

Velocity and Acceleration Calculations

■ Linear Speed

$v[d_, t_]$ is the function for determining linear speed

d is the distance traveled in a single frame in millimeters

t is the time per frame in seconds

Output units are m/s.

--> 60 frames per second yields $t = 1/60$ seconds

$v[d_, t_] = (d / 1000) / t;$

TO DO:

Enter your distance traveled for $d1$ and time for $t1$

```
d1 = 0;  
t1 = 1 / 60;  
v1 = v[d1, t1] // N  
0.
```

If you are going to calculate linear acceleration, enter values for $d2$ and $t2$

$d2$ is the distance traveled in the next frame of the video and $t2$ is the time of that frame (probably just the same as $t1$)

```
d2 = 12 / 11;  
t2 = 1 / 60;  
v2 = v[d2, t2] // N  
0.0654545
```

■ Linear Acceleration

Using values from linear speed, we'll calculate the average linear acceleration

between the two consecutive frames. We'll assume that average speed for each frame was in the middle of each frame and so our Δt will just be the time of one frame. Output units are m/s^2 .

```
linearA[vi_, vf_, Δt_] = (vf - vi) / Δt;  
linearA[v1, v2, t1]
```

```
3.92727
```

■ Centripetal Acceleration

If we draw a smooth circle, we can calculate the acceleration of the particle using the following formula dependent upon radius “ r ” and period “ τ ”. Output units are m/s^2 .

```
centripetalA[r_, τ_] = 4 * Pi^2 * (r / 1000) / τ^2;
```

For you curious souls who wonder where this came from, recall that for centripetal acceleration:

$$a = v^2 / r$$

$$v = r * \omega$$

$$\omega = 2\pi / \tau$$

$$a = (r * (2\pi / \tau))^2 / r = r * 4\pi^2 / \tau^2$$

TO DO:

Enter the radius of the circle in mm for r and the time in seconds taken to draw out the circle for τ .

```
r1 = 168 / 55;  
τ1 = 1 / 6;  
centripetalA[r1, τ1] // N  
4.34119
```