

# Centre of Mass & System of Particles.

The centre of mass of an object / discrete particles is a unique point where all the mass can be assumed to be concentrated.

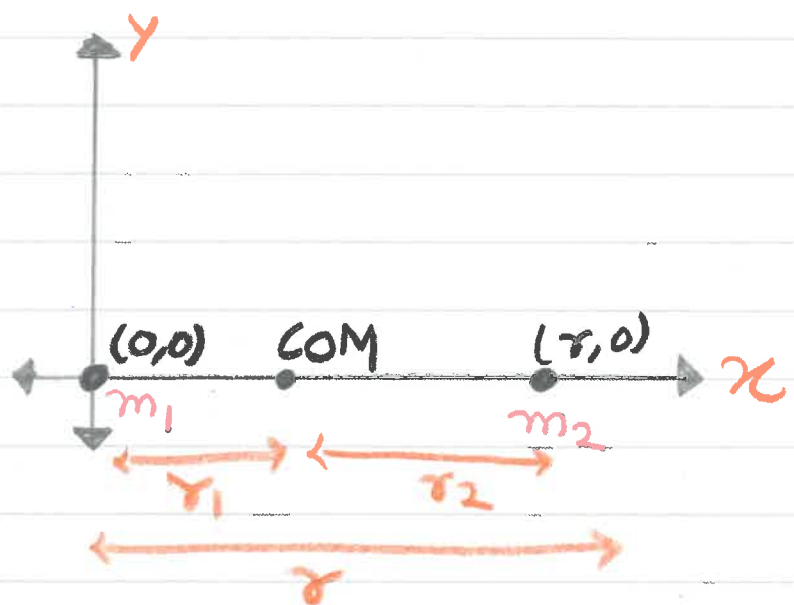
For a system of  $n$  point masses  $m_1, m_2, m_3 \dots m_n$  whose position vector are given by  $\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \vec{r}_3 \dots \vec{r}_n$  respectively, the position vector of the centre of mass of the system is given as follows

$$\vec{r}_{com} = \frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2 + \dots + m_n \vec{r}_n}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_n} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i}$$

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Thus the centre of mass is the weighted average of all the masses.

## Centre of mass of two particles



(1)

Consider two particles of masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  separated by a distance  $r$

Let us choose the origin at particle  $m_1$ .

Let the centre of mass be situated at a distance  $r_1$  from  $m_1$  and  $r_2$  from  $m_2$  as shown in the figure

Then

$$r_1 = \frac{m_1 \cdot 0 + m_2 \cdot r}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{m_2 r}{m_1 + m_2} \quad \dots (i)$$

And

$$r_2 = r - r_1 = r - \frac{m_2 r}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{m_1 r}{m_1 + m_2} \quad \dots (ii)$$

Dividing equation (i) by equation (ii)

$$\frac{r_1}{r_2} = \frac{m_2}{m_1}$$

The centre of mass divides the line joining the two particles in an inverse ratio of their masses

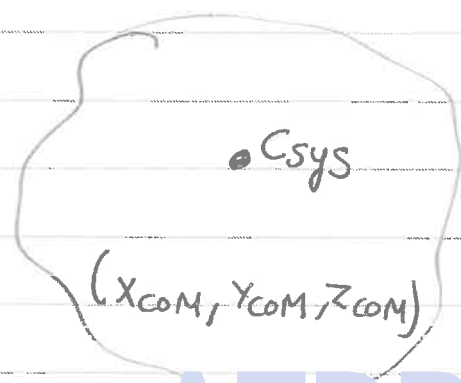
### Centre of Mass of Symmetric Bodies.

- The centre of mass of continuous bodies are found using integration
- The centre of mass can be located outside

the physical body.

- If an object has uniform mass distribution and the geometry is symmetrical, then the centre of mass lies at the centre of symmetry.

### Centre of Mass of Continuous Body.



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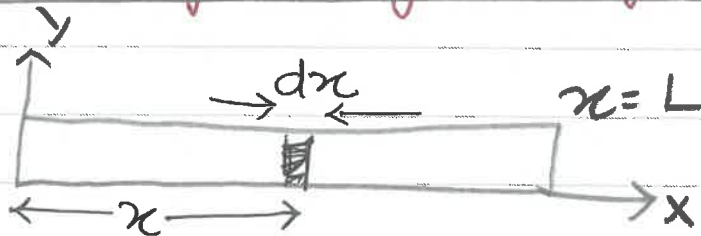
Let us consider a body having a continuous distribution of matter, then the centre of mass of such a body is given as follows

$$x_{com} = \frac{\int x dm}{\int dm}$$

$$y_{com} = \frac{\int y dm}{\int dm}$$

$$z_{com} = \frac{\int z dm}{\int dm}$$

## Centre of Mass of a Uniform rod.



Consider a rod of Mass  $M$  and length  $L$  lying along the  $x$ -axis with one end at the origin

For finding the centre of mass of this rod, let us ~~consider~~ consider a small element of length  $dx$  and Mass  $dm$  at a distance  $x$  from the origin along the  $x$ -axis as shown in figure

