

Two uniform smooth spheres A and B of equal radii have masses m and km respectively. The two spheres are on a horizontal surface. Sphere A is travelling with speed u towards sphere B which is at rest. The spheres collide. Immediately before the collision, the direction of motion of A makes an angle α with the line of centres. The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is $\frac{1}{2}$.

- (a) Show that the speed of B after the collision is $\frac{3u \cos \alpha}{2(1+k)}$ and find also an expression for the speed of A along the line of centres after the collision, in terms of k , u and α . [4]

After the collision, the kinetic energy of A is equal to the kinetic energy of B .

- (b) Given that $\tan \alpha = \frac{2}{3}$, find the possible values of k . [5]