

Chapter 8: Momentum & Collisions

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8.1] linear momentum — mass times velocity

$$\vec{P} = m\vec{v}$$

momentum

unit: $\text{kg} \cdot \text{m/s}$

e.g. a 110-kg football player moving at 8 m/s.

$$p = (110 \text{ kg})(8 \text{ m/s}) = \boxed{880 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}}$$

e.g. a 0.41-kg football thrown at 25 m/s.

$$p = (0.41 \text{ kg})(25 \text{ m/s}) = \boxed{10.25 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}}$$

-the 2nd Law ($\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = m\vec{a}$) is actually in terms of momentum.

$$\boxed{\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \frac{\Delta \vec{P}}{\Delta t}} = \begin{aligned} &\text{constant mass} \\ &\Rightarrow \Delta \vec{P} = \Delta(m\vec{v}) = m\Delta\vec{v} \\ \vec{F}_{\text{net}} &= \frac{\Delta \vec{P}}{\Delta t} = m\vec{a} \end{aligned}$$

e.g. hitting a tennis ball

time racket in contact
↓ with ball.

$$m = 0.057 \text{ kg} \quad v_f = 58 \text{ m/s} \quad \Delta t = 5 \text{ ms}$$

$$P_f = mv_f = (0.057 \text{ kg})(58 \text{ m/s}) = 3.31 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}$$

$$F_{\text{net}} = \frac{P_f - P_i}{\Delta t} = \frac{3.31 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}}{0.005 \text{ s}} = 661 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}^2 = \boxed{661 \text{ N}}$$

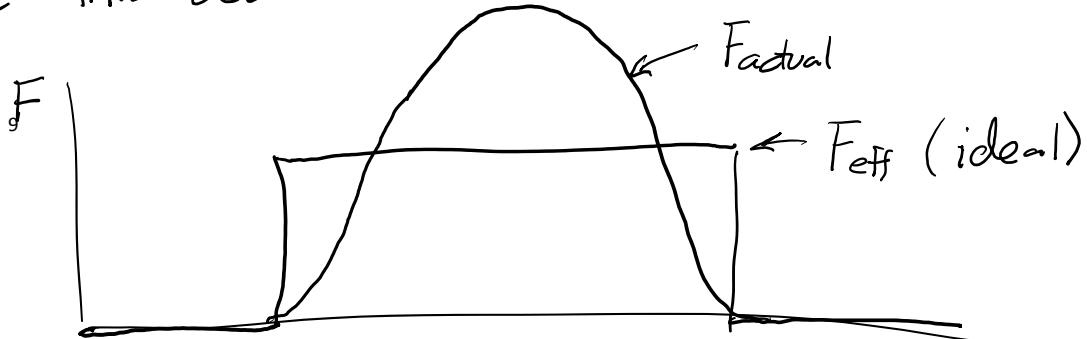
$$F_{\text{net}} = \frac{P_f - P_i}{\Delta t} = \frac{5001 \text{ kg m/s}}{0.005 \text{ s}} = 661 \text{ kg m/s}^2 = 661 \text{ N}$$

8.2 $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \frac{\Delta \vec{p}}{\Delta t} \Rightarrow \Delta \vec{p} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}} \Delta t$

\downarrow called impulse

impulse - a force acting for some time ($\vec{F}_{\text{net}} \Delta t$)

Note: this assumes a constant force



these two forces (F_{actual} + F_{eff}) have the same impulse.

the same impulse can come from a weaker force if it acts over a longer time.

- e.g. a car crash.

- the impulse acting on the person cannot be changed.
- an air bag will make the crash take a longer amount of time.
 - ⇒ means less force on the person
 - ⇒ means the person gets less injured.

8.3 Conservation of momentum

8.3] Conservation of momentum

For an isolated system, the total momentum is conserved.

