

Free Physics Toolbox sensor apps for experimentation: Turn your mobile device into a laboratory

Rebecca Vieyra

Physics Teacher, K-12 Program Manager at the AAPT

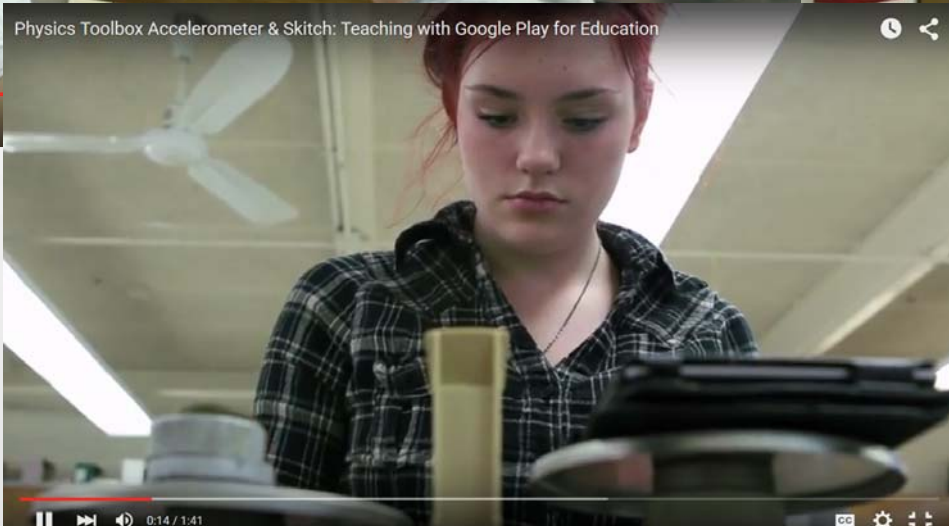
Chrystian Vieyra

Software developer, Vieyra Software

Physics Toolbox Accelerometer & Skitch: Teaching with Google Play for Education



Teaching with Google Play for Education



Physics Toolbox Accelerometer & Skitch: Teaching with Google Play for Education



What can your mobile device do?

What can your mobile device do?



What can your mobile device do?



What can your mobile device do?







Analyzing Forces on Amusement Park Rides with Mobile Devices

Rebecca E. Vieyra, Cary-Grove High School, Cary, IL
Chrystian Vieyra, Vieyra Software, Crystal Lake, IL

Mobile device accelerometers are a simple and easy way for students to collect accurate and detailed data on an amusement park ride. The resulting data can be graphed to assist in the creation of force diagrams to help students explain their physical sensations while on the ride. This type of activity can help students overcome some of the conceptual difficulties often associated with understanding centripetal force and typical “elevator-type problems” that are inherent in so many amusement park rides that move, lift, and drop riders. This article provides some sample data and examples from a visit to Six Flags Great America.

Recent contributions to *The Physics Teacher* have been

concerning the use of cellphones,¹⁻³ using controllers⁶⁻⁸ to directly measure acceleration, and relatively few articles have addressed measuring g -forces as a way for students to create force diagrams.

At Cary-Grove High School annually students go to an amusement park for a physics of thrill rides. Students in the class are asked to analyze linear acceleration, centripetal force, and energy transformations as part of a comprehensive end-of-year project—the project de-

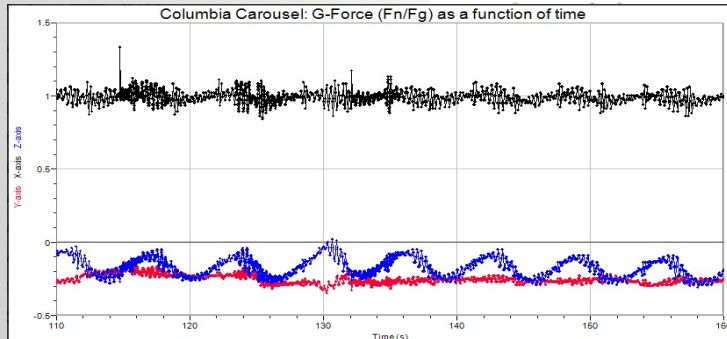
scription if not addressed carefully.) The expression for g -force can be derived as follows from a linearly accelerating system on a flat surface (such as a rider in contact with a seat), where $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$, m is mass, and a is acceleration, and from Newton's second law of motion (where $F_{\text{net}} = F_N - F_g$):

