

Lecture 6 Impulse and Momentum

A 2kg $\xrightarrow{1\text{m/s}}$

B 0.5kg $\xrightarrow{2\text{m/s}}$

applying same force to stop the objects

① Which one travel further in distance before stopping? same

② Which one travel longer in time before stopping? A

To answer the first question ①, it is convenient to consider.

$$W = \Delta K$$
$$-F \cdot d = K_f - K_i = -K_i$$

in both case K_i are the same.

To answer ②, we want to relate force and time, and define a quantity similar to the relation between force and space in work-energy theorem.

Define: momentum $\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$

such that:

$$\Delta \vec{p} = m \Delta \vec{v}$$
$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} \leftarrow \frac{\Delta \vec{p}}{\Delta t} = m \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t} \rightarrow m \vec{a} = \vec{F}_{\text{net.}}$$

$$\Rightarrow d\vec{p} = \vec{F}_{\text{net.}} dt$$

in general.

$$\rightarrow \Delta \vec{p} = \vec{p}_f - \vec{p}_i = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \vec{F}_{\text{net.}} dt$$

Define: Impulse: $\vec{J} = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \vec{F} dt$ or $\vec{F} \cdot \Delta t$ for constant $\vec{F}$

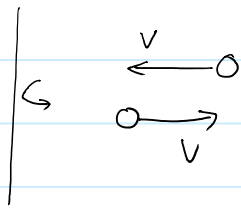
we have

$$\Delta \vec{p} = \vec{J}$$

Impulse-momentum theorem

c.f. $\Delta K = W$

Ball bouncing



$$\vec{p}_i = -mv\hat{i}$$

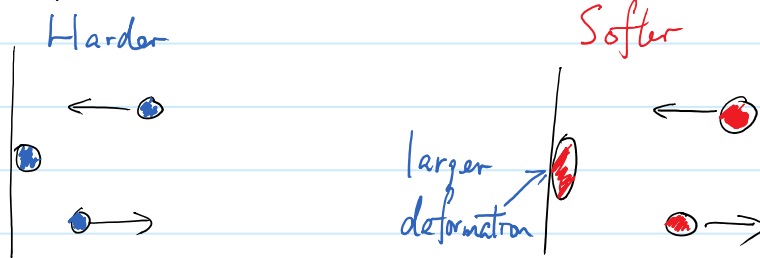
$$\vec{p}_f = +mv\hat{i}$$

$$\Delta \vec{p} = mv\hat{i} - (-mv\hat{i}) = +2mv\hat{i}$$

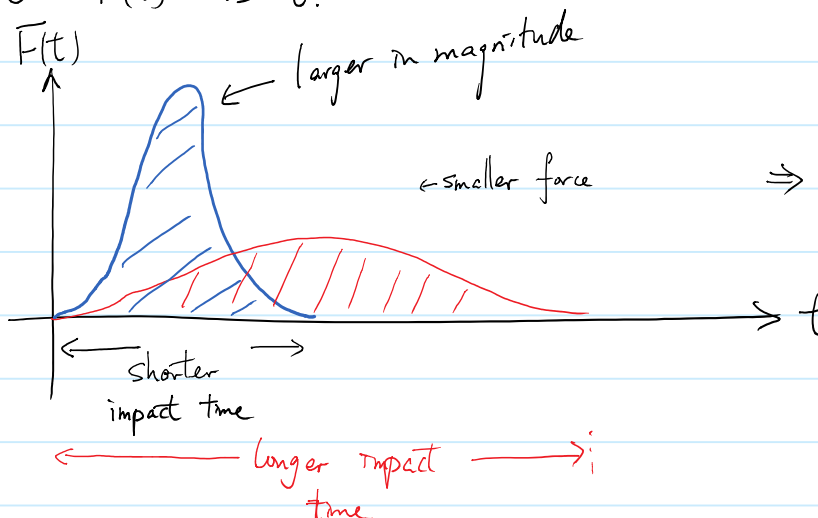
$$\Rightarrow \vec{F} \Delta t = 2mv\hat{i}$$

But $\vec{F}$ might not be constant in reality: $\vec{F} \rightarrow \vec{F}(t)$

for a harder ball, duration of impact is shorter than that of a softer ball



Plot $F(t)$ vs t .



