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Department of Physics

WFU Physics Colloquium

TITLE: "WFU Physics Research -- Part II"

TIME: Wednesday Sept. 12, 2012 at 4:00 PM

PLACE: George P. Williams, Jr. Lecture Hall, (Olin 101)

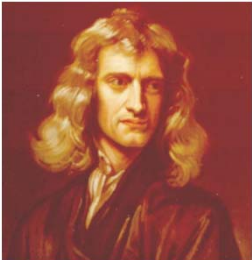
Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in the lounge. All interested persons are cordially invited to attend.

PROGRAM

This colloquium is the second of two which will highlight physics research at Wake Forest University. During the colloquium, Physics Department faculty members will present short overviews of their research programs in the Physics Department. This forum for sharing ideas will hopefully inspire collaborations between students and faculty and between research groups.

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Isaac Newton, English physicist and mathematician (1642—1727)



1. In the absence of a net force, an object remains at constant velocity or at rest.
2. In the presence of a net force F , the motion of an object of mass m is described by the form $F=ma$.
3. $F_{12} = -F_{21}$.

<http://www.newton.ac.uk/newton.html>

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Detail: "Inertial" frame of reference

Strictly speaking, Newton's laws work only in a reference frame (coordinate system) that is stationary or moving at constant velocity. In a non-inertial (accelerating) reference frame, there are some extra contributions.

iclicker question:

Are we (here in Winston-Salem)

- A. In an inertial frame of reference (exactly)
- B. In a non-inertial frame of reference

Newton's laws are only approximately true in Winston-Salem, but the corrections are very small.

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MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU



And with your spirit.

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Example force – weight

1 lb = 4.45 N
1 N = 0.225 lb



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Gravitational mass versus inertial mass –

The concept of mass (“inertial” mass m) is distinct from the concept of weight mg . In fact the gravitation “constant” g varies slightly throughout the globe. Of course the weight of mass m on the surface of the moon is considerable different than its weight on earth.

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Examples



$$F_{\text{tension}} = T \mathbf{j}$$

$$F_{\text{gravity}} = -mg \mathbf{j}$$

$$F = F_{\text{net}} = F_{\text{tension}} + F_{\text{gravity}} = (T - mg) \mathbf{j} = 0$$

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Examples



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$$F_{\text{gravity}} = -mg \mathbf{j}$$

$$F = F_{\text{net}} = F_{\text{gravity}} = (-mg) \mathbf{j} = ma$$

$$\rightarrow a = -g \mathbf{j}$$

iclicker question:

An object having a mass of 2 kg is moving at constant velocity of 3 m/s in the upward direction near the surface of the Earth. What is the net force acting on the object?

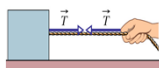
- A. 0 N.
- B. 6 N in the upward direction.
- C. 25.6 N in the upward direction.
- D. 19.6 N in the downward direction.

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Example: (assume surface is frictionless)



Suppose **T** measured
a observed & measured

$$\mathbf{T} = m \mathbf{a}$$

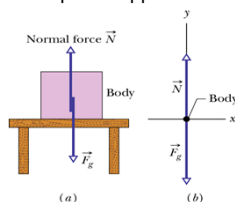
$$T = 5\text{N}; a = 0.1\text{m/s}^2$$

$$m = \frac{T}{a} = \frac{5\text{N}}{0.1\text{m/s}^2} = 50\text{kg}$$

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Example – support forces

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

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{support}} = -\mathbf{F}_{\text{applied}}$$

→ $\mathbf{F}_{\text{support}}$ acts in direction \perp to surface
(in direction of surface “normal”)

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Newton's second law

$$\mathbf{F} = m \mathbf{a}$$

Types of forces:

Fundamental

Gravitational

Electrical

Magnetic

Elementary

particles

Approximate

$$\mathbf{F} = -mg \mathbf{j}$$

Empirical

Friction

Support

Elastic

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$$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a} = m \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = m \frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{dt^2}$$

Examples (one dimension):

$$F = F_0 \text{ (constant)} \Rightarrow x(t) = x_0 + v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{F_0}{m} t^2$$

$$F = F_0 \sin \omega t \Rightarrow x(t) = x_0 + v_0 t - \frac{F_0}{m\omega^2} \sin \omega t$$

$$F = -kx \Rightarrow x(t) = x_0 \cos \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} t$$

$$F = F_0 - mbv \Rightarrow v(t) = -\frac{g}{b} + \frac{g}{b} e^{-bt}$$

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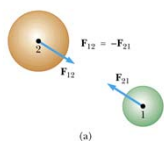
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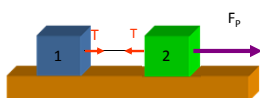
Newton's third law

$$\mathbf{F}_{12} = -\mathbf{F}_{21}$$

Source: Physics for Scientists and Engineers, 5th
Figure 3.6a



Harcourt, Inc.



$$T = m_1 a$$

$$F_p - T = m_2 a$$

$$a = F_p / (m_1 + m_2)$$

$$T = F_p (m_1 / (m_1 + m_2))$$

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$T - m_1 g = m_1 a$ $T - m_2 g = -m_2 a$ \Rightarrow after some algebra:

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

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

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$\mathbf{F}_{\text{scale}} + \mathbf{F}_{\text{gravity}} = 0; \mathbf{F}_{\text{scale}} = mg$

Question: What if you step on the scale in the elevator?

$\mathbf{F}_{\text{scale}} + \mathbf{F}_{\text{gravity}} = m \mathbf{a}; \mathbf{F}_{\text{scale}} = mg + m \mathbf{a}$

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When the elevator accelerates upward, the spring scale reads a value greater than the weight of the fish.

When the elevator accelerates downward, the spring scale reads a value less than the weight of the fish.

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0 points

A 14.5-lb block rests on the floor.

(a) What force does the floor exert on the block?

magnitude lb

direction

(b) If a rope is tied to the block and run vertically over a pulley, and the other end is attached to a free-hanging 12.0-lb weight, what is the force exerted by the floor on the 14.5-lb block?

magnitude lb

direction

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Exercise

For this exercise, you should ride the elevator from the first floor of Olin Physical Laboratory up to the second or third floor. While in the elevator, stand on the scale and record the scale readings to answer the following questions.

1. What is the scale reading when the elevator is stationary?
2. What is the scale reading when the elevator just starts moving upward?
3. What is the scale reading when the elevator is coming to a stop just before your destination floor?

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