↓
a system where the net external force is zero

→ sum of the momentums of all of the objects in the system.

e.g. two balls colliding



before collision, mass 1 is moving + mass 2 is at rest.

system = ball 1

→ net loss of momentum

system = ball 2

→ net gain of momentum

system = both ball 1 + ball 2

→ no change of momentum

Note: momentum is a vector + sometimes only some of the components are conserved.

e.g. projectile motion.



- the x-component of \vec{F}_{net} is 0,

so the x-component of \vec{P} is conserved.

- the y-component of $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} \neq 0$,

so the y-component of \vec{P} is not conserved.

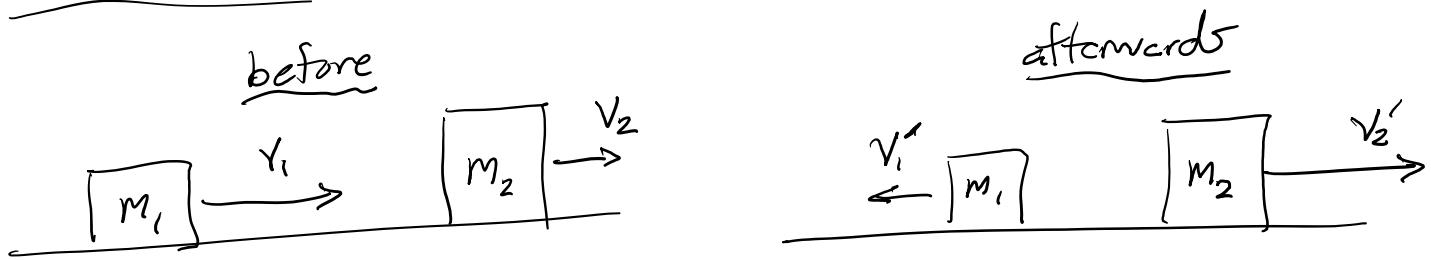
Conceptual Question: How can a small force impart a large change in momentum as a large force?

The same change in momentum as a large force?

Collisions

8.4] elastic collisions — a collision which conserves the total internal kinetic energy of the system.

1-dimension



System is isolated \rightarrow momentum is conserved.
Collision is elastic \rightarrow kinetic energy is conserved.

$$m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v'_1 + m_2 v'_2 \quad \leftarrow P_{\text{tot}} = P'_{\text{tot}}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v'_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v'_2^2, \quad \leftarrow KE = KE'$$

e.g. $m_1 = 0.5 \text{ kg}$, $m_2 = 3.5 \text{ kg}$, $v_1 = 4 \text{ m/s}$, $v_2 = 0 \text{ m/s}$
want to find v'_1 & v'_2 .

$$m_1 v_1 = m_1 v'_1 + m_2 v'_2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v'_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v'_2^2$$

$$v'_2 = \frac{m_1}{m_2} (v_1 - v'_1)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v'_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \left(\frac{m_1}{m_2} (v_1 - v'_1) \right)^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v'_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_1^2}{m_2} (v_1^2 - 2v_1 v'_1 + v'_1^2)$$

$$\frac{1}{2}m_3v_i^2 = \frac{1}{2}m_1v_c'^2 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{m_1^2}{m_2}(v_i^2 - 2v_i v_c' + v_c'^2)$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}m_1 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{m_1^2}{m_2}\right)v_c'^2 - \frac{m_1^2}{m_2}v_i v_c' + \left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{m_1^2}{m_2} - \frac{1}{2}m_3\right)v_i^2 = 0$$

plug into quadratic formula

$$v_c' = 4 \text{ m/s} \quad \text{OR}$$

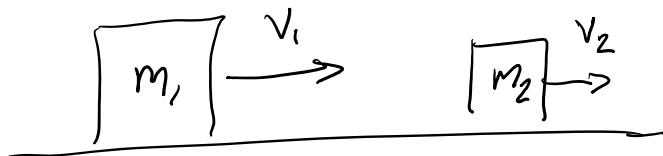
$$v_c' = \frac{0.5 \text{ kg}}{3.5 \text{ kg}} (4 \text{ m/s} - (-3 \text{ m/s})) = [1 \text{ m/s}]$$

8.5) inelastic collisions - collisions that do not conserve internal kinetic energy.