Now by unitary method we get

$$dm = \frac{M}{L} dx$$

The centre of mass is given as follows

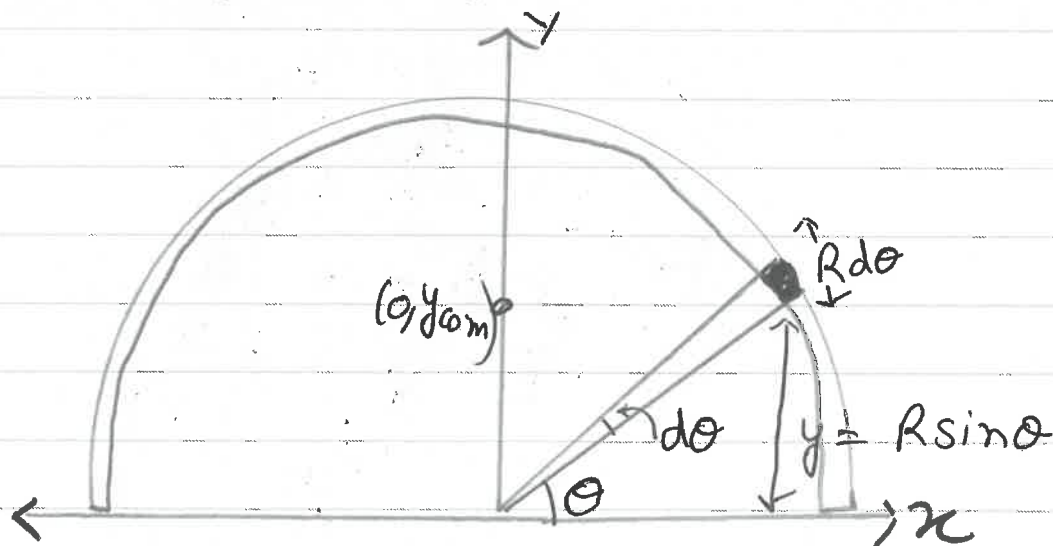
$$x_{COM} = \frac{\int x dm}{\int dm}$$

$$x_{COM} = \int_0^L \frac{M}{L} x dx = \frac{1}{L} \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^L$$

$$x_{COM} = \frac{L}{2}$$

(4)

## Centre of Mass of a semi-circular Ring.



Consider a uniform semi-circular ring of radius  $R$  and mass  $M$  as shown in the figure

As the ring is symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis, thus the centre of mass will lie along the  $y$ -axis.

Let the coordinate of the centre of mass be  $(0, y_{com})$ .

Consider a small element of length  $dl = R d\theta$  mass  $dm$ , subtending angle  $d\theta$  at the centre, and located at an angle  $\theta$ , with the positive  $x$ -axis as shown in the figure

Now, mass of the element is as follows

$$dm = \frac{M}{\pi R} \times (R d\theta) = \frac{M}{\pi} d\theta \quad (5)$$

$$\text{And } y = R \sin \theta$$

The centre of mass is given as follows:

$$y_{\text{com}} = \frac{\int y \, dm}{\int dm}$$

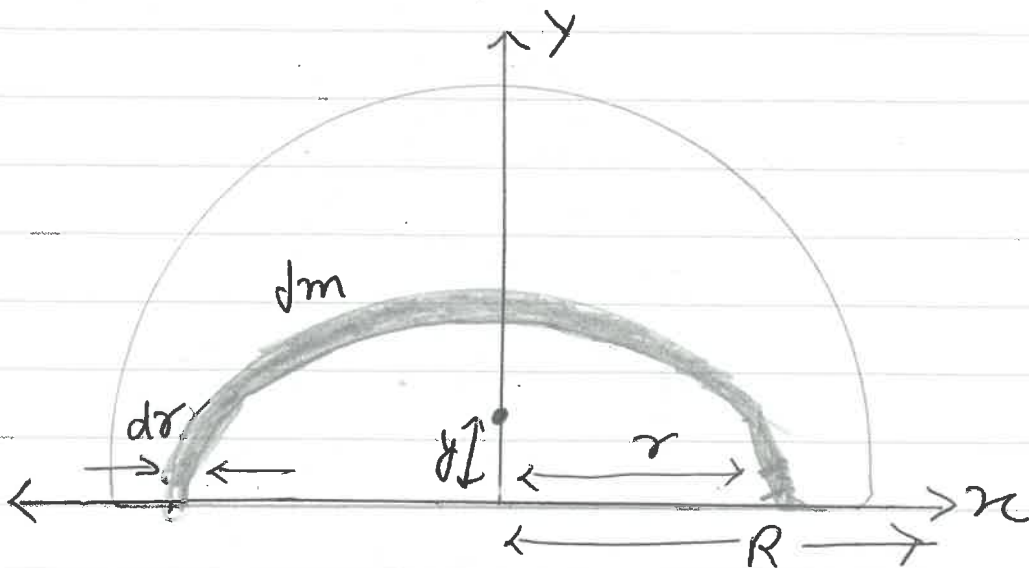
$$y_{\text{com}} = \frac{\int_0^\pi R \sin \theta \left(\frac{M}{\pi}\right) d\theta}{\int_0^\pi \left(\frac{M}{\pi}\right) d\theta} = \frac{-\frac{MR}{\pi} [\cos \theta]_0^\pi}{M}$$

$$y_{\text{com}} = \frac{2R}{\pi}$$

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Therefore, the coordinates of centre of mass are  $(0, y_{\text{com}}) = \left(0, \frac{2R}{\pi}\right)$

### Centre of Mass of a Semicircular Disc.



Consider a uniform semicircular disc of Radius  $R$  and  $M$  mass as shown in figure. As the disc is symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis, the centre of mass will lie along the  $y$ -axis.

