

Potential Energy  
**Lecture 36**

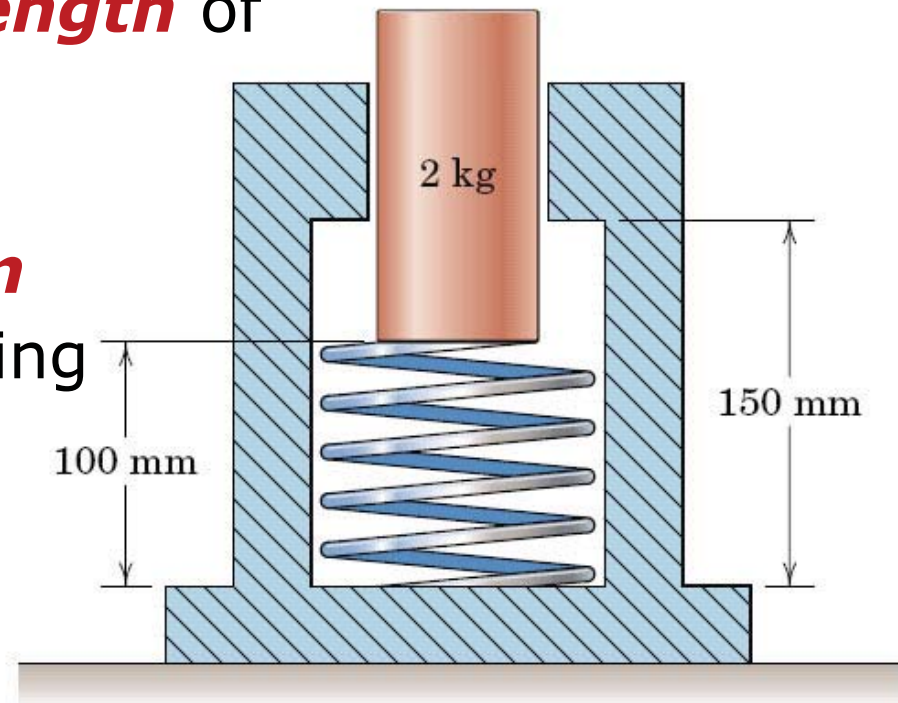
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**ME 231: Dynamics**

## Question of the Day

The **2-kg** plunger is released from rest in the position shown. The spring has a **stiffness** of **500 N/m** and **resting length** of **200 mm**.

Determine the **maximum height  $h$**  above the starting position reached by the plunger.



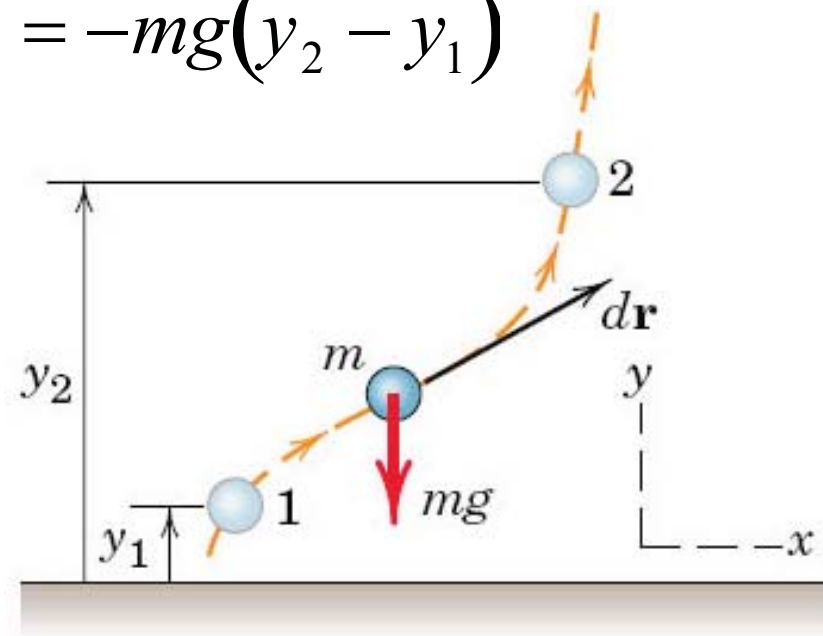
## Outline for Today

- Question of the day
- Work vs. potential energy
- Gravitational potential energy
- Elastic potential energy
- Work-energy equation
- Answer your questions!

