

Level 1:

- Q1. A particle of mass  $0.2 \text{ kg}$  is fired horizontally with speed  $200 \text{ m/s}$  into a block of sand that is at rest. The block is of mass  $2 \text{ kg}$  and is sitting on a smooth horizontal surface. The particle emerges from the block with a speed of  $120 \text{ m/s}$ . Find the speed of the block.
- Q2. A smooth sphere of mass  $4 \text{ kg}$ , moving with a speed of  $11 \text{ m/s}$  collides directly with a smooth sphere of mass  $6 \text{ kg}$ , moving in the same direction with a speed of  $7 \text{ m/s}$ . After collision, the  $6 \text{ kg}$  sphere moves with a speed of  $10 \text{ m/s}$ .  
Calculate (i) the speed of the first sphere after collision and (ii) the coefficient of restitution.
- Q3. Two elastic spheres of mass,  $1 \text{ kg}$  and  $2 \text{ kg}$ , travelling in opposite directions collide directly. The speeds before collision are  $16 \text{ m/s}$  and  $9 \text{ m/s}$  respectively. If the coefficient of restitution is  $\frac{5}{7}$ , calculate the kinetic energy lost in the collision.
- Q4. A smooth sphere  $A$  of mass  $M$  moving with speed  $\sqrt{13} \text{ m/s}$  collides with a smooth sphere  $B$  of mass  $2M$  which is at rest. The direction of motion of  $A$  makes an angle of  $\tan^{-1}(\frac{2}{3})$  with the line of centres at impact. The coefficient of restitution is  $0.5$ . Calculate:  
(i) the velocity of each sphere after the collision  
(ii) the loss in kinetic energy due to the impact  
(iii) the impulse imparted to each sphere during impact
- Q5. A particle  $A$  of mass  $m$  moving with speed  $5u$  on a smooth horizontal plane collides directly with another particle  $B$  of mass  $6m$  moving with speed  $u$  in the same direction. After this collision  $B$  strikes a smooth vertical wall at right-angles to the direction of its motion. The coefficient of restitution between the two particles is  $\frac{3}{4}$  and the coefficient of restitution between  $B$  and the wall is  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
(i) Find the velocities of  $A$  and  $B$  after the first collision.  
(ii) Show that  $A$  and  $B$  do not collide again.
- Q6. A ball falls from rest onto smooth horizontal ground from a height of  $3.5 \text{ m}$ . The ball hits the ground with a speed of  $v \text{ m/s}$  and rebounds back up to a height of  $s$  metres above the ground. If the coefficient of restitution between the ball and the ground is  $0.6$ , find:  
(i) the value of  $v$       (ii) the value of  $s$ .
- Q7. A smooth sphere  $A$ , of mass  $2 \text{ kg}$ , is moving with a speed of  $4 \text{ m/s}$ . It collides directly with a smooth sphere  $B$ , of mass  $5 \text{ kg}$ , moving in the opposite direction with speed  $2 \text{ m/s}$ , on a smooth horizontal surface. Sphere  $B$  is brought to rest because of the collision and the coefficient of restitution for the collision is  $e$ .  
(i) Find the speed of sphere  $A$  after the collision.  
(ii) Find the value of  $e$ .  
(iii) Find the percentage loss in kinetic energy due to the collision.

Level 2:

- Q8. A train of mass  $100 \text{ tonnes}$  is travelling up a straight track, which is at an angle of  $5^\circ$  to the horizontal. There is a force resisting the motion of the train of magnitude  $6 \text{ kN}$  and the train's engine is working at a steady rate of  $400 \text{ kW}$ .  
(i) Find the maximum speed of the train.  
The track then becomes horizontal. The engine continues to work at the same rate of  $400 \text{ kW}$  and the resistance to motion stays at  $6 \text{ kN}$ .  
(ii) Find the acceleration of the train when it starts on the horizontal section.

**Q9.** A van of mass  $2500\text{ kg}$  accelerates from a stationary position on a straight horizontal road. There is a resistance to motion of  $400\text{ N}$  throughout, while the engine is working at a constant power of  $21\text{ kW}$ .

(i) Find the acceleration of the car when its speed is  $15\text{ m/s}$ .

(ii) Find the maximum speed the car can achieve at a power of  $21\text{ kW}$ .

