Begin your response to **QUESTION 3** on this page.

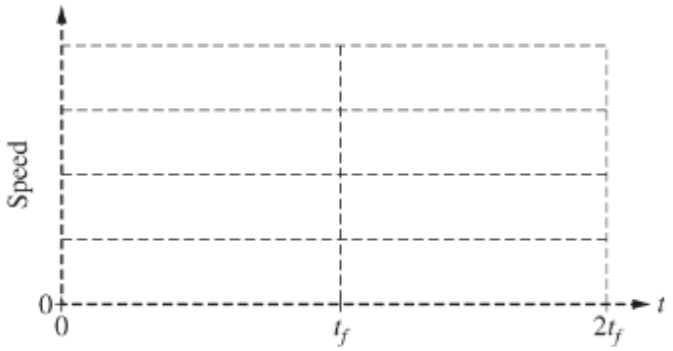
3. (12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

(a) A student of mass M_S, standing on a smooth surface, uses a stick to push a disk of mass M_D. The student exerts a constant horizontal force of magnitude F_H over the time interval from time $t = 0$ to $t = t_f$ while pushing the disk. Assume there is negligible friction between the disk and the surface.

i. Assuming the disk begins at rest, determine an expression for the final speed v_D of the disk relative to the surface. Express your answer in terms of F_H, t_f, M_S, M_D, and physical constants, as appropriate.

ii. Assume there is negligible friction between the student's shoes and the surface. After time t_f, the student slides with speed v_S. Derive an equation for the ratio v_D / v_S. Express your answer in terms of M_S, M_D, and physical constants, as appropriate.

(b) Assume that the student's mass is greater than that of the disk ($M_S > M_D$). On the grid below, sketch graphs of the speeds of both the student and the disk as functions of time t between $t = 0$ and $t = 2t_f$. Assume that neither the disk nor the student collides with anything after $t = t_f$. On the vertical axis, label v_D and v_S. Label the graphs "S" and "D" for the student and the disk, respectively.



GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Continue your response to **QUESTION 3** on this page.

Disk Block

(c) The disk is now moving at a constant speed v_1 on the surface toward a block of mass M_B, which is at rest on the surface, as shown above. The disk and block collide head-on and stick together, and the center of mass of the disk-block system moves with speed v_{cm}.

i. Suppose the mass of the disk is much greater than the mass of the block. Estimate the velocity of the center of mass of the disk-block system. Explain how you arrived at your prediction without deriving it mathematically.

ii. Suppose the mass of the disk is much less than the mass of the block. Estimate the velocity of the center of mass of the disk-block system. Explain how you arrived at your prediction without deriving it mathematically.

iii. Now suppose that neither object's mass is much greater than the other but that they are not necessarily equal. Derive an equation for v_{cm}. Express your answer in terms of v_1, M_D, M_B, and physical constants, as appropriate.

iv. Consider the scenario from part (c)(i), where the mass of the disk was much greater than the mass of the block. Does your equation for v_{cm} from part (c)(iii) agree with your reasoning from part (c)(i) ?

____ Yes ____ No

Explain your reasoning by addressing why, according to your equation, v_{cm} becomes (or approaches) a certain value when M_D is much greater than M_B.