

Let  $L$  be the natural length of the spring in meters. Then

$$24 = \int_{0.13-L}^{0.17-L} kx \, dx = \left[ \frac{1}{2} kx^2 \right]_{0.13-L}^{0.17-L} = \frac{1}{2} k [(0.17-L)^2 - (0.13-L)^2] \text{ and}$$
$$40 = \int_{0.17-L}^{0.21-L} kx \, dx = \left[ \frac{1}{2} kx^2 \right]_{0.17-L}^{0.21-L} = \frac{1}{2} k [(0.21-L)^2 - (0.17-L)^2].$$

Simplifying gives us  $48 = k(0.0120 - 0.08L)$  and

$$80 = k(0.0152 - 0.08L).$$

Subtracting the first equation from the second gives  $32 = 0.0032k$ , so  $k = 10,000$ . Now the second equation becomes  $80 = 152 - 800L$ , so  $L = \frac{72}{800}$  m = 9 cm.