



OCR A Level Physics



Your notes

Newton's Laws of Motion & Momentum

Contents

- * Newton's Three Laws of Motion
- * Linear Momentum
- * Impulse
- * Impulse on a Force-Time Graph
- * Conservation of Momentum
- * Collisions



Your notes

Newton's Three Laws of Motion

Newton's Three Laws of Motion

Newton's First Law

- Newton's First Law states:

A body will remain at rest or move with constant velocity unless acted on by a resultant force

- If the forces on a body are balanced (the resultant force is 0), the body must be either:
 - At rest
 - Moving at a constant velocity
- Since force is a vector, it is easier to split the forces into **horizontal** and **vertical** forces
- If the forces are balanced:
 - The forces to the left = the forces to the right
 - The forces up = the forces down
- The resultant force is the single force obtained by combining **all** the forces on the body



Worked Example

If there are no external forces acting on the car, other than friction, and it is moving at a constant velocity, what is the value of the frictional force F ?



Answer:

SINCE THE CAR IS MOVING AT CONSTANT VELOCITY, THERE IS NO RESULTANT FORCE.

THIS MEANS THE DRIVING AND FRICTIONAL FORCES ARE BALANCED.

F IS ALSO EQUAL TO 6 kN

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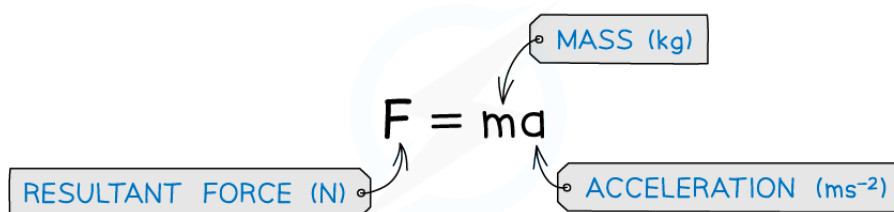
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Newton's Second Law

- Newton's Second Law states:

The resultant force is equal to the rate of change in momentum. The change in momentum is in the same direction as the resultant force

- This can also be written as:



$$F = ma$$

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- This relationship means that objects will **accelerate** if there is a **resultant force** acting upon them
- This is derived from the definition of momentum as follows:

$$\text{Momentum } p = mv$$

$$\text{Rate of change in momentum} = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t} = m \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

$$\text{Force } F = m \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

$$\text{Since } a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}, F = ma$$

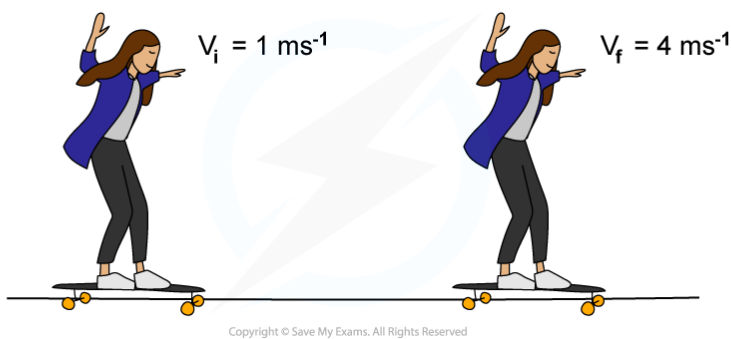
- An unbalanced force on a body means it experiences a resultant force
 - If the resultant force is along the direction of motion, it will speed up (accelerate) or slow down (decelerate) the body
 - If the resultant force is at an angle, it will change the direction of the body



Your notes

Worked Example

A girl is riding her skateboard down the road and increases her speed from 1 m s^{-1} to 4 m s^{-1} in 2.5 s . If the force driving her forward is 72 N , calculate the combined mass of the girl and the skateboard.



Answer:



Your notes

STEP 1

NEWTON'S SECOND LAW STATES THE RESULTANT FORCE IS EQUAL TO THE RATE OF CHANGE IN MOMENTUM

$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$

STEP 2

FIND CHANGE IN MOMENTUM Δp

$\Delta p = \text{FINAL MOMENTUM} - \text{INITIAL MOMENTUM}$

$$\Delta p = mv_f - mv_i$$

STEP 3

SUBSTITUTE ALL VALUES INTO NEWTON'S SECOND LAW

$$72 \text{ N} = \frac{m(4 - 1)}{2.5}$$

MASS m IS CONSTANT SO CAN BE TAKEN OUT AS FACTOR

STEP 4

REARRANGE FOR MASS m

$$m = \frac{72 \times 2.5}{3} = 60 \text{ kg}$$

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Examiner Tips and Tricks

The direction you consider positive is your choice, as long as the signs of the numbers (positive or negative) are consistent throughout the question. It is a general rule to consider the direction the object is initially travelling in as positive. Therefore all vectors in the direction of motion will be positive and opposing vectors, such as drag forces, will be negative.

Newton's Third Law

- Newton's Third Law states:

If body A exerts a force on body B, then body B will exert a force on body A of equal magnitude but in the opposite direction

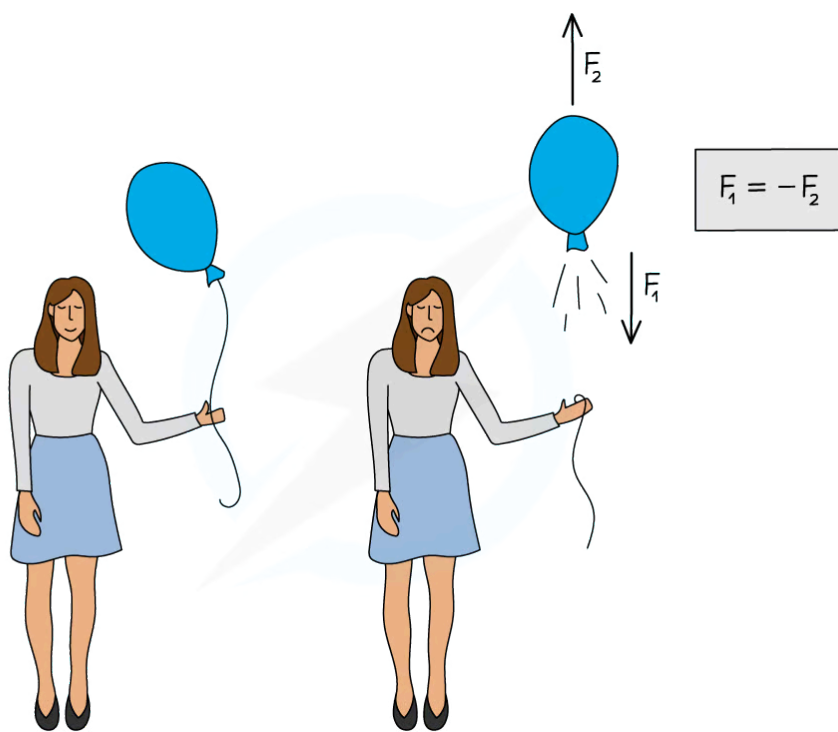
- This means that every force has a paired equal and opposite force
 - Newton's Third Law force pairs must act on two **different** objects
 - Newton's Third Law force pairs must also be of the **same type** e.g. gravitational or frictional



Worked Example

Using Newton's third law, describe why when a balloon is untied, it travels in the opposite direction.