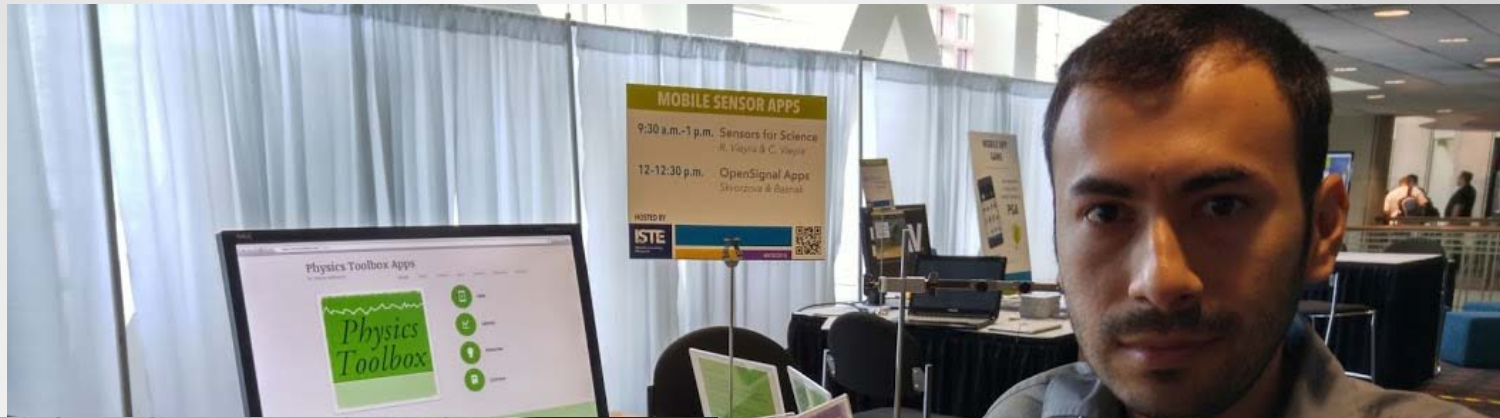
$$F_N - F_g = ma.$$

Rewriting the above equation to solve for F_N , we can divide both sides by F_g to derive what is known as g -force:

$$\frac{F_N}{F_g} = \frac{ma + F_g}{F_g} = \frac{ma + mg}{mg} = \frac{a + g}{g}.$$

This ratio of F_N/F_g shows the dependence of g -force on acceleration of a system, as well as its independence from the system mass. Unlike simple normal force or weight, the g -force is the same for both the rider and the measurement tool, although the rider weighs considerably more.







Mission

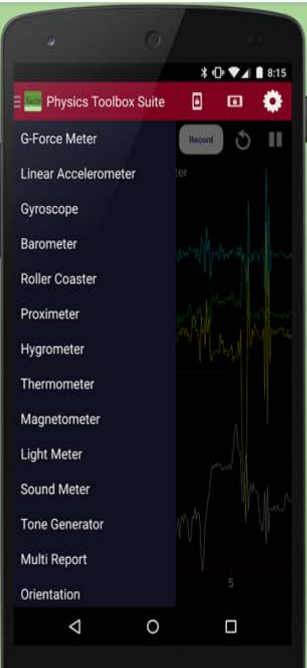


Sfruttare la potenza dei sensori degli smartphone

Migliorare l'educazione scientifica

Facilitare la ricerca e l'uso industriale

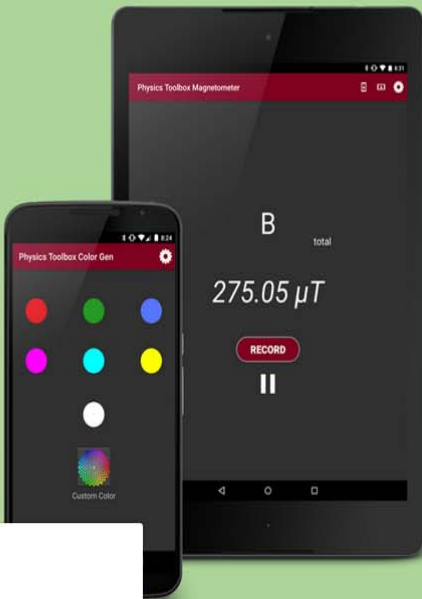
- My apps
- Shop
- Games
- Family
- Parent Guide
- Editors' Choice



Harness the power of mobile sensors.

