49.** 410 $\mu$s

**51.** 1230 km

**53.** 987 m/s

**55.**

**a.** $-x$-direction

**b.** 12 m/s, 5.0 Hz, 2.6 rad/m

**c.** −1.5 cm

**57.** −19 m/s, 0 m/s, 19 m/s

**59.** 8

**61.** 9.4 m/s

**63.** 16 Hz and 2.0 cm

**65.** 4.0 m/s

**67.**

**a.** $6.67 \times 10^4$ W

**b.** $8.5 \times 10^{10}$ W/m$^2$

**69.**

**a.** $3.10 \times 10^9$ W/m$^2$

**b.** 19 AU

**71.** 49 mW

**73.** 1.5

**75.** 9.8 m/s

Processing math: 48%

eding at $1.5 \times 10^6$ m/s

**81.** 0.07°C

**83.** 18 mJ

**85.** 29 s

## Chapter 17

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **c.** The figure shows the two waves at $t = 6$ s and their superposition. The superposition is the *point-by-point* addition of the displacements of the two individual waves.

**2.** **a.** The allowed standing-wave frequencies are $f_m = m(v/2L)$, so the mode number of a standing wave of frequency $f$ is $m = 2Lf/v$. Quadrupling $T_s$ increases the wave speed $v$ by a factor of 2. The initial mode number was 2, so the new mode number is 1.

**3.** **b.** 300 Hz and 400 Hz are allowed standing waves, but they are not $f_1$ and $f_2$ because $400\text{ Hz} \neq 2 \times 300\text{ Hz}$. Because there's a 100 Hz difference between them, these must be $f_3 = 3 \times 100\text{ Hz}$ and $f_4 = 4 \times 100\text{ Hz}$, with a fundamental frequency $f_1 = 100\text{ Hz}$. Thus the second harmonic is $f_2 = 2 \times 100\text{ Hz} = 200\text{ Hz}$.

**4.** **c.** Shifting the top wave 0.5 m to the left aligns crest with crest and trough with trough.

**5.** **a.** $r_1 = 0.5\lambda$ and $r_2 = 2.5\lambda$, so $\Delta r = 2.0\lambda$. This is the condition for maximum constructive interference.

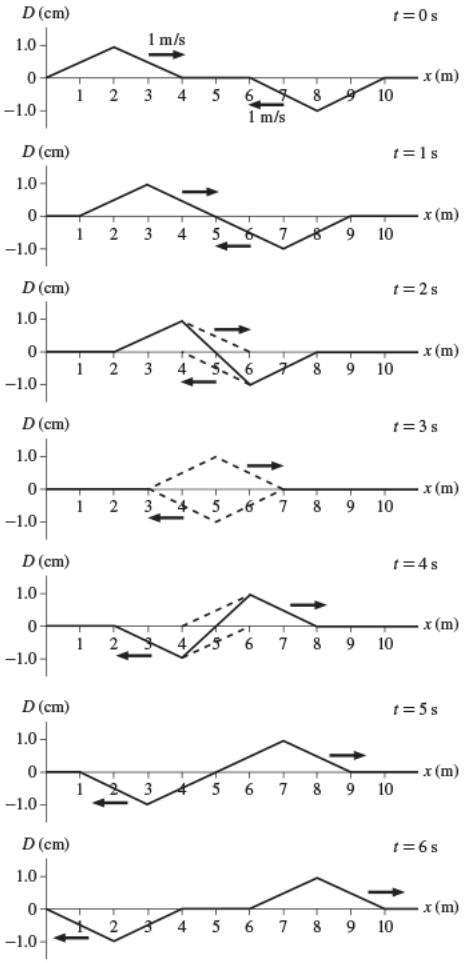
**6.** **Maximum constructive.** The path-length difference is $\Delta r = 1.0\text{ m} = \lambda$. For identical sources, interference is constructive when $\Delta r$ is an integer multiple of $\lambda$.

**7.** **f.** The beat frequency is the difference between the two frequencies.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.**

Processing math: 48%




**3.** 4 s

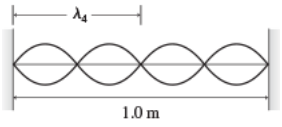
**5.** 20 m/s

**7.** **a.** 8

**b.** 200 Hz

**9.** **a.** 12 Hz, 24 m/s

**b.**




**11.** 12 kg

**13.**

| $m$ | $f_m$ (GHz) |
|---|---|
| 7 | 10.5 |
| 8 | 12.0 |
| 9 | 13.5 |
| 10 | 15.0 |
| 11 | 16.5 |
| 12 | 18.0 |
| 13 | 19.5 |

m/s

Processing math: 48%

**17.** 35 cm

**19.** 1.9 Hz

**21.** 1.6 kHz

**23.** **a.** 25 cm

**b.** 25 cm

**25.** 216 nm

**27.** **a.** In phase

**b.**

| $m$ | $r_1$ | $r_2$ | $\Delta r$ | C/D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $P$ | $3\lambda$ | $4\lambda$ | $\lambda$ | C |
| $Q$ | $\frac{7}{2}\lambda$ | $2\lambda$ | $\frac{5}{2}\lambda$ | D |
| $R$ | $\frac{5}{2}\lambda$ | $\frac{7}{2}\lambda$ | $\lambda$ | C |

**29.** 2.5 m

**31.** Maximum destructive interference

**33.** 527 Hz

**35.** 1.255 cm

**37.** 5.4 m

**39.** $2.4 \times 10^{-4}$ N

**41.** 260 N



**43.** 8.50 m/s$^2$

**45.** $T = \frac{T_0}{4}$

**47.** 0.54 s

**49.** 11 g/m

**51.** 13.0 cm

**53.** 328 m/s

**55.** 26 cm, 56 cm, 85 cm

**57.** 450 N

**59.** 7.9 cm

**61.** **a.** 80 cm

**b.** $\frac{3\pi}{4}$

**c.** 0.77a

Processing math: 48%

**63.** **a.** 473 nm

**b.** 406 nm, 568 nm

**c.** Reflected light is blue and transmitted light is yellowish green.

**65.** **a.** $\lambda_C = \frac{2.66d}{m+\frac{1}{2}}, m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots$

**b.** 692 nm and 415 nm; this gives a purplish color.

**67.** 679 nm, 428 nm

**69.** 170 Hz

**71.** **a.** $a$

**b.** 1.0 m

**c.** 9

**73.** **a.** 5

**b.** 4.6 mm

**75.** 7.0 m/s

**77.** 4.0 cm, 35 cm, 65 cm

**79.** 2.0 kg

**81.** **a.** $\lambda_1 = 20.0$ m, $\lambda_2 = 10.0$ m, $\lambda_3 = 6.67$ m

**b.** $v_1 = 5.59$ m/s, $v_2 = 3.95$ m/s, $v_3 = 3.22$ m/s

**c.** $T_1 = 3.58$ s, $T_2 = 2.53$ s, $T_3 = 2.07$ s

## Chapter 18

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **d.** The pressure *decreases* by 20 kPa.

**2.** **a.** The number of atoms depends only on the number of moles, not the substance.

**3.** **a.** The step size on the Kelvin scale is the same as the step size on the Celsius scale. A *change* of 10°C is a *change* of 10 K.

**4.** **Increase.** When an object undergoes thermal expansion, all dimensions increase by the same percentage.

**5.** **a.** On the water phase diagram, you can see that for a pressure just slightly below the triple-point pressure, the solid/gas transition occurs at a higher temperature than does the solid/liquid transition at high pressures. This is not true for carbon dioxide.

Processing math: 48%

**6.** **c.** $T = pV/nR$. Pressure and volume are the same, but $n$ differs. The number of moles in mass $M$ is $n = M/M_{\text{mol}}$. Helium, with the smaller molar mass, has a larger number of moles and thus a lower temperature.

**7.** **b.** The pressure is determined entirely by the weight of the piston pressing down. Changing the temperature changes the volume of the gas, but not its pressure.

**8.** **b.** The temperature decreases by a factor of 4 during the isochoric process, where $p_f/p_i = \frac{1}{4}$. The temperature then increases by a factor of 2 during the isobaric expansion, where $V_f/V_i = 2$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 1900 $\text{cm}^3$

**3.** 8.3 cm

**5.** 1.1 mol

**7.** **a.** $6.02 \times 10^{28}$ atoms/$\text{m}^3$

**b.** $3.28 \times 10^{28}$ atoms/$\text{m}^3$

**9.** 2.7 cm

**11.** 184 K, 330 K

**13.** **a.** 171°Z

**b.** $671\,^{\circ}\text{C} = 944$ K

**15.** 12 mm

**17.** 1.68 L

**19.** **a.** 2

**b.** Unchanged

**21.** **a.** 0.050 $\text{m}^3$

**b.** 1.3 atm

**23.** $2.4 \times 10^{22}$ molecules

**25.** $1.1 \times 10^{15}$ particles/$\text{m}^3$

**27.** **a.** $T_2 = T_1$

**b.** $\frac{p_1}{2}$

**29.** **a.** 0.73 atm

**b.** 0.52 atm

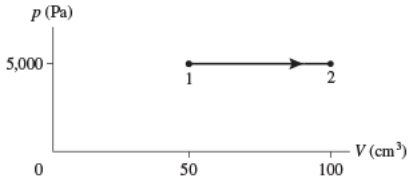
Processing math: 48%

**31.** **a.** 105,600 Pa

**b.** 42 cm

**33.** **a.** 93 $cm^3$

**b.**




**35.** **a.** Isochoric

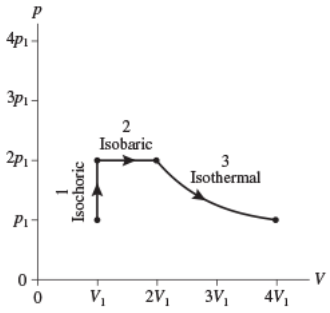
**b.** 1556°C, 337°C

**37.** **a.** Isothermal

**b.** −29°C

**c.** 133 $cm^3$

**39.**




**41.** 0.228 nm

**43.** 333°C

**45.** **a.** $1.3 \times 10^{-13}$

**b.** $1.2 \times 10^{11}$ molecules

**47.** $1.0 \times 10^{-16}$ atm

**49.** 10 g

**51.** **a.** 2.7 m

**b.** 11 atm

**53.** 35 psi

**55.** 93 $cm^3$

Processing math: 48%

m

**59.** 1.8 cm

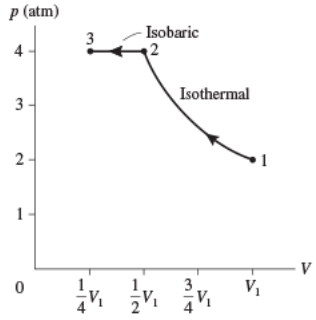
**61.** **a.** 880 kPa

**b.** $T_2 = 323\,^\circ\text{C}, T_3 = -49\,^\circ\text{C}, T_4 = 398\,^\circ\text{C}$

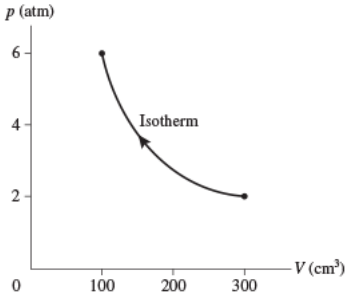
**63.** −152°C

**65.** **a.** 4.0 atm, −73°C

**b.**

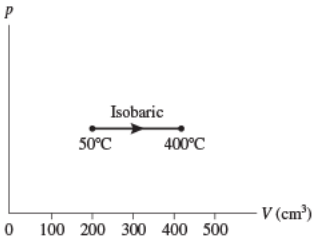



**67.** b.




c. 6 atm

**69.** b.




c. 417 $cm^3$

**71.** 1.8 g

**73.** $4.0 \times 10^5$ Pa

## Chapter 19

### ink Questions

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**1.** **a.** The piston does work $W$ on the gas. There's no heat because of the insulation, and $\Delta E_{\text{mech}} = 0$ because the gas as a whole doesn't move. Thus $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W > 0$. The work increases the system's thermal energy and thus raises itstemperature.

**2.** **d.** $W_A = 0$ because A is an isochoric process. $W_B = W_{1\text{ to }2} + W_{2\text{ to }3}$. $W_{2\text{ to }3} > W_{1\text{ to }2}$ because there's more area under the curve, and $W_{2\text{ to }3}$ is positive whereas $W_{1\text{ to }2}$ is negative. Thus $W_B$ is positive.

**3.** **b and e.** The temperature rises in d from doing work on the gas $\left(\Delta E_{\text{th}} = W\right)$, not from heat. e involves heat because there is a temperature difference. The temperature of the gas doesn't change because the heat is used to do the work of lifting a weight.

**4.** **c.** The temperature increases so $E_{\text{th}}$ must increase. $W$ is negative in an expansion, so $Q$ must be positive and larger than $|W|$.

**5.** **a.** A has a smaller specific heat and thus less thermal inertia. The temperature of A will change more than the temperature of B.

**6.** **a.** $W_A + Q_A = W_B + Q_B$. The area under process A is larger than the area under B, so $W_A$ is *more negative* than $W_B$. $Q_A$ has to be more positive than $Q_B$ to maintain the equality.

**7.** **c.** Conduction, convection, and evaporation require matter. Only radiation transfers energy through the vacuum of space.

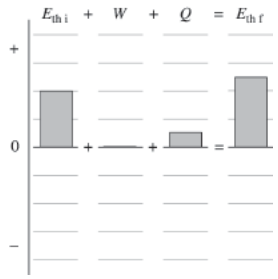
## Exercises and Problems

**1.** –80 J

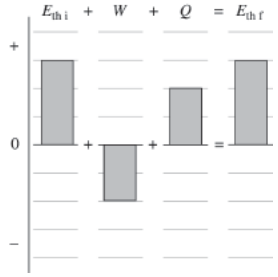
**3.** 200 $\text{cm}^3$

**5.** 16.6 kJ

**7.**




**9.**




**11.** –700 J

**a.** 0 J

Processing math: 48%

**b.** 3.4 kJ

**15.** 6.9 kJ

**17.** 1200 W

**19.** 0.55°C

**21.** 28°C

**23.** 73.5°C

**25.** 21%

**27.** **a.** 91 J

**b.** 140°C

**29.** **a.** $1.9 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m}^3$

**b.** 74°C

**31.** A: −1000 J, B: 1400 J

**33.** $3.14 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{m}^2$

**35.** 5.8 s

**37.** 26 W

**39.** 8.7 h

**41.** 12 J/s

**43.** 87 min

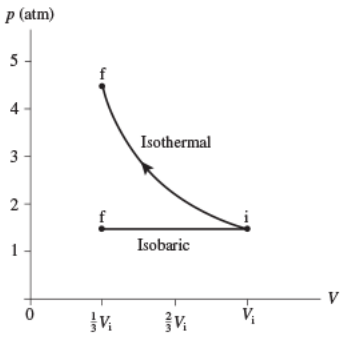
**45.** $1.1 \times 10^{5}$ L

**47.** 61 g

**49.** **a.** 5.5 kJ

**b.** 3.4 kJ

**c.**




Processing math: 48%
0 J

**53.** **a.** 250°C

**b.** 33 cm

**55.** **a.** 110 kPa

**b.** 24 cm

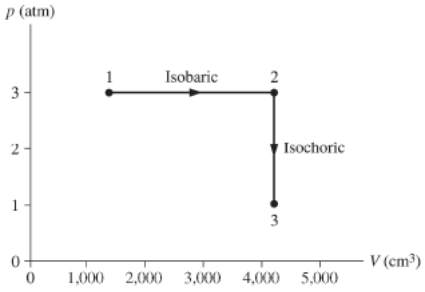
**57.** **a.** 4300 $cm^3$, 610°C

**b.** 3000 J

**c.** 1.0 atm

**d.** −2200 J

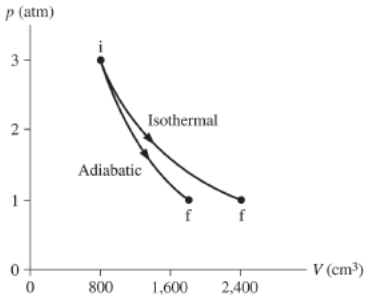
**e.**




**59.** 15 atm

**61.** **a.** $T_{Af} = 300\ K$, $V_{Af} = 2.5 \times 10^{-3}\ m^3$, $T_{Bf} = 220\ K$, $V_{Bf} = 1.8 \times 10^{-3}\ m^3$

**b.**




**63.** 28°C

**65.** **a.** 5500 K

**b.** 0 J

**c.** 54 kJ

**d.** 20

**e.**

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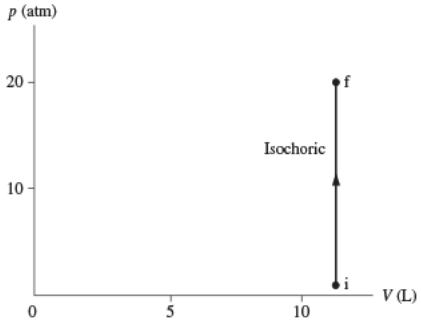



**67.** 43°C, 109°F

**69.** 26°C

**71.** 12,000 K

**73.** −18°C

**75.** b. 217°C

**77.** −56°C

**79.** 36 J

**81.** 150 J

## Chapter 20

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** $\lambda_B > \lambda_A = \lambda_C > \lambda_D$. Increasing the volume makes the gas less dense, so l increases. Increasing the radius makes the targets larger, so λ decreases. The mean free path doesn't depend on the atomic mass.

**2.** **c.** Each $v^2$ increases by a factor of 16 but, after averaging, $v_{rms}$ takes the square root.

**3.** **e.** Temperature is proportional to the average energy. The energy of a gas molecule is kinetic, proportional to $v^2$. The average energy, and thus $T$, increases by $4^2$.

**4.** **b.** The bead can slide along the wire (one degree of translational motion) and rotate around the wire (one degree of rotational motion).

**5.** **a.** Temperature measures the average translational kinetic energy *per molecule*, not the thermal energy of the entire system.

**6.** **c.** With 1,000,000 molecules, it's highly unlikely that 750,000 of them would spontaneously move into one side of the box. A state with a very small probability of occurrence has a very low entropy. Having an imbalance of only 100 out of 1,000,000 is well within what you might expect for random fluctuations. This is a highly probable situation and thus one of large entropy.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** $\frac{N}{V} = 2.69 \times 10^{25}\ \text{m}^{-3}$

Processing math: 48%

3 Pa

**5.** **a.** 300 nm

**b.** 600 nm

**7.** 84.8

**9.** **a.** 20.0 m/s

**b.** 20.2 m/s

**11.** **a.** 289 K

**b.** 200 kPa

**13.** Neon

**15.** **a.** 818 m/s

**b.** 3600 m/s

**17.** −246°C

**19.** 2.12

**21.** **a.** 3400 J

**b.** 3400 J

**c.** 3400 J

**23.** **a.** 310 nm

**b.** 250 m/s

**c.** $2.1 \times 10^{-22}$ J

**25.** **a.** $1.24 \times 10^{-19}$ J

**b.** $1.22 \times 10^{4}$ m/s

**27.** 490 J

**29.** **a.** 0.080°C

**b.** 0.048°C

**c.** 0.040°C

**31.** 25°C

**33.** **a.** 62 J

**b.** 100 J

Processing math: 48%

**c.** 150 J

**35.** 5000 J

**37.** 61

**39.** $9.6 \times 10^{-5}$ m/s

**41.**

**a.** 310 m

**b.** 2900 m

**43.** $5.8 \times 10^{-22}$ K

**45.**

**a.** $\lambda_{\text{electron}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}\pi(N/V)r^2}$

**b.** $1.82 \times 10^{-6}$ Pa or $1.80 \times 10^{-11}$ atm

**47.**

**a.** 640 m/s

**b.** 2.6 nm

**49.** $8.9 \times 10^{25}\ \text{s}^{-1}$

**51.**

**a.** $E_{\text{helium i}} = 30$ J, $E_{\text{argon i}} = 122$ J

**b.** $E_{\text{helium f}} = 47$ J, $E_{\text{argon f}} = 105$ J

**c.** Helium gains 16.9 J and argon loses 16.9 J.

**d.** 307°C

**e.** $p_{\text{helium f}} = 3.1$ atm, $p_{\text{argon f}} = 3.4$ atm

**53.** 482 K

**55.** 22 kJ



**59.** b. $\frac{15n+3}{2}p_iV_i$

**61.**

**a.** 1.6 kJ

**b.** 2.7 kJ

**c.** 1550 m/s

**63.**

**a.** $C_v = \frac{(3n_1+5n_2)}{2(n_1+n_2)}R$

**65.** $\frac{1}{2}$

## Chapter 21

Processing math: 48%

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** $W_d > W_a = W_b > W_c$. $W_{out} = Q_H - Q_C$.

**2.** **b.** Energy conservation requires $Q_H = Q_C + W_{in}$. The refrigerator will exhaust more heat out the back than it removes from the front. A refrigerator with an open door will heat the room rather than cool it.

**3.** **c.** $W_{out}$ = area inside triangle = 1000 J. $\eta = W_{out}/Q_H = (1000\text{ J})/(4000\text{ J}) = 0.25$.

**4.** To conserve energy, the heat $Q_H$ exhausted to the hot reservoir needs to be $Q_H = Q_C + W_{in} = 40\text{ J} + 10\text{ J} = 50\text{ J}$, not 30 J. The numbers shown here would be appropriate to a heat engine if the energy-transfer arrows were all reversed.

**5.** **b.** The efficiency of this engine would be $\eta = W_{out}/Q_H = 0.6$. That exceeds the Carnot efficiency $\eta_{Carnot} = 1 - T_C/T_H = 0.5$, so it is not possible.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 0.33

**3.** **a.** 0.27

**b.** 15 kJ

**5.** 2.0

**7.** **a.** 13 kJ/cycle

**b.** 50 kJ

**9.**

| | $\Delta E_{th}$ | $W_s$ | $Q$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | − | + | 0 |
| B | + | 0 | + |
| C | 0 | − | − |

**11.** 40 J

**13.** **a.** 30 J, 0.15 kJ

**b.** 0.21

**15.** **a.** 0.13

**b.** 320 J

**17.** 0.24

**19.** **a.** 660 W

**b.** 760 W

**21.** **a.** 5.0 kW

**b.** 1.7

Processing math: 48%

**23.** **a.** Engine c violates the first law.

**b.** Engine b violates the second law.

**25.** **a.** 40%

**b.** 215°C

**27.** **a.** 40%

**b.** 2500 W

**c.** 1500 W

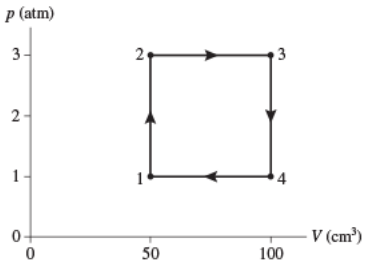
**29.** 0. 56 kJ

**31.** 1.7

**33.** **a.** 60 J

**b.** −23°C

**35.** **a.**




**b.** 10 J

**c.** 0.13

**37.** 250 N/m

**39.** 28 kW

**41.** **a.** $3.6 \times 10^6$ J

**b.** $3.0 \times 10^5$ J

**43.** 8.3%

**45.** 6.4 J

**47.** 8.57 J

**49.** 57 g

Processing math: 48%

**a.** 48 m

**b.** 32%

**53.** 37%

**55.** **a.**

| | $W_s$ (J) | $Q$ (kJ) | $\Delta E_{th}$ (kJ) |
|---|---|---|---|
| $1 \rightarrow 2$ | 0 | 3750 | 3750 |
| $2 \rightarrow 3$ | 4990 | 12,480 | 7490 |
| $3 \rightarrow 4$ | 0 | −7500 | −7500 |
| $4 \rightarrow 1$ | −2490 | −6230 | −3740 |
| Net | 2500 | 2500 | 0 |

**b.** 15%

**57.** **a.** 1.10 kW

**b.** 9.01%

**59.** **a.** 1000 $cm^3$, 696 kPA, 522 K

**b.**

| | $\Delta E_{th}$ (J) | $W_s$ (J) | $Q$ (J) |
|---|---|---|---|
| $1 \rightarrow 2$ | 741.1 | 0 | 741.1 |
| $2 \rightarrow 3$ | −741.1 | 741.1 | 0 |
| $3 \rightarrow 1$ | 0 | −554.5 | −554.5 |
| Net | 0 | 186.6 | 186.6 |

**c.** 25%

**61.** **a.**

| | $p$ (atm) | $T$ (K) | $V$ ($cm^3$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1.0 | 406 | 1000 |
| 2 | 5.0 | 2030 | 1000 |
| 3 | 1.0 | 2030 | 5000 |

**b.** 29%

**c.** 80%

**63.** **a.** $T_1 = 1.6\,kK$, $T_2 = 2.4\,kK$, $T_3 = 6.5\,kK$

**b.**

| | $\Delta E_{th}$ (J) | $W_s$ (J) | $Q$ (J) |
|---|---|---|---|
| $1 \rightarrow 2$ | 327 | −327 | 0 |
| $2 \rightarrow 3$ | 1692 | 677 | 2369 |
| $3 \rightarrow 1$ | −2019 | 0 | −2019 |
| Net | 0 | 350 | 350 |

**65.** **b.** $1.1 \times 10^{30}$ C

**67.** **b.** $Q_C = 80$ J

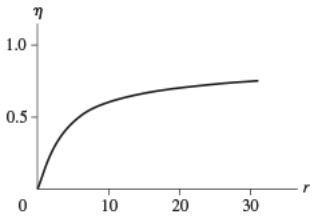
**69.** $5.3 \times 10^4$ J

**71.** **a.** 1.19

**b.** 227 W

Processing math: 48%

**73.** c.




## Chapter 22

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **b.** Charged objects are attracted to neutral objects, so an attractive force is inconclusive. Repulsion is the only sure test.

**2.** $q_e(+3e) > q_a(+1e) > q_d(0) > q_b(-1e) > q_c(-2e)$.

**3.** **a.** The negative plastic rod will polarize the electroscope by pushing electrons down toward the leaves. This will partially neutralize the positive charge the leaves had acquired from the glass rod.

**4.** **b.** The two forces are an action/reaction pair, opposite in direction but *equal* in magnitude.

**5.** **c.** There's an electric field at *all* points, whether an $\vec{E}$ vector is shown or not. The electric field at the dot is to the right. But an electron is a negative charge, so the force of the electric field on the electron is to the left.

**6.** $E_b > E_a > E_d > E_c$.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** Electrons removed

**b.** $5.0 \times 10^{10}$

**3.** **a.** Electrons transferred to the sphere

**b.** $3.1 \times 10^{10}$

**5.** $-5.4 \times 10^{7}$ C

**7.** 2, negative

**13.** **a.** 0.90 N

**b.** 0.90 m/s$^2$

**15.** −10 nC

**17.** 0 N

**19.** $3.1 \times 10^{-4}$ N, upward

Processing math: 48%

$_{A} = +(7.2 \times 10^{-4}\text{ N})\hat{j}$, $\vec{F}_{A\text{ on }B} = -(7.2 \times 10^{-4}\text{ N})\hat{j}$

**23.** **a.** 0.36 m/s$^2$ toward glass bead

**b.** 0.18 m/s$^2$ toward plastic bead

**25.** 8.9 kN/m

**27.** **a.** $(6.4\hat{\imath} + 1.6\hat{\jmath}) \times 10^{-17}$ N

**b.** $-(6.4\hat{\imath} + 1.6\hat{\jmath}) \times 10^{-17}$ N

**c.** $4.0 \times 10^{10}$ m/s$^2$

**d.** $7.3 \times 10^{13}$ m/s$^2$

**29.** 0.11 nC

**31.** 12 nC

**33.** $-6.8 \times 10^4\hat{\imath}$ N/C, $3.0 \times 10^4\hat{\imath}$ N/C, $\left(8.1 \times 10^3\hat{\imath} - 4.1 \times 10^4\hat{\jmath}\right)$ N/C

**35.** $1.4 \times 10^5$ C, $-1.4 \times 10^5$ C

**37.** **a.** $5.0 \times 10^2$ N

**b.** $3.0 \times 10^{29}$ m/s$^2$

**39.** $8.4 \times 10^{21}$

**41.** $4.3 \times 10^{-3}$ N, 73° counterclockwise from the +$x$-axis

**43.** $2.0 \times 10^{-4}$ N, 45° clockwise from the +$x$-axis

**45.** $1.1 \times 10^{-5}\hat{\jmath}$ N

**47.** **a.** −2.4 cm

**b.** Yes

**49.** −20 nC

**51.** $(2 - \sqrt{2})\frac{KQq}{L^2}$

**53.** **a.** $2.4 \times 10^2$ N

**b.** Yes

**55.** 8.1 nC

**57.** 7.3 m/s

**59.** 33 nC

Processing math: 48%

**a.** $1.1 \times 10^{18}$ m/s$^2$

**b.** $1.0 \times 10^{-12}$ N

**c.** $6.3 \times 10^{6}$ N/C

**d.** 69 nC

**63.** $-1.0 \times 10^{5}\hat{j}$ N/C, $(-2.9 \times 10^{4}\hat{i} - 2.2 \times 10^{4}\hat{j})$ N/C, $-5.6 \times 10^{4}\hat{i}$ N/C

**65.** **a.** (−1.0 cm, 2.0 cm)

**b.** (3.0 cm, 3.0 cm)

**c.** (4.0 cm, −2.0 cm)

**67.** 0.18 $\mu$C

**69.** b. $1.0 \times 10^{3}$

**71.** b. 5.0 cm

**73.** 0.75 $\mu$C

**75.** 41 g

**77.** **a.** $KQq\left(\frac{1}{(r-s/2)^2} - \frac{1}{(r+s/2)^2}\right)\hat{i}$

**b.** Toward $Q$

## Chapter 23

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **c.** From symmetry, the fields of the positive charges cancel. The net field is that of the negative charge, which is toward the charge.

**2.** $\eta_c = \eta_b = \eta_a$. All pieces of a uniformly charged surface have the same surface charge density.

**3.** **b, e, and h.** b and e both increase the linear charge density λ.

**4.** $E_a = E_b = E_c = E_d = E_e$. The field strength of a charged plane is the same at all distances from the plane. An electric field diagram shows the electric field vectors at only a few points; the field exists at all points.

**5.** $F_a = F_b = F_c = F_d = F_e$. The field strength inside a capacitor is the same at all points, hence the force on a charge is the same at all points. The electric field exists at all points whether or not a vector is shown at that point.