Answer:



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THE AIR INSIDE THE BALLOON WILL RUSH OUT WITH THE FORCE F_1 .

THIS WILL PRODUCE AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE FORCE ON THE BALLOON F_2 FORCING THE BALLOON TO MOVE THROUGH THE AIR IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

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Examiner Tips and Tricks

You may have heard Newton's Third Law as: 'For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction'. However, try and avoid using this definition since it is unclear on **what** the forces are acting on and can be misleading.



Your notes



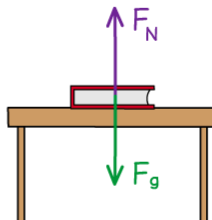
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SCENARIO 1:

NOT A NEWTON'S THIRD LAW PAIR SINCE BOTH FORCES ARE ACTING ON THE **SAME** OBJECT – THE BOOK

FROM NEWTON'S 1st LAW, SINCE THE BOOK IS STATIONARY, THE FORCES ON IT MUST BE IN EQUILIBRIUM

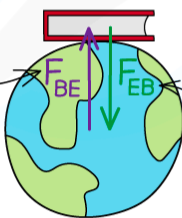
$$F_N = -F_g$$



SCENARIO 2:

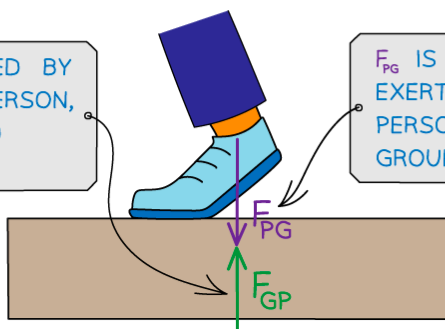
THESE ARE NEWTON'S THIRD LAW PAIRS SINCE BOTH FORCES ARE ACTING ON DIFFERENT OBJECTS

F_{BE} IS THE UPWARDS FORCE OF GRAVITY CAUSED BY THE BOOK ON THE EARTH



F_{EB} IS THE DOWNWARDS FORCE OF GRAVITY CAUSED BY THE EARTH ON THE BOOK

F_{GP} IS THE FORCE EXERTED BY THE GROUND ON THE PERSON, PUSHING THEM FORWARD WHILST WALKING



F_{PG} IS THE FORCE EXERTED BY THE PERSON ON THE GROUND

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Newton's Third Law force pairs are only those that act on different objects



Your notes



Your notes

Linear Momentum

Linear Momentum

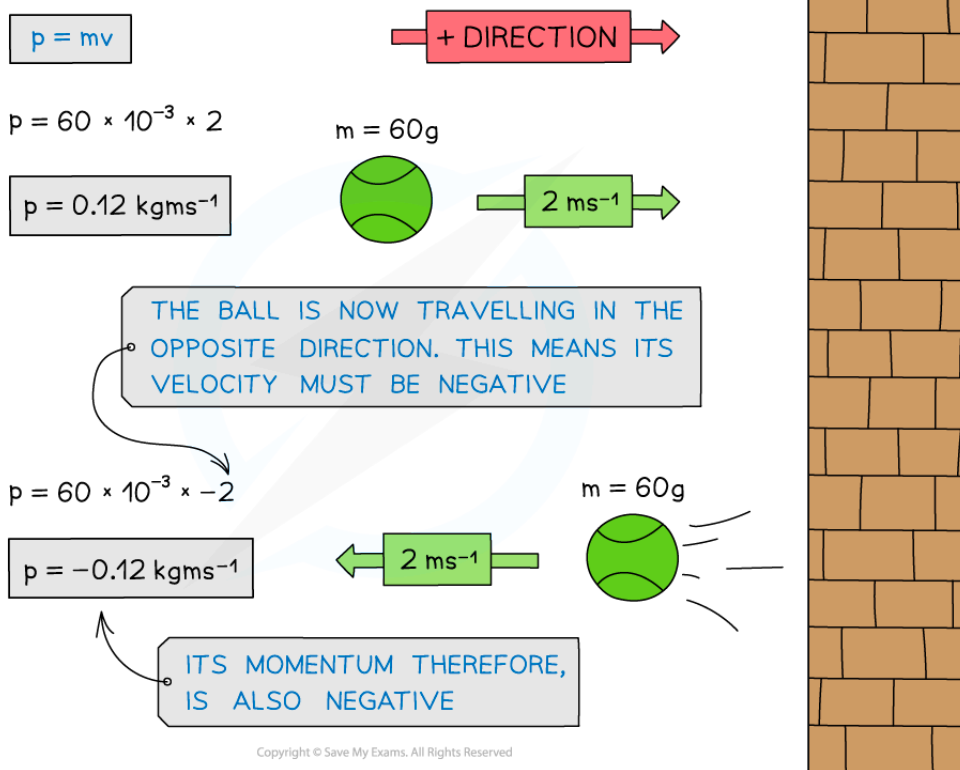
- When an object with **mass** is in motion and therefore has a **velocity**, the object also has **momentum**
- **Linear momentum** is the momentum of an object that is moving in only **one dimension**
- The linear momentum of an object remains **constant** unless the system is acted upon by an external resultant force
- **Momentum** is defined as the product of mass and velocity

$$p = mv$$

- Where:
 - p = momentum, measured in kg m s^{-1}
 - m - mass, measured in kg
 - v = velocity, measured in m s^{-1}
- Momentum is a **vector** quantity with both **magnitude** and **direction**
 - The initial direction of motion is usually assigned the positive direction



Your notes



When the ball is travelling in the opposite direction, its velocity is negative. Since momentum = mass \times velocity, its momentum is also negative

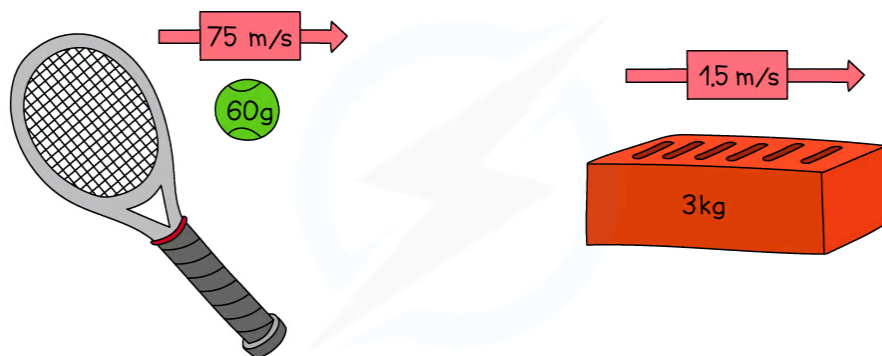


Worked Example

A tennis ball of mass 60 g travels to the right with a speed of 75 m s^{-1} .

A brick of mass 3 kg is thrown to the right at a speed of 1.5 m s^{-1} .

Determine which object has the greatest momentum.



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Answer:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{MOMENTUM} &= \text{MASS} \times \text{VELOCITY} \\ \text{MOMENTUM} &= 0.06 \text{ kg} \times 75 \text{ m/s} \\ &= 4.5 \text{ kg m/s}\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\text{MOMENTUM} &= \text{MASS} \times \text{VELOCITY} \\ \text{MOMENTUM} &= 3 \text{ kg} \times 1.5 \text{ m/s} \\ &= 4.5 \text{ kg m/s}\end{aligned}$$

- Both the tennis ball and the brick have the same momentum
- Even though the brick is much heavier than the ball, the ball is travelling much faster than the brick
- This means that on impact, they would both exert a similar force (depending on the time it takes for each to come to rest)



Examiner Tips and Tricks

Since the SI units for momentum are kg m s^{-1} :

- If the mass is given in grams, you need to convert to kg by dividing the value by 1000
- If the velocity is given in km s^{-1} , you need to convert to m s^{-1} by multiplying the value by 1000
- The direction you consider positive is your choice, as long as the signs of the numbers (positive or negative) are consistent with this throughout the question

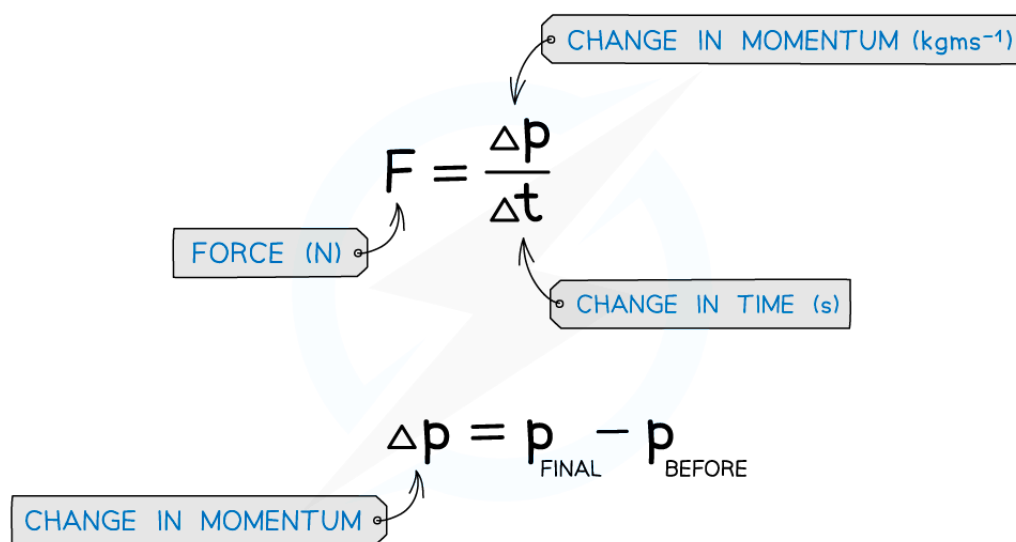


Your notes

Impulse

Force & Momentum

- Force is defined as the **rate of change of momentum** on a body
- The change in momentum is defined as the final momentum minus the initial momentum
- These can be expressed as follows:



The diagram illustrates the relationship between Force, Change in Momentum, and Change in Time. It features two equations with labels pointing to their components:

$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$

Labels for the first equation:

- FORCE (N)** points to F .
- CHANGE IN MOMENTUM (kgms⁻¹)** points to Δp .
- CHANGE IN TIME (s)** points to Δt .

$$\Delta p = p_{\text{FINAL}} - p_{\text{BEFORE}}$$

Label for the second equation:

- CHANGE IN MOMENTUM** points to Δp .

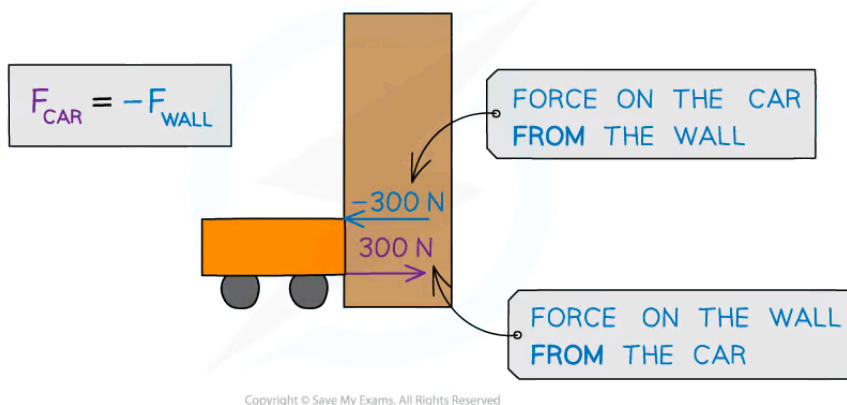
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Direction of Forces

- Force and momentum are **vectors** so they can take either positive or negative values
- The force that is equal to the rate of change of momentum is still the **resultant force**
- A force on an object will be negative if it is directed in the opposite motion to its initial velocity
 - This means that the force is **produced by** the object it has collided with



Your notes



The wall produces a force of -300 N on the car and (due to Newton's Third Law) the car also produces a force of 300 N back onto the wall



Worked Example

A car of mass 1500 kg hits a wall at an initial velocity of 15 m s^{-1} .

It then rebounds off the wall at 5 m s^{-1} and comes to rest after 3.0 s .

Calculate the average force experienced by the car.