**Q10.** A smooth sphere of mass  $1\text{ kg}$  strikes a stationary sphere of mass  $2\text{ kg}$ . The line of centres makes an angle of  $30^\circ$  with the original direction. If the collision is perfectly elastic, show that the spheres have equal speeds after impact.

**Q11.** A sphere of mass  $m$  and velocity  $2u$  impinges directly on a sphere of mass  $2m$  and velocity  $u$ , moving in the same direction. Prove that the velocity of the second sphere must have its value increased. Find  $e$  if the speed of mass  $m$  after the impact is reduced to  $u$ .

**Q12.** A smooth sphere  $A$  collides with an identical smooth sphere  $B$  which is at rest. The velocity of  $A$  before impact makes an angle  $\alpha$  with the line of centres at impact. Show that the angle  $\theta$  through which the path of  $A$  is deflected is given by

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\tan \alpha (1 + e)}{(1 - e) + 2 \tan^2 \alpha}$$

where  $e$  is the coefficient of restitution for the impact.

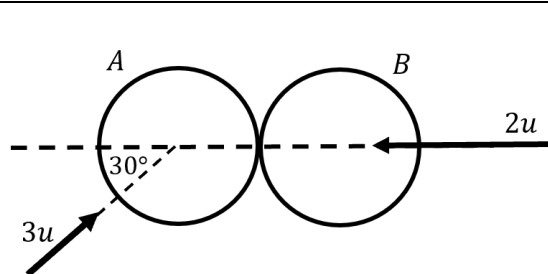
**Q13.** A smooth sphere  $P$ , of mass  $km$ , moving with speed  $u$  collides directly with a smooth sphere  $Q$ , of mass  $m$ , moving in the same direction with speed  $ku$ . Sphere  $P$  is brought to a stop by the collision.

(i) Find the speed of  $Q$  after the collision, in terms of  $k$  and  $u$ .

(ii) Prove that  $k \leq \frac{1}{3}$ .

**Q14.**

A smooth sphere  $A$ , of mass  $3m$ , collides obliquely with a smooth sphere  $B$ , of mass  $2m$ . The directions of motion and velocities of both spheres before the collision is shown in the diagram on the right. After the collision,  $A$  and  $B$  move in directions that are at right angles to one another. Find the coefficient of restitution for the collision.



**Q15.** Two smooth spheres of mass  $2m$  and  $m$  are moving in opposite directions with speed  $u$  and  $2u$  respectively. They collide directly on a smooth horizontal table. If  $E$  and  $F$  are the sums of the kinetic energies of the spheres before and after the collision respectively, prove that

$$e = \sqrt{\frac{F}{E}}.$$

**Level 3:**

**Q16.** A particle  $P$  of mass  $2m$  is moving in a straight line with speed  $u$  at the instant when it collides directly with a particle  $Q$  of mass  $m$  which is at rest. The coefficient of restitution between  $P$  and  $Q$  is  $e$ .

(i) Show that after the collision  $P$  is moving with speed  $\frac{1}{3}(2 - e)u$ .

(ii) Show that the kinetic energy lost in the collision is  $\frac{1}{3}mu^2(1 - e^2)$ .

**Q17.** A smooth sphere  $P$  of mass  $M$  moving with a speed of  $v$  impinges on a smooth sphere  $Q$  of mass  $2M$  which is at rest, the direction of motion of  $P$  making an angle of  $30^\circ$  with the line of centres. After impact  $P$  is moving at right angles to its original direction. Find the coefficient of restitution for the impact.

- Q18.** A particle of mass  $m$  is thrown vertically upwards with speed  $u$  from a point  $P$  on horizontal ground. Simultaneously a second identical particle, also of mass  $m$ , is thrown vertically downwards with speed  $u$  from point  $Q$ , where  $Q$  is vertically above  $P$  at a distance of  $h$ , where  $h < \frac{4u^2}{g}$ . On impact the two particles adhere and move subsequently as a single particle. Show that the loss of kinetic energy due to the impact is  $mu^2$ . Show also that the speed with which the combined particle hits the ground is  $\sqrt{gh}$ .
- Q19.** A smooth sphere moves on a smooth horizontal surface and strikes an identical smooth sphere lying at rest on the table at a distance of  $2m$  from a vertical wall. Prove that the next impact between the spheres will take place at a distance  $\frac{4e^2}{1+e^2}$  metres from the wall, where  $e$  is the coefficient of restitution for all impacts involved.