Enhance science education.

Facilitate research and industrial use.



Vieyra Software

Vieyra Software aims to make data collection accessible to anyone who owns a modern Android device.

Featured

Physics Toolbox Suite

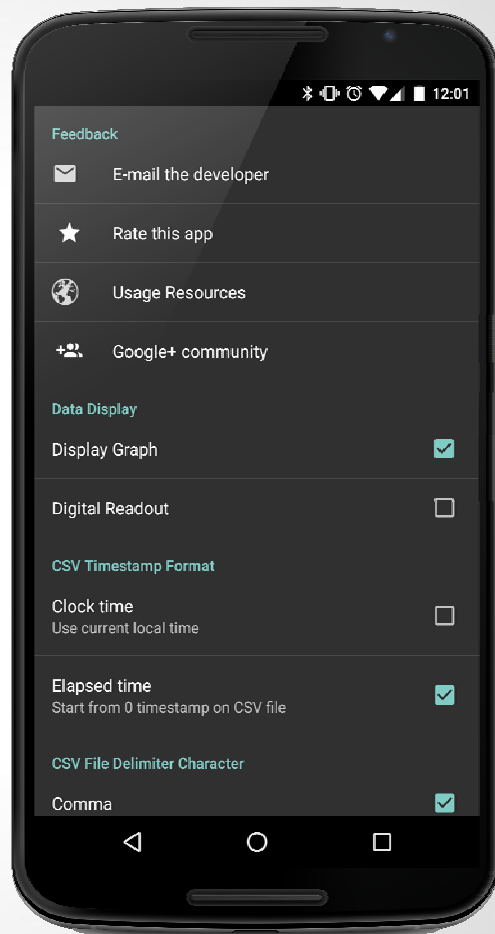
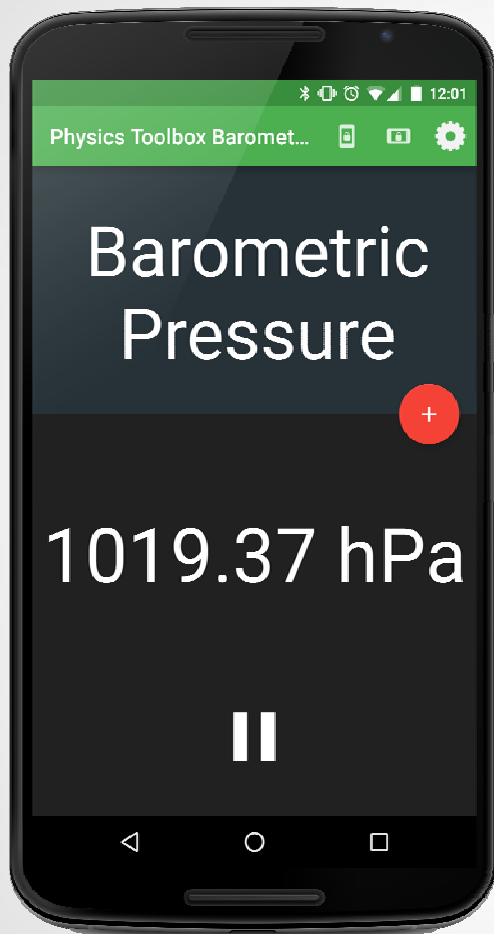
Physics Toolbox Suite

★★★★★

Useful for education, academia, and industry, this app uses device sensor inputs to collect, record, and export data in comma separated value (csv) format

