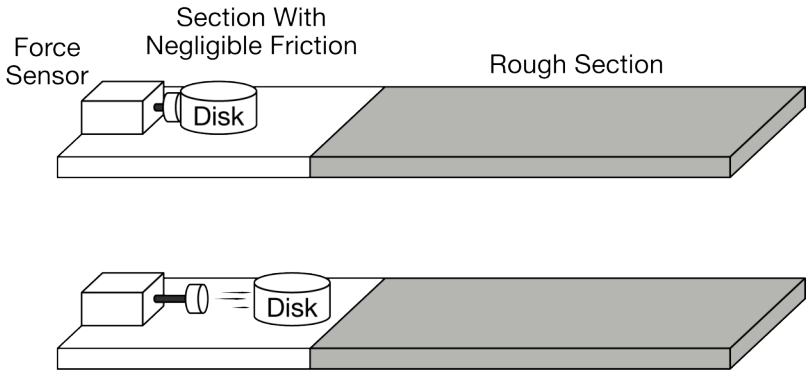
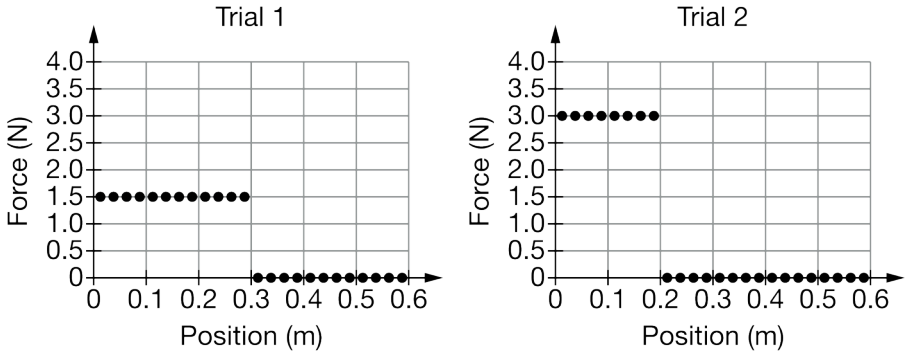
frq6

17. This question is a long free-response question. Show your work for each part of the question. (15 points, suggested time 25 minutes)



Students use a force sensor to push a disk of mass m across a horizontal table. The force sensor pushes the disk over a short distance. The magnitude of the force and the distance the disk is pushed can be set by the students. After being pushed by the sensor, the disk first slides along a surface with negligible friction and then enters a rough section where friction is not negligible, as shown above.

The students perform two trials in which the magnitude of the force exerted by the force sensor and the distance the disk is pushed are different. They create the graphs of force as a function of position shown below. The disk enters the rough surface in each trial after moving 0.6 meters.



(a) In which of the two trials, if either, is the change in energy of the disk the greatest during the interval shown in the graphs? Explain your reasoning.

(b) In both trials, the disk comes to rest in the rough section before reaching the edge of the table. In which trial, if either, does the disk travel a shorter distance in the rough section? Explain your reasoning.

(c) The students repeat Trial 2 with a disk that is made from the same material as the original disk but that is less massive. The same constant force is exerted on the less massive disk over the same distance as in Trial 2. Would the distance traveled in the rough section by the less massive disk be greater than, less than, or the same as the distance traveled in the rough section by the original disk in Trial 2? Explain your reasoning.

Students derive the following equation, which may or may not be correct, to describe the distance D traveled by the original disk in Trial 2 on the rough section: $D = \frac{Fx}{\mu mg}$, where F is the force exerted by the sensor, x is the

distance over which the sensor exerts a force on the disk, μ (mu) is the coefficient of kinetic friction, and m is the mass of the disk.

(d) Without algebraic manipulation of equations or attempting to derive this equation, indicate whether the equation is consistent with your answer in part (b). Explain your reasoning.

A student measures the time t that the disk is in contact with the force sensor in Trial 2. The disk then travels a distance D along the rough section. The student claims that if the same force is exerted on the disk for a time $2t$, the disk would travel a distance $2D$ in the rough section.

(e) Is the above claim correct or incorrect? Justify your answer without citing or manipulating equations.

The student finds the following equation on the Internet describing the relationship between the time t the disk is pushed and the distance D it slides in the rough section: $D = C\frac{F^2t^2}{2\mu m^2 g}$, where C is a constant with appropriate units.

(f) Indicate whether or not the above equation is consistent with your statement in part (e) relating D and t. Explain your reasoning.