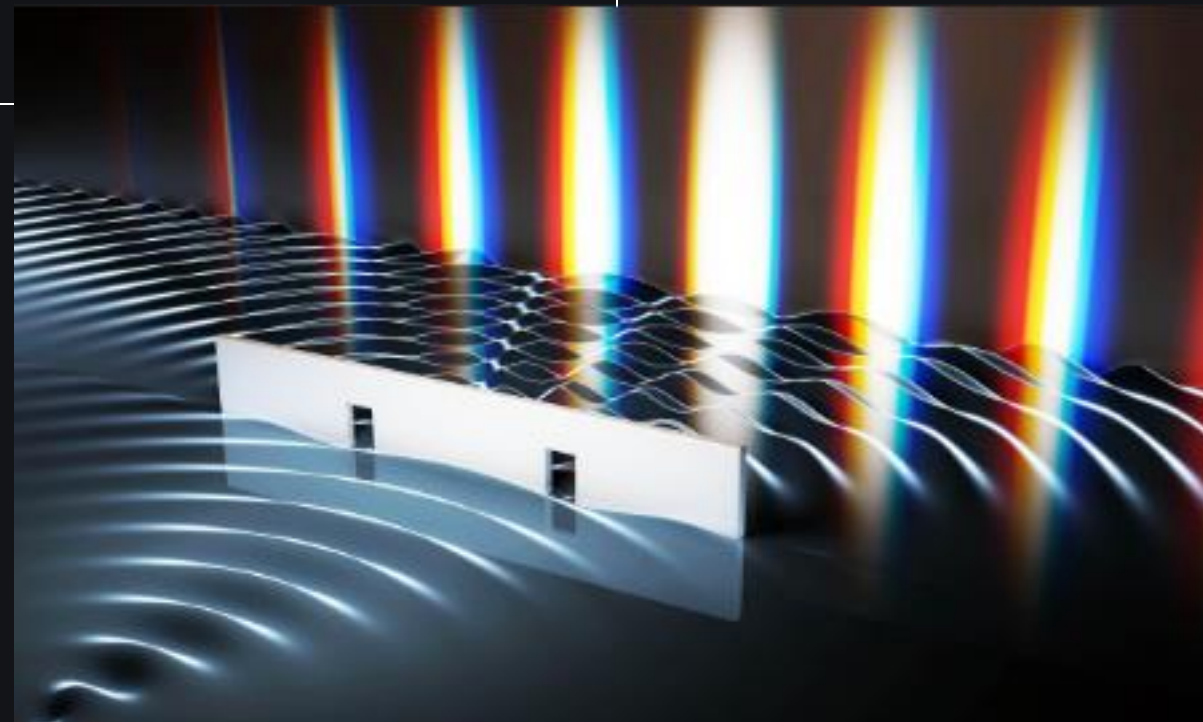


# Physics for Physics Teacher 1



Department of Physics  
Faculty of Science and Technology

Kittipong S. (Ph.D. Physics)



| PHYSICS LECTURE SERIES

# Momentum and Collision

Kittipong S. (Ph.D. Physics)