**6.** **c.** Parabolic trajectories require *constant* acceleration and thus a *uniform* electric field. The proton has an initial velocity component to the left, but it's being pushed back to the right.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** 7.6×103 N/C along the + $x$-axis

-103 N/C vertically downward

Processing math: 48%

**5.** **a.** 2.0 nC

**b.** 180 N/C

**7.** 2.9×10−3 N

**9.** 2.3×105 N/C, 1.67×105 N/C, 2.3×105 N/C

**11.** 40 nC

**13.** 15 nC

**15.** **a.** 0 N/C

**b.** 4.1×103 N/C

**17.** 27 nC

**19.** 1.41×105 N/C

**21.** −0.35 pC

**23.** 25 nC, −25 nC

**25.** 0.9995 cm

**27.** **a.** $2.3 \times 10^{-6}$

**b.** $4.3 \times 10^{7}$ N/C, up



**29.** 0.28 MN/C

**31.** 6.4 $\mu$C/m$^2$

**33.** **a.** 14πϵ0qQsr3

**b.** 14πϵ0qQsr2

**35.** **a.** $(1.0 \times 105\hat{i} - 3.6 \times 104\hat{j})$ N/C

**b.** 1.1×105 N/C, 19.4∘ ccw from the +$x$-axis

**37.** **a.** $(-4.7 \times 103\hat{i} + 8.6 \times 104\hat{j})$ N/C

**b.** 8.6×104 N/C, 93∘ cw from the + $x$-axis

**39.** 14πϵ0(q55a2)(3î+2ĵ),−14πϵ0(17q9a2)î, −14πϵ0(7q9a2)î, and 14πϵ0(q55a2)(3î−2ĵ)

**41.** 14πϵ016λy4y2+d2

**43.** **a.** 14πϵ0Qx2−L2/4

**b.** 14πϵ0Qx2

Processing math: 48%

**c.** 9.8×104 N/C

**47.** **a.** 14πϵ0(2πQL2)î

**b.** 1.70×105 N/C

**49.** 1.4×105 N/C

**51.** 2.2 mm

**53.** 1.19×107 m/s

**55.** 1.13×1014 rev/s

**57.** **a.** 43πr3ρg+qE6πηr

**b.** 0.067 mm/s

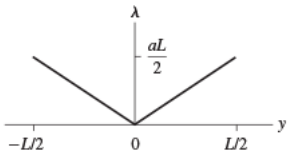
**c.** 0.049 mm/s

**59.** 6.56×1015 rev/s

**63.** b. 1.0 mm

**65.** b. R3

**67.** **a.**

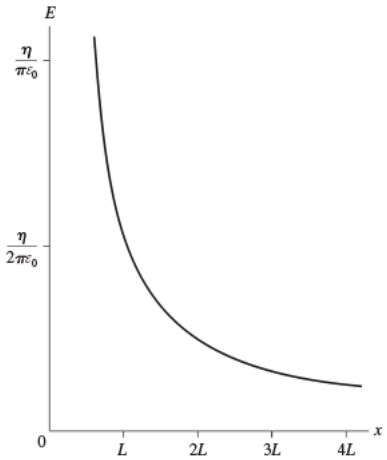



**b.** 4QL2

**c.** 8Q4πϵ0L2[ 1−xx2+L2/4 ]

**69.** **a.** 2η4πϵ0 ln (2x+L2x−L)î

**c.**




Processing math: 48%

**71.** 8.8×105 N/C

**73.** c. 2.0×1012 Hz

# Chapter 24

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **a and d.** Symmetry requires the electric field to be unchanged if front and back are reversed, if left and right are reversed, or if the field is rotated about the wire's axis. Fields a and d both have the proper symmetry. Other factors would now need to be considered to determine the correct field.

**2.** **e.** The net flux is into the box.

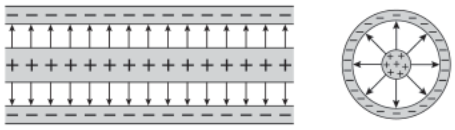
**3.** **c.** There's no flux through the four sides. The flux is positive 1 N m²/C through both the top and bottom because $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{A}$ both point outward.

**4.** $\Phi b=\Phi e>\Phi a=\Phi c=\Phi d$. The flux through a closed surface depends only on the amount of enclosed charge, not the size or shape of the surface.

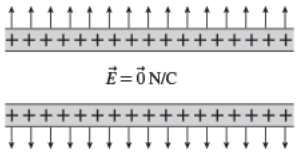
**5.** **d.** A cube doesn't have enough symmetry to use Gauss's law. The electric field of a charged cube is *not* constant over the face of a cubic Gaussian surface, so we can't evaluate the surface integral for the flux.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.**



**3.**




**5.** Positive charge

**7.** Into the front face of the cube; field strength must exceed 5 N/C

**9.** −2.0 N m²/C

**11.** 1.4×103 N/C

**13.** **a.** 0.0 N m²/C

**b.** 0.12 N m²/C

**15.** 3.5×10−4 N m2/C

**19.** +2q, +q, −3q

**21.** 0.11 kN m²/C

**23.** −1.00 N m²/C

Processing math: 48%

**25.** 17.7×10−9 C/m2

**27.** Qϵ0

**29.** Φ1=−3.2 kN m2/C,Φ2=Φ3=Φ5=0.0 N m2/C,

Φ4=3.2 kN m2/C

**31.**

**a.** −3.5 N m$^2$/C

**b.** 1.2 N m$^2$/C

**33.** 0.19 kN m$^2$/C

**35.**

**a.** −100 nC

**b.** +50 nC

**37.**

**a.** 2.4×10−6 C/m3

**b.** 1 nC, 10 nC, 80 nC

**c.** 4.5 kN/C, 9.0×103 N/C, 1.8×104 N/C

**39.** −4.51×105 C

**41.** 2.5×104 N/C, outward, 0 N/C, 7.9×103 N/C, outward

**43.** 0 N/C, 14πϵ0Qr2r^

**45.** 0→ N/C, (η/2ϵ0)ĵ,−(η/2ϵ0)ĵ, 0→ N/C

**49.**

**a.** λ2πϵ0r^r

**b.** 3λ2πϵ0r^r

**51.** 6.2×10−11 C2/N m2

**53.** ρ6ϵ0r

**55.**

**b.** 0, because this is a neutral atom

**c.** 4.6×1013 N/C

**57.**

**a.** λL2dy4πϵ0[ y2+(L/2)2 ]

**b.** λL/(4ϵ0)Qin/ϵ0

**59.**

**a.** C=Q4πR

**b.** 14πϵ0QRrr^

**c.** Yes

Processing math: 48%

**61.** **a.** $Q4\pi\epsilon 0R2$

**b.** $3Qr32\pi R6$

## Chapter 25

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **Zero.** The motion is always perpendicular to the electric force.

**2.** $Ub=Ud>Ua=Uc$. The potential energy depends inversely on *r*. The effects of doubling the charge and doubling the distance cancel each other.

**3.** **c.** The proton gains speed by losing potential energy. It loses potential energy by moving in the direction of decreasing electric potential.

**4.** $Va=Vb>Vc>Vd=Ve$. The potential decreases steadily from the positive to the negative plate. It depends only on the distance from the positive plate.

**5.** $\Delta Vac=\Delta Vbc>\Delta Vab$. The potential depends only on the *distance* from the charge, not the direction. $\Delta Vab=0$ because these points are at the same distance.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** $2.7\times106$ m/s

**3.** $2.1\times106$ m/s

**5.** $-2.2\times10-19$ J

**7.** $-4.7\times10-6$ J

**9.** $1.61\times108$ N/C

**11.** $4.38\times105$ m/s

**13.** 11.4 V

**15.** **a.** Higher

**b.** 3340 V

**17.** $1.0\times10-5$ V

**19.** **a.** $4.2\times103$ m/s

**b.** $1.8\times106$ m/s

**23.** **a.** 200 V

**b.** $6.3\times10-10$ C

**25.** **a.** 1000 V

Processing math: 48%

**b.** 7.0×106 m/s

**27.** **a.** 1800 V, 1800 V, 900 V

**b.** 0 V, 900 V

**29.** **a.** 27 V

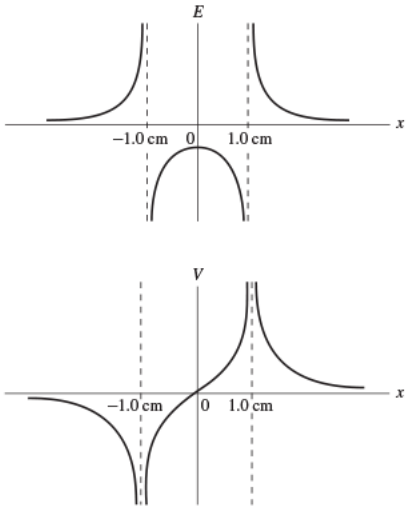
**b.** −4.3×10−18 J

**31.** −1600 V

**33.** **a.** No

**b.** Yes, at x=0

**c.**




**35.** 0 V

**37.** −10 nC, 40 nC

**39.** 3.0 cm, 6.0 cm

**41.** **a.** 0.72 J



**b.** 14 N

**c.** 2.0 g cube: 22 m/s, 4.0 g cube: 11 m/s

**43.** 1.0×105 m/s

**45.** 2.5 cm/s

**47.** **a.** 2.1×106 V/m

**b.** 9.4×107 m/s

**49.** 150 nC

Processing math: 48%

**51.** 8.0×107 m/s

**53.** –5.1×10–19 J

**55.** 310 nC

**57.** 6.8 fm

**59.** a. Yes

c. 8.21×108 m/s

**61.** **a.** 15 V, 3.0 kV/m, 2.1×10–10 C

**b.** 15 V, 1/5 kV/m, 1.0×10–10 C

**c.** 15 V, 3.0 kV/m, 8.3×10–10 C

**63.** **a.** V0R

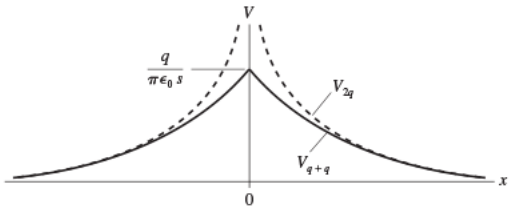
**b.** 100 kV/m

**65.** **a.** 8.3 $\mu$C

**b.** 3.3×106 V/m

**67.** **a.** 2q4πϵ0x11+s2/4x2

**b.**




**69.** Q4πϵ0L ln [(x+L/2)(x–L/2)]

**71.** Q/4πϵ0R

**73.** λ4ϵ0(1+2ln(3)π)

**75.** b. 1.67×106 m/s

**77.** 0.28 rad/s

**79.** 0.018 m/s, 0.011 m/s

**81.** **a.** 2*Q*/*L*

**b.** Kλ0L[ L+dln(dL+d) ]

## Chapter 26

Processing math: 48%

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **c.** $E_y$ is the negative of the slope of the $V$-versus-$y$ graph. $E_y$ is positive because $\vec{E}$ points up, so the graph has a negative slope. $E_y$ has constant magnitude, so the slope has a constant value.

**2.** **c.** $\vec{E}$ points "downhill," so $V$ must decrease from right to left. $E$ is larger on the left than on the right, so the contour lines must be closer together on the left.

**3.** **b.** Because of the connecting wire, the three spheres form a single conductor in electrostatic equilibrium. Thus all points are at the same potential. The electric field of a sphere is related to the sphere's potential by $E=V/R$, so a smaller-radius sphere has a larger $E$.

**4.** **5.0 V.** The potentials add, but $\Delta V=-1.0$ V because the charge escalator goes *down* by 1.0 V.

**5.** $(C_{eq})_b>(C_{eq})_a=(C_{eq})_d>(C_{eq})_c$. $(C_{eq})_b=3\ \mu F+3\ \mu F=6\ \mu F$. The equivalent capacitance of series capacitors is less than any capacitor in the group, so $(C_{eq})_c<3\mu F$. Only d requires any real calculation. The two 4 $\mu$F capacitors are in series and are equivalent to a single 2 $\mu$F capacitor. The 2 $\mu$F equivalent capacitor is in parallel with 3 $\mu$F, so $(C_{eq})_d=5\ \mu F$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** −0.20 kV

**3.** −200 V

**5.** **a.** A

**b.** −70 V

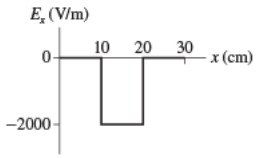
**7.** $-(20\hat{j})$ kV/m

**9.** **a.** −5 V/m

**b.** 10 V/m

**c.** −5 V/m

**11.**




**13.** −1.0 kV/m

**15.** **a.** 27 V/m

**b.** 3.7 V/m

**17.** $1.5\times10^{-6}$ J

**19.** $1.6\times10^{-13}$ J

Processing math: 48%

**a.** 13 pF

**b.** 1.3 nC

**23.** 4.8 cm

**25.** 3.0 $\mu$F

**27.** 7.5 $\mu$F

**29.** 20 $\mu$F, parallel

**31.** 1.4 kV

**33.** **a.** 1.1×10−7 J

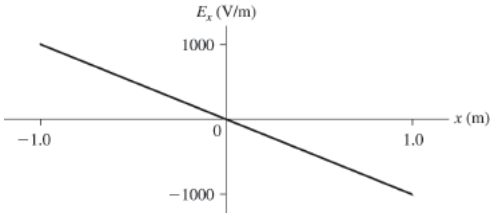
**b.** 0.71 J/m$^3$

**35.** **a.** 0.15 nF

**b.** 12 kV

**37.** 89 pF

**39.** **a.**




**b.** 25 V

**41.** **a.** −(1.4×107î) V/m, 7×104 V

**b.** 0.0 V/m, 1.4×105 V

**c.** 1.4×107î V/m, 7×104 V

**43.** **a.** Q4πϵ0L ln(x+L/2x−L/2)

**b.** Q4πϵ01x2−L2/4î

**45.** $2V_0/3d$

**47.** 40 V/m, 27° ccw from + $x$-axis

**49.** QIf=2 nC, Q2f=4 nC

**51.** 1.1 nC

**53.** **a.** ± 3.2×10−11 C, 9.0 V

**b.** ± 3.2×10−11 C, 18 V

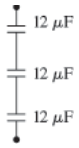
Processing math: 48%

**55.** **a.** *NC*

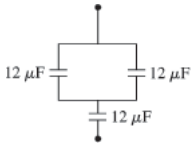
**b.** CN

**57.** Q1=4 μC, ΔV1=1.0 V; Q2=12 μC, ΔV2=1.0 V; Q3=16 μC, ΔV3=8 V

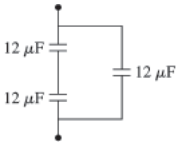
**59.** **a.**



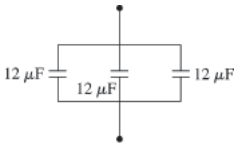

**b.**




**c.**




**d.**




**61.** Q1=83 mC, Q2=Q3=0.67 mC, ΔV1=55 V, ΔV2=34 V,ΔV3=22 V

**63.** Q1′=33 μC, Q2′=67 μC, ΔV1′=ΔV2′ =3.3 V

**65.** **a.** C(ΔVC)22d

**b.** 5.0 mN

**67.** 22 $\mu$F

**69.** 20 $\mu$A

**71.** 2.4×10−14 J

**75.** **b.** (10−az2) V, with z in m

**77.** **b.** 2 $\mu$F

**79.** **a.** q4πϵ0[ 1x2+(y2−s/2)2−1x2+(y2−s/2)2 ]

**b.** qsy4πϵ0(x2+y2)3/2

**c.** Ex=qs(3xy)4πϵ0(x2+y2)5/2, Ey=−qs(2y2−x2)4πϵ0(x2+y2)5/2

Processing math: 48%

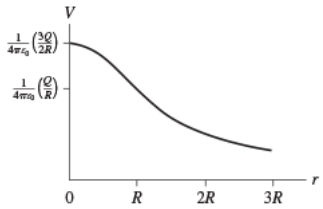
**d.** E→on-axis=2p4πϵ0r3ĵ, yes

**e.** E→bisecting axis=-p4πϵ0r3ĵ, yes

**81.** **a.** 14πϵ0QR[ 32−r22R2 ]

**b.** 3/2

**c.**




**83.** 2 C

## Chapter 27

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** ic>ib>ia>id. The electron current is proportional to $r^2 v_d$. Changing $r$ by a factor of 2 has more influence than changing $v_d$ by a factor of 2.

**2.** **The electrons don't have to move from the switch to the bulb, which could take hours.** Because the wire between the switch and the bulb is already full of electrons, a flow of electrons from the switch into the wire immediately causes electrons to flow from the other end of the wire into the lightbulb.

**3.** Ed>Eb>Ee>Ea=Ec. The electric field strength depends on the *difference* in the charge on the two wires. The electric fields of the rings in a and c are opposed to each other, so the net field is zero. The rings in d have the largest charge *difference*.

**4.** **1 A into the junction.** The total current entering the junction must equal the total current leaving the junction.

**5.** Jd>Ja=Jd>Jc. The current density J=I/πr2 is independent of the conductivity $\sigma$, so a and d are the same. Changing $r$ by a factor of 2 has more influence than changing $I$ by a factor of 2.

**6.** Ia=Ib=Ic=Id. Conservation of charge requires Ia=Ib. The current in each wire is I=ΔVwire/R. All the wires have the same resistance because they are identical, and they all have the same potential difference because each is connected directly to the battery, which is a *source of potential*.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** 75 $\mu$m/s

**3.** 0.93 mm

**5.** 0.023 V/m

**7.** **a.** 7.43×10−6 m/s

**b.** 2.1×10−14 s

Processing math: 48%

**9.** **a.** 0.80 A

**b.** 7.0×107 A/m2

**11.** 130 C

**13.** 1.8 $\mu$A

**15.** 4.2×106 A/m2

**17.** **a.** 2.1×10−14 s

**b.** 4.3×10−15 s

**19.** **a.** 10 V/m

**b.** 6.7×106 A/m2

**c.** 0.62 mm

**21.** Nichrome

**23.** **a.** 1.64×10−3 V/m

**b.** 1.10×10−5 m/s

**25.** **a.** 0.50 C/s

**b.** 1.5 J

**c.** 0.75 W

**27.** **a.** 1.5 Ω

**b.** 3.5 Ω

**29.** 1.5 mV

**31.** 2.3 mA

**33.** 1.6 A

**35.** 50 Ω

**37.** 0.87 V

**39.** 0.10 V/m

**41.** 6.2×106

**43.** 23 mA

**45.** Yes, 2.2×105 Ω−1 m−1

Processing math: 48%

**a.** 120 C

**b.** 0.45 mm

**49.** 71° C

**51.** 100 V

**53.**

**a.** $(\Delta V)A\,[1-\alpha(T-T0)]\rho 0L$

**b.** 4.4 A

**c.** −0.017 A/°C

**55.** 0.50 mm

**57.**

**a.** $I4\pi\sigma r2$

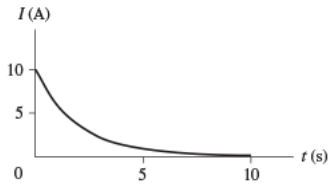
**b.** Einner=3.3×10−4 V/m, Eouter=5.3×10−5 V/m

**59.**

**a.** $I(t)=(10\text{ A})e-t/2.0\text{ s}$

**b.** 10 A

**c.**




**61.** 1.01×1023

**63.** 7.2 mm

**65.** $32I\pi R3$

**67.** 36 A

**69.** 1.80×103 C

**71.** 4*R*

**73.**

**a.** 9.4×1015

**b.** 115 $A/m^2$

**75.** 1.0 s

## Chapter 28

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **a, b, and d.** These three are the same circuit because the logic of the connections is the same. In c, the functioning of the circuit is changed by the extra wire connecting the two sides of the capacitor.

Processing math: 48%

**2.** **$\Delta V$ increases by 2 V in the direction of $I$.** Kirchhoff's loop law, starting on the left side of the battery, is then +12 V+2 V−8 V−6 V=0.

**3.** Pb>Pd>Pa>Pc. The power dissipated by a resistor is PR=(ΔVR)2/R. Increasing $R$ decreases $P_R$; increasing $\Delta V_R$ increases $P_R$. But the potential has a larger effect because $P_R$ depends on the square of $\Delta V_R$.



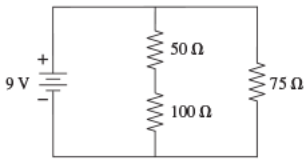
**4.** I=2 A for all. Va=20 V, Vb=16 V, Vc=10 V, Vd=8 V, Ve=0 V. The potential is 0 V on the right and increases by $IR$ for each resistor going to the left.

**5.** A>B>C=D. All the current from the battery goes through A, so it is brightest. The current divides at the junction, but not equally. Because B is in parallel with C+D but has half the resistance, twice as much current travels through B as through C+D. So B is dimmer than A but brighter than C and D. C and D are equal because current is the same through bulbs in series.

**6.** **b.** The two 2 Ω resistors are in series and equivalent to a 4 Ω resistor. Thus τ=RC=4 s.

## Exercises and Problems

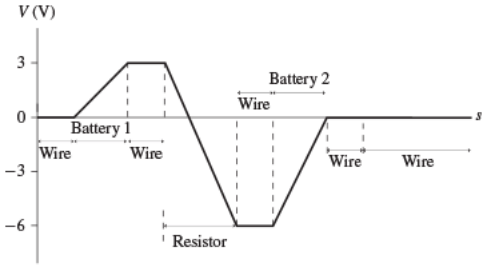
**1.**




**3.** 1 A to the left

**5.** **a.** 0.5 A to the right

**b.**




**7.** 9.60 Ω, 12.5 A

**9.** **a.** 60 W

**b.** 23 W, 14 W

**11.** D

**13.** 24 $\mu$m

**15.** $120

**17.** **a.** 0.65 Ω

**b.** 3.5 W

**19.** 1.2 Ω

Processing math: 48%

**21.** 60 V, 10 Ω

**23.** 12 Ω

**25.** 14 Ω

**27.** 183 Ω

**29.** 20 W, 45 W

**31.** 5 V, –2 V

**33.** 8 ms

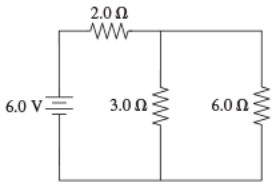
**35.** 6.9 ms

**37.** 0.87 kΩ

**39.** $65 for the incandescent bulb, $20 for the fluorescent tube

**41.** 19 W

**43.**




**45.** 7 Ω

**47.** 1.04

**49.** 9.5

**51.**

**a.** R=r

**b.** 20 W

**53.** 3 A

**55.**

**a.** 8 V

**b.** 0 V

**57.**

**a.** 0.505 Ω

**b.** 0.500 Ω

**59.**

| Resistor | Potential difference (V) | Current (A) |
|---|---|---|
| 2 Ω | 8 | 4 |
| 4 Ω | 8 | 2 |
| 6 Ω | 8 | 4/3 |
| 8 Ω | 16 | 2 |
| 12 Ω | 8 | 2/3 |

**61.** 2.0 A

Processing math: 48%

**63.** 0.12 A, left to right

**65.**

**a.** 200 A

**b.** 15 A

**c.** 200 A

**d.** 4 A

**67.**

**a.** 6.9 ms

**b.** 3.5 ms

**69.** 89 Ω

**71.** 63 $\mu$J

**73.**

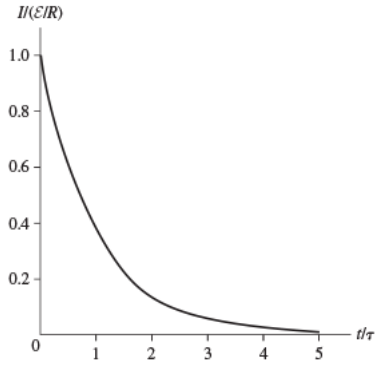
**a.** $\mathcal{E}$

**b.** $C\mathcal{E}$

**c.** I=+dQ/dt

**d.** I= $\mathcal{E}$Re−t/τ

**e.**




**75.**

**a.** 1.2 ms

**b.** 4.2 kW

**c.** 2.9 J

**77.** 140 Ω, 72 Ω

**79.** 2.0 m, 0.49 mm

**83.** b. 5.1 kΩ

## Chapter 29

### Stop to Think Questions

**at all.** The charge exerts weak, attractive polarization forces on both ends of the compass needle, but in this configuration the forces will balance and have no net effect.

Processing math: 48%

**2.** **d.** Point your right thumb in the direction of the current and curl your fingers around the wire.

**3.** **b.** Point your right thumb out of the page, in the direction of $v\rightarrow$. Your fingers are pointing down as they curl around the left side.

**4.** **b.** The right-hand rule gives a downward $B\rightarrow$ for a clockwise current. The north pole is on the side from which the field emerges.

**5.** **c.** For a field pointing into the page, $v\rightarrow\times B\rightarrow$ is to the right. But the electron is negative, so the force is in the direction of $-(v\rightarrow\times B)\rightarrow$.

**6.** **b.** Repulsion indicates that the south pole of the loop is on the right, facing the bar magnet; the north pole is on the left. Then the right-hand rule gives the current direction.

**7.** **a or c.** Any magnetic field to the right, whether leaving a north pole or entering a south pole, will align the magnetic domains as shown.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** B2=40 mT,B3=0 T,B4=40 mT

**3.** **a.** 0 T

**b.** $1.60\times10-15k\hat{}$ T

**c.** $-4.0\times10-16k\hat{}$ T

**5.** $2.83\times10-16k\hat{}$ T

**7.** 2.5 A, 250 A, 5000 A to 50,000 A, 500,000 A

**9.** **a.** 2.0 $\mu$T

**b.** 4.0%

**11.** **a.** 20 A

**b.** $1.6\times10-3$ m

**13.** $0\rightarrow$ T

**15.** 0.12 mT

**17.** a. $3.1\times10-4$ A m2

b. $5.0\times10-7$ T

**19.** a. $6.2\times10-5$ T

b. $6.3\times108$ A

**21.** 0

Processing math: 48% A, into the page

**25.** 2.4 kA

**27.**

**a.** 8.0×10−13j N

**b.** 5.7×10−13(−j−k^) N

**29.**

**a.** 1.4442 MHz

**b.** 1.6450 MHz

**c.** 1.6457 MHz

**31.**

**a.** 86 mT

**b.** 1.62×10−14 J

**33.** 0.131 T, out of page

**35.** 0.025 N, right

**37.** 240 A

**39.** 0.28 A $m^2$

**41.**

**a.** x=0.50 cm

**b.** x=8.0 cm

**43.** 4.1×10−4 T, into page

**45.** μ0Iθ4πR

**47.** 2.4×10−8 Ω m

**49.** #18, 4.1 A

**51.**

**a.** 1.13×1010 A

**b.** 0.014 $A/m^2$

**c.** 1.3×106 A/m2

**53.**

**a.** 5.7×10−6 A

**b.** 2.9×10−8 A m2

**55.**

**a.** Circular

**b.** μ0NI2πr

**57.** 0;μ0I2πr(r2−R12R22−R12);μ0I2πr

mT, into page

Processing math: 48%

**61.** 2.4×1010 m/s2, up

**63.** 16 cm

**65.** 0.82 mm, 3.0 mm

**67.** v02+(qE0mt)2

**69.**

**a.** 0.45 s

**b.** 2.8×109 s

**71.** 0.12 T

**73.** 0.16 T

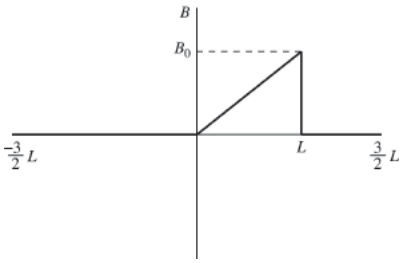
**75.**

**a.** into the page

**b.** 2IlBdm

**77.**

**a.**




**b.** 12ILB0ĵ

**c.** 13IL2B0

**79.** 2.0 cm

**81.**

**a.** μ0ωQ2πR

**83.**

**a.** Horizontal and to the left above the sheet; horizontal and to the right below the sheet

**b.** 12μ0Js

## Chapter 30

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **d.** According to the right-hand rule, the magnetic force on a positive charge carrier is to the right.

**2.** **No.** The charge carriers in the wire move parallel to B→. There's no magnetic force on a charge moving parallel to a magnetic field.

**3.** Fb=Fd>Fa=Fc. F→a is zero because there's no field. F→c is also zero because there's no current around the loop. The charge carriers in both the right and left edges are pushed to the bottom of the loop, creating a motional [illegible] but no current. The currents at b and d are in opposite directions, but the forces on the segments in the [illegible] are both to the left and of equal magnitude.

Processing math: 48%

**4.** **Clockwise.** The wire's magnetic field as it passes through the loop is into the page. The flux through the loop decreases into the page as the wire moves away. To oppose this decrease, the induced magnetic field needs to point into the page.

**5.** **d.** The flux is increasing into the loop. To oppose this increase, the induced magnetic field needs to point out of the page. This requires a ccw induced current. Using the right-hand rule, the magnetic force on the current in the left edge of the loop is to the right, away from the field. The magnetic forces on the top and bottom segments of the loop are in opposite directions and cancel each other.

**6.** **b or f.** The potential decreases in the direction of increasing current and increases in the direction of decreasing current.

