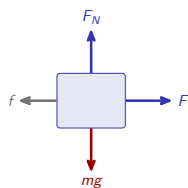


Force & Translational Dynamics

AP Physics 1 • Unit 2

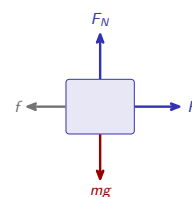
AP Physics 1



Force & Translational Dynamics

What we will cover

- 1 Systems and center of mass
- 2 Free-body diagrams
- 3 Newton's three laws
- 4 Gravity and weight
- 5 Friction
- 6 Spring forces
- 7 Circular motion



1 Systems & center of mass

Force & Translational Dynamics

└ Systems & center of mass

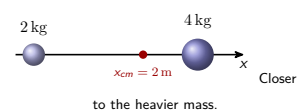
Systems and center of mass

Treat several objects as one **system** 系统. Its **center of mass** 质心 moves as if all mass sat there.

Center of mass

$$x_{cm} = \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_2 x_2 + \dots}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots}$$

Only the **net external force** 净外力 moves the center of mass – **internal forces** 内力 cannot.



2 Free-body diagrams

Force & Translational Dynamics

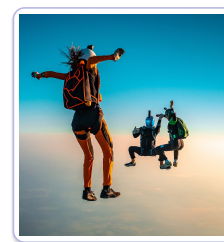
└ Free-body diagrams

Free-body diagrams

A **force** 力 is a push or pull, in newtons. Draw a **free-body diagram** 受力图: the object as a dot, every force as a labeled arrow.

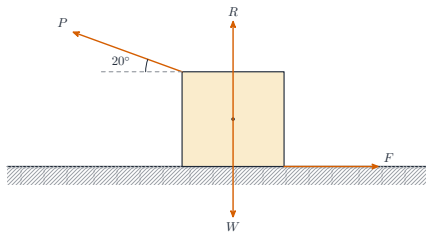
- **contact forces** 接触力 – normal, friction
- **long-range forces** 长程力 – gravity

Add the arrows as vectors to get the **net force** 合力.



Free-body diagrams show every force on a system

Forces and Free-Body Diagrams



A free-body diagram shows every force acting on one object

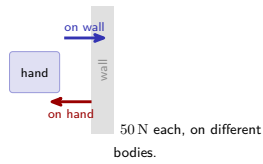
3 Newton's laws

Force & Translational Dynamics
Newton's laws

Newton's third law

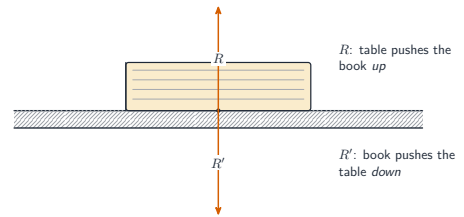
Newton's third law 牛顿第三定律: if A pushes B, then B pushes A back – equal in size, opposite in direction.

The two forces of a **force pair** 作用力对 act on **different objects**, so they can **never** cancel.



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Newton's laws

A Newton's third-law pair



A Newton's third-law pair: equal and opposite forces on two different objects

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Newton's laws

Newton's first law

Newton's first law 牛顿第一定律: velocity stays constant unless a net force acts.

- **inertia** 惯性 – resistance to a change in motion, measured by mass
- net force zero = **translational equilibrium** 平动平衡

"No net force" means **no change** in motion – not "no motion".



Rockets accelerate by pushing exhaust out

Force & Translational Dynamics
Newton's laws

Newton's second law

Newton's second law 牛顿第二定律: a nonzero net force gives an acceleration.

The rule

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\sum \vec{F}}{m}$$

On a ramp, resolve forces into **perpendicular components** 垂直分量 and apply it in each direction.

Worked example

20 N on a 5 kg box:

$$a = \frac{20}{5} = 4 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Double the mass $\Rightarrow$ the acceleration **halves**.

$a \propto F$, and $a \propto 1/m$.

4 Gravity

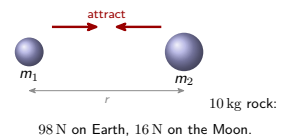
Gravitational force

Universal gravitation

$$F_g = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$$

Grows with mass; falls with the **square** of the distance.

Mass 质量 is fixed matter;
weight 重量 = mg changes with location.



5 Friction

Friction

Friction opposes sliding, and depends on the **normal force** 法向力 F_N and **coefficient of friction** 摩擦系数 μ – not the area.

Two forms

$$\text{static: } f_s \leq \mu_s F_N$$

$$\text{kinetic: } f_k = \mu_k F_N$$

Worked example (10 kg, $\mu_s = 0.4$)

$$F_N = mg = 98 \text{ N}$$

$$f_{s,\text{max}} = 0.4 \times 98 = 39 \text{ N}$$

Push < 39 N: it stays. Push harder: it breaks free, then weaker **kinetic friction** 动摩擦 takes over.

Worked example – will the crate move?

A 5.0 kg crate on a level floor has $\mu_s = 0.40$. Will a horizontal push of 15 N move it?

