

Quizzes (Spring 2021)

PHYS 205A: University Physics

Due date: At 11:55 AM before each class, on D2L

Instructions

- Assessment of quizzes does not look for correctness. Instead, it expects you to be critical and creative.
- The questions are often left open ended. Thus, it is not recommended to spend more than ten minutes on a question. You are encouraged to ponder about it though.
- After completion, scan the pages as a single PDF file, and submit the file on D2L (under Assessments → Assignments).

Questions

Chapter 1:

(Q-0120:) In the International System of Units (SI) the three fundamental units of measurement in mechanics are chosen to be time (second), length (meter), and mass (kilogram). If, instead, the three fundamental units of measurement in mechanics were chosen to be time (second), length (meter), and density (ρ), then what would be the unit of measurement of mass in terms of second, meter, and ρ .

(Q-0122:) What is wrong with this road sign:

Carbondale 7 mi (11.263 km)?

Chapter 2: Motion along a straight line

(Q-0125:) Time always moves forward, that is, the time difference $\Delta t > 0$. In other words, time is monotonic. This is often referred to as the arrow of time. Change in position of an object, unlike time, could be positive, zero, or negative. Imagine and describe an universe where time is not monotonic.

(Q-0127:) When you throw a ball up in the air what is the velocity of the ball when it reaches the highest point? (Answer: Zero.) What is the instantaneous acceleration of the ball when the ball reaches the highest point? (Hint: The instantaneous acceleration of the ball at the highest point is not zero.) Is this consistent with the definition of the instantaneous acceleration as the derivative of velocity with respect to time,

$$\mathbf{a} = \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt}?$$
 (1)

(Q-0129:) The kinematic equations are independent of mass. Thus, the time taken to fall a certain distance is independent of mass. The following BBC video captures the motion of a feather and a bowling ball when dropped together inside the world's biggest vacuum chamber.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E43-CfukEgs>

Does this imply that it is impossible to determine the mass of planets by observing their motion in the sky?

Chapter 3: Vector algebra

(Q-0201:) The following TED-Ed YouTube video emphasizes on the dependence of the vector components on the choice of coordinate basis vectors.

<https://youtu.be/ml4NSzCQobk>

Do the coordinate basis vectors, used to describe vectors, have to be orthogonal?

(Q-0203:) Is area a scalar or a vector? Is time a scalar or a vector?

Chapter 4: Projectile motion

(Q-0205:) Uniform velocity in both horizontal and vertical direction leads to a trajectory along a straight line path. Uniform velocity in the horizontal direction and uniform acceleration in the vertical direction leads to a trajectory along a parabolic path. What would be the trajectory for uniform acceleration in both horizontal and vertical direction?

(Q-0208:) The following video by National Science Foundation, USA,

<https://youtu.be/HB4ws7RoA3M>

clarifies how the vertical and horizontal components of velocity change on the trajectory of a projectile motion.

- (a) What is the vertical component of velocity at the highest point in projectile motion?
 - (b) What is the horizontal component of velocity at the highest point in projectile motion?
 - (c) What is the speed (magnitude of velocity) at the highest point in projectile motion?
- (Q-0210:) The following video by National STEM Centre, United Kingdom,

https://youtu.be/z8S0_SHqoeY

demonstrates a counterintuitive feature in projectile motion. Next, ponder the following. In a room devoid of air a stuntman and a bullseye (target) are released from rest from the same height simultaneously. During the fall, the stuntman throws a ball horizontally towards the target. Is the ball expected to hit the target? If yes, explain. If not, why not?

Chapter 4 (contd.): Galilean relativity

(Q-0212:) Critically analyze the following prediction by Lord Rayleigh in his classic book on sound, refer page 154 (page 177 as per PDF counter) at the following link,

<https://archive.org/stream/theorysound02raylgoog>

If the source is moving toward the observer at twice the speed of sound, while the observer is at rest with respect to the medium of sound, the observer would hear a musical piece in correct time and tune, but backwards.

Chapter 4 (contd.): Centripetal acceleration

(Q-0217:) Earth rotates around its axis. So, does a flight against the direction of rotation take longer than a flight in the direction of rotation? Check the time of flight from New York City to Los Angeles and from Los Angeles to New York City. Explain.

(Q-0219:) Read about the amusement ride Gravitron at

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravitron>

Look up videos posted on social media of the ride. Briefly explain the physics of the ride.

(Q-0222:) The following video by European Space Agency

<https://youtu.be/Hgz7kJJSkM>

shows a centrifuge used for training astronauts preparing to go to International Space Station. Inside the centrifuge an astronaut experiences centripetal acceleration, which is perceived as (artificial) gravity. If a ball is dropped by the astronaut while inside the centrifuge, in what direction will the ball fall?

Chapter 5: Newton's laws of motion

(Q-0224:) The following video by North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

<https://youtu.be/MdrcyJN7Ie4?t=76>

asks a question at time 1:16 minutes concerning spring scales. If you hang two equal masses on the two ends of a spring scale, what will the spring scale measure? What if the masses are not equal? Here are the related videos:

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/g02iwVG80gA>

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/MdrcyJN7Ie4>

Part 3: <https://youtu.be/YTPOEKHEBXY>

(Q-0226:) Newton's third law states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. The following video by Video From Space

<https://youtu.be/ZkVU-bj9bDk>

demonstrates this in the International Space Station.

(Q-0301:) A tank filled with water is being transported in a truck. The water level in the tank is observed to be flat while the truck is at rest. Will the water level in the tank slope forward, slope backward, or stay flat, when the truck is moving with uniform velocity along a straight road? The following video by Mr. Woodward

<https://youtu.be/jakHjtvjT3Q>

demonstrates this effect.

