

2. Newton's Laws of Motion and Gravitation

Newton's first law of motion:

A body will remain at rest or continue its uniform motion in a straight line unless compelled to change by forces acting on it. It follows from this that when a body is in equilibrium the resultant force, $\underline{R} = (R_x, R_y, R_z)$, of all the forces acting on it, is zero. Thus

$$\underline{R} = \underline{0}, \quad R_x = 0, \quad R_y = 0, \quad R_z = 0$$

where R_x , R_y and R_z are the net sums of the x , y and z scalar components of the forces, respectively.

Newton's second law of motion:

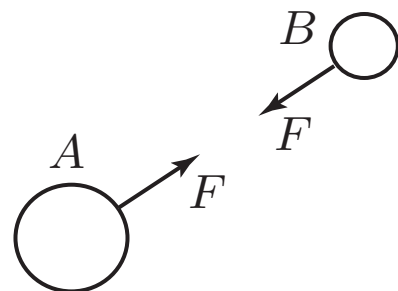
If a body of mass m is moving with velocity \underline{v} , and so has **momentum** $m\underline{v}$, then the rate of change of momentum of the body is directly proportional to the resultant applied force, \underline{F} , acting on it: $\underline{F} = \frac{d}{dt}(m\underline{v})$. For a body with acceleration \underline{a}

and of *constant* mass m , this becomes $\underline{F} = m \frac{d\underline{v}}{dt} = m\underline{a}$.

This vector equation is equivalent to the scalar equations: $F_x = ma_x$, $F_y = ma_y$, $F_z = ma_z$ where $\underline{F} = (F_x, F_y, F_z)$ and $\underline{a} = (a_x, a_y, a_z)$.

Newton's third law of motion:

To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Thus forces come in pairs when bodies interact. Whenever body A exerts a force, \underline{F} , of magnitude F , on body B, B exerts a force, $-\underline{F}$, on body A.



Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation:

Every body in the universe attracts every other body with a force which is directly proportional to the product of the masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. Thus $F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$ where F_g is the magnitude of the gravitational force on either body, m_1 and m_2 are their masses, r is the distance between them. G is called the gravitational constant. Its accepted value is $G = 6.673 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$.

3. Units

The SI system uses the following units:

Quantity	Unit	Symbol
Mass	kilogram	kg
Length	metre	m
Time	second	s
Force	newton	N ($1 \text{ N} = 1 \text{ kg m s}^{-2}$)
Work	joule	J ($1 \text{ J} = 1 \text{ N m}$)
Power	watt	W ($1 \text{ W} = 1 \text{ J s}^{-1}$)
Velocity	metre per second	m s^{-1}
Acceleration	metre per second per second	m s^{-2}
Energy	joule	J
Momentum	newton second	N s
Impulse	newton second	N s
Angular Velocity/ Angular Frequency	radians per second	rad s^{-1}