

Answer on Question # 69212, Physics – Mechanics - Relativity :

Question: An object of m kg with speed of v m/s strikes a wall at an angle and rebounds at the same speed and same angle. What is the magnitude of the change in momentum of the object.

Solution: Let the object strikes the wall at an angle θ .

When the object of mass m with a speed v strikes the wall, then momentum will be

$$P = mv \sin\theta \mathbf{i} - mv \cos\theta \mathbf{j}$$

[\mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} are the unit vectors along the direction of x and y direction respectively.]

So, when it rebounds at same speed and same angle, then momentum will be

$$Q = mv \sin\theta \mathbf{i} + mv \cos\theta \mathbf{j}$$

So, change in momentum = $Q - P = 2mv \cos\theta \mathbf{j}$ [\mathbf{j} is unit vector along y direction.]

So, the magnitude of change in momentum is $2mv \cos\theta$.

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