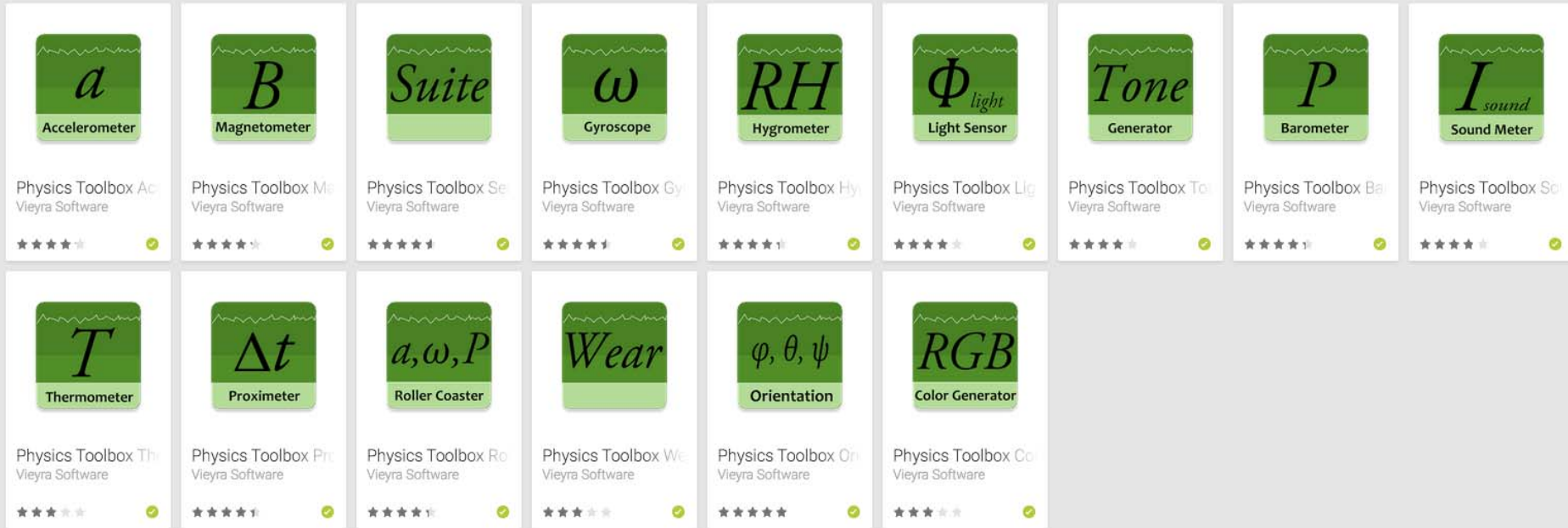
Physics Toolbox Magnetometer





Physics Toolbox Apps - Android

Apps



Physics Toolbox Apps - iOS

iPhone Apps

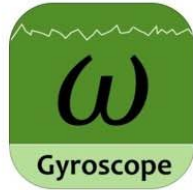
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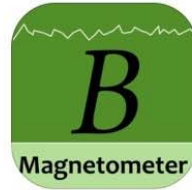
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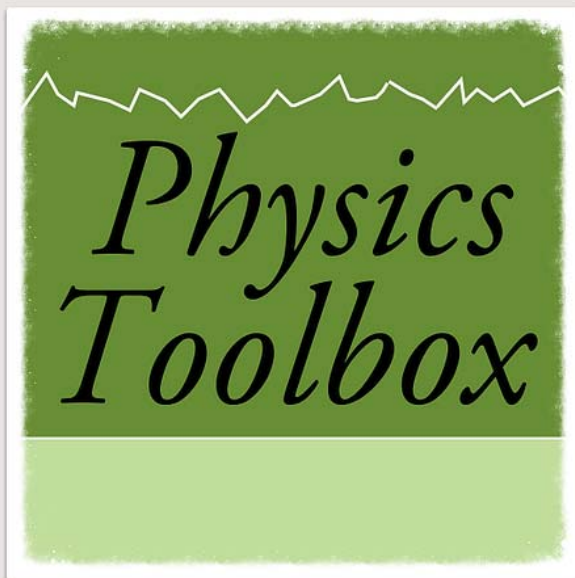
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Vieyra Software is a member of:
[Google Developers Launchpad](#)
[Microsoft BizSpark](#)

www.vieyrasoftware.net



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Mobile Sensor Apps for Learning

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Lessons

Click on the lessons below to learn about some ideas for using these apps for teaching introductory physics.

"Identifying Gait Metrics"



Teach Engineering (External Citation)

App: Physics Toolbox Accelerometer

Topics: Kinematics, Biomechanics

Additional Materials: none

Students use an accelerometer attached to the lower back of each subject and compare dynamicity, gait, metrics, symmetry, and variability. Students make comparisons between characteristics of gait between subjects of different heights. Video analysis can be used to compare data to visual observations.

Lesson Plan

Additional Resources:

[Four Questions Visual Aid](#)

[Identifying Gait Metrics Activity Assessment](#)

[Identifying Gait Metrics Activity Assessment Answer Key](#)

"Measuring the World Around Us"



Smartphones in Science Teaching: iStage2 (External Citation)

Apps: Physics Toolbox Orientation, Physics Toolbox Barometer

Topics: Measurement, Pressure

Additional Materials: meter stick

Students estimate the height of various objects using meter sticks, perspective, inclinometers, and barometers. Students must decide which tool is most appropriate for the job.

