

# **PHYS 225**

# **Fundamentals of Physics: Mechanics**

**Prof. Meng (Stephanie) Shen**  
**Fall 2024**

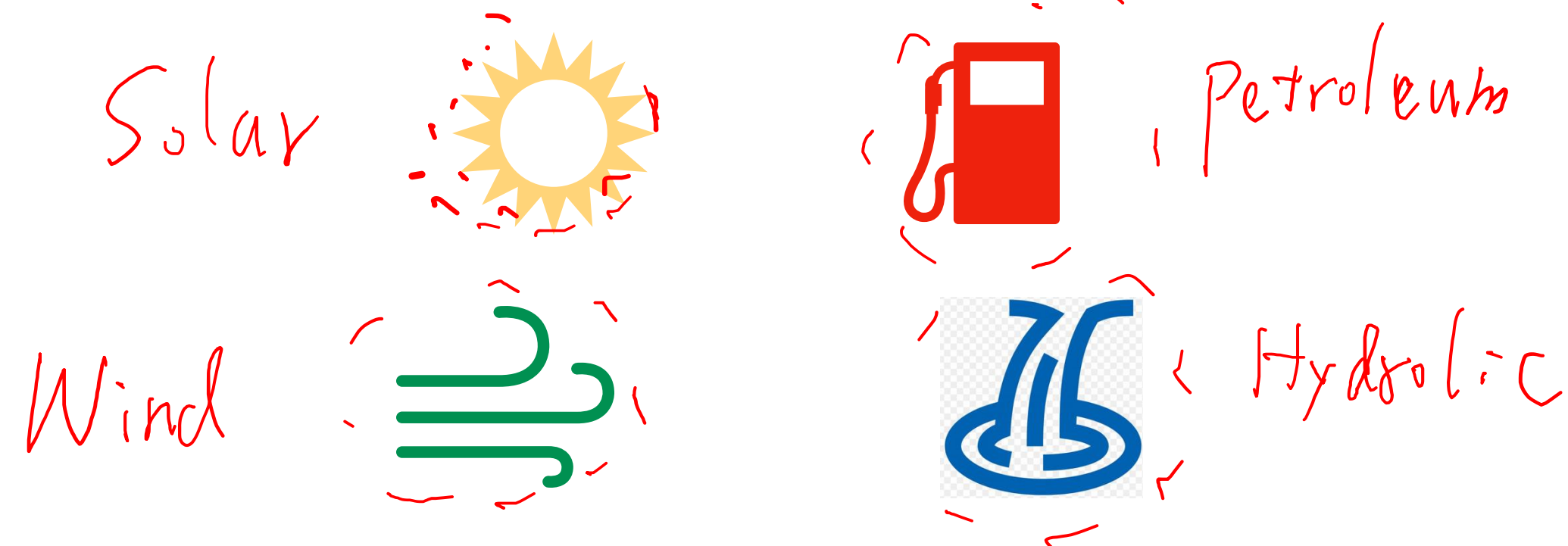
**Lecture 21: Kinetic energy and work**

# Learning goals for today

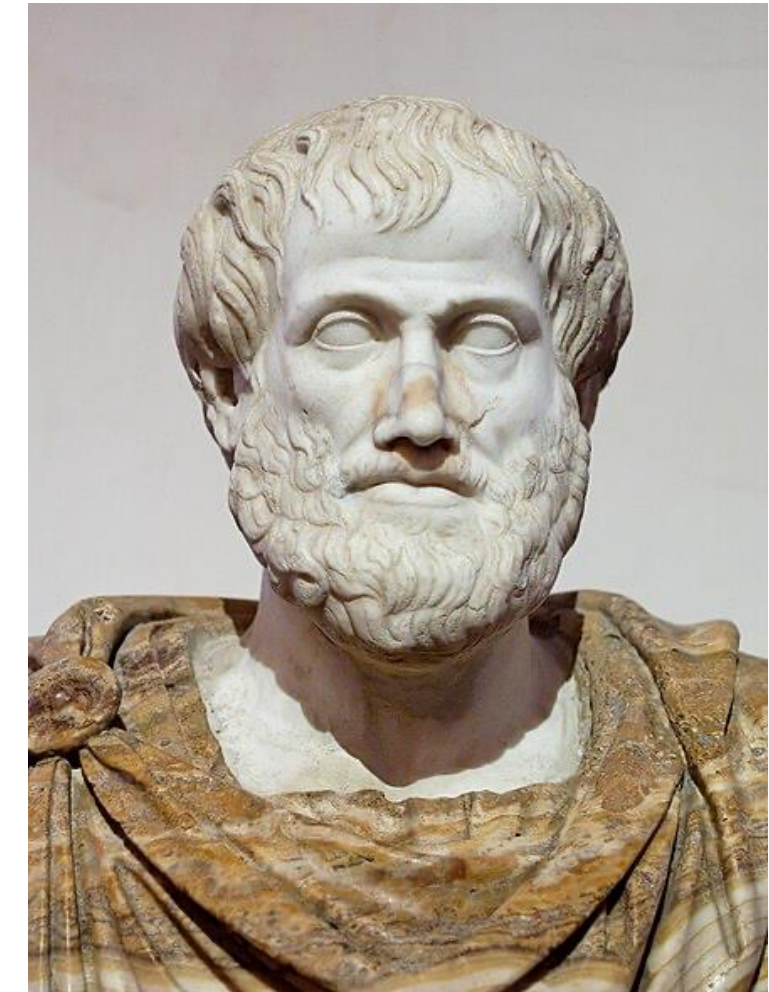
- Kinetic energy
- Work

# 1. Energy

- Energy is the ability to do work
  - Is a scalar quantity
  - Unit: J or N\*m
  - Can be changed from one form to another

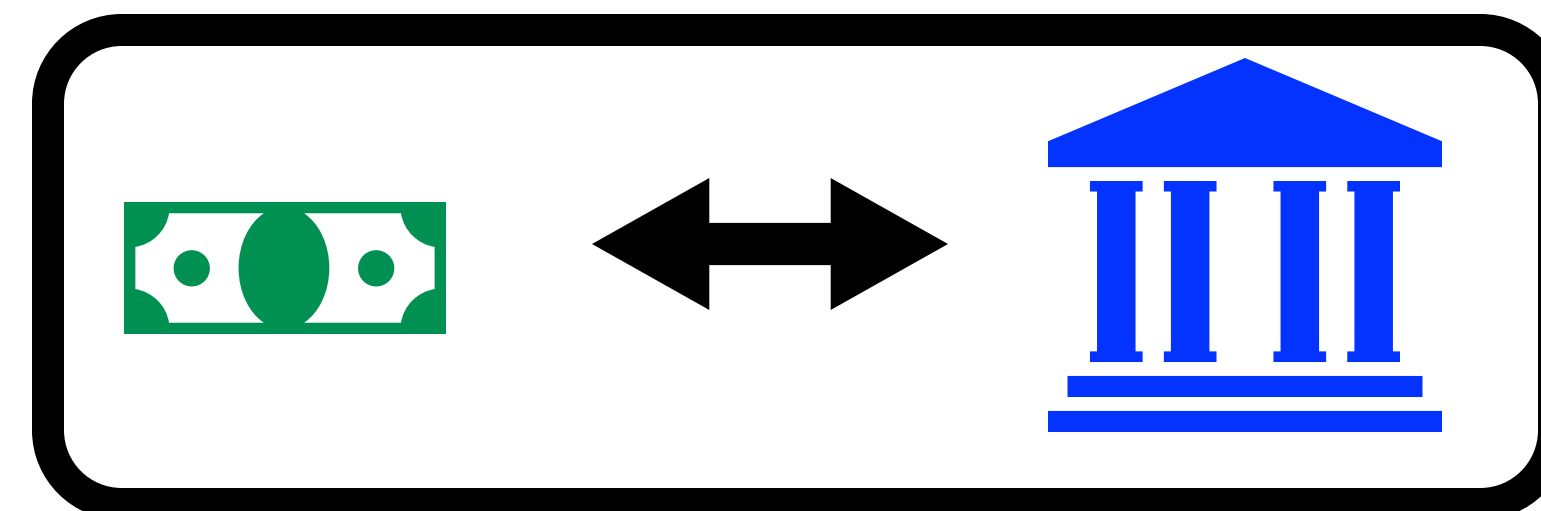


- Is conserved in a closed system



“Energy” was first introduced as a philosophical concept by Aristotle <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bergmann, Gustav. "Logic and reality." *Foundations of Language* 3, no. 4 (1964).