Department of Physics

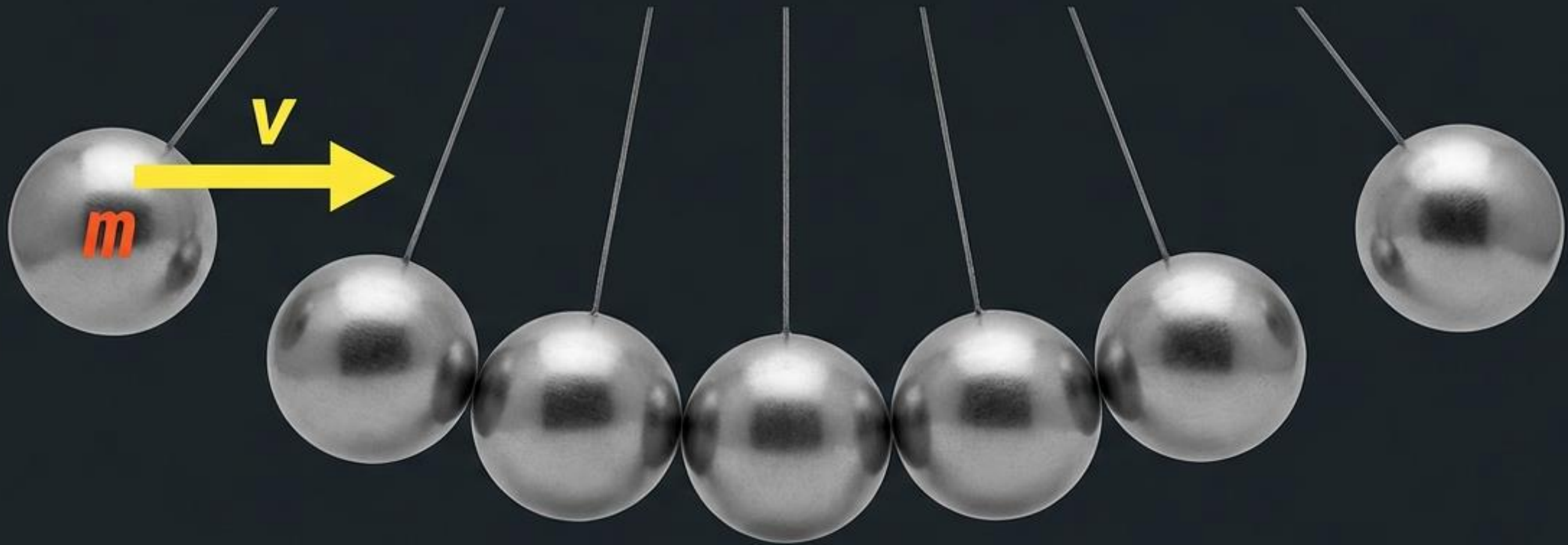
Faculty of Science and Technology

COORD: 13.7563° N, 100.5018° E // REF: PHYS\_MOD\_06



# Momentum & Collisions

From the properties of a single object  
to the laws of interacting systems.



$$\vec{p} = mv$$

DEFINITION: Mass in Motion

UNIT:  $\text{kg}\cdot\text{m/s}$

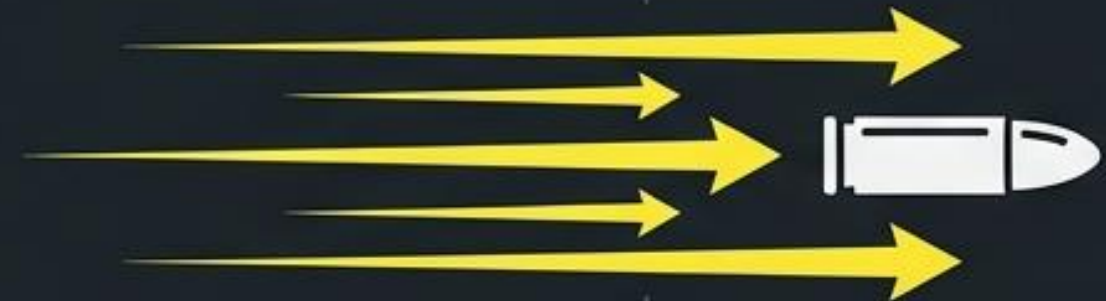
NOTE: Vector Quantity.

Direction is critical.



High Mass, Low Velocity

=



Low Mass, High Velocity

**Vector Alert: Velocity to the right is (+). Velocity to the left is (-).**

# Force is the Rate of Change



Step 1:  $F = ma$

Newton's Second Law

Step 2:  $F = m\left(\frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}\right)$

