

# Lecture 1: Introduction into physics

## Basic info:

1. Organisation of the term (semester) and evaluation of the subject, all lectures on the website [www.kaeg.sk](http://www.kaeg.sk), with each lecture also a small vocabulary will be given (*like Mathematics*).
2. Evaluation of the subject – 100% final examination (few definitions and solution of exercises) (*like Mathematics*).
3. Basic literature + internet sources (Feynman lectures on physics, Physics - free and fun, wiki, ...).

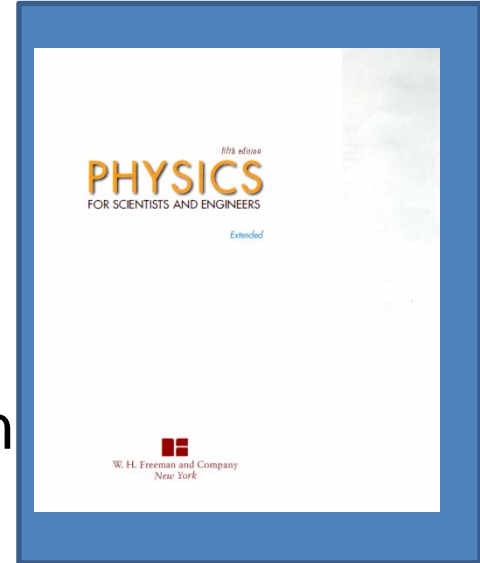
# Lecture 1: Introduction into physics

Basic literature:

“official sources”:

Tipler P.A. and Mosca G., 2014 :

Physics for scientists and engineers. Freeman  
and Co, New York



Schiller Ch., 2016:

Motion Mountain, The adventure of physics – vol. I – VI.  
(free download under „Physics - free and fun“)

We fully advise a Slovak text-book for terminology:

Zemanová A., 2014: Anglický jazyk pre študentov FMFI UK,  
Fyzika, UK v Bratislave

# Lecture 1: Introduction into physics

## Content:

- introduction into physics
- branches in physics
- basic forces in physics (nature)
- basic units (SI system)
- physical quantities vs. units
- formalism: calculus, scalars, vectors, tensors
- problem solving strategy
- something from the early history of physics (classical mechanics)

# Introduction into physics

**Physics** is the natural science that involves the study of **matter and its motion through space and time**, along with related concepts such as energy and force.

It is one of the most fundamental scientific disciplines, the main goal of physics is to understand how the universe behaves.

The word physics has been derived from the from ancient Greek: φυσική = phusiké , which means the **knowledge of nature**.

Comment: But what is Biology? (Bios-life, logos-the study of). So biology is the knowledge of life.

# Introduction into physics

## Physics – two main branches:

### Classical physics:

- is mainly concerned with the laws of motion and gravitation, kinetic theory, thermodynamics and classical electromagnetism,
- important contributors: I. Newton and J. C. Maxwell,
- **energy and matter are considered as separate entities,**

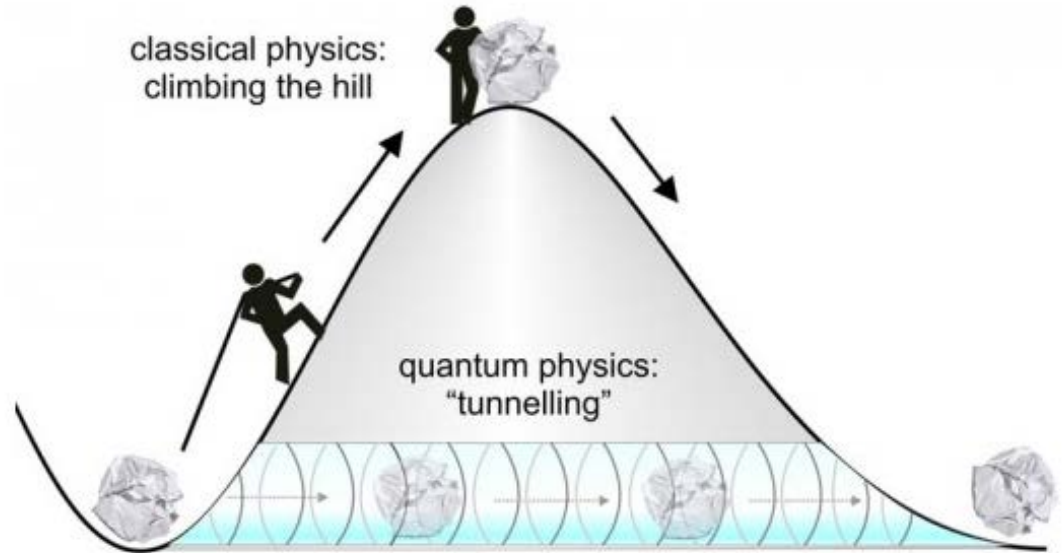
### Modern physics:

- is mainly concerned with the theory of relativity and quantum mechanics,
- important pioneers: Albert Einstein and Max Plank,
- energy and matter are not considered as separate entities; rather **they are considered as different forms of each other.**

# Introduction into physics

## Physics – main topics in this term:

- mechanics,
- thermodynamics,
- acoustics,
- optics,
- electromagnetism,
- atomic and nuclear physics,
- theory of relativity,
- quantum physics.



# Fundamental forces (interactions) in physics:

1. Gravitational: interaction of mass objects.
2. Electromagnetic: acting of electrically charged objects and influence of electric/magnetic fields.
3. Strong nuclear: binds protons and neutrons (nucleons) together to form the nucleus of an atom.
4. Weak nuclear: acting of light elementary particles (leptons) among each other.

Discussed is also the so called 5th force (kind of gravitational force, which could be dependent on the kind of matter).

