

(b) A smooth sphere P collides with an identical smooth sphere Q which is at rest. The velocity of P before impact makes an angle α with the line of centres at impact, where $0^\circ \leq \alpha < 90^\circ$.

The velocity of P is deflected through an angle \mathcal{G} by the collision, so that its velocity after impact makes an angle $\mathcal{G} + \alpha$ with the line of centres at impact.

The coefficient of restitution between the spheres is $\frac{1}{4}$.

Show that $\tan \mathcal{G} = \frac{5 \tan \alpha}{3 + 8 \tan^2 \alpha}$.

PCM $m u \cos \alpha + m(0) = m v_1 + m v_2$

NEL $v_1 - v_2 = -\frac{1}{4}(u \cos \alpha - 0)$

$$\Rightarrow v_1 = \frac{3}{8} u \cos \alpha$$

$$\tan(\mathcal{G} + \alpha) = \frac{u \sin \alpha}{\frac{3}{8} u \cos \alpha}$$

$$\frac{\tan \mathcal{G} + \tan \alpha}{1 - \tan \mathcal{G} \tan \alpha} = \frac{8 \tan \alpha}{3}$$

$$3 \tan \mathcal{G} + 3 \tan \alpha = 8 \tan \alpha - 8 \tan \mathcal{G} \tan^2 \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \mathcal{G} = \frac{5 \tan \alpha}{3 + 8 \tan^2 \alpha}$$

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