

Notes for Free Body Diagram Worksheet

Why do you need to split forces into parts? We want all forces to be at right angles or directly across from each other to make solving the problems easier.

Question to ask when splitting up the forces:

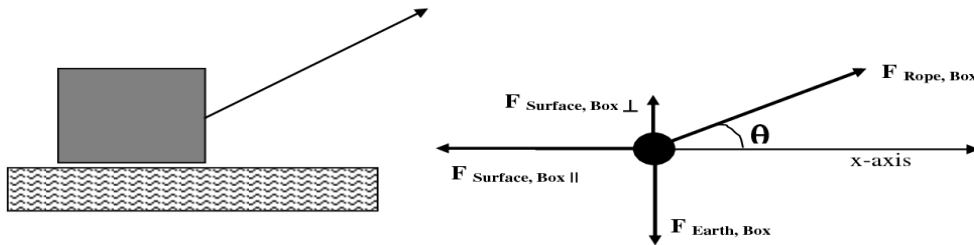
Is the object on a hillside / inclined plane?

YES ➡ Split the Force of the Earth ($F_{\text{Earth, object}}$) into two parts. Use parallel \parallel and perpendicular \perp symbols at the end of the Force, ($F_{\text{Earth, object } \perp}$).

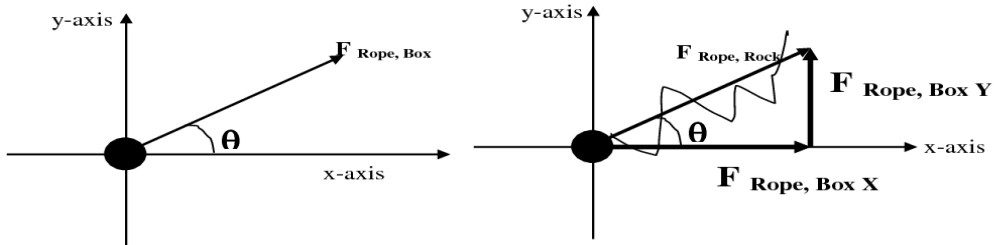
NO ➡ Split up any force not on an X or Y axis line, in other words split any force not on a right angle or opposite of the $F_{\text{Earth, object}}$.

Here are a couple of examples of how to divide forces at an angle up in to parts.

A box is pulled across the floor at a constant speed (No acceleration = all Forces will cancel out.)



The Force of the rope on the box ($F_{\text{Rope, Box}}$) at the angle can be split up in to two parts, a horizontal and a vertical component. We do this to so we can show why there is no acceleration.



Another way of showing the parts that make up the $F_{\text{Rope, Box}}$ is to draw the X and Y forces like I have below. Then cross out the Force you split into parts ($F_{\text{Rope, Box}}$).