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Introduction to problem-solving when velocity is not constant Part 1

While cruising along a dark stretch of highway with the cruise control set at 25 m/s (\approx 55 mph), you see, at the fringes of your headlights, that a bridge has been washed out. You apply the brakes and come to a stop in 4.0s. *Assume the clock starts the instant you hit the brakes*.

1. Construct qualitative graphical representations of the situation described above to illustrate:

- a. x vs. t
- b. v vs. t
- c. a vs. t



- 2. Construct a quantitatively accurate v vs t graph to describe the situation.
- 3. On the v vs. t graph at right, graphically represent the car's displacement during braking.
- 4. Utilizing the **graphical representation**, determine how far the car traveled during braking. (Please explain your problem solving method.)
- 5. In order to draw the a vs t graph, you need to determine the car's acceleration. Please do this, then sketch a quantitatively accurate a vs t graph
- 6. Using the equation you developed for displacement of an accelerating object determine how far the car traveled during braking. (Please show your work.)



7. Compare your answers to 4 and 6.

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Introduction to problem-solving when velocity is not constant Part 2

1. The graph below represents the motion of an object.



- a. At what point(s) on the graph above is the object moving most slowly? (How do you know?)
- b. Over what intervals on the graph above is the object speeding up? (How do you know?)
- c. Over what intervals on the graph above is the object slowing down? (How do you know?)
- d. At what point(s) on the graph above is the object changing direction? (How do you know?)

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2. The following graph shows the velocity vs. time for two cars traveling on Chicago Ave. One car is stopped at Wells Ave. when the light turns green. Just as the resting car (Car A) begins to move (t = 0 seconds), it is passed by Car B which is traveling in the same direction.



- (a) Determine which lines in the velocity graph above correspond to which car. Label these lines.
- (b) Which car is ahead at t = 5.0 seconds? By how much?

(c) Does Car A ever pass Car B? (Show how you know)

(d) Construct a position vs. time graphs for both cars on the empty graph above.

- 3. A stunt car driver drives a car at a constant speed of 25 m/s for a total of 100. m. He applies his brakes and accelerates uniformly to a stop just as he reaches a wall 50. m away.
 - a. Sketch qualitative position vs. time and velocity vs time graphs.



b. How long does it take for the car to travel the first 100.m?

c. Remember that the area under a velocity vs time graph equals the displacement of the car. How long must the brakes be applied for the car to come to a stop in 50 m?

d. Now that you know the total time of travel, sketch a quantitative velocity vs time graph.



e. What acceleration is provided by the brakes? How do you know?