

**Work** is **force** times **distance**:  $W = Fd$ .

- $F$  could be measured in **lb** and  $d$  in **ft**. Then  $W$  is conveniently measured in **ft-lb**.
- The SI units for  $F$  are  $N$  (newton), for  $d$  they are **m** (meter), and  $W$  is measured in **Nm** (newtonmeter) or **joule**. ( $1 \text{ Nm} = 1 \text{ joule}$ )

**Example 51.** Suppose we wish to lift a **100 lb** piano from the ground to the top of a **20 ft** building (for instance, by standing on the roof and pulling it up using a rope). The work required for that is

$$\text{work} = (100 \text{ lb})(20 \text{ ft}) = 2000 \text{ ft-lb}.$$

This was easy because the force was constant throughout the problem (the piano always weighed **100 lb**). It is when the force varies (as in the next example) that we need our calculus skills and mastery of integrals.

**Example 52.** As before, we wish to lift a **100 lb** piano from the ground to the top of a **20 ft** building. We are doing so by standing on the roof and pulling it up using a rope. However, this time, we are using a rather heavy rope weighing **0.1 lb/ft** and want to take that into account (just pulling up the rope, dangling to the ground, would require some work).

Think about the moment when the piano is  $x$  **ft** off the ground:

- We still need to pull up  $20 - x$  **ft**.  
So, at that moment, the weight (piano plus rope) to be pulled up is

$$100 + 0.1(20 - x)$$

pound.

- Hence, to pull up the piano by a tiny amount of  $dx$  feet, the amount of work needed is (roughly)  $[100 + 0.1(20 - x)]dx$  pound.

[Assuming that  $dx$  is very small, the change in weight is insignificant, so that we can use  $W = Fd$ .]

To get the total amount of work (in **ft-lb**), we need to “add” up these small contributions from  $x = 0$  to  $x = 20$ :

$$\text{work} = \int_0^{20} [100 + 0.1(20 - x)]dx.$$

It only remains to calculate this integral (which is very simple in this case):

$$\text{work} = \int_0^{20} [102 - 0.1x]dx = \left[ 102x - \frac{0.1}{2}x^2 \right]_0^{20} = 2020 \text{ ft-lb}.$$

**Example 53.** We started to discuss the case where we want to “lift” a **1600 kg** satellite from the ground into orbit, **20,000 km** above the surface.

[These are actually typical values for a GPS satellite.]

Why can we not just multiply the weight times the distance to obtain the work?

Because the gravitational force changes significantly when getting far away from earth.

Ingredients:

- mass and radius of earth
- physical law of attraction:  $F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{d^2}$