

How does a roller-coaster work?



Start with the energy of motion Energy **Kinetic energy** • an incredibly powerful idea, which governs the behaviour of • is defined to be • humans • K.E. = $1/_2$ mv² • cell-phones • weather • galaxies Text

Potential Energy

- If you drop something, kinetic energy increases.
- This energy is originally in the form of potential energy (P.E.).
- Near the earth's surface if you lift a body of mass m through a height h, its change in PE is
- P.E. = mgh

• cars

• atoms

Note it doesn't matter how we get the energy

Text

• e.g putting a block on a table can be done in many ways, but the energy is always the same



- Need a unit for energy: the Joule (Joule originated study of heat energy ⇔ mechanical energy)
- so a 1500 kg car travelling at 10 m/s has a KE of 75000 J $\,$
- computer dropped from 1 metre ~ 1J

Some conversions

- kilo: 1kJ = 1000 J
- mega: $1MJ = 10^6 J = 1000000 J$
- giga: 1GJ = 10⁹ J=100000000 J
- tera: 1TJ = 10¹² J=100000000000 J
- peta: 1PJJ = 10¹⁵ J=10000000000000 J
- eka: 1EJ = 10¹⁸ J=100000000000000000 J

Conservation of Energy (nothing to do with energy conservation!)

- Energy can be transformed from one kind to another, but cannot be created or destroyed
- As long as there is no friction total (mechanical) energy will be conserved: it can be transformed from one form to another.
- P.E. \Leftrightarrow K.E.
- Doesn't matter how complicated the force is

Text





• But actually it just gets converted to heat energy

Wikipedia

Heat energy

e.g boiling one litre of water takes - 2.3 MJ (million joules)



James Prescott Joule

Joule was the first person to figure that heat was a form of energy







Nuclear Energy

- Hydrogen bomb: heat small amount of gas up to ~10 billion °C for a very short time
- ~1 PJ
- 100 trillion Joules





• Your daily consumption (as food)~10MJ



Vermeer















- Means there is a minimum energy we must have to escape earth:
- e.g. for 1kg need at least 60 megajoules (roughly 3 litres of gas)
- but the 3 litres of gas weighs more than a kilogram

This has been done with rockets

- How fast can a rocket go?
- Depends on exhaust speed.
- Suppose we have rocket with a mass of 100 tonnes, final mass 10 tonne, exhaust vel = 3000 m/s, final vel will be $\sim 6000 \text{ m/s}$
- In practice need multi-stage rocket



Black Holes

- Invented by?
- Einstein
- Hawking?
- Well, actually, John Michell, rector of Thornhill Church in Yorkshire
- geologist?philosopher? astronomer? Seismologist?
- Polymath.
- presented his ideas to the Royal Society in London in 1783.

Text

- A particle will escape from the earth if it has positive energy
- At the earth's surface, "escape velocity" is 11 km/



- A particle will escape from the earth if it has positive energy
- At the earth's surface, v~ 11 km/s
- However we can interpret this differently: what radius would the earth have for a given escape velocity? In particular, if the escape velocity is the speed of light c, nothing can escape

$$R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$





- This is the Schwarzchild radius (loosely the black-hole radius) for any mass.
- What is this for the earth?

•~ 9 mm

• Statutory Warning: This is a fudge: you cannot treat light as a massive particle, nor can you handle a very strong gravitational field as if it were a weak one

(there are actually two factors of 2 error which cancel out.....weren't we lucky!)



Energy ≠ Power (but they are related)

• Power = rate of energy consumption (or rate of energy production)

Roughly!

- 1 watt = 1 Joule/second
- Light-bulb ~100W
- You (from food) ~ 100 W
- Laptop~50 W
- Car (at 60 km/hr) ~ 40 kW
- From sun: 1.4 kW/m²



Canada

- Total ~300 GW
- Electrical ~60GW
- per capita ~ 10 kW
- Note (very confusingly) a kilo-watt hour is a unit of energy not power
- 1 kWh = 3600 x 1000 J = 3.6 MJ

One more related idea: Momentum • Stopping a tennis ball is easy



• Stopping a medicine ball isn't easy

- Momentum
- p = mv
- = mass ×velocity
- To stop an object requires
- force×time
- (can supply a large force for a short time, all small force for a long time)

- Note that (just like energy) total momentum is always conserved.
- Total momentum = 0

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After the collision, they may bounce back (if collision is elastic) or both stop (if they are sticky)

Total momentum = mv What happens?



Bruce Deachman here again, with the Ottawa Citizen. I was wondering if you might be willing to help me with another story for my Days of Summer series. This time I have in mind to explain the physics of kite-flying. What keeps them up, how different shapes factor in, what the tail does, why the string, although taut, doesn't appear perfectly straight, that sort of thing.

What do you think? If you're willing, we could do it by phone if that's convenient.

thanks again, and I hope you're having a great summer, Bruce









Day 58: If apples fall, why do kites fly?



Day 4 explained the

ine first, a s

ent, the kite

is that you'll always get turt the edges of the kite, and that's why it fits from

ing on it, the tail largel

ite's string, Watson says that it's not sir

ctly does it stay up there, you wonder. What does the tail do? And why does the string, dn't pull any tighter if you tried, appear curved?

icist Dr. Peter Wa

Text





- Two separate problems
- Flying through atmosphere requires wings to provide, lift
- Must reduce drag



- Flying through space:
- no drag, so any shape works



- so we can even think of radiation powered sailing ships!
- Need huge, very light sail: Say 1 km², 10 µ thick so very vulnerable to meteors etc
- Only works in space (so still need rocket to escape earth)
- acceleration very small (maybe g/1000)
- But wouldn't a solar sailing ship be romantic
- Small ones will be launched soon