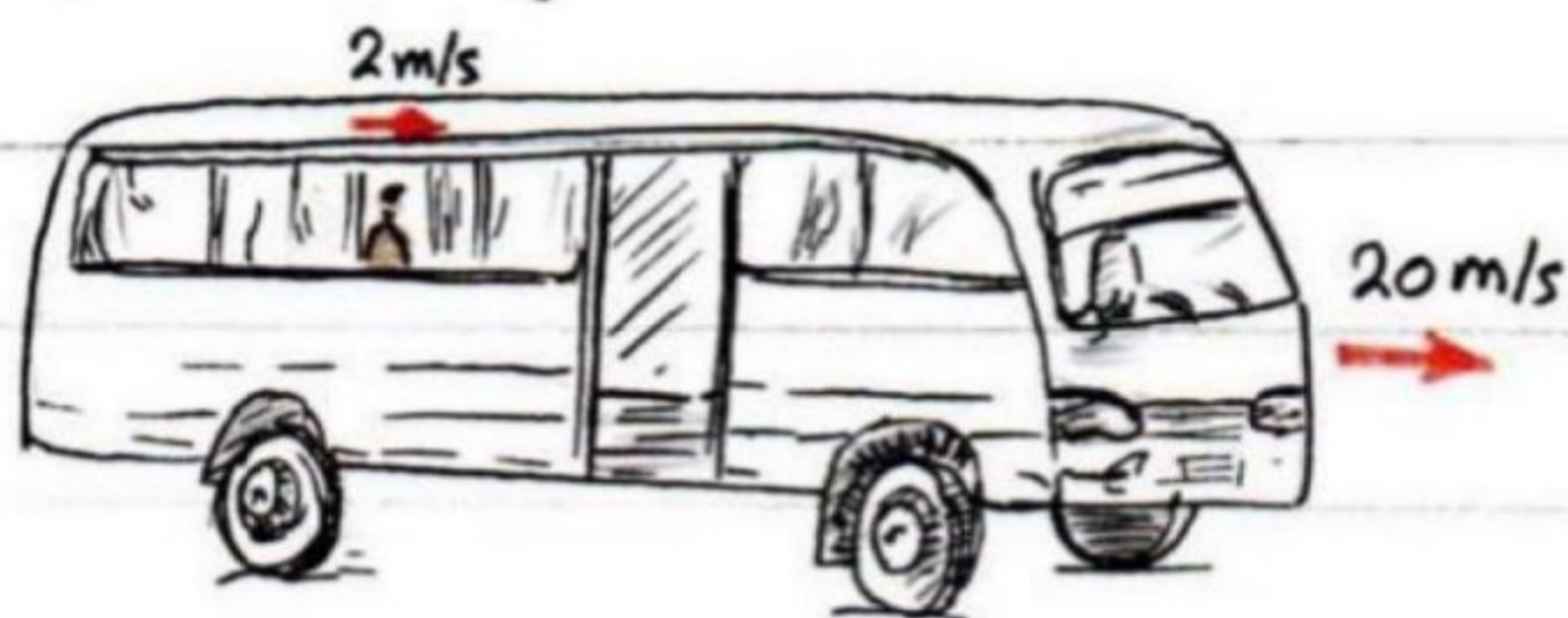


## 2-1 Reference Frames and Displacement:

In this chapter we will be concerned with describing an object that moves along a straight-line path (one dimensional translational motion).

In order to study Kinematics we shall take measurement of position, distance, or speed, and this must be made with respect to a reference frame. (see Figure 2-1).

A person walks toward the front of a bus at 2 m/s. The bus is moving 20 m/s with respect to the ground.

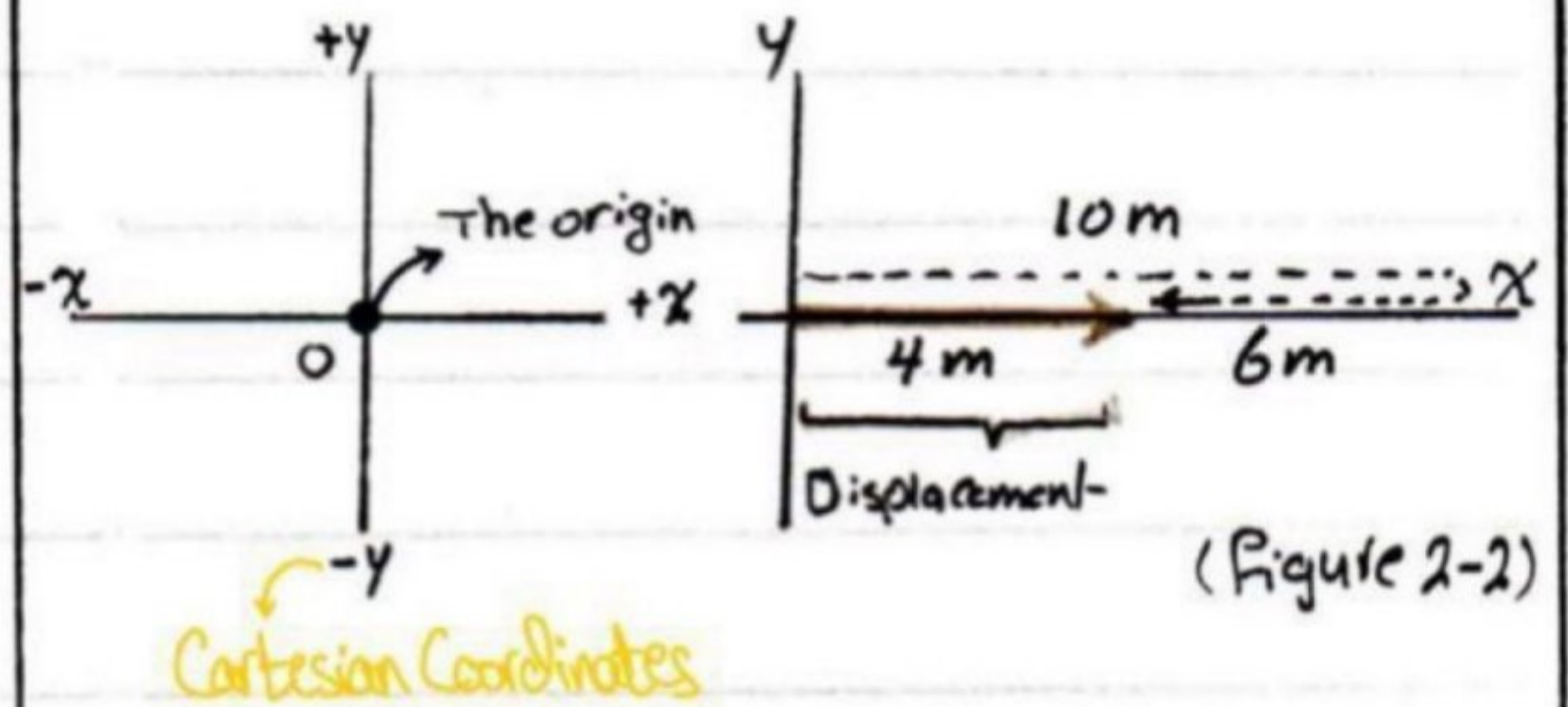


The walking person's speed relative to the ground is: 22 m/s

The walking person's speed relative to the driver is: 2 m/s

\* When describing the motion it is important to specify the direction too. And the act of using the words: up, down, right, or left is not enough, in physics we draw a

set of coordinate axes to represent a frame of reference.



\* We shall make a distinction between the distance and the displacement. To see this, imagine a person walking 10 m to the east and then turning around and walking back (west) a distance of 6 m. The total distance is 16 m.

But the displacement is only 4 m (since the person is only 4 m from the starting point). We call the displacement vector which has both magnitude and direction, and is represented by arrows in diagrams (Fig. 2-2).

**Example (1)**

An ant starts at  $x = 20$  cm and walks along the x axis to  $x = -20$  cm. It then turns around and walks back to  $x = 10$  cm.

Determine (a) The ant's displacement.  
(b) The ant's total distance.

Sol. (a) -30 cm.

(b) 50 cm.



## 2-2 Average Velocity

The term "Speed" refers to how far an object travels in a given time interval, regardless of direction.