$$\text{Same } |\vec{J}| = \left| \int \vec{F}(t) dt \right|$$

$\Rightarrow$ same area under curve

Defining average force. F_{avg}

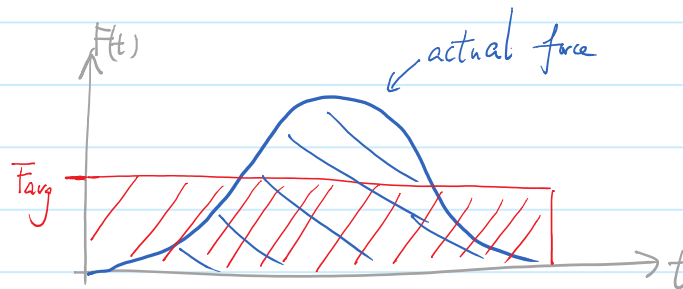
Average force is defined such that the average force provides the same impulse over the same time (Δt)

$$\vec{J} = \int_0^{\Delta t} \vec{F} dt = \vec{F}_{avg} \cdot \Delta t$$

↑
actual
force↑
average force

$$\Rightarrow \vec{F}_{avg} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_0^{\Delta t} \vec{F} \cdot dt = \frac{\vec{J}}{\Delta t}$$

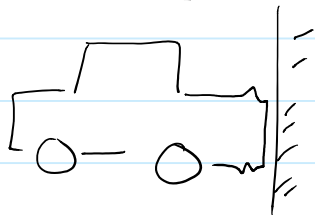
Diagrammatically,



again area under the curves must be the same.

A stiffly built car is not always a safe car in car crash.

Stiff car



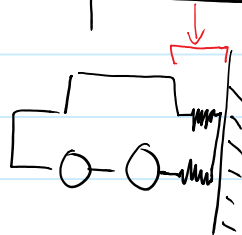
$$V \rightarrow v = 0$$

$$|\vec{J}| = mv = F \cdot \Delta t$$

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

Δt is small for a stiff car.

Crumple Zone "softer" car



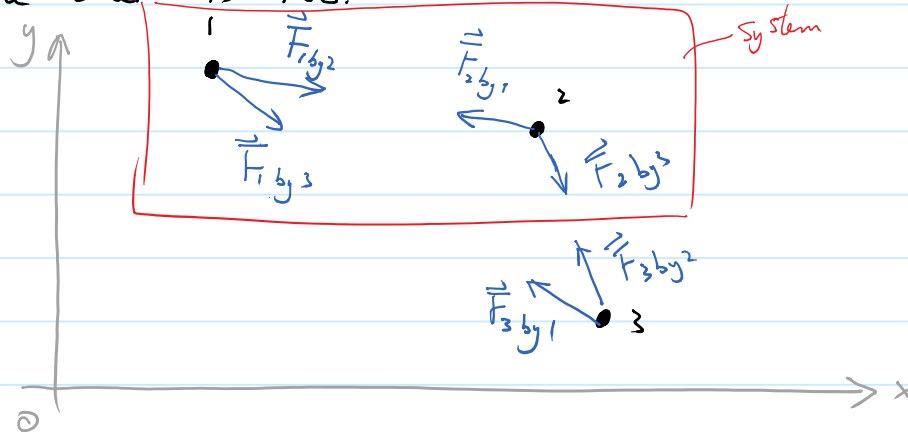
$$|\vec{J}| = mv \quad \text{but } \Delta t \text{ is larger}$$

since the head of the car serves as a cushion.

$$\Rightarrow F = \frac{mv}{\Delta t} \downarrow$$

System of particles

Consider three particles, two of them are in the system and the other is not.



Net force acting on the system

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}}^{\text{sys}} = \sum_{i=1}^2 \vec{F}_{\text{net } i} = \vec{F}_{\text{net } 1} + \vec{F}_{\text{net } 2}$$

$$= \vec{F}_{1 \text{ by } 2} + \vec{F}_{1 \text{ by } 3} + \vec{F}_{2 \text{ by } 1} + \vec{F}_{2 \text{ by } 3}$$

$$= \underbrace{\vec{F}_{1 \text{ by } 2} + \vec{F}_{2 \text{ by } 1}}_{\text{internal forces}} + \underbrace{\vec{F}_{1 \text{ by } 3} + \vec{F}_{2 \text{ by } 3}}_{\text{external forces (all by 3)}}$$

$$\sum \vec{F}_{\text{internal}} = \vec{0} \leftarrow \text{internal forces} \quad \sum \vec{F}_{\text{ext}}^{\text{sys}}$$

$$\therefore \vec{F}_{1 \text{ by } 2} = -\vec{F}_{2 \text{ by } 1}$$

Newton 3rd Law

$$= \sum_i \vec{F}_{\text{ext}}^{\text{sys}}$$

on the other hand, $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}^{\text{sys}} = \sum \vec{F}_{\text{net } i} = \vec{F}_{\text{net } 1} + \vec{F}_{\text{net } 2} = \frac{d\vec{p}_1}{dt} + \frac{d\vec{p}_2}{dt}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{F}_{\text{net}}^{\text{sys}} = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{p}_{\text{tot}} \quad \text{where } \vec{p}_{\text{tot}} = \sum_i \vec{p}_i$$

