

Elastic vs Inelastic Collisions (linear)

unknowns  $\rightarrow v_1' \neq v_2'$

Momentum is always conserved

$$1. \quad m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

Energy is always conserved

if kinetic energy is conserved then the collision is called elastic (if kinetic energy is lost (or gained) then it is inelastic)

2. Elastic Collision.

$$\cancel{\frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2} + \cancel{\frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^2} = \cancel{\frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1'^2} + \cancel{\frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2'^2}$$

$$m_1 v_1^2 + m_2 v_2^2 = m_1 v_1'^2 + m_2 v_2'^2$$

given  $m_1, m_2, v_1, v_2$   
can solve for  $v_1', v_2'$

(2 eqns with 2 unknowns)

Collision Cart Examples:

problem from our first day doing collisions

Example 1 : 2 Objects (1 object moving, 1 object stationary)

$$V_1 = 2 \text{ m/s}$$

$$V_2 = 0$$

$$2 \text{ kg}$$

$$0.5 \text{ kg}$$

find  $V_1'$  &  $V_2'$  (assume elastic)

$$\rightarrow V_1' = ?$$

$$\rightarrow V_2' = ?$$

$$2 \text{ kg}$$

$$0.5 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{mom } 0.4 = 2V_1' + 0.5V_2' \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$\text{Ek } 0.08 = 2V_1'^2 + 0.5V_2'^2 \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \times 2 \quad 0.8 = 4V_1' + V_2'$$

$$V_2' = 0.8 - 4V_1'$$

sub into  $\textcircled{2}$  for  $V_2'$ 

$$\textcircled{2} \quad 0.08 = 2V_1'^2 + 0.5(0.8 - 4V_1')^2$$

$$0.08 = 2V_1'^2 + 0.5(0.64 - 6.4V_1' + 16V_1'^2)$$

$$0.08 = 2V_1'^2 + 0.32 - 3.2V_1' + 8V_1'^2$$

$$10V_1'^2 - 3.2V_1' + 0.24 = 0$$

$$V_1' = \underline{0.2} \text{ or } 0.12$$

initial  
velocity

$$\therefore V_1' = 0.12 \text{ m/s}$$

Sub into eqn  $\textcircled{1}$  to find  $V_2'$ 

$$V_2' = 0.32 \text{ m/s}$$

Collision Cart Examples:Example 2 : 2 Objects - both moving

$$m_1 = 2 \text{ kg} \quad \text{initial} \quad v_1 = 0.25 \text{ m/s} \quad v_2 = -0.50 \text{ m/s}$$

 $m_1$  $m_2$ 

final

 $m_1$  $m_2$  $v_1' = ?$  $v_2' = ?$

Solving Elastic Collision Problems

$$m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

$$m_1 v_1^2 + m_2 v_2^2 = m_1 v_1'^2 + m_2 v_2'^2$$

$$\text{let } v_2 = 0$$

$$m_1 v_1 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

$$m_1 v_1 - m_1 v_1' = m_2 v_2'$$

$$m_1 (v_1 - v_1') = m_2 v_2' \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$m_1 v_1^2 = m_1 v_1'^2 + m_2 v_2'^2$$

$$m_1 v_1^2 - m_1 v_1'^2 = m_2 v_2'^2$$

$$m_1 (v_1^2 - v_1'^2) = m_2 v_2'^2$$

$$m_1 (v_1 - v_1')(v_1 + v_1') = m_2 v_2'^2 \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \div \textcircled{1}$$

$$\frac{m_1 (v_1 - v_1')(v_1 + v_1')}{m_1 (v_1 - v_1')} = \frac{m_2 v_2'^2}{m_2 v_2'}$$

$$v_1 + v_1' = v_2' \quad \textcircled{3}$$

sub  $\textcircled{3}$  into  $\textcircled{1}$  & solve for  $v_1'$

$$m_1 (v_1 - v_1') = m_2 (v_1 + v_1')$$

rearrange & solve for  $v_1'$

$$m_1 v_1 - m_1 v_1' = m_2 v_1 + m_2 v_1'$$

$$m_1 v_1 - m_2 v_1 = m_2 v_1' + m_1 v_1'$$

$$v_1 (m_1 - m_2) = v_1' (m_1 + m_2)$$

$$v_1' = \left( \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \right) v_1$$

$$v_2' = \left( \frac{2m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \right) v_1$$