Acceleration is change in velocity over time

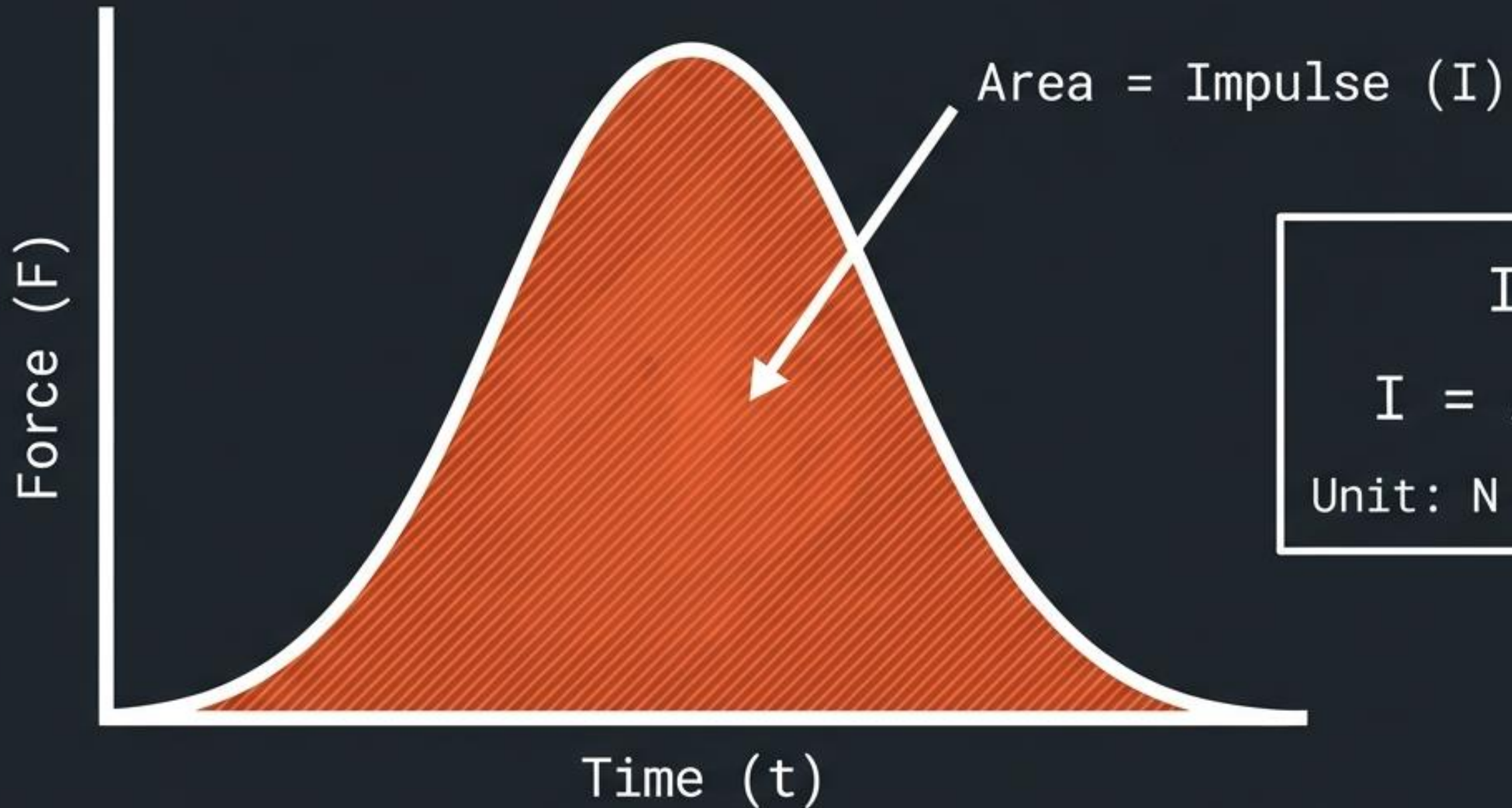
Step 3:  $F = \frac{m\Delta v}{\Delta t}$

$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$



To change momentum quickly, you need a large Force.

# Impulse (I): The Interaction



$$I = F_{\text{avg}} \cdot \Delta t$$

$$I = \Delta p = m(v - u)$$

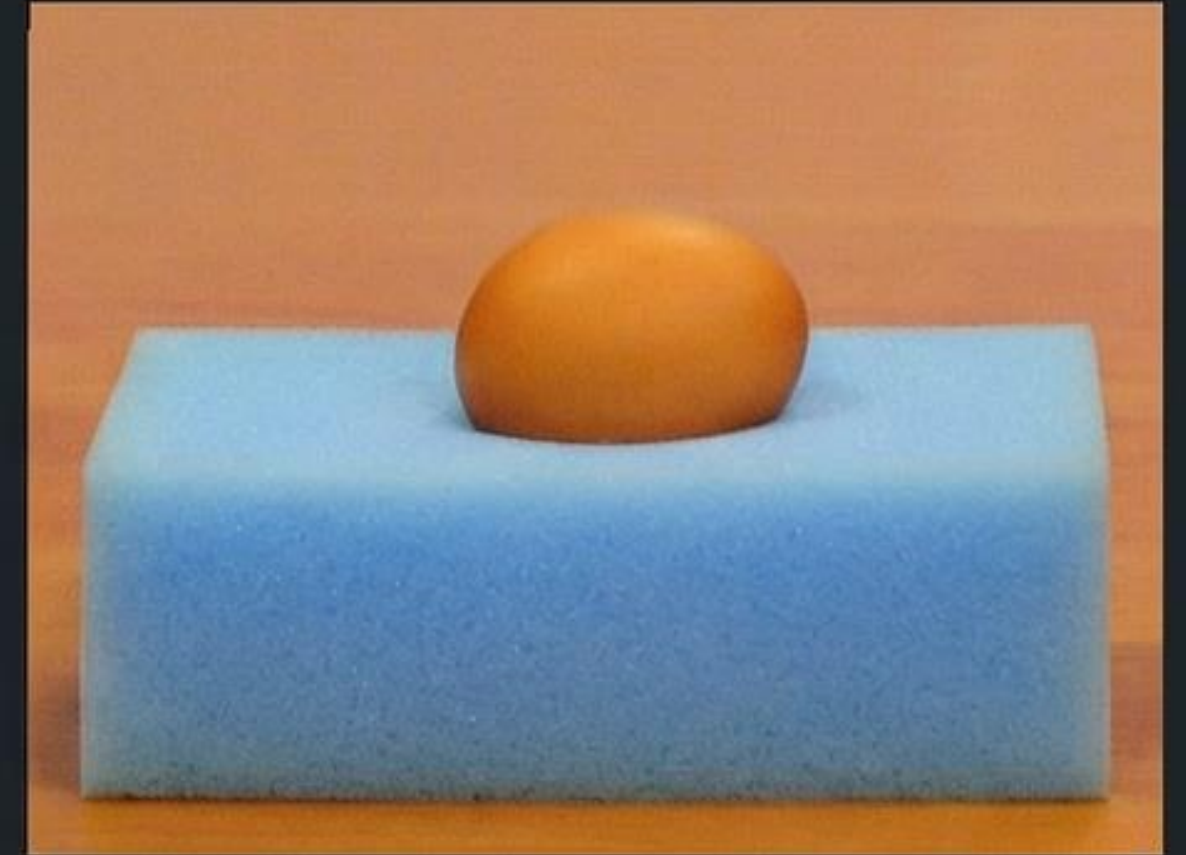
Unit:  $\text{N} \cdot \text{s}$  (Newton-seconds)