Answer:



Your notes

STEP 1

FORCE IS EQUAL TO THE RATE OF CHANGE
IN MOMENTUM

$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$

STEP 2

CHANGE IN MOMENTUM

$$\Delta p = \text{FINAL MOMENTUM} - \text{INITIAL MOMENTUM}$$

STEP 3

INITIAL MOMENTUM

INITIAL MOMENTUM = MASS \times INITIAL VELOCITY

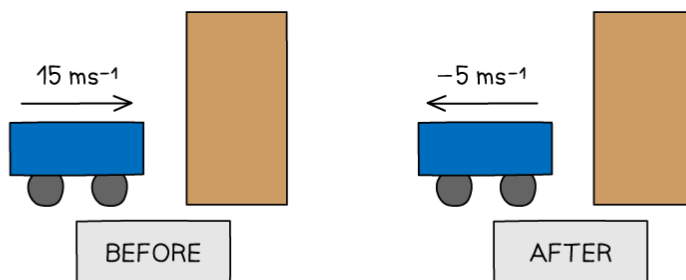
$$\begin{aligned} p_i &= m \times v_i \\ &= 1500 \text{ kg} \times 15 \text{ ms}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$p_i = 22500 \text{ kgms}^{-1}$$

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Your notes



STEP 4

FINAL MOMENTUM

FINAL MOMENTUM = MASS × FINAL VELOCITY

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_f &= m \times v_f \\
 &= 1500 \text{ kg} \times -5 \text{ ms}^{-1} \\
 p_f &= -7500 \text{ kgms}^{-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

STEP 5

CALCULATE CHANGE IN MOMENTUM Δp

$$\Delta p = -7500 - 22500 = -30000 \text{ kgms}^{-1}$$

STEP 6

SUBSTITUTE THIS VALUE BACK INTO THE FORCE EQUATION

$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t} = \frac{-30000}{3} = -10000 \text{ N}$$

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Examiner Tips and Tricks

In an exam question, carefully consider what produces the force(s) acting. Look out for words such as 'from' or 'acting on' to determine this and don't be afraid to draw a force diagram to figure out what is going on.

Impulse

- The force and momentum equation can be rearranged to find the impulse
- Impulse, I , is equal to the **change in momentum**:

$$I = F\Delta t = \Delta p = mv - mu$$



Your notes

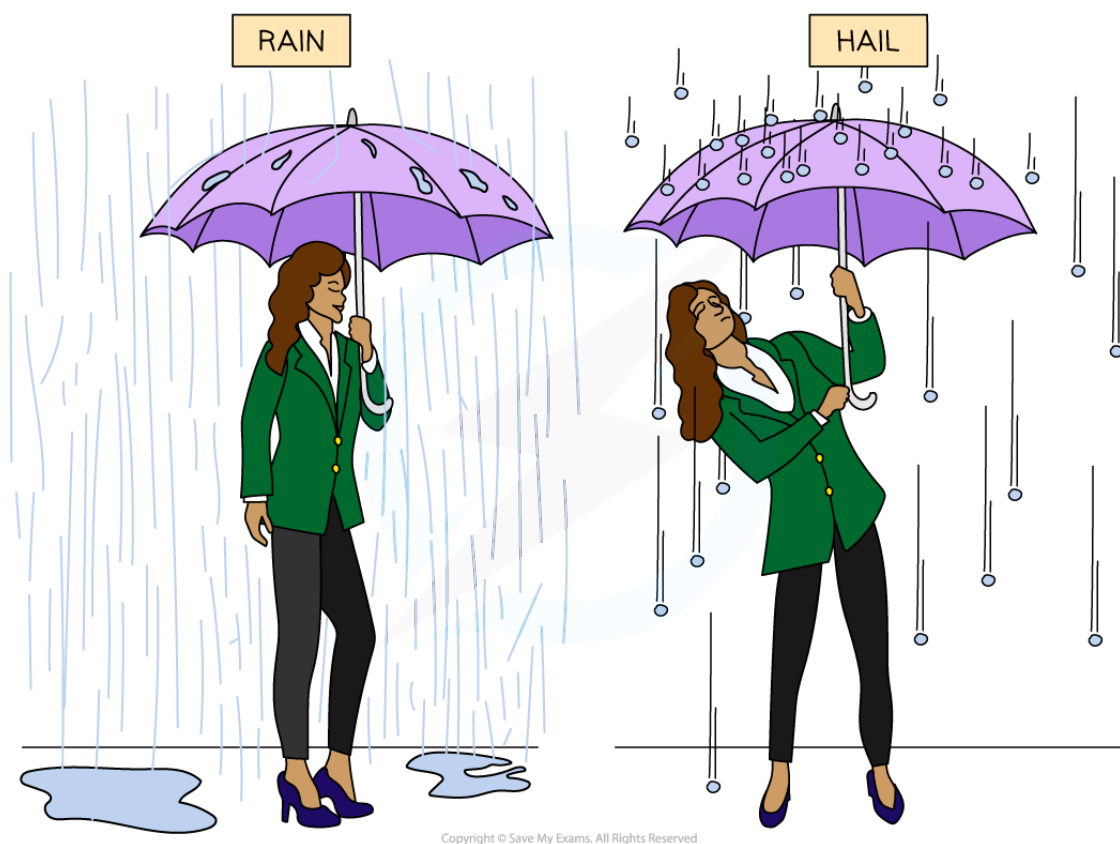
- Where:
 - I = impulse (N s)
 - F = force (N)
 - t = time (s)
 - p = momentum (kg m s^{-1})
 - m = mass (kg)
 - v = final velocity (m s^{-1})
 - u = initial velocity (m s^{-1})
- This equation is only used when the force is **constant**
 - Since the impulse is proportional to the force, it is also a vector
 - The impulse is in the same direction as the force
- The unit of impulse is **N s**
- The impulse quantifies the effect of a force acting over a time interval
 - This means a **small force acting over a long time** has the same effect as a **large force acting over a short time**

Examples of Impulse

- An example in everyday life of impulse is when standing under an umbrella when it is raining, compared to hail (frozen water droplets)
 - When rain hits an umbrella, the water droplets tend to splatter and fall off it and there is only a very **small** change in momentum
 - However, hailstones have a **larger mass** and tend to bounce back off the umbrella, creating a **greater** change in momentum
 - Therefore, the impulse on an umbrella is **greater** in hail than in rain
 - This means that **more force** is required to hold an umbrella upright in hail compared to rain



Your notes



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Since hailstones bounce back off an umbrella, compared to water droplets from rain, there is a greater impulse on an umbrella in hail than in rain



Worked Example

A 58 g tennis ball moving horizontally to the left at a speed of 30 m s^{-1} is struck by a tennis racket which returns the ball back to the right at 20 m s^{-1} .