Let us the coordinate of the Centre of mass be  $(0, y_{com})$ . Consider a thin circular element of thickness  $dr$  and mass  $dm$  at radius  $r$  from the centre as shown in the figure.

Now, the area of the element is.

$$dA = \frac{1}{2} \pi \{ (r+dr)^2 - r^2 \}$$

$$\therefore dA = \frac{1}{2} \pi (r^2 + (dr)^2 + 2 \times r \times dr - r^2)$$

Ignoring  $(dr)^2$  as it is very small we get

$$dA = \pi r dr$$

Mass of the element is

$$dm = \frac{M}{A} \times dA = \frac{2M}{\pi R^2} \times \pi r dr = \frac{2M r dr}{R^2}$$

Now the  $y$ -coordinate of the centre of mass is given by.

$$y_{com} = \frac{1}{M} \int y dm$$

Here  $y =$  Centre of mass of the elemental ring

$$= \frac{2r}{\pi}$$

$$\therefore y_{\text{COM}} = \frac{1}{M} \int_0^R \left( \frac{2r}{\pi} \times \frac{2M}{R^2} \times r \times dr \right)$$

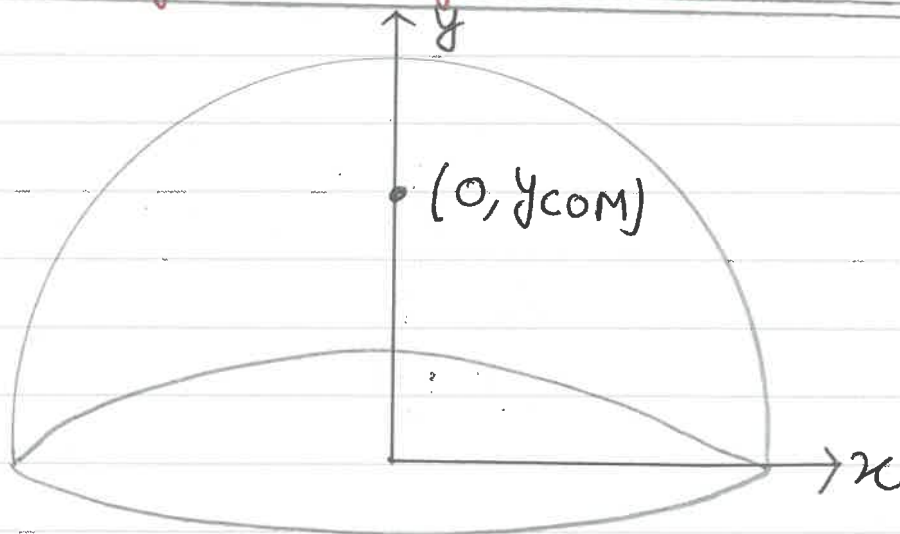
$$\Rightarrow y_{\text{COM}} = \frac{4}{\pi R^2} \int_0^R r^2 dr = \frac{4}{\pi R^2} \times \left[ \frac{r^3}{3} \right]_0^R$$

$$y_{\text{COM}} = \frac{4R}{3\pi}$$

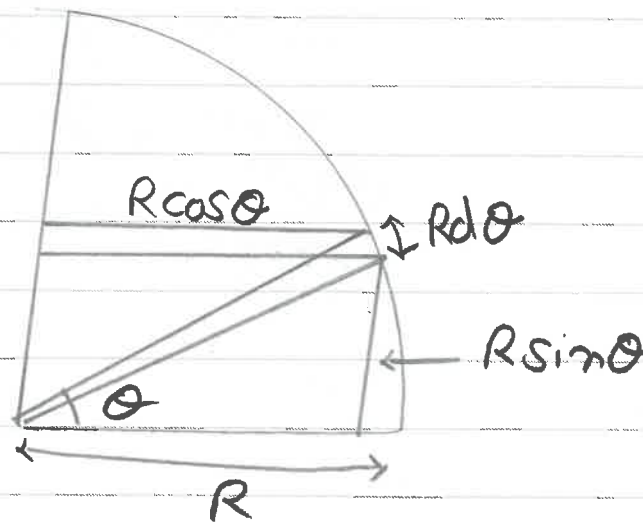
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Therefore the coordinate of the centre of mass are  $(0, \frac{4R}{3\pi})$

### Centre of Mass of Hollow Hemisphere.



Consider a uniform hollow hemisphere of radius  $R$  and mass  $M$  as shown in the figure.



As the hemisphere is symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis, the centre of mass will lie along the  $y$ -axis.