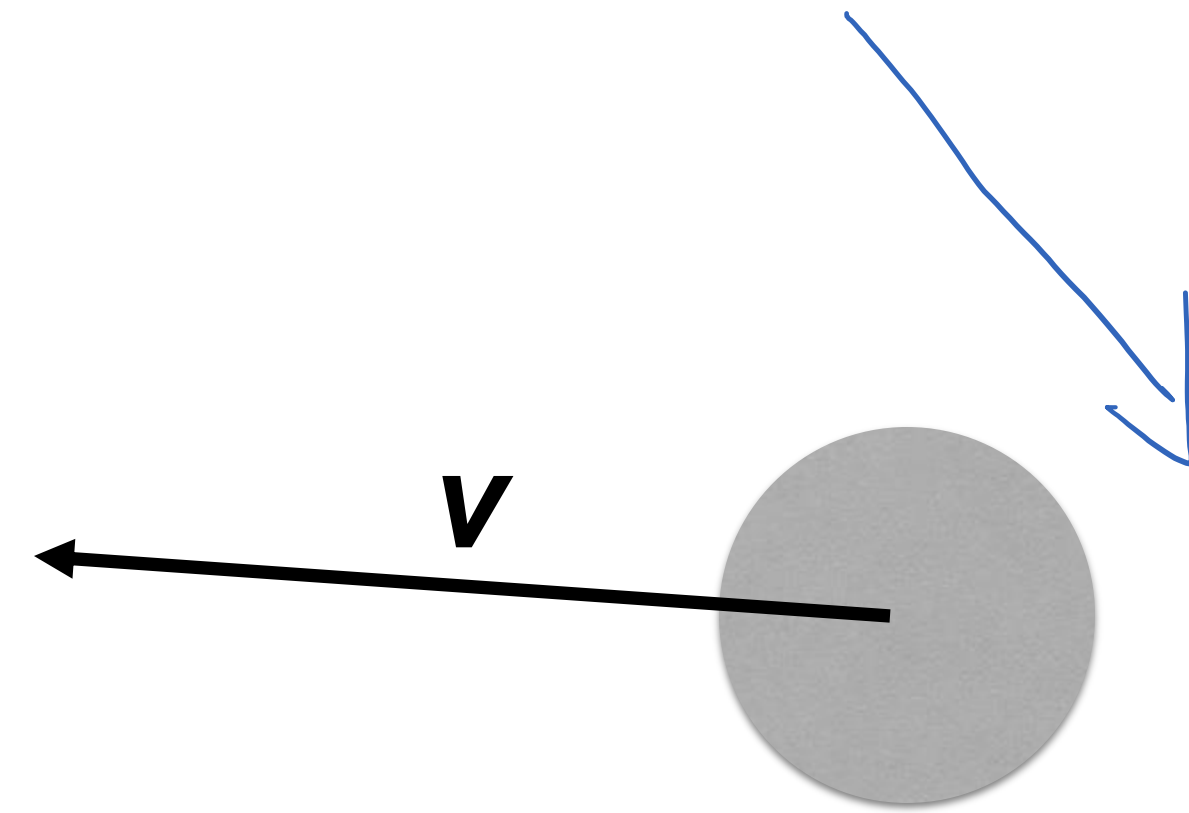
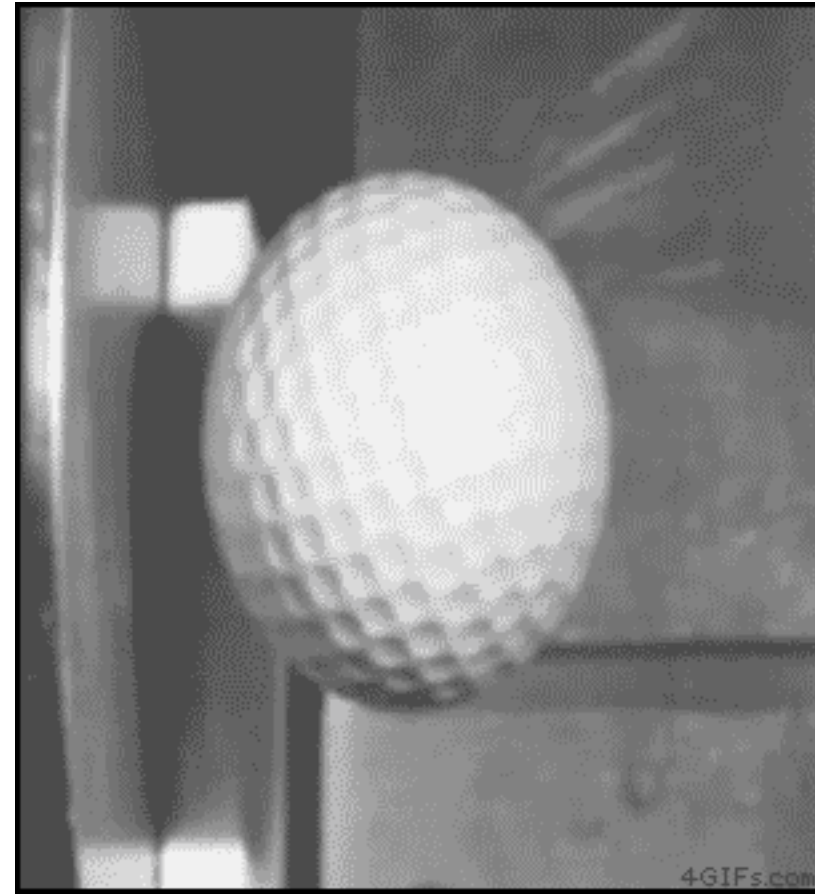


Cannot create or destroy energy.

Analogy

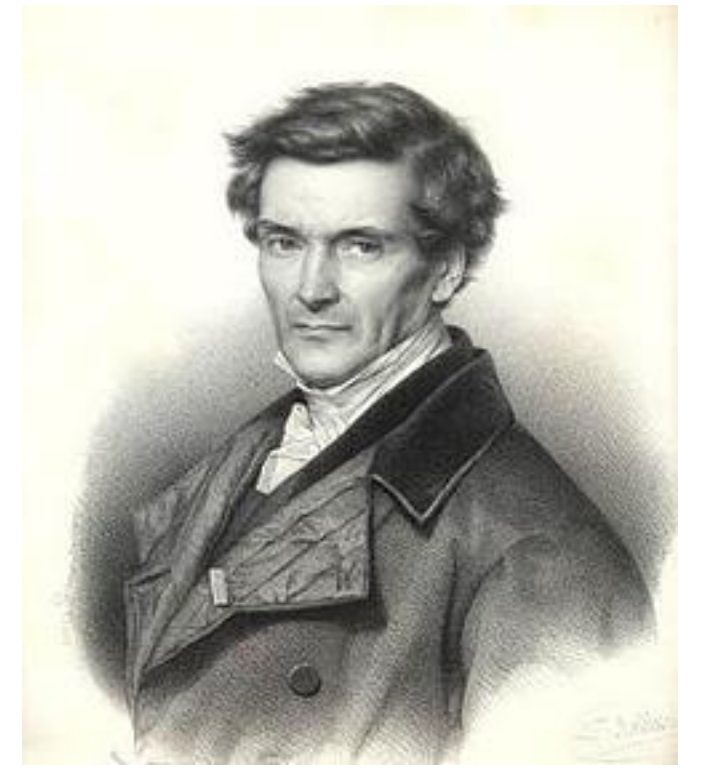
Can transfer or transform E.

# 1.1. Kinetic energy



$$K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

*mass* *speed*



Early understandings of kinetic energy can be attributed to [Gaspard-Gustave Coriolis](#), 1829.<sup>1</sup>

$$v^2 = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}$$

*velocity*

Dot product

- Energy associated with the motion of an object
- The faster it moves, the greater is its kinetic energy
- Here we limit ourselves to far below the speed of light

<sup>1</sup> Du Calcul de l'Effet des Machines

# Clicker Question 1

$$K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

*Handwritten annotations: 'kg' above 'm' and 'm · s<sup>-1</sup>' below 'v'.*

- What are the equivalent units of kinetic energy?

✓ **A** Newtons \* m

✓ **B** Joules

✓ **C** kg \* m<sup>2</sup> \* s<sup>-2</sup>

**D** All above.

*Newton's 2nd Law*

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = m \vec{a}$$

*Handwritten annotations: 'N' under 'F<sub>net</sub>', 'kg' under 'm', and 'm s<sup>-2</sup>' under 'a'. A tilde '~' connects 'N' and 'kg'.*



# Clicker question 2

$$K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

*Handwritten annotations:* "1 kg" above the mass  $m$ , and "2 m s<sup>-1</sup>" with an arrow pointing to the velocity  $v$ .

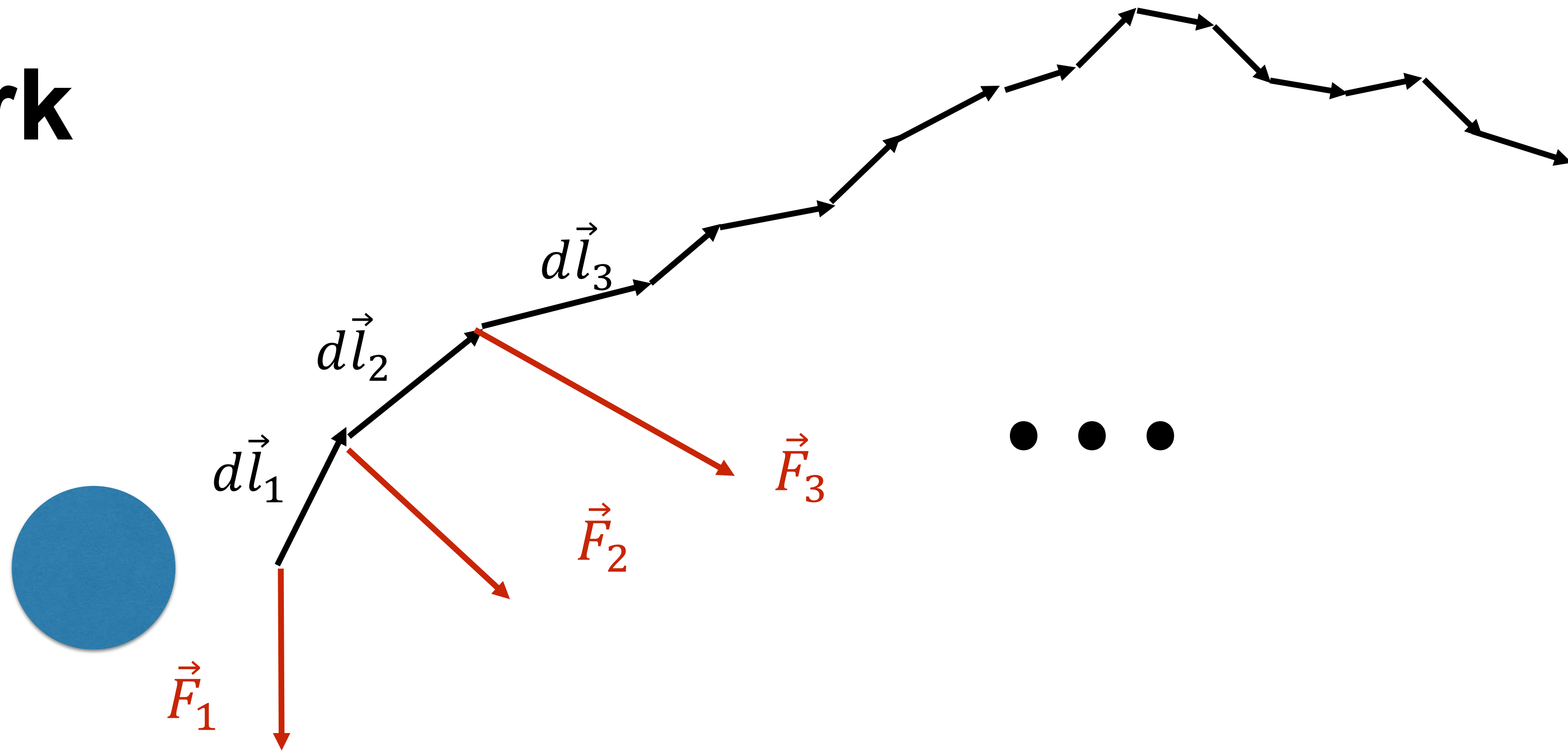
- A 1 kg ball is moving at a speed of 2 m/s. What's its instantaneous kinetic energy?

