

<p>Step 5. Write the net force equations</p> <p>Write the net force equation in the form $F_{net} = \text{Sum of Forces}$, where you replace <i>Sum of Forces</i> with the algebraic sum of the force magnitudes. (Use force symbols only at this point.) Algebraic sum means that you need to precede the force magnitude with either a plus or minus sign depending on the direction of the force.</p>	
<p>Step 6. Apply Newton's 2nd Law.</p> <p>This means to substitute ma for F_{net}.</p>	
<p>Step 7. Solve algebraically for the unknown.</p> <p>Do this in symbols first. You'll end up with the unknown on the left side of the equal sign and an expression that includes givens on the right-hand side.</p>	
<p>Step 8. Substitute values and units and reduce to obtain the value of the unknown.</p>	
<p>Step 9. Check your answer.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Units</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sign</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sense</p>	