

# Newton's Laws of Motion

- **Force** = any kind of push or pull on an object.
- Force, being a vector, has magnitude, units, and direction.

## **What is the connection between force and motion?**

What happens if you stop pedaling your bike on a flat surface?

If you roll a ball along the grass?

- (350 BCE) This is why Aristotle believed that in order for an object to keep moving, a force was needed.
- (1600) Galileo came up with a different conclusion. He said it is just as natural for an object to be in horizontal motion with constant speed as it is for it to be at rest.
- **Inertia:** Tendency of a body to maintain its state of rest or uniform motion in a straight line.

- Galileo was able to determine this property existed because he was able to envision a frictionless world.
- **Ex:** Picture yourself pushing a book across a rough table, then a smooth table, then an oiled table, then an air hockey table...
- **Less \_\_\_\_\_ is required each time.**
- **If there was no friction, \_\_\_\_\_ would be needed.**
- Upon Galileo's work, Newton built his theory of motion.

**“If I have seen further [than others],  
it is by standing on the shoulders of  
giants.”**

- Isaac Newton (1642-1727), British physicist, mathematician, with reference to his dependency on Galileo's and Kepler's work in physics

## Newton's 3 Laws

- 1<sup>st</sup>: **Law of Inertia**: A body at rest will remain at rest; a body in motion will continue moving at constant speed in a straight line until acted upon by an external force.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: The acceleration of a body is directly proportional to the net force acting on it and inversely proportional to its mass. The direction of the acceleration is in the direction of the net force. **[Net external forces cause objects to accelerate.]**

$$\Sigma \vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

Unit of force = Newton

1 N = 1 kgm/s<sup>2</sup>

1 lb = 4.45 N

**Ex:** A 4 kg object has velocity  $3.00\mathbf{i}$  m/s at one instant. Eight seconds later, its velocity has increased to  $(8.00\mathbf{i} + 10.0\mathbf{j})$  m/s. Assuming the object was subject to a total constant force, find:

(a) The components of the force.

(b) Its magnitude.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Law: Force of Gravity & Weight

1. **Mass** = “stuff.” It is related to the type and number of atoms in an object. [kg]
2. **Weight** =  $F_g$  = The planet’s pull on an object. [N]
3. **g** = acceleration due to gravity = the contribution of a planet in creating the weight of an object. [on earth,  $g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$ ]

$$F_g = mg$$

**Ex:** Ken, who weighs 700 N on earth, flies to Jupiter where  $g = 26.4 \text{ m/s}^2$ .

Note, mass does not change as we visit other planets, since mass is related to the number of atoms in our body.

- a) Find his mass
- b) Find his weight on Jupiter

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.  
If Body A exerts a force on Body B, Body B exerts an equal and opposite force on Body A.

Ex: Tug of War

- The forces of pull are equal and opposite. The winner of the competition will be the athlete who generates the greater  $F_f$ .
- Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law is the reason only external forces cause acceleration. Any internal forces will have an equal, opposite reaction force which will cancel out.