Pro-Tip: A variable force can be averaged ( $F_{\text{avg}}$ ) to simplify calculations.

# The Physics of Safety



$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$



Short  $\Delta t$   
Roboto Mono

Small Time = High Impact Force

Long  $\Delta t$   
Roboto Mono

Extended Time = Low Impact Force

Airbags, helmets, and sponges work by extending the contact time of a collision.

# Law of Conservation of Momentum

"System Isolated" (No Friction)

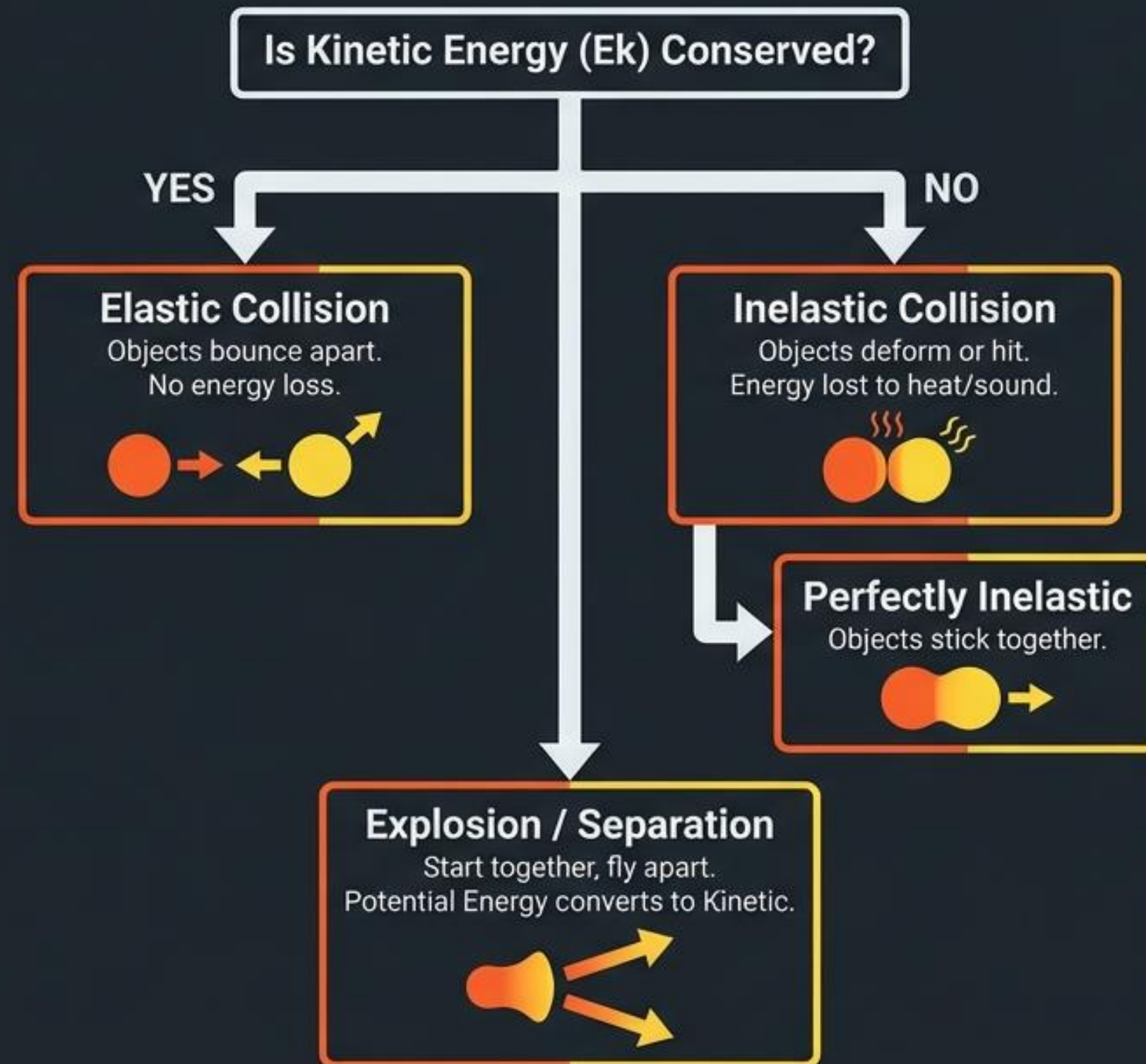


In any interaction between objects in an isolated system, the total momentum remains constant. What one object loses, the other gains.

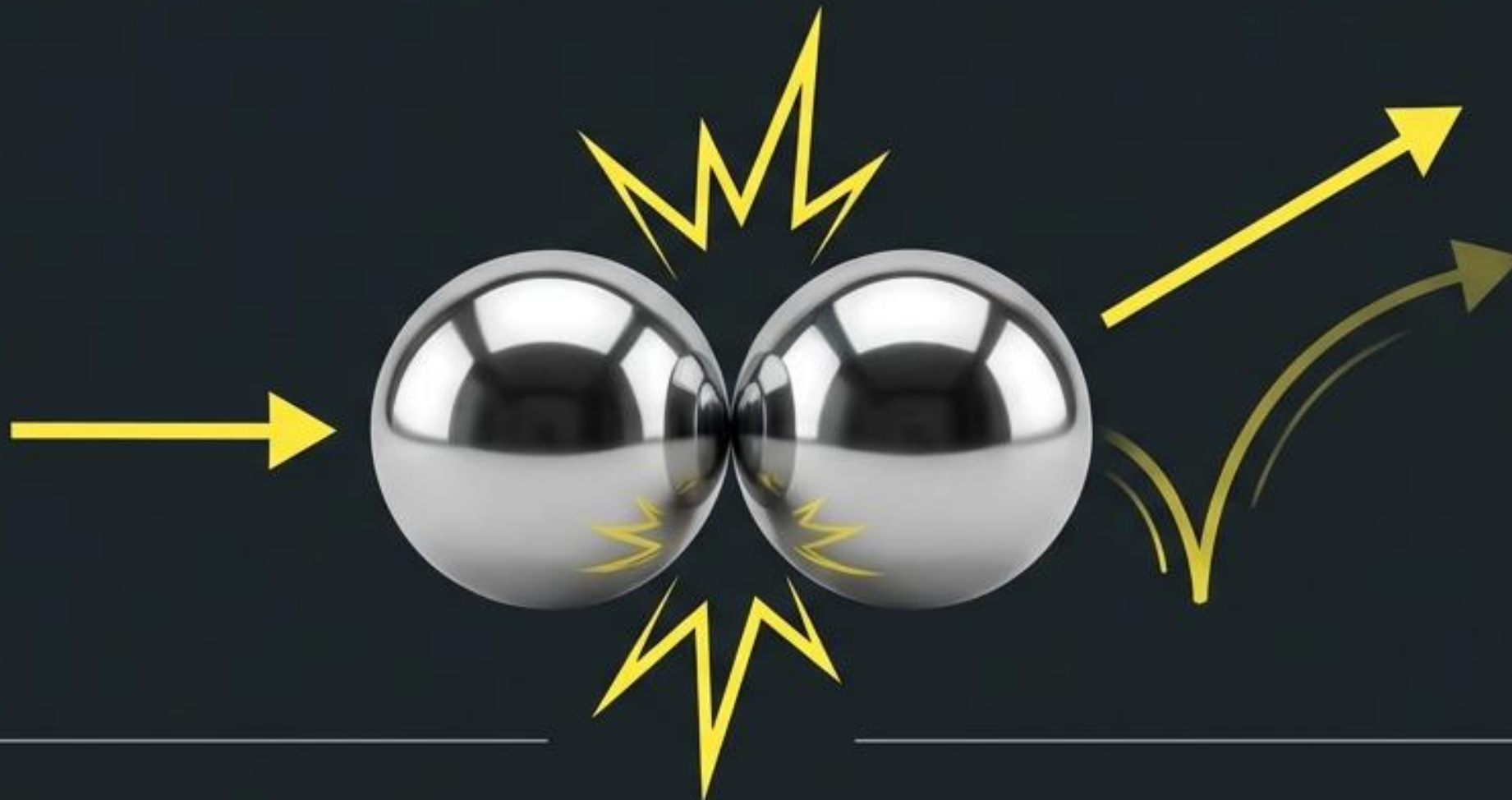
$$\Sigma p_{\text{initial}} = \Sigma p_{\text{final}}$$

