

**MTH 3311 – Test #2 - Part #2 - Solutions**  
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**Directions: Show CLEARLY how you arrive at your answers.**

1. The force of water resistance acting on a boat is proportional to its instantaneous velocity, and is such that at  $30 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}}$  the water resistance is 60 lb. If the boat and passenger combined weigh 480 lb, and if the motor exerts a steady force of 90 lb in the direction of the motion:
- (a) Find the velocity at any time  $t \geq 0$ , assuming that the boat starts from rest.
  - (b) Find the limiting velocity

First, we establish our conventions regarding direction:

Positive Direction  $\rightarrow$

We will start our stopwatch at  $t = 0$  sec., and assume that  $v(0 \text{ sec}) = \frac{0 \text{ ft}}{\text{sec}}$  (Because “the boat starts from rest”)

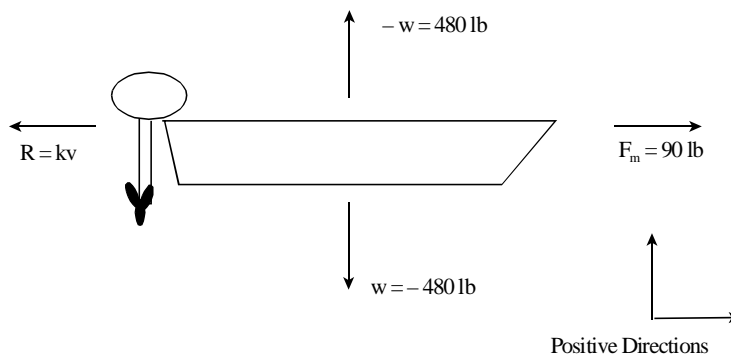
Let  $R$  be the water resistance.

Let  $F_m$  = Force exerted by the motor

Let  $w$  be the combined weight of the boat and the passenger.

Observe that the water exerts a buoyant force equal to  $-w$  on the boat (Otherwise, the boat would sink!)

We draw a force diagram on the boat



**Also:** “water resistance . . . is proportional to its instantaneous velocity” i.e.  $R \propto v$   
 $\Rightarrow R = kv$ ; where  $k$  is the constant of proportionality.

For “future reference,” we will find the constant of proportionality right now.

**Recall:** When  $v = 30 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}}$ ;  $R = -60 \text{ lb}$  (Because “at a velocity of  $30 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}}$ ; the water resistance is 60 lb”)

**Also:**  $R = kv$

$$\Rightarrow -60 \text{ lb} = k \left( 30 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{-60 \text{ lb}}{30 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}}} = -2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}$$

i.e.,  $k = -2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}$  (for “future reference”)

**Next:** We analyze the forces acting on the boat. From the Force Diagram:

- 1) The sum of the vertical forces is 0 lb.
- 2) The sum of the horizontal forces is  $R + F_m$

Letting  $F$  be the total force acting on the boat, we have:  $F = R + F_m$

**Remark:** To allow ourselves to model this relationship as a differential equation, we will employ a **standard trick**:

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**Note well:** We set  $F$  (the sum of all forces on the object) equal to  $ma$

$$\underbrace{\text{Sum of all forces}}_F = \underbrace{ma}_F$$

This is a standard approach for velocity exercises.

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Our “Standard Trick” yields the equation  $\underbrace{R + F_m}_{\substack{\text{Sum of all} \\ \text{Forces}}} = \underbrace{ma}_F$  (Eq. 1)

**Recall:** acceleration is the derivative of velocity. (i.e.,  $a = \frac{dv}{dt}$ )

Thus, Eq. 1 becomes:

$$\underbrace{kv + 90 \text{ lb}}_{R+F_m} = m \frac{dv}{dt}$$

This is a differential equation in  $v$  that we can solve.

$$\begin{aligned} -m \frac{dv}{dt} + kv &= -90 \text{ lb} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dv}{dt} + \underbrace{\left(-\frac{k}{m}\right)}_{P(t)} v &= \underbrace{\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{m}}_{Q(t)} \end{aligned}$$

Our “integrating factor” is  $e^{\int P(t)dt} = e^{\int \left(-\frac{k}{m}\right)dt} = e^{-\frac{k}{m}t}$

Multiplying both sides by the integrating factor, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} \frac{dv}{dt} + \left(-\frac{k}{m}\right) e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} v &= \frac{90 \text{ lb}}{m} e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left[ e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} v \right] &= \frac{90 \text{ lb}}{m} e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} \\ \Rightarrow \int \frac{d}{dt} \left[ e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} v \right] dt &= \int \frac{90 \text{ lb}}{m} e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} dt \\ \Rightarrow e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} v &= \frac{90 \text{ lb}}{m} \left( -\frac{m}{k} e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} \right) + C = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} + C \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{i.e. } e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} v = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} e^{-\frac{k}{m}t} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow v = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} + e^{\frac{k}{m}t} C$$

$$\text{i.e., } v = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} + C e^{\frac{k}{m}t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Recall: } v(0 \text{ sec}) = 0 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} \quad (\text{Because “the boat starts from rest.”})$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} = v(0 \text{ sec}) = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} + C e^{\frac{k}{m}(0 \text{ sec})} = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{i.e. } 0 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{i.e. } C = \frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow v = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} + \frac{90 \text{ lb}}{k} e^{\frac{k}{m}t}$$

**Recall Also:**  $k = -2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}$

$$\text{Thus, } v = -\frac{90 \text{ lb}}{\left(-2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}\right)} + \frac{90 \text{ lb}}{\left(-2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}\right)} e^{\frac{\left(-2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}\right)}{m} t} = 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} - 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} e^{\frac{\left(-2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}\right)}{m} t}$$

$$\text{i.e., } v = 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} - 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} e^{\frac{\left(-2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}\right)}{m} t}$$

All we need to do now is find the value of  $m$ .

**Recall:**  $w = mg$  (Where  $w$  is the weight of the object, and  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity. i.e.,  $g = -\frac{32 \text{ ft}}{\text{sec}^2}$ )

$$\Rightarrow m = \frac{w}{g} = \frac{-480 \text{ lb}}{\left(-\frac{32 \text{ ft}}{\text{sec}^2}\right)} = 15 \frac{\text{lb sec}^2}{\text{ft}}$$

$$\text{i.e., } m = 15 \frac{\text{lb sec}^2}{\text{ft}}$$

$$\text{Hence, } v = 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} - 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} e^{\left(\frac{-2 \frac{\text{lb sec}}{\text{ft}}}{\left(15 \frac{\text{lb sec}^2}{\text{ft}}\right)}\right)t} = 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} - 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} e^{-\frac{2}{15 \text{ sec}}t}$$

$$\text{i.e., } v = 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} - 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} e^{-\frac{2}{15 \text{ sec}}t}$$

To find the “limiting velocity,” we let  $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} v = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} - 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} e^{-\frac{2}{15 \text{ sec}}t}\right) = 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$\text{i.e., Limiting Velocity} = 45 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}}$$