

Newton's Laws of Motion

Newton's Laws are spelled out in the book.

Here is a short summary of their content and their implications.

- Newton-1 \leftrightarrow Galileo's principle of inertia
- Newton-2 : $m \vec{a} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}} \equiv \sum \vec{F}$

Comments

(i) $[\vec{F}] = \frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}}{\text{s}^2} = 1 \text{ N (ewton)}$

(ii) $\text{if } \sum \vec{F} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \vec{v} = \text{const}$

i.e. Newton-1 is a special case of Newton-2

(iii) $\vec{a} \parallel \vec{F}_{\text{net}}$ (but \vec{v} can have different direction)

(iv) Two types of problems can be analyzed:

(a) known (observed) motion \Rightarrow infer net force

(b) given forces \Rightarrow infer motion

$$\frac{\sum \vec{F}}{m} = \vec{a} \xrightarrow{\text{antiderivatives (b)}} \vec{v} \xrightarrow{\text{derivatives (a)}} \vec{r}$$

- Newton-3 : action-reaction principle (forces come in pairs!)

example 1 (Giordano), baseball bat and ball

example 2 (later in more detail): gravitational interaction between, e.g. Earth and Moon