**A** 2 J

**B** 1 J

**C** 4 J

## 2. Work



- Work is the energy transferred to or from an object by a force acting on it:  $W = \int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l}$   
*Force* / *Disp.*
- If energy is transferred to the object, **positive** work is done on the object;  
If energy is transferred from the object, **negative** work is done on the object.

# Clicker Question 3

Energy transferred by a force acting on an obj.

$$W = \int \underset{N}{\vec{F}} \cdot \underset{m}{d\vec{l}}$$

- What are the equivalent units of work?

✓ **A** Newtons \* m

✓ **B** Joules

✓ **C** kg \* m<sup>2</sup> \* s<sup>-2</sup>

**D** All above.



# Recap: Dot product

- **Dot Product** (or scalar product): A product between two vectors that creates a new **scalar**.

- In terms of vector components: { 1. Decompose  
2. ✓

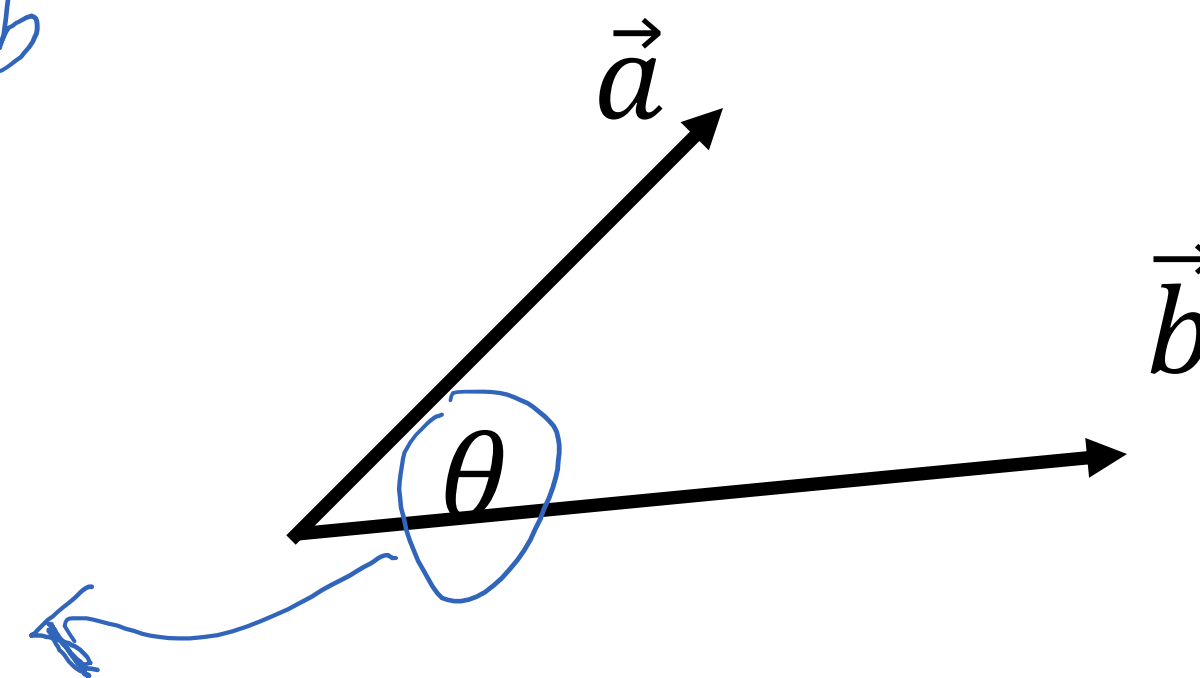
Scalar  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$  =  $a_x b_x + a_y b_y + a_z b_z$

vector vector scalar scalar scalar

- In terms of geometry: ~ magnitude of  $\vec{b}$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \underbrace{|\vec{a}|}_{\substack{\text{Magnitude} \\ \text{of } \vec{a}}} \underbrace{|\vec{b}|}_{\substack{\text{magnitude of } \vec{b}}} \cos \theta$$

↖ angle between  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$



If  $0 < \theta < 90^\circ$   
then  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} > 0$

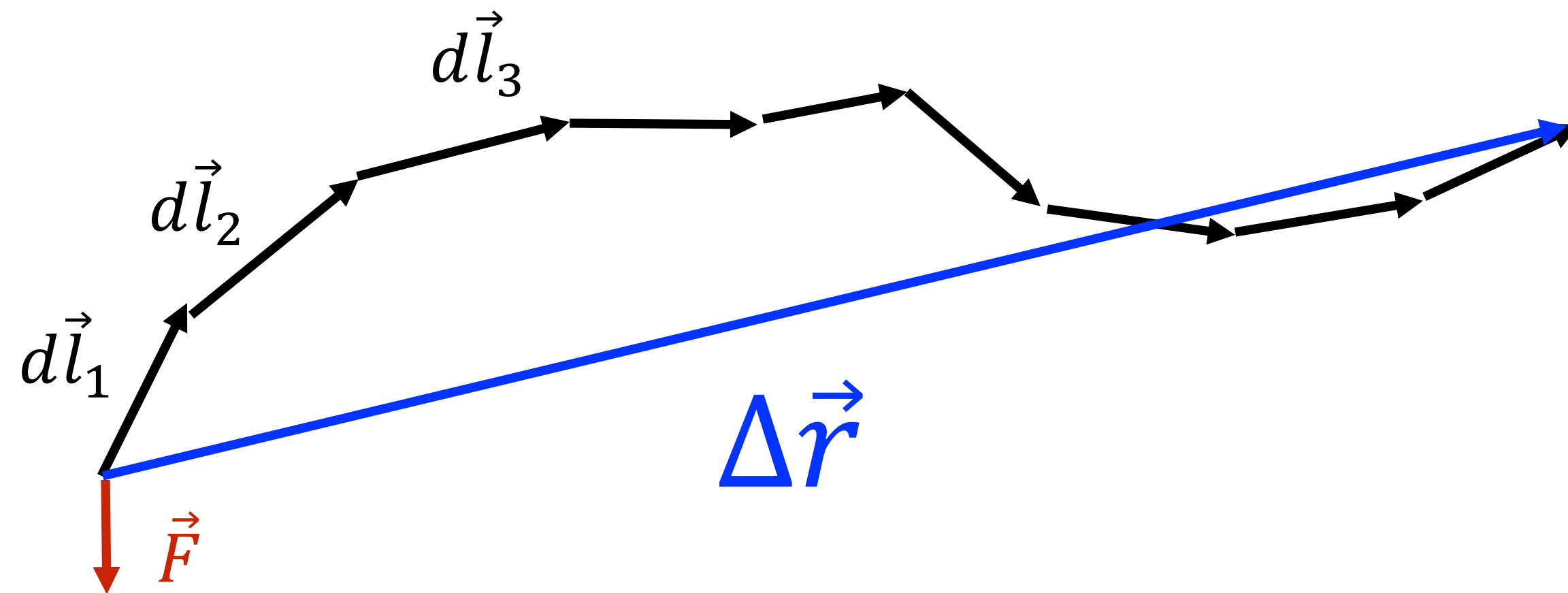
If  $90^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$   
then  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} < 0$

If  $\theta = 90^\circ$   
then  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$

**Note:** The sign of  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$  is determined by the angle between them

## 2.1. Work by a constant force

- When force is a constant vector,  $\vec{F}$ , work is the dot product of  $\vec{F}$  and the displacement,  $\Delta\vec{r}$ :



Decompose  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{F} \\ \Delta\vec{r} \end{array} \right\}$

