

A LEVEL Cambridge Topical Past Papers

MECHANICS

2017 — 2023

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1 - (9709/41_Summer_2017_Q2) - Forces & Equilibrium

A particle of mass 0.8 kg is projected with a speed of 12 m s^{-1} up a line of greatest slope of a rough plane inclined at an angle of 10° to the horizontal. The coefficient of friction between the particle and the plane is 0.4.

(i) Find the acceleration of the particle. [4]

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(ii) Find the distance the particle moves up the plane before coming to rest. [2]

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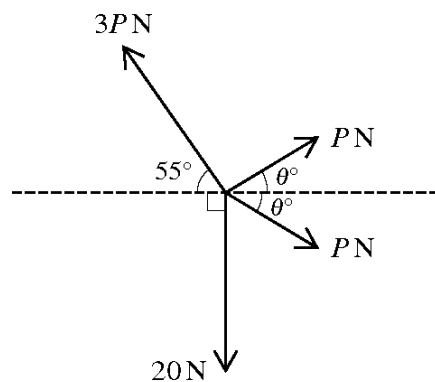
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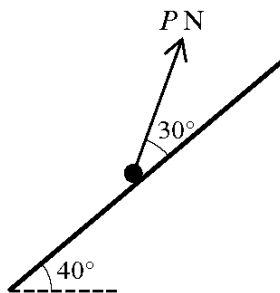
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2 - (9709/43_Summer_2017_Q2) - Forces & Equilibrium



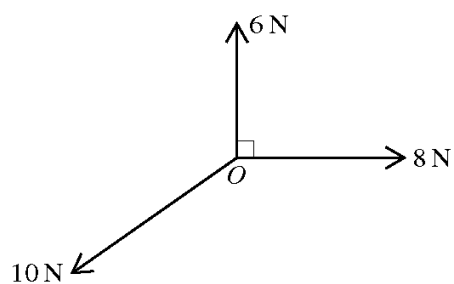
The four coplanar forces shown in the diagram are in equilibrium. Find the values of P and θ . [5]

3 - (9709/42_Summer_2017_Q5) - Forces & Equilibrium



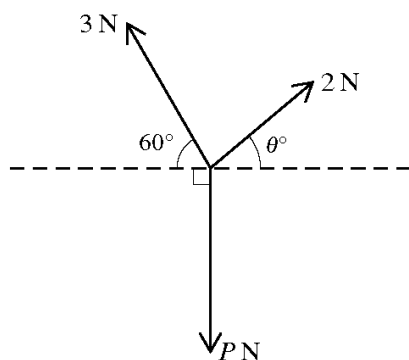
A particle of mass 0.12 kg is placed on a plane which is inclined at an angle of 40° to the horizontal. The particle is kept in equilibrium by a force of magnitude P N acting up the plane at an angle of 30° above a line of greatest slope, as shown in the diagram. The coefficient of friction between the particle and the plane is 0.32 . Find the set of possible values of P . [8]

4 - (9709/41_Summer_2018_Q2) - Forces & Equilibrium



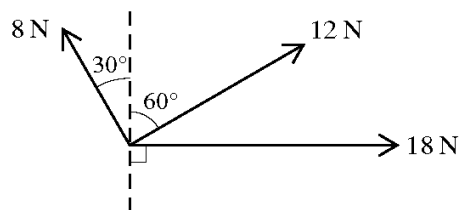
The diagram shows three coplanar forces acting at the point O . The magnitudes of the forces are 6 N , 8 N and 10 N . The angle between the 6 N force and the 8 N force is 90° . The forces are in equilibrium. Find the other angles between the forces. [4]

5 - (9709/42_Summer_2018_Q3) - Forces & Equilibrium



The three coplanar forces shown in the diagram have magnitudes 3 N, 2 N and P N. Given that the three forces are in equilibrium, find the values of θ and P . [4]

