

September 9, 2011

Physics 131

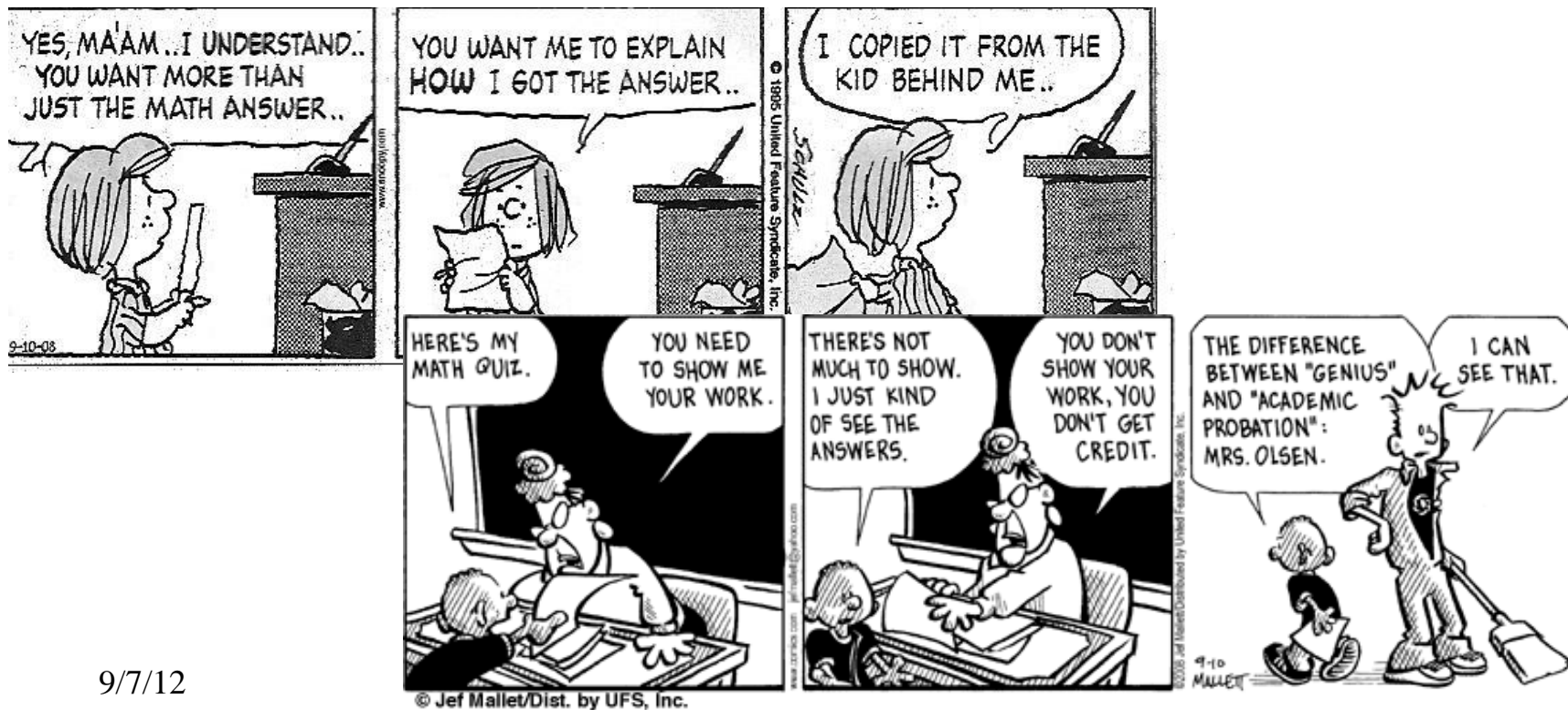
Prof. E. F. Redish

■ **Theme Music:**

Speed Racer Theme

■ **Cartoon:** Charles Schultz / Jef Mallett

Peanuts / Frazz



9/7/12

Reading questions

- Are the lines on the spatial graphs representing the actual motion that the object is taking in real time and space?
- Does the "graph of the eye" represent the motion of the object whereas the plot against time is the object moving towards or away from the origin?
- How are we supposed to interpret x-y graphs if we are not looking at independent and dependent variables?

Most common question

- When reading the section about derivatives, I understood everything up to the point about derivative as a stepping rule. I didn't understand it much, as to how the formula was achieved. at first I thought it seemed like a slope function looking at the change of one over the change of the other, but when it got more detailed I got lost. Can I have a better explanation or a specific example?
- Can you explain the derivative as algebra section in class? It still doesn't make sense to me.

