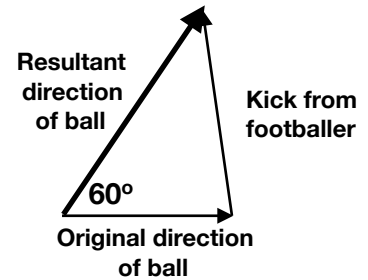


## Oblique impacts with walls

### Starter

1. **(Review of last lesson)** Two balls,  $A$  and  $B$ , of masses  $1.2\text{ kg}$  and  $0.8\text{ kg}$  respectively, are rolling on a smooth horizontal floor when they collide. Initially their velocities are  $(4.2\mathbf{i} + 2.6\mathbf{j})\text{ m/s}$  and  $(1.2\mathbf{i} - 0.4\mathbf{j})\text{ m/s}$  respectively. After the collision the velocity of  $A$  is  $(1.4\mathbf{i} + 1.8\mathbf{j})\text{ m/s}$ . Find the velocity of  $B$  after the collision.
2. When a footballer receives the ball it is moving at  $8\text{ m/s}$ . She kicks it so that its direction is diverted through  $60^\circ$  and its speed is increased to  $20\text{ m/s}$ . In what direction does the player kick the ball?

**Hint:** Use the diagram to help you.



### Notes

From AS:

**Newton's law of impact:**  $e \times \text{approach} = \text{separation}$   
 $e(u_1 - u_2) = v_2 - v_1$  or  $v_2 - v_1 = -e(u_2 - u_1)$

For an object hitting a wall at **right angles:**  $v = -eu$

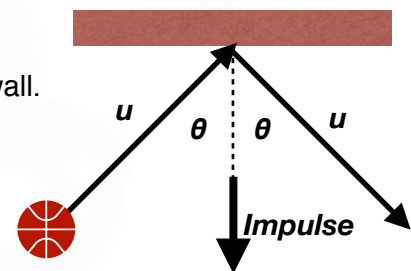
Oblique impacts means impacts that do not happen at right angles to the wall.  
 In questions, motion will be restricted to:

1. Uniform objects with spherical or circular symmetry, such as balls or discs
2. Smooth surfaces
3. Objects that do not spin

### Coefficient of restitution, $e = 1$

If a ball is kicked at a smooth wall whose coefficient of restitution,  $e$ , is  $1$ , the ball will bounce back at the same angle at which it hit the wall.

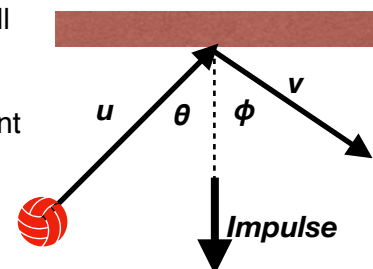
**N.B.** The impulse is perpendicular to the wall.



### Coefficient of restitution, $e \neq 1$

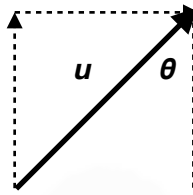
If the wall is smooth but the coefficient of restitution,  $e$ , is **not**  $1$ , the ball will bounce back at a different angle. Its speed will also change.

**N.B.** The impulse is again perpendicular to the wall so the component of the velocity parallel to the wall will remain unchanged.  
 The velocity perpendicular to the wall will change.

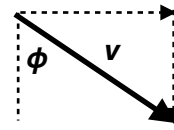


**E.g. 1** Copy the diagrams and write down the components of velocity parallel and perpendicular to the wall.

**Before impact**



**After impact**



**Working:**

**Parallel to wall:**  $u \sin \theta$

**Perpendicular to the wall:**  $u \cos \theta$

$v \sin \phi$

$-v \cos \phi$

Impulse is perpendicular to the wall so  $e$  does not affect the speed parallel to the wall

Since the **speed parallel to the wall is unchanged:**  $v \sin \phi = u \sin \theta$

Remember, if motion is perpendicular to the wall  $v = -eu$

Perpendicular to the wall we use  $e$ :  $v \cos \phi = -eu \cos \theta$

To find the final velocity:  $v = \sqrt{v_{\parallel}^2 + v_{\perp}^2}$

**When solving problems, consider the velocity**

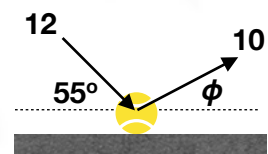
- **Parallel, //, to the plane** the object hits (speed remains the same)
- **Perpendicular,  $\perp$ , to the plane** the object hits.