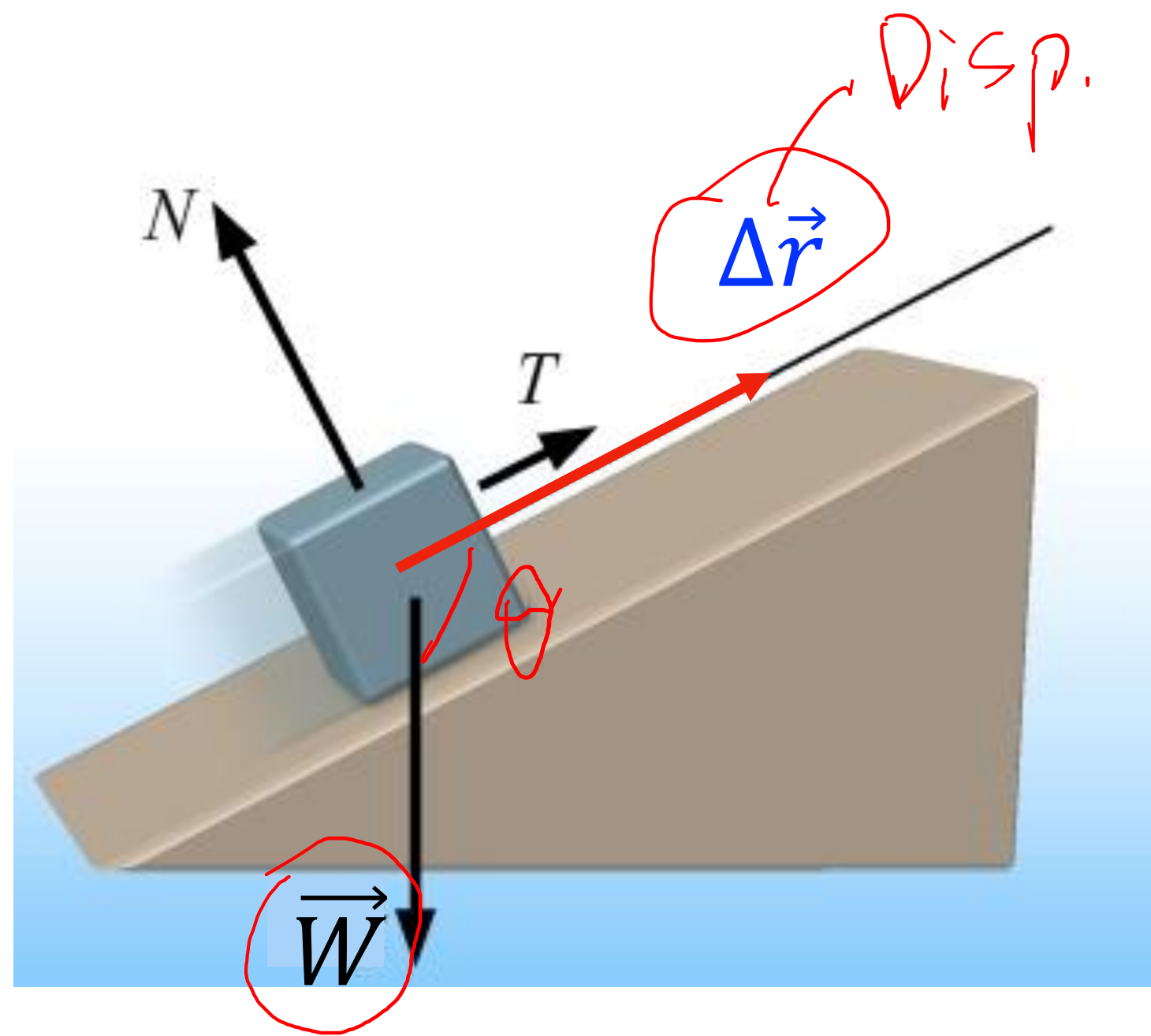
For a constant force,  $\vec{F}$ ,

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \Delta\vec{r}$$

$$= F_x \Delta x + F_y \Delta y + F_z \Delta z$$

# Clicker question 4

- What is the sign of work done by the gravitational force if the block moves up the slope?



B.C.  $\vec{W} = \text{const}$

$$\text{Work} = \vec{W} \cdot \Delta \vec{r} = |\vec{W}| \cdot |\Delta \vec{r}| \cos \theta$$

$$90^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$$

$$\cos \theta < 0$$

**A**

**B** 0

**C** +

**D** not enough  
information to know

# Clicker question 5

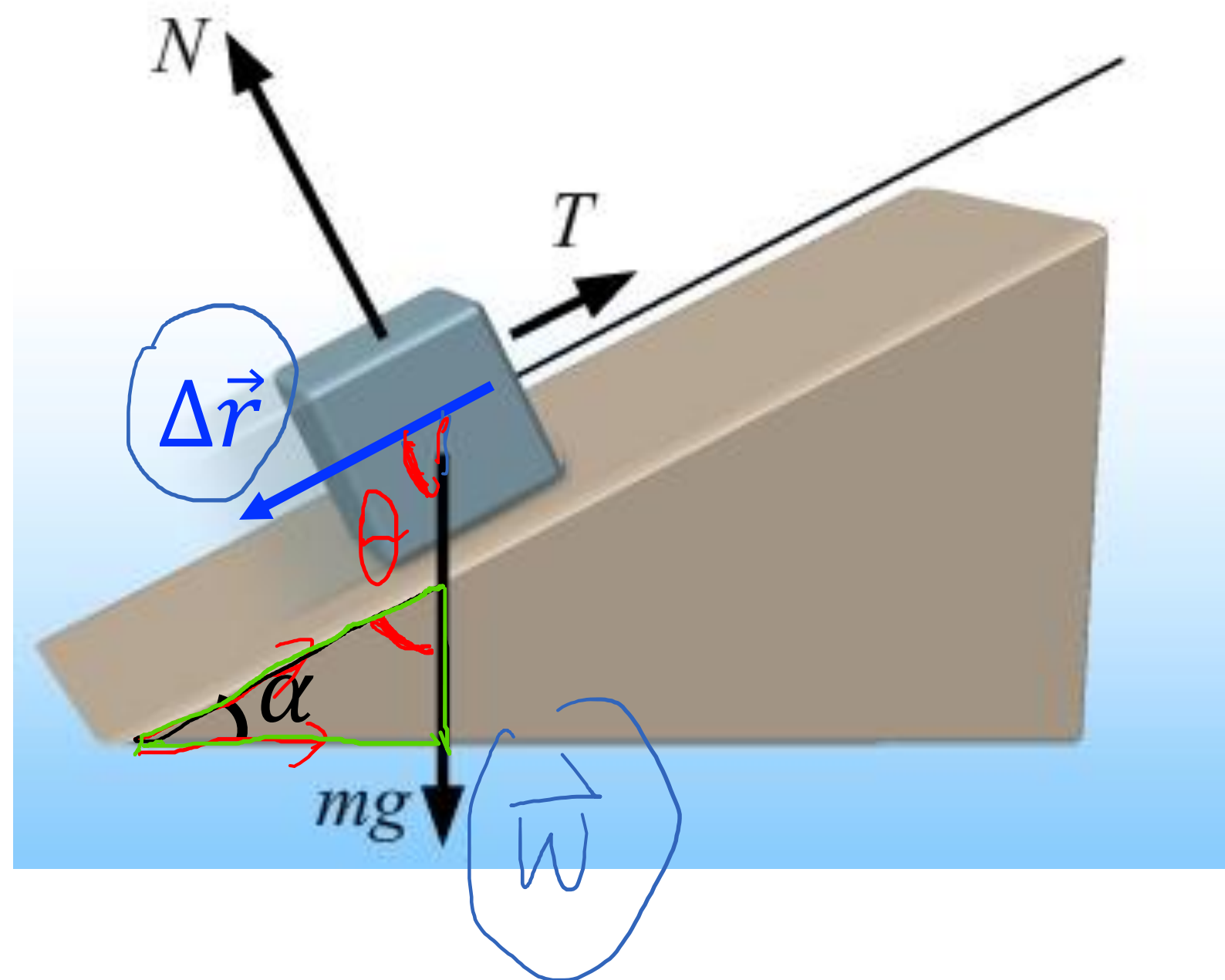
$\vec{W}$  is a const. force

$$\text{Work} = \vec{W} \cdot \Delta\vec{r} = |\vec{W}| |\Delta\vec{r}| \cos \theta$$

$$= |\vec{W}| |\Delta\vec{r}| \cos(90^\circ - \alpha)$$

- What is the work done by the gravitational force on the block if the block moves down the slope of incline angle  $\alpha$  by  $\Delta\vec{r}$ ?

$$= |\vec{W}| |\Delta\vec{r}| \sin \alpha$$



A  $-mg|\Delta\vec{r}|\sin \alpha$

B 0

C  $mg|\Delta\vec{r}|\sin \alpha$

D  $mg|\Delta\vec{r}|\cos \alpha$

$$0 < \theta < 90^\circ$$

$$\theta = 90^\circ - \alpha$$

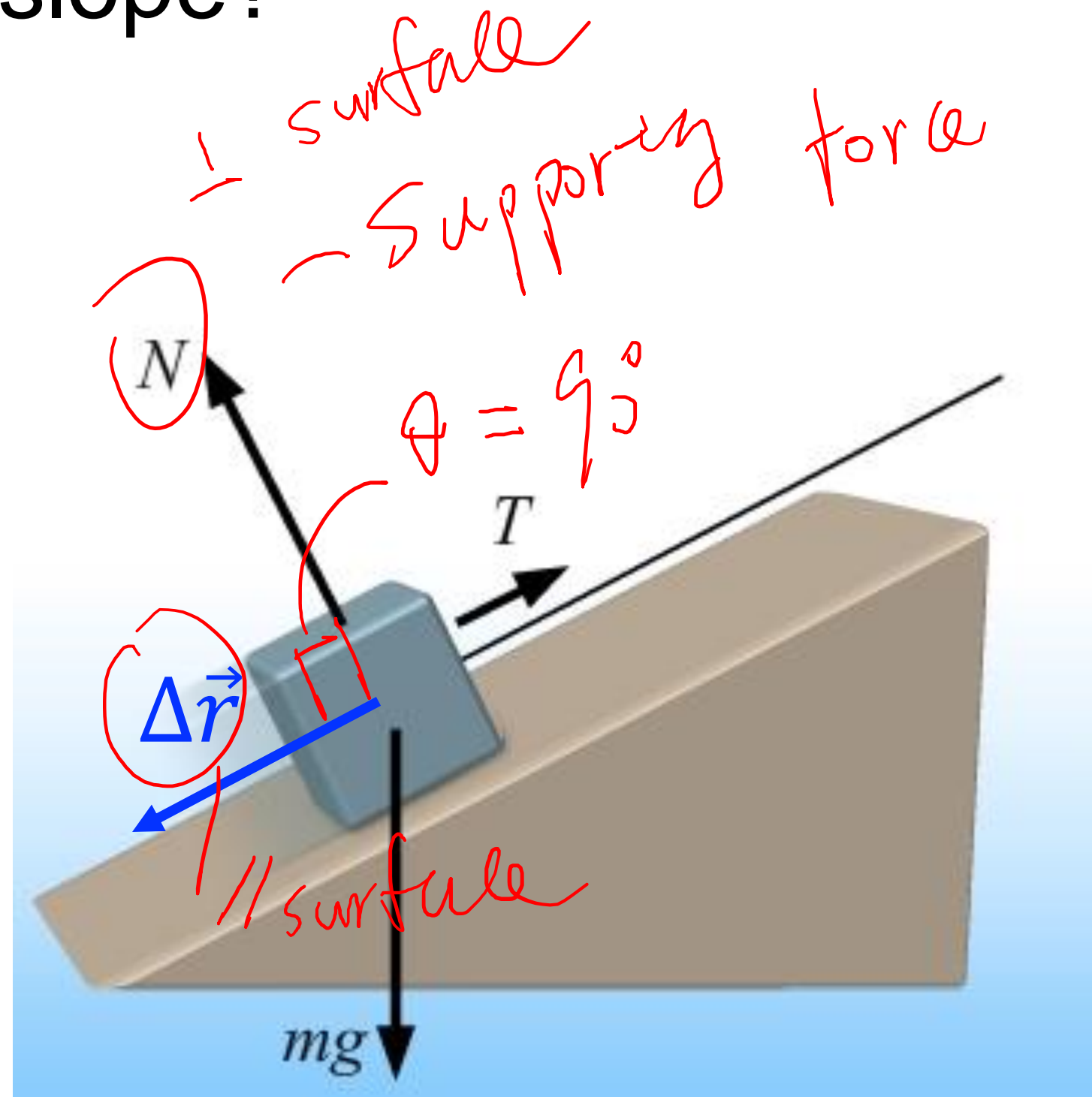
# Clicker question 6

$\vec{N}$  is a const. force

$$\text{Work} = \vec{N} \cdot \Delta\vec{r} = |\vec{N}| |\Delta\vec{r}| \cos \theta$$

$\theta = 90^\circ$   
 $= 0$

- What is the sign of work done by the normal force  $\vec{N}$  if the block moves down the slope?