Which one is the strongest? (at very small distances)

strong	el-mag.	weak	gravit.
1	$10^{-4}$	$10^{-13}$	$10^{-40}$

# Fundamental forces (interactions) in physics:

The four fundamental interactions of nature

Property/Interaction	Gravitation	Weak	Electromagnetic	Strong	
		(Electroweak)		Fundamental	Residual
Acts on:	Mass - Energy	Flavor	Electric charge	Color charge	Atomic nuclei
Particles experiencing:	All	Quarks, leptons	Electrically charged	Quarks, Gluons	Hadrons
Particles mediating:	Not yet observed (Graviton hypothesised)	$W^+ W^- Z^0$	$\gamma$ (photon)	Gluons	Mesons
Strength at the scale of quarks:	$10^{-41}$	$10^{-4}$	1	60	Not applicable to quarks
Strength at the scale of protons/neutrons:	$10^{-36}$	$10^{-7}$	1	Not applicable to hadrons	20

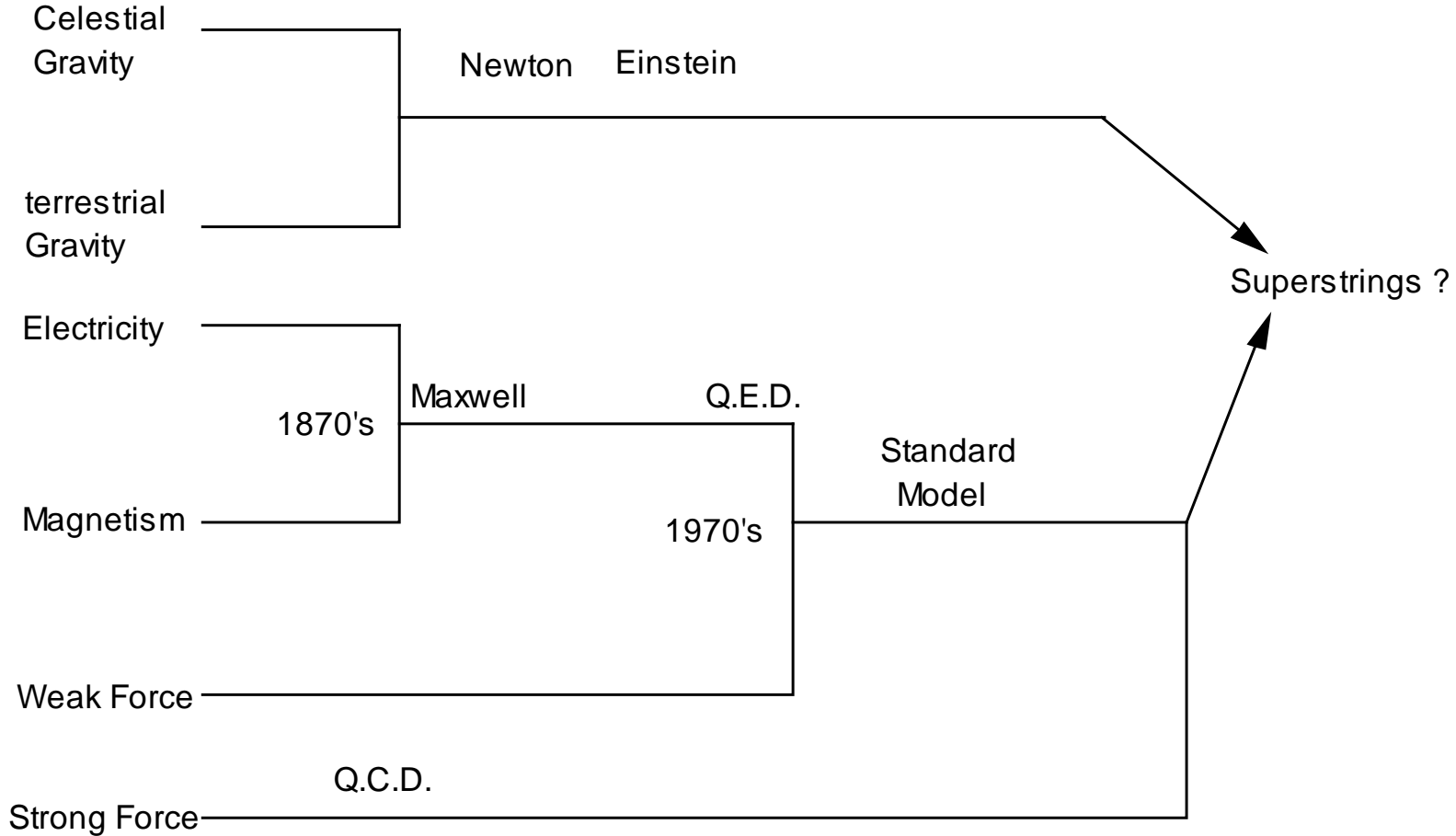
Some theoretical physicists seek to quantize the gravitational field – theory of **quantum gravity** (QG).

Other theorists seek to unite the electroweak and strong fields within a **Grand Unified Theory** (GUT).

Trials to put everything together - so called **Theory of Everything** (ToE).



