

# Newton's Three Laws

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

Explain the idea behind center of mass

Explain how Galileo discovered that an object will move in uniform motion unless acted upon by a non-zero net force

Explain Newton's first law

Explain reference frames

Draw free-body diagrams

Explain Newton's second law

Solve problems with Newton's second law

Explain Newton's third law

- Force (F)
  - Force is a vector quantity
    - Units: kg\*m/s<sup>2</sup>
      - Also called a Newton (N)
  - A force is a push or pull on an object
  - Since an object can have multiple forces acting on it, we will often refer to the net force on an object
    - The net force is the sum of all the forces acting on the object
    - The net force matters because I want to know how large and in what direction the sum of the forces acts, not each individual force
  - Since force is a vector, the forces need to be added by components, or each direction independently
    - Just like when we were adding vectors and breaking vectors into components

$$\Sigma F = F_{net}$$

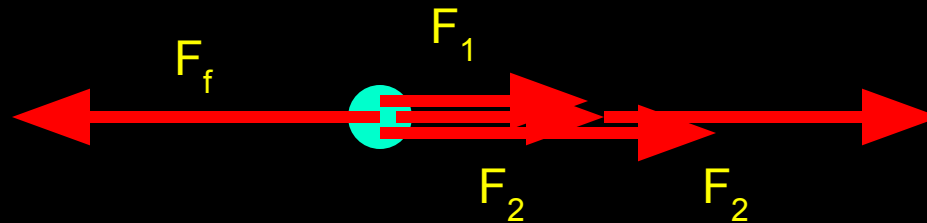
$\Sigma F$  is the summation of the Forces

## – Center of Mass

- The object moves and acts as though all the mass is concentrated in the center of the object
  - This means that we do not care about the shape of the object and what it looks like
  - We only care about the center of mass
    - » The center of mass is represented by a dot in your drawings

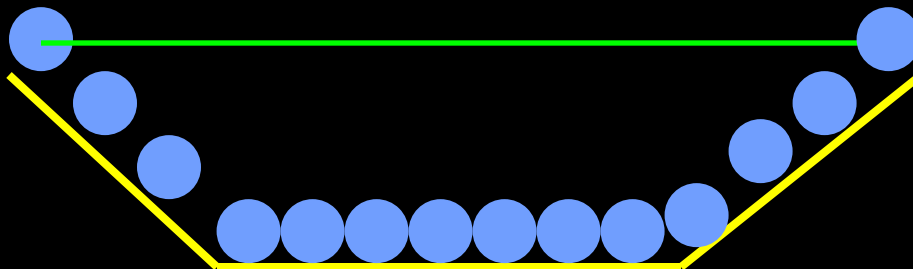
## – Free-body Diagrams

- Represents the object and the forces **acting on it**
  - Don't draw the forces that the object is exerting on other objects
- They are useful in determining the net force on an object
- Example
  - Two people are pushing a stalled car. One person pushes the car with a force of 275 N. The other person pushes the car with a force of 395 N. The force of friction opposes the motion of the car with a force of 560 N. Find the net force on the car.



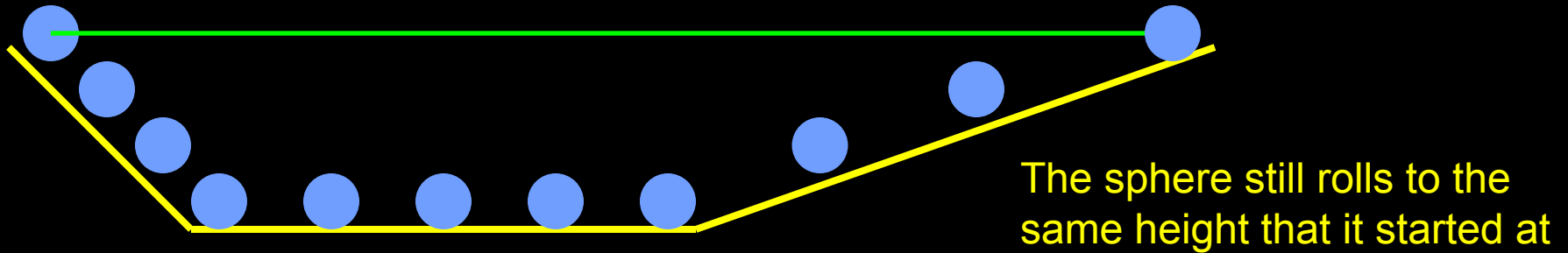
- So, the force in the +x direction is 670 N and the force in the –x direction is 560.
- Thus the net force on the object is 110 N.

- Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642)
  - Italian Mathematician
  - Stated that, if there was no interference on a moving object, it would keep moving in a straight line forever
    - This is a radical conclusion to reach because it is impossible to test a situation where there was no interference
      - Because there is always friction
  - He tested his hypothesis using inclined planes
    - He set up two inclined planes with different angles from the horizontal
    - He started a sphere rolling down one plane
      - It would then roll across the bottom and then up the second inclined plane
      - He realized that the sphere would roll up to the same height that it started at

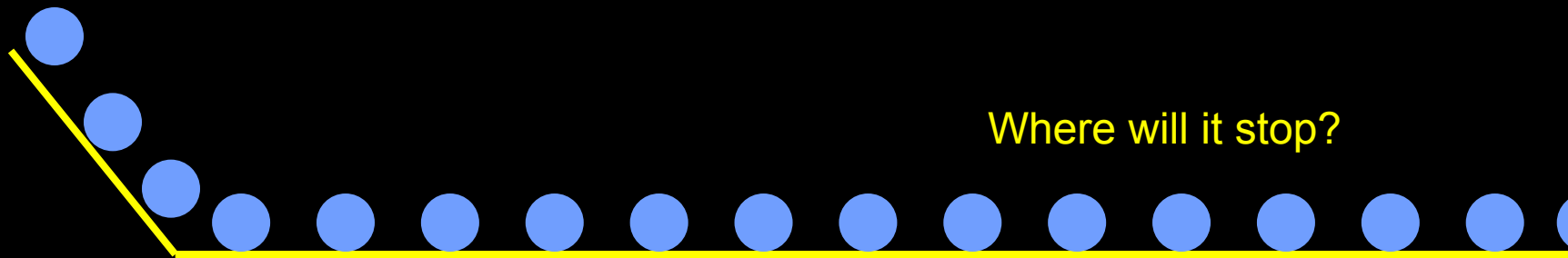


The sphere rolls to the same height that it started at

- He then tested it with a different set of planes, this time with one at a significantly different angle
- He found that the sphere still reached the same height



- This led him to conclude that gravity is stopping the sphere's motion, no other outside influence
- So what happens if there is no second inclined plane? In other words, what will happen if there is no chance for gravity to act on the sphere again?



- Galileo realized that without another inclined plane to raise it above the ground and allow gravity to slow it that the sphere should continue to roll, **forever**

- Sir Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727)
  - English Scientist
  - Developed his three laws of motion before he was 23
  - Newton's First Law
    - Newton's first law of motion states that:
      - Any object that is at rest or any object in uniform motion will remain at rest or in uniform motion unless acted upon by a non-zero net force
        - » Uniform motion means that the object is not accelerating
          - » So, the object is not changing direction or changing speed
        - » Net Force
          - » The net force is the vector sum of all forces acting on an object
    - Also called the Law of Inertia
      - Inertia is the amount of resistance an object has to a change in motion
        - » Inertia is quantified as the mass of the object
        - » More massive the object, the more inertia the object has
    - Mass (m)
      - A measure of the inertia of an object
        - » Units: kilograms (kg)