Let the coordinates of the centre of mass is  $(0, y_{com})$ . The hollow hemisphere can be considered to be made up of many thin rings that are stacked one above the other and their radius decreases as we go from the base to the top.

Consider a thin ring of mass  $dm$  at an angle  $\theta$  from the centre as shown in the figure.

Now an area of the element = Circumference  $\times$  Thickness.

$$dA = 2\pi \times (R \cos \theta) \times R d\theta.$$

(9)

$$dA = 2\pi R^2 \cos\theta d\theta$$

Surface density of the hemisphere is  $\sigma = \frac{M}{2\pi R^2}$

Mass of the element is

$$dm = \sigma \times dA = \frac{M}{2\pi R^2} \times 2\pi R^2 \cos\theta d\theta = M \cos\theta d\theta$$

Now the  $y$ -coordinate of the centre of mass is given by,

$$y_{\text{COM}} = \frac{1}{M} \int y dm$$

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Here  $y$  = Centre of mass of the elemental ring  
 $= R \sin\theta$

$$y_{\text{COM}} = \frac{1}{M} \times \int_0^{\pi/2} R \sin\theta \times M \times \cos\theta d\theta$$

$$y_{\text{COM}} = \frac{R}{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin 2\theta d\theta$$

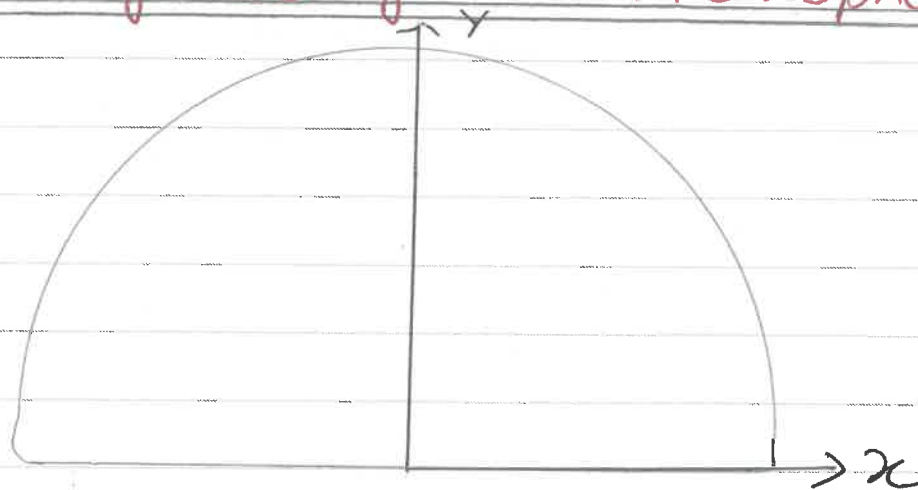
$$= \frac{R}{2} \left[ \frac{-\cos 2\theta}{2} \right]_0^{\pi/2}$$

$$y_{\text{COM}} = \frac{R}{2}$$

(10)

Therefore, the coordinate of the centre of mass are  $\{0, \frac{R}{2}\}$ .

### Centre of Mass of a solid hemisphere.

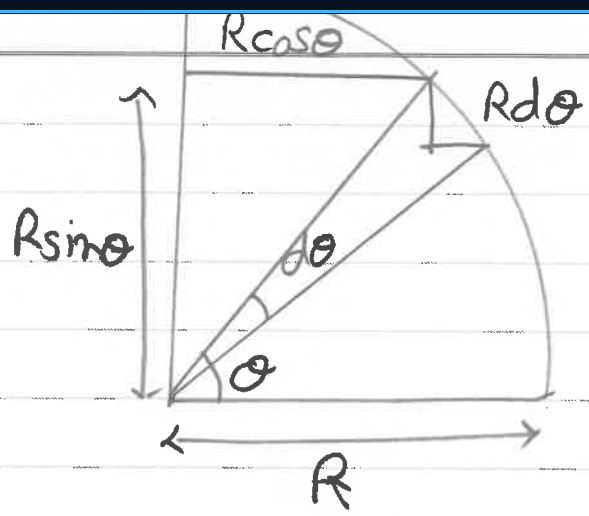


Consider a uniform solid hemisphere of Radius  $R$  and mass  $M$  as shown in the figure. As the hemisphere is symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis, the centre of mass will be along the  $y$ -axis.

Let the coordinate of the Centre of mass be  $(0, y_{com})$ . The solid hemisphere can be considered to be made up of many thin discs that are stacked one above the other and their radius decreases as we go from the base to the top.

Consider a thin disc of mass  $dm$  at an angle  $\theta$  from the centre as shown in the figure.