## Work vs. Potential Energy

$$U = -mg \int_{y_1}^{y_2} dy = -mg(y_2 - y_1)$$

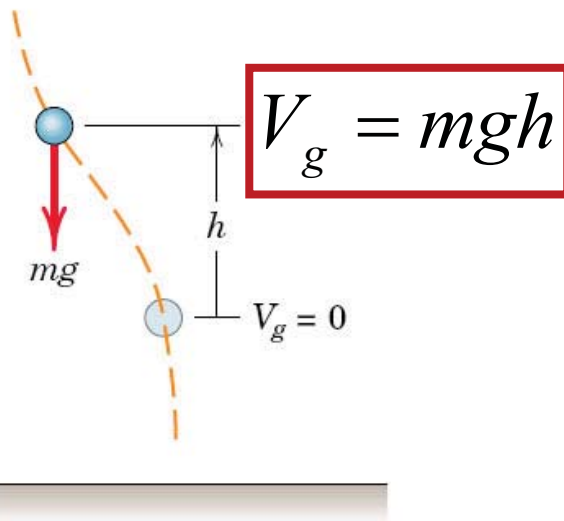
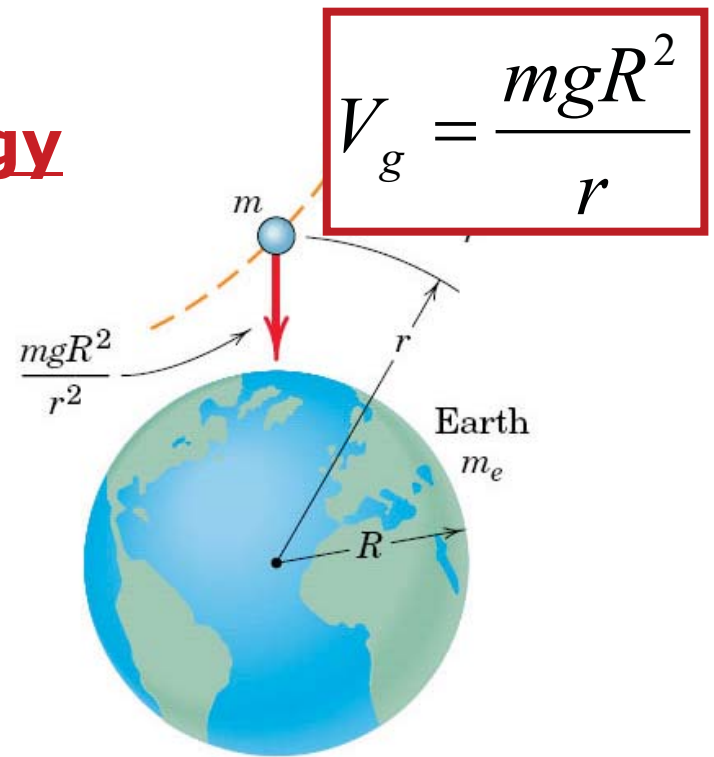
- Recall: **Work** is done by the **weight  $mg$**  over an **altitude change  $(y_2 - y_1)$**



- Potential energy** is simply the **opposite sign (-work)** because of its **potential** to be converted into **energy**

# Gravitational Potential Energy

- Particle of **mass  $m$**  with large changes in altitude
- **Gravitational force  $mgR^2/r^2$**  is not constant

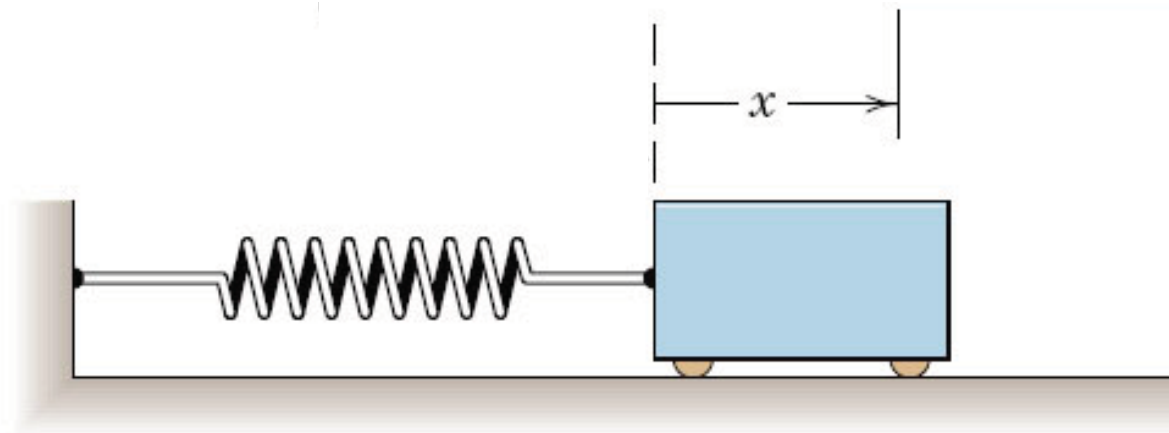


- Particle of **mass  $m$**  in close proximity to Earth
- **Weight  $mg$**  is constant
- **Work** is change in **potential energy  $mg\Delta h$**

