

23. Let  $m_m$  be the mass of the meteor and  $m_e$  be the mass of Earth. Let  $v_m$  be the velocity of the meteor just before the collision and let  $v$  be the velocity of Earth (with the meteor) just after the collision. The momentum of the Earth-meteor system is conserved during the collision. Thus, in the reference frame of Earth before the collision,  $m_m v_m = (m_m + m_e)v$ , so

$$v = \frac{v_m m_m}{m_m + m_e} = \frac{(7200 \text{ m/s})(5 \times 10^{10} \text{ kg})}{5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg} + 5 \times 10^{10} \text{ kg}} = 6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m/s} .$$

We convert this as follows:

$$\left(6 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right) \left(\frac{1000 \text{ mm}}{\text{m}}\right) \left(\frac{3.2 \times 10^7 \text{ s}}{\text{y}}\right) = 2 \text{ mm/y} .$$