

ENGR 2242 – Dynamics  
Kinetics of a Particle – Conservation of Energy

Conservative Force

- Independent of path
- Weights and springs

Nonconservative Force

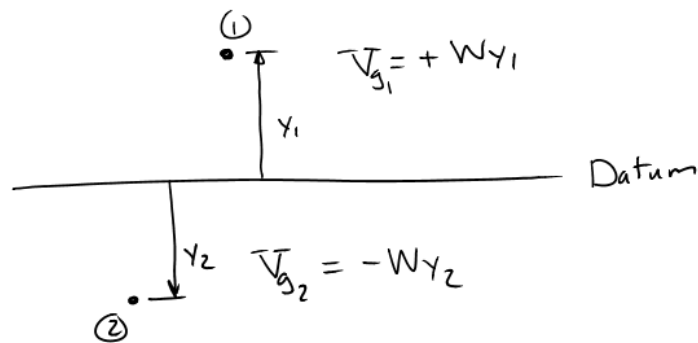
- Friction and applied forces

Potential Energy

- Gravitational Potential Energy

$\bar{V}_g = Wy$   
Potential Energy

Distance above or below  
an arbitrary fixed point (Datum)  
=> Above the Datum => Positive  
=> Below the Datum => Negative



- Elastic Potential Energy

$\bar{V}_e = \frac{1}{2} ks^2$   
Elastic Potential Energy

distance the spring is compressed  
or stretched

- The total potential energy is the sum of the gravitational and elastic potential energies

$$\bar{V} = \bar{V}_g + \bar{V}_e$$

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- Conservation of Energy

$$T_1 + \sum \bar{U}_{1-2} = T_2 \quad (\text{Principle of Work and Energy})$$

$$T_1 + \underbrace{\sum \bar{U}_{1-2} \text{ conservative}}_{V_1 - V_2} + \sum \bar{U}_{1-2} \text{ nonconservative} = T_2$$

$$\boxed{T_1 + V_1 + \sum \bar{U}_{1-2} \text{ nonconservative Forces} = T_2 + V_2} \quad \text{Conservation of Energy}$$

If there are no nonconservative forces present

$$\boxed{T_1 + V_1 = T_2 + V_2}$$