Physics 161 Sample Midterm 3

1. A block of mass m has a spring with spring constant k attached as shown below. The block is initially sliding on a horizontal frictionless surface with speed v. The block collides with a block of mass 2m.



(a) (7 points) Is momentum conserved in the collision? Explain.

(b) (7 points) Is energy conserved in the collision? Explain.

(c) (19 points) Find the maximum compression of the spring during the collision.

2. (33 points) A block of mass 2.0 kg slides down an inclined plane that makes a 55° angle with the horizontal. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the block and the plane is $\mu_k = 0.33$. At the bottom of the incline, a spring with spring constant 120 N/m stops the downward slide of the block. Find the height from which the block must be released in order that the spring compresses by 0.10 m when the block is momentarily at rest.



Problem 3 is on the back of this page.

3. (33 points) Planet X has surface gravity $g_X = 3.5 \text{ m/s}^2$. It has a giant ice-covered volcano whose vertical height is equal to the radius of the planet $R_X = 5.3 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$, and whose slope is 70°. A space sled slides from the top of the mountain. Find its speed at the bottom if we neglect air resistance and friction. (You do *not* need to know G or the mass of the planet in this problem.)