Total Momentum Before = Total Momentum After

# Types of Interactions in 1D



# Elastic Collisions



**Momentum (p)**



Conserved ( $\Sigma p_i = \Sigma p_f$ )

**Kinetic Energy (Ek)**

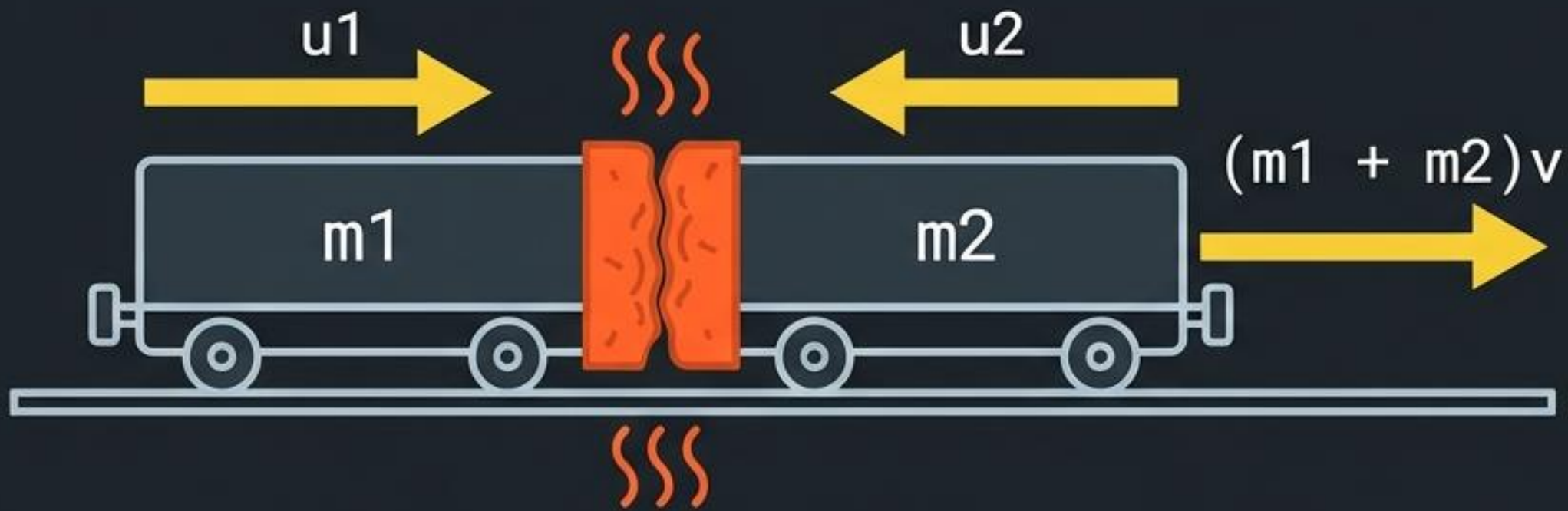


Conserved ( $\Sigma Ek_i = \Sigma Ek_f$ )

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

**Real World Examples:** Ideal gas molecules, hard steel balls.

# Inelastic Collisions



## Perfectly Inelastic (Objects Stick)

$$m_1 \cdot u_1 + m_2 \cdot u_2 = (m_1 + m_2)v$$

Objects move as one combined mass.

### Momentum ( $p$ )



Conserved  
( $\sum p_i = \sum p_f$ )

### Kinetic Energy ( $E_k$ )



NOT Conserved  
(Energy lost to deformation/heat).

$$\sum E_{k_i} > \sum E_{k_f}$$

# Explosions & Recoil



Initial Momentum:  $0$

Final Momentum:  $p_{\text{forward}} + p_{\text{backward}} = 0$

Therefore:  $m_{\text{gun}} \cdot v_{\text{gun}} = - (m_{\text{bullet}} \cdot v_{\text{bullet}})$

To launch a small mass forward at high speed, the larger mass must recoil backward to conserve momentum.



