## **Gravitational Acceleration along Inclined Plane**



# Theory

	Definition	Unit
Mass m	The "amount" of matter	Kilogram (kg)
Acceleration a	Rate of velocity change of object over time	Meter per second square (ms <sup>-2</sup> )
Velocity v	Rate of displacement change of object over time	Meter per second (ms <sup>-1</sup> )
Displacement d	End-to-end distance of motion of object	Meter (m)

The acceleration due to gravity on Earth is  $g = 9.81 \text{ms}^{-2}$ . According to the vector characteristics of acceleration and force, the transversal and lateral components of acceleration and force can be broken down by simple geometry, shown as the diagram above.

#### Activities

Measure the mass m of phone and cart as well as the inclination of plane  $\theta$ . Launch "Accelerometer" in "AP-Sensor" app. Fix the phone on the cart, press "Start" and slide the cart from the top of the inclined plane. Reveal the relation between the inclination  $\theta$  and the acceleration measured by the app. Repeat the experiment with different inclination of plane  $\theta$ .

#### **Experimental Result**

**Inclined Plane Experiment** 

Mass of phone and cart m =kg		
Inclination of Plane $ heta$ (°)	Theoretical Acceleration g sin $\theta$	<b>Experimental Acceleration</b>

## Discussion

- 1. The accelerometer can measurement acceleration in 3 axes. Can you find the x-, y- and z-axis of the phone and their positive directions when it is randomly moved?
- 2. What is the discrepancy between the experimental results of the inclined plane experiment and its theoretical expectation?