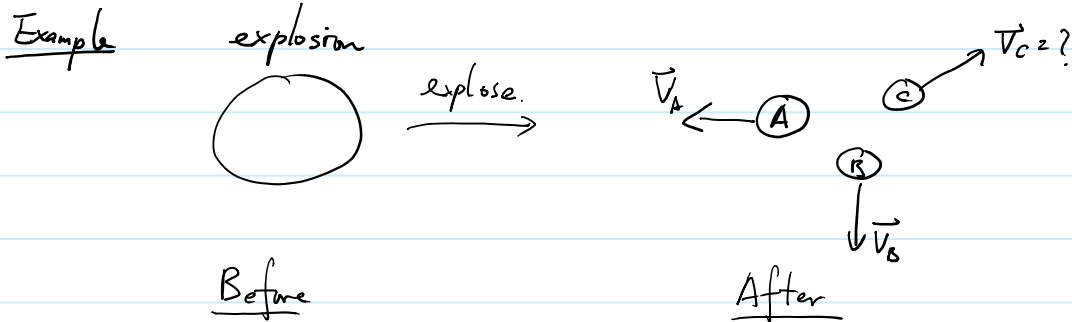
combining $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}^{\text{sys}} = \sum \vec{F}_{\text{ext}}$ & $\vec{F}_{\text{net}}^{\text{sys}} = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{p}_{\text{tot}}$

$$\Rightarrow \sum \vec{F}_{\text{ext}} = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{p}_{\text{tot}}, \quad \text{rate of change of total momentum of the sys. equals to sum of external forces only.}$$

If there are no net external forces acting on the system,

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d\vec{P}_{\text{tot}}}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta\vec{P}_{\text{tot}} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{P}_i = \vec{P}_f$$

Conservation of momentum.



During the explosion, only internal forces are acting on the 3 objects A, B and C.

$$\Rightarrow \vec{P}_{\text{before}}^{\text{sys}} = \vec{P}_{\text{after}}^{\text{sys}}$$

$$\left(\begin{aligned} \vec{P}_{\text{before}}^{\text{sys}} &= (m_A + m_B + m_C) \cdot \vec{0} = \vec{0} \\ \vec{P}_{\text{after}}^{\text{sys}} &= m_A \vec{v}_A + m_B \vec{v}_B + m_C \vec{v}_C \end{aligned} \right.$$

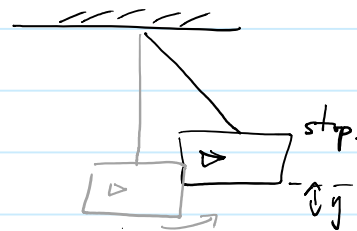
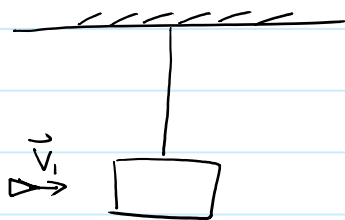
$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_C = -\frac{m_A}{m_C} \vec{v}_A - \frac{m_B}{m_C} \vec{v}_B$$

Example 1D head-on completely inelastic collision

given

m_B, m_W, g

find V_i



$$K_i = \frac{1}{2} m_B v_i^2 \quad \text{?}$$

using energy conservation?

$$\Rightarrow v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2(m_B + m_W) g y}{m_B}} \quad ? \quad \text{WRONG!}$$

When the wood stops the bullet, there exists a friction between the wood and the bullet.

$$\Rightarrow W_{n.c.} \neq 0 \Rightarrow \Delta K + \Delta U \neq 0.$$

Correct analysis:

During collision, $\vec{F}_{ext} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \Delta \vec{p} = 0 \quad \because$ There are only friction between the bullet and the wood. That is internal force.

$$\Rightarrow \vec{p}_{\text{before collision}} = \vec{p}_{\text{after collision}}$$

After the collision, the bullet and the wood move together under tension and gravity.