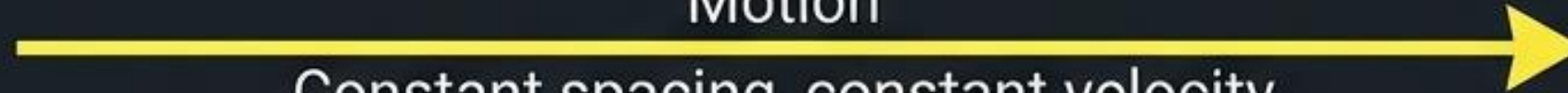
# Lab Analysis: Reading Ticker Tape

Constant Velocity



Motion

Constant spacing, constant velocity



Random / Noise



Collision /  
Change in Velocity



Before Impact

After Impact



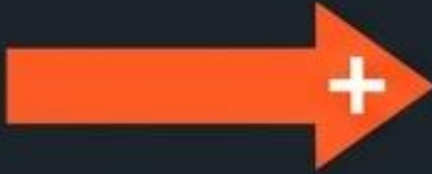
## Skill Check

Formula:  $v = \Delta x / \Delta t$

Time Interval (Standard Lab Timer): 0.02s (50Hz)

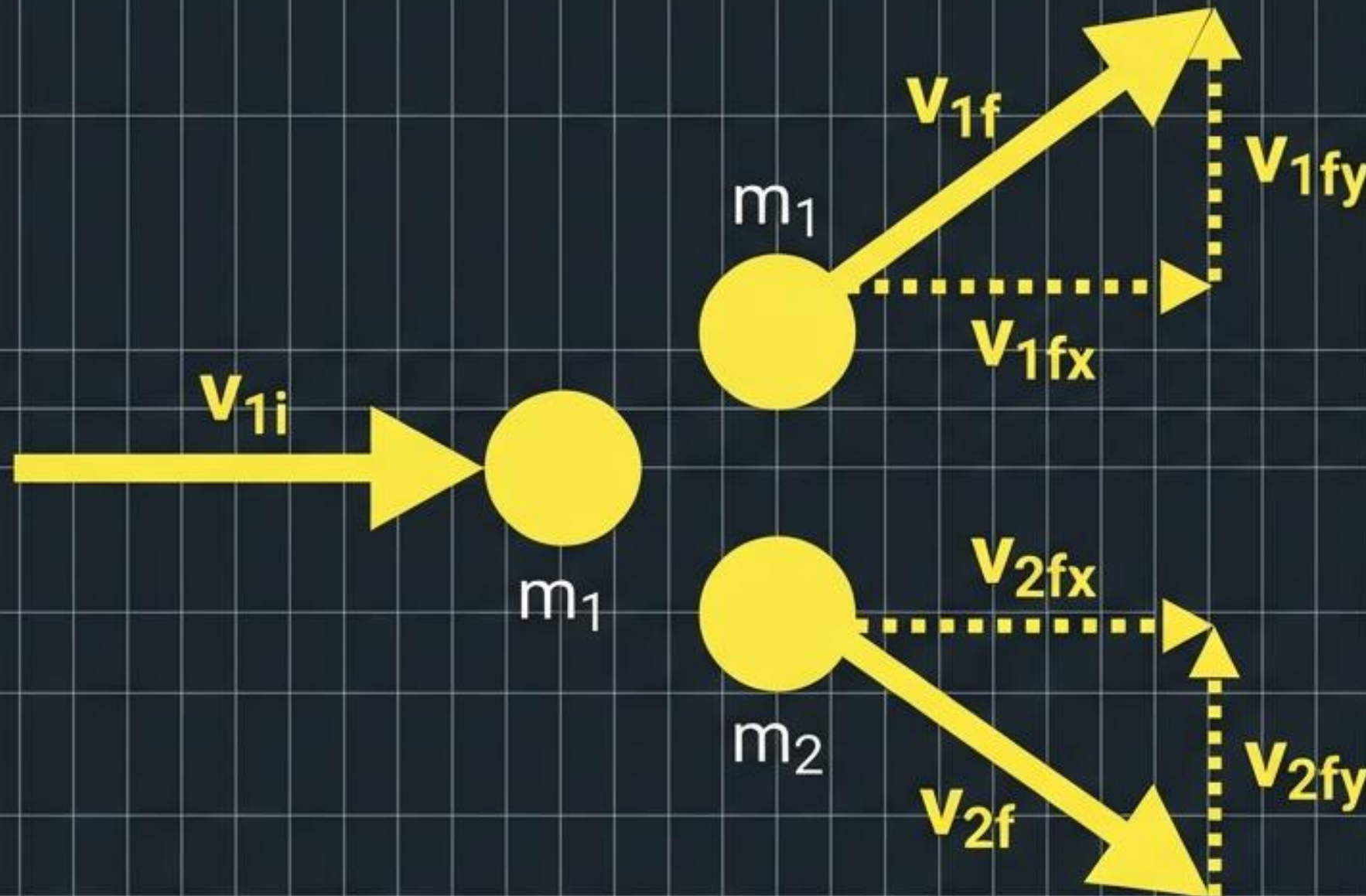
Measure the distance between dots to calculate velocity before and after impact.

