

flipping physics

Flipping Physics Lecture Notes: Introduction to Acceleration with Prius Brake Slamming Example Problem

Acceleration: $a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$ & $a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t_f - t_i}$ & $a \Rightarrow \frac{m/s}{s} = \frac{m}{s} \times \frac{1}{s} = \frac{m}{s^2}$ (flip the guy and multiply!)

Acceleration, just like Displacement and Velocity, has both Magnitude and Direction.

Example Problem: Mr. p is driving his Prius at 36 km/hr East when a basketball appears bouncing across the street in front of him. His gut reaction is to slam on the brakes. This brings the vehicle to a stop in 1.75 seconds. What was the acceleration of the vehicle?

Knowns: $v_i = 36 \frac{km}{hr} East \times \frac{1hr}{3600s} \times \frac{1000m}{1km} = 10 \frac{m}{s} East$; $v_f = 0$; $\Delta t = 1.75s$; $a = ?$

$$a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} = \frac{v_f - v_i}{\Delta t} = \frac{0 - 10}{1.75} = -5.7143 \approx \boxed{-5.7 \frac{m}{s^2} East}$$

FYI: $v_i = 36 \frac{km}{hr} \times \frac{1000m}{1km} \frac{1mi}{1609m} = 22.3741 \approx 22 \frac{mi}{hr}$

(Yes, 23.3741 was a typo in the video, sorry.)