Example of a Diff Eq.

- Epidemiology: Number of people infected by a disease is proportional to the number of people.
- A simple model for the spread of infection

$$\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = AI(t) - BI(t)$$

A = rate at which population gets infected

B = rate at which infected people are cured (or die)

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = (A - B)I$$

Use of Diff Eqs.

- In lots of cases – epidemiology, chemical reactions, and the motion of objects, the equations describing a system relate the values of something to its derivatives. Figuring out what happens next depends on being able to predict the future by knowing the derivative and “stepping”.

Stepping rule: Suppose we know the value of something as a function of time at a given time, $f(t)$, and we know its derivative, df/dt at that time. We can use that to predict the future!

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\Delta f}{\Delta t} = \frac{f_{end} - f_{beginning}}{\Delta t}$$

$$f_{end} - f_{beginning} = \left(\frac{df(t)}{dt} \right) \Delta t$$

$$f(t + \Delta t) - f(t) = \left(\frac{df(t)}{dt} \right) \Delta t$$

$$f(t + \Delta t) = f(t) + \left(\frac{df(t)}{dt} \right) \Delta t$$

Foothold ideas: 1D Velocity



- Velocity is the rate of change of position
- Average velocity
= (how far did you go?)/(how long did it take you?)

$$\langle v \rangle = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$$

- Instantaneous velocity = same
(but for short Δt)

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

Can this velocity
be negative as well
as positive?

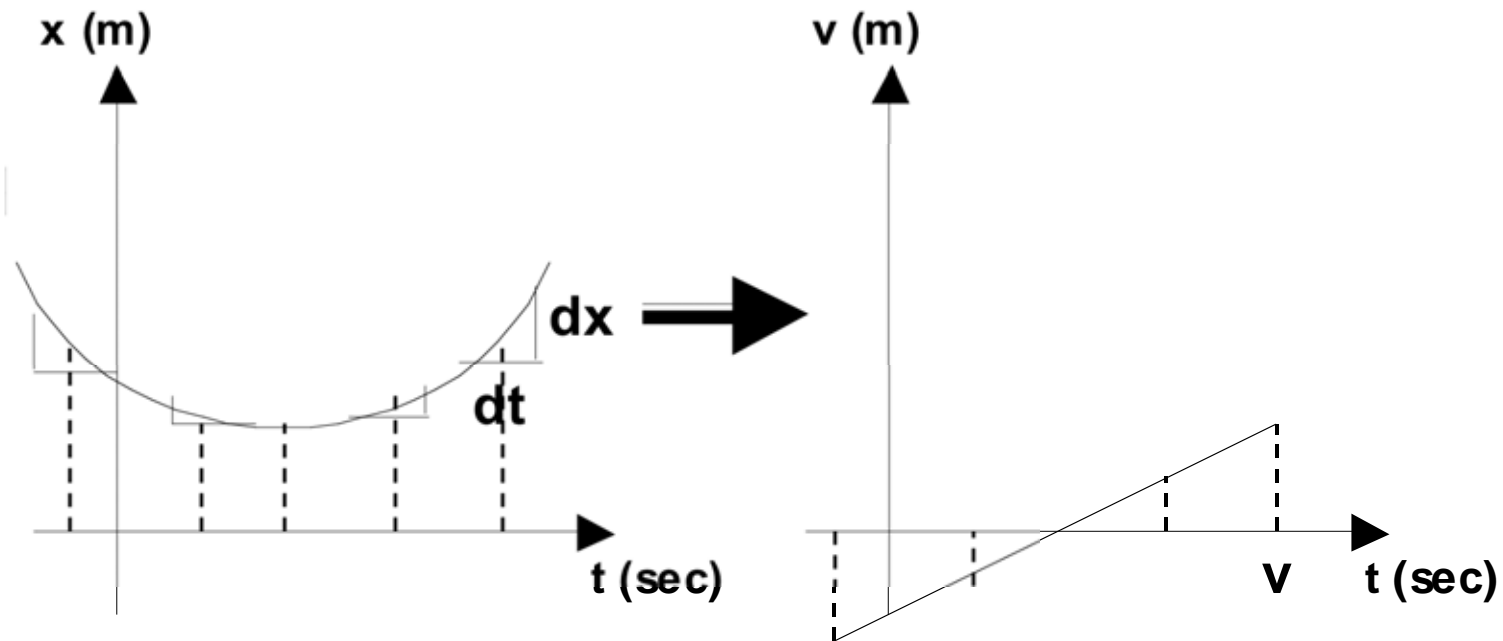


Tools: What have we learned?