**Practice Problem #1**

An air track glider of mass 0.050 kg, moving at 1.0 m/s collides elastically with another glider of mass 0.200 kg, which is initially at rest. What are the velocities of each glider after the collision?

$$m_1 = 0.050 \text{ kg}$$

$$v_1 = 1.0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$m_2 = 0.200 \text{ kg}$$

$$v_2 = 0$$

$$v_1' = -0.60 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_2' = +0.40 \text{ m/s}$$

**Practice Problem #2**

An 20.0 kg red curling rock is travelling at 2.3 m/s [E] when it collides head-on elastically with the opponent's yellow rock of the same mass. What is the velocity of both rocks after the collision?

$$m_1 = 20.0 \text{ kg}$$

$$v_1 = 2.3 \text{ m/s}$$

$$m_2 = 20.0 \text{ kg}$$

$$v_2 = 0$$

$$v_1' = 0$$

$$v_2' = 2.3 \text{ m/s}$$

## Collisions

momentum is conserved  
 $m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$

energy is conserved  
 $E_i = E_f$

Elastic Collision

$$E_{K\text{TOT}} = E_{K\text{TOT}}'$$

Inelastic

$E_K$  is not conserved

Special Case

linear (no angles)

$$v_2 = 0$$

$$v_1' = \left( \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \right) v_1$$

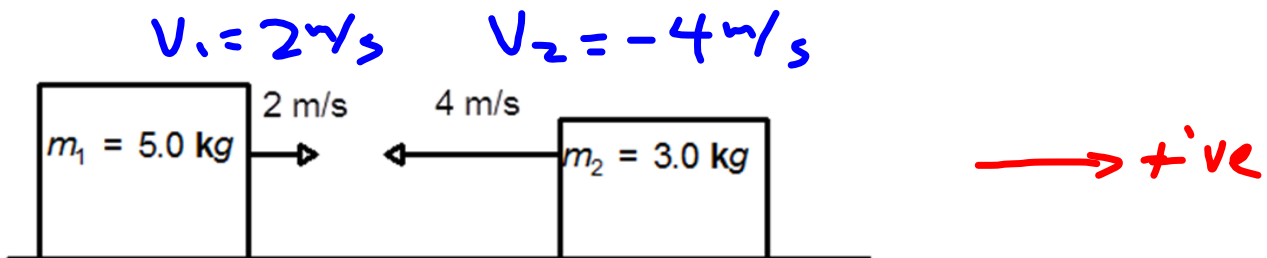
$$v_2' = \left( \frac{2m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \right) v_1$$

Three Scenarios for  $v_1'$

1.  $m_1 > m_2$ ,  $v_1'$  will be +ve
2.  $m_2 > m_1$ ,  $v_1'$  will be -ve
3.  $m_1 = m_2$ ,  $v_1' = 0$

Scenario for  $v_2'$

$v_2'$  will always be +ve.

What if Both Objects are Moving?Collisions Involving Two Moving Objects

Mass 1 is 5.0 kg and is moving to the right at 2.0 m/s.

Mass 2 is 3.0 kg and is moving to the left at 4.0 m/s.

They collide in an elastic collision.

a. Determine their velocities after the collision.

mom.       $(5)(2) + (3)(-4) = 5V_1' + 3V_2'$

①       $-2 = 5V_1' + 3V_2'$

kin energy       $\frac{1}{2}(5)(2)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(3)(4)^2 =$

$\frac{1}{2}(5)V_1'^2 + \frac{1}{2}(3)V_2'^2$

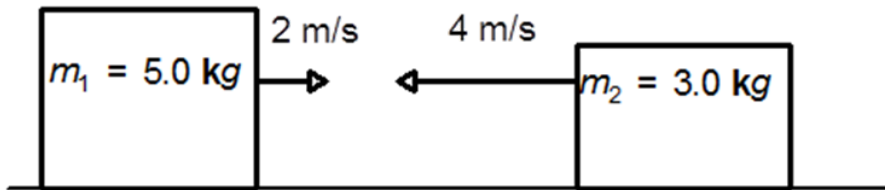
$10 + 24 = 2.5V_1'^2 + 1.5V_2'^2$

②       $34 = 2.5V_1'^2 + 1.5V_2'^2$

sub ① into ② & solve for  $V_1'$  or  $V_2'$

Collisions Involving Two Moving ObjectsShifting Frame of Reference

When two objects are both moving, we can shift our frame of reference to one of the two masses. This mass then has a relative velocity of zero.



