

**Advanced Dynamics**  
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**Module No # 03**  
**Lecture No # 15**  
**Particle Impact – I**

In this lecture we are going to discuss the dynamics of impacting particles.

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## Overview

- Particle impact and classification
- Governing equations
- Energetics

The overview of this lecture is shown above.

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## Impact

Short-time impulsive interaction between two particles

Outcomes after impact:

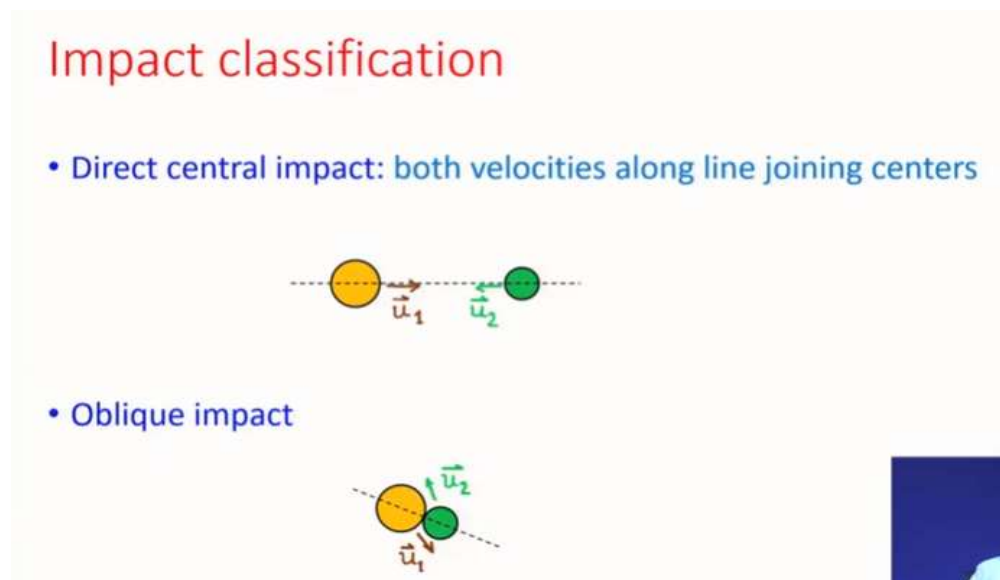
- separation with energy conservation (elastic impact)
- separation without energy conservation (inelastic impact)
- merger (plastic impact)

Short-time change in total linear/angular momentum of the system is zero

Assumption: frictionless interaction

Impact is a short time impulsive interaction between particles, or a particle and a rigid surface. Here, we are going to restrict ourselves to impact of 2 particles. What could be the possible outcomes of such impacts? One can have 2 particles which were coming close, impacting and then separating out with energy conservation. Such impacts are called elastic impacts or elastic collisions. In the second case, we can have separation but some part of the energy might be lost during the impact. This is called inelastic impact. There can be a third situation where we can have merger of the particles, which is called plastic impact. The reverse of the third case is where a single particle explodes to form multiple particles. In the short time scale of the impact process, the total linear momentum of the system does not change. This we have seen in the previous lecture. Here, we will make the assumption that all contacts are frictionless.

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Now we can have 2 kinds of impact as shown above: (1) direct central impact, where the incoming velocities of both the particles are on the line joining the particles, and (2) oblique impact, where the incoming velocity directions of the 2 particles at the time of impact are both not be along the line joining the 2 particles.

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### Elastic impact

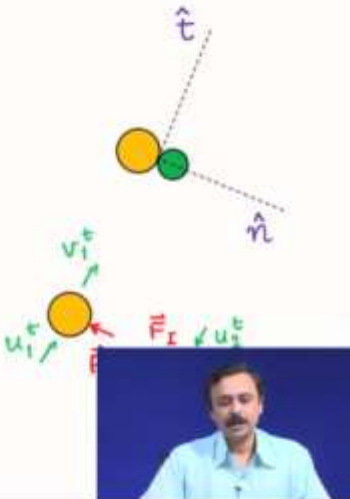
- Linear/angular momentum conservation
- Energy conservation

$$m_1 \vec{u}_1 + m_2 \vec{u}_2 = m_1 \vec{v}_1 + m_2 \vec{v}_2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 u_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 u_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^2$$

From FBD: No tangential impulsive force

$$\Rightarrow \Delta G_1^t = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta G_2^t = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_1^t = v_1^t \quad u_2^t = v_2^t$$


We will start by analyzing elastic impact, as shown above. We have linear momentum conservation, and energy conservation during impact. In other words, the total linear momentum and total energy of the system just before the impact, respectively, remains same as those just after the impact.