# Fundamental forces (interactions) in physics:



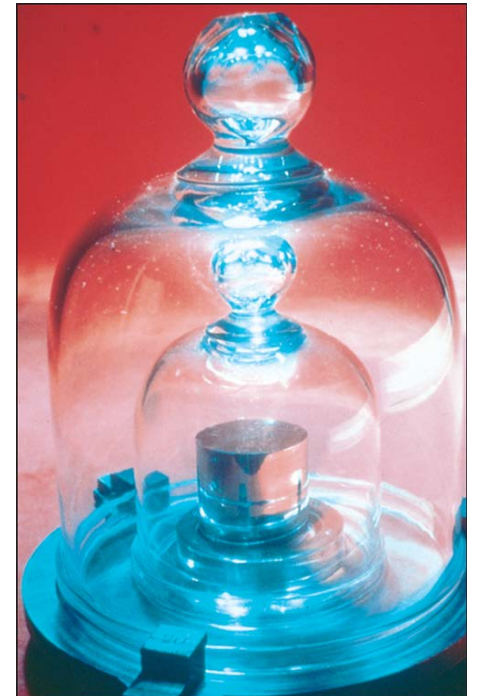
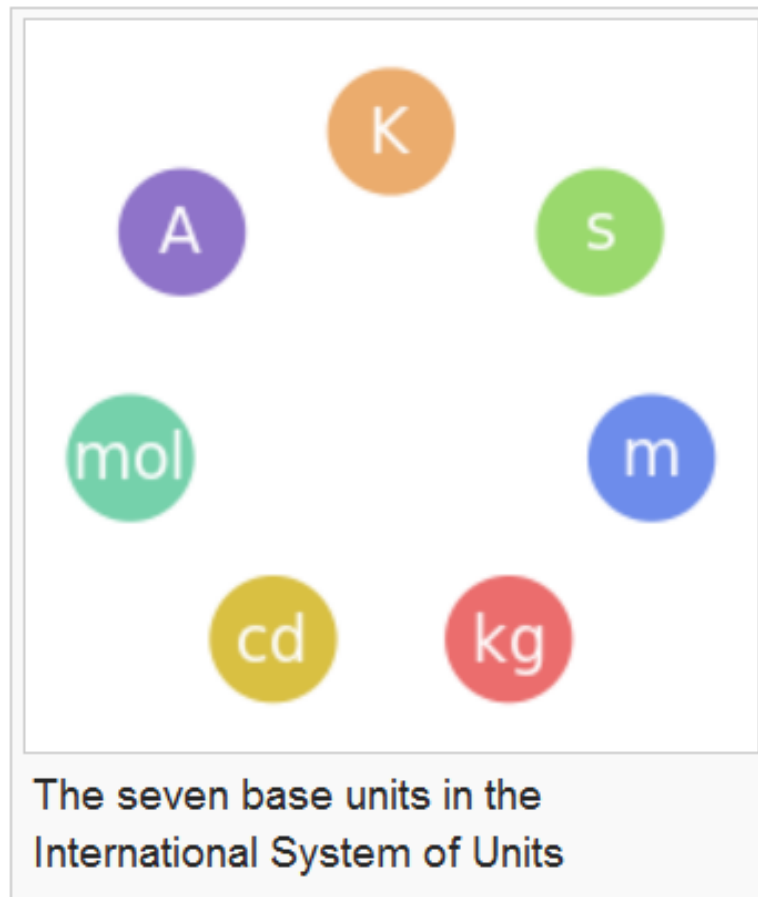
Comment: Q.E.D. - Quantum Electrodynamics, Q.C.D. - Quantum Chromodynamics,

From the history:

1930: Bohr, after learning of the Dirac equation (for the electron), said, *"Physics as we know it will be over in six months"*.

# International System of Units (SI) in physics:

There are several units systems, the most important is the SI system:



7 basic units

# International System of Units (SI) in physics:

## SI base units

Unit name	Unit symbol	Quantity name	Definition (incomplete) <sup>[n 1]</sup>	Dimension symbol
<b>metre</b>	m	length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Original</b> (1793): <math>\frac{1}{10\,000\,000}</math> of the <b>meridian</b> through Paris between the North Pole and the Equator.<sup>FG</sup></li> <li>• <b>Interim</b> (1960): 1 650 763.73 <b>wavelengths</b> in a <b>vacuum</b> of the <b>radiation</b> corresponding to the transition between the 2p<sup>10</sup> and 5d<sup>5</sup> quantum levels of the <b>krypton-86 atom</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Current</b> (1983): The distance travelled by light in vacuum in <math>\frac{1}{299\,792\,458}</math> second.</li> </ul>	L
<b>kilogram</b> <sup>[n 2]</sup>	kg	mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Original</b> (1793): The <b>grave</b> was defined as being the weight [mass] of one cubic decimetre of pure water at its freezing point.<sup>FG</sup></li> <li>• <b>Current</b> (1889): The mass of the international prototype kilogram.</li> </ul>	M
<b>second</b>	s	time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Original</b> (Medieval): <math>\frac{1}{86\,400}</math> of a day.</li> <li>• <b>Interim</b> (1956): <math>\frac{1}{31\,556\,925.9747}</math> of the <b>tropical year</b> for 1900 January 0 at 12 hours <b>ephemeris time</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Current</b> (1967): The duration of 9 192 631 770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two <b>hyperfine</b> levels of the <b>ground state</b> of the <b>caesium 133 atom</b>.</li> </ul>	T