**E.g. 2** A smooth sphere of mass  $m$  strikes a fixed plane surface with speed 12 m/s at an angle  $55^\circ$  to the plane and rebounds with speed 10 m/s. Find:

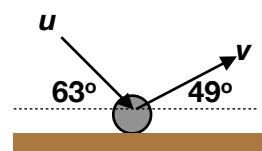
- the angle at which it rebounds
- the coefficient of restitution

**Working** (a) Speed // to plane remains the same:  
 $10 \cos \phi = 12 \cos 55$   
 $\phi = 46.5^\circ$  (3 sf)

(b) Speed  $\perp$  to the plane (use  $e$ ):  
 $e \times 12 \sin 55 = 10 \sin 46.5$   
 $e = 0.738$  (3 s.f.)



**E.g. 3** In ice-hockey the playing area is bounded by a vertical wooden barrier. A puck strikes the barrier at an angle of  $63^\circ$  and rebounds at an angle of  $49^\circ$ . Calculate the coefficient of restitution.

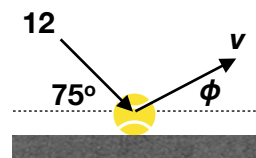


**Finding the impulse**

Impulse = change in momentum = final momentum – initial momentum

Since impulse acts perpendicular to the plane to contact, we can just consider **the velocity perpendicular to the wall.**

**E.g. 4** A ball of mass 0.2 kg moving at 12 m/s hits a smooth horizontal wall at an angle of  $75^\circ$  to the horizontal. The coefficient of restitution is 0.5. Find:



- the speed of the ball,  $v$ , as it leaves the wall
- the impulse on the ball
- the impulse on the plane
- the kinetic energy lost by the ball.

**Working**

(a) Speed // to the plane remains the same:  
Velocity =  $12 \cos 75$  (no change)

Speed  $\perp$  to the plane (use  $e$ ):

$$\text{Velocity} = 0.5 \times 12 \sin 75 = 6 \sin 75$$

$$v = \sqrt{(12 \cos 75)^2 + (6 \sin 75)^2} = 6.58 \text{ m/s (3 s.f.)}$$

(b) Impulse is the change in momentum **perpendicular** to the wall.

Impulse = final momentum – initial momentum

$$I = 0.2 \times 6 \sin 75 - 0.2 \times (-12 \sin 75)$$

$$I = 3.6 \sin 75 = 3.48 \text{ Ns perpendicular to the wall}$$

(c) By Newton's 3rd law, impulse on the plane = 3.48 Ns (3 s.f.)

(d)  $\text{KE lost} = \frac{1}{2} \times 0.2 \times 12^2 - \frac{1}{2} \times 0.2 \times 6.58^2 = 10.1 \text{ J (3 s.f.)}$

**E.g. 5** A ball of mass 0.1 kg moving at 10 m/s hits a smooth horizontal plane at an angle of  $80^\circ$  to the horizontal. The coefficient of restitution is 0.6. Find:

- the impulse on the ball
- the kinetic energy lost by the particle

**Video (password needed):**

**Oblique impact with a fixed surface**

**Video (password needed):**

**Loss of kinetic energy in an oblique impact**

**Video (password needed):**

**Successive oblique impacts with plane surfaces**

[Solutions to Starter and E.g.s](#)

**Exercise**

p210 8B Qu 1-4 (Red 5-11)

**Summary**

$e = 1$  – the ball will bounce back at the same angle at which it hit the wall,

$e \neq 1$  – the ball will bounce back at a different angle and its speed will also change.

- Impulse is perpendicular to the wall
- The speed parallel to the wall will remain unchanged.
- The speed perpendicular to the wall will change.

When solving problems, consider the speed:

- **Parallel to the plane** the object hits (speed remains the same).
- **Perpendicular to the plane** the object hits (use  $e$ ).

Finding the impulse:

Since impulse acts perpendicular to the plane to contact, we can just consider **the velocity perpendicular to the wall**.