

The Berkeley Compass Project

Physics
@BERKELEY

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Who Are We?

The **Berkeley Compass Project** is a group of graduate and undergraduate students in the sciences working to improve the recruitment and retention of undergraduate students not traditionally represented in the physical sciences. We provide extra support in academics and professional development that students need to be successful at UC Berkeley.



The **goals** of the Compass Project include:

- Improving undergraduate physics education
- Providing professional development opportunities
- Increasing retention of students
- Supporting a diverse student community



Mentorship Program

We create mentor/mentee groups consisting of lowerclassman undergraduates (mentees) and upperclassman/graduate students (mentors) to help students with the challenges of university life and career planning.



Annual Retreats

Compass graduates and undergraduates go on a weekend retreat outside of Berkeley for the purposes of getting to know each other and strengthening our community. We spend time together doing various activities, such as

- Icebreakers and Games
- Group outings
- Leadership/team-building exercises
- Discussions about diversity, equity and inclusion
- Reflections on the impact that Compass has had.
- Brainstorming ideas for future Compass programs.



The Compass Lectures

Research seminars are given by graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty at a level accessible to students who are early in their academic programs. These series of lectures help introduce students to the wide range of research topics being investigated at UC Berkeley.



Compass Courses

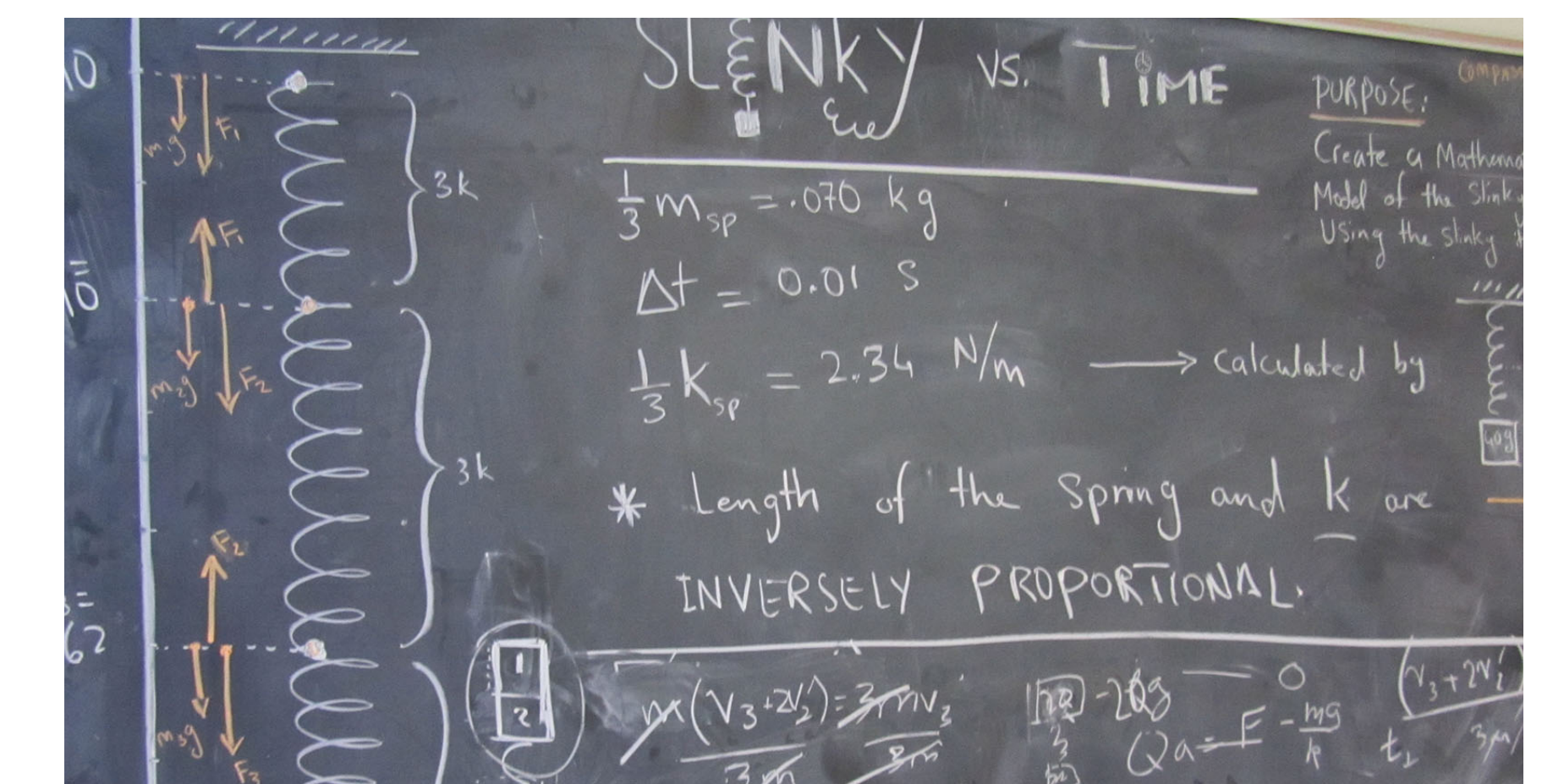
Grad students and senior-level undergrad students have the opportunity to design and lead a course for freshman and/or transfer students. This course may include activities such as

- Tours of labs and the machine shop
- Tutorials in useful software tools like LaTeX and Mathematica
- A better sense of how to navigate the research university
- summer courses designed for incoming freshman in the sciences
- Clicker questions and tutorials to target frequently misunderstood concepts



Physics Study Halls

Students in the introductory physics series study in groups together with upper-level undergraduate and graduate student tutors.



Social Events

Social events help strengthen the Compass community by allowing students to interact in more fun, informal settings. Past events include:

- Public science demos
- Brunches/dinners
- Game nights
- Bowling and pizza
- Hiking
- Pie on Pi Day
- Salsa classes
- Trips to local science museums



Victories of this Year

- Relaunched the mentorship program
- Increased undergraduate membership
- Held more events than previous academic year.

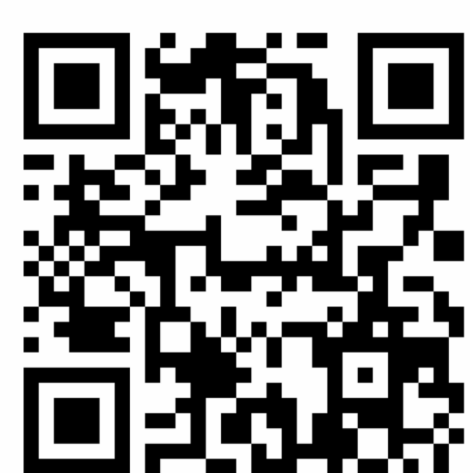
Areas for Growth

- Recruitment of organizers
- Assessment and documentation of progress
- Continue to increase undergraduate participation
- Building and maintaining a community

THE COMPASS PROJECT

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Website: <http://www.berkeleycompassproject.org>



E-mail



Website



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