Now the volume of the element = Base area  $\times$  height



$$dV = \pi \times (R \cos \theta)^2 \times (R \cos \theta d\theta)$$

$$dV = \pi R^3 \cos^3 \theta d\theta.$$

Volume density of the hemisphere is  $\rho = \frac{M}{\frac{2\pi R^3}{3}} = \frac{3M}{2\pi R^3}$

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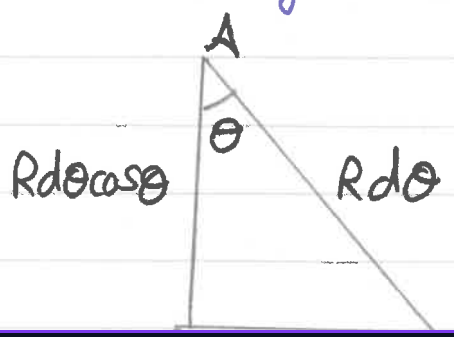
Mass of the element is:

$$dm = \rho \times dV = \frac{3M}{2\pi R^3} \times \pi R^3 \cos^3 \theta d\theta = \frac{3M}{2} \cos^3 \theta d\theta$$

Now the y-coordinate of the centre of mass is given by

$$y_{com} = \frac{1}{M} \int y dm$$

Here y = centre of mass of elemental disc = R sin theta



(12)

$$y_{\text{com}} = \frac{1}{M} \int_0^{\pi/2} R \sin \theta \times \frac{3M}{2} \times \cos^3 \theta \, d\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{\text{com}} = \frac{3R}{2} \times \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \theta \cos^3 \theta \, d\theta$$

$$y_{\text{com}} = \frac{3R}{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \theta \cos^3 \theta \, d\theta.$$

$$\text{Let } I = \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \theta \cos^3 \theta \, d\theta \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

from properties of definite integration

$$\int_a^b f(x) \, dx = \int_a^b f(a+b-x) \, dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \theta \cos^3 \theta \, d\theta = \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \theta \right) \cos^3 \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \theta \right) \, d\theta$$

$$I = \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos \theta \sin^3 \theta \, d\theta \quad \text{--- (iii)}$$

Adding equation (ii) and equation (iii) we get

$$2I = \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \theta \cos \theta (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) \, d\theta.$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \theta \cos \theta \, d\theta$$

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin \theta \cos \theta \, d\theta = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin 2\theta \, d\theta$$

$$I = \frac{1}{8} [-\cos 2\theta]_0^{\pi/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow I = 1.$$

(13)

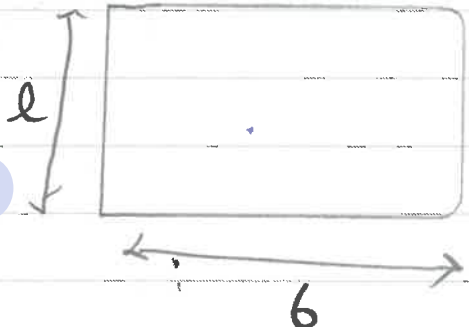
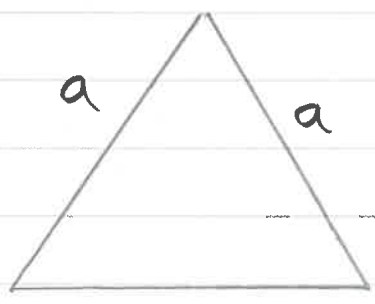
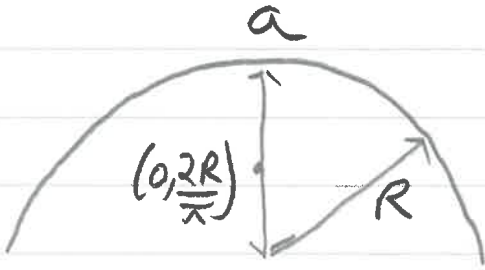
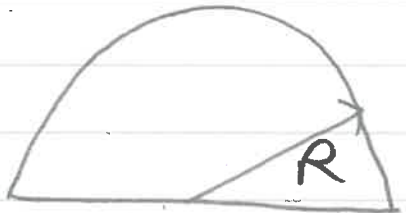
Put in equation (i) we get

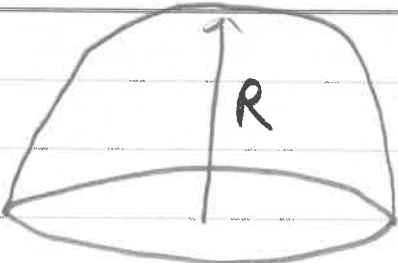
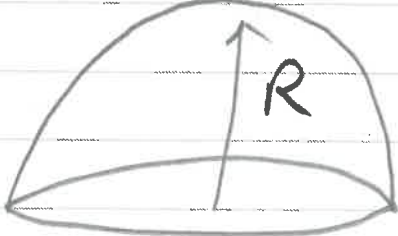
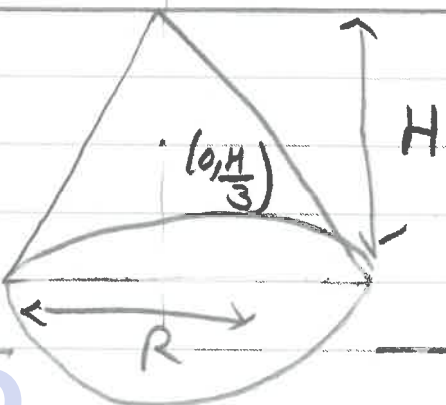
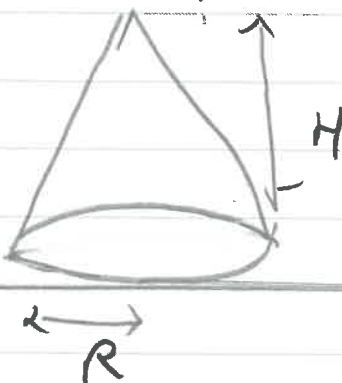
$$y_{com} = \frac{3R}{8}$$

Therefore, the coordinates of the centre of mass are  $(0, \frac{3R}{8})$

mass are  $(0, \frac{3R}{8})$

COM of certain shapes.