- Calculate the impulse delivered to the ball by the racket
- State which direction the impulse is in

Answer:

Part (i)

Step 1: Write the known quantities



Your notes

- Taking the initial direction of the ball as positive (the left)

- Initial velocity, $u = 30 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
- Final velocity, $v = -20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
- Mass, $m = 58 \text{ g} = 58 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}$

Step 2: Write down the impulse equation

$$\text{Impulse } I = \Delta p = m(v - u)$$

Step 3: Substitute in the values

$$I = (58 \times 10^{-3}) \times (-20 - 30) = -2.9 \text{ N s}$$

Part (ii)**Direction of the impulse**

- Since the impulse is negative, it must be in the opposite direction to which the tennis ball was initial travelling (since the left is taken as positive)
- Therefore, the direction of the impulse is to the right

**Examiner Tips and Tricks**

Remember that if an object changes direction, then this must be reflected by the change in sign of the velocity. As long as the magnitude is correct, the final sign for the impulse doesn't matter as long as it is consistent with which way you have considered positive (and negative). For example, if the left is taken as positive and therefore the right as negative, an impulse of 20 N s to the right is equal to -20 N s

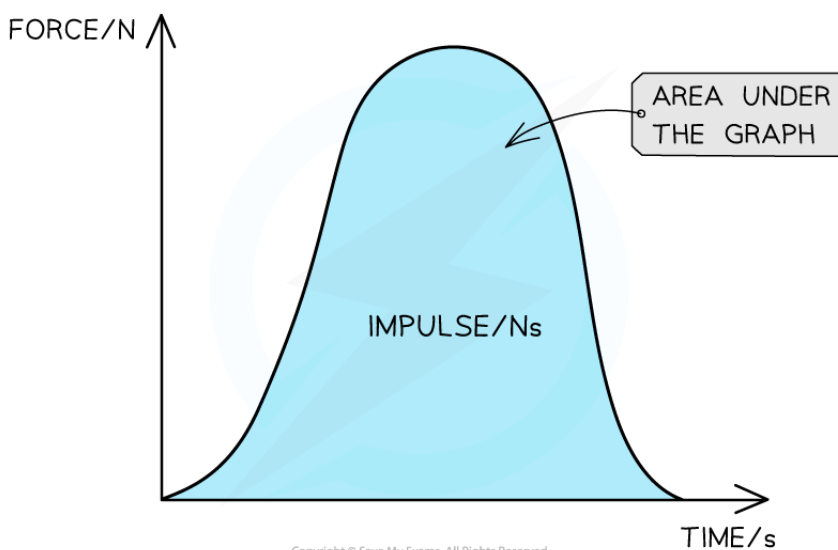


Your notes

Impulse on a Force–Time Graph

Impulse on a Force–Time Graph

- In real life, forces are often not constant and will vary over time
- If the force is plotted against time, **the impulse is equal to the area under the force–time graph**



When the force is not constant, the impulse is the area under a force–time graph

- This is because

$$\text{Impulse} = F\Delta t$$

- Where:

- F = force (N)
- Δt = change in time (s)

- The impulse is therefore equal whether there is
 - A small force over a long period of time
 - A large force over a small period of time
- The force–time graph may be a **curve** or a **straight line**
 - If the graph is a curve, the area can be found by counting the squares underneath

- If the graph is made up of straight lines, split the graph into sections. The total area is the **sum of the areas** of each section

$$F \downarrow = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t \uparrow}$$

THE SAME CHANGE IN MOMENTUM OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME WILL PRODUCE LESS FORCE (AND VICE VERSA)

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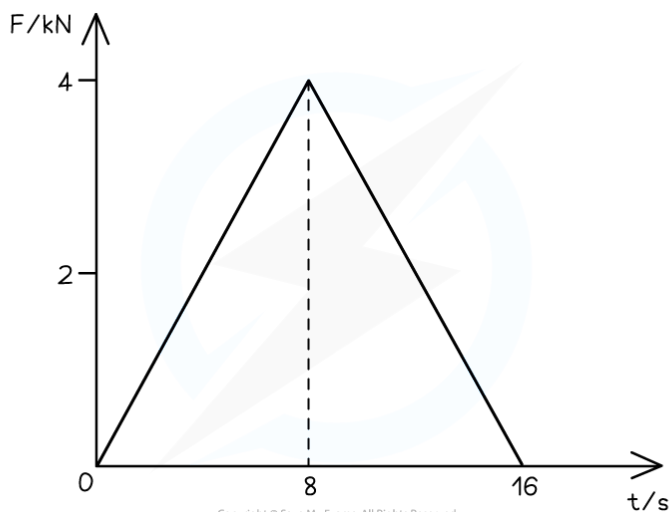


Your notes



Worked Example

A ball of mass 3.0 kg, initially at rest, is acted on by a force F which varies with t as shown by the graph.



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Calculate the velocity of the ball after 16 s.

Answer:

Step 1: List the known quantities

- Mass, $m = 3.0$ kg
- Initial velocity, $u = 0$ m s⁻¹ (since it is initially at rest)

Step 2: Calculate the impulse



Your notes

- The impulse is the area under the graph
- The graph can be split up into two right-angled triangles with a base of 8 s and a height of 4 kN

$$\text{Area} = \left(\frac{1}{2} \times 8 \times (4 \times 10^3) \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} \times (16 - 8) \times (4 \times 10^3) \right)$$

$$\text{Area} = \text{Impulse} = 32 \times 10^3 \text{ N s}$$

Step 3: Write the equation for impulse

$$\text{Impulse, } I = \Delta p = m(v - u)$$

Step 4: Substitute in the values

$$I = mv$$

$$32 \times 10^3 = 3.0 \times v$$

$$v = (32 \times 10^3) \div 3.0$$

$$v = 10666 \text{ m s}^{-1} = 11 \text{ km s}^{-1}$$

**Examiner Tips and Tricks**

Some maths tips for this section: **Rate of Change**

- 'Rate of change' describes how one variable changes with respect to another
- In maths, how fast something changes with **time** is represented as dividing by Δt (e.g. acceleration is the rate of change in velocity)
- More specifically, Δt is used for finite and quantifiable changes such as the difference in time between two events

Areas

- The area under a graph may be split up into different shapes, so make sure you're comfortable with calculating the area of squares, rectangles, right-angled triangles and trapeziums!



Your notes

Conservation of Momentum

The Principle of Conservation of Momentum

- The principle of conservation of linear momentum states:

The total momentum before a collision is equal to the total momentum after a collision, provided no external force acts

- Therefore:

momentum before = momentum after

- Momentum is a **vector** quantity, therefore:
 - opposing vectors** can cancel each other out, resulting in a **net momentum** of **zero**
 - an object that collides with another object and **rebounds**, has a **positive** velocity **before** the collision and a **negative** velocity **after**
- Momentum, just like energy, is **always conserved**
- If objects A and B collide, their momenta before and after are related by the following equation:

$$p_{Ai} + p_{Bi} = p_{Af} + p_{Bf}$$

- Where:
 - p_{Ai} = initial momentum of A, measured in kg m s^{-1}
 - p_{Bi} = initial momentum of B, measured in kg m s^{-1}
 - p_{Af} = final momentum of A, measured in kg m s^{-1}
 - p_{Bf} = final momentum of B, measured in kg m s^{-1}

Conservation of momentum example: collision

- Ball A moves with an initial velocity of u_A
- Ball A collides with Ball B which is stationary
- After the collision, both balls travel in opposite directions
 - Taking the direction of the initial motion of Ball A as the positive direction (to the right)

- The total momentum before the collision is

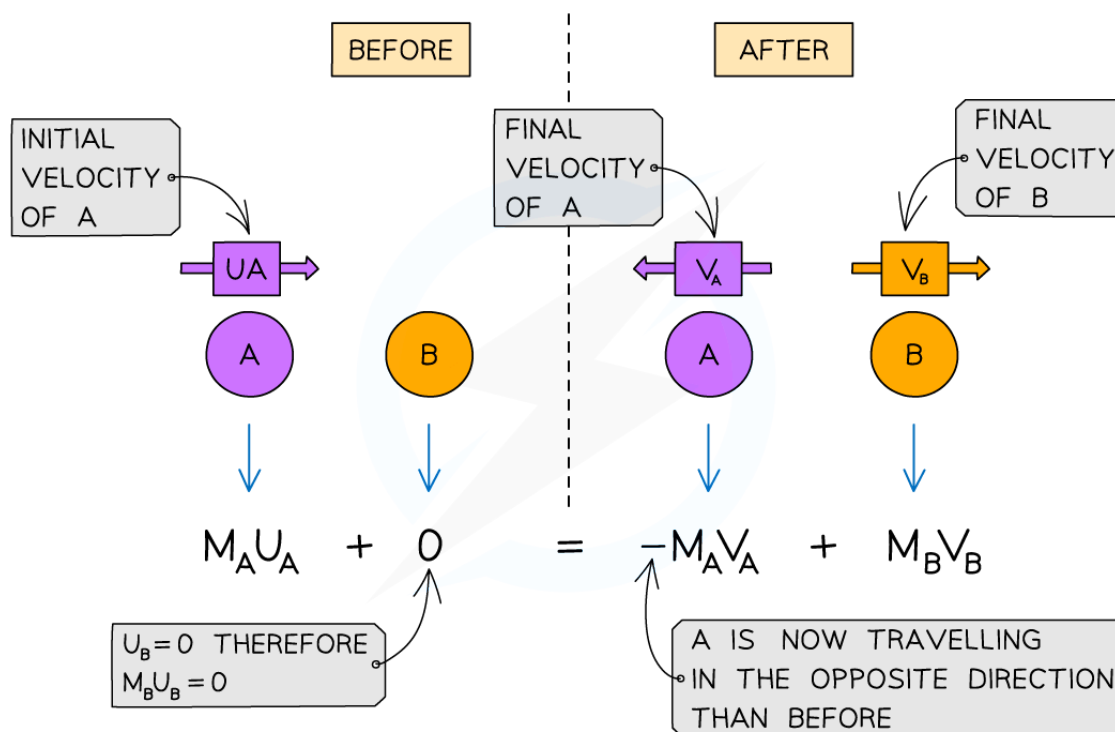
$$p_{\text{before}} = m_A u_A + 0$$

- The total momentum after the collision is

$$p_{\text{after}} = -m_A v_A + m_B v_B$$

- The minus sign shows that Ball A travels in the **opposite** direction to the initial travel
- If an object is stationary like Ball B is before the collision, then it has a momentum of **0**
- From the conservation of momentum, one can equate these expressions

$$m_A u_A = m_B v_B - m_A v_A$$



The conservation of momentum for two objects A and B colliding then moving apart

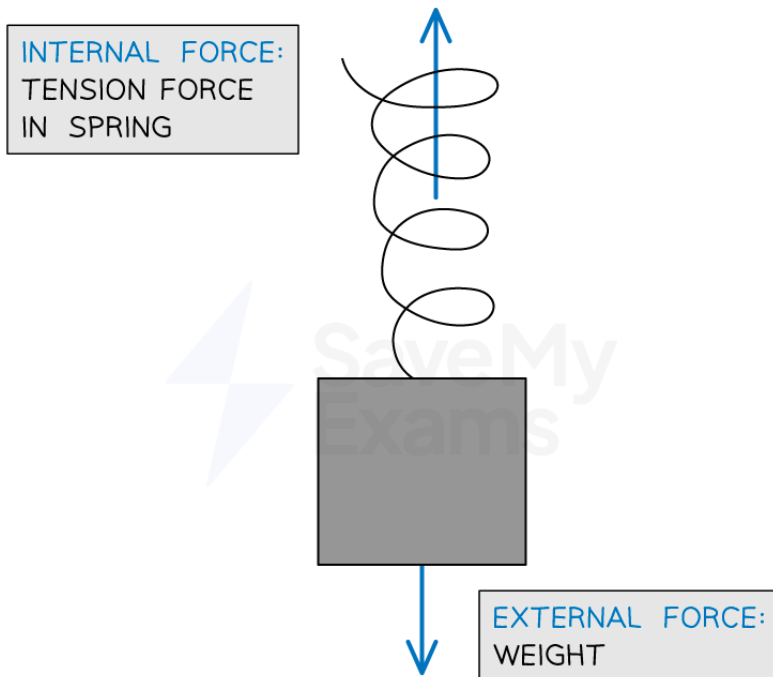
External and Internal Forces

- Note that the definition of the law of conservation of momentum states that it only applies when **no external forces act**



Your notes

- **External forces** are forces that act on a structure or system from outside e.g. friction and weight
- **Internal forces** are forces exchanged by the particles in the system e.g. tension in a string
- Forces which are internal or external will depend on the system itself, as shown in the diagram below:



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Internal and external forces on a mass on a spring

- Systems with no external forces may be described as '**closed**' or '**isolated**'
 - These are keywords that refer to a system that is not affected by external forces
 - In these systems, total momentum is conserved
- For example, a swimmer diving from a boat:
 - The diver will move **forwards**, and, to conserve momentum, the boat will move **backwards**
 - This is because the momentum beforehand was zero and no **external forces** were present to affect the horizontal motion of the diver or the boat



Worked Example

Trolley **A** of mass 0.80 kg collides head-on with stationary trolley **B** whilst travelling at 3.0 m s^{-1} .

Trolley **B** has twice the mass of trolley **A**. On impact, the trolleys stick together.

Using the conservation of momentum, calculate the common velocity of both trolleys after the collision.

