Physics 131- Fundamentals of Physics for Biologists I Work –Energy Theorem Potential Energy





Comparing the "before" state at rest with a compressed spring and the "after" state with moving balls, which of the following is true

 The momentum of the system is the same before and after



- The total energy of the system is the same before and after
- Both balls have the same momentum and energy in the "after" state
- 4. 1 & 2
- 5. **1&3**
- 6. **2&3**
- 7. All

Both balls are launched at the same speed. Which one moves faster at the end?



- 1. The one on the straight track.
- 2. The one on the dipped track.
- 3. They have the same speed.

Both balls are launched at the same speed. Which one gets to the end first?



Whiteboard,

TA & LA

- 1. The one on the straight track.
- 2. The one on the dipped track.
- 3. They are the same.



- > Related to interactions (forces) within the System
- Can turn into kinetic energy (or other energy) when the objects in the system move
- Stored in INTERACTION (line between objects)
- > The object that moves more gets/supplies more of the potential energy!

- 1. Draw System Schema for Before and After state
- 2. Identify main Energies in System Schema
- 3. Define a system boundary so that mechanical energy is conserved in the system

Two Balls with Spring

Ball dropped on Board

Conservation of Mechanical Energy

- Total of kinetic plus potential energy are conserved if resistive forces can be ignored
- Mathematical Representation



A bulldog on a skateboard is moving very slowly when he encounters a 2 m dip. How fast will he be going when he is at the bottom of the dip? The bulldog and skateboard combined have a mass of 20 kg. Friction and air drag can be ignored.

- 1. Very slowly
- 2. About 2 m/s
- 3. About 6 m/s
- You can't tell from the information given.
- 5. Other