basic units

# International System of Units (SI) in physics:

Unit name	Unit symbol	Quantity name	Definition (incomplete) <sup>[n 1]</sup>	Dimension symbol
<b>ampere</b>	A	electric current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Original</b> (1881): A tenth of the electromagnetic CGS unit of current. The [CGS] electromagnetic unit of current is that current, flowing in an arc 1 cm long of a circle 1 cm in radius creates a field of one oersted at the centre.<sup>[39] IEC</sup></li> <li>• <b>Current</b> (1946): The constant current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section, and placed 1 m apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to <math>2 \times 10^{-7}</math> newtons per metre of length.</li> </ul>	I
<b>kelvin</b>	K	thermodynamic temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Original</b> (1743): The <b>centigrade scale</b> is obtained by assigning 0 °C to the freezing point of water and 100 °C to the boiling point of water.</li> <li>• <b>Interim</b> (1954): The triple point of water (0.01 °C) defined to be exactly 273.16 K.<sup>[n 3]</sup></li> <li>• <b>Current</b> (1967): <math>\frac{1}{273.16}</math> of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water</li> </ul>	Θ
<b>mole</b>	mol	amount of substance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Original</b> (1900): The molecular weight of a substance in mass grams.<sup>ICAW</sup></li> <li>• <b>Current</b> (1967): The amount of substance of a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 0.012 kilogram of carbon 12.<sup>[n 4]</sup></li> </ul>	N
<b>candela</b>	cd	luminous intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Original</b> (1946): The value of the new candle is such that the brightness of the full radiator at the temperature of solidification of platinum is 60 new candles per square centimetre.</li> <li>• <b>Current</b> (1979): The luminous intensity, in a given direction, of a source that emits monochromatic radiation of frequency <math>540 \times 10^{12}</math> hertz and that has a radiant intensity in that direction of <math>\frac{1}{683}</math> watt per steradian.</li> </ul>	J

basic units

## Named units derived from SI base units

Name	Symbol	Quantity	Expressed in terms of other SI units	Expressed in terms of SI base units
radian	rad	angle		$m \cdot m^{-1}$
steradian	sr	solid angle		$m^2 \cdot m^{-2}$
hertz	Hz	frequency		$s^{-1}$
newton	N	force, weight		$kg \cdot m \cdot s^{-2}$
pascal	Pa	pressure, stress	$N/m^2$	$kg \cdot m^{-1} \cdot s^{-2}$
joule	J	energy, work, heat	$N \cdot m$	$kg \cdot m^2 \cdot s^{-2}$
watt	W	power, radiant flux	$J/s$	$kg \cdot m^2 \cdot s^{-3}$
coulomb	C	electric charge or quantity of electricity		$s \cdot A$
volt	V	voltage (electrical potential difference), electromotive force	$W/A$	$kg \cdot m^2 \cdot s^{-3} \cdot A^{-1}$
farad	F	electric capacitance	$C/V$	$kg^{-1} \cdot m^{-2} \cdot s^4 \cdot A^2$
ohm	$\Omega$	electric resistance, impedance, reactance	$V/A$	$kg \cdot m^2 \cdot s^{-3} \cdot A^{-2}$
siemens	S	electrical conductance	$A/V$	$kg^{-1} \cdot m^{-2} \cdot s^3 \cdot A^2$
weber	Wb	magnetic flux	$V \cdot s$	$kg \cdot m^2 \cdot s^{-2} \cdot A^{-1}$
tesla	T	magnetic field strength	$Wb/m^2$	$kg \cdot s^{-2} \cdot A^{-1}$
henry	H	inductance	$Wb/A$	$kg \cdot m^2 \cdot s^{-2} \cdot A^{-2}$
degree Celsius	$^{\circ}C$	temperature relative to 273.15 K		K
lumen	lm	luminous flux	$cd \cdot sr$	cd
lux	lx	illuminance	$lm/m^2$	$m^{-2} \cdot cd$
becquerel	Bq	radioactivity (decays per unit time)		$s^{-1}$
gray	Gy	absorbed dose (of ionizing radiation)	$J/kg$	$m^2 \cdot s^{-2}$
sievert	Sv	equivalent dose (of ionizing radiation)	$J/kg$	$m^2 \cdot s^{-2}$
katal	kat	catalytic activity		$mol \cdot s^{-1}$

### Notes

1. The radian and steradian, once given special status, are now considered dimensionless derived units.<sup>[33]:3</sup>
2. The ordering of this table is such that any derived unit is based only on base units or derived units that precede it in the table.