Answer:

BEFORE

$V_A = 3.0\text{ ms}^{-1}$

MOMENTUM = $(M_A \times V_A) + (M_B \times V_B)$

BEFORE

$= (0.8\text{ kg} \times 3.0\text{ ms}^{-1}) + 0$

$= 2.4\text{ kgms}^{-1}$

SINCE TROLLEY B IS STATIONARY, $V = 0$ THEREFORE ITS MOMENTUM IS 0

AFTER

$V_{A+B} = ?$

MOMENTUM = $(M_A + M_B) \times V_{A+B}$

AFTER

$= (0.8\text{ kg} + 1.60\text{ kg}) \times V_{A+B}$

$= 2.4\text{ kg} \times V_{A+B}$

TROLLEY B HAS TWICE THE MASS OF TROLLEY A

THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSERVATION OF MOMENTUM STATES THAT THE TOTAL MOMENTUM OF A SYSTEM REMAINS CONSTANT PROVIDED NO EXTERNAL FORCE ACTS ON IT

MOMENTUM = MOMENTUM BEFORE = MOMENTUM AFTER

$2.4\text{ kgms}^{-1} = 2.4\text{ kg} \times V_{A+B}$

$V_{A+B} = \frac{2.4\text{ kgms}^{-1}}{2.4\text{ kg}}$

REARRANGING FOR V_{A+B}

$V_{A+B} = 1.0\text{ ms}^{-1}$



Your notes

Collisions

Collisions in One & Two Dimensions

One-dimensional Problems

- Momentum (p) is equal to: $p = m \times v$
- One-dimensional momentum problems are when collisions are taken place in just the x (horizontal) or just the y (vertical) direction
- Using the conservation of linear momentum, it is possible to calculate missing velocities and masses of components in the system
- This is shown in the example below:



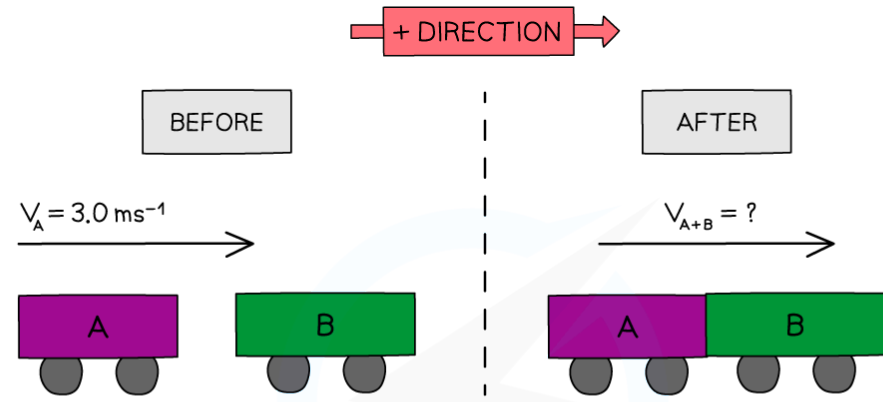
Worked Example

Trolley **A** of mass 0.80 kg collides head-on with stationary trolley **B** at a velocity of 3.0 ms^{-1} . Trolley **B** has twice the mass of trolley **A**. The trolleys stick together. Using the conservation of momentum, calculate the common velocity of both trolleys after the collision. Determine whether this is an elastic or inelastic collision.

Answer:



Your notes



BEFORE

$V_A = 3.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

MOMENTUM = $(M_A \times V_A) + (M_B \times V_B)$
 BEFORE
 $= (0.8 \text{ kg} \times 3.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}) + 0$
 $= 2.4 \text{ kgms}^{-1}$

SINCE TROLLEY B IS STATIONARY, $V = 0$ THEREFORE ITS MOMENTUM IS 0

AFTER

$V_{A+B} = ?$

MOMENTUM = $(M_A + M_B) \times V_{A+B}$
 AFTER
 $= (0.8 \text{ kg} + 1.60 \text{ kg}) \times V_{A+B}$
 $= 2.4 \text{ kg} \times V_{A+B}$

TROLLEY B HAS TWICE THE MASS OF TROLLEY A

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THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSERVATION OF MOMENTUM STATES THAT THE TOTAL MOMENTUM OF A SYSTEM REMAINS CONSTANT PROVIDED NO EXTERNAL FORCE ACTS ON IT

MOMENTUM BEFORE = MOMENTUM AFTER

$$2.4 \text{ kgms}^{-1} = 2.4 \text{ kg} \times V_{A+B}$$

$$V_{A+B} = \frac{2.4 \text{ kgms}^{-1}}{2.4 \text{ kg}}$$

REARRANGING FOR V_{A+B}

$$V_{A+B} = 1.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

b) IS THIS AN ELASTIC OR INELASTIC COLLISION?

KINETIC ENERGY = $\frac{1}{2} mv^2$

KINETIC ENERGY BEFORE

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times M_A \times (V_A)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \times M_B \times (V_B)^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times 0.8 \times (3.0)^2 + 0$$

$V_B = 0$

$$= 3.6 \text{ J}$$

KINETIC ENERGY AFTER

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times M_{A+B} \times (V_{A+B})^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times 2.4 \times (1.0)^2$$

$$= 1.2 \text{ J}$$

THIS IS AN INELASTIC COLLISION SINCE KINETIC ENERGY IS NOT CONSERVED

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Two-dimensional Momentum Problems

- Since momentum is a vector, in 2D it can be split up into its x and y components
- Two-dimensional momentum problems are when collisions are taken place in both the x (horizontal) and the y (vertical) direction
- Using the conservation of linear momentum as well as resolving vectors, it is possible to calculate changes in momentum
- This is shown in the example below:

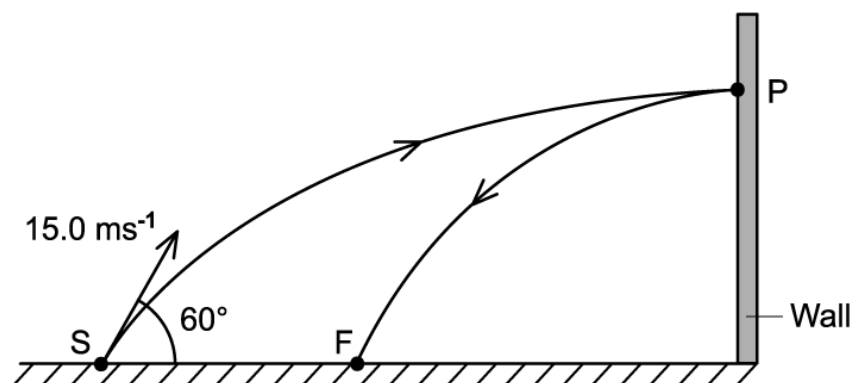


Worked Example

A ball is thrown at a vertical wall. The path of the ball is shown below



Your notes



The ball is thrown from **S** with an initial velocity of 15.0 m s^{-1} at 60.0° to the horizontal. The mass of the ball is $60 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}$ and rebounds at a velocity of 4.6 m s^{-1} . Calculate the change in momentum of the ball if it rebounds off the wall at **P**.