- maybe they stick together
- maybe they bounce (but not as much) ← most collisions
- maybe they somehow gain energy while colliding
- in any case, you still have conservation of momentum

perfectly inelastic collision - a collision in which the objects stick together. (reduces KE by as much as possible)

before



after



e.g. a 70 kg hockey goalie catches a 0.15 kg puck initially going at 35 m/s. Assuming no friction, what is his final velocity?

isolated system \rightarrow conservation of momentum
perfectly inelastic $\rightarrow v'_1 = v'_2 = v'$

$$m_1 = 70 \text{ kg} \quad m_2 = 0.15 \text{ kg}$$

$$v_1 = 0 \text{ m/s} \quad v_2 = 35 \text{ m/s}$$

$$m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v'_1 + m_2 v'_2 = (m_1 + m_2) v'$$

$$\boxed{v' = \frac{m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2}{m_1 + m_2}} = \boxed{0.075 \text{ m/s}}$$

↑
final velocity for any perfectly
inelastic collision.

e.g. an inelastic collision which gains energy



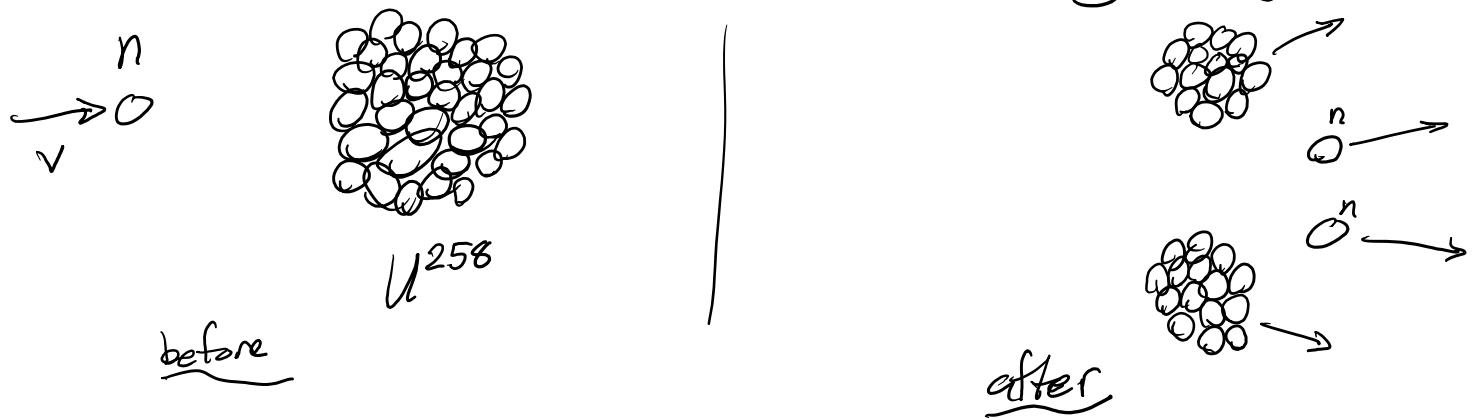
↑
compressed spring with a latch
When the collision occurs, the latch will release
and be allowed to expand

PE of the spring turns into KE of the carts

- a less contrived example, nuclear fission.