- on a level floor
 $N = mg = (5.0)(9.8) = 49 \text{ N}$
- maximum static friction:
 $f_{s,\text{max}} = \mu_s N = 0.40(49) = 19.6 \text{ N}$
- $15 \text{ N} < 19.6 \text{ N}$, so **no – it stays at rest**
- static friction takes the value 15 N, exactly balancing the push

Static friction is an **inequality**: it supplies whatever is needed, up to its maximum. Setting $f_s = \mu_s N$ before checking is the standard error.

6 Springs

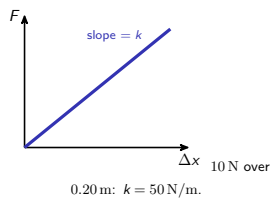
Spring forces – Hooke's law

Hooke's law

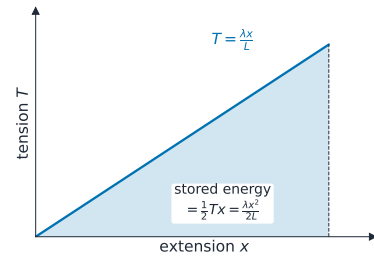
$$F_s = -k \Delta x$$

spring constant 弹簧劲度系数 k = stiffness. The minus sign makes it a **restoring force** 回复力.

k is the **slope** of the force–displacement graph.



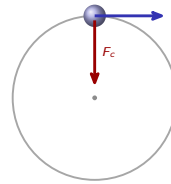
Hooke's law



Hooke's law: extension is proportional to load up to the limit of proportionality

7 Circular motion

Uniform circular motion



Uniform circular motion 匀速圆周运动: steady speed, changing direction – so it accelerates.

Toward the center

$$a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}, \quad F_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

Centripetal force 向心力 is a **role** – filled by tension, gravity, or friction. Cut it, and the object flies off straight.

Uniform circular motion, in its own words

Period and frequency The **period** T is the time for one revolution; the **frequency** $f = 1/T$ is revolutions per second.

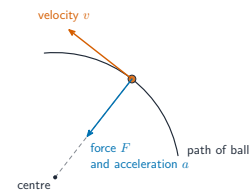
Speed $v = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$ – one circumference in one period.

Centripetal acceleration Centripetal acceleration $a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}$, directed towards the centre. The speed is constant; the velocity is not.

The force $F_{\text{net}} = ma_c$, supplied by whatever actually points inward – tension, friction, gravity, the normal force.

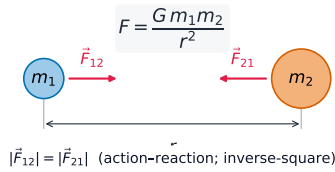
"Centripetal force" is a **role**, never a new force. Name the real force filling it, or the free-body diagram is wrong.

Circular Motion



The velocity points along the tangent; the centripetal force and acceleration point to the centre

Gravitational Force, continued



Two masses attract each other with equal, opposite, inverse-square forces along the line joining them

Mass plays two distinct roles

inertial mass 惯性质量	how strongly an object resists acceleration – the m in $F = ma$
gravitational mass 引力质量	how strongly it attracts and is attracted – the m in the law of gravitation
the remarkable fact	experiment finds them equal , to extraordinary precision
the consequence	all objects fall with the same acceleration, because the extra weight is exactly cancelled by the extra inertia
Newton's law of gravitation 万有引力定律	$F = \frac{G m_1 m_2}{r^2}$
gravitational field strength 引力场强度	$g = \frac{GM}{r^2}$ – force per unit mass, and numerically the free-fall acceleration

That the two masses are equal is why Galileo's result holds. It is an experimental fact, not a definition – and Einstein made it the starting point of general relativity.

Exam tips

- Always draw a **free-body diagram** first: only real forces **on** the chosen object (weight, normal, tension, friction, applied) – never an " ma " arrow.
- Apply $\sum F = ma$ **one axis at a time**; on an incline resolve gravity into $mg \sin \theta$ (along) and $mg \cos \theta$ (perpendicular).
- A **Newton's third-law pair** acts on **two different objects** – a book's weight and the table's normal force are *not* a pair (both act on the book).
- Static friction** adjusts up to $\mu_s N$ (use it to test whether motion starts); once sliding, use **kinetic** friction $f_k = \mu_k N$.
- Circular motion needs a **net inward (centripetal) force** mv^2/r supplied by a real force – there is no outward "centrifugal" force.

8 Recap

Unit 2 – key takeaways

1 Free-body

draw every force as an arrow; add them for the net force

2 Newton's laws

1st: inertia; 2nd: $a = \Sigma F/m$; 3rd: equal-opposite pairs

3 Forces

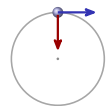
gravity Gm_1m_2/r^2 ; friction μF_N ; spring $-k\Delta x$

4 Circular

$a_c = v^2/r$ toward the center; a role, not a new force

Check yourself

- Why can a Newton's-third-law pair never cancel?
- 30 N net on a 6 kg mass – what is a ?
- Does friction depend on the contact area?
- Cut the string on a whirling ball – which way does it go?



Answers 1. they act on different objects 2. 5 m/s^2 3. no 4. straight, along the tangent