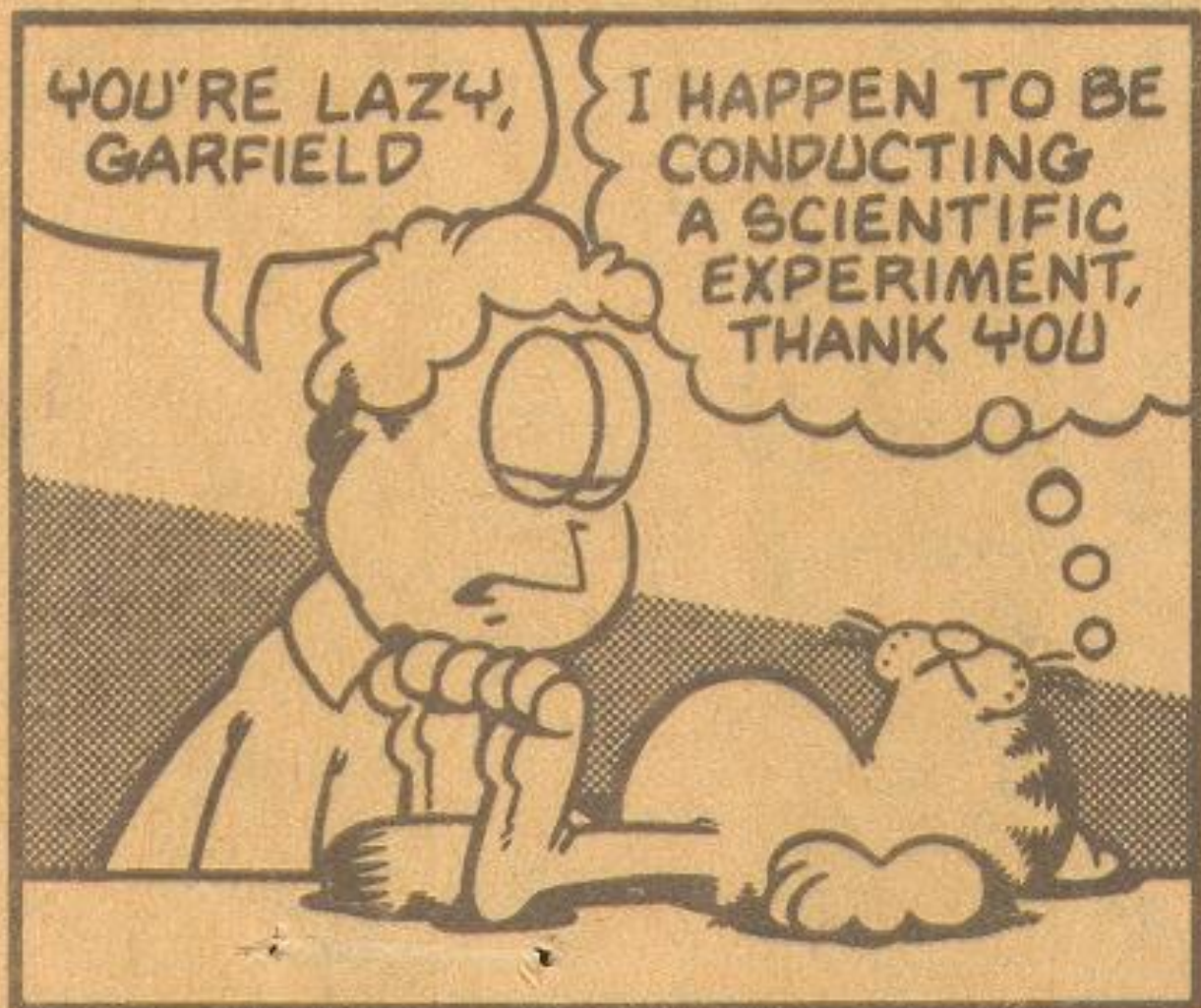
- Reference Frame

- A system of objects that are not moving with respect to each other
  - » Typically the background around the object
- Used to identify motion
  - » This is done by comparing an object that is moving to the reference frame
- Without a reference frame, there is no available outside information. Therefore, there it is impossible to detect motion

