

The Velocity Problem

If you watch the **speedometer** of a car as you drive in city traffic, you see that the speed doesn't stay the same for very long; that is, the velocity of the car is **not constant**. We assume from watching the speedometer that the car has a definite velocity at each moment, but how is the "instantaneous" velocity defined?



Let's consider the *velocity problem*: Find the instantaneous velocity of an object moving along a straight path at a specific time if the position of the object at any time is known. In the next example, we investigate the velocity of a falling ball. Through experiments carried out four centuries ago, Galileo discovered that the distance fallen by any freely falling body is proportional to the square of the time it has been falling. (This model for free fall neglects air resistance.) If the distance fallen after t seconds is denoted by $s(t)$ and measured in meters, then (at the earth's surface) **Galileo's** observation is expressed by the equation

$$s(t) = 4.9t^2$$

السرعة المتوسطة

$$\text{Average velocity} = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

الفترة الزمنية



معدل التغير = $\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$

معدلة ← انحراف محض ← Positioning distance

$$\text{average velocity} = \frac{\text{change in position}}{\text{time elapsed}}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

المسافة
 السجعة / المسافة
 السجعة الزمنية
 $t_2 - t_1$

$y_2 - y_1$
 t_1 t_2
 الزمن

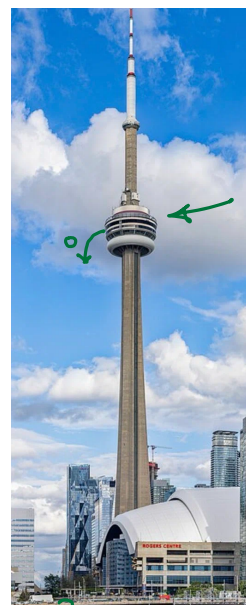
EXAMPLE 3 Suppose that a ball is dropped from the upper observation deck of the CN Tower in Toronto, 450 m above the ground. Find the velocity of the ball after 5 seconds.

$s(t) = 4.9t^2$ ✓

$t_1 = 5 \text{ sec}$ $t_2 = 5.1$

Distance $s(t)$

$s(t_1) = 4.9(5)^2$ $s(t_2) = 4.9(5.1)^2$
 $= \checkmark$ $= \checkmark$



Average velocity = $\frac{\text{change in position}}{\text{Time elapsed}}$

$$= \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1} = \frac{4.9(5.1)^2 - 4.9(5)^2}{5.1 - 5} = 49.49 \text{ m/sec}$$

Time interval	Average velocity (m/s)
$5 \leq t \leq 5.1$	49.49
$5 \leq t \leq 5.05$	49.245
$5 \leq t \leq 5.01$	49.049
$5 \leq t \leq 5.001$	49.0049 accurate

كلما اقتربت
 من 5
 كلما زادت الدقة

Avg velocity $t=5$ ← 49 m/sec

6. If a rock is thrown upward on the planet Mars with a velocity of 10 m/s, its height in meters t seconds later is given by

$$y = 10t - 1.86t^2$$

(a) Find the average velocity over the given time intervals:

(i) $[1, 2]$

(ii) $[1, 1.5]$

(iii) $[1, 1.1]$

(iv) $[1, 1.01]$

(v) $[1, 1.001]$

(b) Estimate the instantaneous velocity when $t = 1$.

$$\text{Average velocity} = \frac{\text{change in position}}{\text{Time elapsed}}$$

$$\text{Avg } v = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

$$(i) \quad [1, 2] = \frac{(10(2) - 1.86(2)^2) - (10(1) - 1.86(1)^2)}{2 - 1}$$

$$\text{Avg } v = 4.42 \text{ m/Sec}$$

$[1, 2]$

$$(ii) \quad [1, 1.5] \Rightarrow \frac{(10(1.5) - 1.86(1.5)^2) - (10(1) - 1.86(1)^2)}{1.5 - 1}$$

$$[1, 1.01] \quad (v) \quad [1, 1.001] \quad 35 \text{ m/Sec}$$

$$(iii) \quad [1, 1.1] \Rightarrow \text{Avg } v = \frac{(10(1.1) - 1.86(1.1)^2) - (10(1) - 1.86(1)^2)}{1.1 - 1}$$

$$= 6.094 \text{ m/Sec}$$

(iv) [1, 1.01]

$$\text{Avg } v = 6.2614 \text{ m/sec}$$

$$(v) [1, \underline{1.001}] = \frac{(10(1.001) - 1.86(1.001)^2) - (10(1) - 1.86(1)^2)}{1.001 - 1}$$

$$\text{Avg } v =$$

$$= \underline{6.27814 \text{ m/sec}}$$

Instantaneous velocity

في لحظة معينة

في لحظة معينة

Avg velocity

السرعة المتوسطة
المتوسطة

في فترة معينة



Instantaneous

السرعة



$t=v$

في لحظة معينة
السرعة اللحظية

Instantaneous velocity at $t=1 \rightarrow$ when time elapsed $\rightarrow 0$
 $t \rightarrow 1$

$$v = 6.28 \text{ m/sec}$$



8. The displacement (in centimeters) of a particle moving back and forth along a straight line is given by the equation of motion $s = 2 \sin \pi t + 3 \cos \pi t$, where t is measured in seconds.

