

Physics/Astronomy Problem Solving Strategy

1. Understanding the Problem

a) Draw the Situation

b) Given Information (i.e., what we know)

c) Goal of Problem (i.e., what we need to know)

d) Approach (identify relations/equations involving known quantities and unknown quantities)

2. Solve the Problem

3. Evaluate/Test Your Result

What should the units be?

Does your result make common sense?