

2.1 Units

At some point, maybe I'll provide some technical information here. But it may not be necessary. What I wish to stress is that units should be carried along with numbers on every step of a problem:

- A number is meaningless without it – check out the reason that the \$125 million Mars Rover burned up in the Martian atmosphere.
- Carrying units and canceling them will prevent you from making computational errors, because you'll notice that the units came out wrong and you'll go back to find out what the problem is.
- Carrying units will help you learn physics, because you'll be reviewing the relationships in the cancelling.

You may find this to be annoying, but only the first 50 or so times you do it. Then it will become automatic and much faster. There's an easy way to reduce the amount of work this requires: don't substitute numbers (and units) in until the very end of a computation.

(PS) Lastly, you'll have to carry units all the way through a problem in order to receive an "A" on exams.