

# Introduction to Physical Science

Newton's Laws of Motion and Gravity  
Presented by Robert Wagner

## Force

- A force is a push or pull
  - It is a vector quantity so it has both magnitude and direction
- Free-body diagram
  - Illustrates all external forces on an object

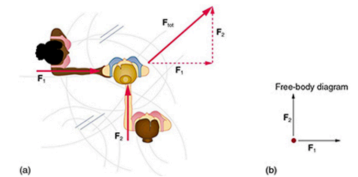


Figure 4.3 Part (a) shows an overhead view of two ice skaters pushing on a third. Forces are vectors and add like other vectors, so the total force on the third skater is in the direction shown. In part (b), we see a free-body diagram representing the forces acting on the third skater.

Image Credit: OpenStax College Physics - Figure 4.3

## Newton's First Law of Motion

- A body at rest remains at rest, or, if in motion, remains in motion at a constant velocity unless acted on by a net external force
  - Everyday experience - object slow down due to friction or air resistance
  - Consider an air hockey table
  - Law is universal and applies to everything
  - Any change in velocity (speed or direction) requires an external force (planetary orbits)
- Mass - The amount of matter in an object
  - Differs from weight - does not depend on location
  - This law introduces the concept of inertia
  - Which has more mass - A kilogram of cotton balls or a kilogram of gold?

## Newton's Second Law of Motion

- Relates force to change in motion
- Need to consider external forces
- The net force is what causes a change in motion
  - A free-body diagram helps us keep track of the forces

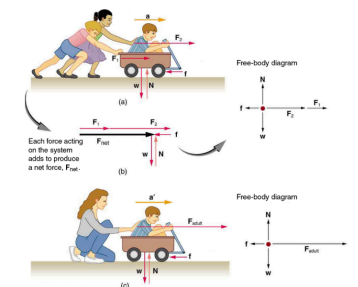


Image credit: OpenStax College Physics - Figure 4.5

## Newton's Second Law of Motion

- A larger force will give a larger change in motion
- 
- A larger mass will have a smaller change in motion
- 
- Newton's Second law:
  - or,

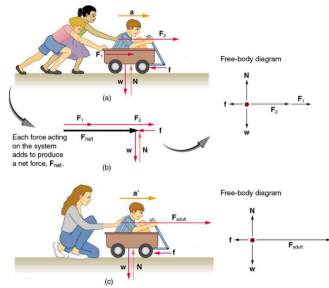


Image credit: OpenStax College Physics - Figure 4.5

## Units for Force

- SI unit for force - Newton (N)
  - 1 Newton is the force needed to accelerate a 1 kg object at  $1 \text{ m/s}^2$
  - $1 \text{ N} = 1 \text{ kg m/s}^2$

## Weight and Gravitational Force

- The net force on a falling object is the gravitational force
  - The acceleration due to gravity is  $g$  ( $9.80 \text{ m/s}^2$ )
  - Weight ( $w$ ) =  $mg$
  - The weight is the force with which Earth pulls on an object
  - So,  $w=mg = (1.0 \text{ kg}) (9.80 \text{ m/s}^2) = 9.8 \text{ N}$

## Free-Fall

- What do we mean by “weightlessness” in space
  - The gravitational force and acceleration are not much lower at the International Space Station than on Earth
  - Astronauts are falling continually which makes them appear weightless
- Mass and Weight
  - These are two different concepts in physics
  - Mass - the amount of matter contained in an object
  - Weight - measure for the force of gravity pulling on an object

## Example

- The net external force exerted on a lawnmower is 51 N. The mass of the mower is 24 kg. What is the acceleration?
  - Draw a sketch
  - List known values ; identify unknown
  - Determine equation to use
  - Plug in known values and solve



Figure 4.7 The net force on a lawnmower is 51 N to the right. At what rate does the lawnmower accelerate to the right?

Image Credit: OpenStax College Physics - Figure 4.7 CC BY 4.0

## Example

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Figure 4.7 The net force on a lawnmower is 51 N to the right. At what rate does the lawnmower accelerate to the right?

$$F_{net} = 51 \text{ N}; m = 24 \text{ kg}$$

Unknown: acceleration (a)

$$a = \frac{F_{net}}{m}$$

$$a = \frac{51 \text{ N}}{24 \text{ kg}} = \frac{51 \text{ kg m/s}^2}{24 \text{ kg}}$$

$$a = 2.1 \text{ m/s}^2$$

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## Newton's Third Law of Motion

- Whenever one body exerts a force on a second body, the first body experiences a force that is equal in magnitude and opposite in direction to the force it exerts
- Forces will always occur in pairs
  - Force of the feet on wall is equal and opposite to the force of the wall on the feet
  - Our system of interest is only looking at the one force

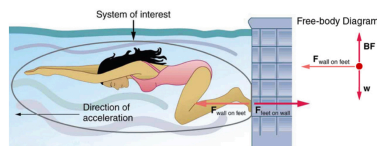


Figure 4.9 When the swimmer exerts a force  $F_{feet \text{ on wall}}$  on the wall, she accelerates in the direction opposite to that of her push. This means the net external force on her is in the direction opposite to  $F_{wall \text{ on feet}}$ . This opposition occurs because, in accordance with Newton's third law of motion, the wall exerts a force  $F_{wall \text{ on feet}}$  on her, equal in magnitude but in the direction opposite to the one she exerts on it. The line around the swimmer indicates the system of interest. Note that  $F_{feet \text{ on wall}}$  does not act on this system (the swimmer) and, thus, does not cancel  $F_{wall \text{ on feet}}$ . Thus the free-body diagram shows only  $F_{wall \text{ on feet}}$ , the gravitational force, and  $BF$ , the buoyant force of the water supporting the swimmer's weight. The vertical forces  $w$  and  $BF$  cancel since there is no vertical motion.

