A dramatic example compares the energy stored in a steel rod, and in a pinball machine spring, when compressed by the same person. A steel rod responds to the external forces of a human with a very small length change, and stores only a small amount of energy. The spring in the pin–ball machine can also respond to external forces but it will compress much more and store a much larger amount of energy. As the spring from the pin–ball machine expands it can make a steel pinball move rapidly but when the steel rod expands (only a tiny amount before its force becomes zero) it cannot give the ball any significant velocity. The storage of energy in a spring will be studied in more detail in future chapters.