Identificare il modo di camminare

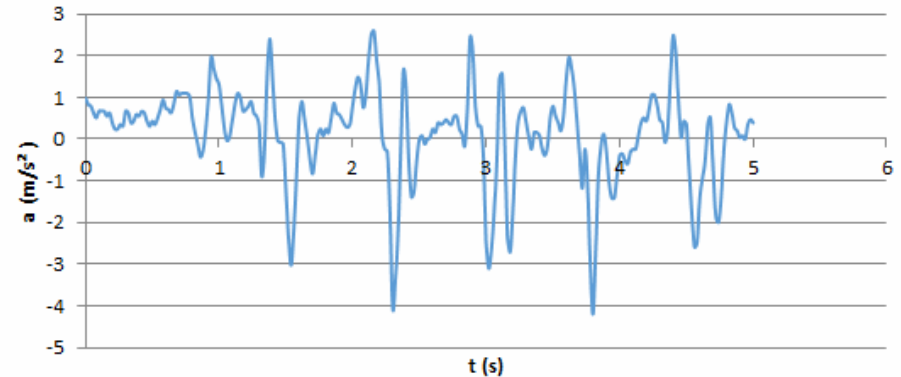
Dove mettere il sensore?

Come si confronta la camminata degli studenti bassi e alti?

Possiamo prevedere l'altezza degli studenti?



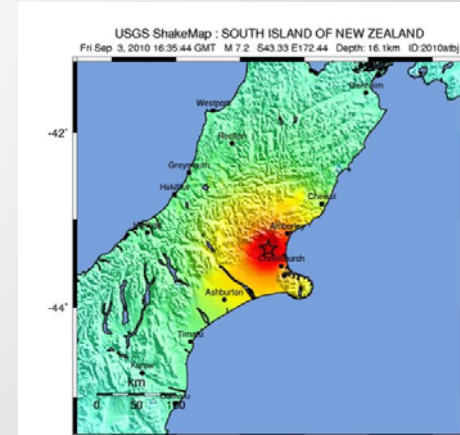
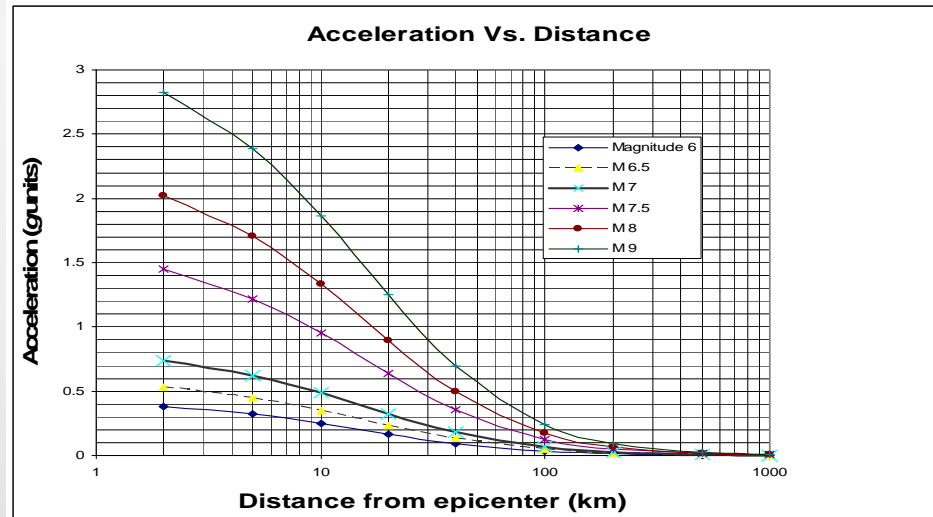
Acceleration vs. Time



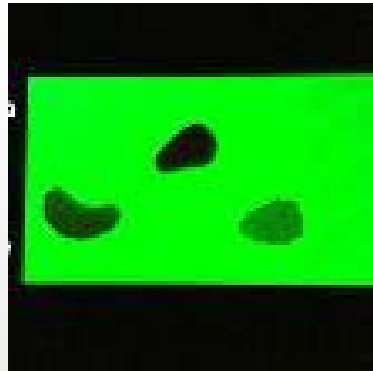
Prevedere la forza di un terremoto

Da dove provengono i terremoti?