**Answers:**

<b>Q1.</b> $8 \text{ m/s}$	<b>Q2.</b> (i) $6.5 \text{ m/s}$ (ii) $e = \frac{7}{8}$	<b>Q3.</b> $102 \text{ J}$	<b>Q4.</b> (i) $(0\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) \text{ m/s}, (1.5\vec{i} + 0\vec{j}) \text{ m/s}$ (ii) $\frac{9M}{4} \text{ J}$ (iii) $3M \text{ (Ns)}$
<b>Q5.</b> (i) $-u\vec{i}, 2u\vec{i}$	<b>Q6.</b> (i) $8.29 \text{ m/s}$ (ii) $1.26 \text{ m}$	<b>Q7.</b> (i) $1 \text{ m/s}$ (ii) $\frac{1}{6}$ (iii) $96\%$	
<b>Q8.</b> (i) $4.38 \text{ m/s}$ (ii) $0.85 \text{ m/s}^2$		<b>Q9.</b> (i) $0.4 \text{ m/s}^2$ (ii) $52.5 \text{ m/s}$	<b>Q11.</b> (ii) $e = \frac{1}{2}$ <b>Q13.</b> (i) $2uk \text{ m/s}$
<b>Q14.</b> $e = 0.41$	<b>Q17.</b> $e = 1$		

# Past Exam Questions:

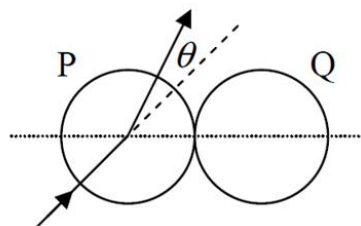
## 2012 Q5

- (a) Three smooth spheres, A, B and C, of mass  $3m$ ,  $2m$  and  $m$  lie at rest on a smooth horizontal table with their centres in a straight line. Sphere A is projected towards B with speed  $5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . Sphere A collides directly with B and then B collides directly with C.

The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is  $e$ .

Show that if  $e > \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}$  there will be no further collisions.

- (b) A smooth sphere P collides with an identical smooth sphere Q which is at rest. The velocity of P before impact makes an angle  $\alpha$  with the line of centres at impact, where  $0^\circ \leq \alpha < 90^\circ$ .



The velocity of P is deflected through an angle  $\theta$  by the collision.

The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

Show that  $\tan \theta = \frac{2 \tan \alpha}{1 + 3 \tan^2 \alpha}$ .

## 2014 Q5

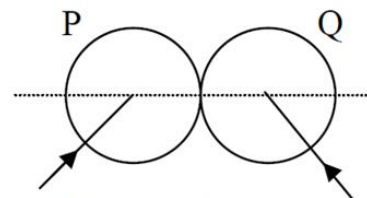
- (a) A smooth sphere A, of mass  $2m$ , moving with speed  $u$  collides directly with a smooth sphere B, of mass  $7m$ , which is at rest. B then collides with a vertical wall which is perpendicular to the direction of motion of the spheres.



The coefficient of restitution is  $\frac{1}{2}$  for all collisions.

- (i) Show that the spheres will not collide for a second time.  
(ii) What is the total loss of kinetic energy due to the impacts?

- (b) A smooth sphere P, of mass  $2m$ , collides with a smooth sphere Q, of mass  $m$ . The velocity of P is  $3u \vec{i} + 4u \vec{j}$  and the velocity of Q is  $-4u \vec{i} + 3u \vec{j}$ .



When they collide their line of centres is parallel to the unit vector  $\vec{i}$ .

The impact causes a loss of kinetic energy equal to  $\frac{25mu^2}{2}$ .

- (i) Find the coefficient of restitution between the spheres.  
(ii) If the magnitude of the impulse imparted to each sphere due to the collision is  $km u$ , find the value of  $k$ .

2017 Q5

- (a) A small smooth sphere A, of mass  $1.5 \text{ kg}$ , moving with speed  $6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , collides directly with a small smooth sphere B, of mass  $m \text{ kg}$ , which is at rest. After the collision the spheres move in opposite directions with speeds  $v$  and  $2v$ , respectively.

80% of the kinetic energy lost by A as a result of the collision is transferred to B. The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is  $e$ .

