



LECTURE 8.1 - WORK AND KINETIC ENERGY

Dustin Roten, Ph.D.

Wilkes Community College

Fall 2023



INITIAL QUESTIONS

- Under what conditions is energy conserved?
- How does a system gain or lose energy?
- How is energy transferred into/out of a system?
- What is “work”?

DEFINITION OF “WORK”

- Energy is transferred into and out of a system by *pushes* and *pulls*. These pushes/pulls do *work*.
- A system can be characterized by two quantities: *kinetic* and *potential* energy.
 - Kinetic energy (K) is the energy of motion.
 - Potential energy (U) is the energy of position and interactions between objects.
- The sum of the kinetic and potential energies of a system is the *mechanical* energy. $E_{mech} = K + U$.

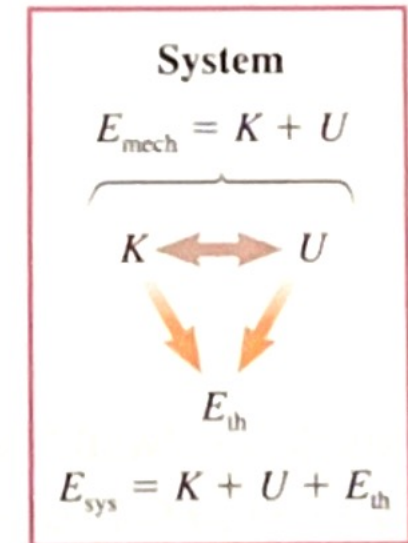
THERMAL ENERGY

- The microscopic motion of atoms and molecules within an object is a form of energy that is different from the object's mechanical energy. The total energy of the bonds between these atoms is called the system's *thermal energy* (E_{th}).
- Thermal energy is associated with a system's temperature.
 - A higher temperature indicates more microscopic motion (more thermal energy).
- Mechanical energy is transformed into thermal energy through friction.
- The system energy (E_{sys}) is given by $E_{\text{sys}} = E_{\text{mech}} + E_{\text{th}} = (K + U) + E_{\text{th}}$

THERMAL ENERGY

- Kinetic and potential energy can be transformed into thermal energy.
- Thermal energy is not (normally) changed into kinetic or potential energy.
- Energy exchanges *within* the system are called *energy transformations*.
 - Energy transformations do not change E_{sys} .

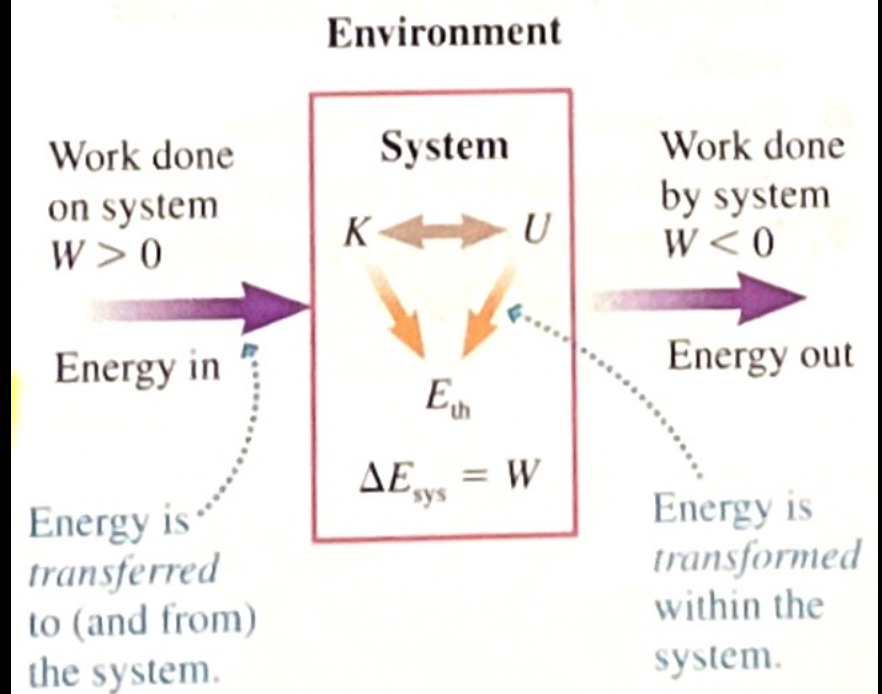
FIGURE 11.1 Energy can be transformed within the system.



