

Relative Motion Problems

1. The pilot of a plane points her airplane due South and flies with an airspeed of 100 m/s. However, there is a steady wind blowing due West with a constant speed of 40 m/s.
 - a. What is the resultant velocity of the airplane? (This would be the plane's velocity with respect to the ground.)

 - b. After one hour, where is the airplane in relation to its starting point?

 - c. If the pilot wanted the plane to fly due south with respect to the ground, in what direction should she point the plane? (Assume the speed of the plane with respect to the air is still 100 m/s.)

 - d. Using your answer from part c, how fast is the plane moving with respect to the ground?

2. A plane has a velocity of 80 m/s at an angle of 30° (North of East) with respect to the ground. The plane is flying in a wind with a velocity of 35 m/s NW with respect to the ground. What is the velocity of the plane with respect to the air?

3. A swimmer can swim with a speed of 5 m/s in a pool; that is her speed with respect to the water. This same swimmer is now at a river, which has a current flowing to the East with a constant speed of 3 m/s (that is the velocity of the water with respect to the ground.) Assuming her water speed is always 5 m/s,
 - a. What would be her resultant velocity if she tries to swim due east, with the current? (This would be her velocity relative to someone on the riverbank waiting for her.)

 - b. What would be her resultant velocity if she tries to swim due West, against the current?

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- c. What would be her resultant velocity if she points herself due North, straight across the river?
- d. If the river is 30 meters wide, how long will it take her to reach the other side of the river, if she points herself due North?
- e. How far down stream will she be?
- f. In what direction must she point herself so that her resultant velocity is due North, straight across the river?
- g. How fast is she going with this velocity (from part f)?
- h. If the river is 30 meters wide, how long will it take her to cross the river (from part f)?
- i. What must she do if she wanted to cross the river in the *least* amount of time? What is that time?

Answers:

1. a) $-40\mathbf{i} - 100\mathbf{j}$ m/s (or 108 m/s @ 21.8° W of S) b) $-144\mathbf{i} - 360\mathbf{j}$ km c) 23.6° E of S (or -66.4°)
 d) 91.7 m/s 2) $94\mathbf{i} + 15\mathbf{j}$ m/s 3. a) 8i m/s b) $-2\mathbf{i}$ m/s c) $3\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}$ m/s d) 6 s e) 18 m
 f) 36.9° W of N (or 126.9°) g) 4 m/s h) 7.5 s i) part c! so 6 seconds