F=MA LAB

Purpose:

To find the difference between cart acceleration and velocity between 6 different trials. Each varying either incline, weight or fan speed.

Background:

Fan powered carts were launched down a ramp with varying weights on top, to see the effects of mass on acceleration.

<u>Materials:</u>

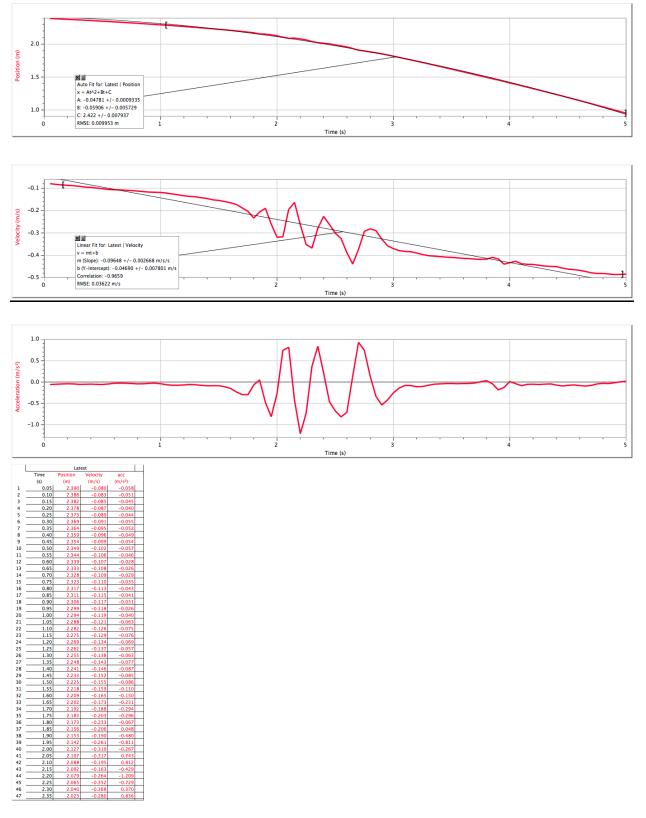
- 1 Sonic ranger
- 1 Computer
- Logger pro
- 1 Fan cart
- 1 Weight
- 1 Ramp
- 1 Sail

<u>Procedure:</u>

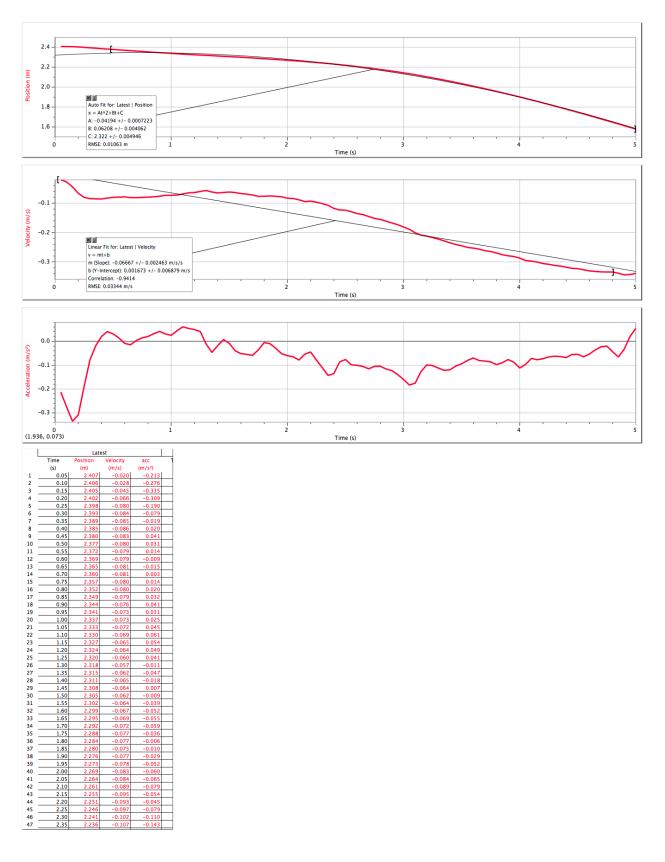
- 1. Set cart on flat ramp
- 2. Start sonic ranger through logger pro
- 3. Toggle low fan speed
- 4. Record
- 5. Repeat steps 2 and 4 while substituting 3 for 6, 7 and 8
- 6. High fan speed
- 7. Low fan speed with weight
- 8. High fan speed with weight
- 9. Set ramp on slight incline
- 10. Start sonic ranger through logger pro
- 11. Release cart with fan off and no weight
- 12. Record
- 13. Set ramp on greater incline
- 14. Repeat steps 10-12
- 15. Write report

