

Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability either in the space provided. Everything should be scanned or photographed and submitted through [gradescope.com](https://www.gradescope.com). Pictures of your code, simulation or plots would help a lot in giving partial credit on this assignment!

**Objective:** *I can predict changes in thermal energy and temperature originating from dissipative forces.*

1. When satellites or rockets re-enter the Earth's atmosphere, they must utilize protection to ensure that they don't burn up due to the frictional heating of the atmospheric air drag. Consider a situation where a rocket is located 400 km above the surface of the Earth in the positive x-direction. The 5000 kg rocket has an initial velocity of  $\langle 0, 0, 7500 \rangle$  m/s. For convenience sake, you can approximate the shape of the rocket to be spherical with a radius of 5 m, and the Earth has a mass of  $5.97 \times 10^{24}$  kg and a radius of 6371 km.
- (6) (a) Spherical objects have a drag coefficient of 0.47. The trickier problem is that the density of the atmosphere decreases as you head up into space. The density can be given as

$$\rho = (1.3 \text{ kg/m}^3) \exp\left(\frac{-y}{10\,000 \text{ m}}\right)$$

where  $y$  is the height *above the Earth's surface*. Using this information and a time step of 2 s, determine the final position ( $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ ) of the rocket when it strikes the surface of the Earth.

- (6) (b) This drag force is going to do work on the rocket during its descent that will raise the thermal energy of the rocket. Technically, not *all* of the work will heat just the rocket, much of it will heat the surrounding air itself. Not knowing the exact proportions, say 50% of the work done goes into the heating the rocket itself. Assuming the rocket is made from steel with a specific heat of  $4900 \text{ J K/kg}$ , plot the temperature of the rocket throughout its journey. You can assume the rocket starts at a chilly  $-270^\circ\text{C}$ . (*Some Hints: Glowscript has a “dot” function that can take dot products for you. And to get the total work done by a changing force, you just want to add up the work done over each little segment.*)
- (1) (c) Look up the approximate melting point of steel. Will the rocket still be solid upon reaching the surface of the Earth?