



Falling object: constant acceleration

- Falling objects have constant acceleration.
- This is called the acceleration of gravity 9.8 m/s/s = 9.8 m/s²
- But why does gravity result in a constant acceleration?
- Why is this acceleration independent of mass?

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These are difficult questions. Maybe not completely answered even now.
But tied into a more basic question:

What causes acceleration?
Or, how do we get an object to move?

A hot topic in the 17th century. Descartes was a major player in this.

Tough questions

Descartes' view...

- Motion and rest are primitive states of a body without need of further explanation.
- Bodies only change their state when acted upon by an external cause.
 This is similar our concept of inertia
- That a body, upon coming in contact with a stronger one, loses none of its motion; but that, upon coming in contact with a weaker one, it loses as much as it transfers to that weaker body Momentum and it's conservati

Momentum and it's conservation Physics 107, Fall 2006 5

Inertia

- Principle of inertia: object continues at constant velocity unless disturbed.
 - Need a disturbance to change the velocity.
- Inertia measures the degree to which an object at rest will stay at rest.
 - Objects with lots of inertia don't change motion as much as lighter objects subject to the same disturbance.
 - They are more difficult to accelerate

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Quantifying Inertia: Mass and Momentum

- Same disturbance applied to different objects
 results in different velocities
- (e.g. hitting bowling ball and golf ball w/golf club).

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- But the product mass × velocity is the same
- (e.g. for the bowling ball and the golf ball).
- Momentum = (mass)×(velocity)

Momentum conservation

- Can easily describe interactions of objects.
- The total momentum (sum of momenta of each object) of the system is always the same.
- We say that momentum is conserved.
 Between the golf ball and the golf club
- Momentum can be transferred from one object to the other, but it does not disappear.

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Momentum conservation: equal masses 2 Before collision: m = 1 kg m =1 kg Total momentum = v = 1 m/sv = 0 m/s1 kg-m/s+0 kg-m/s = 1 kg-m/s $p = mv = 1 ka \cdot m/s$ p=0 After collision: m = 1 kg v = 1 m/s Total momentum = m =1 kg v = 0 m/s0 kg-m/s+1 kg-m/s = 1 kg-m/s Physics Roz=Ralkgom/s $p = 1 kg \cdot m/s_9$





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Newtonian Forces
Newton made a definition of force that described how momentum was transferred.
He viewed it as a continuous process rather than the immediate transfer of Descartes and Galileo.
This makes a connection with our intuitive understanding of 'force' as a push or a pull.

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Momentum conservation

- We said before that an impressed force changes the momentum of an object.
- We also said that momentum is conserved.
- This means the momentum of the object applying the force must have decreased.
- According to Newton, there must be some force acting on that object to cause the momentum change.

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Dewton's third law• This is the basis for Newton's third law:
to every action there is always opposed an
equal reaction.• This is momentum conservation in the
language of forces.