

91. (Second problem in **Cluster 2**)

As explained in the previous solution, we take both angles  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  to be positive-valued.

(a) We first examine conservation of the  $y$  components of momentum.

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= -m_1 v_{1f} \sin \theta_1 + m_2 v_{2f} \sin \theta_2 \\ 0 &= -m_1 v_{1f} \sin 30^\circ + 2m_1 v_{2f} \sin \theta_2 \end{aligned}$$

Next, we examine conservation of the  $x$  components of momentum.

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 v_{1i} &= m_1 v_{1f} \cos \theta_1 + m_2 v_{2f} \cos \theta_2 \\ m_1(10.0 \text{ m/s}) &= m_1 v_{1f} \cos 30^\circ + 2m_1 v_{2f} \cos \theta_2 \end{aligned}$$

From the  $y$  equation, we obtain  $v_{1f} = 4 v_{2f} \sin \theta_2$ ; similarly, the  $x$  equation yields  $20 - v_{1f} \sqrt{3} = 4 v_{2f} \cos \theta_2$  with SI units understood (also,  $\cos 30^\circ = \sqrt{3}/2$  has been used). Squaring these two relations and adding them leads to

$$v_{1f}^2 (1 + 3) - 40 v_{1f} \sqrt{3} + 400 = 16 v_{2f}^2 (\sin^2 \theta_2 + \cos^2 \theta_2)$$

and thus to  $v_{2f}^2 = v_{1f}^2/4 - 5v_{1f}\sqrt{3}/2 + 25$ . We plug this into the condition of total kinetic energy “conservation.”

$$\begin{aligned} K_i &= K_f \\ \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1i}^2 &= \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1f}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_{2f}^2 \\ \frac{1}{2} m_1 \left(10 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right)^2 &= \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_{1f}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (2m_1) \left(\frac{v_{1f}^2}{4} - \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2} v_{1f} + 25\right) \end{aligned}$$

This leads to an equation of second degree (in the variable  $v_{1f}$ ):

$$\frac{3}{4} v_{1f}^2 - \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2} v_{1f} - 25 = 0$$

which has a positive root  $v_{1f} = \frac{5}{3}\sqrt{3}(1 + \sqrt{5}) \approx 9.34 \text{ m/s}$ .

- (b) We plug our result for  $v_{1f}$  into the relation  $v_{2f} = \sqrt{v_{1f}^2/4 - 5v_{1f}\sqrt{3}/2 + 25}$  derived above and obtain  $v_{2f} = \frac{5}{6}\sqrt{6}(\sqrt{5} - 1) \approx 2.52 \text{ m/s}$ .
- (c) Plugging these values of  $v_{1f}$  and  $v_{2f}$  into, say, the  $v_{1f} = 4 v_{2f} \sin \theta_2$  relation, we find  $\theta_2 = 67.8^\circ$ .