

momentum, impulse, Conservation of momentum, and elastic/ inelastic collisions

Sources:

<https://openstax.org/books/physics/pages/8-1-linear-momentum-force-and-impulse>

linear: $\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$

momentum mass velocity

angular: $\vec{L} = I\vec{\omega}$

angular momentum angular velocity
moment of inertia

back to newton's second law: $F = ma = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$

$\Delta p = F_{net} \Delta t$ - impulse-momentum theorem

Grasp Check

You may have heard the advice to bend your knees when jumping. In this example, a friend dares you to jump off of a park bench onto the ground without bending your knees. You, of course, refuse. Explain to your friend why this would be a foolish thing. Show it using the impulse-momentum theorem.

- Bending your knees increases the time of the impact, thus decreasing the force.
- Bending your knees decreases the time of the impact, thus decreasing the force.
- Bending your knees increases the time of the impact, thus increasing the force.
- Bending your knees decreases the time of the impact, thus increasing the force.

(answer is d)

Conservation of momentum

- If there are no outside forces acting on the system, then momentum is conserved: $\sum m\vec{v}_i = \sum m\vec{v}_f$

discussion question: in a spacecraft with a centrifuge to generate artificial gravity. say you're doing <something> - is momentum conserved? what if the centrifuge itself is considered part of the system?

- similarly, if net external torque (τ) is 0, then angular momentum is conserved

Elastic & inelastic collisions

elastic collision: Objects separate after impact and kinetic energy is conserved

(velocity is also reversed - Problem 9.16 in 3000 Solved Problems in Physics)

inelastic collision: Objects stick together after impact, kinetic energy is NOT conserved

Coefficient of restitution: $e = \frac{|v_{2f} - v_{1f}|}{|v_{2i} - v_{1i}|} = \frac{\text{relative speed after impact}}{\text{relative speed before impact}}$

elastic: $e = 1$ (never happens - but can approximate)

normal: $0 < e < 1$

Purely inelastic: $e = 0$