# derived units

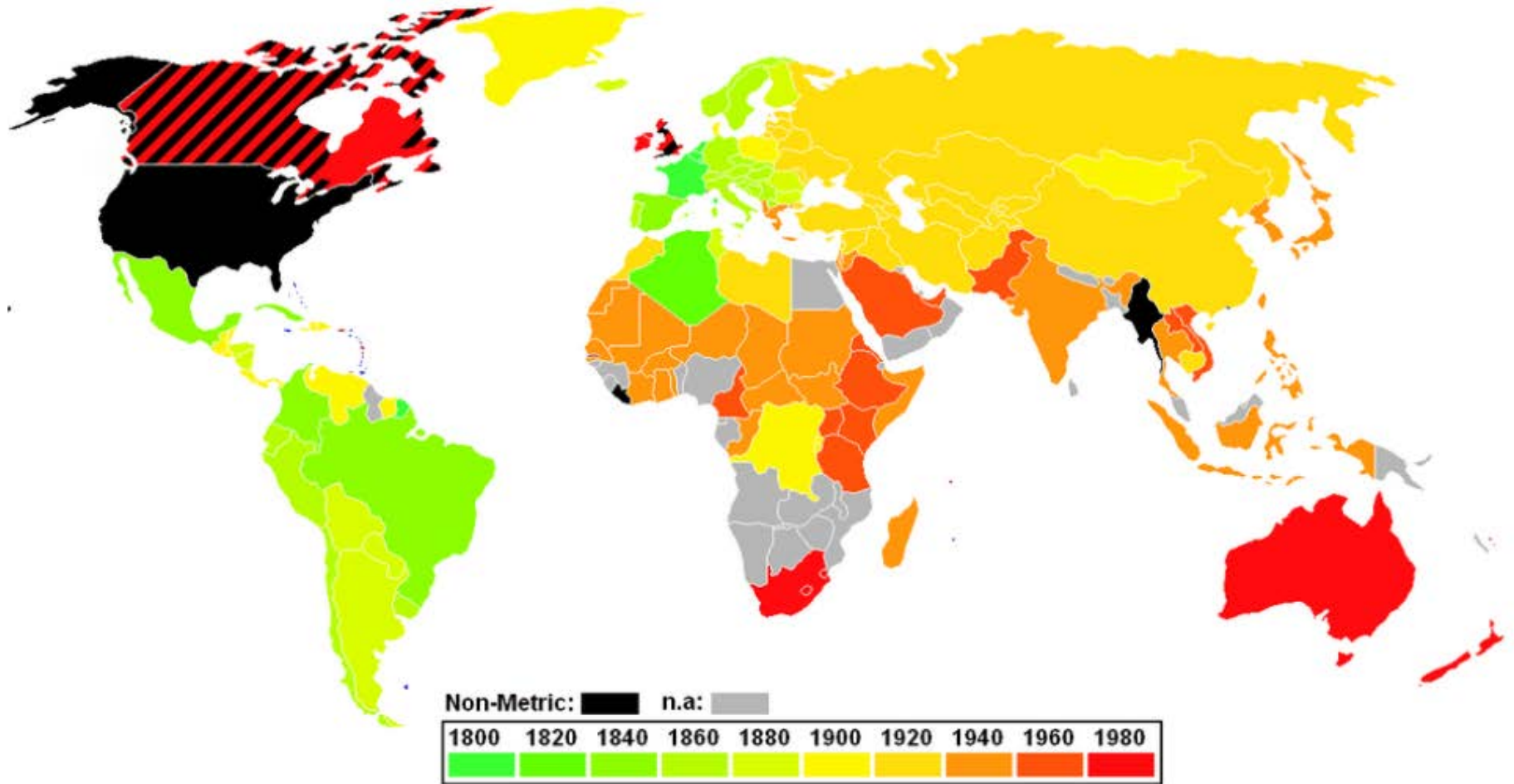
# constants:

Table of universal constants

Quantity	V·T·E	Symbol	Value <sup>[8][9]</sup>	Relative Standard Uncertainty
speed of light in vacuum		$c$	299 792 458 m·s <sup>-1</sup>	defined
Newtonian constant of gravitation		$G$	$6.674\ 08(31) \times 10^{-11}$ m <sup>3</sup> ·kg <sup>-1</sup> ·s <sup>-2</sup>	$4.7 \times 10^{-5}$
Planck constant		$h$	$6.626\ 070\ 040(81) \times 10^{-34}$ J·s	$1.2 \times 10^{-8}$
reduced Planck constant		$\hbar = h/(2\pi)$	$1.054\ 571\ 800(13) \times 10^{-34}$ J·s	$1.2 \times 10^{-8}$

...electromagnetic constants, atomic and nuclear constants, physico-chemical constants, adopted values

# International System of Units (SI) in physics:



World map showing metrication, colour-coded by year of conversion: from ca 1800 (green) to 1980 (red).

Black indicates the nations that have not yet adopted the SI-system: Burma, Liberia, and the United States. Canada and the United Kingdom both have fairly common use of previously used units.

# Physical quantities vs. units:

Must always have ***dimensions***

Can only compare quantities with the same dimensions

$$v = v(0) + a \cdot t$$
$$[L]/[T] = [L]/[T] + [L]/[T]^2 [T]$$

Comparing quantities with different dimensions is nonsense

$$v = a \cdot t^2$$
$$[L]/[T] = [L]/[T]^2 [T]^2 = [L]$$

Comment:

a – acceleration, v – velocity, t – time.



# Physical quantities vs. units:

next example (free fall equation):

The diagram illustrates the unit analysis of the free fall equation  $x_f - x_i = v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$ . The equation is enclosed in a green rectangular box. Three green circles highlight the terms  $x_f - x_i$ ,  $v_i t$ , and  $\frac{1}{2} a t^2$ . Green arrows point from these terms to their respective units:  $[L]$  for  $x_f - x_i$ ,  $([L]/[T])[T] = [L]$  for  $v_i t$ , and  $([L]/[T]^2)T^2 = [L]$  for  $\frac{1}{2} a t^2$ .

$$x_f - x_i = v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

$[L]$

$([L]/[T])[T] = [L]$

$([L]/[T]^2)T^2 = [L]$

# mathematical apparatus in physics

**don't be scared !**

Calculus – derivatives and integrals express in a much better way the infinitesimal properties of various parameters

e.g.: velocity

$$v = \frac{ds}{dt} = s' \quad [\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}]$$

e.g.: work

$$A = \int_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} \quad [\text{J}] = [\text{N} \cdot \text{m}]$$

# mathematical apparatus in physics

**scalars** (they do have only size/magnitude  
(time, temperature,...))

$t$

**vectors** (they have size and direction)  
(strength, velocity, ...)

$\vec{F}$

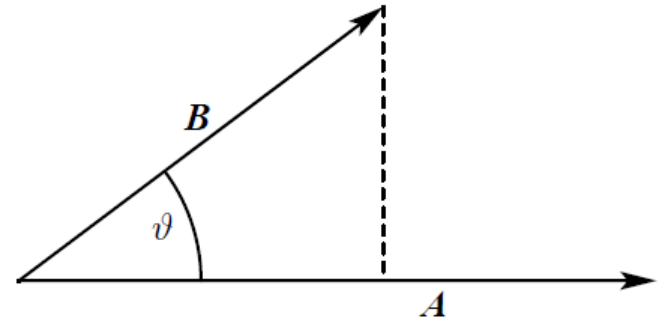
**tensors** (generalisation of a vector –  
they have several dimensions)  
(tensor of press,... )