For planar impact problem, which is under consideration, we have 2 equations from linear momentum conservation, and 1 equation from energy conservation. Thus, there are 3 equations but 4 unknowns: the 2 components of the outgoing velocities after impact. The number of conditions seem to be falling short of the number of unknowns. We will now consider the equations closely.

Let us decompose the vectors using the local common normal and tangent at the point of contact. As shown in the slide above, the impulsive contact force  $F_I$  acts along the common normal. The incoming and outgoing tangential velocity components of the particles are also indicated in the figure. Since we have considered frictionless contact there is no tangential impact force, and hence the linear momentum in the tangential direction of the individual particles is conserved. This implies that, for the individual particles, the incoming and outgoing tangential velocity components will remain the same as concluded at the end of the slide above. This yields additional conditions on the system.

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### Elastic impact

- Linear momentum conservation

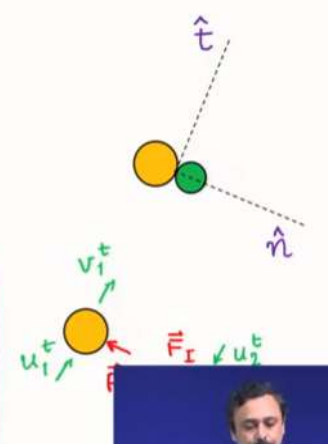

$$m_1 \vec{u}_1 + m_2 \vec{u}_2 = m_1 \vec{v}_1 + m_2 \vec{v}_2$$

Dot product with  $\hat{n}$  and  $\hat{t}$

$\hat{n}$ :  $m_1 u_1^n + m_2 u_2^n = m_1 v_1^n + m_2 v_2^n$

$\hat{t}$ :  $m_1 u_1^t + m_2 u_2^t = m_1 v_1^t + m_2 v_2^t$  } satisfied

$u_1^t = v_1^t \quad u_2^t = v_2^t$

Let us now look at the components of this linear momentum conservation equation in the 2 directions normal and tangential, as shown above. If we take dot product of the linear momentum equation with the unit directions, we obtain

$\hat{n}$ :  $m_1 u_1^n + m_2 u_2^n = m_1 v_1^n + m_2 v_2^n$

$\hat{t}$ :  $m_1 u_1^t + m_2 u_2^t = m_1 v_1^t + m_2 v_2^t$  } satisfied

$u_1^t = v_1^t \quad u_2^t = v_2^t$

The tangent component is trivially satisfied considering our previous discussion. Next, we consider the energy equation as shown in the following slide.

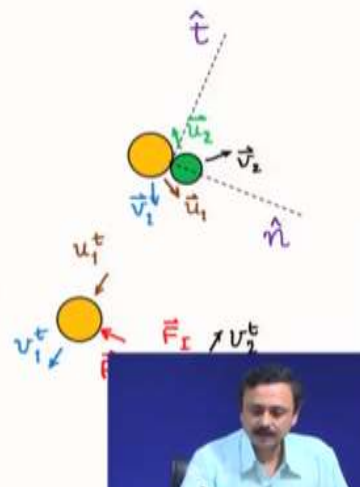
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### Elastic impact

- Energy conservation

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 u_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 u_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{1}{2} m_1 u_1^{n^2} + \frac{1}{2} m_2 u_2^{n^2} = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^{n^2} + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^{n^2}}$$

$$(u_1^t = v_1^t \quad u_2^t = v_2^t)$$


As shown in the slide above, using the equality of the tangential velocity components of the individual particles, we obtain the simplified energy condition

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{2} m_1 u_1^{n^2} + \frac{1}{2} m_2 u_2^{n^2} = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^{n^2} + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^{n^2}}$$

Therefore we have now 2 scalar conditions: (1) linear momentum conservation equation in the normal direction of contact, and (2) energy conservation of the system. These two scalar conditions involve only the 2 normal components of the velocity vector of the 2 particles. Thus, the system is solvable.

