

Modelling errors: “All models are wrong, but some are useful”,
an aphorism attributed to George Box.

2.3 Models of Motion

Linear motion, Newton’s 2nd Law: $F = ma$

$v = x'$, $a = x''$, x is displacement , $x = x(t)$

Gravitational force: $F = -mg$, g is Earth’s gravity.

$$mx'' = -mg \Rightarrow x'' = -g, \Rightarrow x' = -gt + v_0 \Rightarrow x(t) = -\frac{g}{2}t^2 + v_0t + x_0$$

Example 1: A body falls with an initial velocity of 1000 ft/s and is subject to the acceleration of gravity $g \approx 32$ ft/sec². What distance does it fall in 3 seconds?

Solution: $v = \frac{dx}{dt} = gt + v_0 = 32t + v_0$

$$dx = (32t + v_0) dt, \quad x = 16t^2 + v_0t + x_0$$

$$x(0) = 0 \Rightarrow x_0 = 0, \quad v(0) = v_0 = 1000 \text{ ft/s}$$

Hence $x(t) = 16t^2 + 1000t$ and $x(3) = 16 \cdot 9 + 1000 \cdot 3 = 3,144$ ft.

Air resistance: $R(v) = -r(v) \cdot v$

Case 1 $r(v) = r > 0$ is a constant.

Total force is the sum of the forces of gravity and air resistance:

$$F = -mg + R(v) = -mg - rv$$

Newton’s Second Law gives $mv' = -mg - rv \Leftrightarrow v' = -g - \frac{r}{m}v$.

The last equation is separable.

Solution:

$$\frac{dv}{g + \frac{rv}{m}} = -dt, \quad \frac{dv}{g + \frac{rv}{m}} = \frac{m}{r} \cdot \frac{dv}{v + \frac{mg}{r}},$$

Therefore, $\frac{m}{r} \int \frac{dv}{v + \frac{mg}{r}} = - \int dt$, $\frac{m}{r} \ln \left| v + \frac{mg}{r} \right| + c_1 = -t$

$$\ln \left| v + \frac{mg}{r} \right| = -\frac{r}{m}t + c_2, \quad v(t) = ce^{-\frac{r}{m}t} - \frac{mg}{r}$$

$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} v(t) = -\frac{mg}{r} = v_{term}$ terminal velocity.

Want to get the displacement $x(t)$:

$$x' = v \Rightarrow x = -\frac{mc}{r}e^{-\frac{r}{m}t} - \frac{mg}{r}t + A$$

Example 2: An 8 lb. weight falls from rest towards the earth. Assuming that the weight is acted upon by air resistance $= -2v$ find the velocity and the distance fallen after 10 seconds. (v is given in ft/sec.)

Solution: $mv' = mg - 2v$, $v(0) = 0$

$$m = \frac{8 \text{ lb}}{32 \text{ ft/s}^2} = \frac{1}{4}, \quad g = 32 \text{ ft/s}^2, \quad mg = 8.$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \frac{dv}{dt} = 8 - 2v \quad \frac{1}{8} dv = -(v - 4)dt \quad \frac{dv}{v - 4} = -8dt \quad \ln |v - 4| = -8t + c \quad v = Ae^{-8t} + 4$$

$$v(0) = 0 \Rightarrow A = -4, \quad v(t) = 4(1 - e^{-8t}) \quad v(10) \approx 4 \text{ ft/sec}$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 4(1 - e^{-8t}) \Rightarrow x = 4t + \frac{1}{2}e^{-8t} + x_0 \quad x(0) = 0 \Rightarrow x_0 = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$x(t) = 4t + \frac{1}{2}e^{-8t} - \frac{1}{2}, \quad x(10) \approx 39.5 \text{ ft}$$

Example 3: A ball is released rest towards the earth. How long will it take the ball to reach one-half of its terminal velocity assuming that the air resistance is proportional to velocity.

Solution: $v(t) = ce^{-\frac{r}{m}t} - \frac{mg}{r}$, $v(0) = 0 \Rightarrow A = \frac{mg}{r}$

$$v(t) = \frac{mg}{r} (e^{-\frac{r}{m}t} - 1).$$

Let the time T be such that $v(T) = \frac{1}{2}v_{term}$. Then

$$\frac{mg}{r} (e^{-\frac{r}{m}T} - 1) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{mg}{r}, \quad e^{-\frac{r}{m}T} - 1 = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad e^{-\frac{r}{m}T} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad -\frac{r}{m}T = \ln \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = -\ln 2$$

$$T = \frac{m}{r} \ln 2.$$

Air resistance. Case 2 (it is not a part of Math 0290 course).

Example 4: A body of mass m is projected upwards in the air with velocity v_0 . Air resistance

is proportional to the square of the velocity. Find the motion of the body as it rises.