**7.** $\tau c > \tau a > \tau b$. $\tau = L/R$, so smaller total resistance gives a larger time constant. The parallel resistors have total resistance $R/2$. The series resistors have total resistance $2R$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 2.0×104 m/s

**3.** **a.** 1.0 N

**b.** 2.2 T

**5.** 3.5×10−4 Wb

**7.** *Bab*

**9.** Decreasing

**11.** **a.** 8.7×10−4 Wb

**b.** Clockwise

**13.** 1.6 V

**15.** 4.7 T/s, increasing

**17.** **a.** 1.6×10−3(1+t)A

**b.** 9.4×10−3 A, 1.7×10−2 A

**19.** **a.** 4.8×104 m/s2, up

**b.** 0 $m/s^2$

**c.** 4.8×104 m/s2, down

**d.** 9.6×104 m/s2, down

**21.** 5.3 mT/s

**23.** 2400

Processing math: 48%
V, increases

**27.** 9.5×10−5 J

**29.** 0.25 $\mu$H

**31.** 3.8×10−18 F

**33.** **a.** 76 mA

**b.** 0.50 ms

**35.** 1.73×10−4 s

**37.** 1.6 A, 0.0 A, −1.6 A

**39.** 8.7 T/s

**41.** **a.** 5.0 mV

**b.** 10.0 mV

**43.** 44 mA

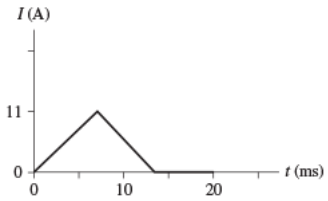
**45.** 44 $\mu$A

**47.** −15 $\mu$A

**49.** 0.15 T

**51.** 4.0 nA

**53.** **a.**




**b.** 11 A

**55.** **a.** 0.20 A

**b.** 4.0 mN

**c.** 11 K

**57.** **a.** 6.3×10−4 N

**b.** 3.1×10−4 W

**c.** 1.3×10−2 A, ccw

**d.** 3.1×10−4 W

**59.** **a.** ℰbatBl



Processing math: 48%

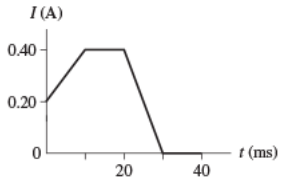
**b.** 0.98 m/s

**61.** 3.9 V

**63.** $(R^2/2r)(dB/dt)$

**65.** 3.0 s

**67.**




**69.** **a.** $-L\omega I_0 \cos \omega t$

**b.** 1.3 mA

**71.** **a.** 6.3×10−7 s

**b.** 0.050 mA

**73.** **a.** 2.0 mH, 0.13 $\mu$F

**75.** **a.** 50 v

**b.** Close $S_1$ at t=0 s, open $S_1$ and close $S_2$ at t=0.0625 s, then open $S_2$ at t=0.1875 s

**77.** **a.** I0=ΔVbat/R

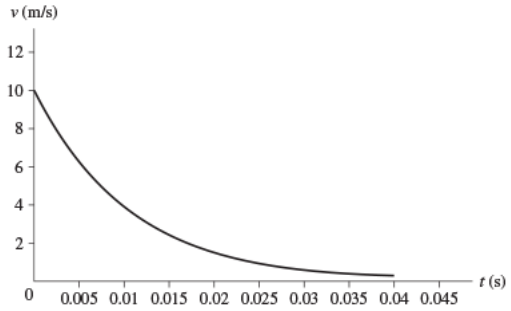
**b.** I=I0(1−e−t/(L/R))

**79.** 0.72 mH

**81.** 0.50 m

**83.** **a.** $V_0e^{-bt}$, where b=l2B2/(mR)

**b.**




**85.** 1.6×102 A/s

## Stop to Think Questions

**1.** b. $\vec{v}_{AB}$ is parallel to $\vec{B}_A$ hence $\vec{v}_{AB} \times \vec{B}_A$ is zero. Thus $\vec{E}_B = \vec{E}_A$ and points in the positive $z$-direction. $\vec{v}_{AB} \times \vec{E}_A$ points down, in the negative $y$-direction, so $-\vec{v}_{AB} \times \vec{E}_A / c^2$ points in the positive $y$-direction and causes $\vec{B}_B$ to be angled upward.

**2.** Bc>Ba>Bd>Bb. The induced magnetic field strength depends on the *rate* $dE/dt$ at which the electric field is changing. Steeper slopes on the graph correspond to larger magnetic fields.

**3.** **e.** $\vec{E}$ is perpendicular to $\vec{B}$ and to $\vec{v}$, so it can only be along the $z$-axis. According to the Ampère-Maxwell law, $d\Phi_e/dt$ has the same sign as the line integral of $\vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s}$ around the closed curve. The integral is positive for a cw integration. Thus, from the right-hand rule, $\vec{E}$ is either into the page (negative $z$-direction) and increasing, or out of the page (positive $z$-direction) and decreasing. We can see from the figure that $B$ is decreasing in strength as the wave moves from left to right, so $E$ must also be decreasing. Thus $\vec{E}$ points along the positive $z$-axis.

**4.** **a.** The Poynting vector $\vec{S} = (\vec{E} \times \vec{B})/\mu_0$ points in the direction of travel, which is the positive $y$-direction. $\vec{B}$ must point in the positive $x$-direction in order for $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ to point upward.

**5.** **b.** The intensity along a line from the antenna decreases inversely with the square of the distance, so the intensity at 20 km is 14 that at 10 km. But the intensity depends on the square of the electric field amplitude, or, conversely, $E_0$ is proportional to $I^{1/2}$. Thus $E_0$ at 20 km is 12 that at 10 km.

**6.** Id>Ia>Ib=Ic. The intensity depends on $\cos^2\theta$, where $\theta$ is the is the angle *between* the axes of the two filters. The filters in d have $\theta = 0°$ The two filters in both b and c are crossed ($\theta = 90°$)and transmit no light at all.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** Along the $-x$-axis

**b.** Along the $y$-axis (+ or −)

**c.** Along the + $x$-axis

**3.** 16.3° above the $x$-axis

**5.** −1.0×106k^ V/m,0.99998j T

**9.** 1.0 $\mu$F

**11.** **a.** 0 T

**b.** 1.67×10−13 T

**c.** 1.98×10−13 T

**13.** 6.0×105 V/m

**15.** **a.** 10.0 nm

**b.** 3.00×1016 Hz

**c.** 6.67×10−8 T

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**17.** –z-direction

**19.** 980 V/M, 3.3 T

**21.**

**a.** 5.1×1011 V/m

**b.** 0.43

**23.** 8.2 cm

**25.**

**a.** 3.33×10−6 T

**b.** 1.67×10−6 T

**27.** 66 mW

**29.** 2.3×10−13 N, 45∘ ccw

**31.**

**a.** (0.10 T, into page)

**b.** 0 V/m, (0.10 T, into page)

**33.**

**a.** $E\rightarrow = \lambda 2\pi\epsilon 0r$, away from wire; $B\rightarrow = 0\rightarrow$ T

**b.** $E\rightarrow = \lambda 2\pi\epsilon 0r$, away from wire; $B\rightarrow = 1c2\epsilon 0v\lambda 2\pi r$, into page at top

**d.** $E\rightarrow = \lambda 2\pi\epsilon 0r$, away from the wire; $B\rightarrow = 1c2\epsilon 0v\lambda 2\pi r$, into page at top

**35.**

**a.** 7.1 V m, 0.17 A

**b.** 5.2 V m and 0.044 A

**37.**

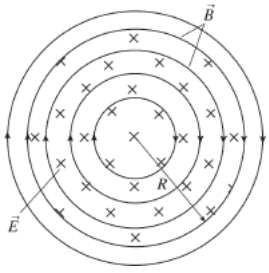
**a.** 1.0 mT

**b.** 0.160 mT

**39.**

**a.** (2.8×103t2) V m

**b.**




**c.** (1.11×10−9 rt)T, 4.4×10−12 T

**d.** (1.00×10−14tr)T, 5.0×10−12 T

Processing math: 48%

**43.** b. 6.67×10−6 J/m3

**45.** 2200 V/m, 7.4×10−6 T

**47.** **a.** 8.3×10−26 W/m2

**b.** 7.9×10−12 V/m2

**49.** 9.4×107 W

**51.** **a.** 5.78×108 N

**b.** 1.64×10−14

**53.** **a.** *cmg*

**b.** 73.5 W

**55.** 0.41 m/s

**57.** 63°

**59.** 160 s

**61.** (−6.0×105 î+1.0×105 k^) V/m

**63.** 0.58 $\mu$m

## Chapter 32

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **a.** The instantaneous emf value is the projection down onto the horizontal axis. The emf is negative but increasing in magnitude as the phasor, which rotates ccw, approaches the horizontal axis.

**2.** **c.** Voltage and current are measured using different scales and units. You can't compare the length of a voltage phasor to the length of a current phasor.

**3.** **a.** There is "no capacitor" when the separation between the two capacitor plates becomes zero and the plates touch. Capacitance $C$ is inversely proportional to the plate spacing $d$, hence $C \to \infty$ as $d \to 0$. The capacitive reactance is inversely proportional to $C$, so $X_C \to 0$ as $C \to \infty$.

**4.** (ωc)d>(ωc)c=(ωc)a>(ωc)b. The crossover frequency is $1/RC$.

**5.** **Above.** VL>VC tells us that XL>XC. This is the condition above resonance, where $X_L$ is increasing with $\omega$ while $X_C$ is decreasing.

**6.** **a, b,** and **c.** You can always increase power by turning up the voltage. The current leads the voltage, telling us that the circuit's resonance frequency is higher than the actual driving frequency. Power is maximized at resonance, where the power factor is 1, so we can increase power by lowering the circuit's resonance frequency to match the driving frequency. $\omega_0$ can be lowered either by increasing $C$ or increasing $L$.

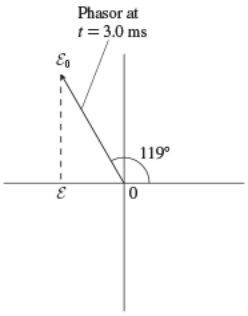
Processing math: 48%

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** 1200 rad/s

**b.** 71 V

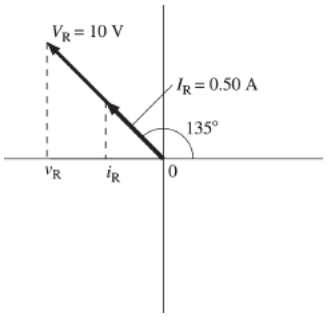
**3.**




**5.** **a.** 25 Hz

**b.** 20 Ω

**c.**




**7.** **a.** 20 mA

**b.** 20 mA

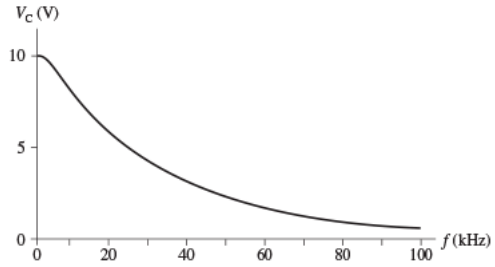
**9.** **a.** 50 Hz

**b.** 4.8 $\mu$F

**11.** 81 nF

**13.** **a.** 9.95 V, 9.57 V, 7.05 V, 3.15 V, 0.990 V

**b.**




**15.** 8.0 V

**17.** 1.59 $\mu$F

Processing math: 48%

6.0 V, VC=8.0 V

**21.** **a.** 0.9770

**b.** 0.9998

**23.** **a.** 0.80 A

**b.** 0.80 mA

**25.** 1.4 mH

**27.** 200 kHz

**29.** 1.3 $\mu$F

**31.** 1.0 Ω

**33.** **a.** 5.0×103 Hz

**b.** 10 V, 32 V

**35.** 22 V

**37.** 0.40 kW

**39.** 0.75

**41.** **a.** 3RC

**b.** 32ε0

**43.** 0.50 mm

**45.** **a.** 25 mA

**b.** 6.7 V

**47.** **a.** IR= ε0R,IC=εo(ωC)−1

**b.** ε0=(ωC)2+1R2

**49.** **a.** ε0/R2+ω2L2,ε0R/R2+ω2L2,ε0ωL/R2+ω2L2

**b.** VR→ε0,VR→0

**c.** Low pass

**d.** $R/L$

**51.** **a.** 2.0 A

**b.** −30°

**c.** 150 W

Processing math: 48%

**53.** 10 $\mu$T

**55.** 0.17 A

**57.**

**a.** 3.6 V

**b.** 3.5 V

**c.** –3.6 V

**61.**

**a.** 0.49 $\mu$H

**b.** 10.3 Ω

**63.** 24 W

**65.**

**a.** 0.44 kA

**b.** 1.8×10−4 F

**c.** 7.4 MW

**67.**

**a.** 0.83

**b.** 100 V

**c.** 13 Ω

**d.** 3.2×10−4 F

**71.** b. I=ℰ0/R in both cases

c. 0

## Chapter 33

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** The antinodal lines seen in Figure 33.4b are diverging.

**2.** **Smaller.** Shorter-wavelength light doesn't spread as rapidly as longer-wavelength light. The fringe spacing $\Delta y$ is directly proportional to the wavelength $\lambda$.

**3.** **d.** Larger wavelengths have larger diffraction angles. Red light has a larger wavelength than violet light, so red light is diffracted farther from the center.

**4.** **b or c.** The width of the central maximum, which is proportional to $\lambda/a$, has increased. This could occur either because the wavelength has increased or because the slit width has decreased.

**5.** **d.** Moving $M_1$ in by $\lambda$ decreases $r_1$ by $2\lambda$. Moving $M_2$ out by $\lambda$ increases $r_2$ by $2\lambda$. These two actions together change the path length by $\Delta r = 4\lambda$.

### Exercises and Problems

Processing math: 48%

nm

**3.** 1.2 mm

**5.** 1.3 m

**7.** 0.22 mm

**9.** 1.6°, 3.2°

**11.** 43.2°

**13.** 14.5 cm

**15.** 20 mm

**17.** 1.2 m

**19.** 2.9°

**21.** 633 nm

**23.** 9

**25.** 5.4 mm

**27.** 78 cm

**29.** 0.25 mm

**31.** 400 nm

**33.**

**a.** Double slit

**b.** 0.16 mm

**35.** 0.40 mm

**37.** 500 nm

**39.** 500 nm

**41.**

**a.** $9I_1$

**b.** $I_1$

**43.** 1.3 m

**45.** 43 cm

**47.**

**a.** $L\lambda/d$

**b.** $(L/d)\,\Delta\lambda$

**c.** 0.250 nm

**49.** 500 nm

**51.** 0.12 mm

Processing math: 48%

**53.** 1.8 $\mu$m

**55.** 22d

**57.** 1.3 m

**59.** b. 50 $\mu$m

**61.** 0.88 mm

**63.**

**a.** 550 nm

**b.** 0.40 mm

**65.** 50 cm

**67.**

**a.** 22.3°

**b.** 16.6°

**69.**

**a.** Dark

**b.** 1.597

**71.** 12.0 $\mu$m

**73.**

**a.** $\Delta y = \Delta\lambda L d$

**c.** $\Delta\lambda_{min} = \lambda N$



**d.** 3646 lines

**75.**

**a.** 0.52 mm

**b.** 0.074°

**c.** 1.3 m

## Chapter 34

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **c.** The light spreads vertically as it goes through the vertical aperture. The light spreads horizontally due to different points on the horizontal lightbulb.

**2.** **c.** There's one image behind the vertical mirror and a second behind the horizontal mirror. A third image in the corner arises from rays that reflect twice, once off each mirror.

**3.** **a.** The ray travels closer to the normal in both media 1 and 3 than in medium 2, so $n_1$ and $n_3$ are both larger than $n_2$. The angle is smaller in medium 3 than in medium 1, so $n3 > n1$.

**4.** **e.** The rays from the object are diverging. Without a lens, the rays cannot converge to form any kind of image on the screen.

Processing math: 48%

**5.** **a, e, or f.** Any of these will increase the angle of refraction $\theta_2$.

**6.** **Away from.** You need to decrease $s'$ to bring the image plane onto the screen. $s'$ is decreased by increasing $s$.

