

Problem 6.3

A pitcher throws a .145 kg baseball with as much momentum as a 3 gram bullet moving at 1.5×10^3 m/s.

a.) What's the baseball's velocity?

b.) Which has the greater kinetic energy?

A pitcher throws a .145 kg baseball with as much momentum as a 3 gram bullet moving at 1.5×10^3 m/s.

a.) What's the baseball's velocity?

$$m_b v_b = m_{bb} v_{bb}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{bb} = \frac{m_b}{m_{bb}} v_b$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{bb} = \frac{(.003 \text{ kg})}{(.145 \text{ kg})} (1.5 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s})$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{bb} = 32 \text{ m/s}$$

b.) Which has the greater kinetic energy?

What governs energy is the velocity (that's what's squared). The bullet's velocity is much larger, so the bullet's kinetic energy will be greater (put a little differently, which would you prefer, being hit by the baseball or the bullet? Think about it!).