THERMAL ENERGY

- A system is always situated within an *environment*. Unless the system is completely isolated, it has the possibility of exchanging energy with the environment.
- An energy exchange between the system and the environment is called an *energy transfer*.
- This mechanical transfer of energy to or from the system is called *work* (W).
 - $W > 0$ indicates work is done *on* the system.
 - $W < 0$ indicates work is done *by* the system.

FIGURE 11.2 The basic energy model of a system interacting with its environment.



THE BASIC ENERGY MODEL

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}} + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W$$

Energy transferred in/out of system: $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W$

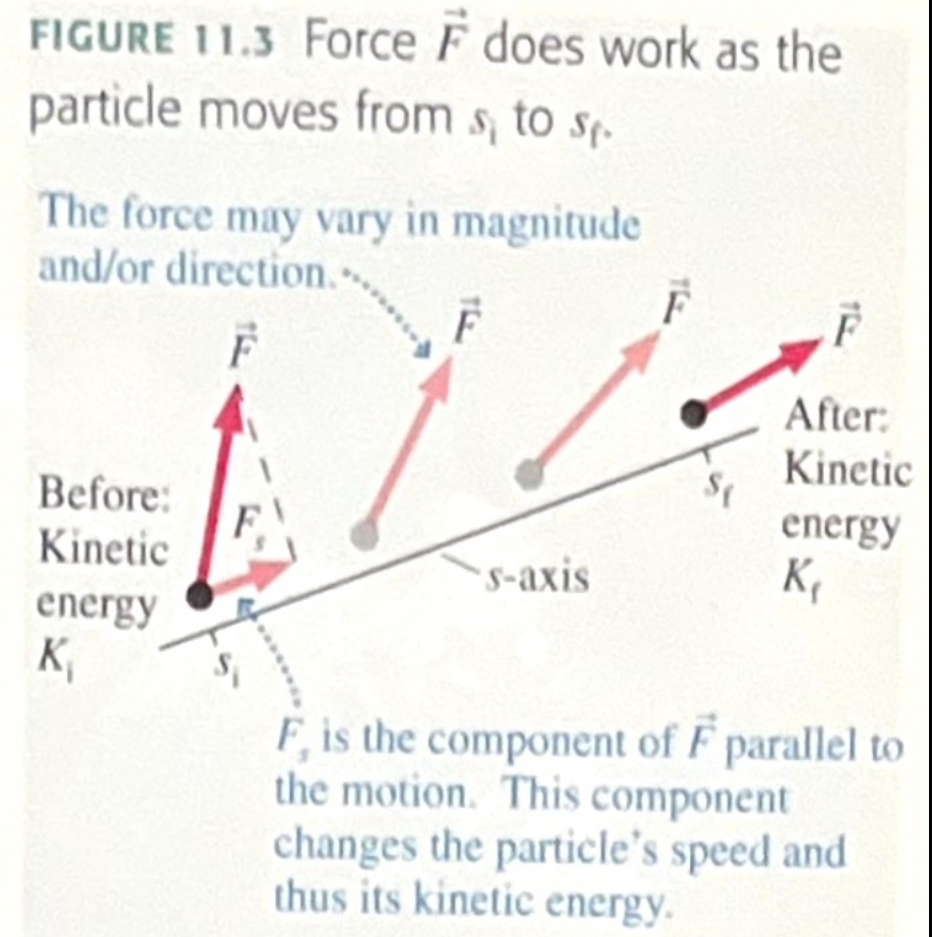
Energy transformed within a system: $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = 0$

How much energy does a force transfer?

