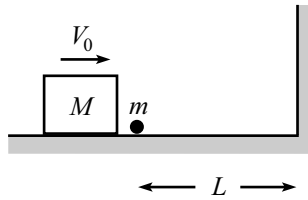


Week 19 (1/20/03)

Block and bouncing ball

A block with large mass M slides with speed V_0 on a frictionless table towards a wall. It collides elastically with a ball with small mass m , which is initially at rest at a distance L from the wall. The ball slides towards the wall, bounces elastically, and then proceeds to bounce back and forth between the block and the wall.



- (a) How close does the block come to the wall?
- (b) How many times does the ball bounce off the block, by the time the block makes its closest approach to the wall?

Assume that $M \gg m$, and give your answers to leading order in m/M .