a neutron hits uranium + then the uranium breaks
apart releasing energy

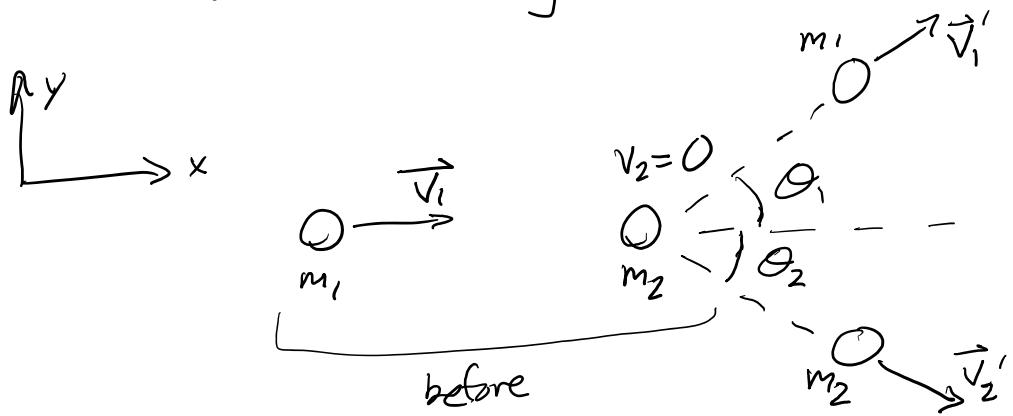




8.6 | 2D collisions

simplifications \rightarrow point masses don't consider rotation
 - choosing good coordinates

"lab frame" - one of the objects is initially stationary and the other is moving in the $+x$ direction.



Conservation momentum

$$m_1 \vec{v}_1 + m_2 \cancel{\vec{v}_2} = m_1 \vec{v}'_1 + m_2 \vec{v}'_2$$

$$m_1 v_{1,x} = m_1 v'_{1,x} + m_2 v'_{2,x} = \boxed{m_1 v'_1 \cos \theta_1 + m_2 v'_2 \cos \theta_2 = m_1 v_1}$$

$$m_1 v_{1,y} = m_1 v'_{1,y} + m_2 v'_{2,y} = \boxed{m_1 v'_1 \sin \theta_1 + m_2 v'_2 \sin \theta_2 = 0}$$

• need to know at least 2 of v'_1, v'_2, θ_1 , and θ_2

- if perfectly elastic \rightarrow also have conservation of KE

$$\frac{1}{2}m_1v_i^2 = \frac{1}{2}m_1v_1'^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2v_2'^2$$

(only need 1 quantity to solve)

- if perfectly inelastic $\rightarrow v_1' = v_2'$ + $\theta_1 = \theta_2$
 (can solve w/ only initial velocity)
 (will be a 1D collision)

- perfectly elastic & same mass (i.e. $m_1 = m_2 = m$)

we will get the equation (conservation of momentum)

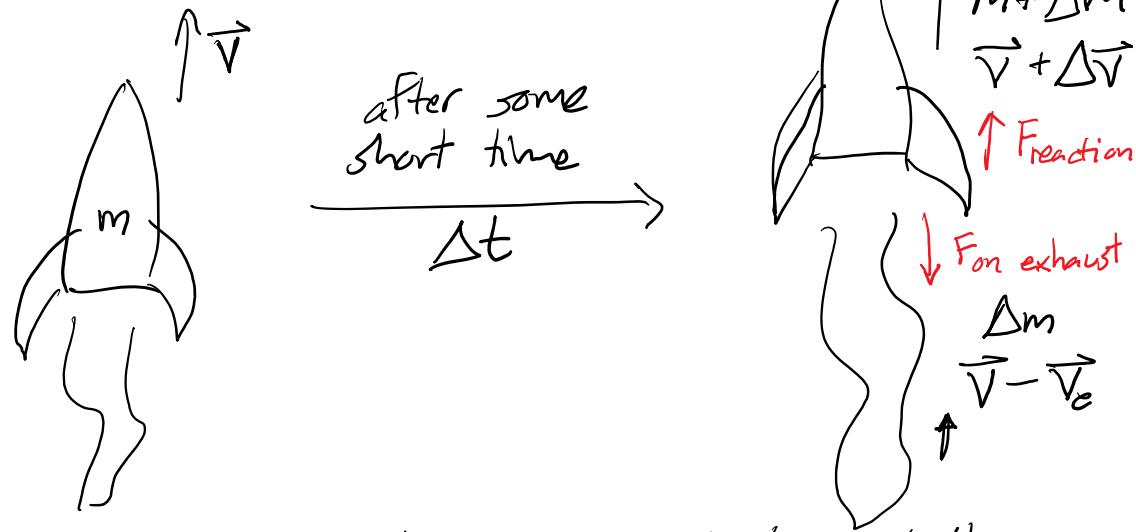
$$\frac{1}{2}mv_i^2 = \frac{1}{2}mv_1'^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv_2'^2 + mv_1'v_2' \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2),$$

- that means that $mv_1'v_2' \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) = 0$.

