

Answer on Question #68519, Physics / Mechanics | Relativity

Two blocks of mass 300g & 200g are moving toward each other along a horizontal frictionless surface with velocities of 50cm/s and 100cm/s respectively. Find the loss of kinetic energy during the collision.

Solution:

The law of conservation of momentum for a system of two bodies

$$m_1v_1 + m_2v_2 = (m_1 + m_2)u$$

$$u = \frac{m_1v_1 + m_2v_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

$$u = \frac{0.3 \text{ kg} \times 0.5 \text{ m/s} + 0.2 \text{ kg} \times 1 \text{ m/s}}{0.3 \text{ kg} + 0.2 \text{ kg}}$$

$$u = 0.7 \text{ m/s}$$

Define the difference of the kinetic energy of two bodies before and after the interaction

$$\Delta E = \left(\frac{m_1v_1^2}{2} + \frac{m_2v_2^2}{2} \right) - \frac{(m_1 + m_2)u^2}{2}$$

$$\Delta E = \left(\frac{0.3 \text{ kg} \times \left(0.5 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right)^2}{2} + \frac{0.2 \text{ kg} \times \left(1 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right)^2}{2} \right) - \frac{(0.3 \text{ kg} + 0.2 \text{ kg}) \left(0.7 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right)^2}{2}$$

$$\Delta E = 0.015 \text{ Joule}$$

Answer: 0.015 Joule

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