$\bar{T}$

# mathematical apparatus in physics

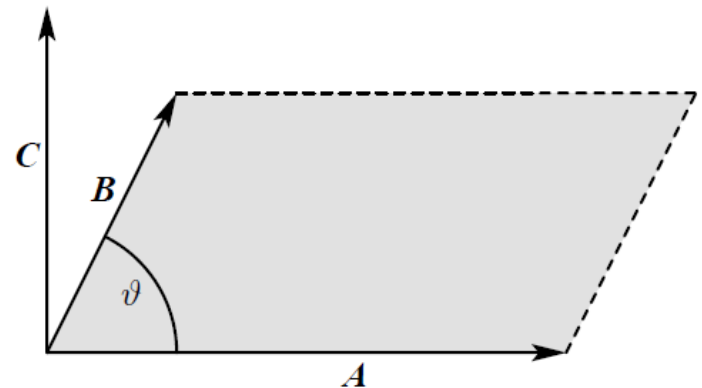
## Multiplication of vectors

scalar product (result is scalar):  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = |\mathbf{A}| |\mathbf{B}| \cos \vartheta$ ,



vector product (result is vector):

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C} \quad |\mathbf{C}| = |\mathbf{A}| |\mathbf{B}| \sin \vartheta,$$



# repetition – prefixes of units:

Prefix	Symbol	1000 <sup>m</sup>	10 <sup>n</sup>	Decimal	Short scale	Long scale	Since <sup>[n 1]</sup>
yotta	Y	1000 <sup>8</sup>	10 <sup>24</sup>	1 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	Septillion	Quadrillion	1991
zetta	Z	1000 <sup>7</sup>	10 <sup>21</sup>	1 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	Sextillion	Trilliard	1991
exa	E	1000 <sup>6</sup>	10 <sup>18</sup>	1 000 000 000 000 000 000	Quintillion	Trillion	1975
peta	P	1000 <sup>5</sup>	10 <sup>15</sup>	1 000 000 000 000 000	Quadrillion	Billiard	1975
tera	T	1000 <sup>4</sup>	10 <sup>12</sup>	1 000 000 000 000	Trillion	Billion	1960
giga	G	1000 <sup>3</sup>	10 <sup>9</sup>	1 000 000 000	Billion	Milliard	1960
mega	M	1000 <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>6</sup>	1 000 000	Million		1960
kilo	k	1000 <sup>1</sup>	10 <sup>3</sup>	1 000	Thousand		1795
hecto	h	1000 <sup>2/3</sup>	10 <sup>2</sup>	100	Hundred		1795
deca	da	1000 <sup>1/3</sup>	10 <sup>1</sup>	10	Ten		1795
		1000 <sup>0</sup>	10 <sup>0</sup>	1	One		–
deci	d	1000 <sup>-1/3</sup>	10 <sup>-1</sup>	0.1	Tenth		1795
centi	c	1000 <sup>-2/3</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.01	Hundredth		1795
milli	m	1000 <sup>-1</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.001	Thousandth		1795
micro	μ	1000 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.000 001	Millionth		1960
nano	n	1000 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-9</sup>	0.000 000 001	Billionth	Milliardth	1960
pico	p	1000 <sup>-4</sup>	10 <sup>-12</sup>	0.000 000 000 001	Trillionth	Billionth	1960
femto	f	1000 <sup>-5</sup>	10 <sup>-15</sup>	0.000 000 000 000 001	Quadrillionth	Billiardth	1964
atto	a	1000 <sup>-6</sup>	10 <sup>-18</sup>	0.000 000 000 000 000 001	Quintillionth	Trillionth	1964
zepto	z	1000 <sup>-7</sup>	10 <sup>-21</sup>	0.000 000 000 000 000 000 001	Sextillionth	Trilliardth	1991
yocto	y	1000 <sup>-8</sup>	10 <sup>-24</sup>	0.000 000 000 000 000 000 000 001	Septillionth	Quadrillionth	1991

1. ^ The metric system was introduced in 1795 with six prefixes. The other dates relate to recognition by a resolution of the CGPM.

interesting video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhofN1xX6u0>

# Orders of magnitude (summary):

Physical quantities span an immense range

Length	size of nucleus	$\sim 10^{-15}$ m
	size of universe	$\sim 10^{30}$ m
Time	nuclear vibration	$\sim 10^{-20}$ s
	age of universe	$\sim 10^{18}$ s
Mass	electron	$\sim 10^{-30}$ kg
	universe	$\sim 10^{28}$ kg

# **Solving Problems (in physics)**

# Problem Solving Strategy

- Each profession has its own specialized knowledge and patterns of thought.
- The knowledge and thought processes that you use in each of the steps will depend on the discipline in which you operate.
- Taking into account the specific nature of *physics*, we choose to label and interpret the *five steps* of the general problem solving strategy as follows:



# Problem Solving Strategy

## A. Everyday language:

- 1) Make a sketch.
- 2) What do you want to find out?
- 3) What are the physics ideas?

## B. Physics description:

- 1) Make a physics diagram (figure).
- 2) Define your variables.
- 3) Write down general equations.

## C. Combine equations:

- 1) Select an equation with the target variable.
- 2) Which of the variables are not known?
- 3) Substitute in a different equation.
- 4) Continue for all of the unknown variables .
- 5) Solve for the target variable.
- 6) Check units.

## D. Calculate solution:

- 1) Plug in numerical values.

## E. Evaluate the answer:

- 1) Is it properly stated?
- 2) Is it reasonable?
- 3) Answered the question asked?

So why do we need physics in biology and chemistry?

To get answers about the principles of many fundamental processes and reactions.

