PRINT Your Name:

Quiz 1, Fall, 2012

The quiz is worth 5 points. **Remove EVERYTHING from your desk except** this quiz and a pen or pencil. SHOW your work. Express your work in a neat and coherent manner. BOX your answer.

On planet Gzyx, a ball dropped from a height of 20 ft hits the ground in 2 seconds. If a ball is dropped from the top of a 200-ft-tall building on Gzyx, how long will it take to hit the ground? With what speed will it hit?

ANSWER: Let x(t) be the height of the ball above the ground at time t. Measure t in seconds and x in feet. We assume that x''(t) = -k for some positive constant k. For the first event, we have x(0) = 20, x'(0) = 0, and x(2) = 0. For the second event, we have x(0) = 200 and x'(0) = 0. We want to find t_1 with $x(t_1) = 0$. We also want to find $x'(t_1)$.

We first think about the first event. Integrate to learn $x'(t) = -kt + C_1$. Plug in x'(0) = 0 to learn that $C_1 = 0$. Integrate again to learn $x(t) = -kt^2/2 + C_2$. Plug in x(0) = 20 to learn $C_2 = 20$. So, $x(t) = -kt^2/2 + 20$. Plug in x(2) = 0to learn k = 10.

Now turn to the second event. Integrate twice and evaluate the constants to learn that x'(t) = -kt and $x(t) = -kt^2/2 + 200$; with k = 10; so, $x(t) = -5t^2 + 200$. Solve $0 = x(t_1) = -5t^2 + 200$ to learn that $t_1 = \sqrt{40} = 2\sqrt{10}$ and $x'(t_1) = -10t_1 = -20\sqrt{10}$.

It takes the second ball $2\sqrt{10}$ seconds to hit the ground. The ball is traveling downward at the speed $20\sqrt{10}$ feet per second when it hits the ground.