Brownian Notes

Hawkes p 202 has just analyzed a ball bouncing off a perfectly elastic surface, where he knows the perpendicular velocity just reverses. He fist tries the same code for collision of two balls, but of course this is nonsense since if you reverse both velocities you reverse the total momentum, OK if you’re in the c of m frame, not otherwise.

But very confusingly (for me) on p 207 he uses vTotal to mean the relative velocities. We should use vRel.

Odd labeling too. The two colliding are not called A and B, but nothing and B: x,y then xB, yB etc.

“no angle between circles” means the center line is along the x-axis, or parallel to it. Then he reverses the x-direction velocities—not conserving momentum.