

AP PHYSICS C: MOMENTUM AND CENTER OF MASS

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and place the letter of your choice in the corresponding box on the student answer sheet.

Note: To simplify calculations, you may use $g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$ in all problems.

1. A toy train car of mass 3 kg rolls to the left at 2 m/s and collides with a 4 kg train car rolling to the right at 1 m/s. The two cars stick together. The velocity of the cars after the collision is

(A) $2/7 \text{ m/s}$ to the left
(B) $2/7 \text{ m/s}$ to the right
(C) $4/7 \text{ m/s}$ to the left
(D) $4/7 \text{ m/s}$ to the right
(E) $9/7 \text{ m/s}$ to the right

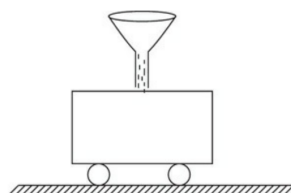
2. Two steel balls, one of mass m and the other of mass $2m$, collide and rebound in a perfectly elastic collision. Which of the following is conserved in this elastic collision?

(A) velocity only
(B) momentum only
(C) momentum and kinetic energy only
(D) momentum, velocity, and kinetic energy
(E) kinetic energy only

3. Two blocks are connected by a compressed spring and rest on a frictionless surface. The blocks are released from rest and pushed apart by the compressed spring. If one mass is twice the mass of the other, which of the following is the same for both blocks?

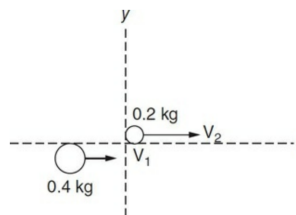
(A) magnitude of momentum
(B) acceleration
(C) speed
(D) kinetic energy
(E) potential energy

4. A 1000 kg railroad car is rolling without friction on a horizontal track at a speed of 3.0 m/s. Sand is poured into the open top of the car for a time of 5.0 s. The speed of the car after 5.0 s is 1.0 m/s. The mass of the sand added to the car at the end of 5.0 s is



(A) 500 kg
(B) 1000 kg
(C) 2000 kg
(D) 3000 kg
(E) 3500 kg

5. Two billiard balls are rolling to the right on a table as shown. The 0.4 kg ball is moving faster than the 0.2 kg ball, so it catches up and strikes it from behind at a slight angle. Immediately after the collision, the y -component of the 0.4 kg ball is 2 m/s downward. The y -component of the velocity of the 0.2 kg ball must be



(A) 1 m/s upward
(B) 2 m/s upward
(C) 1 m/s downward
(D) 2 m/s downward
(E) 4 m/s upward

6. A 0.3 kg baseball at rest on a tee is struck by a bat. The ball leaves the bat with a speed of 20 m/s at an angle of 45° above the horizontal. The magnitude of the impulse imparted to the baseball by the bat is most nearly

(A) 2 N·s
(B) 6 N·s
(C) 12 N·s
(D) 16 N·s
(E) 20 N·s

7. Two ice skaters, a large man and a small woman, are initially at rest and holding each other's hands. They push away horizontally. Afterward, which of the following statements is true?
- (A) They have equal and opposite kinetic energies.
(B) They have equal and opposite momenta.
(C) The large man applies a greater force to the small woman.
(D) The small woman applies a greater force to the large man.
(E) They recoil with equal and opposite velocities.

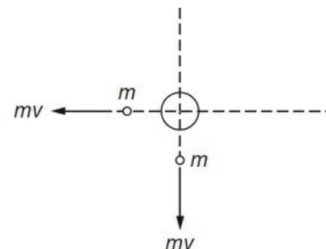
8. A small mass m is moving with a speed v toward a stationary mass M . The speed of the center of mass of the system is

(A) $\left(\frac{m}{m+M}\right)v$
(B) $\left(\frac{m+M}{m}\right)v$
(C) $\left(\frac{m}{M}\right)v$
(D) $\left(1 + \frac{m}{M}\right)v$
(E) $\left(1 + \frac{M}{3m}\right)v$

9. A known net force F acts on an unknown mass for a known time Δt . From this information, you could determine the

(A) change in kinetic energy of the object
(B) change in velocity of the object
(C) acceleration of the object
(D) mass of the object
(E) change in momentum of the object

Questions 10–11. An object has a mass $4m$. The object explodes into three pieces of mass m , m , and $2m$. The two pieces of mass m move off at right angles to each other with the same momentum mv , as shown.