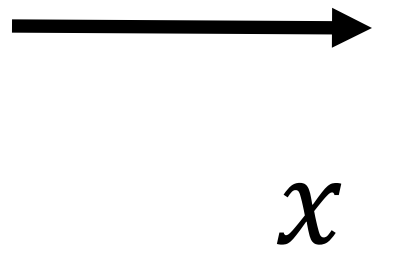


- |          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| A        | -                              |
| <b>B</b> | <b>0</b>                       |
| C        | +                              |
| D        | not enough information to know |



# Example 1

Given:  $\vec{F}$ ,  $\vec{d}$   
Goal: Work



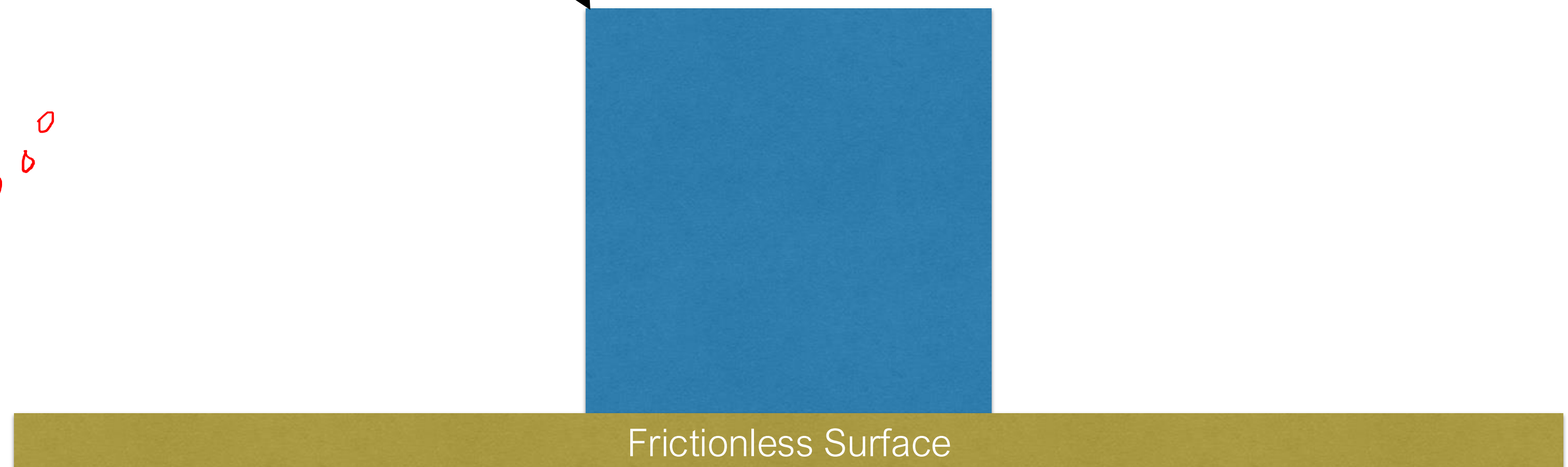
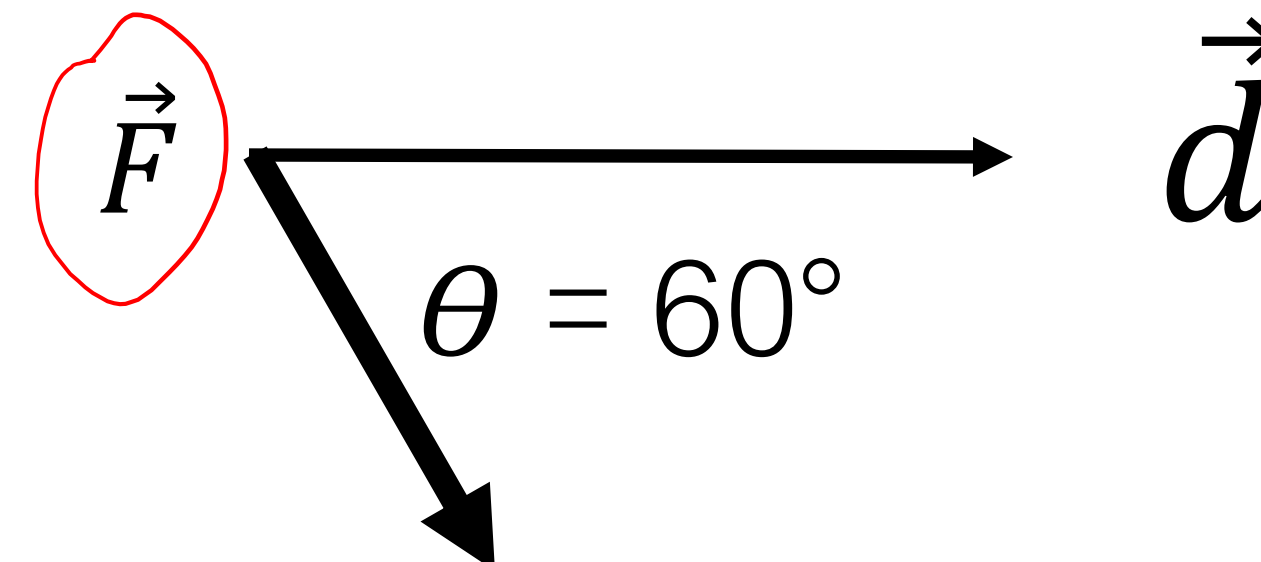
- What is the work done by  $\vec{F}$  on the box if it is pushed for a displacement  $\vec{d} = 10\text{m}$  to the right? ( $|\vec{F}| = 100\text{ N}$ , and  $60^\circ$  below the  $+x$  direction).

$$\text{Work} = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{d}$$

$$= |\vec{F}| |\vec{d}| \cos \theta$$

$$= 100\text{ N} \cdot 10\text{ m} \cos 60^\circ$$

$$= 500\text{ J}$$





# Work-kinetic energy theorem

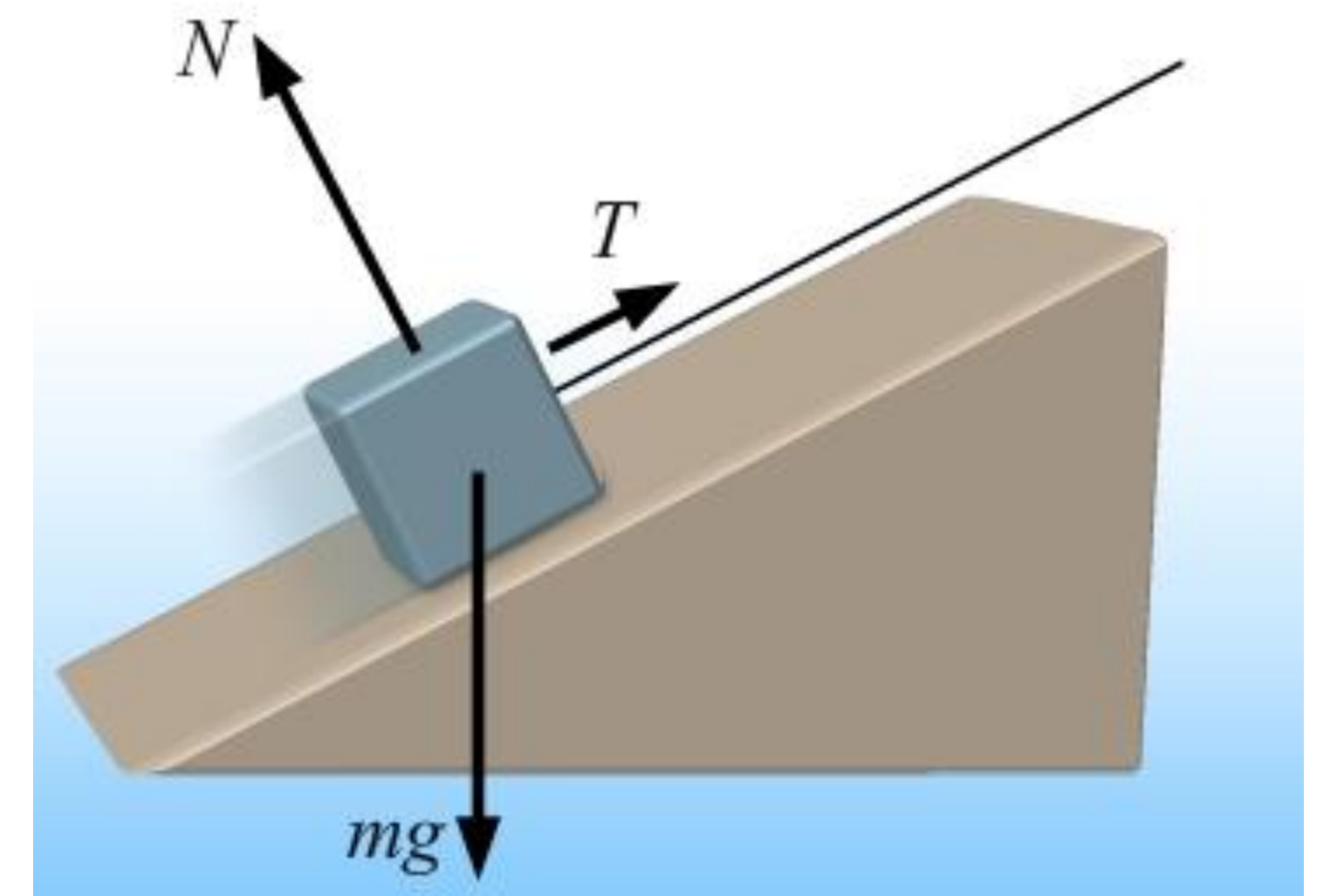
- The net work done by the net (total) force on an object, is the change of total kinetic energy,  $\Delta K$ , of the object:

$$W_{net} = K_f - K_i$$

$$W_{NET} = \sum_i W_i = W_1 + W_2 + \dots$$

You can just add up the work done by each force

- Two ways to calculate work on an object!