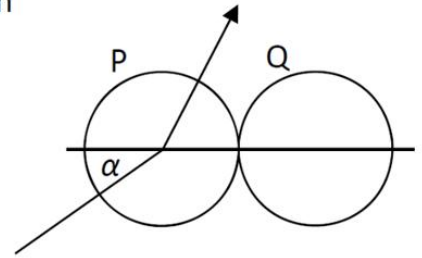
- Find (i) the value of  $v$   
(ii) the value of  $e$ .

- (b) A small smooth sphere P, of mass  $3m$ , collides obliquely with a small smooth sphere Q, of mass  $7m$ , which is at rest.

Before the collision the velocity of P makes an angle  $\alpha$  with the line joining the centres of the spheres.

After the collision the speed of Q is  $v$ .

The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is  $\frac{2}{7}$ .



- (i) Find, in terms of  $v$  and  $\alpha$ , the **speed** of P before the collision.
- (ii) If  $\alpha = 30^\circ$  find the angle through which the direction of motion of P is deflected as a result of the collision.

2019 Q5

- (a) A small smooth sphere A, of mass  $3m$  moving with speed  $u$ , collides directly with a small smooth sphere B, of mass  $m$  moving with speed  $u$  in the opposite direction. The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

- (i) Find, in terms of  $u$ , the speed of each sphere after the collision.

After the collision B hits a smooth vertical wall which is perpendicular to the direction of motion of B. The coefficient of restitution between B and the wall is  $\frac{2}{5}$ .

The first collision between the spheres occurred at a distance 2 metres from the wall. The spheres collide again 4 seconds after the first collision between them.

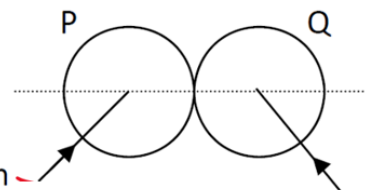
- (ii) Find the value of  $u$ .

- (b) A smooth sphere P, of mass  $2m$ , collides with a smooth sphere Q, of mass  $m$ . The velocity of P is  $3u \vec{i} + 4u \vec{j}$  and the velocity of Q is  $-4u \vec{i} + 3u \vec{j}$ , where  $\vec{i}$  is along the line of centres at impact.

The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is  $\frac{5}{7}$ .

Find

- (i) in terms of  $u$ , the speed of each sphere after the collision
- (ii) the angle between the directions of P and Q after the collision.



## 2023 Q2(b)

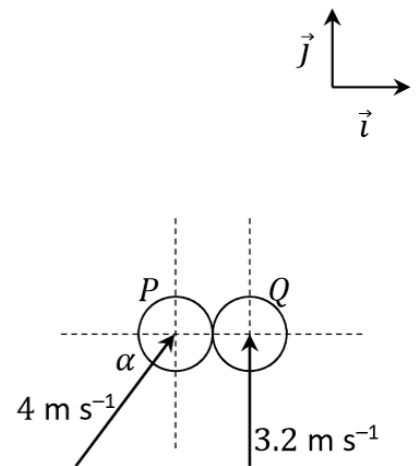
Two smooth spheres,  $P$  and  $Q$ , have equal radius and are of mass  $m$  and  $2m$  respectively.  $P$  and  $Q$  collide obliquely. The line joining their centres at the point of impact lies along the  $\vec{i}$  axis.

Before the collision, sphere  $P$  moves with a velocity of  $4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  at an angle  $\alpha$  with the  $\vec{i}$  axis, where  $\sin \alpha = \frac{4}{5}$ .

Before the collision, sphere  $Q$  moves with a velocity of  $3.2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  perpendicular to the  $\vec{i}$  axis.

The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is  $e$ , where  $0 \leq e \leq 1$ .

Calculate, in terms of  $e$ , the velocity of each sphere immediately after they collide



### Past Exam Questions:

2014: (a) (ii) $\frac{7}{8}mu^2$ (b) (i) 0.484 (ii) 6.93	2017: (a) (i) $\frac{12}{7} \text{ m/s}$ (ii) $\frac{6}{7}$ (b) (i) $\frac{70v}{27 \cos \alpha}$ (ii) $50.17^\circ$
2019: (i) $\frac{u}{4}, \frac{5u}{4}$ (ii) 0.93 (b)(i) $u\sqrt{17}, 5u$ (ii) $67.17^\circ$	2023: $v_P = 0.8(1 - 2e)\vec{i} + 3.2\vec{j}$ , $v_Q = 0.8(1 + e)\vec{i} + 3.2\vec{j}$