- either:

1. $v_1' = 0$ (incoming ball stops)
2. $v_2' = 0$ (no collision actually happens)
3. $\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) = 0 \Rightarrow \theta_1 - \theta_2 = 90^\circ$

8.7 | Rockets



- some mass Δm expelled as exhaust (w/ velocity v_e relative to the rocket)
- the rest of the mass (rocket, $m - \Delta m$) is now going faster ($v + \Delta v$)
- the entire system decreases momentum due to gravity.

$$\Delta \vec{p} = -mg \Delta t$$

want acceleration. find using momentum.

$$\underbrace{(m - \Delta m)(\vec{v} + \Delta \vec{v})}_{\text{final momentum of rocket}} + \underbrace{\Delta m(\vec{v} - \vec{v}_e)}_{\text{final momentum of exhaust}} - \underbrace{m \vec{v}}_{\text{initial momentum}} = \underbrace{-mg \Delta t}_{\text{impulse}}$$

$$\cancel{m \vec{v} + m \Delta \vec{v} - \vec{v} \cancel{\Delta m} - \cancel{\Delta m \vec{v}}} + \cancel{\vec{v} \cancel{\Delta m} - v_e \Delta m - \cancel{m \vec{v}}} = -mg \Delta t$$

$$m \Delta v - v_e \Delta m = -mg \Delta t$$

$$m \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} - v_e \frac{\Delta m}{\Delta t} = -mg$$

$$a = \frac{v_e \frac{\Delta m}{\Delta t}}{m} - g$$

acceleration of rocket

acceleration depends on:

1. velocity of exhaust gas, v_e
(practical limit of $\sim 2.5 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s}$)
2. rate at which the mass is expelled ($\frac{\Delta m}{\Delta t}$)

"thrust" = $v_e \frac{\Delta m}{\Delta t}$ unit: N

$$\text{"thrust"} = V_e \frac{\Delta m}{\Delta t} \quad \underline{\text{unit: N}}$$

3. mass of the rocket (m)

Note: as a rocket flies it loses mass
 → it accelerates faster.

e.g. Saturn V

$$\text{mass at liftoff} = 2.8 \times 10^6 \text{ kg}$$

$$\text{fuel burn rate} = 1.4 \times 10^4 \text{ kg/s}$$

$$\text{exhaust velocity} = 2.4 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s}$$

what was its initial acceleration.

$$a = \frac{V_e}{m} \frac{\Delta m}{\Delta t} - g = \frac{(2.4 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s})}{(2.8 \times 10^6 \text{ kg})} \left(1.4 \times 10^4 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{s}} \right) - 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$= \boxed{2.2 \text{ m/s}^2}$$

Can also get a formula for the final velocity of the rocket.

$$v = V_e \ln \frac{m_0}{m_r}$$

↓ initial mass of rocket + fuel
 ↓ mass of just the rocket

final velocity

$$\left. \begin{aligned} & \text{(can use for a portion of the flight)} \\ & \Delta v = V_e \ln \frac{m_i}{m_f} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

e.g. how much fuel does it take to get to escape velocity.

escape velocity = 11.2×10^3 m/s

exhaust velocity maximized $\rightarrow V_e = 25 \times 10^3$ m/s

$$11.2 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s} = (2.5 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s}) \ln \frac{m_0}{m_r} \rightarrow \boxed{\frac{m_0}{m_r} = e^{4.4} = 88}$$

$\rightarrow \frac{87}{88} = 97\%$ of the rocket is fuel!