

91. (a) From Eq. 16-12, $T = 2\pi\sqrt{m/k} = 0.45$ s.
- (b) For a vertical spring, the distance between the unstretched length and the equilibrium length (with a mass m attached) is mg/k , where in this problem $mg = 10$ N and $k = 200$ N/m (so that the distance is 0.05 m). During simple harmonic motion, the convention is to establish $x = 0$ at the equilibrium length (the middle level for the oscillation) and to write the total energy without any gravity term; i.e.,

$$E = K + U \quad \text{where } U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \text{ .}$$

Thus, as the block passes through the unstretched position, the energy is $E = 2.0 + \frac{1}{2}k(0.05)^2 = 2.25$ J. At its topmost and bottommost points of oscillation, the energy (using this convention) is all elastic potential: $\frac{1}{2}kx_m^2$. Therefore, by energy conservation,

$$2.25 = \frac{1}{2}kx_m^2 \implies x_m = \pm 0.15 \text{ m .}$$

This gives the amplitude of oscillation as 0.15 m, but how far are these points from the *unstretched* position? We add (or subtract) the 0.05 m value found above and obtain 0.10 m for the top-most position and 0.20 m for the bottom-most position.

- (c) As noted in part (b), $x_m = \pm 0.15$ m.
- (d) The maximum kinetic energy equals the maximum potential energy (found in part (b)) and is equal to 2.25 J.