Chapter 5: Newton's laws of motion: Friction

(Q-0303:) The following video produced by the international television program Curiosity Show

<https://youtu.be/fwpZurI3oDg>

demonstrates the effect of friction on moving cars. Since friction is necessary for motion would it be correct to conclude that friction acts in the forward direction, along the direction of velocity?

(Q-0305:) Consider a balloon filled with air, and another balloon filled with helium. Helium being lighter than air tends to rise up in air. While a car is taking a circular turn will a helium balloon tend to move radially inward or radially outward? The following video by Imagination Station in Toledo, Ohio,

<https://youtu.be/2-UzBitLmf8>

demonstrates this.

(Q-0308:) The following YouTube video by 3RDFlix

<https://youtu.be/eGZVWwcaq0U>

describes banking of roads. While taking a turn a car tends to skid outward if it goes too fast, then, do you expect it to slide inward if it goes too slow?

(Q-0310:) What is an inertial frame of reference? Are Newton's laws of motion applicable in non-inertial frames of reference?

Chapter 7: Energy

(Q-0315:) The normal force is always pointed normal to a surface. What is the work done by a normal force acting on a block of mass sliding down an incline plane? Under what circumstances can a normal force do non-zero work?

(Q-0317:) Can kinetic energy be negative?

(Q-0319:) The following YouTube video by Interesting Engineering,

<https://youtu.be/eoI98gjhx3Q>,

describes the engineering behind aircraft catapult technology. Estimate the spring constant of an aircraft catapult.

(Q-0322:) The following YouTube video by TED-Ed,

<https://youtu.be/A-QgGXbDyR0>,

discusses perpetual motion machines. Why is Bhaskara's wheel not a perpetual motion machine?

(Q-0324:) The following YouTube video by Khan Academy,

<https://youtu.be/iba4gUeQN0w>,

describes conservative forces. List the conservative forces you have come across.

(Q-0326:) A simple rigid pendulum has how many equilibrium points? Is one of them an unstable equilibrium point? After answering the question check out the following YouTube video by Steve Mould,

<https://youtu.be/gMAKamGIiMc>,

which behaves like a Kapitza pendulum.

Chapter 9: Momentum

(Q-0329:) The following video by North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

<https://youtu.be/fdeH6Ksedwk>

illustrates the idea of impulse. Similarly, argue why hail (versus water of same size) causes more damage to a surface.

(Q-0331:) The following video by Physics Demos

<https://youtu.be/jRliH0jVilM>

illustrates elastic and inelastic collisions. Give an example of (perfect) elastic collision.

(Q-0402:) The following YouTube video by Physics Girl

https://youtu.be/2UHS883_P60

demonstrates momentum transfer when a stack of balls is dropped. Describe the explosion of a supernova using this idea.

Chapter 9: Center of mass

(Q-0405:) The following video by North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

<https://youtu.be/ajTyhbvMEAg>

explains how stability depends on center of mass. Give an example of an object whose center of mass is outside the object.

Chapter 10: Rotational kinematics and dynamics

(Q-0407:) The following video by Khan Academy

https://youtu.be/h5BmWo5_sc8

shows that an arbitrary rotation can be described using a single vector. The direction of the vector represents the axis of rotation, and magnitude of the vector is equal to the amount of rotation about the axis. Are rotations commutative? That is, if you make two independent rotations about, say, perpendicular axes, does the order of rotations matter?

(Q-0412:) An object is following a circular path. Using a diagram illustrate the directions of the following vectors: angular displacement, angular velocity, angular acceleration, tangential acceleration, centripetal acceleration, Coriolis acceleration.

(Q-0414:) The following video by Visual Physics

<https://youtu.be/WSfQwt2nmkg>

describes the definition of torque. Determine the torque due to the normal force while a sphere is rolling on a surface.

(Q-0416:) The following video by North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

https://youtu.be/lk_Pwu7nf1U

describes the role of rotational inertia in balancing acts. In the balancing act of the video which line represents the axis of rotation?

(Q-0419:) The following video by Mazda Australia

<https://youtu.be/ru4JIZ-x8yo>

explains the working of anti-lock braking system (ABS). Describe how the ABS could be controlled using the idea of slip ratio, $(v - \omega R)/v$, where v is the translational velocity, ω is the angular velocity, and R is the radius of the wheel.

Chapter 11: Rotational energy and angular momentum

(Q-0421:) Inertia associated with translational motion is governed by mass. The rotational inertia is governed by both mass and the radial distribution of the mass about the axis of rotation. The following video by North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics illustrates how the rotational inertia affects rolling motion on an incline,

<https://youtu.be/CHQOctEvtTY>.

If you roll a raw egg and a hard-boiled egg (of the same mass) down an incline, which of them will reach the bottom of incline first?

(Q-0423:) The following video by TED-Ed

<https://youtu.be/15Vg0dgptRg>

describes how conservation of angular momentum is used in ballet. While spinning on your toes how does your angular velocity change when you pull your arms inward?

Chapter 13: Gravitation

(Q-0426:) [Lagrange point] The following video by Spacedock

<https://youtu.be/Gu4vA2ztgGM>

illustrates the concept of Lagrange points. The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), scheduled to be launched in 2021, will be the formal successor to the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). Unlike HST, JWST will not orbit Earth. Instead it will be stationed at the L_2 Lagrange point of the Earth-Sun system. Why is the L_2 Lagrange point a convenient location for space telescopes?

(Q-0428:) The following video by minutephysics

<https://youtu.be/urQCmMiHKQk>

evaluates how long it would take to fall through a tunnel passing through Earth. What is the gravitational potential at the center of Earth?

(Q-0430:) [Escape velocity] The following video by UNSW Physics

<https://youtu.be/aN91GyEcB3E>

explains escape velocity. Compare the orbital velocity of the International Space Station with the escape velocity of Earth.