**7.** **c.** A concave mirror forms a real image in front of the mirror. Because the object distance is $s \approx \infty$, the image distance is $s' \approx f$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** 8.0 cm

**3.** 5.4 m

**5.** 9.0 cm

**9.** 433 cm

**11.** 35°

**13.** 31°

**15.** 76.7°

**17.** 23 cm

**19.** 113 cm

**21.** 20 cm behind lens, inverted

**23.** 15 cm in front of lens, upright

**25.** 30 cm

**27.** –40 cm

**29.** 1.5 cm

**31.** 30 cm, 0.50 cm

**33.** b. 40 cm, 2.0 cm, agree

**35.** b. –60 cm, 8.0 cm, agree

**37.** b. –8.6 cm, 1.1 cm, agree

**39.** 30 cm, behind mirror, upright

**41.** 30 cm, 1.5 cm, behind, upright

**43.** 6.4 cm

**45.** 10 m

**47.** **a.** 2 cos–1(n2nair)

**b.** 82.8°

0 cm

Processing math: 48%

**51.** 4.0 m

**53.** 1.46

**55.** **a.** 5

**b.** 4

**c.** 3

**57.** 35°

**59.** 2.7 m/s

**61.** 15.1 cm

**63.** Concave, 3.6 cm

**65.** 2.8 cm

**67.** 93 cm

**69.** 0.67 m, 1.0 m

**71.** 0.014

**73.** 20 cm

**75.** 20 $\mu$m/s away from the lens

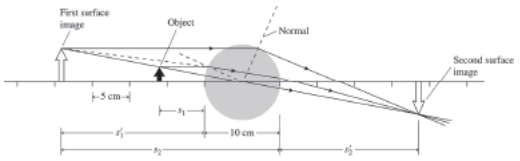
**77.** –100 cm

**79.** **a.** (n2–n1)n1(1R1–1R2)

**b.** 40 cm, 1.6 m

**81.** **a.** 24 cm

**b.**




**c.** 7.5 cm

## Chapter 35

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **b.** A diverging lens refracts rays away from the optical axis, so the rays will travel farther down the axis before converging.

**2.** **a.** Because the shutter speed doesn't change, the *f*-number must remain unchanged. The *f*-number is $f/D$, so increasing $f$ requires increasing $D$.

Processing math: 48%

magnifier is a converging lens. Converging lenses are used to correct hyperopia.

**4.** **b.** If the objective magnification is halved, the eyepiece magnification must be doubled. Meye=25 cm/feye, so doubling $M_{eye}$ requires halving $f_{eye}$.

**5.** wa>wd>wb=wc. The spot size is proportional to $f/D$.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** b. s2′=49 cm, h2′=4.6 cm

**3.** b. s2′=−30 cm, h2′=6.0 cm

**5.** b. s2′=−3.33 cm, h2′=0.66 cm

**7.** 5.0

**9.** 1/250 s

**11.**

**a.** Hyperopia

**b.** 50 cm

**13.** 3.0

**15.** 2.0 mm

**17.** 9.2 mm

**19.**

**a.** 40

**b.** 5.0

**21.** 1.48

**23.** 1600 nm

**25.** 55 km

**27.** Both images are 2.0 cm tall; one upright 10 cm left of lens, the other inverted 20 cm to right of lens

**29.**

**a.** f2+f1

**b.** f2| f1 |w1

**31.** 16 cm placed 80 cm from screen

**33.** 23 cm

**35.** 5.0 cm

**37.**

**a.** 2.5 ×

**b.** 2.0× lens

**c.** 17.5 cm

Processing math: 48%

mm

**41.** 1.0°

**43.** 2.6 cm

**45.**

**a.** 1.3 cm

**b.** 1.2 cm

**c.** $f/1.7$

**47.**

**a.** 3.8 cm

**b.** Sun is too bright

**49.**

**b.** $\Delta n2=12\Delta n1$

**c.** Crown converging, flint diverging

**d.** 4.18 cm

## Chapter 36

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **a, c, and f.** These move at constant velocity, or very nearly so. The others are accelerating.

**2.** a. $u'=u-v=-10\ \text{m/s}-6\ \text{m/s}=-16\ \text{m/s}$. The *speed* is 16 m/s.

**3.** **c.** Even the light has a slight travel time. The event is the hammer hitting the nail, not your seeing the hammer hit the nail.

**4.** **At the same time.** Mark is halfway between the tree and the pole, so the fact that he *sees* the lightning bolts at the same time means they *happened* at the same time. It's true that Nancy *sees* event 1 before event 2, but the events actually occurred before she sees them. Mark and Nancy share a reference frame, because they are at rest relative to each other, and all experimenters in a reference frame, after correcting for any signal delays, *agree* on the spacetime coordinates of an event.

**5.** **After.** This is the same as the case of Peggy and Ryan. In Mark's reference frame, as in Ryan's, the events are simultaneous. Nancy *sees* event 1 first, but the time when an event is seen is not when the event actually happens. Because all experimenters in a reference frame agree on the spacetime coordinates of an event, Nancy's position in her reference frame cannot affect the order of the events. If Nancy had been passing Mark at the instant the lightning strikes occur in Mark's frame, then Nancy would be equivalent to Peggy. Event 2, like the firecracker at the front of Peggy's railroad car, occurs first in Nancy's reference frame.

**6.** **c.** Nick measures proper time because Nick's clock is present at both the "nose passes Nick" event and the "tail passes Nick" event. Proper time is the smallest measured time interval between two events.

**7.** $LA>LB=LC$. Anjay measures the pole's proper length because it is at rest in his reference frame. Proper length is the longest measured length. Beth and Charles may *see* the pole differently, but they share the same reference frame and their *measurements* of the length agree.

**8.** **c.** The rest energy $E_0$ is an invariant, the same in all inertial reference frames. Thus $m=E0/c2$ is independent of

Processing math: 48%

ed.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** 4.0 m/s

**b.** x1=8.0 m, x2=8.0 m

**3.** **a.** 13 m/s

**b.** 3.0 m/s

**c.** 9.4 m/s

**5.** 3.0×108 m/s

**7.** 167 ns

**9.** 2.0 $\mu$s

**11.** Flash 2 is seen 40 $\mu$s after Flash 1.

**15.** **a.** 5.0 y

**b.** 2.2 y

**c.** 9.0 y

**17.** 0.28$c$

**19.** **a.** Aged less

**b.** 14 ns

**21.** 0.80$c$

**23.** 1.47 km

**25.** 3.0×106 m/s

**27.** **a.** 1200 m, –2.0 $\mu$s

**b.** 2800 m, 8.7 $\mu$s

**29.** 0.36$c$

**31.** 0.9944$c$

**33.** 240,000,000 m/s

**35.** 0.707$c$

**37.** 9.0×1013 J, 6.0×1013 J, 1.5×1014 J

**39.** 0.943$c$

**41.** 2400

Processing math: 48%

h

**45.** **a.** No

**b.** 67.1 y

**47.** **a.** 0.80*c*

**b.** 16 y

**49.** 14 m

**51.** **a.** 750 kJ

**b.** 8.2×1013 J

**53.** **a.** $tD'=tD''=tD'''=0$ y, $tE'=0.42$ y, $tE''=0$ y, $tE'''=-0.56$ y

**b.** Yes, spaceship 2

**c.** Yes, spaceship 3

**d.** No

**55.** 22 m

**57.** 3.1×106 V

**59.** **a.** 0.980*c*

**b.** 8.5×10−11 J

**63.** **a.** 3.84×108 m, 1.29 s, 5.47×107 m

**b.** 0.00 m, 0.182 s, 5.47×107 m

**c.** 3.84×108 m, 1.28 s, 0.00 m

**65.** **a.** 3.5×10−18 kg m/s, 1.1×10−9 J

**b.** 1.6×10−18 kg m/s

**67.** **a.** 7.6×1016 J

**b.** 0.84 kg

**69.** **a.** 1.3×1017 kg

**b.** 6.7×10−12%

**c.** 15 billion years

**71.** **a.** 4.3×10−12 J

**b.** 0.72%

Processing math: 48%

**73.** 1.1 pm

**75.** 0.85$c$



## Chapter 37

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **a is emission, b is absorption.** All wavelengths in the absorption spectrum are seen in the emission spectrum, but not all wavelengths in the emission spectrum are seen in the absorption spectrum.

**2.** **b.** This observation says that all electrons are the same.

**3.** **a.** The alpha particle speeds up because the positive alpha particle is repelled by the positive nucleus.

**4.** **4.** Neutral carbon would have six electrons. $C^{++}$ is missing two.

**5.** **6 protons and 8 neutrons.** The number of protons is the atomic number, which is 6. That leaves 14–6=8 neutrons.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** 410.3 nm, 389.0 nm, 379.9 nm

**3.** 121.6 nm, 102.6 nm, 97.3 nm, 95.0 nm

**5.** 0.32 kW

**7.** 2.4 $\mu$m

**9.** 5.0×10−3 T, out of page

**11.** 0.52 $\mu$m

**15.**
**a.** 1.03×107 m/s

**b.** 2.6×107 m/s

**c.** Alpha particle

**17.**
**a.** 71 eV

**b.** 14 eV

**c.** 5.0 keV

**19.**
**a.** 5 electrons, 5 protons, 5 neutrons

**b.** 6 electrons, 7 protons, 6 neutrons

**c.** 5 electrons, 8 protons, 9 neutrons

**21.**
**a.** $^{3}H$

**b.** $^{18}O^{+}$

Processing math: 48%

**23.** **a.** 82 electrons, 79 protons, 118 neutrons

**b.** 2.29×1017 kg/m3

**c.** 2.01×1013

**25.** **a.** 2.3×1017 kg/m3

**b.** 13 km

**27.** **a.** 0.999998$c$

**b.** 0.99999997$c$

**29.** 0.9999999896$c$

**31.** **a.** 0.00512 MeV

**b.** 9.39 MeV

**c.** 37.6 MeV

**33.** 8.4°

**35.** 9.581×107 C/kg, proton

**37.** 0.140 nm, 1.34×106 m/s

**39.** 0.000000000058% contains mass, 99.999999999942% empty space

**41.** 5.5 MeV

**43.** Aluminum

**45.** **a.** 2.3 ×107 m/s

**b.** 2.9 MeV

**47.** 2.3 ×107 m/s, 65.1° below +x-axis

**49.** **a.** $mg/E_0$

**b.** $mg/b$

**d.** 2.4×10−18 C

**e.** 15

## Chapter 38

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** VA>VB>VC. For a given wavelength of light, electrons are ejected with more kinetic energy for metals with smaller work functions because it takes less energy to remove an electron. Faster electrons need a larger

Processing math: 48%

negative voltage to stop them.

**2.** **d.** Photons always travel at $c$, and a photon's energy depends only on the light's frequency, not its intensity.

**3.** n=4. There are four antinodes.

**4.** **Not in absorption. In emission from the** n=3 to n=2 **transition.** The photon energy has to match the energy *difference* between two energy levels. Absorption is from the ground state, at E1=0.00 eV. There's no energy level at 3.00 eV to which the atom could jump.

**5.** n=3. Each antinode is half a wavelength, so this standing wave has three full wavelengths in one circumference.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** Sodium, potassium

**b.** All metals except gold

**3.** 223 nm

**5.** 1.78 eV

**7.** **a.** 4140 nm, infrared

**b.** 414 nm, visible

**c.** 41.4 nm, ultraviolet

**9.** **a.** 1.86×10−6 eV

**b.** 2. 76 eV

**c.** 27.6 keV

**11.** 1.44

**13.** 1×1019 photons/s

**15.** 86°

**17.** 90 nm

**19.** **a.** 1.1×10−34 m

**b.** 1.7×10−23 m/s

**21.** 8.2 MeV

**23.** 0.427 nm

**25.** **a.** Yes

**b.** 0.50 eV

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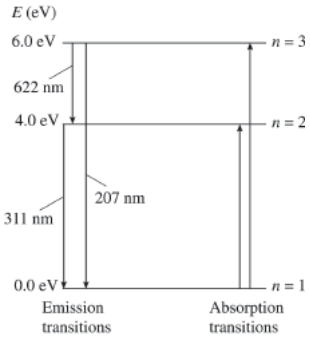
**a.**




**b.** 311 nm, 207 nm, 622 nm

**c.** 311 nm, 207 nm

**29.** 0.476 nm

**31.**

**a.** 31

**b.** 7.06×104 m/s, –0.0142 eV

**33.** 97.26 nm, 486.3 nm, 4876 nm

**35.** 97.26 nm

**37.**

**a.** 1.7×1018

**b.** 1.7×1026 photons/s

**39.** 4.3×10–10 W

**41.**

**a.** 5.56×1014 Hz, 1.23×1015 Hz

**b.** 540 nm, 244 nm

**c.** 10.8×105 m/s

**d.** 4.4×105 m/s

**e.** 3.35 V, 0.55 V

**43.**

**a.** Potassium

**b.** 4.24×10–15 eV s

**45.** 71 MeV

**47.**

**a.** 1.3×108 m/s

**b.** 5.5 $\mu$m

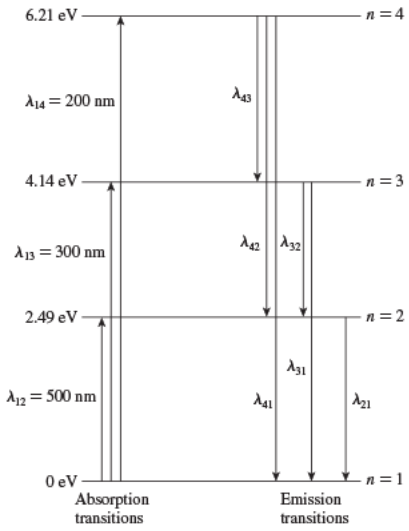
**49.** 200 m/s

Processing math: 48%

m

**53.** 0.427 nm

**55.** **a.**




**b.** 200 nm, 300 nm, 334 nm, 500 nm, 601 nm, 753 nm

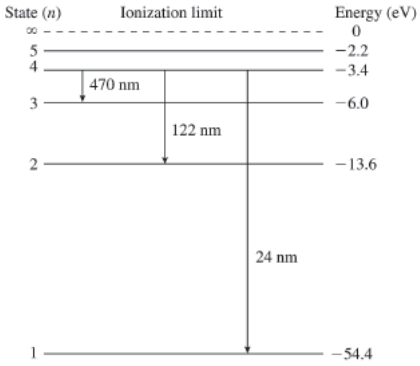
**57.** 6.2×105 m/s

**59.** 410.3 nm, 434.2 nm, 486.3 nm, 656.5 nm

**61.** **a.** 0.362 m

**b.** 0.000368 nm

**63.**




**65.** 3→2: 10.28 nm, 4→2: 7.62 nm, 5→2: 6.80 nm; all ultraviolet

**67.** 44,200 m/s

**69.** 8.6 mm

**71.** **a.** 1.0 m/s

**b.** 3.2°

**c.** 1.1 cm

## Chapter 39

Processing math: 48%

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **10.** The probability of a 1 is P1 =16. Similarly, P6 =16. The probability of a 1 *or* a 6 is P1 or 6 =16+16=13. Thus the expected number is 30(13) = 10.

**2.** A>B=D>C. |A(x)|2 is proportional to the density of dots.

**3.** $x_c$. The probability is largest at the point where the *square* of $\psi(x)$ is largest.

**4.** **b.** The area 12a(2 mm) must equal 1.

**5.** **b.** △t=1.0×10−7 s. The bandwidth is ΔfB= 1/Δt = 1.0×107=Hz =10 MHz.

**6.** **A.** Wave packet A has a smaller spatial extent $\Delta x$. The wavelength isn't relevant.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** PC= 20%,PD=10%

**3.** 231

**5.** **a.** 1/6

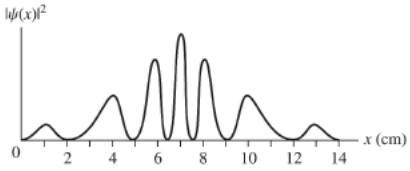
**b.** 1/6

**c.** 5/18

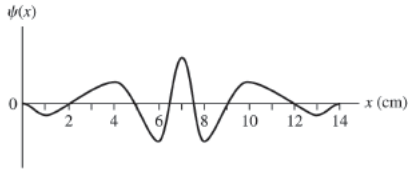
**7.** 18,000

**9.** 4.0 $m^{-1}$

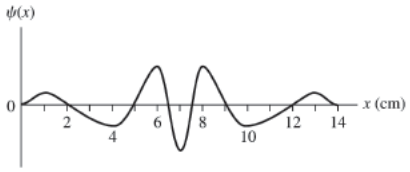
**11.** **a.**




**b.**




**c.**




**13.** **a.** 5.0×10−3

**b.** 2.5×10−3

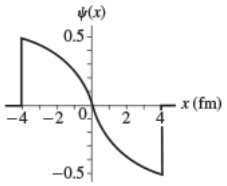
**c.** 0

**d.** 2.5×10−3

Processing math: 48%

**15.** **a.** 0.25 $fm^{-1}$

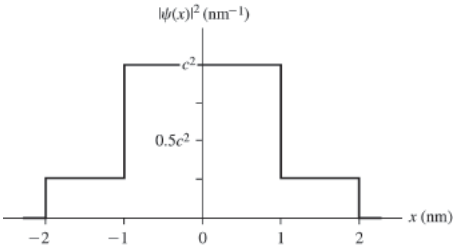
**b.**




**c.** 0.75

**17.** **a.** 0.63 $nm^{-1/2}$

**b.**




**19.** 1.0×105

**21.** 10.0 kHz

**23.** −0.65×10−36 m/s ≤vx≤0.65×10−36 m/s

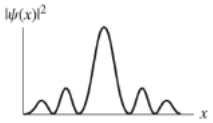
**25.** 36 nm

**27.** **a.** 8 cycles

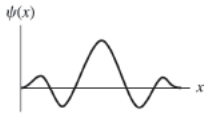
**b.** 0.938 MHz to 1.063 MHz

**29.** **a.**

**b.**



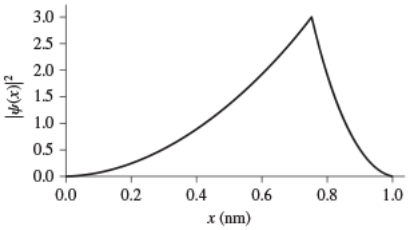

**c.**



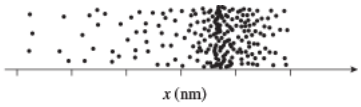

**31.** **a.** 3 nm−12

**b.**

Processing math: 48%




**c.**



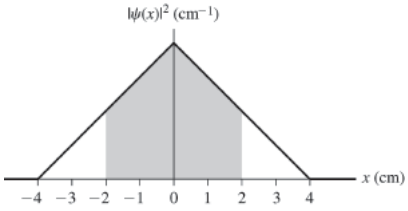

**d.** 0.028

**33.** **a.** 0.25 $cm^{-1}$

**b.** 0.0 cm

**c.** $-2.0\ cm \leq x \leq 2.0\ cm$

**d.**

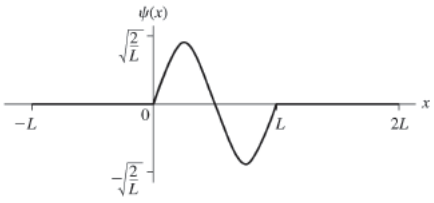



**35.** **a.** 0.27%

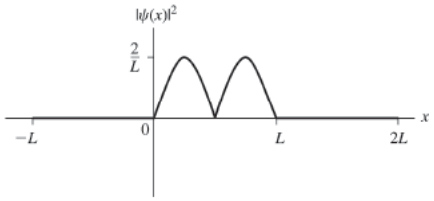
**b.** 32%

**37.** **a.** 2L

**b.**




**c.**



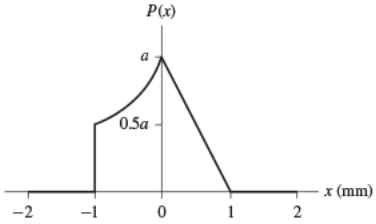

**d.** 40%

**39.** **a.** a=b

**b.** a=b=0.84

Processing math: 48%

**c.**




**d.** 58.1%

**41.** 18 $\mu$m

**43.** **a.** 1.7×106 m/s

**b.** 1.1×1020 reflections/s

**45.** 200 m

**47.** **a.** ΔEΔt≈h

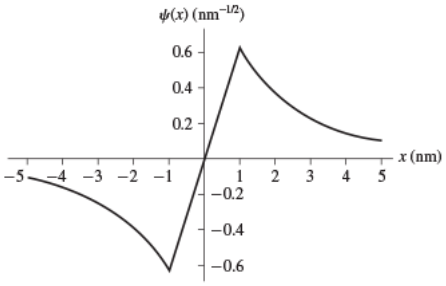
**c.** 4.1×10−7 eV

**d.** 1.7×10−7

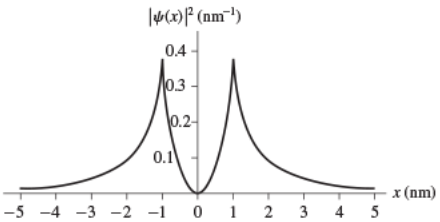
**49.** 50%

**51.** **a.** 38

**b.**




**c.**




**d.** 2.5×105

## Chapter 40

### ink Questions

Processing math: 48%

**1.** $v_a = v_b > v_c$. The de Broglie wavelength is $\lambda = h/mv$, so slower particles have longer wavelengths. The wave amplitude is not relevant.

**2.** **c.** The $n=2$ state has a node in the middle of the box. The antinodes are centered in the left and right halves of the box.

**3.** $n=4$. There are four antinodes and three nodes (excluding the ends).

**4.** **d.** The wave function reaches zero abruptly on the right, indicating an infinitely high potential-energy wall. The exponential decay on the left shows that the left wall of the potential energy is *not* infinitely high. The node spacing and the amplitude increase steadily in going from right to left, indicating a *steadily* decreasing kinetic energy and thus a steadily increasing potential energy.

**5.** **c.** $E = (n - 12)\hbar\omega$, so $52\hbar\omega$ is the energy of the $n=3$ state. An $n=3$ state has 3 antinodes.

**6.** **b.** The probability of tunneling through the barrier increases as the difference between $E$ and $U_0$ decreases. If the tunneling probability increases, the reflection probability must decrease.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** Infrared

**b.** 1.5 nm

**3.** 0.74 nm

**5.** 17 eV

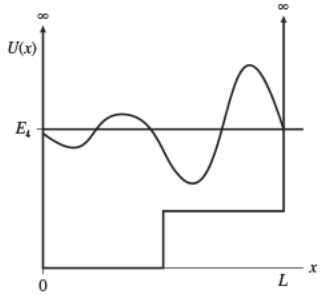
**9.** **a.** 0.159 nm

**b.** 0.195 nm

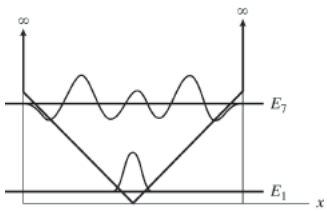
**c.** 0.275 nm

**11.** 0.038 eV

**13.**




**15.**




Processing math: 48%

**17.** **a.** 0.49 eV, 1.5 eV, 2.4 eV

**b.** 640 nm

**19.** 2.25 N/m

**21.** 519 nm

**25.** 9.72×10−11 m

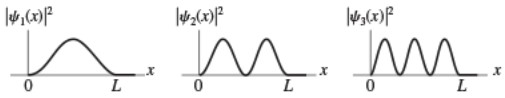
**27.** a. 250,000,000

**29.** **a.** 37.7 eV, 151 eV, 339 eV, 603 eV

**b.** 11.0 nm, 4.12 nm, 6.59 nm, 2.20 nm, 2.75 nm, 4.71 nm

**c.** Ultraviolet

**33.**




| $n =$ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| b. Most likely | $\frac{1}{2}L$ | $\frac{1}{4}L, \frac{3}{4}L$ | $\frac{1}{6}L, \frac{3}{6}L, \frac{5}{6}L$ |
| c. Least likely | $0, L$ | $0, \frac{1}{2}L, L$ | $0, \frac{1}{3}L, \frac{2}{3}L, L$ |
| d. Prob in left $\frac{1}{3}$ from graph | $<\frac{1}{3}$ | $>\frac{1}{3}$ | $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| e. Prob in left $\frac{1}{3}$ calculated | 0.195 | 0.402 | 0.333 |

**35.** 10%

**37.** **a.** 0.136 nm

**b.** One atomic diameter

**39.** **a.** A1= 1(πb2)1/4

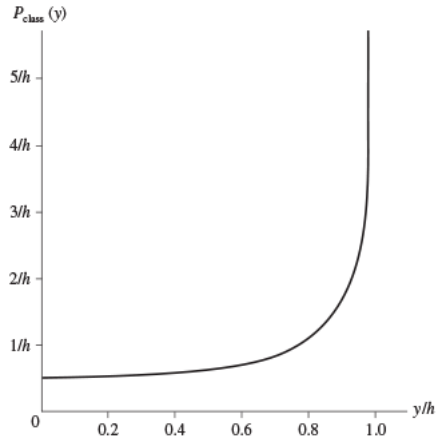
**b.** Prob(x<−b or x>b)=2πb2∫b∞e−x2/b2dx

**c.** 15.7%

**41.** **a.** pclass(y)=(12h)11−(y/h)

**b.**

Processing math: 48%




**43.** 14 of the radius

**45.** 0.012

**49.** 10–1.17×1032

## Chapter 41

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** n=3,l=1, **or a 3*p* state.**

**2.** **4.** You can see in Figure 41.7 that the *ns* state has *n* maxima.

**3.** **No**. ms=±12, so the *z*-component $S_z$ cannot be zero.

**4.** **b.** The atom would have less energy if the 3*s* electron were in a 2*p* state.

**5.** **c.** Emission is a quantum jump to a lower-energy state. The 5p→4p transition is not allowed because Δl=0 violates the selection rule. The lowest-energy allowed transition is 5p→3d, with Ephoton=ΔEatom=3.0 eV.

**6.** **e.** Because rB=2rA, the ratio is e−2/e−1=e−1<12.

### Exercises and Problems

**1.** **a.** (3, 1, 1), (3, 1, 0), (3, 1, −1)

**b.** (3, 2, 2), (3, 2, 1), (3, 2, 0), (3, 2, −1), (3, 2, −2)

**3.** 20$\hbar$

**5.** −0.378 eV; 12$\hbar$

**7.** For n=1,2 states:(1, 0, 0,±12);for n=2,8 states:(2, 0, 0, ±12),(2,1,−1,±12),(2,1,0,±12),(2,1,1,±12);for n= 3,18 states: (3, 0, 0,±12)

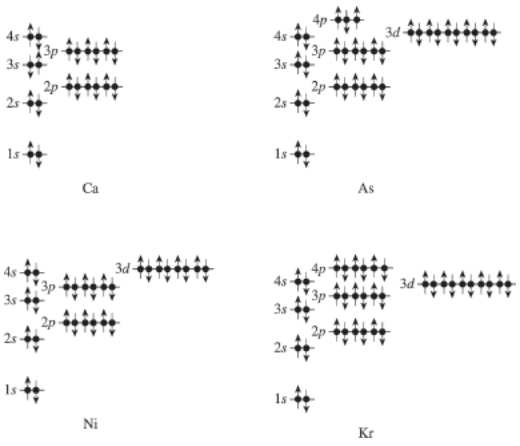
**9.** 1s22s22p63s23p, 1s22s22p63s23p64s23d104p,1s22s22p63s23p64s23d104p65s24d105p

**11.** **a.** Excited state of Ne

**b.** Ground state of Ti

Processing math: 48%

**13.**




**15.** $1s^2 3s$

**17.**

| Transition | $E_{photon}$ (eV) | λ (nm) |
|---|---|---|
| $3 \rightarrow 2$ | 1.89 | 656 |
| $3 \rightarrow 1$ | 12.09 | 102 |
| $2 \rightarrow 1$ | 10.20 | 122 |

**19.** 2.0%

**21.** 16 ps

**23.** 3.2×1015 s−1

**25.**

**a.** 190 nm

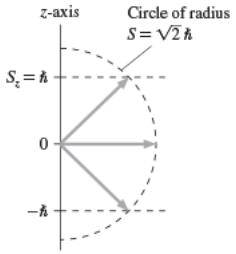
**b.** 50 kW

**27.**

**a.** $2\hbar$

**b.** −1, 0, or 1

**c.**




**29.** $6\hbar$

**31.**

**a.** 3.7×10−3

**b.** 5.4×10−3

**c.** 2.9×10−3

Processing math: 48%

a.

| Transition | $6s \rightarrow 5p$ | $6s \rightarrow 4p$ | $6s \rightarrow 3p$ |
|---|---|---|---|

b.

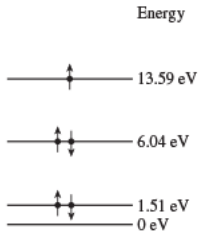
| λ (nm) | 7290 | 1630 | 515 |
|---|---|---|---|

**39.** 1.13×106 m/s

**41.**

| Transition | (a) Wavelength | (b) Type | (c) Absorption |
|---|---|---|---|
| $2p \rightarrow 2s$ | 670 nm | VIS | Yes |
| $3s \rightarrow 2p$ | 816 nm | IR | No |
| $3p \rightarrow 2s$ | 324 nm | UV | Yes |
| $3p \rightarrow 3s$ | 2696 nm | IR | No |
| $3d \rightarrow 2p$ | 611 nm | VIS | No |
| $3d \rightarrow 3p$ | 24,800 nm | IR | No |
| $4s \rightarrow 2p$ | 498 nm | VIS | No |
| $4s \rightarrow 3p$ | 2430 nm | IR | No |

**43.** **a.**




**b.** 28.7 eV

**45.** 10 ns

**47.** **a.** $\tau \ln 2$

**b.** 12 ns

**49.** 3.5×1018 atoms

**51.** **a.** patom=7.0×10−23 kg m/s; pphoton=−8.50×10−28 kg m/s

**b.** 82×103 photons

**c.** 1.2 ms

**d.** −5.7×10−20 N, −4.0×105 m/s2

**e.** 31 cm

**53.** 68%

**55.** 4.472 $a_B$

**57.** 5.7 ns

## Chapter 42

### Stop to Think Questions

**1.** **3.** Different isotopes of an element have different numbers of neutrons but the same number of protons. The number of electrons in a neutral atom matches the number of protons.

**2.** **c.** To keep $A$ constant, increasing $N$ by 1 (going up) requires decreasing $Z$ by 1 (going left).

A Geiger counter responds only to ionizing radiation. Visible light is not ionizing radiation.

Processing math: 48%

**4.** **c.** One-quarter of the atoms are left. This is one-half of one-half, or $(1/2)^2$.

**5.** **b.** An increase of $Z$ with no change in $A$ occurs when a neutron changes to a proton and an electron, ejecting the electron.

