[mex268] Inelastic crossroad collision

Consider four flat objects moving toward the origin of the coordinate system with a $1m \times 1m$ grid size as shown. Each object has uniform density (1kg/m^2) . They collide inelastically and stick together to form a single object as shown.

(a) Find the momentum (p_x, p_y) and the velocity (v_x, v_y) of the center of mass after the collision. (b) Find the angular momentum l_z and the angular velocity ω_z of the rotational motion about the center of mass after the collision.

(c) Find the amount of energy $E_{\rm dis}$ dissipated during the collision.

Describe also in words the tools (principles, laws) you are using in each part.

Hint: For part (b) think of the cross-shaped object as a composite of seven $2m \times 2m$ square tiles.



Solution: