Speed vs. Velocity

Lesson Notes

Speed A measure of how fast an object is moving.

Distance covered per unit of time. A scalar quantity (magnitude ONLY).



Velocity The rate at which the velocity changes.

A vector quantity (magnitude AND direction).

At any given instant, velocity = the speed + the direction.

Instantaneous Speed: the speed at any given instant in time

Average Speed: the time-based average of all instantaneous speeds.

Ave. Speed = distance/time

$$V_{ave} = \frac{d}{t}$$

Ave. Velocity = displacement per time

Example 1: If a car travels 5.0 miles in 0.20 hours (12 minutes), then what is its average

speed?

Big Idea: If a person walks to the right and then changes its direction and walks back

to the left, the direction change will cause the average _____

to decrease but have no effect upon the average .

Example 2: Coach Ulcer paces the sidelines. Starting at the 10 yd line (**A**), he moves to

the 40 yd line (B), back to the 0 yd line (C) and finally to the 30 yd line (D) in

100 seconds. Determine his average speed and average velocity.

Your Turn: Coach Ulcer paces the sidelines. Starting at the 30 yd line (A), he moves to

the 10 yd line (B), back to the 50 yd line (C) and finally to the 20 yd line (D)

in 200 seconds. Determine his average speed and average velocity.