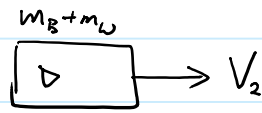
Tension does not do work. $W_T = 0$

Gravity is conservative force.

$$\Rightarrow \Delta K + \Delta U = W_{\text{other}} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f \quad \text{for the swinging motion.}$$

Collision part.



Before

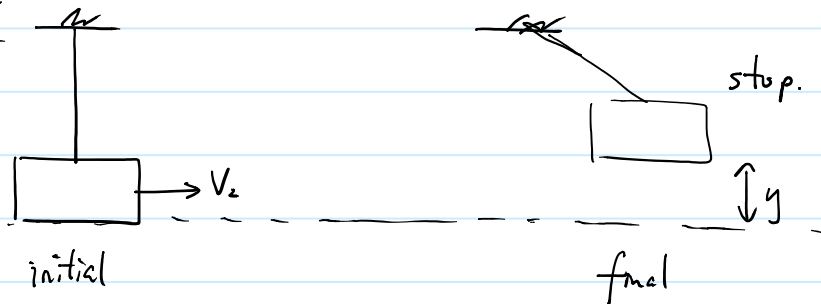
After.

$$P_i = m_B V_i$$

$$P_f = (m_B + m_W) V_2$$

$$P_i = P_f \Rightarrow V_i = \frac{m_B + m_W}{m_B} V_2$$

Swinging part



$$K_i + U_i = \frac{1}{2}(m_B + m_W)V_2^2 + 0, \quad K_f + U_f = 0 + (m_B + m_W)gy$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{V_2^2}{2} = gy$$

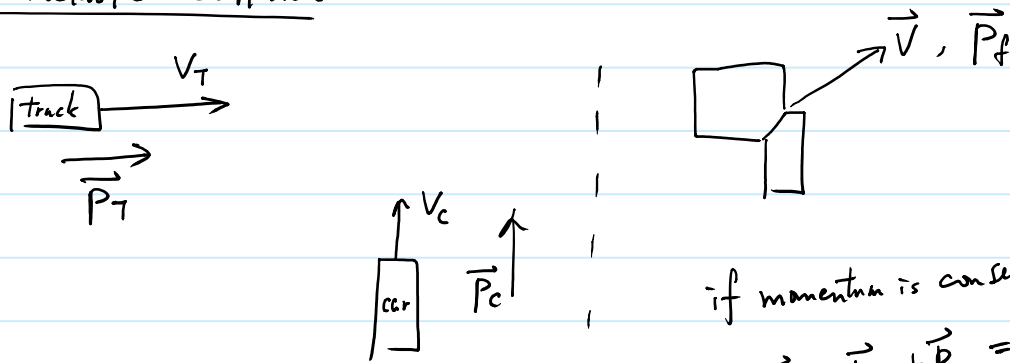
$$\Rightarrow V_2 = \sqrt{2gy}$$

finally we have

$$V_i = \frac{m_B + m_W}{m_B} V_2 = \frac{m_B + m_W}{m_B} \sqrt{2gy}$$

cf. the wrong answer $V_i = \sqrt{\frac{m_B + m_W}{m_B} 2gy}$

2D inelastic collision



if momentum is conserved, we have
$$\vec{P}_i = \vec{P}_T + \vec{P}_C = \vec{P}_f$$

During collision,

$$\Delta \vec{p} = \vec{p}_{\text{after}} - \vec{p}_{\text{before}} = \int_{t_{\text{before}}}^{t_{\text{after}}} \vec{F}_{\text{ext}} dt$$

are there any $\vec{F}_{\text{ext}}$?

Yes! Before the cars are completely struck and move together, they are already sliding on the road.

$\Rightarrow$ Kinetic friction applies on them.

But to good approximation, the impact time $\Delta t = t_{\text{after}} - t_{\text{before}}$

is around 0.1 s. The kinetic friction is $f_k = \mu_k (m_c + m_T) g \sim 0.5 \cdot 3000 \cdot 10 \sim 15000 \text{ N}$.

$\Rightarrow$ The impulse given by friction during the collision is $1500 \text{ N}\cdot\text{s}$.

How is this value compare to the initial momentum of the car and truck?

Take the car for example, $|\vec{p}_c| = m_c |\vec{V}_c| = 15000 \text{ N}\cdot\text{s} \gg$ impulse by friction.

$\Rightarrow$ we can ignore the impulse by the friction and assume the total momentum of the car and truck is conserved.