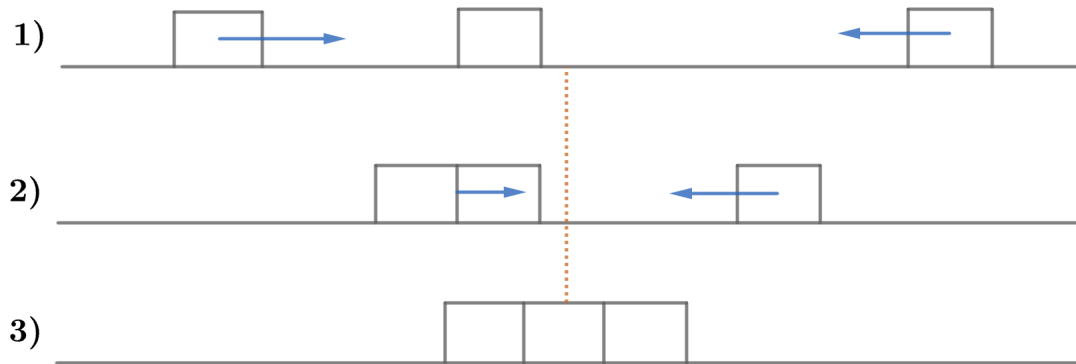


2009 F=ma Exam: Problem 3

Kevin S. Huang



Initially, the left and right blocks move toward the center block (1). The left block hits first and sticks to the center block. By conservation of momentum, they move together at half the initial speed (2). They collide with the right block, stick together, and come to rest (3). The center block ends up to the right of its initial position. Thus, the answer is E.