Original Frame of Reference

$$V_1 = 2 \text{ m/s} \quad V_2 = -4 \text{ m/s}$$

Shift the frame of reference (f.o.r.) by adding  $4 \text{ m/s}$  to each object

$$V_1 = 6 \text{ m/s} \quad V_2 = 0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$V_1' = \left( \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \right) V_1$$

$$= \left( \frac{5 - 3}{5 + 3} \right) 6$$

$$= 1.5 \text{ m/s}$$

$$V_2' = \left( \frac{2m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \right) V_1$$

$$= \left( \frac{2(5)}{5 + 3} \right) 6$$

Shift back to original =  $7.5 \text{ m/s}$   
by subtracting  $4.0 \text{ m/s}$  f.o.r.

$$V_1' = 1.5 \text{ m/s} - 4.0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$= -2.5 \text{ m/s}$$

$$V_2' = 7.5 \text{ m/s} - 4.0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$= 3.5 \text{ m/s}$$



**Example 1b** : (same initial conditions as example #1, but with velocities reversed):

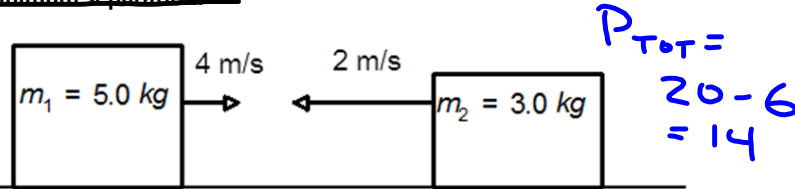
Mass 1 is 5.0 kg and is moving to the right at 4.0 m/s.

Mass 2 3.0 kg and is moving to the left at 2.0 m/s.

They collide in an elastic collision.

a. Determine their velocities after the collision.

~~b. Determine the potential energy stored in the bumpers at the point of minimum separation.~~



Answer

Shift our frame of reference to  $m_2$ .

initial velocities

$$v_1 = 4 \text{ m/s} \quad v_2 = -2 \text{ m/s}$$

$$m_1 = 5 \text{ kg} \quad m_2 = 3 \text{ kg}$$

shift f.o.r by adding 2 m/s

$$v_1 = 6 \text{ m/s} \quad v_2 = 0$$

$$v_1' = \left( \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \right) v_1 \quad v_2' = \left( \frac{2m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \right) v_1$$

$$= 1.5 \text{ m/s} \quad = 7.5 \text{ m/s}$$

shift back to original f.o.r by subtracting 2 m/s from each.

$$v_1' = 1.5 \text{ m/s} - 2 \text{ m/s} \quad v_2' = 7.5 \text{ m/s} - 2 \text{ m/s}$$

$$= -0.5 \text{ m/s} \quad = 5.5 \text{ m/s}$$

Check

$$P_{TOT} = 14 \quad P_{TOT}' = (5)(-0.5) + (3)(5.5)$$

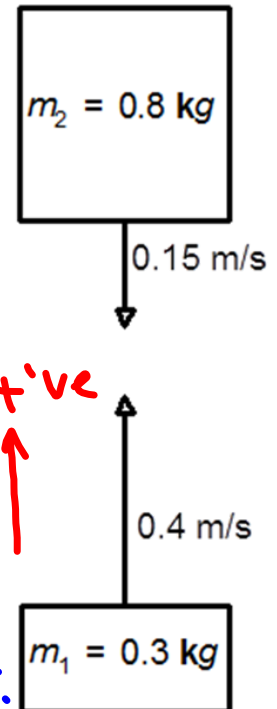
$$= -2.5 + 16.5$$

$$= 14$$

WarmupExample #2:

A 0.30kg object moving north at 0.40 m/s collides **elastically** with a 0.80kg object moving south at 0.15m/s.

- What is velocity of the two objects after the collision?
- ~~What is the total kinetic energy at the point of minimum separation?~~
- ~~What is the potential energy stored in the bumpers at the point of minimum separation?~~



$$V_1 = 0.4 \quad V_2 = -0.15$$

$$+ 0.15 \text{ shift + f.o.r.}$$

$$V_1 = 0.55 \quad V_2 = 0$$

$$V_1' = -0.25 \quad V_2' = 0.3$$

$$- 0.15 \quad \text{shift back}$$

$$V_1 = -0.4 \quad V_2 = 0.15$$

$$= 0.4 \text{ [S]} \quad = 0.15 \text{ [N]}$$