1)	Rectangular lamina	$(\frac{b}{2}, \frac{d}{2})$	
2)	Triangular lamina	$(\frac{a}{2}, \frac{a}{2\sqrt{3}})$	
3)	Semi-circular ring	$(0, \frac{2R}{\pi})$	
4)	Semi-circular disc	$(0, \frac{4R}{3\pi})$	

4)	Hollow hemisphere	$(0, \frac{R}{2})$	
5)	Solid hemisphere	$(0, \frac{3R}{8})$	
6)	Hollow cone	$(0, \frac{H}{3})$	
7)	Solid cone	$(0, \frac{H}{4})$	

### Displacement of Centre of Mass.

For a system of  $n$  particles of masses  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n$  with position vectors  $\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_n$  respectively the position vector of the centre of mass is given as follows:

$$\vec{r}_{COM} = \frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2 + m_3 \vec{r}_3 + \dots + m_n \vec{r}_n}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 + \dots + m_n}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i}$$

When the system is moving, let  $\vec{v}_{COM}$  and  $\vec{a}_{COM}$  be the velocity and acceleration of the centre of mass of the system.

Differentiating equation (i) with respect to time we get.

$$\frac{d \vec{r}_{COM}}{dt} = \frac{m_1 \frac{d \vec{r}_1}{dt} + m_2 \frac{d \vec{r}_2}{dt} + \dots + m_n \frac{d \vec{r}_n}{dt}}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_n}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i \frac{d \vec{r}_i}{dt}}{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i}$$

$$v_{COM} = \frac{m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 + \dots + m_n v_n}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_n} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i v_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i}$$

Similarly  $a_{COM} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i a_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i}$

For a system of  $n$  particles of masses  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n$  displacement by  $\Delta\vec{r}_1, \Delta\vec{r}_2, \dots, \Delta\vec{r}_n$ , respectively, the change in position vector of the centre of mass is given as follows:-

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\vec{r}_{\text{COM}} &= \frac{m_1\Delta\vec{r}_1 + m_2\Delta\vec{r}_2 + \dots + m_n\Delta\vec{r}_n}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_n} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i \Delta\vec{r}_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n m_i} \end{aligned}$$

## Impulse

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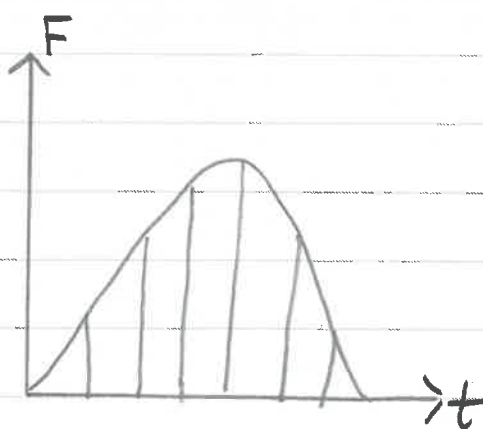
The change in the momentum suffered by a system due to action of a force ( $F$ ) of an infinitesimal amount of time is known as impulse ( $J$ ) given by the force to the system.

$$\vec{J} = \int \vec{F} dt = \Delta\vec{P} = \vec{P}_f - \vec{P}_i$$

The impulse applied to an object in a given interval of time is the area under the Force vs time ( $F-t$ ) graph in the same time interval

$$\text{Area} = \vec{J} = \int \vec{F} dt = \Delta\vec{P} = \vec{P}_f - \vec{P}_i$$

(17)



- \* If any force can change the momentum appreciably even in an infinitesimal time, then it is an impulsive force. Example Normal reaction, friction force, tension force etc.

## Collisions

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Collision happens when an impulsive force acts between two or more bodies for a short time which results in a change of their momenta.

