



















Velocity at any instant of time can be calculated from the projection of a line drawn from Timeaxis (yellow line) to intersect the curve (red line). Tangent at point of intersection (black line) has a slope similar to that of the line (red line)





Modeling a Runner as a Particle under Constant Velocity:

Example

A coach starts the stopwatch at the moment a runner passes point A. The runner moves along a straight line at a constant rate towards point B which is located 20 m away from point A. The time interval indicated on the stopwatch is 4 s.

(a)What is the runner velocity?



Modeling a Runner as a Particle under Constant Velocity:



A coach starts the stopwatch at the moment a runner passes point A. The runner moves along a straight line at a constant rate towards point B which is located 20 m away from point A. The time interval indicated on the stopwatch is 4 s.

(a)What is the runner velocity?



Modeling a Runner as a Particle under Constant Velocity:

Example

A coach starts the stopwatch at the moment a runner passes point A. The runner moves along a straight line at a constant rate towards point B which is located 20 m away from point A. The time interval indicated on the stopwatch is 4 s.

(a)What is the runner velocity?



Solution:

(a) Since the velocity of the runner (particle) is constant (particle runs at a constant rate), its velocity at any instant during the interval is the same as the average velocity over this interval (*i.e.* $v_x = v_{avg}$.)

$$v_{x} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{x_{f} - x_{i}}{t_{f} - t_{i}} = \frac{20m - 0}{4s} = 5m/s \quad \text{due east (towards + ve x-axis)}$$

Note: In this problem where the direction of the particle is clearly indicated, the magnitude of the velocity may be referred to as speed.



Solution:

(b) Since the velocity of the runner (particle) is constant (particle runs at a constant rate), the previous equation can be used by writing $\Delta t = t - 0$, where $t_f = t = 10s$ and $t_i = 0$, and the equation can be rewritten as:

$$x_{f} - x_{i} = v_{x} t$$

$$x_{f} - 0 = (5)(10)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_{f} = 50m \quad \text{towards } +ve x \text{-axis}$$