

4 Physics Club Handout: Momentum & Impulse

For all these problems, assume acceleration due to gravity is 9.81 m/s^2 .

Beginner problems:

1. A 60-kg man holding a 20-kg box rides on a skateboard at a speed of 7 m/s. He throws the box behind him, giving it a velocity of 5 m/s with respect to the ground. What is his velocity after throwing the object?
2. The kinetic energy of a ball is 100 J and its momentum is $40 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{s}$. What is its mass?
3. If you jumped up so that you reached a height of 0.75 m, by how much would you change the earth's velocity?

Intermediate problems:

4. A force is applied to a 50 kg rock, initially at rest, for 4 seconds, such that the force $F = 10t^2$, where t is in seconds and F is in newtons. If this is the only force acting upon the rock, what is the final velocity of the rock?
5. A 5.0 kg block with a speed of 8.0 m/s travels 2.0 m along a horizontal surface where it makes a head-on, perfectly elastic collision with a 15.0 kg block which is at rest. The coefficient of kinetic friction between both blocks and the surface is 0.35. How far does the 15.0 kg block travel before coming to rest?
6. Prove that if two identical objects undergo an elastic collision where one of them is at rest, the velocities of the masses afterwards will be perpendicular.

Advanced problems:

7. There is a 5 meter long chain of mass density 100 g/m. It is held above a scale such that the tip of the chain is just touching the scale, and then dropped. What is the reading on the scale as a function of time?
8. Two objects of mass m_1 and m_2 are traveling at velocities \vec{v}_1 and \vec{v}_2 , respectively. They undergo a completely elastic collision. Find, in terms of these quantities, the final velocities of each mass.
9. A tennis ball of mass m_1 is on top of a basketball of mass m_2 and radius r . If they are dropped from a height h , to what height does the tennis ball bounce, assuming all collisions are elastic?

Now consider a stack of N balls, where the bottom ball has mass m , radius r , and each subsequent ball has mass $1/27$ that of the previous ball, and radius $1/3$ that of the previous ball. Assuming all collisions are elastic and without air resistance (which is completely absurd), and the stack of balls is dropped from height h , what is the highest ball's velocity?