# Example 2

Given:  $m$ ,  $v_0$ ,  $v_f$   
Goal:  $W_{\text{net}}$

- A pitcher throws a baseball of 0.5 kg from rest to a exit speed of 50 m/s. What is the **net** work done on the baseball?

Step 1:  $W-K$  theorem:

$$W_{\text{net}} = K_f - K_i$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m v_f^2 - \frac{1}{2} m v_i^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m (v_f^2 - v_i^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times 0.5 \text{ kg} ((50 \text{ m s}^{-1})^2 - 0)$$

$$= 625 \text{ J}$$



$$\vec{v}_0 = 0$$



$$\vec{v}_e = 50 \text{ m/s}$$

## Example 2: Work done by weight (gravity near earth surface)

- Weight, i.e., gravity on the earth surface

- Weight is a constant,  $\vec{F} = -mg\hat{j}$

$$F_x = 0, F_y = 0$$

— Along vertical

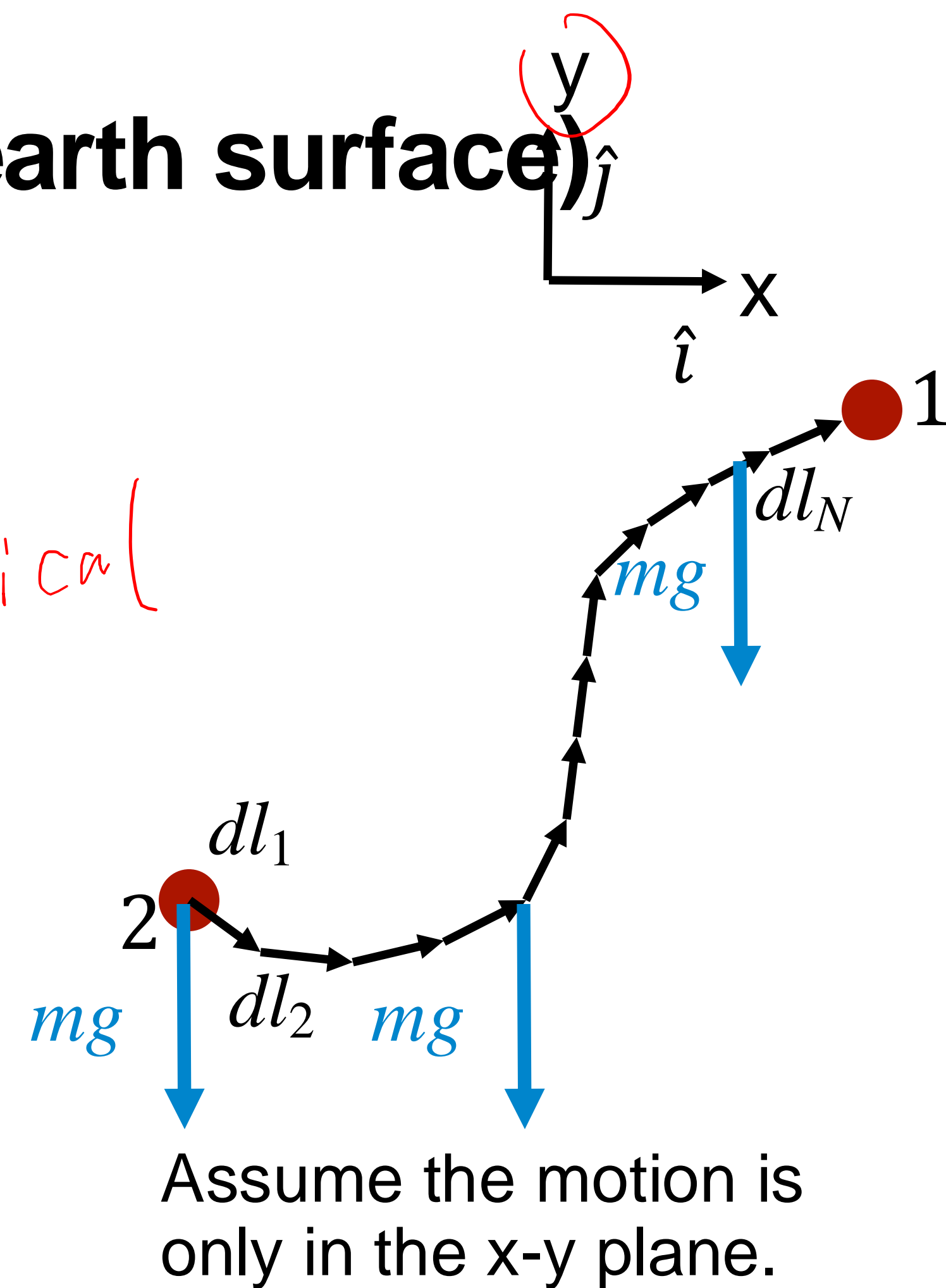
- Work by weight from position 1 to position 2,  $W_{1 \rightarrow 2}$ :

$$W_{1 \rightarrow 2} = \vec{F} \cdot \Delta \vec{r}$$

$$= -mg(y_2 - y_1)$$

final  $y$  pos.

Initial  $y$  pos.



- Therefore, **work by weight only depends on the initial and final height!**

# Clicker question 7

$$W_{\text{ork}} = -mg(y_2 - y_1)$$

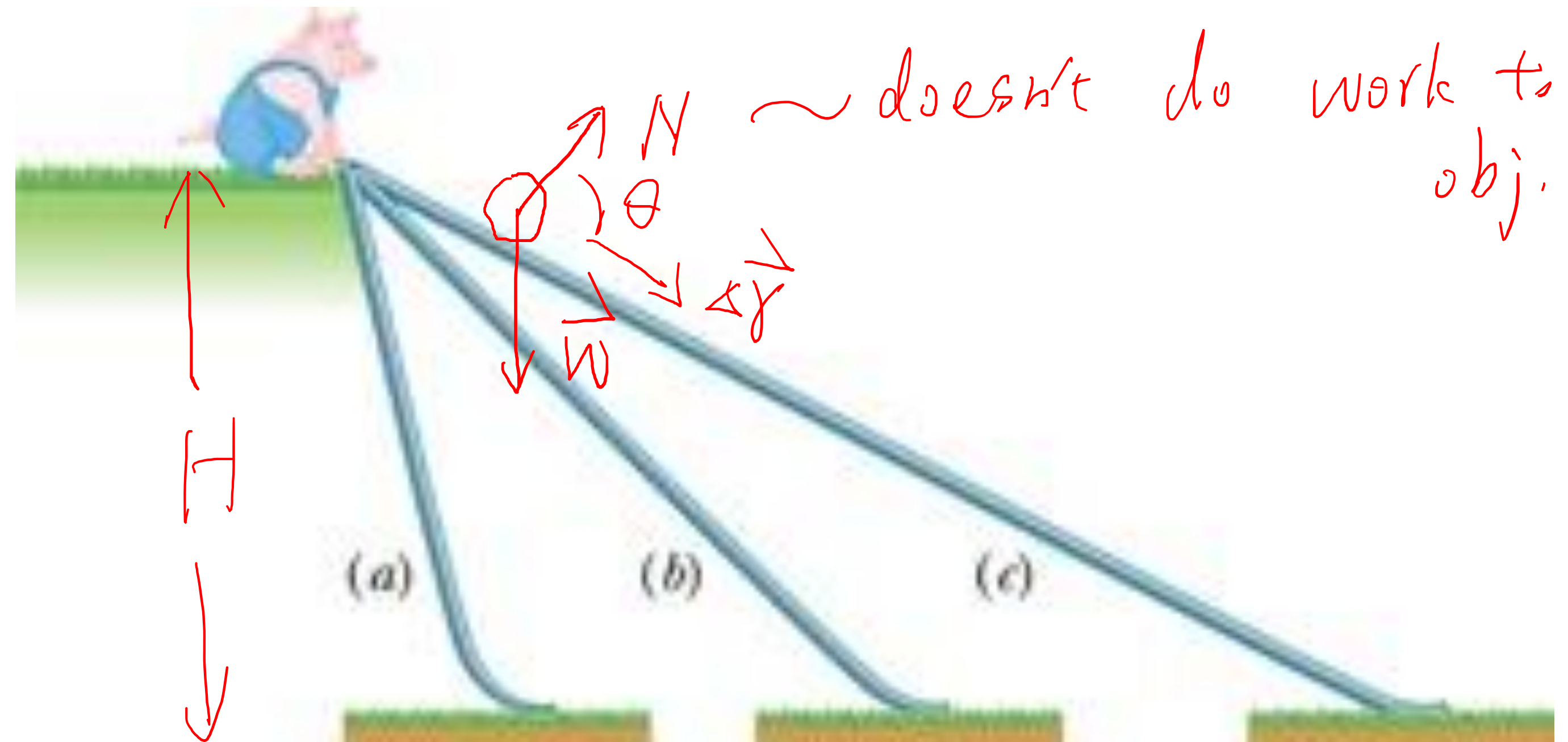
$$= -mg(-H) = mgH$$

- In the figure below, a piglet has a choice of three **frictionless** slides along which to slide to the ground. Rank the slides according to how much work the gravitational force does on the pig during the descent, greatest first. same for all 3 paths