# Problem Solving Strategy: 1D Collisions

1.  **Sketch:** Draw 'Before' and 'After' states.
2.  **Define Direction:** Establish the positive axis.
3.  **Choose Law:** Conservation of Momentum ( $\Sigma p$ ) or Impulse ( $F\Delta t$ )?
4.  **Solve:** Plug in values.

**Common Pitfall:** Watch the Signs! A ball bouncing BACK has a NEGATIVE velocity. Forgetting the (-) sign is the #1 error.

# 2D Collisions: X and Y Independence



Roboto Mono

Momentum is conserved independently in each axis.

$$\text{X-Axis: } \sum p_{ix} = \sum p_{fx}$$

$$\text{Y-Axis: } \sum p_{iy} = \sum p_{fy}$$

Resultant Velocity: Use Pythagoras ( $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ ) to combine X and Y vectors.



# Cheat Sheet: Key Formulas

| Quantity            | Type   | Units      | Formula                                                           | Study Reference |
|---------------------|--------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Momentum (p)        | Vector | kg · m/s   | $\mathbf{p} = m\mathbf{v}$                                        |                 |
| Impulse (I)         | Vector | N · s      | $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{F}_{\text{avg}} \cdot t = \Delta\mathbf{p}$ |                 |
| Kinetic Energy (Ek) | Scalar | Joules (J) | $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$                                           |                 |
| Conservation Law    | System | -          | $\sum p_{\text{before}} = \sum p_{\text{after}}$                  |                 |

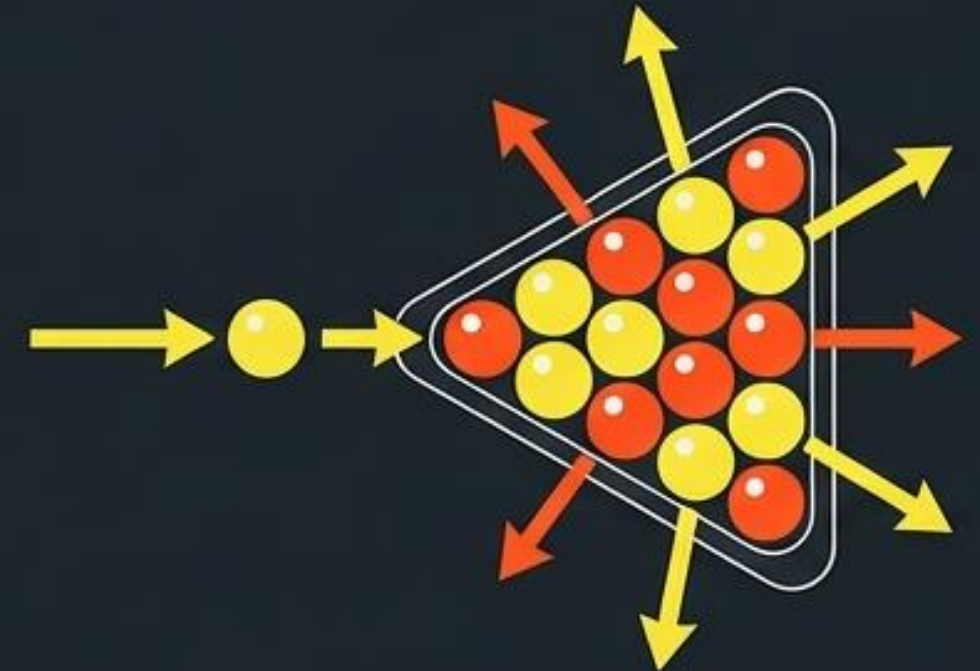
# Momentum Explains Interaction



Propulsion/Recoil



Safety/Impulse



Collision/Transfer

Whether engineering safer cars, analyzing sports, or launching rockets, the principle remains: Mass in motion is a quantity that cannot be destroyed, only transferred.