How a biological membrane works?

How the heart pumps blood?

How muscles contract?

How plants use light for grow in photosynthesis?

How genes are switched on and off?

How brain processes and stores information?

How does the atomic structure influence chemical reactions?

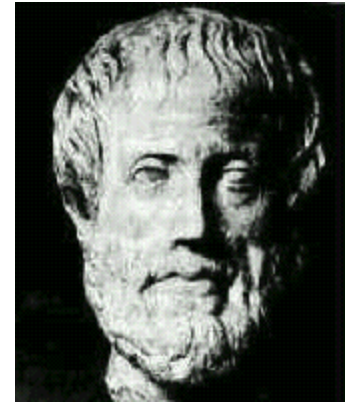
# Lecture 1: something from the early history of physics

## Classical mechanics



# The Ancient Greeks

**Aristotle** (384-322 B.C.) is regarded as the first person to attempt physics, and actually gave physics its name.



On the nature of matter:

Matter was composed of:

Air

Earth

Water

Fire

Every compound was a mixture of these *elements*

Unfortunately there is **no predictive power** (science should have it).

# On the Nature of Motion

- ***Natural*** motion - like a falling body
  - Objects seek their natural place
    - Heavy objects fall fast
    - Light objects fall slow
      - Objects fall at a constant speed.
- ***Unnatural*** motion - like a cart being pushed
  - The moving body comes to a stand still when the force pushing it along no longer acts
    - The natural state of a body is at rest.

# Aristotelian Physics

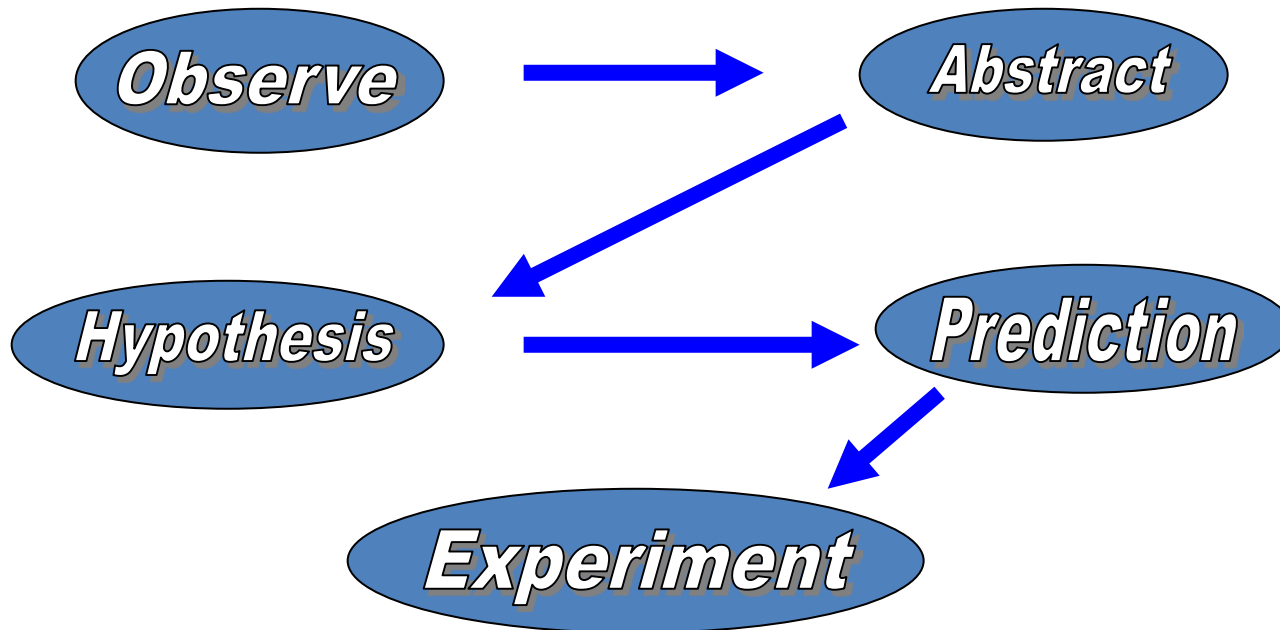
- Aristotelian Physics was based on logic
  - o It provided a framework for understanding nature
  - o It was logically consistent

***It was wrong !!!***

- Aristotelian physics relied on logic - not experiment!

# The Renaissance

**Galileo Galilei** (1564 -1642) was one of the first to use the scientific method of observation and experimentation. He laid the groundwork for modern science.



# Classical Mechanics

**Mechanics**: the study of *motion*

**Galileo** (1564 -1642) laid the  
groundwork for Mechanics

**Newton** (1642-1727) completed  
its development (~ *almost*~)

Newton's Laws work fine for

- Large Objects - Ball's, planes, planets, ...
  - Small objects (atoms) → Quantum Mechanics
- Slow Objects - people, cars, planes, ...
  - Fast objects (near the speed of light) → Relativity
- Classical Mechanics - essentially complete at the end of the 19th Century



