

## CE.L1.4 | Potential Energy and Conservation | Challenge Homework

Submit a digital copy (PDF, jpg, etc.) to gradescope.com. Every page should be labeled on the top left with the question code (e.g. GR.L1.4-01). If there are more than one question, they should be in order. If a solution takes more than one page, be sure to label that it is a continuation of the previous page's solution (e.g. GR.L1.4-01 continued). Challenge homework for a given week are due the following week by Tuesday at midnight. If data is needed to complete a problem, be sure to cite the source you've acquired your data from. See the course website for further details.

You will be asked to apply sense-making in most problems. Use the list below as a reference to the different sense-making techniques. More information about sense-making can be found on the BoxSand menu under Math Tools => [Sense-making](#).

- *Sign*: Check the **sign** of each quantity makes sense.
- *Dimensionality*: Check the **dimensionality** and units of each quantity makes sense.
- *Order of Magnitude*: Check the **order of magnitude** of the final answer and other important quantities is within a factor of 10 of what you think it should be.
- *Graphical Analysis*: Use a **graph** to see if the behavior of a solution makes sense.
- *Proportionality*: Using a symbolic solution, check the behavior of the answer when you change a given quantity on which it is dependent. Does the answer vary **proportionally** to what you expect?
- *Special Cases*: Check the behavior of a derived equation in limiting (**special**) cases makes sense, e.g. as  $x$  goes to 90 degrees in  $\sin(x)$ .
- *Self-consistency*: Check derived equations, functions, or values, are **self-consistent**, e.g. check that the slope of a derived position plot matches the values of the given velocity plot
- *Known Values*: Compare given or derived quantities with common well **known values**.
- *Related Quantities*: Compare the relative magnitude of two **related quantities**.

**CE.L1.4-01**

Old naval ships fired 10 kg cannon balls from a 200 kg cannon. It was very important to stop the recoil of the cannon, since otherwise the heavy cannon would go careening across the deck of the ship. In one design, a large spring with spring constant 20,000 N/m was placed behind the cannon. The other end of the spring braced against a post that was firmly anchored to the ship's frame. When the cannon fired, the spring compressed 50 cm.

- (a) How fast could this cannon fire cannon balls?
- (b) Use *Dimensionality* sense-making to check the expression you derive in part (a).