Come si misura la forza?



Non dobbiamo ignorare i generatori...





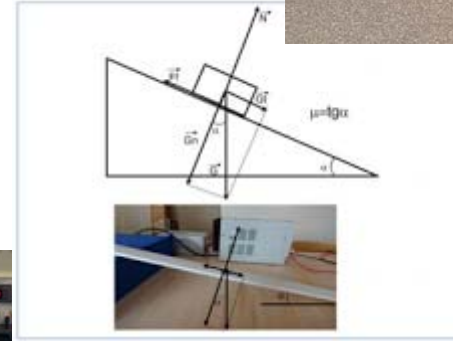
Comunità di Google+



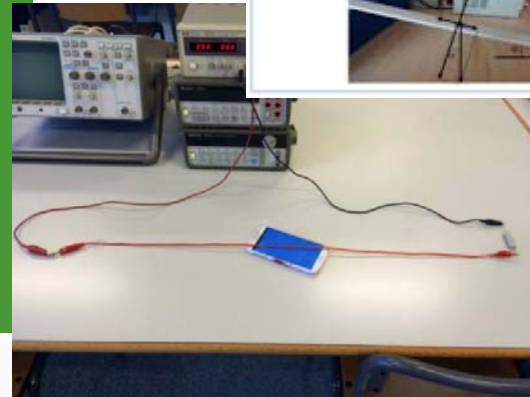
Mobile Sensor Apps for Learning

A community for sharing Android sensor apps and ideas for education, research, and industry, using phones, tablets, GGlass, and Android wear

[View community](#)



http://www.rrp.infim.ro/2014_66_4/A30.pdf



<http://ocs.editorial.upv.es/index.php/HEAD/HEAD15/paper/viewFile/332/211>

Comunità di MPTL

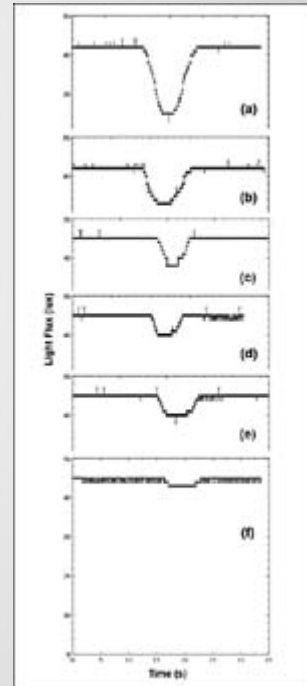
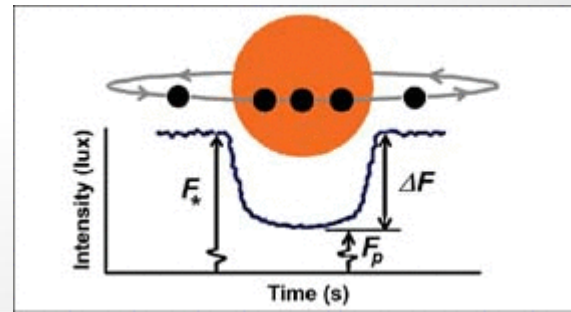
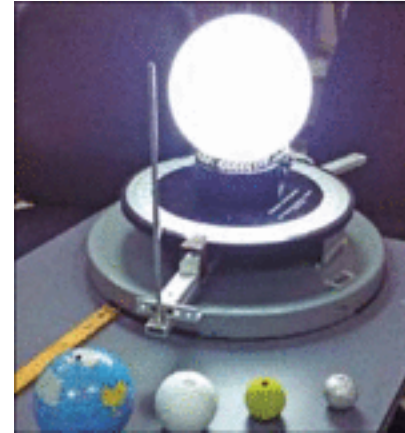
Multimedia in Physics Teaching and Learning



Analyzing Planetary Transits with a Smartphone

Azael Barrera-Garrido

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1119/1.4908091>



The Atwood Machine Revisited with a Smartphone

Martin Monteiro, Cecili Stari, Cecilia
Cabeza, Arturo Marti.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1119/1.4928357>



Si prega di condividere le vostre idee con noi!

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Twitter: [@PhysicsToolbox](https://twitter.com/PhysicsToolbox)

G+ Community: [Mobile Sensor Apps for Learning](https://plus.google.com/+MobileSensorAppsforLearning)

Site: www.vieyrasoftware.net

Google Play: [Vieyra Software](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vieyra)

