

35. (a) The spring stretches until the magnitude of its upward force on the block equals the magnitude of the downward force of gravity: $ky = mg$, where $y = 0.096$ m is the elongation of the spring at equilibrium, k is the spring constant, and $m = 1.3$ kg is the mass of the block. Thus $k = mg/y = (1.3)(9.8)/0.096 = 133$ N/m.
- (b) The period is given by $T = 1/f = 2\pi/\omega = 2\pi\sqrt{m/k} = 2\pi\sqrt{1.3/133} = 0.62$ s.
- (c) The frequency is $f = 1/T = 1/0.62$ s = 1.6 Hz.
- (d) The block oscillates in simple harmonic motion about the equilibrium point determined by the forces of the spring and gravity. It is started from rest 5.0 cm below the equilibrium point so the amplitude is 5.0 cm.
- (e) The block has maximum speed as it passes the equilibrium point. At the initial position, the block is not moving but it has potential energy

$$U_i = -mgy_i + \frac{1}{2}ky_i^2 = -(1.3)(9.8)(0.146) + \frac{1}{2}(133)(0.146)^2 = -0.44 \text{ J} .$$

When the block is at the equilibrium point, the elongation of the spring is $y = 9.6$ cm and the potential energy is

$$U_f = -mgy + \frac{1}{2}ky^2 = -(1.3)(9.8)(0.096) + \frac{1}{2}(133)(0.096)^2 = -0.61 \text{ J} .$$

We write the equation for conservation of energy as $U_i = U_f + \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ and solve for v :

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2(U_i - U_f)}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(-0.44 \text{ J} + 0.61 \text{ J})}{1.3 \text{ kg}}} = 0.51 \text{ m/s} .$$