

Collisions:

$$P = m \cdot v$$

- A collision occurs when two or more objects come into contact with each other.
- Results in a transfer of energy and momentum.
- Elastic/inelastic collisions

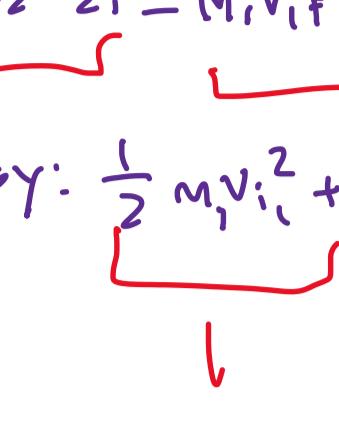
## • TYPES:

- (1) Elastic: Both momentum and kinetic energy are conserved

## • Characteristics:

- Objects bounce off each other without any loss of kinetic energy
- Total kinetic energy before collision equals the total kinetic energy after the collision

Example: Two billiard balls colliding on a pool table



$$KE_{\text{initial}} = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_{2i}^2$$

## • Equations:

$$(1) \text{Conservation of momentum: } m_1 v_{1i} + m_2 v_{2i} = m_1 v_{1f} + m_2 v_{2f}$$

$$(2) \text{Conservation of kinetic energy: } \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_{2i}^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1f}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_{2f}^2$$

- (2) Inelastic collisions: Momentum is conserved but kinetic energy is not conserved

## • Characteristics:

- Objects may stick together after the collision (completely inelastic) or bounce apart (partially inelastic)

$$\boxed{1} \rightarrow \boxed{2}$$

- Some kinetic energy is transformed into other forms of energy

$$KE_i \neq KE_f$$

Example: A car crash where cars crumple together



## • Equations:

$$(1) \text{Conservation of momentum (kinetic energy is not conserved)}$$

$$(2) \text{Completely inelastic collision:}$$

$$\text{if the objects stick together after the collision} \rightarrow V_F = \frac{m_1 v_{1i} + m_2 v_{2i}}{m_1 + m_2}$$

Feature	Elastic	Inelastic
Kinetic energy	Conserved	Not conserved
Momentum	Conserved	Conserved
Deformation	No permanent deformation	Permanent deformation
Example	Billiard balls	Car crash

Key concepts:

- (1) Coefficient of restitution ( $e$ ):

Measure of how elastic a collision is; defined as the ratio of the relative speed after the collision to the relative speed before the collision

$$\text{Formula: } e = \frac{v_{2f} - v_{1f}}{v_{1i} - v_{2i}}$$

## • Values defined:

- $e=1 \rightarrow$  perfectly elastic collision
- $e=0 \rightarrow$  perfectly inelastic collision
- $0 < e < 1 \rightarrow$  partially inelastic collision

## Problem solving strategy:

- Identify type of collision
- Write down conservation equations
- Substitute known values
- Solve for unknowns
- Check work

Example: A 3 kg object moving at 4 m/s collides elastically with a 2 kg object at rest. What are their velocities after the collision?

Givens:  $m_1 = 3 \text{ kg}$ ,  $m_2 = 2 \text{ kg}$ ,  $v_{1i} = 4 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $v_{2i} = 0 \text{ m/s}$

Unknowns:  $v_{1f} = ?$ ,  $v_{2f} = ?$

$$v_{2i} = 0 \text{ m/s}$$

Solution:

- (1) Set up conservation eqs:

$$(1) m_1 v_{1i} + m_2 v_{2i} = m_1 v_{1f} + m_2 v_{2f}$$

$$3(4) + 2(0) = 3v_{1f} + 2v_{2f}$$

$$(2) \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_{2i}^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1f}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_{2f}^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(3)(4)^2 + 0 = \frac{1}{2}(3)v_{1f}^2 + \frac{1}{2}(2)v_{2f}^2$$

(2)

$$Eq \ (1) \ 12 = 3v_{1f} + 2v_{2f}$$

$$Eq \ (2) \ 12 = \frac{1}{2} v_{1f}^2 + \frac{1}{2} v_{2f}^2$$

(3) Solve for system of eqs:

$$(1) 12 = 3v_{1f} + 2v_{2f}$$

$$(2) 12 = \frac{1}{2} v_{1f}^2 + \frac{1}{2} v_{2f}^2$$

Eq (1): solve for  $v_{2f}$

$$2v_{2f} = 12 - 3v_{1f}$$

$$v_{2f} = \frac{12 - 3v_{1f}}{2}$$

$$v_{2f} = 6 - \frac{3}{2} v_{1f}$$

use substitution into eq 2

$$24 = \frac{1}{2} v_{1f}^2 + (6 - \frac{3}{2} v_{1f})^2$$

$$(-\frac{3}{2} v_{1f} + 6)(-\frac{3}{2} v_{1f} + 6)$$

$$24 = \frac{1}{2} v_{1f}^2 + \frac{9}{4} v_{1f}^2 - 18v_{1f} + 36$$

$$\frac{11}{4} v_{1f}^2 - 18v_{1f} + 36 = 0$$

$$\frac{15}{4} v_{1f}^2 - 18v_{1f} + 36 = 0$$

$$(\frac{15}{4} v_{1f}^2 - 18v_{1f} + 36) = 0$$

$$15v_{1f}^2 - 72v_{1f} + 144 = 0$$

$$\frac{15}{3} v_{1f}^2 - 24v_{1f} + 48 = 0$$

$$5v_{1f}^2 - 8v_{1f} + 16 = 0$$

$$v_{1f} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$v_{1f} = \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{64 - 320}}{10}$$

$$v_{1f} = \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{-256}}{10}$$

$$v_{1f} = \frac{8 \pm 16i}{10}$$

$$v_{1f} = 0.8 \pm 1.6i$$

$$v_{1f} = 0.8 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_{1f} = 0.8 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_{2f} = 6 - \frac{3}{2} (0.8)$$

$$v_{2f} = 6 - 1.2$$

$$v_{2f} = 4.8 \text{ m/s}$$

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