

5. (a)

Three identical smooth spheres, A, B and C, lie at rest on a smooth horizontal table with their centres in a straight line.



Sphere A is projected towards B with speed u . Sphere A collides directly with B and then B collides directly with C. Sphere C moves, after the collision, with a speed of $\frac{5u}{8}$.

The coefficient of restitution for each of the two collisions is e .

Find e , correct to two places of decimals.

PCM

$$m(u) + m(0) = mv_1 + mv_2$$

NEL

$$v_1 - v_2 = -e(u - 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow v_2 = \frac{u}{2}(1 + e)$$

PCM

$$m\left\{\frac{u}{2}(1 + e)\right\} + m(0) = mv_3 + m\left\{\frac{5u}{8}\right\}$$

NEL

$$v_3 - \left\{\frac{5u}{8}\right\} = -e\left\{\frac{u}{2}(1 + e) - 0\right\}$$

$$2e^2 + 4e - 3 = 0$$

$$e = \frac{\sqrt{40} - 4}{4}$$

$$= 0.58$$

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