

32. For a picture of this one-dimensional example of an “explosion” involving two objects ($m_1 = 4.0$ kg and $m_2 = 6.0$ kg), see Fig. 9-40 (but reverse the velocity arrows). Since the system was initially at rest, momentum conservation leads to

$$0 = m_2 \vec{v}_2 + m_1 \vec{v}_1 \implies |\vec{v}_1| = \frac{m_2}{m_1} |\vec{v}_2|$$

which yields 6.0 m/s for the speed of the physics book. Mechanical energy conservation tells us that the initial potential energy is

$$U_i = K_{f \text{ total}} = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^2$$

which gives the result $U_i = 120$ J.