<u>Data:</u>

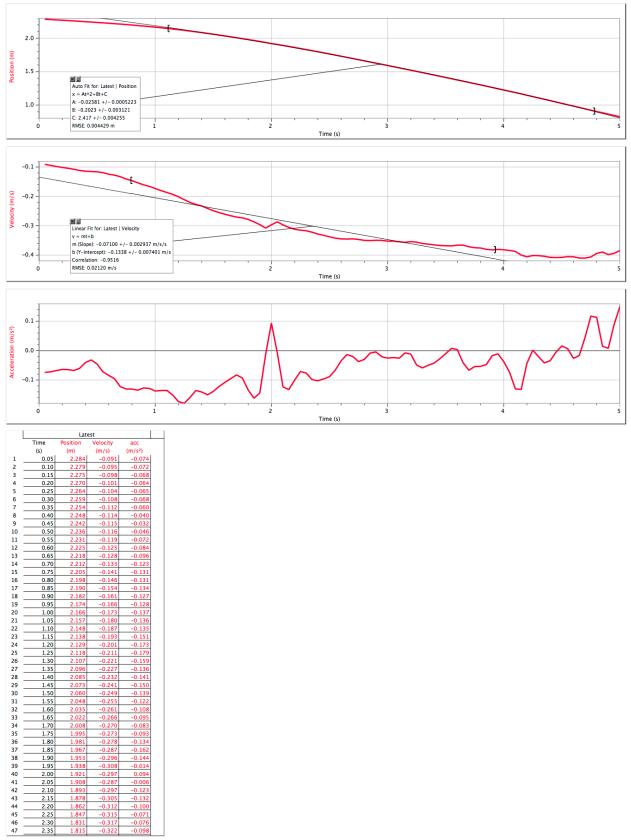
Low speed, no weight:



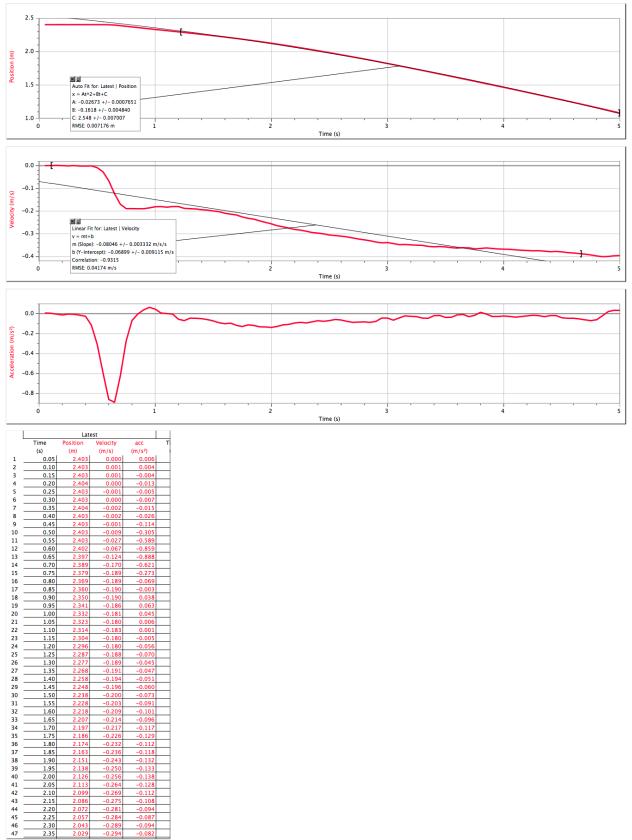
Low speed, with weight:



