

# Definition of momentum: $\mathbf{p} = m\mathbf{v}$ . MOMENTUM IS A VECTOR

The net force on a system must change its momentum vector:

$$\sum \mathbf{F} = \frac{\Delta \mathbf{p}}{\Delta t}. \quad (\text{Assumes } \Delta t \rightarrow 0)$$

IMPULSE:  $\mathbf{I} = \Delta \mathbf{p} = \sum \mathbf{F}_{avg} \Delta t$ .

If no external force acts on a system, then no matter how complex the processes that occur within the system, the total momentum  $\mathbf{P} = \sum_i \mathbf{p}_i$  DOES NOT CHANGE!!

TYPES OF COLLISIONS:

- (1) ELASTIC—  $\Delta K = 0$ .
- (2) INELASTIC—  $\Delta K \neq 0$ .
- (3) COMPLETELY INELASTIC— the bodies merge into one after collision.

An object of mass  $M$  explodes into two pieces, one of mass  $2M/3$  and the other of mass  $M/3$ . If the final momenta are along the  $x$  axis, and the speed of the piece of larger mass is  $20$  m/s along  $-x$ , what is the velocity of the piece of lesser mass? Answer:  $\mathbf{v}_2 = +\hat{\mathbf{i}}(40)$  m/s.



An object of mass  $m$  collides head-on with an object of mass  $M$ . The objects stick together after collision. What is the final speed of the combined mass? Answer:  $v = (Mv_2 - mv_1)/(M + m)$ . How much work was done during the collision, in terms of  $v_1$ , the initial speed of  $m$ , if  $M = 2m$ ? Answer:  $W = -(4/3)mv_1^2$ .



Two objects of masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ , with  $m_2$  initially at rest, collide head-on. Show that  $v_0 + v_1 = v_2$ , and that  $v_1 = (m_1 - m_2)v_0/(m_1 + m_2)$  and that  $v_2 = (2m_1v_0)/(m_1 + m_2)$ , if the collision is ELASTIC.



Important special cases:

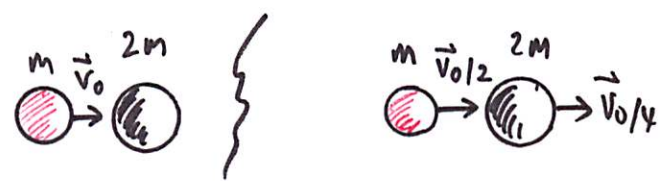
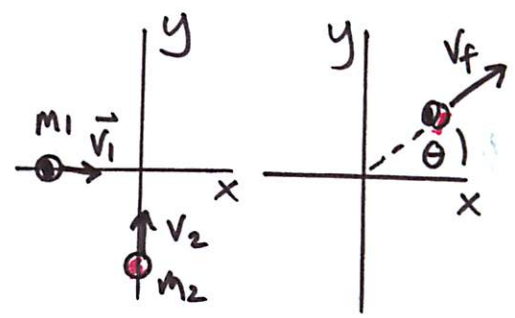
(1)  $m_2 = m_1$ , so  $v_1 = 0$  and  $v_2 = v_0$ .

(2)  $m_1 \gg m_2$ , so  $v_1 \simeq v_0$  and  $v_2 \simeq 2v_0$ .

(3)  $m_2 \gg m_1$ , so  $v_1 \simeq -v_0$  and  $v_2 \simeq 0$ .

} ELASTIC!

- For the collision shown, demonstrate that  $\theta = \tan^{-1}[(m_2 v_2)/(m_1 v_1)]$ . The collision is completely inelastic. Also, what is the speed of the combined masses after the collision if both masses are 1 kg,  $v_1$  is 1 m/s and  $v_2$  is 2 m/s?



- For the head-on collision illustrated, is the collision elastic?



- For the head-on collision illustrated, if  $v_1 = 2v_0$ , what is  $v_2$ ?

- A 0.1 kg ball is dropped from a height of 1.0 m, from rest, and rebounds from the floor to a maximum height of 0.5 m. What average force did the floor exert on the ball, if the ball was in contact with the floor for 0.01 seconds?

Answer: Using  $\Delta \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{F}_{avg} \Delta t$ , it is easy to see that the upward force exerted by the floor is about 76.3 N.