## Physics 131-1 Test 3

I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Questions (8 pts. apiece) Answer in complete, well-written sentences WITHIN the spaces provided.

- 1. If someone told you that the area of a circle was A = r, how could you refute them immediately?
- 2. Recall the laboratory entitled *Conservation of Angular Momentum* where you dropped a weight onto a rotating disk. The addition of the weight changes the moment of inertia of the system. What information do you need to measure to account for the change? Clearly describe each part of your answer.
- 3. Assume that an object is moving in a circle of constant radius, r. Using the general relationship between a length of arc, s, on a circle and the variables r and  $\theta$  in radians take the derivative of s with respect to time to find the velocity of the object. Show how the magnitude of the linear velocity, v, is related to the magnitude of the angular velocity,  $\omega$ .
- 4. Recall the laboratory entitled *Periodic Motion* where you studied the motion of a weight oscillating on a spring. When the mass has its maximum positive velocity, is its distance from the detector maximum, minimum, the equilibrium value, or some other value? Explain your answer using Newton's Laws and/or conservation of mechanical energy.

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5. For many years it was considered impossible by many to use rockets in space because the exhaust (*i.e.* the burnt fuel) propelled from the rocket had nothing to push against. On Jan. 13, 1920 the editorial page of the New York Times made the following statement about a proposal by Robert Goddard (now recognized as the father of American rocket science).

> That Professor Goddard with his 'chair' in Clark College and the countenancing of the Smithsonian Institution, does not know the relation of action to reaction, and of the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react - to say that would be absurd. Of course he only seems to lack the knowledge ladled out daily in high schools.

Was the Times' correct and how might you respond?

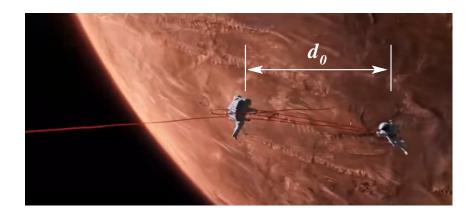
Problems. Clearly show all reasoning for full credit. Use a separate sheet to show your work.

- 1. 15 pts. An object in simple harmonic motion oscillates with a period of  $T = 4.0 \ s$ , an amplitude of  $A = 10 \ cm$ , and a phase  $\phi = 0$ . At t = 0,  $x = 10.0 \ cm$ . How long does the object take to move from  $x = 10.0 \ cm$  to  $x = 5.0 \ cm$ ?
- 2. 20 pts. A package of mass m is released from rest at a warehouse loading dock and slides down a frictionless chute of height  $h_0$  as shown in the figure to a waiting truck. Unfortunately, the truck driver went on a break without having removed the previous package of mass 3m from the bottom of the chute. Suppose the collision between the packages is perfectly elastic. To what final height  $h_1$  does the package of mass m rebound? Your answer should in terms of m, g,  $h_0$ , and any other constants.



3. 25 pts. In the final rescue scene of the movie *The Martian* Commander Lewis and Mark Watney are spinning around each other on a tether of length  $d_0$ . They orbit the center-of-mass of the tether located at the midpoint. Commander Lewis pulls Watney toward her until she can grab him. Assume the masses of each astronaut are m (the commander is lighter, but she has a manned maneuvering unit attached to her spacesuit) and their initial tangential speed is  $v_{\perp 0}$ . Treat the astronauts as point particles as they orbit around one another. What is the astronauts' angular momentum in terms of  $d_0$ , m, and  $v_{\perp 0}$ ? Commander Lewis pulls Watney toward her until she can reach him at a distance  $d_1$ . What is the tangential velocity  $v_{\perp 1}$  when she grabs him in terms of  $d_0$ ,  $d_1, m, and v_{\perp 0}$ ? What is the change in the kinetic energy  $\Delta KE$  of the astronauts? Use the following values to obtain a numerical value for  $\Delta KE$  ONLY. Compare your result with the energy of a car going 55 mph -  $3 \times 10^5$  J. Could she do it or is Hollywood violating the laws of physics?

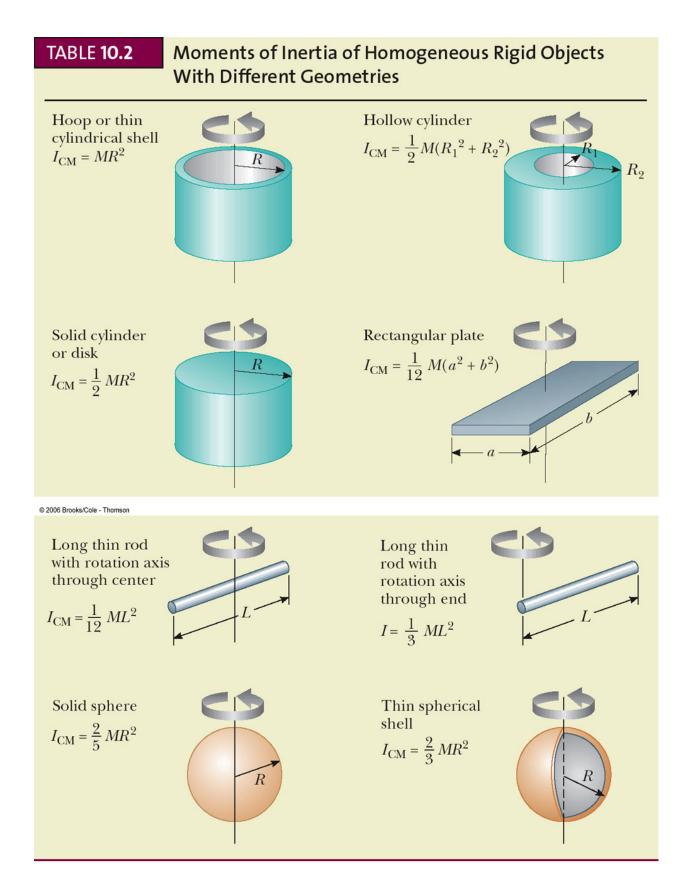
$$m = 320 \ kg$$
  $d_0 = 7 \ m$   
 $v_{\perp 0} = 2 \ m/s$   $d_1 = 0.5 \ m$ 



Do not write below this line.

## Physics 131-1 Exam Sheet, Test 3

Speed of Light $(c)$	$2.9979 \times 10^8 \ m/s$	proton/neutron mass	$1.67 \times 10^{-27} \ kg$
R	8.31J/K - mole	g	9.8 $m/s^2$
Gravitation constant	$6.67 \times 10^{-11} N - m^2/kg^2$	Earth's radius	$6.37 \times 10^6 m$
Earth-Moon distance	$3.84 \times 10^8 \ m$	Electron mass	$9.11 \times 10^{-31} \ kg$



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