(a) Find the average velocity during each time period:

- ~~W~~ (i) $[1, 2]$ $\rightarrow$ Time elapsed $t_2 - t_1 = 2 - 1 = 1$ ~~1~~ (ii) $[1, 1.1]$
~~1~~ (iii) $[1, 1.01]$ (iv) $[1, 1.001]$ ✓

(b) Estimate the instantaneous velocity of the particle when $t = 1$.

$$[1, 2]$$

$$[1, 1.1]$$

$$[1, 1.01] \xrightarrow{t_1, t_2} \text{Avg velocity} = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

$$s = 2 \sin \pi t + 3 \cos \pi t$$

$$\text{Avg } v = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1} = \frac{(2 \sin \pi * 1.01 + 3 \cos \pi * 1.01) - (2 \sin \pi * 1 + 3 \cos \pi * 1)}{1.01 - 1}$$

$$= -6.13 \text{ cm/sec}$$

$$[1, 1.001] \xrightarrow{t_1, t_2} \text{Avg } v = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

$$= \frac{(2 \sin \pi * 1.001 + 3 \cos \pi * 1.001) - (2 \sin \pi * 1 + 3 \cos \pi * 1)}{1.001 - 1}$$

$$= -6.27 \text{ cm/sec}$$

The Instantaneous velocity at $t=1$ when

$$\text{Time elapsed} \rightarrow 0 = -6.3 \text{ cm/sec}$$

$$\Delta t \rightarrow 0$$

5. The deck of a bridge is suspended 80 meters above a river. If a pebble falls off the side of the bridge, the height, in meters, of the pebble above the water surface after t seconds is given by $y = 80 - 4.9t^2$.

- (a) Find the average velocity of the pebble for the time period beginning when $t = 4$ and lasting
- (i) 0.1 seconds (ii) 0.05 seconds (iii) 0.01 seconds
- (b) Estimate the instantaneous velocity of the pebble after 4 seconds.

(i) Time elapsed = $\overset{t_2 - t_1}{\boxed{0.1 \text{ sec}}} \rightarrow t_1 = \underline{4}$
 $t_2 = \boxed{4.1}$ $\swarrow 0.1$

$$\text{Avg velocity} = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

$$= \frac{80 - 4.9(4.1)^2 - (80 - 4.9(4)^2)}{0.1}$$

$$= -39.69 \text{ ft/sec}$$

ii) Time elapsed = 0.05 $t_1 = 4$
 $t_2 = 4.05$

$$\text{Avg velocity} = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

$$= \frac{(80 - 4.9(4.05)^2) - (80 - 4.9(4)^2)}{0.05}$$

$$= -39.445 \text{ ft/sec.}$$

iii) Time elapsed = 0.01

$$t_1 = 4$$

$$t_2 = 4.01$$

$$\text{Avg Velocity} = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

$$= \frac{(80 - 4.9(4.01)^2) - (80 - 4.9(4)^2)}{0.01}$$

$$= \underline{-39.249 \text{ ft/sec}}$$

b) instantaneous velocity at $t = 4$ when
Time elapsed approach 0 is -39 ft/sec

2. A student bought a smartwatch that tracks the number of steps she walks throughout the day. The table shows the number of steps recorded t minutes after 3:00 PM on the first day she wore the watch.

		3:00 ↓	3:10	3:20 ↓	3:30	3:40	
(X) t (min)		0	10	20	30	40	
(Y) Steps		3438	4559	5622	6536	7398	Steps / Time

- (a) Find the slopes of the secant lines corresponding to the given intervals of t . What do these slopes represent?
- (i) $[0, 40]$ (ii) $[10, 20]$ (iii) $[20, 30]$
- (b) Estimate the student's walking pace, in steps per minute, at 3:20 PM (by averaging the slopes of two secant lines).

$$a) \text{ slope} = \frac{\text{Change in steps}}{\text{Time elapsed}}$$

$$i) [0, 40] \rightarrow \text{slope} = \frac{7398 - 3438}{40 - 0} = 99$$

$$ii) [10, 20] \rightarrow \text{slope} = \frac{5622 - 4559}{20 - 10} = 106.3$$

$$iii) [20, 30] \rightarrow \text{slope} = \frac{6536 - 5622}{30 - 20} = 91.4 \text{ steps/min}$$

$\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$
 $[10, 20]$ $[20, 30]$
 slope $\downarrow$

$$\left(\frac{106.3 + 91.4}{2} \right) = 98.85 \text{ steps/min}$$