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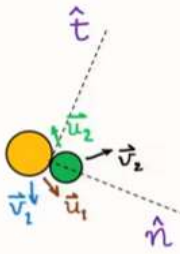

### Elastic impact: complete formulation

- Linear momentum conservation
- Energy conservation

$$m_1 u_1^n + m_2 u_2^n = m_1 v_1^n + m_2 v_2^n$$

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 u_1^{n^2} + \frac{1}{2} m_2 u_2^{n^2} = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^{n^2} + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^{n^2}$$

$$u_1^t = v_1^t$$

$$u_2^t = v_2^t$$



The complete formulation in terms of the equations is now presented in the slide above.

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### Inelastic impact

- Linear momentum conservation

$$m_1 u_1^n + m_2 u_2^n = m_1 v_1^n + m_2 v_2^n$$

$$u_1^t = v_1^t$$

$$u_2^t = v_2^t$$

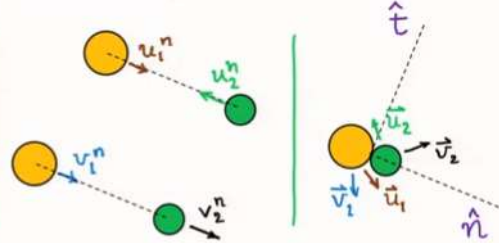

$$e = \frac{|(\vec{v}_2 - \vec{v}_1) \cdot \hat{n}|}{|(\vec{u}_2 - \vec{u}_1) \cdot \hat{n}|} = \frac{v_2^n - v_1^n}{u_1^n - u_2^n}$$

$$= \frac{\text{relative separation velocity}}{\text{relative approach velocity}}$$

Coefficient of restitution

$$e = \frac{\int_{t'}^t F_r dt}{\int_0^{t'} F_d dt}$$

(Restitution impulse)

Now we discuss inelastic impact as shown above. Linear momentum conservation is always satisfied. However, the energy conservation condition cannot be used. Instead, the concept of coefficient of restitution is introduced as shown above. This is defined as the ratio of the impulse of the normal contact force during restitution and the impulse of the normal contact force during deformation. The analysis finally yields the coefficient of restitution as the ratio of relative velocity of separation and the relative velocity of approach, and represented mathematically as

shown in the slide above. The coefficient itself is determined experimentally by measuring these relative velocities just after and just before the impact.

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## Inelastic impact

Coefficient of restitution

- Elastic collision:  $e = 1$
- Inelastic collision:  $0 < e < 1$
- Plastic collision:  $e = 0$

$$e = \frac{|(\vec{v}_2 - \vec{v}_1) \cdot \hat{n}|}{|(\vec{u}_2 - \vec{u}_1) \cdot \hat{n}|} = \frac{|v_2^n - v_1^n|}{|u_2^n - u_1^n|}$$

$$= \frac{\text{relative separation velocity}}{\text{relative approach velocity}}$$

$$e = \frac{\int_{t'}^t F_r dt \quad (\text{Restitution impulse})}{\int_0^{t'} F_d dt \quad (\text{Deformation impulse})}$$

For elastic collision, the coefficient restitution  $e = 1$ , and it can be checked that this leads to conservation of energy. For inelastic collision we have  $e$  lying between 0 and 1. In plastic collision we have merger, and  $e = 0$ , which means that there is no separation.

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## Plastic impact

- Linear momentum conservation (merger/explosion)

For merger

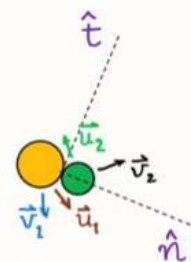
$$m_1 \vec{u}_1 + m_2 \vec{u}_2 = (m_1 + m_2) \vec{v}$$

$$\text{Energy (lost)} \quad \Delta E = \frac{1}{2}(m_1 + m_2)v^2 - \left( \frac{1}{2}m_1 u_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2 u_2^2 \right)$$

For explosion

$$(m_1 + m_2) \vec{u} = m_1 \vec{v}_1 + m_2 \vec{v}_2$$

$$\text{Energy (released)} \quad \Delta E = \frac{1}{2}m_1 v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2 v_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}(m_1 + m_2)u^2$$





The case of plastic impact and explosion is shown in the slide above. We can also calculate the energy lost (in collision) or the energy released (in explosion).

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**Summary: Impact**

Short-time impulsive interaction between two particles

Outcomes after impact:

- separation with energy conservation (elastic impact)
- separation without energy conservation (inelastic impact)
- merger (plastic impact)

Short-time change in total linear/angular momentum of the system is zero

Assumption: frictionless interaction

The summary of this lecture is presented in the slide above.