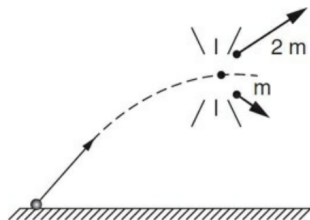
10. The speed of mass $2m$ after the explosion is

(A) $2v$
(B) $\sqrt{2}v$
(C) $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}v$
(D) $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}v$
(E) $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}v$

11. The direction of velocity of mass $2m$ is

(A) \rightarrow
(B) \swarrow
(C) \downarrow
(D) \nearrow
(E) \uparrow

Questions 12–13. A projectile is launched at an angle to the level ground as shown. At the top of the trajectory at point P , the projectile explodes into two pieces of mass $2m$ and m .



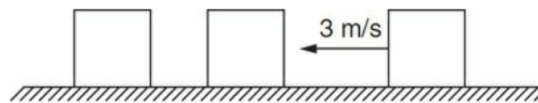
12. Which of the following arrows best represents the direction of the velocity of the center of mass of the projectile at point P after the explosion?

- (A) ←
- (B) ↙
- (C) ↘
- (D) →
- (E) ↗

13. Which of the following statements is true of the center of mass of the projectile after the explosion?

- (A) The center of mass will continue on a parabolic path and land on the ground at the place where it would have landed had it not exploded.
 - (B) The center of mass will alter its parabolic path and land on the ground farther from where it would have landed had it not exploded.
 - (C) The center of mass will alter its parabolic path and land on the ground at a shorter distance than it would have landed had it not exploded.
 - (D) The center of mass will fall straight downward from the point of explosion.
 - (E) The center of mass will travel straight upward from the point of explosion.
14. A 100 kg cannon sits at rest with a 1 kg cannonball in the barrel. The cannonball is fired with a speed of 50 m/s to the right, causing the cannon to recoil with a speed of 0.5 m/s to the left. The velocity of the center of mass of the cannon-cannonball system is
- (A) zero
 - (B) 5 m/s to the right
 - (C) 5 m/s to the left
 - (D) 50 m/s to the right
 - (E) 50 m/s to the left

Questions 15–16. Three identical masses can slide freely on a horizontal surface as shown. The first mass moves with a speed of 3.0 m/s toward the second and third masses, which are initially at rest. The first and second mass collide elastically, and then the second and third masses collide inelastically.



15. The speed of the second mass after the collision is

- (A) zero
- (B) 1.5 m/s
- (C) 3.0 m/s
- (D) 6.0 m/s
- (E) 9.0 m/s

16. The speed of the second and third masses after they collide inelastically is

- (A) zero
- (B) 1.5 m/s
- (C) 3.0 m/s
- (D) 6.0 m/s
- (E) 9.0 m/s

Questions 17–18. A 20 kg boy runs at a speed of 3.0 m/s and jumps onto a 40 kg sled on frictionless ice that is initially at rest. The boy and the sled then move together for a short time.

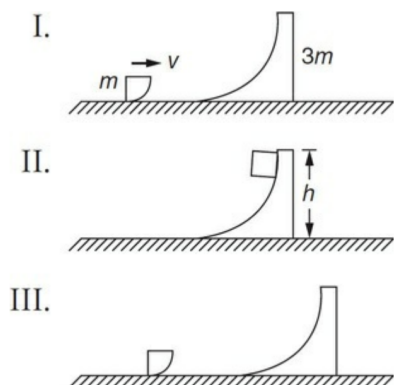
17. The speed of the boy and sled after he jumps on it is

- (A) 0.5 m/s
- (B) 0.8 m/s
- (C) 1.0 m/s
- (D) 1.5 m/s
- (E) 2.0 m/s

18. While the boy and sled are moving, he jumps off the back of the sled in such a way the boy is at rest, and the sled continues to move forward. The speed of the sled after the boy jumps off is

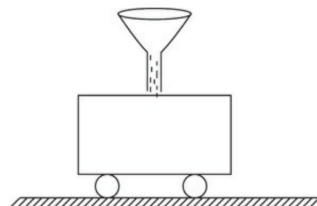
- (A) 1.5 m/s
- (B) 2.0 m/s
- (C) 3.0 m/s
- (D) 4.5 m/s
- (E) 6.0 m/s

Questions 19–20. A small block of mass m slides on a horizontal frictionless surface toward a ramp of mass $3m$ which is also free to move on the surface. The small block slides up to a height h on the ramp with no friction (Figure I), then they move together (Figure II), and the small block slides back down the ramp to the horizontal surface (Figure III). Both the block and the ramp continue to slide on the horizontal surface after they separate.



19. Which of the following is true regarding the conservation laws throughout this process?
- (A) Kinetic energy is conserved from Figure I to Figure II.
 - (B) Momentum is conserved from Figure I to Figure III.
 - (C) Kinetic energy is conserved from Figure II to Figure III.
 - (D) Potential energy is conserved from Figure I to Figure II.
 - (E) Potential energy is conserved from Figure II to Figure III.
20. Which of the following is a true statement regarding Figure III?
- (A) The small block is moving to the left and the ramp is moving to the right.
 - (B) The small block is moving to the right and the ramp is moving to the left.
 - (C) The small block is moving to the right and the ramp is moving to the right.
 - (D) The small block is moving to the left and the ramp is moving to the left.
 - (E) The small block and the large block are moving with the same velocity.

21. A 1000 kg (empty mass) railroad car is rolling without friction on a horizontal track at a speed of 2.0 m/s. Sand is poured into the open top of the car for the time interval from $t = 0$ to $t = 4.0$ s. The mass of the sand poured into the car as a function of time is $m(t) = 60t^2$. The velocity of the car at a time of 4.0 s is most nearly

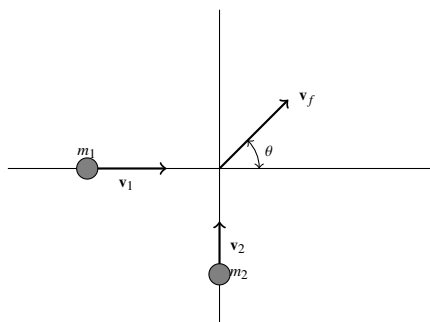


- (A) 1 m/s
- (B) 2 m/s
- (C) 3 m/s
- (D) 4 m/s
- (E) 5 m/s

- Questions 22–23.** A remote controlled stunt car of mass 800 kg initially moving at 10 m/s is crashed into a rail car of mass m that is initially at rest. The cars stick together, and the speed v of both cars after the collision is given by
- $$v = \frac{6}{t + 1}.$$

22. By considering the fact that the crash occurs at time $t = 0$, determine the mass m of the rail car.
- (A) 288 kg
 - (B) 445 kg
 - (C) 533 kg
 - (D) 698 kg
 - (E) 800 kg
23. The magnitude of the resisting force acting on the cars as a function of time after the collision is
- (A) $\frac{6m}{t + 1}$
 - (B) $6m(t + 1)$
 - (C) $6m(t + 1)^2$
 - (D) $\frac{6m}{(t + 1)^2}$
 - (E) $\frac{m(t + 1)^2}{6}$

24. Two masses moving along the coordinates axes as shown collide at the origin and stick to each other. What is the angle θ that the final velocity that makes with the x -axis?



- (A) $\tan^{-1}(v_2/v_1)$
 (B) $\tan^{-1}[m_1 v_1/(m_1 + m_2)]$
 (C) $\tan^{-1}(m_1 v_2/m_2 v_1)$
 (D) $\tan^{-1}(m_2 v_2^2/m_1 v_1)$
 (E) $\tan^{-1}(m_2 v_2/m_1 v_1)$
25. A mass traveling in the $+x$ direction collides with a mass at rest. Which of the following statements is true?
- (A) After the collision, the two masses will move with parallel velocities
 (B) After the collision, the masses will move with anti-parallel velocities
 (C) After the collision, the masses will both move along the x -axis
 (D) After the collision, the y -components of the velocities of the two particles will sum to zero.
 (E) None of the above

26. A mass m_1 initially moving at speed v_0 collides with and sticks to a spring attached to a second, initially stationary mass m_2 . The two masses continue to move to the right on a frictionless surface as the length of the spring oscillates. At the instant that the spring is maximally extended, the velocity of the first mass is



- (A) v_0
 (B) $m_1^2 v_0/(m_1 + m_2)^2$
 (C) $m_2 v_0/m_1$
 (D) $m_1 v_0/m_2$
 (E) $m_1 v_0/(m_1 + m_2)$

AP PHYSICS C: MOMENTUM, IMPULSE, COLLISIONS, AND CENTER OF MASS
SECTION II
5 Questions

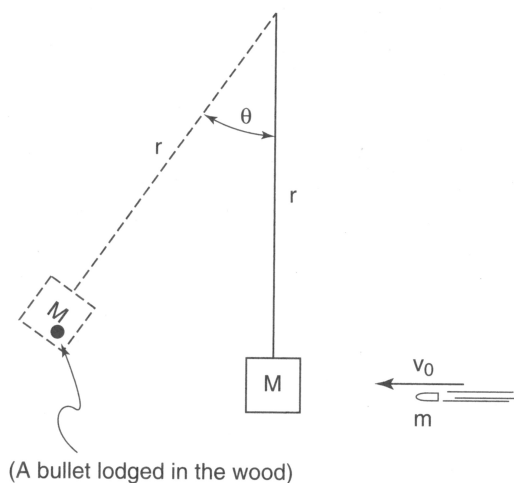
Directions: Answer all questions. The parts within a question may not have equal weight. All final numerical answers should include appropriate units. Credit depends on the quality of your solutions and explanations, so you should show your work. Credit also depends on demonstrating that you know which physical principles would be appropriate to apply in a particular situation. Therefore, you should clearly indicate which part of a question your work is for. 10

1. A projectile is fired from the edge of a cliff 100 m high with an initial speed of 60 m/s at an angle of elevation of 45° .
 - (a) Write equation for $x(t)$, $y(t)$, v_x and v_y . Choose the origin of your coordinate system at the particle's original location.
 - (b) Calculate the location and velocity of the particle at time $t = 5$ s.

Suppose the projectile experiences an internal explosion at time $t = 4$ s with an internal force purely in the y -direction, causing it to break into a 2 kg and a 1 kg fragment.

- (c) If the 2 kg fragment is 77 m above the height of the cliff at $t = 5$ s, what is the y -coordinate of the position of the 1 kg piece?
- (d) If the speed of the 2 kg fragment is 46 m/s and the fragment is falling at $t = 5$ s, what is the y -component of the velocity of the 1 kg fragment?

2. The Ballistic Pendulum. To determine the muzzle speed of a gun, a bullet is shot into a mass M from a string as shown below, causing M to swing upward through a maximum angle of θ .

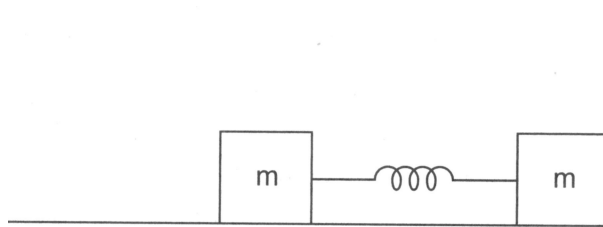


- (a) What is the speed of M the instant after the bullet lodges in it?
- (b) What is the speed of the bullet before it hits M ?
- (c) What is the tension in the string at the highest point of the pendulum's swing (when the string makes an angle of θ with the vertical as shown)?

3. Two masses are connected by a spring (spring constant k) resting on a frictionless horizontal surface as shown. The right mass is initially in contact with a wall. A brief blow to the left block leaves it with an initial velocity v_0 to the right.

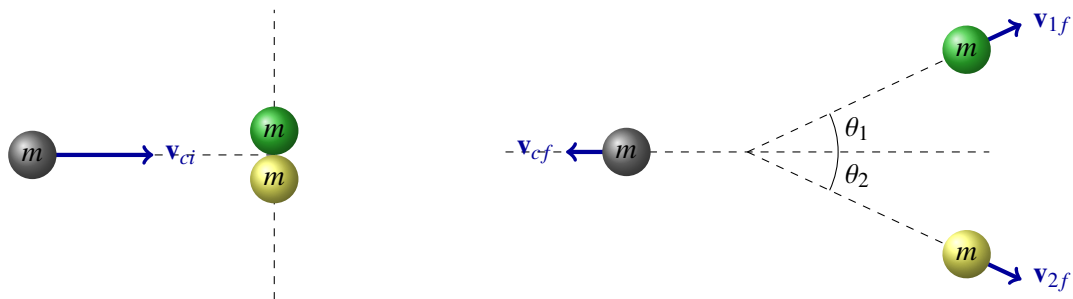
(a) What is the maximum compression of the spring as the left block moves to the right?

After the spring is maximally compressed, it eventually moves to the left, away from wall. As it moves away from the wall, it continues oscillating.



- (b) What is the net momentum of the two masses after they leave the wall?
- (c) What is the total mechanical energy of the oscillating spring system?
- (d) What is the relative velocity of the two masses when the spring is maximally compressed?
- (e) What is the maximum compression of the spring after the two masses have left the wall? Compare the compression to the maximum compression calculated in part (a) and explain any similarities and differences.

4. In the billiards shot shown in the figure below, the initial direction of the cue ball is perpendicular to the line joining the centers of the other two balls, which are touching. The cue ball strikes both balls simultaneously. Use the symmetry of the situation along with the appropriate conservation laws to find the final velocities of all three balls.



5. A stream of glass beads, each with a mass of 0.5 g, comes out of a horizontal tube at 100 per second. The beads fall a distance of 0.5 m to a balance pan and bounce back to their original height as shown in the figure below. How much mass must be placed in the other pan of the balance to keep the pointer at zero?