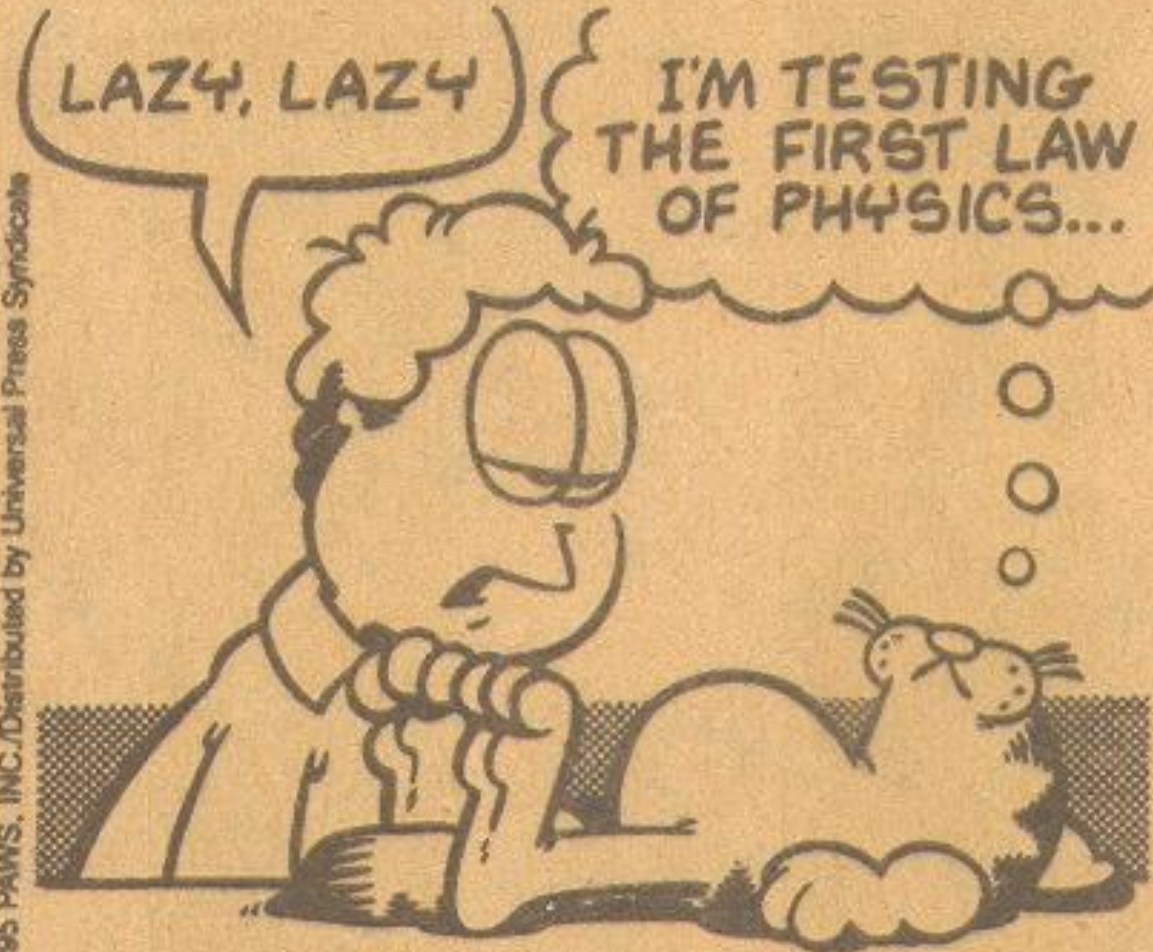
- Inertial Reference Frame

- A reference frame where Newton's Law of Inertia is valid
  - » For our purposes, the classroom (and for that matter the school) is an inertial reference frame
- Accelerating reference frames are not inertial reference frames