FORCE AND ENERGY

- How might an applied force do work on a particle?
- An applied force causes an acceleration:
 $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$. This is a change in velocity.
$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a} = m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$$
- Thus, the component of a force doing work on a particle results in a change of velocity/energy.

$$W = \Delta K$$



FORCE AND ENERGY

- From Newton's Second Law:

$$F_s = ma_s = m \frac{dv_s}{dt}$$

$$\text{(Chain Rule)} \quad \frac{dv_s}{dt} = \frac{ds}{dt} \frac{dv_s}{ds} = v_s \frac{dv_s}{ds}$$

$$F_s = mv_s \frac{dv_s}{ds}$$

$$mv_s dv_s = F_s ds$$

$$\int_{v_i}^{v_f} mv_s dv_s = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} F_s ds$$

$$\int_{v_i}^{v_f} mv_s dv_s = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} F_s ds$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_f^2 - \frac{1}{2}mv_i^2 = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} F_s ds$$

$$W = \Delta K = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} F_s ds$$

Work is force \times distance so the units are Joules ($N \cdot m = J$). **This is the same as energy!**

WORK-KINETIC ENERGY THEOREM

When several forces act on a particle over a distance, $W_{\text{net}} = \sum W_i$.

When one or more forces act on a particle as it is displaced from an initial position to a final position, the net work done on the particle by these forces causes the particle's kinetic energy to change by $\Delta K = W_{\text{net}}$.

A system gains or loses kinetic energy when work transfers energy between the environment and the system.

IMPULSE-MOMENTUM THEOREM

WORK-KINETIC ENERGY THEOREM

I-M Theorem: $\Delta p_s = J_s = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} F_s dt$

W-K Theorem: $\Delta K = W = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} F_s ds$

A force acting over a time interval (t_i to t_f) and distance (s_i to s_f) changes the momentum *and* kinetic energy of a particle.

An impulse is created **AND** work is done by a force acting on a particle.

FIGURE 11.4 Impulse and work are both the area under a force graph, but it's very important to know what the horizontal axis is.

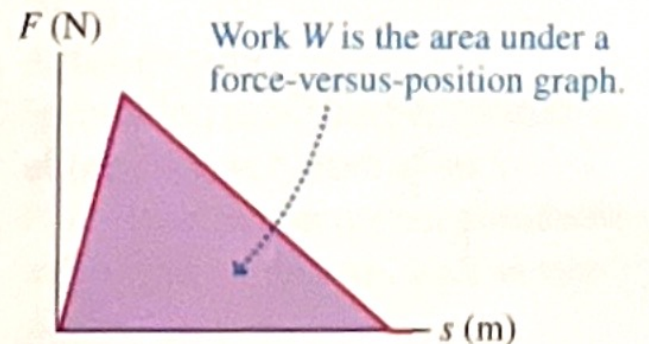
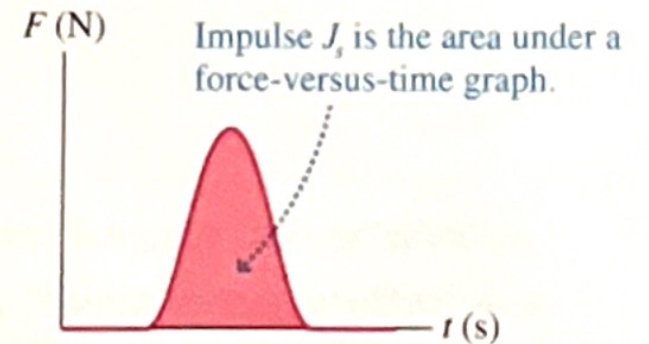
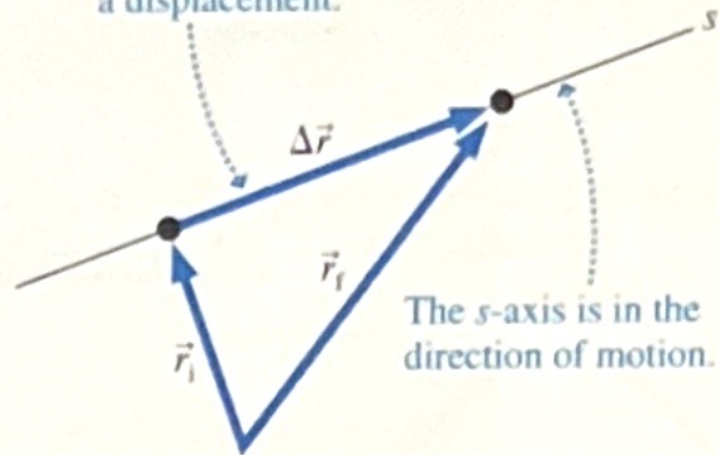
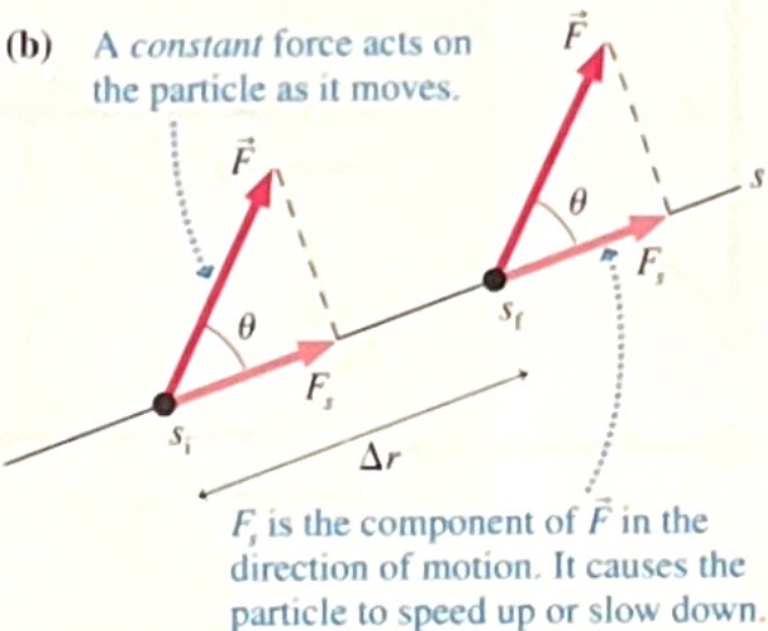


FIGURE 11.5 Work being done by a *constant* force as a particle moves through displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$.

(a) The particle undergoes a displacement.



(b) A constant force acts on the particle as it moves.



CALCULATING WORK

Consider a force, \vec{F} , acting on a particle with constant strength and constant direction.

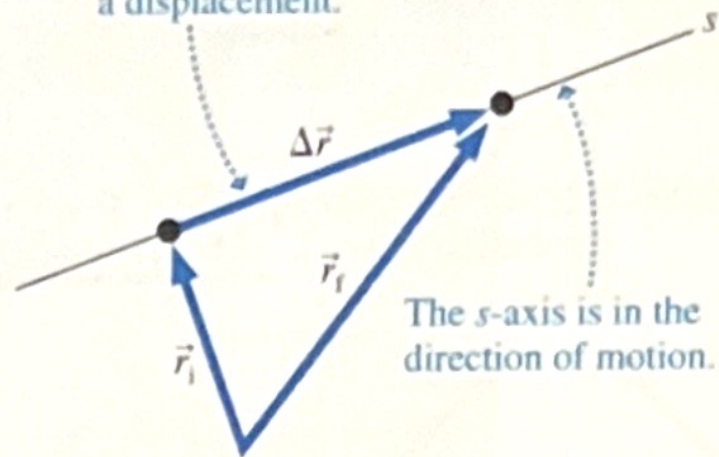
The particle moves through displacement, $\Delta\vec{r}$.

The force vector (\vec{F}) makes an angle (θ) with respect to the displacement ($\Delta\vec{r}$), so the component of the force vector along the direction of motion is $F_{\parallel} = F \cos \theta$.

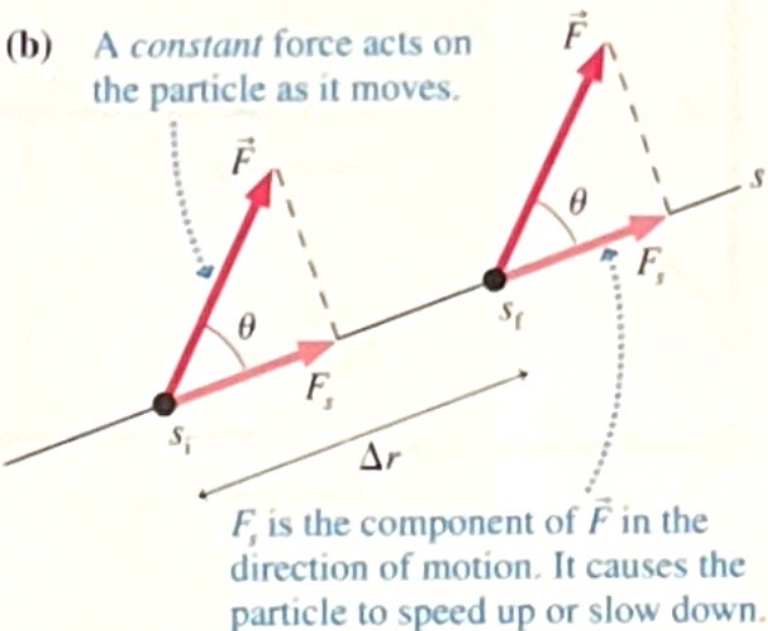
This is the component of the force that is responsible for changing the particle's velocity (ΔK).