### Salient feature of collision:-

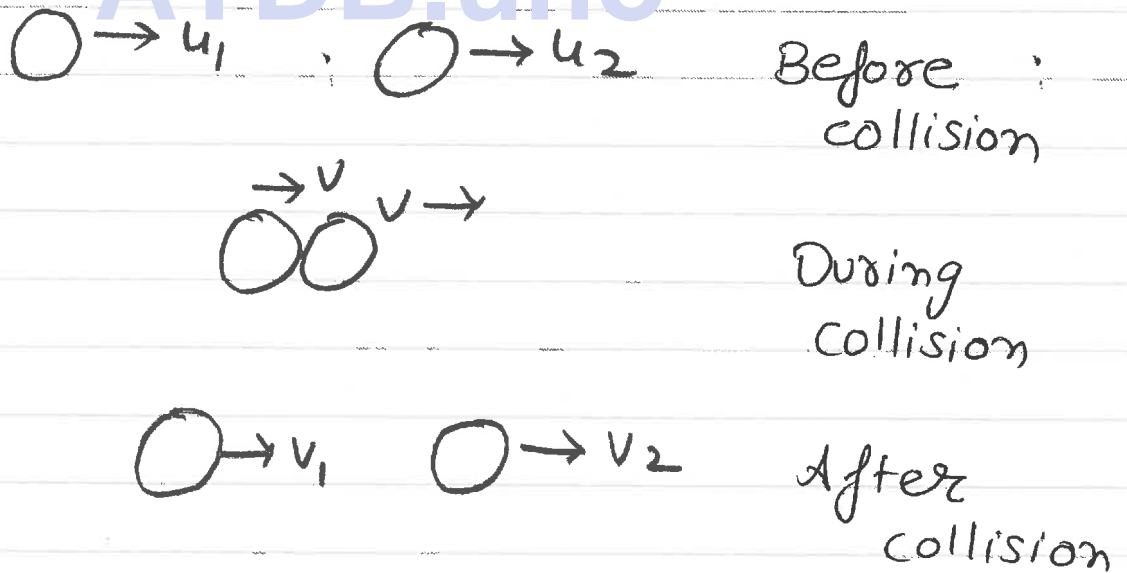
- The effect of non-impulsive force like gravity are not taken into account.
- Impulsive force are friction, tension and normal reaction.
- Non-impulsive force are gravity, spring force and electrostatic force.
- Particle may or may not be in physical contact.
- The time interval considered is small.

## Coefficient of restitution (e)

It is the ratio of the impulses of reformation ( $J_r$ ) to deformation ( $J_d$ ) of either body undergoing collision.

$$e = \frac{J_r}{J_d} = \frac{\int F_r dt}{\int F_d dt}$$

Coefficient of restitution signifies how much deformation has happened to the bodies due to collision. Its value can be maximum 1 and minimum 0.



Let two balls are moving with velocities  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  in the same direction as shown in figure. The balls deform and reform their shapes at the time of collision. At an instant when there will be maximum deformation, both the balls will have same velocity  $v$ .

Let the balls separate with velocities  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  after collision

As per Newton's law of collision, coefficient of restitution ( $e$ ) can be written as follows: -

$$e = \frac{J_r}{J_d} = \frac{v_{sep}}{v_{app}}$$

Here

$$v_{sep} = v_2 - v_1$$

$$v_{app} = u_1 - u_2$$

$$\text{Thus } e = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{u_1 - u_2}$$

## Classification of collision.

On the Basis of orientation of collision

### 1) Head on collision.

In head-on collisions, the velocity of particles are along the same direction or opposite direction before and after the collision.

### 2) Oblique collision.

In oblique collision the velocity of particles are

along different lines before and after the collision.

On the basis of kinetic energy conservation,

## 1 Elastic collision :-

In elastic collision, particles regain their shape completely after the collision. This is an ideal condition that may not be possible in the real world. As the shape of particles before and after collisions is the same, the value of the coefficient of restitution is 1 for elastic collision. This

$$J_{ef} = J_{def}$$

And

$$v_{sep} = v_{app}$$

In elastic collision as  $v_{sep} = v_{app}$ , the kinetic energy of the system before and after the collision is the same.

## 2 Inelastic collision

In inelastic collision, the body will deform and will not be able to regain its shape completely

As the shape of particle before and after

the collision is not the same, the value of the coefficient of restitution is between 0 to 1 for inelastic collision.

During inelastic collisions, there is some loss of kinetic energy.

Thus the final kinetic energy of the system will be less than the initial kinetic energy.

Mathematically,

$$J_{\text{ref}} < J_{\text{def}}$$

And,

$$v_{\text{sp}} < v_{\text{app}}$$

### 3. Perfectly inelastic collisions.

In perfectly inelastic collisions, the velocity of separation along the line of the collision is 0.

Thus the coefficient of restitution is also zero in perfectly inelastic collisions and the loss of kinetic energy is maximum.

The bodies will never separate in perfectly inelastic collisions.

Mathematically,

$$J_{ref} = 0$$

And

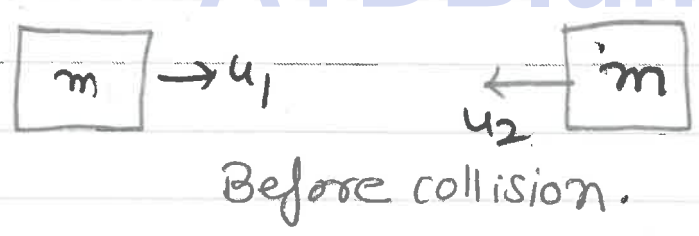
$$v_{sep} = 0$$

✳ ✳ If there is friction on the surface of the colliding bodies, kinetic energy is always lost during the collision, as friction is an impulsive force.