# Elastic Potential Energy

- **Stiffness** of  $k$
- **Displacement** of  $x$

$$V_e = \int_0^x kx \, dx = \frac{1}{2} kx^2$$



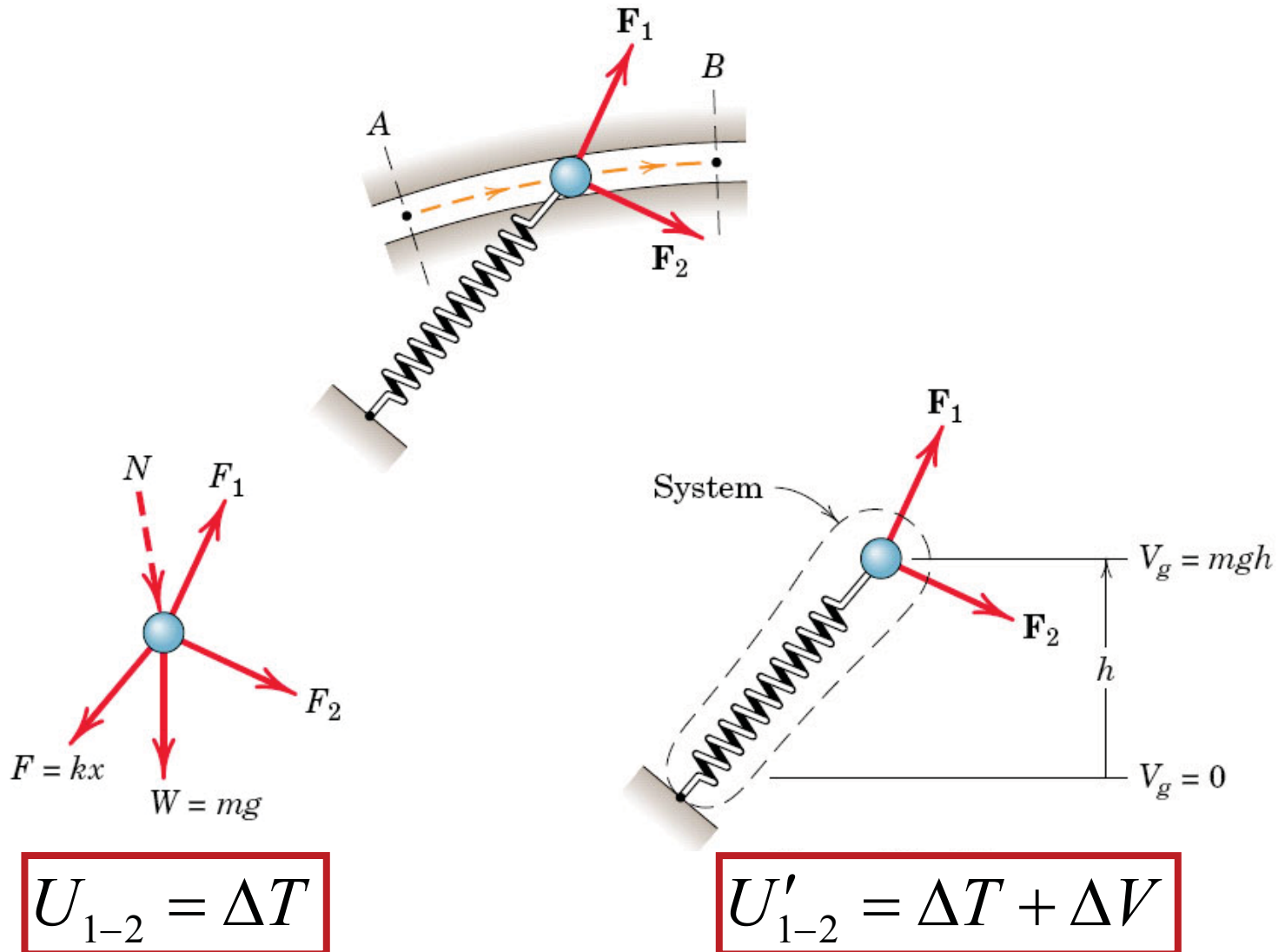
## Work-Energy Equation

- The **work** of all external forces *other than* gravitational and spring forces is  $U'_{1-2}$