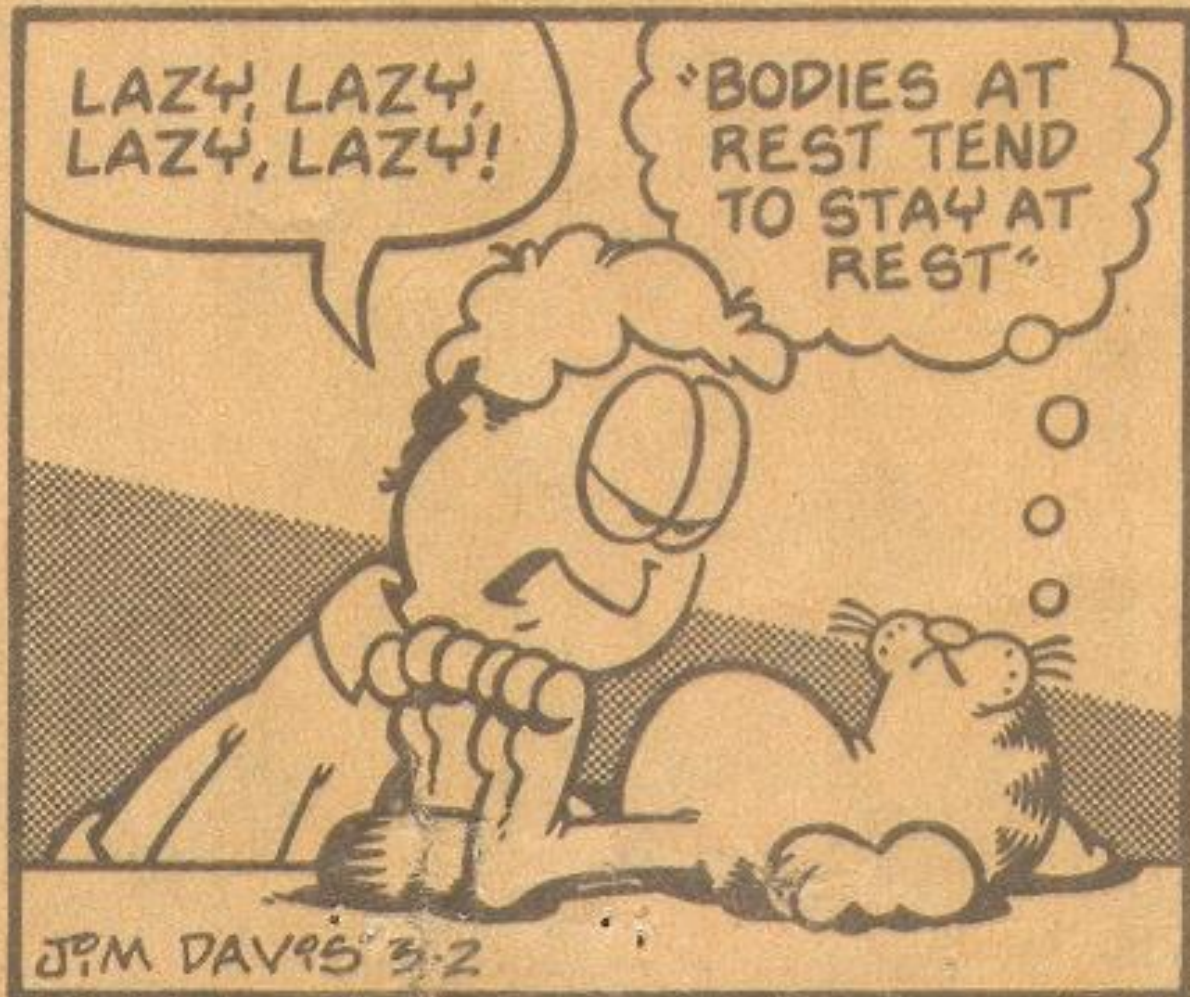
# GARFIELD



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By Jim Davis



# SALLY FORTH

IT'S SEVEN O'CLOCK... WHY AREN'T  
YOU GETTING UP?

INERTIA... A BODY  
AT REST TENDS TO  
REMAIN AT REST



GET UP, SALLY

YOU WANT ME TO  
BREAK A LAW  
OF PHYSICS?

Howard 11-15

## – Newton's Second Law

- States that the acceleration that results when a net force acts on the object is directly proportional to the net force and inversely proportional to the mass of the object

$$F_{net} = ma$$

- This is the most important law or theory that we will learn this year
  - From Newton's second law you can derive almost everything we will talk about this year

## – Example

- A plane, starting from rest, has a force of  $5 \times 10^5$  N acting on it from the engines as it rolls down the runway. If the plane has a mass of 100,000 kg, how long will it take the plane to reach a take off velocity of 63 m/s?
- Given
  - $F_{\text{net}} = 5 \times 10^5$  N
  - $m = 100,000$  kg
  - $v = 63$  m/s
  - $v_o = 0$  m/s
  - $t = ?$