$$\langle \vec{v} \rangle = \frac{\text{displacement}}{\text{time it took to make the displacement}}$$

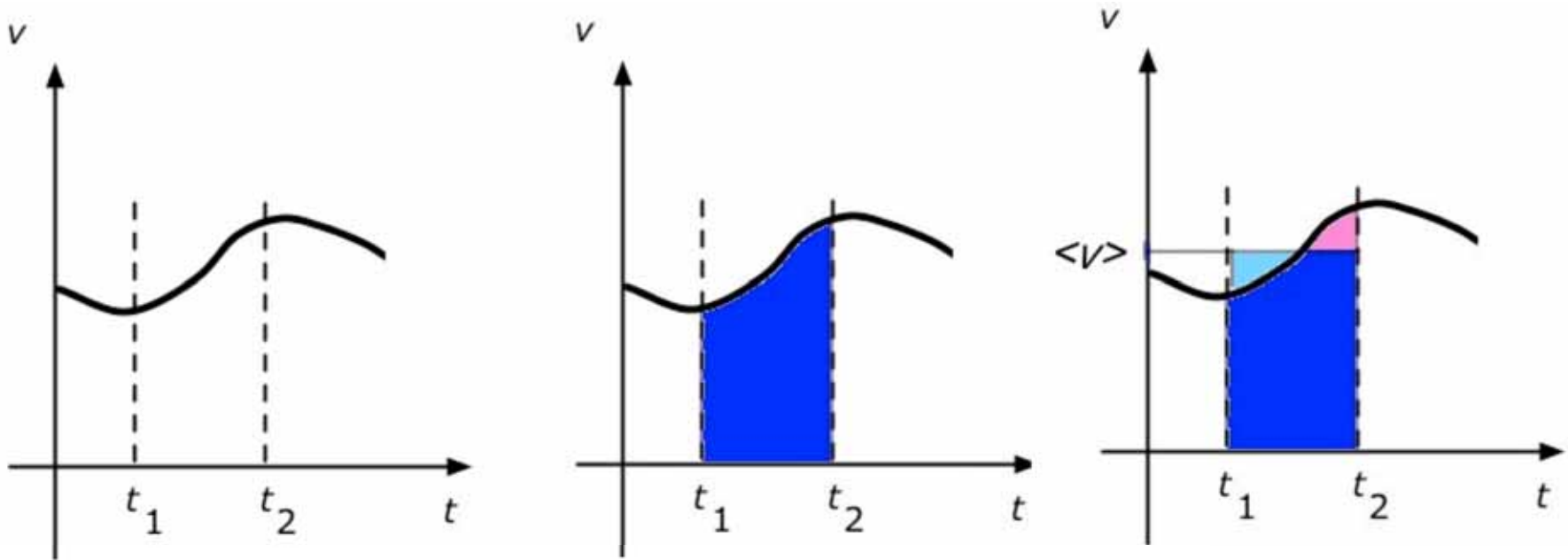
$$\langle v \rangle = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$$

$$\Delta x = \langle v \rangle \Delta t$$



Reading question:

What the %*&\$# does this mean?



v is a function of t , $v(t)$

What is the average velocity between times t_1 and t_2 ?

The total displacement between those two times is the area under the curve. (Why?)

Adjust $\langle v \rangle$ (a constant)

$$\text{so } \Delta x = \langle v \rangle \Delta t$$

Foothold ideas:

Vector velocity and speed

- A displacement – a change in position – has a direction. This means

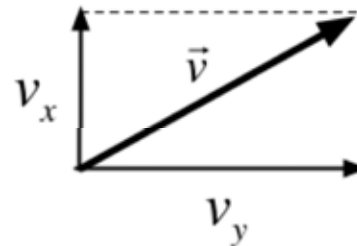
$$\text{velocity} = \text{displacement/time interval}$$

has one too. $\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$

$$v_x \hat{i} + v_y \hat{j} = \frac{d}{dt}(x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}) = \left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)\hat{i} + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)\hat{j}$$

- We define speed as the magnitude of velocity. (No vector on this. Why?)

$$v = \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2}$$



The sonic ranger (motion detector)

- The sonic ranger measures distance to the nearest object by echolocation.
 - A speaker clicks 30 times a second.
A microphone detects the sound bouncing back from the nearest object in front of it.
 - The computer calculates the time delay between and using the speed of sound (about 343 m/s at room temperature) it can calculate the distance to the object.

