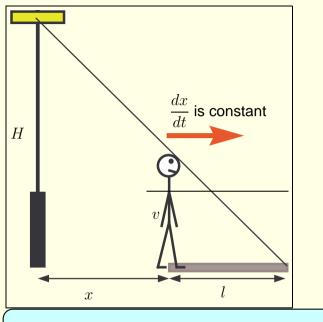
## The Derivative as the Rate of Change

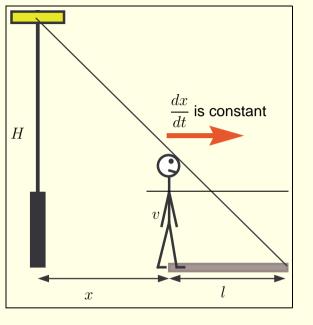
Robert Mařík

January 15, 2006





- A man is walking at a constant speed, as on the picture.
- What is the rate of change of his shadow?
- Is the rate smaller when the shadow is small or when the shadow is large?

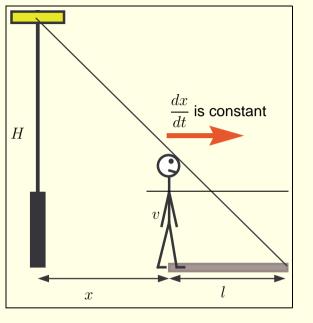


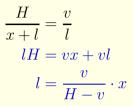
$$\frac{H}{x+l} = \frac{v}{l}$$

We find relation between x, v, H and l from similar triangles.



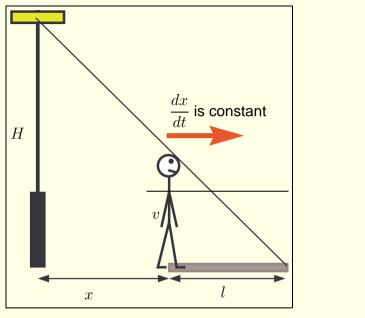
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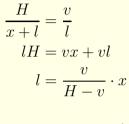


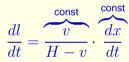


We find the length l of the shadow as a function of the distance x between the man and the lamp.

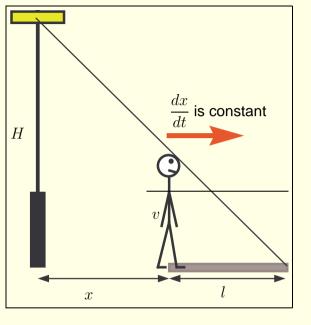




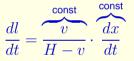




We find the rate of the change  $\frac{dl}{dt}$  of the shadow as a function of the known speed of walk  $\frac{dx}{dt}$ .



$$\frac{H}{x+l} = \frac{v}{l}$$
$$lH = vx + vl$$
$$l = \frac{v}{H-v} \cdot x$$



The rate of the growth of the shadow is constant neglecting its length.



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