Astronomy Ranking Task: Kinematics

Exercise #2

Description: Let "up" (away from the Earth's surface) be in the positive direction and "down" (towards the center of Earth) be in the negative direction. A person tosses a ball straight up into the air. Three instants in time are labeled A, B, and C below.

- A. Just after the ball leaves the person's hand.
- B. At the very top of the ball's motion (its maximum height).
- C. Just before the ball hits the ground.

A. Ranking instructions: Rank the amounts of acceleration the ball experiences during each of the labeled instances.

Ranking Order: Greatest 1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ Least

Or, the ball has zero acceleration during each of the labeled instances. _____ (indicate with a check mark)

Or, the ball has the same amount of nonzero acceleration during each of the labeled instances. _____ (indicate with a check mark)

Carefully explain your reasoning for ranking this way:

B. Ranking instructions: Rank the speeds of the ball during each of the labeled instances. (Ignore the signs on the speeds, e.g. directions.)

Ranking Order: Fastest 1 _____ 2 ____ 3 ____ Slowest

Or, the ball has the same speed at each of the labeled instances. _____ (indicate with a check mark)

Carefully explain your reasoning for ranking this way: