

Chapter 9 Momentum

Topics:

- Interactions from the viewpoint of impulse and momentum
- Isolated systems
- Conservation of momentum
- Applications to inelastic collisions, explosions and recoil

Sample question:



Male rams butt heads at high speeds in a ritual to assert their dominance. How can the force of this collision be minimized so as to avoid damage to their brains?

Impulse

- Consider a collision between two objects, e.g.,
 - bat and baseball
 - racket and tennis ball
- Ball is compressed during the short duration of the contact (1 to 10 ms)





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Impulse



- The foot exerts a force on the ball during a well-defined duration Δt (time extent of the contact)
- A greater force and/or longer duration will have a greater effect → greater *impulse*





Impulse-Momentum Theorem

What is the connection between impulse and motion?





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• From Newton's 2nd Law, we have

$$\vec{a}_{avg} = \frac{F_{avg}}{m}$$

Recall that acceleration is a change in velocity

$$\vec{a}_{avg} = \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t} = \frac{\vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i}{\Delta t}$$

• Combining these, we obtain

$$\frac{\vec{F}_{avg}}{m} = \vec{a}_{avg} = \frac{\vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i}{\Delta t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{F}_{avg} \Delta t = m\vec{v}_f - m\vec{v}_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{J} = \vec{p}_f - \vec{p}_i = \Delta \vec{p}$$
Momentum is defined
$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$$

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Effect of impulse on motion

$$\vec{J} = \vec{p}_f - \vec{p}_i = \Delta \vec{p} \qquad \vec{p} = m\vec{v}$$

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Impulse problem

A 0.5-kg hockey puck slides to the right at 10 m/s. It is hit with a hockey stick that exerts the force shown. What is its approximate final speed?

1. compute impulse

$$J = F_{avg} \Delta t$$

J = (25N)(0.020s) = 0.5 N · s = 0.5 kg · m/s

2. apply impulse-momentum theorem

$$\vec{J} = \vec{p}_f - \vec{p}_i = m(\vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i)$$
$$\frac{\vec{J}}{m} = \vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i \implies \frac{\vec{J}}{m} + \vec{v}_i = \vec{v}_f$$
$$\frac{0.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}}{0.5 \text{ kg}} + 10 \text{ m/s} = (v_f)_x = 11 \text{ m/s}$$



Impulse DEMOS

- Table setting
- · Pen and hoop

Momentum change is very small because force is applied for a very short time

Pendulum hit by bat vs. finger push





• Egg toss

Force on the egg is minimized by stretching the length of time over which momentum drops to zero

$$\vec{F}_{avg}\Delta t = \Delta \vec{p} \Longrightarrow \vec{F}_{avg} = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$

Impulse question

PRS





Momentum Recap

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

This equation expresses the momentum of a single particle or a collection of them.

For more than one particle the total momentum is the sum of the momentum of individual particles.

$$\vec{p} = \vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 + \vec{p}_3 + \dots = \sum_i \vec{p}_i$$

The SI units of momentum: kg m/s

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Conservation of Momentum

The total momentum before the collision is equal to the total momentum after the collision

This can be generalized to any *isolated* system consisting of any number of particles

→ Law of momentum conservation

One of the most general and important Laws of Nature

DEMOS:

- pull-apart carts
- rocket propulsion
- Newton's cradle