FIGURE 11.5 Work being done by a *constant* force as a particle moves through displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$.

(a) The particle undergoes a displacement.



(b) A constant force acts on the particle as it moves.



CALCULATING WORK

$$W = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} F_s ds = \int_{s_i}^{s_f} F \cos \theta ds$$

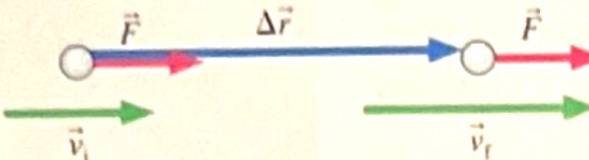
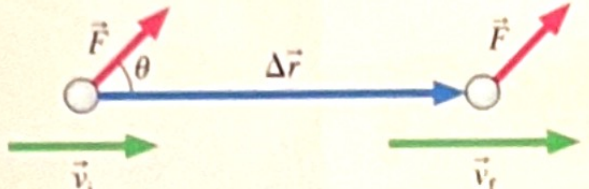
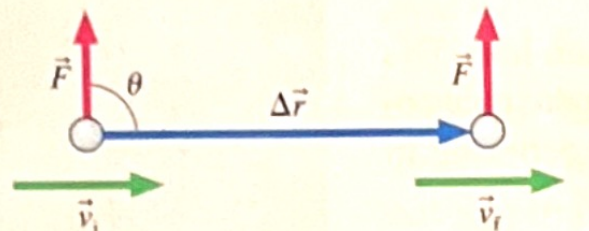
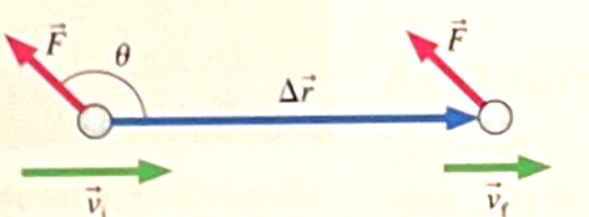
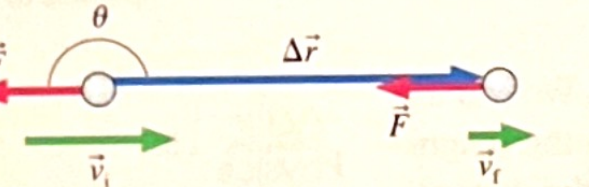
$$F \cos \theta \int_{s_i}^{s_f} ds = F \cos \theta (s_f - s_i) = F(\Delta r) \cos \theta$$

According to the basic energy model, work can either be positive or negative to indicate energy transfer into or out of the system.