Solution: $R(v) = kv^2$

Newton's second law: $m \frac{dv}{dt} = -mg - kv^2$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -g - \frac{k}{m}v^2 \quad (\text{separable})$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -\frac{k}{m} \left(\frac{gm}{k} + v^2 \right) = -\frac{k}{m} (a^2 + v^2), \quad \text{where } a = \sqrt{\frac{gm}{k}}$$

$$\int \frac{dv}{a^2 + v^2} = -\frac{k}{m} \int dt, \quad \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1} \frac{v}{a} = -\frac{k}{m}t + c, \quad v(0) = v_0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1} \frac{v_0}{a} = c$$

$$v = a \tan \left(-\frac{ak}{m}t + ac \right) = a \tan \left(-\sqrt{\frac{gk}{m}}t + \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{v_0}{a} \right) \right)$$

$$v(t) = a \tan(-\lambda t + \mu), \quad \text{where } \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{gk}{m}}, \quad \mu = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{v_0}{a} \right)$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = v \Rightarrow x = \int a \tan(-\lambda t + \mu) dt = \frac{a}{\lambda} \ln \left| \frac{\cos(-\lambda t + \mu)}{\cos \mu} \right| + c$$

The body reaches its maximum height when $v = 0 \Leftrightarrow -\lambda t + \mu = 0 \Leftrightarrow t = \frac{\mu}{\lambda}$,

$$\text{Hence } x \left(\frac{\mu}{\lambda} \right) = \frac{a}{\lambda} \ln |\sec \mu|$$

For the equation $\frac{dv}{dt} = -g - \frac{k}{m}v^2$ consider the change of variables:

$$v = \alpha w, \quad t = \beta s \Rightarrow s = \frac{t}{\beta}$$

$$\text{Then } \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{dv}{dw} \cdot \frac{dw}{ds} \cdot \frac{ds}{dt} = \alpha \cdot \frac{dw}{ds} \cdot \frac{1}{\beta} = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \frac{dw}{ds}$$

$$\frac{\alpha}{\beta} \frac{dw}{ds} = -g - \frac{k}{m} \alpha^2 w^2 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dw}{ds} = -\frac{\beta}{\alpha} g - \frac{k}{m} \alpha \beta w^2$$

Choose α and β such that $\frac{\beta}{\alpha} g = 1$ and $\frac{k}{m} \alpha \beta = 1 \Rightarrow \beta = \sqrt{\frac{m}{kg}}, \quad \alpha = \sqrt{\frac{mg}{k}}$

$$\text{Then } \frac{dw}{ds} = -1 - w^2, \quad \frac{dw}{1+w^2} = -ds, \quad \tan^{-1} w = -s + c, \quad w = \tan(c - s),$$

$$\frac{v}{\alpha} = \tan \left(c - \frac{t}{\beta} \right), \quad v = \alpha \tan \left(c - \frac{t}{\beta} \right)$$

Example 5: A body of mass is 4 lb is dropped with no initial velocity and encounters an air resistance that is proportional to v^2 . Find the velocity of the body after 2 seconds. What will be its position at this time?

• **Exercise #10, page 45.**

An object having mass 70 kg falls from rest under the influence of gravity. The terminal velocity of the object is -20m/s . Assume the air resistance of the object is proportional to the velocity.

- (a) Find the velocity and distance traveled at the end of 2 seconds.
 (b) How long does it take the object to reach 80% of its terminal velocity?

Solution: From Newton's second law we have

$$mv' = -mg - rv, \quad (\text{Newton's 2}^{\text{nd}} \text{ law})$$

$$\frac{v'}{g + \frac{r}{m}v} = -1, \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\frac{r}{m}dv}{g + \frac{r}{m}v} = -\frac{r}{m}dt, \quad (\text{separate variables})$$

$$\ln \left| g + \frac{r}{m}v \right| = -\frac{r}{m}t + C, \quad (\text{integrate})$$

$$g + \frac{r}{m}v(t) = e^{-\frac{r}{m}t+C} \implies v(t) = Ke^{-\frac{r}{m}t} - g\frac{m}{r}, \quad (\text{solve})$$

hence, when $t \rightarrow \infty$ we obtain $v_{\text{terminal}} = -g\frac{m}{r}$.

Since the terminal velocity is -20m/s , then the constant or proportionality is

$$r = -\frac{gm}{v_{\text{terminal}}} \equiv -\frac{9.8 \cdot 70}{-20} = 34.3.$$

Also, since the object starts from rest, we have the initial condition

$$v(0) = 0$$

hence

$$K = g\frac{m}{r} \equiv 9.8\frac{70}{34.3} = 20.$$

and therefore

$$v(t) = g\frac{m}{r} \left(e^{-\frac{r}{m}t} - 1 \right) \equiv 20 \left(e^{-\frac{34.3}{70}t} - 1 \right) = 20 \left(e^{-0.49t} - 1 \right). \quad (*)$$

- (a) The velocity after 2 seconds:

$$v(2) = 20 \left(e^{-0.49 \cdot 2} - 1 \right) \approx -12.4938.$$

For the distance, evaluate the integral

$$x(2) = \int_0^2 20 \left(e^{-0.49t} - 1 \right) dt$$

- (b) We have to find T such that

$$v(T) = 0.8 * v_{\text{terminal}} \equiv -16,$$

i.e.,

$$20 \left(e^{-0.49T} - 1 \right) = -16$$

which yields

$$T = -\frac{1}{0.49} \ln 0.2 \approx 3.2846.$$