### Special cases of collisions.

#### Case 1

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Let two particles with identical masses collide head-on  
Let the collision be elastic.  
Thus,

$$e = 1 \text{ and } m_1 = m_2 = m$$

Let their velocities be  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  before collision and  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  after collision as shown in the figure

consider the rightwards direction as positive

By using the principle of conservation of momentum we get the following

$$m u_1 - m u_2 = -m v_1 + m v_2$$

$$v_2 - v_1 = u_1 - u_2 \quad \dots (i)$$

Coefficient of restitution is given as follows.

$$e = \frac{v_{sep}}{v_{app}} = \frac{v_2 - (-v_1)}{u_2 - (-u_1)} = 1.$$

$$\frac{v_2 + v_1}{u_1 + u_2} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow v_2 + v_1 = u_1 + u_2 \quad \dots (ii)$$

Adding equation (i) and (ii) we get the following:

$$2v_2 = 2u_1$$

$$\Rightarrow v_2 = u_1$$

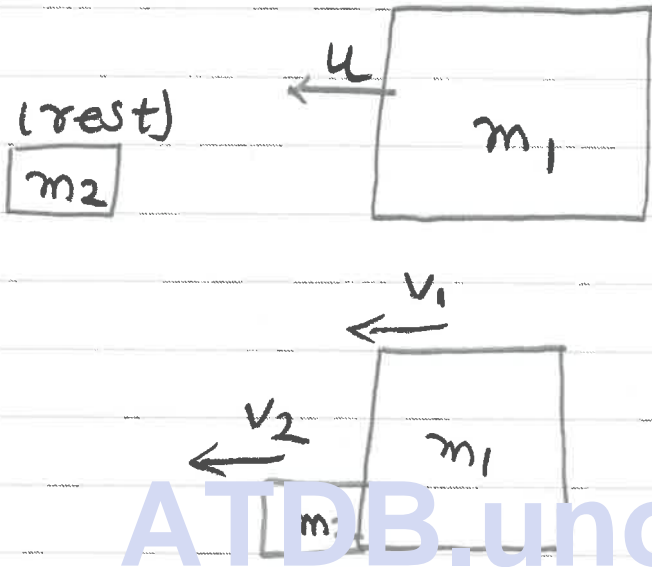
Substituting in equation (i), we get the following.

$$v_1 = u_2.$$

(24)

Thus the particle with the same masses exchange their velocity during a head-on unrestricted elastic collision

Case-2.



Let mass  $m_1$  be very heavy as compared to mass  $m_2$  ( $m_1 \gg m_2$ )

This means,

$$m_1 + m_2 \approx m_1 \text{ or } \frac{m_2}{m_1} \rightarrow 0$$

Consider  $m_2$  at rest initially and  $m_1$  moving in the left direction with velocity  $u$ . Take the left direction as positive.

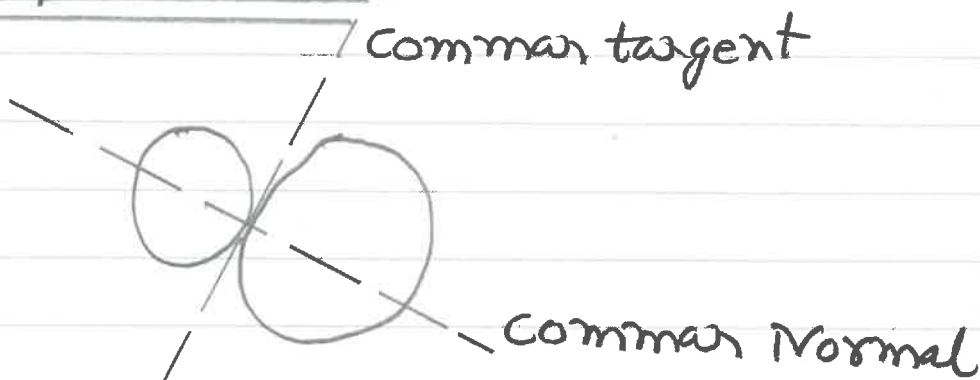
Let  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  be final velocities of masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  respectively.

- The maximum momentum transfers along the LOI during a collision.



Let two balls with velocity  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  collide as shown in the figure. Even though their initial and final velocities are directed along different directions, the line of impact for this collision is along horizontal.

### Oblique collision :-



By using the principle of conservation of momentum

$$m_1 u + 0 = m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2$$

As  $m_2$  is very small

$$u = v_1$$

This shows that, when one body is infinitely heavy with respect to the other, it retains its velocity post collision in a head-on collision.

## Line of Impact

- When two bodies collide, the common normal to their surface at the point of contact is known as the line of impact.
- The line of impact for a circular/spherical body always passes through its centre point.
- The maximum impact during the collision acts along this line on both the bodies.
- Irrespective of the orientation of the colliding objects, the line of impact (LOI) always acts along the common normal.

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- A pair of equal and opposite impulses acts along the common normal direction.
- The momentum of the individual particles changes along the common normal direction.
- No component of impulse acts along the common tangent direction. The linear momentum of the individual particles remain unchanged along this direction.
- The net impulse of <sup>on</sup> system is zero during the collisions.

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- The net momentum of both the particles remain conserved before ~~it~~ and after the collision in any direction.
- The coefficient of restitution can be applied along the line of impact.