Answer:

STEP 1

CHANGE IN MOMENTUM EQUATION

$$\Delta P = m(V_f - V_i)$$

STEP 2

CALCULATE INITIAL VELOCITY

CHANGE IN MOMENTUM IS ONLY DUE TO THE HORIZONTAL VELOCITIES

$$V_i = 15.0 \cos(60.0) = 7.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

STEP 3

SUBSTITUTE VALUES INTO ΔP EQUATION

$$\Delta P = 60 \times 10^{-3} (-4.6 - 7.5) = -0.73 \text{ N s}$$

NEGATIVE BECAUSE THE BALL IS NOW TRAVELLING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION TO ITS INITIAL VELOCITY

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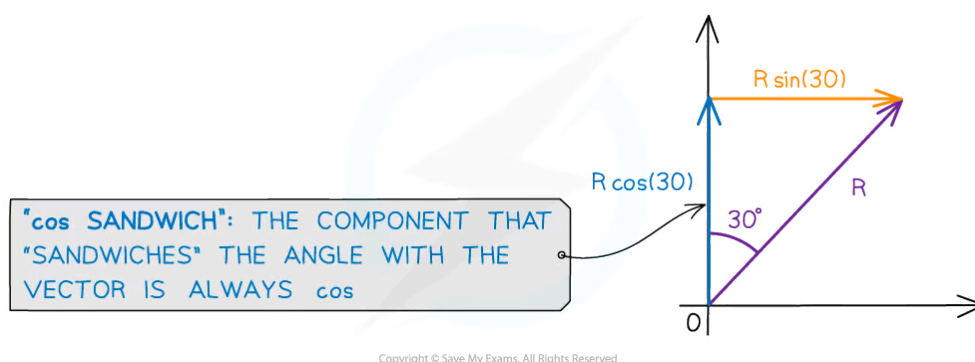




Your notes

Examiner Tips and Tricks

If an object is stationary or at rest, its velocity equals **0**, therefore, the momentum and kinetic energy are also equal to 0. When a collision occurs in which two objects are stuck together, treat the final object as a single object with a mass equal to the **sum** of the two individual objects. In 2D problems, make sure you're confident resolving vectors. Here is a small trick to remember which component is cosine or sine of the angle for a vector **R**:



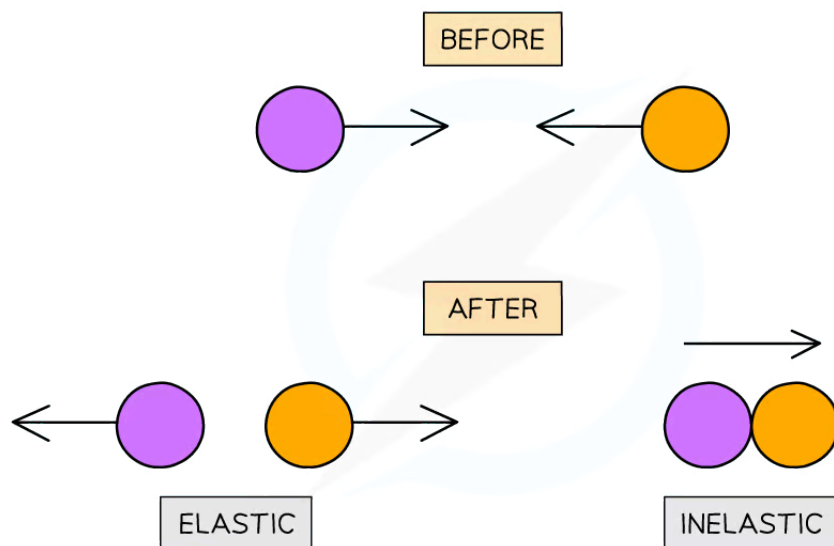
Resolving vectors with sine and cosine

Elastic & Inelastic Collisions

- In both collisions and explosions, momentum is always conserved
- However, **kinetic energy** might not always be
- A collision (or explosion) is either:
 - **Elastic** – if the kinetic energy **is** conserved
 - **Inelastic** – if the kinetic energy is **not** conserved
- Collisions are when objects striking against each other
 - **Elastic** collisions are commonly those where objects colliding do not stick together and then **move in opposite directions**
 - **Inelastic** collision are commonly those where objects collide and **stick together** after the collision



Your notes



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Elastic collisions are where two objects move in opposite directions. Inelastic collisions are where two objects stick together

- An explosion is commonly to do with **recoil**
 - For example, a gun recoiling after shooting a bullet or an unstable nucleus emitting an alpha particle and a daughter nucleus
- To find out whether a collision is elastic or inelastic, **compare the kinetic energy before and after the collision**
- The equation for kinetic energy is:

The diagram shows the equation $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ with labels for each part: 'KE' is labeled 'KINETIC ENERGY (J)', 'm' is labeled 'MASS (kg)', and 'v' is labeled 'VELOCITY (ms⁻¹)'.

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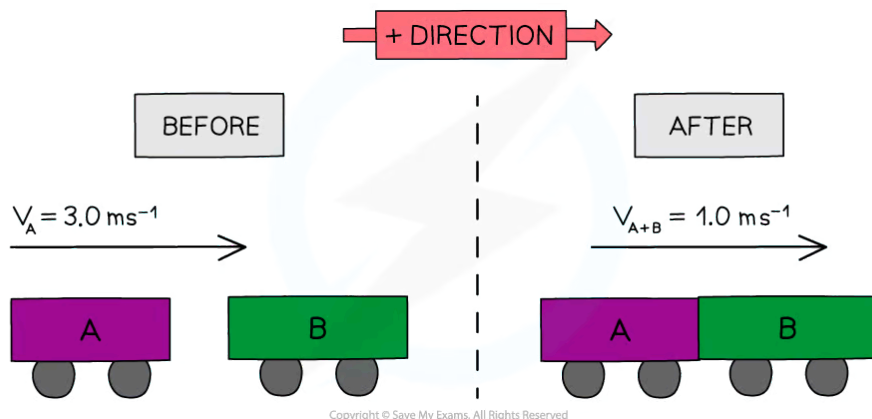


Your notes

Worked Example

Trolley **A** of mass 0.80 kg collides head-on with stationary trolley **B** at speed 3.0 m s^{-1} . Trolley **B** has twice the mass of trolley **A**. The trolleys stick together and travel at a velocity of 1.0 m s^{-1} . Determine whether this is an elastic or inelastic collision.

Answer:



KINETIC ENERGY = $\frac{1}{2} mv^2$

KINETIC ENERGY BEFORE

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times M_A \times (V_A)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \times M_B \times (V_B)^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times 0.8 \times (3.0)^2 + 0 \leftarrow V_B = 0$$

$$= 3.6 \text{ J}$$

KINETIC ENERGY AFTER

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times M_{A+B} \times (V_{A+B})^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times 2.4 \times (1.0)^2$$

$$= 1.2 \text{ J}$$

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Your notes