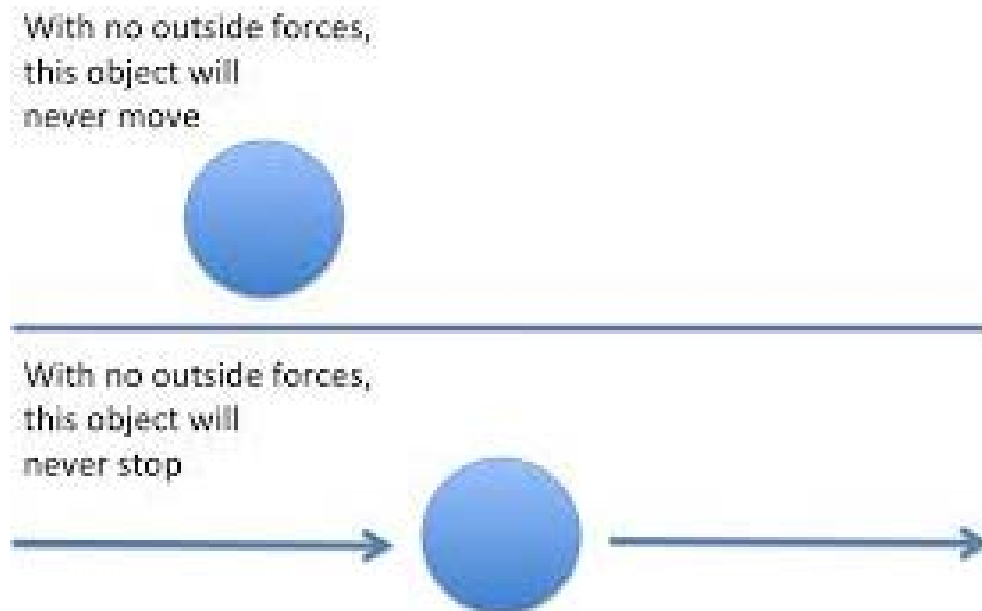


# Classical mechanics

## Newton's **three laws of motion**:

- I. Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it.

This we recognize as essentially Galileo's concept of inertia, and this is often termed simply the "**Law of Inertia**" (inertia is the tendency of matter to resist changes in its velocity).



# Classical mechanics

## Newton's **three laws of motion**:

II. The relationship between an object's mass  $m$ , its acceleration  $\mathbf{a}$ , and the applied force  $\mathbf{F}$  is:  $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$  or  $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$   
Acceleration and force are vectors; in this law, directions of the both vectors is the same. Simply the "**Law of Power**"

This is the **most powerful of Newton's three Laws**, because it allows quantitative calculations of dynamics: how do velocities change when forces are applied.

Notice the fundamental difference between Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law and the dynamics of Aristotle: **according to Newton, a force causes only a change in velocity (an acceleration); it does not maintain the velocity as Aristotle held.**

Thus, **according to Aristotle there is only a velocity if there is a force**, but **according to Newton an object with a certain velocity maintains that velocity unless a force acts on it to cause an acceleration** (that is, a change in the velocity). Aristotle's view seems to be more in accord with common sense, but that is because of a failure to appreciate the role played by frictional forces.

# Classical mechanics

## Newton's **three laws of motion**:

- II. The relationship between an object's mass  $m$ , its acceleration  $\mathbf{a}$ , and the applied force  $\mathbf{F}$  is:  $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$  or  $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$   
Acceleration and force are vectors; in this law, directions of the both vectors is the same.

Physical quantities and units:

$$[m] = \text{kg}$$

$$[\mathbf{a}] = \text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \quad (\text{change of velocity with respect to the time})$$

$$[\mathbf{F}] = \text{N} = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$$

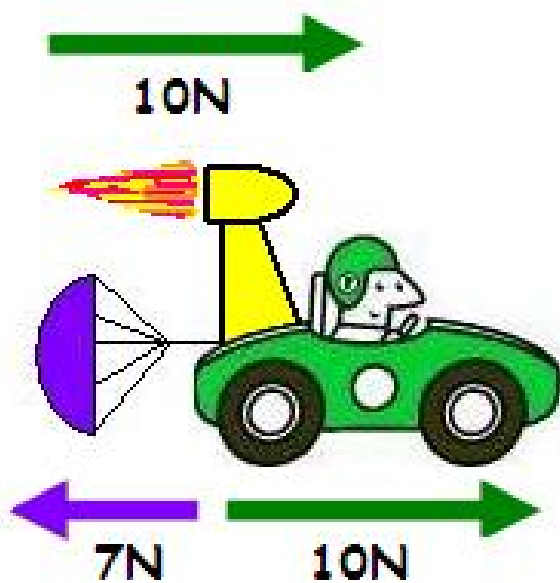
Comment: velocity and acceleration defined by means of derivatives:

$$v = \frac{ds}{dt} = s' \quad [\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}] \quad a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{d^2s}{dt^2} = v' = s'' = [\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}]$$

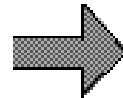
# Classical mechanics

## Newton's **three laws of motion**:

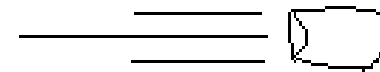
- II. The relationship between an object's mass  $m$ , its acceleration  $\mathbf{a}$ , and the applied force  $\mathbf{F}$  is:  $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$  or  $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$   
Acceleration and force are vectors; in this law, directions of the both vectors is the same.



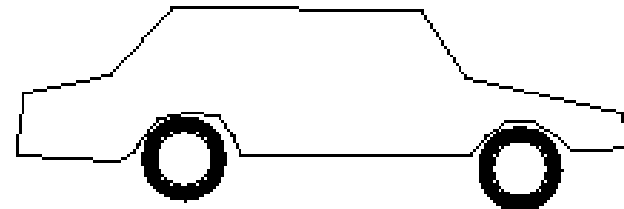
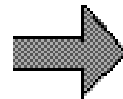
Same force



small mass: large acceleration



large mass: small acceleration



Force = mass x acceleration

# Classical mechanics

## Newton's **three laws of motion**:

III. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

This is often termed simply the "**Law of action and reaction**".

This law is exemplified by what happens if we step off a boat onto the bank of a lake: as we move in the direction of the shore, the boat tends to move in the opposite direction (leaving us facedown in the water, if we aren't careful!).