The average speed ( $\bar{s}$ ) is the total distance traveled along its path divided by the time.

$$\bar{s} = \frac{d}{\Delta t} \dots 1$$

But "Velocity" refers to how fast an object is moving plus the direction, therefore it's a vector.

$$\bar{v} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} \rightarrow \text{displacement} = x \dots 2$$

\* When does the average speed and average velocity have the same magnitude?

Sol. when the object doesn't change its direction (motion in one direction).

\* Note: - The direction of the average velocity is always the same as the direction of the displacement.

\* Note: - If the velocity is constant, then the speed and the direction is also a constant  $\Rightarrow \bar{v} = \text{instantaneous velocity}$

## 2-4 Acceleration

An object whose velocity is changing is said to be accelerating.

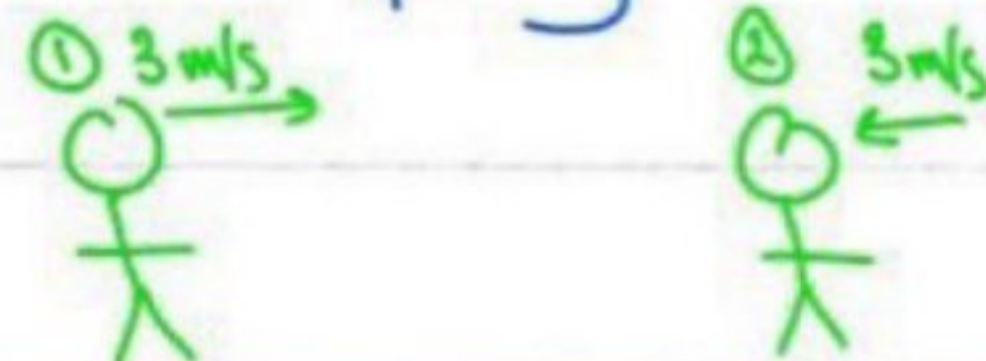
$$\bar{a} = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} \dots 3$$

\* Speed: - has magnitude only

- scalar quantity (like temperature, mass)

\* Velocity: - has magnitude and direction

- vector quantity



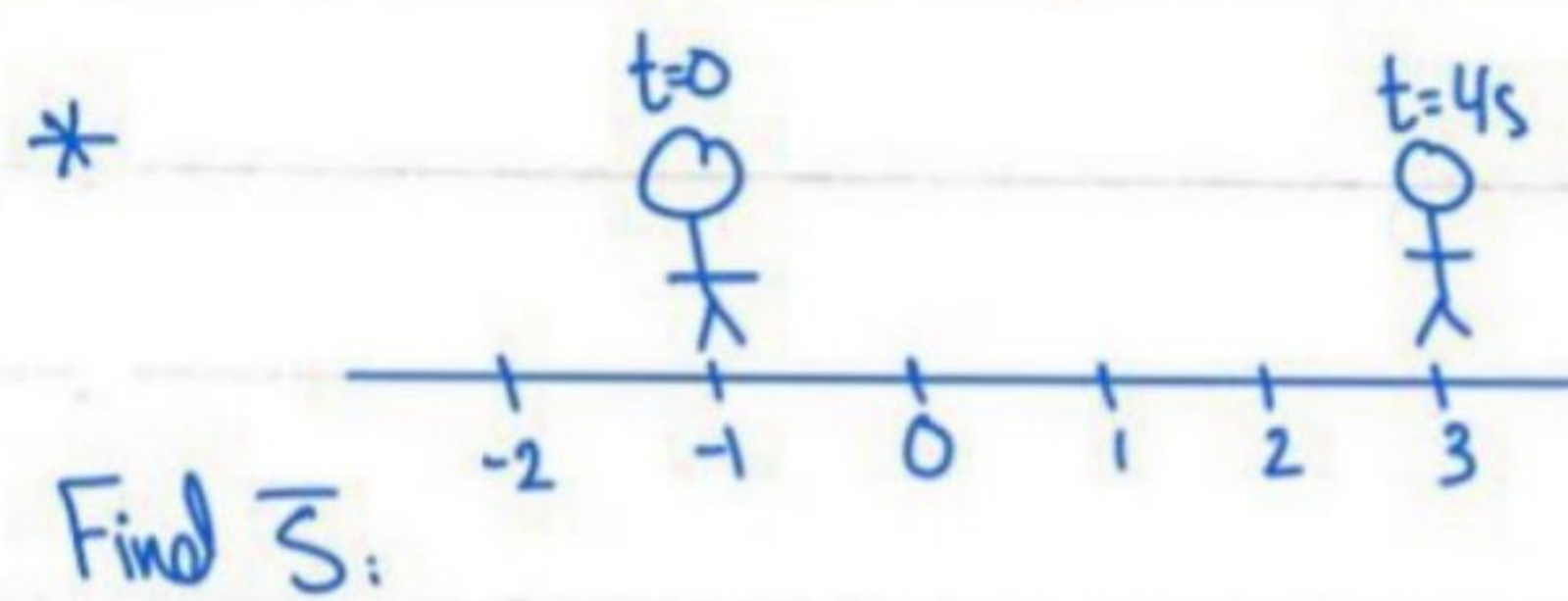
We can say:

\* ① and ② have the same speed 3 m/s

\*  $\vec{v}_1 = 3 \text{ m/s}$  to the right ( $v_1 = +3 \text{ m/s}$ )

$\vec{v}_2 = 3 \text{ m/s}$  to the left ( $v_2 = -3 \text{ m/s}$ )

(+) and (-) refer to directions

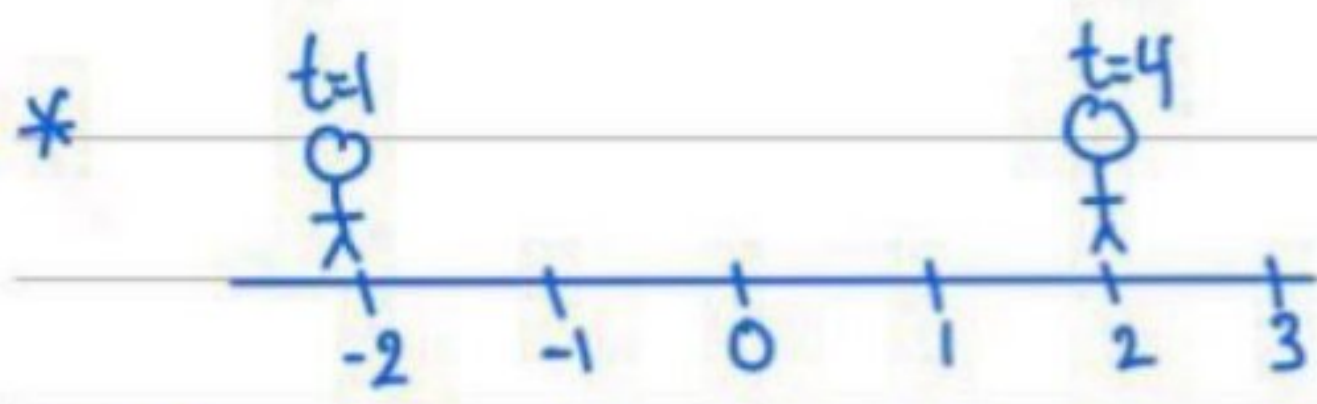


$$\bar{s} = \frac{d}{\Delta t} = \frac{4 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ s}} = 1 \text{ m/s}$$

\* A car covered a distance of 40 km in 0.5 hours, find its average speed

$$\bar{s} = \frac{d}{\Delta t} = \frac{40 \text{ km}}{0.5 \text{ h}} = 80 \text{ km/h}$$





\* NOTE: If the velocity = 0 it's not necessary for a to be 0, because a depends on the change of velocity

Find  $\bar{v}$ :

$$\bar{v} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{x_f - x_i}{t_f - t_i}$$

$$\bar{v} = \frac{2 - (-2)}{4 - 1} = \frac{4}{3} \approx \oplus 1.3 \text{ m/s}$$

positive x-axis (direction)  
motion to the right



Find  $\bar{v}$ :

$$\bar{v} = \frac{-3 - 3}{6 - 2} = \frac{-6}{4} = \ominus 1.5 \text{ m/s}$$

negative x-axis (direction)  
motion to the left