**A**  $a > b > c$

**B**  $c > b > a$

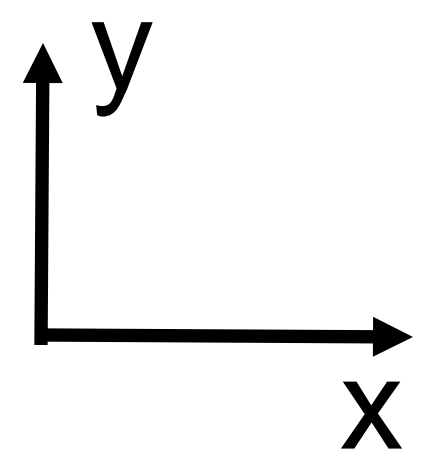
**C**  $a = b = c$





# Example 3

Given:  $m$ ,  $\vec{r}_1$ ,  $\vec{r}_2$   
Goal: Work



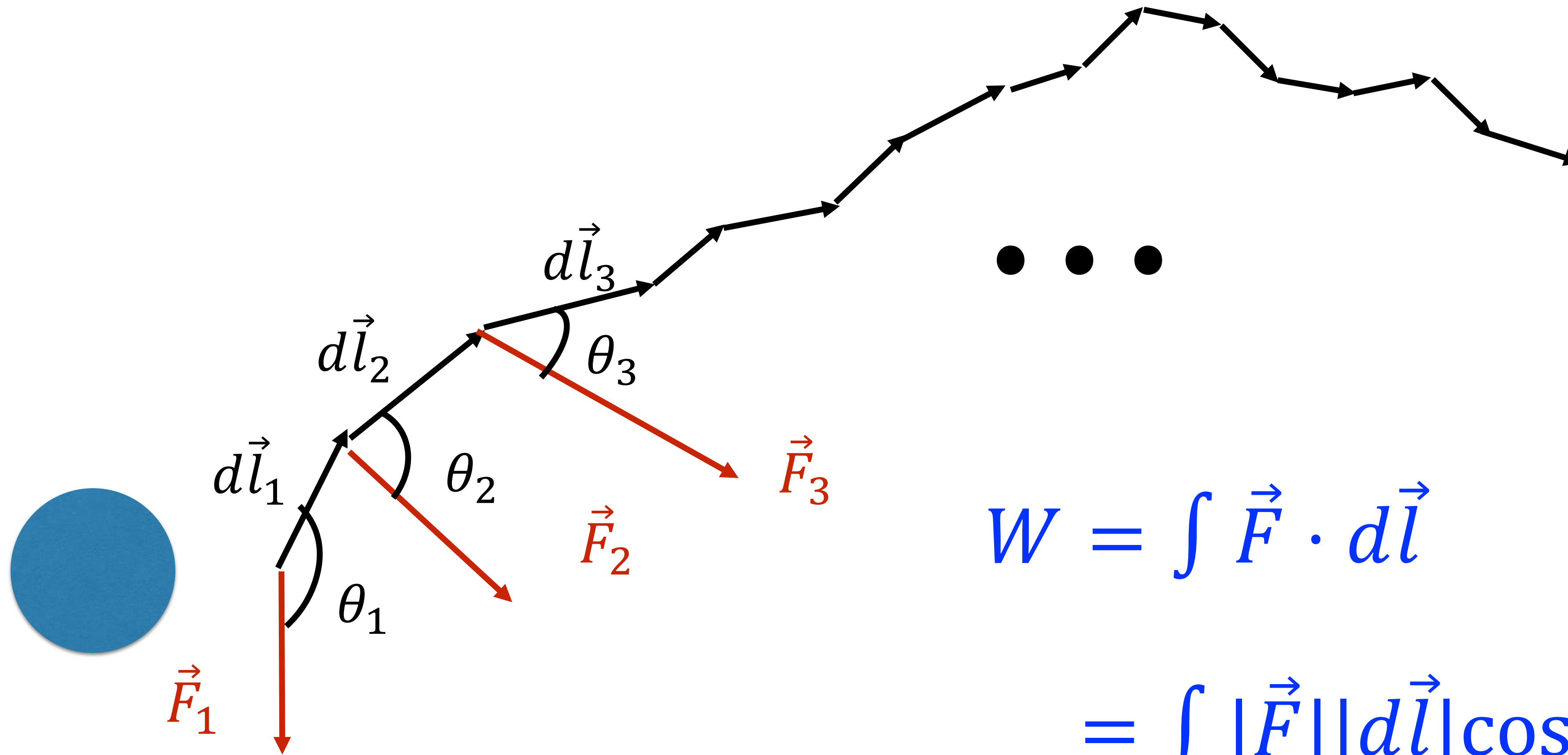
- A climber of mass 65kg climbs on a vertical wall from  $\vec{r}_1$  to  $\vec{r}_2$ . The displacement  $\vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1 = (2\text{ m } \hat{i} + 5\text{ m } \hat{j})$ . What is the work done on the climber by the gravitational force?

Sol: Work by  $\vec{W} = -mg(y_2 - y_1)$   
 $= -65\text{ kg} \times 9.8\text{ m s}^{-2} \times 5\text{ m}$   
 $= -3185\text{ J}$



Climbing up, Work by  $\vec{W}$  is -

## 2.2. Work of a non-constant force



$$W = \int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

$$= \int |\vec{F}| |d\vec{l}| \cos\theta$$

Decompose  
the integral:

$$= \int F_x dx + F_y dy + F_z dz$$



# Example: Work done by a spring force



# Spring Force

- The spring force is linear with the displacement

$\vec{F}_s = -k\vec{x}$

*A function of disp.*

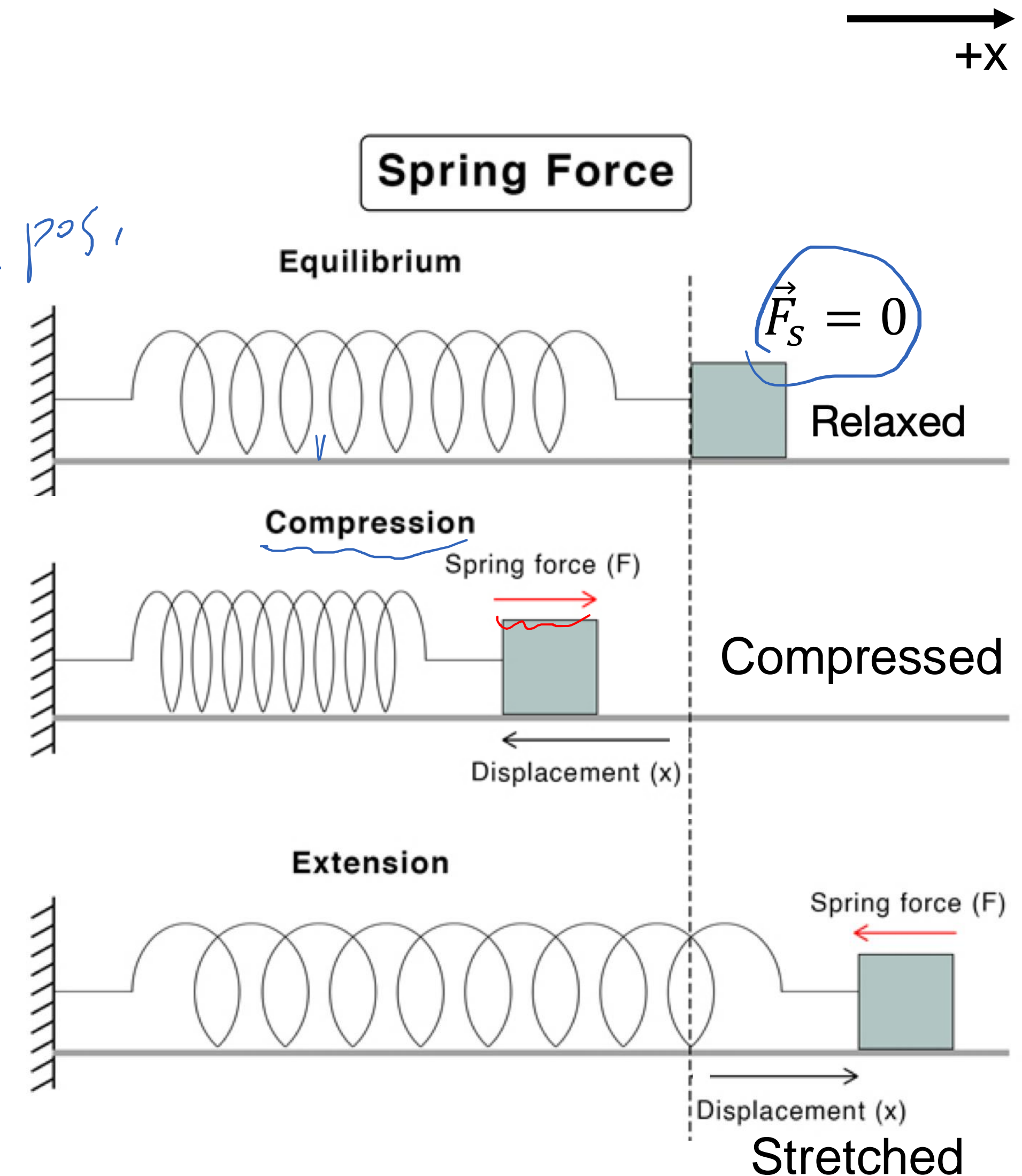
spring constant

displacement from the relaxed position

Not a constant force!

