

Physics 12 Motion at Constant Acceleration

1. There are four kinematic equations that allow analysis of object motion when that motion has a constant acceleration. The equations are:

$$v = v_0 + at$$

$$v_{av} = \frac{v + v_0}{2}$$

$$d = v_0 t + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$v^2 = v_0^2 + 2ad$$

Derivation of the last two equations:

average velocity can be calculated two ways:

$$v_{av} = \frac{d_f - d_i}{t}$$

$$v_{av} = \frac{v + v_0}{2}$$

combining these

$$\frac{v + v_0}{2} = \frac{d_f - d_i}{t}$$

if the initial position is 0

rearrange and get

$$d_f = \frac{(v + v_0) \times t}{2}$$

substitute equation 1 in for v and get

$$d = \frac{(v_0 + v_0 + at) \times t}{2}$$

$$d = v_0 t + 1/2 at^2$$

The last equation derivation:

$$d_f = d_i + v_{av} t$$

$$d_f = d_i + \frac{(v + v_0) t}{2}$$

$$d_f = d_i + \frac{(v + v_0)(v - v_0)}{2a}$$

$$d_f = d_i + \frac{v^2 - v_0^2}{2a}$$

$$\text{if } d_i = 0$$

$$2ad_f = v^2 - v_0^2$$

$$v^2 = v_0^2 + 2ad$$