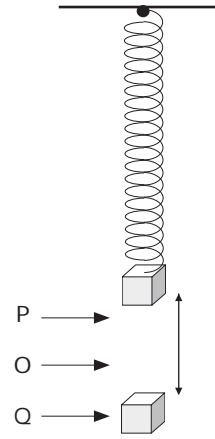


5. A mass oscillates on the end of a spring between two points *P* and *Q*. When the mass is at point *Q*, the extension is 50 cm. When the object is at point *P*, the spring is unstretched. The spring constant is  $20 \text{ Nm}^{-1}$ .
- Show that 2.5 J of work is needed to extend the spring from point *P* to *Q*.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Hence write down the loss in gravitational potential energy from *P* to *Q*.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Hence, calculate the mass of the object.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Consider the oscillating mass in the previous question.
- At which point (*O*, *P* or *Q*) does the mass have no kinetic energy? \_\_\_\_\_
  - At which point does the mass have maximum kinetic energy? \_\_\_\_\_
  - At which point does the mass have elastic potential energy only? \_\_\_\_\_
  - At which point does the mass have gravitational potential energy only? \_\_\_\_\_
  - In which part of the motion is there a decrease in gravitational energy? \_\_\_\_\_
  - In which part of the motion is there a decrease in elastic energy? \_\_\_\_\_



 **Momentum**

Newton's second law says that a force accelerates a mass  $F = ma$   
 Recall that  $a = (v - u)/t$ . Hence  $F = ma$  means that  $F = m(v_f - v_i)/t$   
 When we multiply out the brackets, we obtain  $F = (mv_f - mv_i)/t$

Hence the force,  $F$ , changes the quantity  $mv$ .  
 This quantity of mass times velocity is called **momentum,  $p$**   $p = mv$   
 Hence Newton's second law can be expressed as

**Force = change in momentum / time**

We can write this as the equation  $F = \Delta p / \Delta t$  or  $\Delta p = F \Delta t$

Since momentum,  $mv$ , is based on velocity, this means that momentum is a vector quantity. For straight line motion, however, we simply use + and - for its direction.



Sir Isaac Newton  
(1643 – 1727)

- What are the units for momentum? \_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate the momentum, of each of these:
  - A 0.50 kg bird flying at  $7.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - A 20 g snail moving at  $1.5 \text{ mms}^{-1}$ .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - An 85 g tennis ball moving at  $30 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - A 1.5 tonne van speeding at  $144 \text{ km/hr}$ .  
\_\_\_\_\_

- A 2 kg ball travels at  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right. It catches up with a 3 kg ball which is travelling at  $2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right as shown opposite.
  - Calculate the momentum of each ball.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Calculate their total momentum.  
\_\_\_\_\_

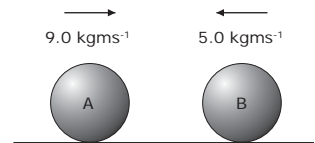


4. The two balls opposite collide. After the collision, the 2 kg ball travels at  $2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right. The 3 kg ball travels at  $4 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right as shown.



- Calculate their total final momentum.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate the change in momentum,  $\Delta p$ , of the 2 kg ball. (Use *final – initial*.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate the change in momentum of the 3 kg ball.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use Newton's second law to calculate the force acting on the 3 kg ball during the collision. Assume the balls are in contact for a time of 0.02 s.  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Two balls are about to collide. The initial momentum of each one is shown in the diagram opposite.



- Calculate their total momentum.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- After the collision, both balls move in *opposite* directions. Ball *B* has a final momentum of  $+6.0 \text{ kgms}^{-1}$ . Calculate the final momentum of ball *A* given that their total momentum is not changed by the collision.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In which direction does ball *B* move after the collision?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate the change in momentum of ball *B*.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Ball *B* has a mass of 0.50 kg. Calculate its final speed.  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Four identical railway wagons, each of mass 2 000 kg, are coupled together at rest on a smooth horizontal track. A fifth wagon of mass 4 000 kg, is moving at  $5.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  when it collides and joins with the stationary wagons.



- Calculate the total mass of the wagons.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate the total initial momentum of the wagons.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate their combined speed after the impact, given the total momentum does not change.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate the change in momentum of the fifth wagon as a result of the collision.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Calculate the force acting on the fifth wagon during the collision, given that the wagons are in contact for a time of 5 ms.  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Conservation of Momentum

Momentum is often used to analyse collisions. The diagram opposite shows two unequal masses, A and B, which are on a collision course.

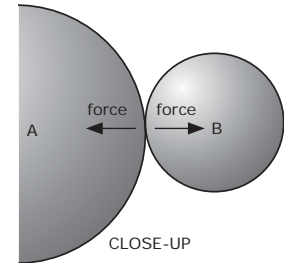
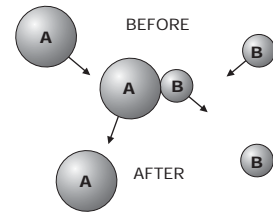
When they collide, each mass exerts a force on the other mass, so that each one bounces away on a new path. It is these two reaction forces that change the momentum of the two masses.

The close-up opposite shows how we think of these two 'action and reaction' forces. By Newton's third law these two forces are equal and opposite.

Remember that **force = change in momentum/time**. Hence the change in momentum of the two masses is equal and opposite. The 'gain' in momentum of mass A is equal to the 'loss' in momentum of mass B.

Because the gain in one is balanced by the loss in the other, the total momentum does not change.

**Rule:** The total momentum **before** the collision is equal to the total momentum **after** the collision.



1. A 1 kg ball travels at  $6 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right. It catches up with a 3 kg ball which is also travelling at  $4 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right.

a. Calculate the total momentum of the balls.

\_\_\_\_\_

b. The two balls collide. Afterwards, the 1 kg ball travels slower at  $3 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right. Let the 3 kg ball have a final speed  $v$ . Write down an expression for their total final momentum in terms of  $v$ .

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Write down an equation for the total momentum before and the total momentum after the collision.

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Solve the equation for  $v$ .

\_\_\_\_\_

2. A 5 kg ball travels at  $2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right. It collides with a 3 kg ball travelling at  $1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the right.

a. Calculate the total momentum of the balls.

\_\_\_\_\_

b. The two balls collide. After the collision, the 5 kg ball is seen to travel at  $1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  to the *left*. Let the 3 kg ball have a final speed  $v$ . Write down an expression for the total final momentum in terms of  $v$ .

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Write down an equation about the conservation of momentum.

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Solve the equation for  $v$ .

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3. A 4 kg ball travels right at  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . It collides with a 3 kg ball travelling at  $6 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  *left*. After the collision, the 3 kg ball moves off to the right at  $2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .

a. Sketch the situation in the space opposite.

b. Use momentum conservation to calculate the final speed of the 4 kg ball.

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