

36.37. Solve: We have

$$p = \frac{mu}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} = mc \Rightarrow \sqrt{1-u^2/c^2} = \frac{u}{c} \Rightarrow 1 = \frac{2u^2}{c^2} \Rightarrow u = \frac{c}{\sqrt{2}} = 0.71c$$

Assess: The particle's momentum being equal to mc does not mean that the particle is moving with the speed of light. We must use the relativistic formula for the momentum as the particle speeds become high.