If you are not drawing out pictures at this point for each problem, you **really** should be

I am looking for the time

I cannot find the time at this point because I do not have enough information, so I should solve for the acceleration first



I know I need to solve for acceleration  
The only way I can do this is by using Newton's  
First Law

$$\vec{F}_{net} = m\vec{a} \therefore \vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}_{net}}{m}$$

Solve for the acceleration

$$\vec{a} = \frac{5 \times 10^5 \text{ N}}{100,000 \text{ kg}}$$

$$a = 5 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Once you have acceleration, use kinematics to  
solve for time

$$v = v_o + at \therefore t = \frac{v - v_o}{a}$$

$$t = 12.6 \text{ s}$$

## – Force as a ~~Vector~~ Vector

- Since Force is a vector, it can be split into components
- Newton's Second Law applies to each direction
- Any situation involving Forces off of the two axes requires that the forces be split into components first

$$F_{net\ x} = ma_x$$

$$F_{net\ y} = ma_y$$

## – Newton's Third Law

- Whenever one body exerts a force on a second body, the second body exerts an oppositely directed force of equal magnitude on the first body
  - Also called the Law of Action – Reaction
- Simply put, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction
  - This implies that forces come in pairs
    - » These pairs always are exerted on different objects
  - Example
    - » You lean against a wall, the wall pushes against you to keep you upright.
    - » You push against a wall with a force of 100 N. What is the force that the wall exerts on you?

- Example

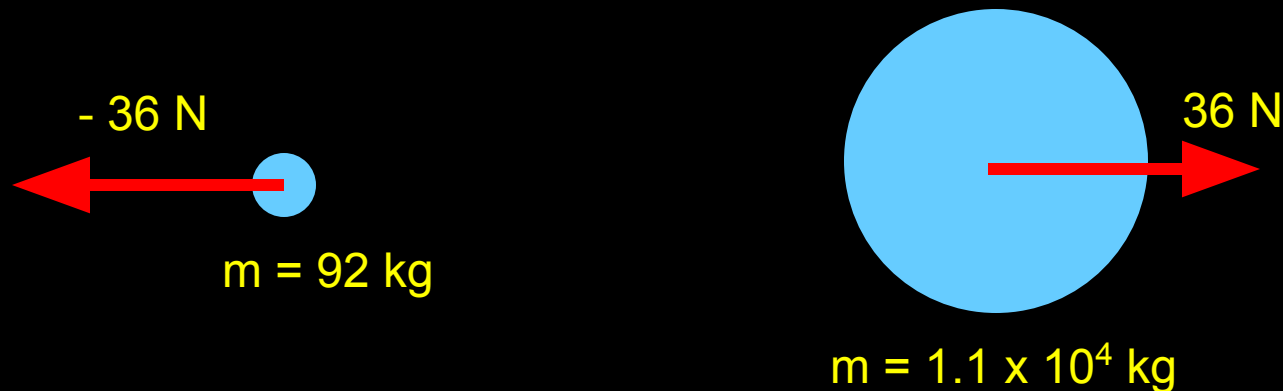
- An astronaut ( $m = 92 \text{ kg}$ ) pushes against a spaceship ( $1.1 \times 10^4 \text{ kg}$ ) with a force of  $36 \text{ N}$ . What is the acceleration of the spaceship and the astronaut?

- Given

- »  $m_a = 92 \text{ kg}$                        $m_s = 1.1 \times 10^4 \text{ kg}$

- »  $F_{\text{Astronaut on Spaceship}} = 36 \text{ N}$

- Draw a Free-body Diagram(s)



I can draw a force on the astronaut from the spaceship because I know from Newton's Third Law that the force is  $36 \text{ N}$  in the opposite direction

$$\vec{F}_{net} = m\vec{a} \therefore \vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}_{net}}{m}$$

Starship

$$\vec{a} = \frac{36N}{11,000kg}$$



$$a = .0033m / s^2$$

Astronaut

$$\vec{a} = \frac{-36N}{92kg}$$



$$a = -.39m / s^2$$

Why should it make sense that the acceleration of the astronaut is large than the acceleration of the spaceship?