$$U'_{1-2} = \Delta T + \Delta V \quad (\text{work-energy eq.})$$

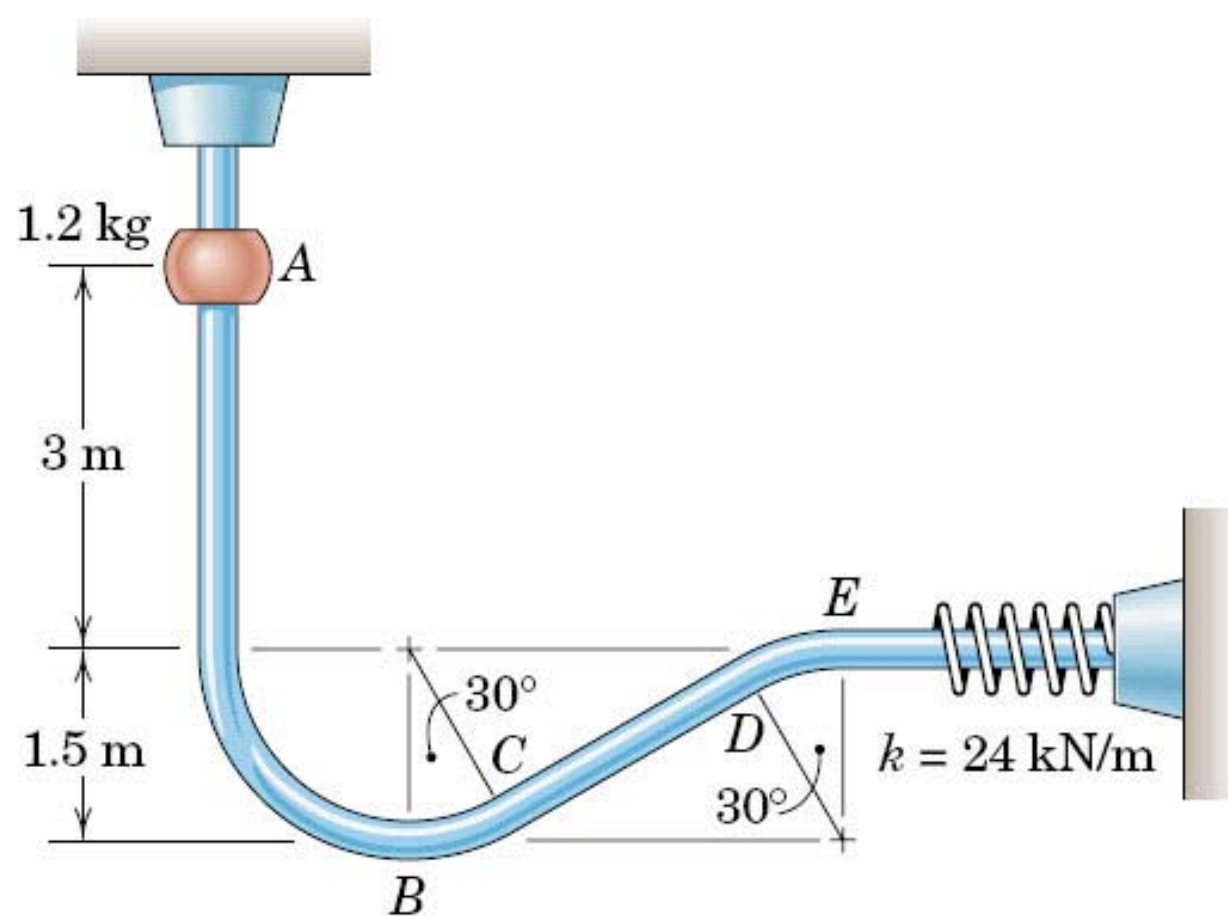
$$T_1 + V_1 + U'_{1-2} = T_2 + V_2$$

# Work-Energy Equation: Usage





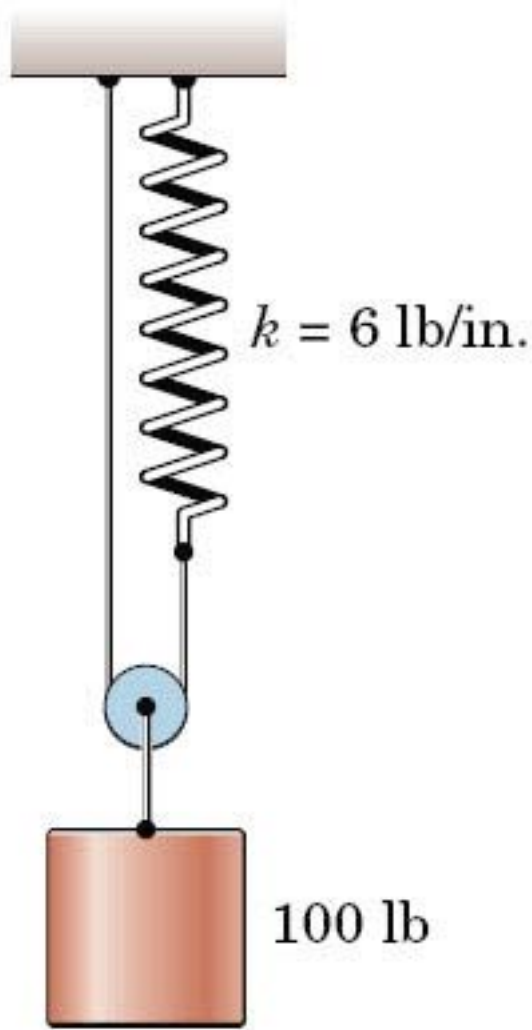
## Work-Energy: Exercise 1



The **1.2-kg** slider is released from rest at **A** and slides without friction along the guide.

Determine (a) the **speed**  $v_B$  of the slider at **B** and  
(b) the **maximum deflection**  $\delta$  of the spring.

## Work-Energy: Exercise 2

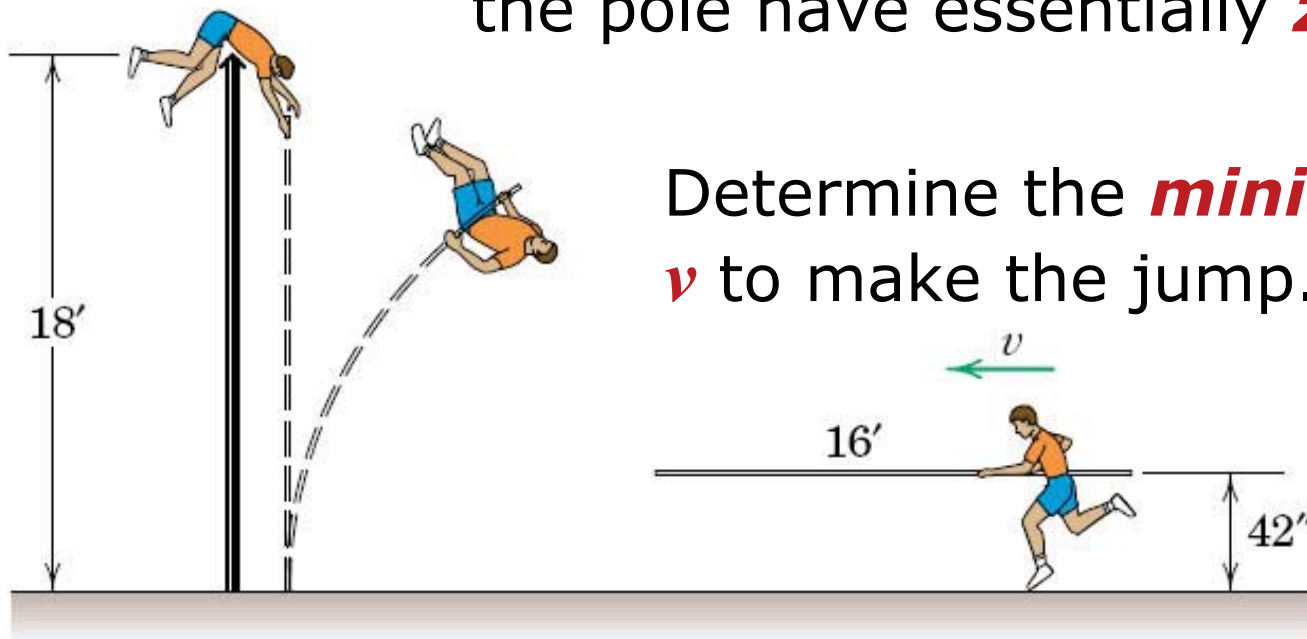


The system is released from rest with the spring initially ***stretched 3 in.***

Determine the ***velocity  $v$***  of the cylinder after it has ***dropped 0.5 in.***

## Work-Energy: Exercise 3

A **175-lb** pole vaulter carrying a uniform **16-ft, 10-lb** pole approaches the jump with a **velocity  $v$**  and barely clears the bar **height** of **18 ft** when he and the pole have essentially **zero velocity**.



Determine the **minimum** value of  **$v$**  to make the jump.

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## For Next Time...

- Finish Homework #12 due on ***Tonight(11/26), note date change***
- Read Chapter 4, Section 4.3