

We are given that the object m_1 collides with the rod with velocity v_0 , and the rod is floating in free space. Given m_1 , v_0 , m_2 , I_0 , and r , we are to figure to the final velocity of m_1 after collision v_f , the velocity of m_2 after collision v_{CM} , and of course the rotation of the rod after collision ω .

We are assuming that this collision elastic.

We have, then, for conservation of linear momentum:

$$m_1 v_0 = m_1 v_f + m_2 v_{CM} \quad (1)$$

Furthermore, we understand that angular momentum is also conserved here; therefore:

$$0 = \quad (2)$$

as the point mass does not have any rotational inertia, and the rod is not rotating at the start