Image credit: OpenStax College Physics - Figure 4.9 CC BY 4.0

## Example

- Professor pushes a cart. Her mass is 65.0 kg, the cart's mass is 12.0 kg and the equipment is 7.0 kg. Calculate the acceleration produced when the professor exerts a backward force of 150 N on the floor. Opposing forces, including friction total 24.0 N
  - Draw a sketch
  - List known values ; identify unknown
  - Determine equation to use
  - Plug in known values and solve

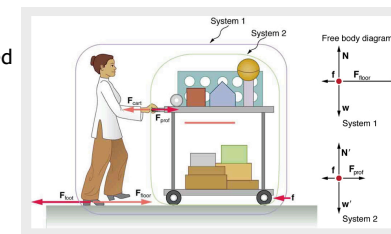
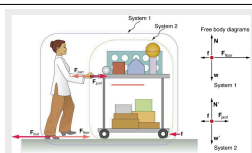


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## Example



- Professor pushes a cart. Her mass is 65.0 kg, the cart's mass is 12.0 kg and the equipment is 7.0 kg. Calculate the acceleration produced when the professor exerts a backward force of 150 N on the floor. Opposing forces, including friction total 24.0 N. (System 1)

- Draw a sketch
- List known values ; identify unknown
- Determine equation to use
- Plug in known values and solve

$$F_{\text{floor}} = 150 \text{ N}; f = 24.0 \text{ N}; m_{\text{prof}} = 65.0 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{\text{cart}} = 12.0 \text{ kg}; m_{\text{equipment}} = 7.0 \text{ kg}$$

$$a = \frac{F_{\text{net}}}{m}$$

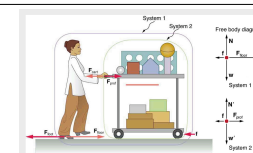
$$F_{\text{net}} = F_{\text{floor}} - f = 150 \text{ N} - 24.0 \text{ N} = 126 \text{ N}$$

$$m = 65.0 \text{ kg} + 12.0 \text{ kg} + 7.0 \text{ kg} = 84 \text{ kg}$$

$$a = \frac{126 \text{ N}}{84 \text{ kg}} = 1.5 \text{ m/s}^2$$

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## Example



- Professor pushes a cart. Her mass is 65.0 kg, the cart's mass is 12.0 kg and the equipment is 7.0 kg. Calculate the force the professor exerts on the cart. (System 2)

- Draw a sketch
- List known values ; identify unknown
- Determine equation to use
- Plug in known values and solve

$$F_{\text{floor}} = 150 \text{ N}; f = 24.0 \text{ N}; m_{\text{prof}} = 65.0 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{\text{cart}} = 12.0 \text{ kg}; m_{\text{equipment}} = 7.0 \text{ kg}$$

$$F_{\text{net}} = F_{\text{prof}} - f; F_{\text{prof}} = F_{\text{net}} + f$$

$$m = 12.0 \text{ kg} + 7.0 \text{ kg} = 19.0 \text{ kg}$$

$$F_{\text{net}} = ma = (19.0 \text{ kg})(1.5 \text{ m/s}^2) = 29 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{\text{prof}} = F_{\text{net}} + f = 29 \text{ N} + 24.0 \text{ N} = 53 \text{ N}$$

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## Universal Law of Gravitation

- Could the orbit of our Moon be related to a falling apple?
  - Gravity of Earth extends out into space
- Every particle in the universe attracts every other particle with a force along a line joining them
  - Forces between two objects are always equal and opposite
  - Force of Earth on Moon is equal in magnitude and opposite in direction to the force of our Moon on Earth



Figure 6.20 According to early accounts,

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## Universal Law of Gravitation

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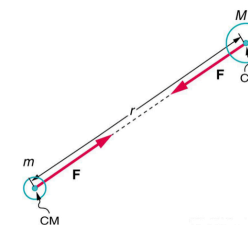


Figure 6.21 Gravitational attraction is along a line joining the centers of mass of these two bodies. The magnitude of the force is the same on each, consistent with Newton's third law.

Image Credit: OpenStax College Physics - Figure 6.21 CC BY 4.0

## Universal Law of Gravitation

- Force is given by:
  - 
  - $G$  is the gravitational constant:
  - Gravitational force is a relatively weak force compared to other forces of nature

## Example

- Calculate the gravitational force between Earth and our Moon. Use

- Draw a sketch
- List known values ; identify unknown
- Determine equation to use
- Plug in known values and solve

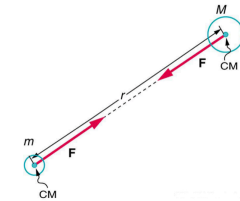


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## Example

- Calculate the gravitational force between Earth and our Moon. Use

- Draw a sketch
- List known values ; identify unknown
- Determine equation to use
- Plug in known values and solve

$$M_{Earth} = 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg} ;$$

$$m_{Moon} = 7.35 \times 10^{22} \text{ kg} ;$$

$$\text{Radius of Moon's orbit} = 3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$$

$$F = \frac{GMm}{r^2}$$

$$F = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{Nm}^2}{\text{kg}^2} (5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}) (7.35 \times 10^{22} \text{ kg})$$

$$F = 1.99 \times 10^{20} \text{ N}$$

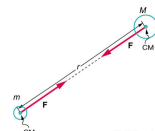


Figure 6.21 Gravitational attraction is along a line joining the centers of mass of these two bodies. The magnitude of the force is the same on each, consistent with Newton's third law.

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## Summary

- Newton's laws of motion are universal and apply to all objects
- Weight is measured in the SI unit of Newton and is very different than mass
- Newton's Universal Law of Gravitation is universal and describes the force between any two objects with mass in the universe