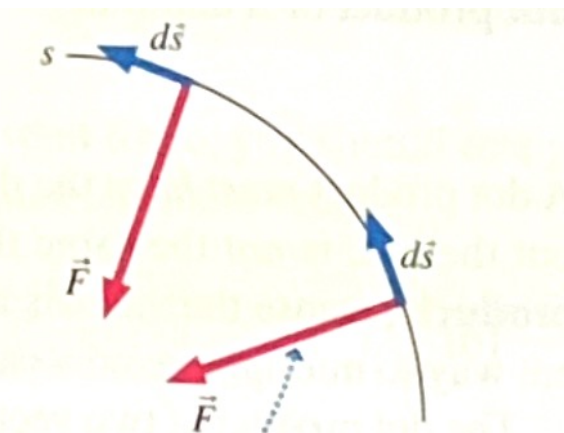
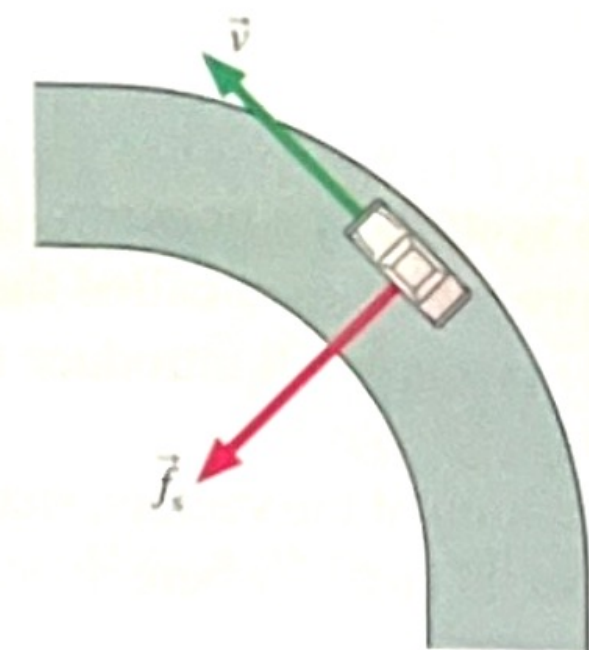
F and Δr are always positive, so the sign is determined by the angle θ .

Using the dot product (with a constant force):

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \Delta\vec{r} = F(\Delta r) \cos \theta$$

Force and displacement	θ	Work W	Sign	Energy transfer
	0°	$F(\Delta r)$	+	Energy is transferred into the system. The particle speeds up. K increases.
	$< 90^\circ$	$F(\Delta r)\cos\theta$	+	
	90°	0	0	No energy is transferred. Speed and K are constant.
	$> 90^\circ$	$F(\Delta r)\cos\theta$	-	Energy is transferred out of the system. The particle slows down. K decreases.
	180°	$-F(\Delta r)$	-	

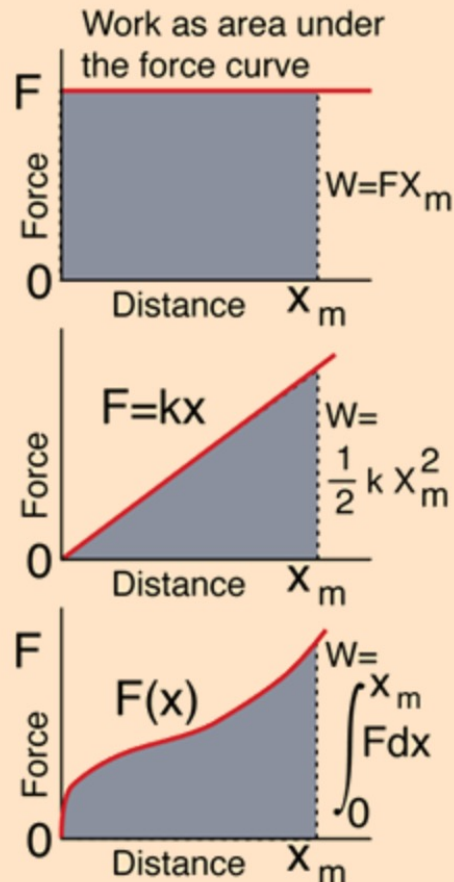
Consider a car being held in a curve by friction.



The force is everywhere perpendicular to the car's displacement, so it does no work.

WORK DONE BY VARIABLE FORCE

Work done by a variable force



The basic work relationship $W = Fx$ is a [special case](#) which applies only to constant [force](#) along a straight line. That relationship gives the area of the rectangle shown, where the force F is plotted as a function of distance. In the more general case of a force which changes with distance, the work may still be calculated as the area under the curve. For example, for the [work done to stretch a spring](#), the area under the curve can be readily determined as the area of the triangle. The power of [calculus](#) can also be applied since the [integral](#) of the force over the distance range is equal to the area under the force curve:

$$\text{Work} = \int_0^{x_m} F(x) dx = \int_0^{x_m} kx dx = \frac{1}{2} k x_m^2$$

For any function of x , the work may be calculated as the area under the curve by performing the integral

$$\text{Work} = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} F(x) dx$$

More general path