Question #76720, Physics / Mechanics | Relativity

1. A 20-kg sled has gotten away. The sled starts from rest and goes down a straight down the hill. How fast will be the sled be at the bottom of the hill if it loses 100-m in altitude and friction is negligible?

Solution

From the conservation of energy:

$$\frac{mv^2}{2} = mgh$$

$$v = \sqrt{2gh} = \sqrt{2(9.8)(100)} = 44\frac{m}{s}.$$

Answer: $44\frac{m}{s}$

2. Suppose that the sled in the previous example is observed to be 30 m/s at the bottom of the hill. How much energy is converted to thermal energy by friction on the way down?

Solution

From the conservation of energy:

$$mgh = \frac{mv^2}{2} + Q$$

$$Q = m\left(gh - \frac{v^2}{2}\right) = 20\left((9.8)(100) - \frac{30^2}{2}\right) = 11000 J = 11 kJ.$$

Answer: 11 kJ.

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