

1. Two identical pucks, each of mass m , float frictionlessly on a horizontal plane. A “catcher” is designed to hold both pucks a distance L apart. When so held, the combined system has a CM moment of inertia I , a center of mass midway between the two pucks, and a total mass M . Initially the catcher (minus one puck) is stationary and the missing puck is approaching the catcher with a velocity v_0 as shown below. The catcher will grab and hold the moving puck when the collision occurs. Notice that two origins are shown. Origin A is on the line of approach of the moving puck. Origin B is directly opposite the center of mass of the combined system.
- What is the angular momentum of the entire system about origin A before the “catch”?
 - What is the angular momentum of the entire system about origin B before the “catch”?
 - What exactly will be conserved in the collision (e.g., kinetic energy, momentum, angular momentum, mass, ...)? Why was each conserved quantity constant? (i.e., what condition was met to guarantee conservation)
 - The answers to (a) & (b) above are different, but the physical outcome (rotating/translating catcher) cannot depend on origin. Explain how that can be (e.g., how can a spinning object have zero total angular momentum).
 - Find the final CM velocity and the angular velocity of the combined system following the “catch”.
 - Place an **X** on the below diagram where (approximately) the center of mass is at the instant shown. Assume the collision happens at a time T after the instant shown. Place a **Y** where (approximately) the center of mass is at a time $2T$ after the instant shown (i.e., a time T after the collision).

