

# Acceleration

Acceleration is the rate of change of velocity. If an object's speed and/or direction changes, then it has acceleration.

Acceleration is the slope on a v-t graph:

linear v-t graph  $\rightarrow$  constant slope  $\rightarrow$  constant acc

non-linear v-t graph  $\rightarrow$  non-constant slope  $\rightarrow$  average acc  
 $\rightarrow$  instantaneous acc.

Acceleration Equation: 
$$\vec{a} = \frac{\Delta \vec{V}}{\Delta t}$$

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{V}_2 - \vec{V}_1}{\Delta t}$$

PP/80

2.  $\vec{V}_1 = 4.0 \text{ m/s [downhill]} = +4.0 \text{ m/s}$

$\vec{V}_2 = 3.5 \text{ m/s [uphill]} = -3.5 \text{ m/s}$

$\Delta t = 3.0 \text{ s}$

$\vec{a} = ?$

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\Delta \vec{V}}{\Delta t}$$

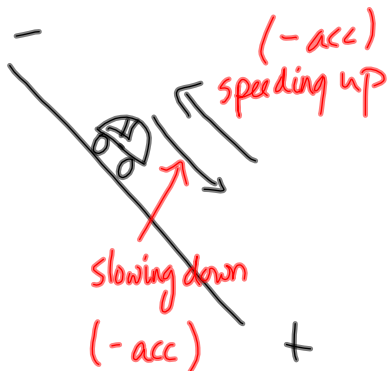
$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{V}_2 - \vec{V}_1}{\Delta t}$$

$$\vec{a} = \frac{-3.5 \text{ m/s} - (+4.0 \text{ m/s})}{3.0 \text{ s}}$$

$$\vec{a} = \frac{-7.5 \text{ m/s}}{3.0 \text{ s}}$$

$$\vec{a} = -2.5 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$\vec{a} = 2.5 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ [uphill]}$$



Test (Velocity + Acceleration)

- Chapters 2 and 3 (up to p 80)

- INV 1, 2, 3, 4 + 5

Demos

- description  $\leftrightarrow$  d-t / v-t / a-t graph

- Velocity: slope on d-t graph

- constant velocity (graph is linear)

- average velocity

- instantaneous velocity } graph is not linear

- acceleration: slope on v-t graph

- constant acceleration (graph is linear)

- average acceleration

- instantaneous acceleration } graph is not linear

- solve velocity problems  $\left( v = \frac{\Delta d}{\Delta t} \right)$

- solve acceleration problems  $\left( a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} \right)$

- terms (vector / scalar / distance / position / displacement / speed / velocity / acceleration)