Relative Motion

3.4

Objectives

- **Describe** situations in terms of frame of reference.
- Solve problems involving relative velocity.

Frames of Reference

- If you are moving at 80 km/h north and a car passes you going 90 km/h, to you the faster car seems to be moving north at 10 km/h.
- Someone standing on the side of the road would measure the velocity of the faster car as 90 km/h toward the north.
- This simple example demonstrates that velocity measurements depend on the frame of reference of the observer.

Frames of Reference

Consider a stunt dummy dropped from a plane.

- (a) When viewed from the plane, the stunt dummy falls straight down.
- (b) When viewed from a stationary position on the ground, the stunt dummy follows a parabolic projectile path.

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Other Videos

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