

1. Two blocks, 1 and 2, slide toward each other on a horizontal surface. Block 1 has mass m and slides in the $+x$ -direction with constant speed $2v_0$. Block 2 has mass $6m$ and slides in the $-x$ -direction with constant speed v_0 , as shown in Figure 1. The blocks then collide and stick together. The collision occurs from time $t = 0$ to $t = t_c$. After the collision, where $t > t_c$, the blocks move together with the same constant speed.

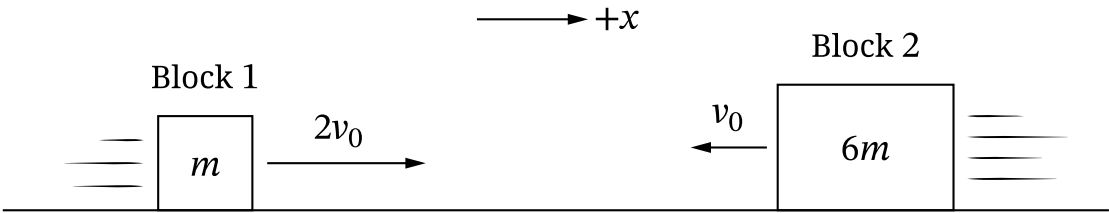


Figure 1

- A. The diagrams in Figure 2 can be used to represent the momentum of blocks 1 and 2 before and after the collision. The momentum vector diagram for Block 1 before the collision is shown.
- i. **Draw** arrows on the grids to represent the momentum vectors of Block 2 before the collision and the two-block system before and after the collision.
- Arrows should start at the zero-momentum line.
 - The length of the arrows should be proportional to the relative magnitudes of the vectors.
 - Represent an arrow of zero length by drawing a dot at zero.

AP Physics C: Mechanics 2025 – Free-Response Questions

	Momentum Before Collision	Momentum After Collision
Block 1		
Block 2		
Two-Block System		

Figure 2

- ii. During the time interval $0 \leq t \leq t_c$, a force F is exerted on Block 2 by Block 1 along the x -direction as a function of t that is modeled by $F(t) = F_{\text{max}} \sin(At)$, where A is a positive constant and F_{max} is the magnitude of the maximum force exerted on Block 2 by Block 1 during the collision.
- Derive** an expression for F_{max} . Express your answer in terms of m , v_0 , A , t_c , and physical constants, as appropriate. Begin your derivation by writing a fundamental physics principle or an equation from the reference information.
- B. Consider a new scenario where Block 1 initially slides in the $+x$ -direction with a new constant speed v_1 and Block 2 again initially slides in the $-x$ -direction with constant speed v_0 . The blocks collide and stick together. In this new scenario, the two-block system has constant speed v_0 after the collision.
- Derive** an expression for v_1 in terms of v_0 . Begin your derivation by writing a fundamental physics principle or an equation from the reference information.