- Also known as Hooke's Law

*from relaxed pos.*



# Work done by a spring

force

Hooke's law  
 $F_s = -kx$

→  $x$  Axis

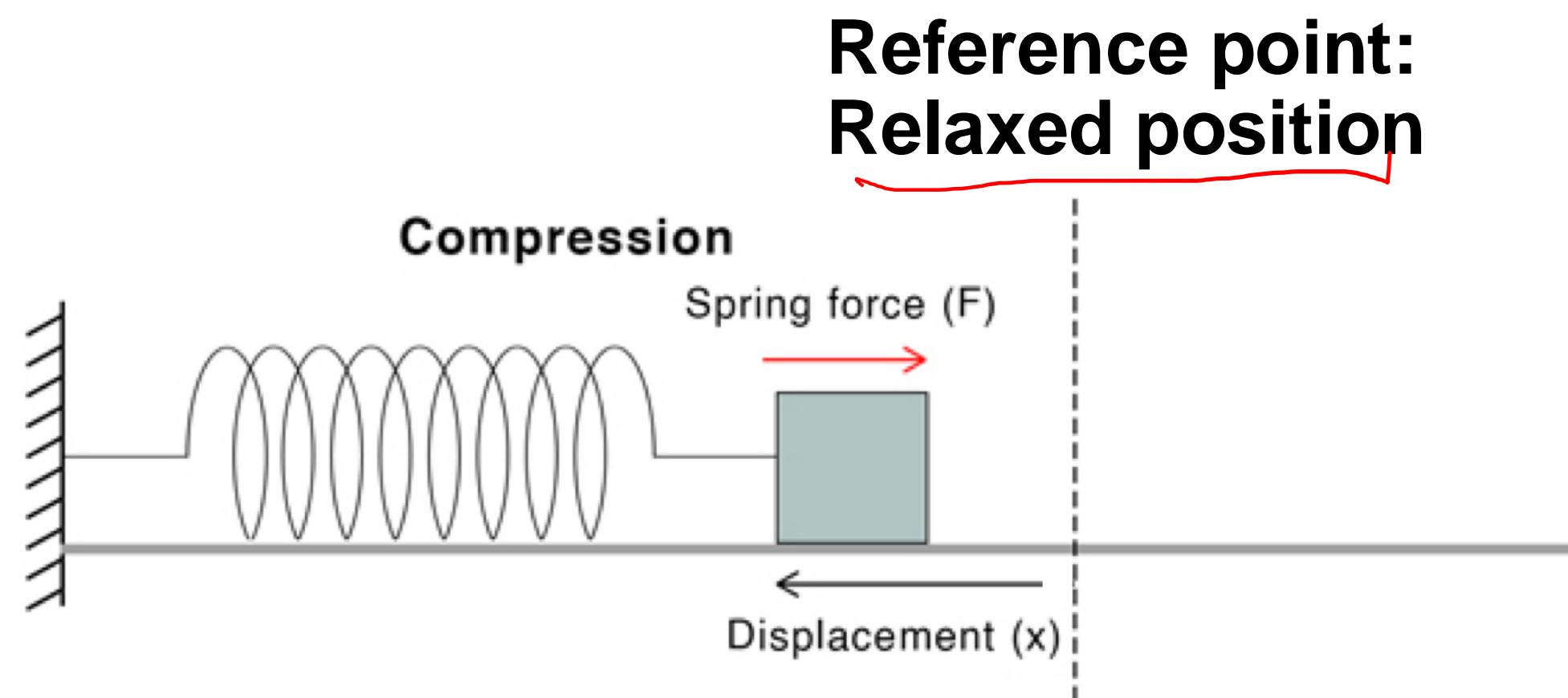
- Work done by a spring:

$$W_s = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} F_s dx$$

$$= \int_{x_i}^{x_f} -kx dx$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} kx^2 \Big|_{x_i}^{x_f}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} k (x_i^2 - x_f^2)$$



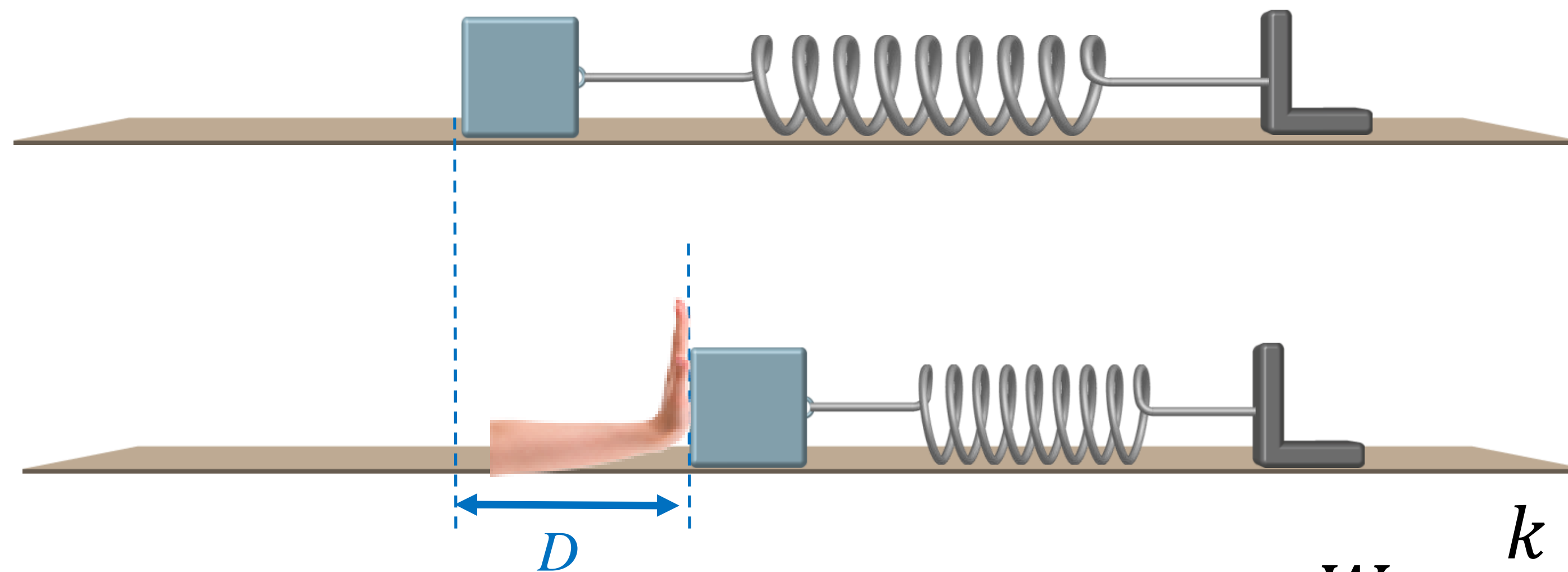
$$W_s = \frac{1}{2} k (x_i^2 - x_f^2)$$

Work by spring force only depends on the initial and final positions with respect to the relaxed length!

## Clicker Question 8



A box attached at rest to a spring at its relaxed length. You now push the box with your hand so that the spring is compressed a distance  $D$ . During this motion, the spring does:



$$W_s = \frac{k}{2} (x_i^2 - x_f^2)$$

$$x_i = 0$$

$$x_f \neq 0$$

A

Positive Work

B

Negative Work

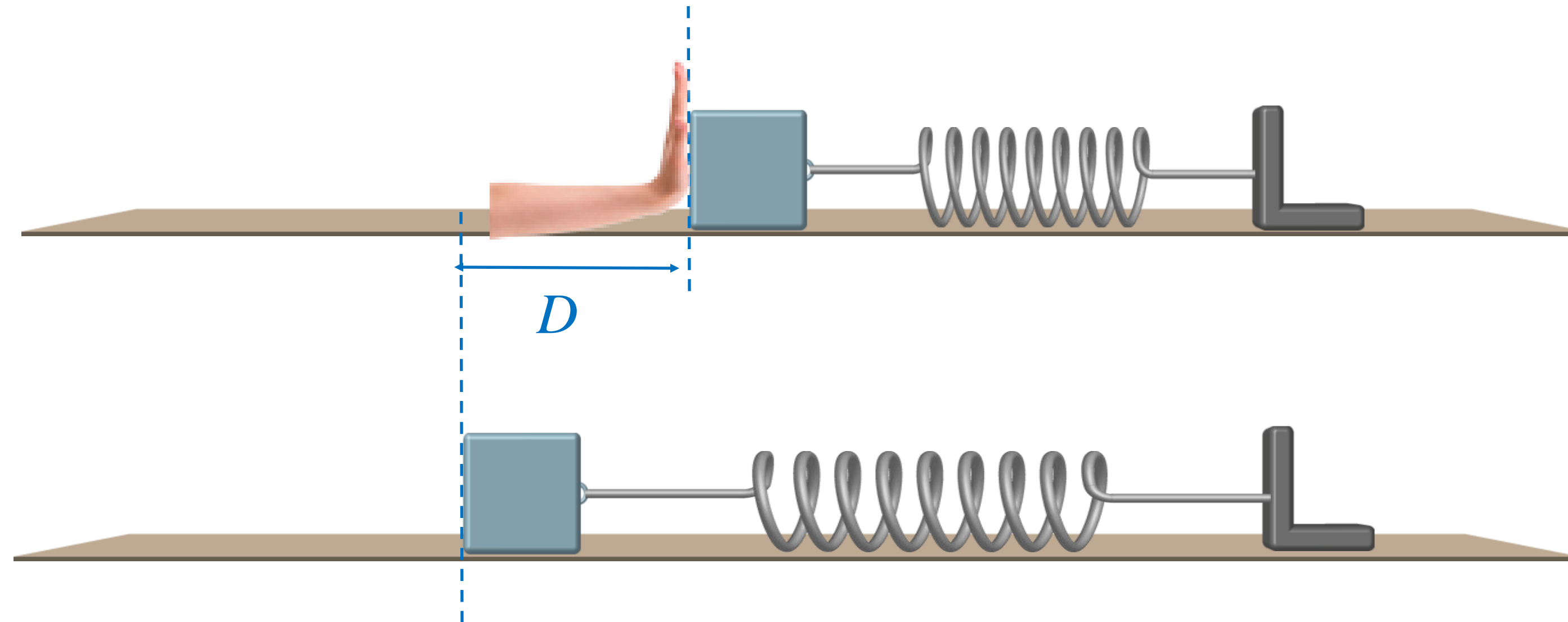
C

Zero work

## Clicker Question 9



A box attached at rest to a spring, which is compressed a distance  $D$  from its relaxed length. You **release** the box and the box moved to its relaxed position.



During this motion, the spring does:

$$W_s = \frac{k}{2} (x_i^2 - x_f^2)$$

**A**

Positive Work

**B**

Negative Work

**C**

Zero work