Physics 131- Fundamentals of Physics for Biologists I



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Outline

- Derivatives
- Velocity
- Average Velocity
- Acceleration

Are we going to get any PRACTICE with all of these equations and concepts? Its hard to learn things when there are no problems to practice with

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HW2 Recitation 2, Quiz 2 Physics 131

Predicting the Future with Derivatives*

Suppose we know the value of something [let's call it f] as a function of time at a given time, [let's call that *f*(*t*)], and we know it's derivative at that time. [that's called *df/dt*] *We can use that to predict the future!*

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

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

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

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

$$3$$

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*does not apply to derivatives traders in the London and Chicago financial exchanges

Example of a Diff Eq.

- Epidemiology: Number of people infected by a disease is proportional by the number of people in the population.
- A simple model for how many people are sick at a given time [let's call that S(t)] allows us to think mathematically about the spread of infection

$$\frac{dS(t)}{dt} = AS(t) - BS(t)$$

A = rate at which population gets infected

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

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = (A - B)S$$

$$dx = v(t)dt$$

Predicting Position from Velocity



Using Velocity- work in groups and use whiteboard (TA and LA will join discussion)

• Describe how you have to walk to make the sonic ranger produce the following velocity graph



Draw the position graph.

Compared to her position x at t=0s, the person at t=10s is at

- 1. Same x
- 2. Positive x
- 3. Negative x
- 4. Larger x
- 5. Smaller x
- 6. We cannot tell from position vs time graph



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

Average velocity - graphical



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

The total displacement is the area under velocity vs time curve

Wouldn't it be easier to make a position graph out of a velocity graph and then calculate average velocity?

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The value of the Average Velocity

- 1. Lies in the middle between the initial and final velocity
- 2. Has to be somewhere between the initial and final velocity, depends on how velocity changes with time
- 3. Neither
- 4. Don't know

Dealing with uncertainty

- In some cases measurements have uncertainty, in other cases the moving object actually is moving with some randomness.
- For the sonic ranger, the position of the person is measured with some uncertainty at each timestep.
- Sketch a typical (somewhat noisy) position vs time graph on the whiteboard

Which graph will be *smoother*?

- 1. position vs t
- 2. Velocity vs t
- Both have the same uncertainty and comparable smoothness
- 4. Depends on the situation



*Why would traders want to buy and sell a quantity that is a derivative (see below)

Foothold ideas: Acceleration

• Average acceleration is defined by $\langle \vec{L}, \Delta t \rangle$ Δt Δt Δt Δt Δt

Note: an average acceleration goes with a <u>time interval</u>.

 Instantaneous acceleration is what we get when we consider a very small time interval (compared to times we care about)

$$\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$$

Note: an instantaneous acceleration goes with a <u>specific time</u>.