# Forces

# What is a force?

- A push or pull on an object that causes it to move
  - Units: Newtons (N)
  - Forces cause acceleration!!
- Common types of forces:
  - Applied
  - Friction
  - **Normal** (stops objects from going through each other)
  - **Tension**: string
  - Gravity
  - **Restoring** (spring)
  - **Drag** (air resistance)



#### **Newton's Laws**

Newton's laws of motion in physics				
LAW #1	A body at rest will remain at rest, and a body in motion will remain in motion unless it is acted upon by an external force.			
LAW #2	The force acting on an object is equal to the mass of that object times its acceleration, F = ma.			
LAW #3	For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.			

## Free Body Diagrams

- Helps visualize forces on an object
- Indicate magnitude and direction of a force on an object with arrows + labels
- Net force = sum of all the forces on an object
- It is helpful to split the forces into x and y components (like what we did with velocity in kinematics)





#### Mass vs Weight

Mass is a how much matter an object contains.

Mass is a constant for a body and does not change with location.

The kilogram is a unit of mass.

**Weight** 50 kg 110 lb 490 N

**Mass** 50 kg 110 lb

Technically, the pound is a unit of weight but not mass!

Weight is the force exerted on a mass by gravity.

Weight is not a constant. It changes from place to place.

The Newton is a unit of weight.



Weight

8 kg

18 lb

82 N

# **Other important forces**

#### Normal Force:

Tension:

- There MUST BE CONTACT
- Every solid deforms slightly
  - Spring force "restores"

#### Friction:

• Tiny bumps in any surface



**Only PULLS** 

Strings ~ tiny masses

connected by springs

# **Types of Friction**



#### Example 1: Block on plane



Perfectly Smooth surface	•	Rοι
At Rest:		
Moving Right:		

Rough surface		
	At Rest:	
	Moving Right:	

#### Example 2: Block on rough, inclined plane

• Draw a FBD for the gray block



# Pulley

• Make life easier - can you think of examples?



Car



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# **Atwood Machines**

- Negligible mass/friction in pulley
- mass of block 2 (m2) > mass of block 1 (m1)
- the blocks move with the same speed/acceleration
- 1. Draw free body diagrams for blocks 1 and 2
- 2. Write net force equations (2nd Law) for both blocks
- 3. Algebraically manipulate to solve for acceleration





### Atwood Machines (but the shortcut way)

- Notice how the tensions will always cancel out because the pulley is massless (we will see why this matters when we get to rotation) and both blocks are connected to the same string
- So we can just "skip" the part where the tensions cancel
- Think of the gravitational forces as two forces that are pulling on the string in opposite directions

$$F_{net} = F_1 - F_2 = m_1 g - m_2 g = (m_1 - m_2)g$$
  

$$F_{net} = m_{total} a = (m_1 + m_2)a$$
  

$$a = (m_1 - m_2)g/(m_1 + m_2)$$

$$m_1g$$
 2  
 $m_2g$ 

# **Springs**

- Sometimes make life easier
- Spring force responsible for NORMAL force
- Chemical bonds often modeled as springs







### Hooke's Law

- F = -kx
- k = spring constant (a larger spring constant means the spring is more stiff → for the same displacement, you need a bigger force)
- x = how far the spring is pushed or pulled
- Notice the negative sign!
  - $\circ$  Sometimes you won't see this (F = kx is the magnitude of the force)
- Then why is it negative?
  - A spring always resists the force you apply
  - If you pull down, the spring will try to pull up because that's just how springs work → spring force is always opposite of the applied force F



# Example: Hanging Spring

Luke decides to go bungee jumping at the Del Mar Fair from 150 m off the ground. Luke weighs 60 kg and the bungee cords can be modeled as a spring with an unstretched length of 32 m and spring constant 5 N/m. Does he die?

# **Centripetal Force**

- Force pointing towards center
- $F_c = mv^2/r$ 
  - F\_c = Centripetal Force
  - m = mass
  - $\circ$  v = velocity
- Common causes of centripetal force:
  - Tension
  - Gravity (Orbits)
  - Normal Force



When you're standing up on the bus and it starts turning really hard



## Practice problem

A block is hung from a rope on a pulley which is connected to a block on a rough inclined plane connected to a spring... you know what you should just look at the drawing:



 $m_2 < m_1 sin(theta)$ , and the system is at rest.

How much does the spring compress?







**Equations:** Block 2:  $F_y = 0 = T - F_g$  $F_y = 0$ Block 1:  $F_y = N - m_1 gcos(\theta) = 0$  $F_x = T + F_\mu + F_k - m_1 gsin(\theta) = 0$ Algebra:  $T = F_g = m_2 g$  $T = m_1^{y}gsin(\theta) - F_k - F_u$  $x = g(m_1 sin(\theta) - m_1 cos(\theta) - m_2)/k$  $F_{k} = kx$   $F_{\mu} = \mu N$   $N = m_{1}g\cos(\theta)$  $F_{II} = \mu m_1 g \cos(\theta)$  $m_2 g = m_1 gsin(\theta) - kx - \mu m_1 gcos(\theta)$  $kx = m_1 gsin(\theta) - \mu m_1 gcos(\bar{\theta}) - m_2 g$  $x = (m_1 gsin(\theta) - \mu m_1 gcos(\theta) - m_2 g)/k$ 

# **Fictitious Forces**

- We need to worry about fictitious forces when we are in **noninertial** (accelerating) reference frames
- It's a "force" that we feel from the movement of the reference frame
- It's fictitious because there isn't actually a force on you, but you feel a force because of the reference frame
  - You feel a force in the **opposite direction** of the acceleration of the frame
- Example: centrifugal force

