

# Speed & Velocity



# Instantaneous Speed

- Measure of how fast an object is traveling at a given instant
- Example: radar guns, speedometers



# Average Speed

- A measure of how fast an object travels over time
  - distance traveled
  - and the time for the trip

Speed = Distance/Time

$$S = \frac{d}{t}$$

# Units

- Units for speed

$$\frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{time}}$$

- Examples: mi/hr      m/s

# Scalar

- A measure that has magnitude (size) only
- Example: distance (10 m), speed (60 mph), time (5 s)
- Speed is Scalar



# Velocity

- A measure of how fast an object is traveling and in which direction it is moving
- Velocity is based on the **displacement of an object.**



$$\bar{v} = \frac{d}{t}$$

# Vector

- A measurement that has magnitude and direction
- Example: 29 mph North
- Velocity is Vector

# Displacement

- A measure of how far an object is from where it started and in which direction
- Example: 2 meters to left

$\vec{d}$

- displacement is a vector and has direction



# Using Signs with Vector Quantities

- Information about direction is given with the signs of the numbers
  - (+) & (-)
  - Example: North is “positive” (+)  
South is “negative” (-)  
right (+) and left (-)