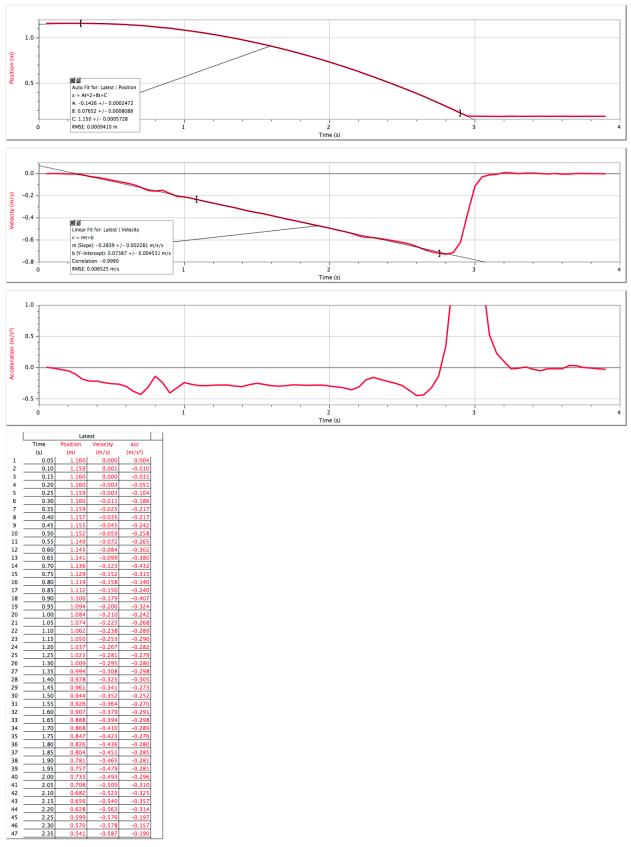
High speed, no weight:



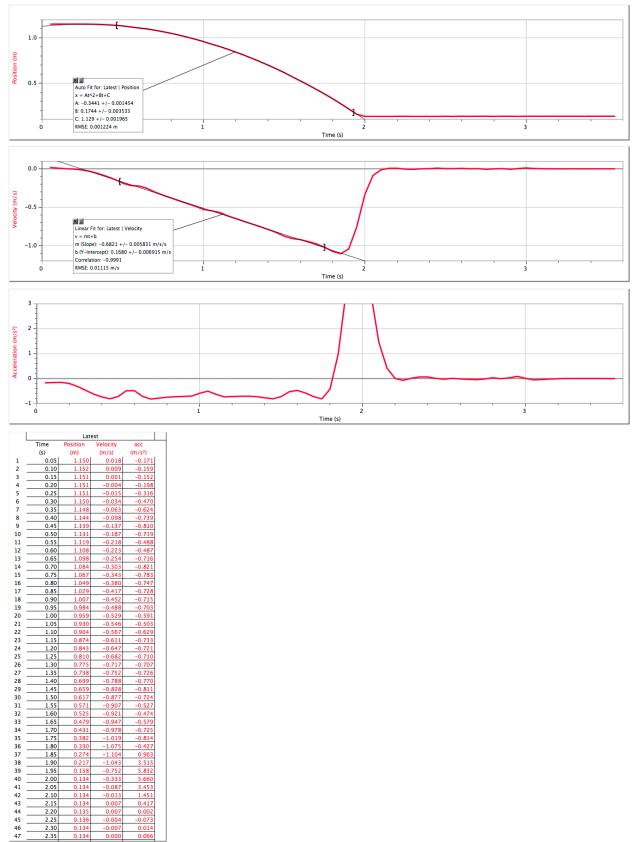
High speed, with weight:



Low incline 6cm:



High incline 11cm:



Observations:

I found that there was a notable difference in acceleration due to mass for the fan carts and the lab also proved to me the obvious that objects naturally accelerate quicker down a steeper slope.

<u>Analysis:</u>

The data we gathered I believe is fairly accurate due to the sensitivity of the sonic rangers, however the low speed no weight graph was extremely flawed due to interference between the cart and the ranger.

If the lab was preformed again he main thing I would change was the control, making sure the rangers path to the cart was always clear and gathering more accurate data about cart weight, ramp slope and such other variables between trials.

Conclusion:

This lab succeeded in graphically showing the differences and relationships between cart acceleration, mass and velocity, across various slopes.

1. How was the acceleration of the inclined cart related to g? How should it be related? -The cart accelerated in relation to g and the friction acting against it on the ramp, it accelerated in accordance to g because no force was applied to start the cart rolling.

- If you allowed the ramp to bounce, what would the v/t graph look like and why?
 It would not change unless the ramp did actually bounce during a trial at which point the cart would likely get throw off the tracks thus preventing data collection.
- 4. If the fan cart had another identical cart hooked to it, what would this do to the three curves: x/t v/t a/t?

-It would make the a/t graph be slower but end at a higher value, thus also putting the v/t data set into a higher numerical range.