## Exercises and Problems

**1.**

| | Protons | Neutrons |
|---|---|---|
| a. $^{6}$Li | 3 | 3 |
| b. $^{54}$Cr | 24 | 30 |
| c. $^{54}$Fe | 26 | 28 |
| d. $^{220}$Rn | 86 | 134 |

**3.** **a.** 3.8 fm

**b.** 9.2 fm

**c.** 14.9 fm

**5.** Silicon

**7.** **a.** $^{36}$S and $^{36}$Ar

**b.** 5, 8

**9.** **a.** $^{129}$I:1088.1 MeV, 8.44 MeV

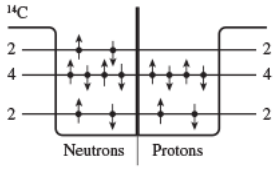
**b.** $^{129}$Xe:1087.6 MeV, 8.43 MeV

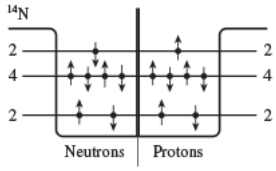
**11.** 14O=7.05 MeV; 16O=7.98 MeV; 16O is more tightly bound

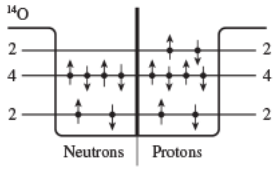
**13.** 8000 N

**15.** 2.3×10−38

**17.** **a.**




Processing math: 48%

**b.** $^{14}$N is stable; $^{14}$C undergoes beta-minus decay and $^{14}$O undergoes beta-plus decay.

**19.**

**a.** 9.17×109

**b.** 4.20×109

**c.** 1.73×106

**21.**

**a.** 3H→3He+β−

**b.** τ=5.46×108 s, r=1.83×10−9 s−1

**23.** 83 $\mu g$

**25.**

**a.** $^{226}$Ra

**b.** $^{35}$Cl

**c.** $^{40}$Ca

**d.** $^{24}$Mg

**27.**

**a.** $^{19}$O, $^{19}$F, $^{19}$Ne

**b.** $^{17}$O

**c.** $^{19}$O decays by $\beta^-$ to $^{19}$F; $^{19}$Ne decays by $\beta^+$ to $^{19}$F

**29.** 5.24 MeV

**31.** 0.0186 MeV

**33.** 2.0 Gy

**35.** 600 Gy

**37.** 34.2 MeV

**39.**

**a.** 12.7 km

**b.** 780 $\mu s$

**41.**

**a.** 1.46×10−8 u, 1.45×10−6%

**b.** 0.0304 u, 0.76%

**43.** 170 MeV

**45.** 0.93 MeV

**47.** 17,100 y

**49.**

**a.** 6.12×10−6 kg

**b.** 130 y

Processing math: 48%

**51.** 19 s

**53.** 1.2 h

**55.** (NU)0NU=86

**57.** 3.6 d

**59.**

**a.** 7×107 atoms

**b.** 3.3×10−2 mSv

**c.** Yes

**61.**

**a.** m(AXZ)>m(AYZ−1)+2me

**b.** 120 MeV

**63.**

**a.** Kin=65.0 MeV; Kout=5.0 MeV

**b.** 3.7×1021 collision/s

**c.** 6.6×10−39

**d.** 650 million years

Processing math: 48%

# Data Tables: Inside Front cover



## Useful Data

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $M_e$ | Mass of the earth | $5.98 \times 10^{24}\ \mathrm{kg}$ |
| $R_e$ | Radius of the earth | $6.37 \times 10^{6}\ \mathrm{m}$ |
| $g$ | Free-fall acceleration on earth | 9.80 m/s$^2$ |
| $G$ | Gravitational constant | $6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/kg^2}$ |
| $k_B$ | Boltzmann's constant | $1.38 \times 10^{-23}\ \mathrm{J/K}$ |
| $R$ | Gas constant | $8.31\ \mathrm{J/mol\,K}$ |
| $N_A$ | Avogadro's number | $6.02 \times 10^{23}\ \mathrm{particles/mol}$ |
| $T_0$ | Absolute zero | –273°C |
| $\sigma$ | Stefan-Boltzmann constant | $5.67 \times 10^{-8}\ \mathrm{W/m^2\,K^4}$ |
| $p_{atm}$ | Standard atmosphere | 101,300 Pa |
| $v_{sound}$ | Speed of sound in air at 20°C | 343 m/s |
| $m_p$ | Mass of the | $1.67 \times 10^{-27}\ \mathrm{kg}$ |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | proton (and the neutron) | | |
| $m_e$ | Mass of the electron | $9.11 \times 10^{-31}\ \mathrm{kg}$ | |
| $K$ | Coulomb's law constant ($1/4\pi\epsilon_0$) | $8.99 \times 10^{9}\ \mathrm{N\,m^2/C^2}$ | |
| $\epsilon_0$ | Permittivity constant | $8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \mathrm{C^2/N\,m^2}$ | |
| $\mu_0$ | Permeability constant | $1.26 \times 10^{-6}\ \mathrm{T\,m/A}$ | |
| $e$ | Fundamental unit of charge | $1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \mathrm{C}$ | |
| $c$ | Speed of light in vacuum | $3.00 \times 10^{8}\ \mathrm{m/s}$ | |
| $h$ | Planck's constant | $6.63 \times 10^{-34}\ \mathrm{J\,s}$ | $4.14 \times 10^{-15}\ \mathrm{eV\,s}$ |
| $\hbar$ | Planck's constant | $1.05 \times 10^{-34}\ \mathrm{J\,s}$ | $6.58 \times 10^{-16}\ \mathrm{eV\,s}$ |
| $a_B$ | Bohr radius | $5.29 \times 10^{-11}\ \mathrm{m}$ | |

# Common Prefixes

| Prefix | Meaning |
|---|---|
| femto- | $10^{-15}$ |
| pico- | $10^{-12}$ |
| nano- | $10^{-9}$ |
| micro- | $10^{-6}$ |

| Prefix | Meaning |
|---|---|
| milli- | $10^{-3}$ |
| centi- | $10^{-2}$ |
| kilo- | $10^{3}$ |
| mega- | $10^{6}$ |
| giga- | $10^{9}$ |
| terra- | $10^{12}$ |

# Conversion Factors

## Length

$1\ \text{in} = 2.54\ \text{cm}$

$1\ \text{mi} = 1.609\ \text{km}$

$1\ \text{m} = 39.37\ \text{in}$

$1\ \text{km} = 0.621\ \text{mi}$

## Velocity

$1\ \text{mph} = 0.447\ \text{m/s}$

$1\ \text{m/s} = 2.24\ \text{mph} = 3.28\ \text{ft/s}$

## Mass and energy

$1\ \text{u}\ = 1.661\ \times\ 10^{-27}\,\text{kg}$

$1\ \text{cal} = 4.19\ \text{J}$

$1\ \text{eV}\ =\ 1.60 \times 10^{-19}\,\text{J}$

## Time

$1\ \text{day} = 86{,}400\ \text{s}$

$1\ \text{year} = 3.16\ \times\ 10^7\ \text{s}$

### Pressure

$1\ \text{atm} = 101.3\ \text{kPa} = 760\ \text{mm of Hg}$

$1\ \text{atm} = 14.7\ \text{lb/in}^2$

### Rotation

$1\,\text{rad}\ =\ 180^\circ/\pi = 57.3^\circ$

$1\,\text{rev}\ = 360^\circ\ = 2\pi\,\text{rad}$

$1\,\text{rev/s}\ = 60\,\text{rpm}$

## Mathematical Approximations

Binominal approximation: $(1+x)^n\ \approx\ 1+\ nx\,\text{if}\,x\ \ll\ 1$

Small-angle approximation:
$\sin\,\theta\ \approx\ \tan\theta\ \approx\ \theta\,\text{and}\,\cos\theta \approx\ 1\,\text{if}\,\theta\ \ll\ 1\,\text{radian}$

## Greek Letters Used in Physics

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alpha | | $\alpha$ |
| Beta | | $\beta$ |
| Gamma | Γ | $\gamma$ |
| Delta | Δ | $\delta$ |
| Epsilon | | $\epsilon$ |
| Eta | | $\eta$ |
| Theta | Θ | $\theta$ |
| Lambda | | $\lambda$ |
| Mu | | $\mu$ |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pi | | $\pi$ |
| Rho | | $\rho$ |
| Sigma | Σ | $\sigma$ |
| Tau | | $\tau$ |
| Phi | Φ | $\phi$ |
| Psi | | $\psi$ |
| Omega | Ω | $\omega$ |

# Data Tables: Inside Back Cover

## Astronomical Data

| Planetary body | Mean distance from sun (m) | Period (years) | Mass (kg) | Mean radius (m) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sun | — | — | $1.99 \times 10^{30}$ | $6.96 \times 10^{8}$ |
| Moon | $3.84 \times 10^{8}$* | 27.3 days | $7.36 \times 10^{22}$ | $1.74 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Mercury | $5.79 \times 10^{10}$ | 0.241 | $3.18 \times 10^{23}$ | $2.43 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Venus | $1.08 \times 10^{11}$ | 0.615 | $4.88 \times 10^{24}$ | $6.06 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Earth | $1.50 \times 10^{11}$ | 1.00 | $5.98 \times 10^{24}$ | $6.37 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Mars | $2.28 \times 10^{11}$ | 1.88 | $6.42 \times 10^{23}$ | $3.37 \times 10^{6}$ |
| Jupiter | $7.78 \times 10^{11}$ | 11.9 | $1.90 \times 10^{27}$ | $6.99 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Saturn | $1.43 \times 10^{12}$ | 29.5 | $5.68 \times 10^{26}$ | $5.85 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Uranus | $2.87 \times 10^{12}$ | 84.0 | $8.68 \times 10^{25}$ | $2.33 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Neptune | $4.50 \times 10^{12}$ | 165 | $1.03 \times 10^{26}$ | $2.21 \times 10^{7}$ |

*Distance from earth

## Typical Coefficients of Friction

| Material | Static $\mu_s$ | Kinetic $\mu_k$ | Rolling $\mu_r$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rubber on dry concrete | 1.00 | 0.80 | 0.02 |
| Rubber on wet concrete | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.002 |
| Steel on steel (dry) | 0.80 | 0.60 | 0.002 |
| Steel on steel (lubricated) | 0.10 | 0.05 | |
| Wood on wood | 0.50 | 0.20 | |
| Wood on snow | 0.12 | 0.06 | |
| Ice on ice | 0.10 | 0.03 | |

## Heats of Transformation

| Substance | $T_m$ (°C) | $L_f$ (J/kg) | $T_b$ (°C) | $L_v$ (J/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Water | 0 | $3.33 \times 10^5$ | 100 | $22.6 \times 10^5$ |
| Nitrogen ($N_2$) | −210 | $0.26 \times 10^5$ | −196 | $1.99 \times 10^5$ |
| Ethyl alcohol | −114 | $1.09 \times 10^5$ | 78 | $8.79 \times 10^5$ |
| Mercury | −39 | $0.11 \times 10^5$ | 357 | $2.96 \times 10^5$ |
| Lead | 328 | $0.25 \times 10^5$ | 1750 | $8.58 \times 10^5$ |

# Properties of Materials

| Substance | $\rho$ (kg/m$^3$) | $c$ (J/kg K) |
|---|---|---|
| Air at STP* | 1.29 | |
| Ethyl alcohol | 790 | 2400 |
| Gasoline | 680 | |
| Glycerin | 1260 | |
| Mercury | 13,600 | 140 |
| Oil (typical) | 900 | |
| Seawater | 1030 | |
| Water | 1000 | 4190 |
| Aluminum | 2700 | 900 |
| Copper | 8920 | 385 |
| Gold | 19,300 | 129 |
| Ice | 920 | 2090 |
| Iron | 7870 | 449 |
| Lead | 11,300 | 128 |
| Silicon | 2330 | 703 |

*Standard temperature (0°C) and pressure (1 atm)

# Coefficients of Thermal Expansion

| Material | $\alpha$ (°C$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|
| Aluminum | $2.3 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Brass | $1.9 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Concrete | $1.2 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Steel | $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Invar | $0.09 \times 10^{-5}$ |

| Material | $\beta$ (°C$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|
| Gasoline | $9.6 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| Mercury | $1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| Ethyl alcohol | $1.1 \times 10^{-4}$ |

# Thermal Conductivities

| Material | $k$ (W/m K) |
|---|---|
| Diamond | 2000 |
| Silver | 430 |
| Copper | 400 |
| Aluminum | 240 |
| Iron | 80 |
| Stainless steel | 14 |
| Ice | 1.7 |
| Concrete | 0.8 |
| Glass | 0.8 |
| Styrofoam | 0.035 |
| Air (20°C, 1 atm) | 0.023 |

# Molar Specific Heats of Gases

| Gas | $C_P$ (J/mol K) | $C_V$ (J/mol K) |
|---|---|---|
| **Monatomic Gases** | | |
| He | 20.8 | 12.5 |
| Ne | 20.8 | 12.5 |
| Ar | 20.8 | 12.5 |
| **Diatomic Gases** | | |
| $H_2$ | 28.7 | 20.4 |
| $N_2$ | 29.1 | 20.8 |
| $O_2$ | 29.2 | 20.9 |

# Resistivity and Conductivity of Conductors

BEP2

| Metal | Resistivity ($\Omega$ m) | Conductivity ($\Omega^{-1}$ m$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|---|
| Aluminum | $2.8 \times 10^{-8}$ | $3.5 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Copper | $1.7 \times 10^{-8}$ | $6.0 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Gold | $2.4 \times 10^{-8}$ | $4.1 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Iron | $9.7 \times 10^{-8}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Silver | $1.6 \times 10^{-8}$ | $6.2 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Tungsten | $5.6 \times 10^{-8}$ | $1.8 \times 10^{7}$ |
| Nichrome | $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ | $6.7 \times 10^{5}$ |
| Carbon | $3.5 \times 10^{-5}$ | $2.9 \times 10^{4}$ |

# Atomic and Nuclear Data

| Atom | $Z$ | Mass (u) | Mass (MeV/$c^2$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Electron | — | 0.000 548 | 0.51 |
| Proton | — | 1.007 276 | 938.28 |
| Neutron | — | 1.008 665 | 939.57 |
| $^{1}$H | 1 | 1.007 825 | 938.79 |
| $^{2}$H | 1 | 2.014 102 | |
| $^{4}$He | 2 | 4.002 602 | |
| $^{12}$C | 6 | 12.000 000 | |
| $^{14}$C | 6 | 14.003 242 | |
| $^{14}$N | 7 | 14.003 074 | |
| $^{16}$O | 8 | 15.994 915 | |
| $^{20}$Ne | 10 | 19.992 435 | |
| $^{27}$Al | 13 | 26.981 538 | |
| $^{40}$Ar | 18 | 39.962 384 | |
| $^{207}$Pb | 82 | 206.975 871 | |
| $^{238}$U | 92 | 238.050 784 | |

# Hydrogen Atom Energies and Radii

| $n$ | $E_n$ (eV) | $r_n$ (nm) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | −13.60 | 0.053 |
| 2 | −3.40 | 0.212 |
| 3 | −1.51 | 0.476 |
| 4 | −0.85 | 0.848 |
| 5 | −0.54 | 1.322 |

# Indices of Refraction

| Material | Index of refraction |
|---|---|
| Vacuum | 1 exactly |
| Air | 1.00 |
| Water | 1.33 |
| Ethyl alcohol | 1.36 |
| Oil | 1.46 |
| Glass | 1.50 |
| Plastic | 1.59 |
| Diamond | 2.42 |

## Work Functions of Metals

| Metal | $E_0$ (eV) |
|---|---|
| Potassium | 2.30 |
| Sodium | 2.75 |
| Aluminum | 4.28 |
| Tungsten | 4.55 |
| Iron | 4.65 |
| Copper | 4.70 |
| Gold | 5.10 |

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