6 - (9709/43_Summer_2018_Q3) - Forces & Equilibrium



Coplanar forces of magnitudes 8 N, 12 N and 18 N act at a point in the directions shown in the diagram. Find the magnitude and direction of the single additional force acting at the same point which will produce equilibrium. [6]

ANSWERS

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1 - (9709/41_Summer_2017_Q2) - Forces & Equilibrium

(i)	$R = 0.8g \cos 10 [= 7.88]$	B1
	$F = 0.4 \times 8 \cos 10 [= 3.15]$	M1
	$-8 \sin 10 - 3.2 \cos 10 = 0.8a$	M1
	$a = -5.68 \text{ ms}^{-2}$	A1
	Total:	4
(ii)	$0 = 12^2 - 2 \times 5.68 \times s$	M1
	$s = 144 / (2 \times 5.68) = 12.7 \text{ m}$	A1
	Total:	2

2 - (9709/43_Summer_2017_Q2) - Forces & Equilibrium

<i>EITHER:</i> $3P \sin 55 + P \sin \theta = 20 + P \sin \theta$ or $3P \sin 55 = 20$	(M1)
$P = 8.14$	A1
$3P \cos 55 = 2P \cos \theta$	M1
$\cos \theta = 1.5 \cos 55 \rightarrow \theta = \dots$	M1
$\theta = 30.6$	A1)
<i>OR:</i> $\frac{3P}{\sin 90} = \frac{20}{\sin 125}$	(M1)
$P = 8.14$	A1
$\frac{3P}{\sin 90} = \frac{2P \cos \theta}{\sin 145}$	M1
$\cos \theta = 1.5 \sin 145 \rightarrow \theta = \dots$	M1
$\theta = 30.6$	A1)
Total:	5

3 - (9709/42_Summer_2017_Q5) - Forces & Equilibrium

	M1
$R + P \sin 30 = 0.12g \cos 40$	A1
$F = 0.32R$	M1
$[P_{\min} \cos 30 + F = 0.12g \sin 40]$	M1
$[P_{\max} \cos 30 - F = 0.12g \sin 40]$	M1
$[P \cos 30 = 0.12g \sin 40$ $\pm 0.32 (0.12g \cos 40 - P \sin 30)]$ OR $[P \cos 30 \pm 0.32R = 0.12g \sin 40$ $R + P \sin 30 = 0.12g \cos 40]$ Must reach $P = \dots$ in either method	M1
$P_{\max} = 1.04$ $P_{\min} = 0.676$	A1
$0.676 \leq P \leq 1.04$	A1
Total:	8

4 - (9709/41_Summer_2018_Q2) - Forces & Equilibrium

$[10 \cos \alpha = 8 \text{ or } 10 \cos \beta = 6]$	M1	Introduce α or β , an angle between the 10N force and the vertical or horizontal and attempt to resolve forces
$\alpha = 36.9$ or $\beta = 53.1$	A1	
Angle between 6N and 10N is 126.9	B1	
Angle between 8N and 10N is 143.1	B1	
	4	
Alternative scheme for Question 2		
$\frac{10}{\sin 90} = \frac{6}{\sin \gamma} = \frac{8}{\sin \delta}$	M1	Attempt to use Lami's theorem γ (8 and 10), δ (6 and 10)
All correct	A1	
Angle between 8N and 10N is $\gamma = 143.1$	B1	
Angle between 6N and 10N is $\delta = 126.9$	B1	

5 - (9709/42_Summer_2018_Q3) - Forces & Equilibrium

$[3 \cos 60 = 2 \cos \theta]$	M1	Attempt to resolve forces horizontally (2 terms)
$\theta = 41.4$	A1	
$[P = 3 \sin 60 + 2 \sin \theta]$	M1	Attempt to resolve forces vertically (3 terms)
$P = 3.92$	A1	
	4	
First alternative method for Q3		
$\frac{P}{\sin(120 - \theta)} = \frac{2}{\sin 150} = \frac{3}{\sin(90 + \theta)}$	M1	Attempt two terms of Lami's equation which can be used to find θ
$\theta = 41.4$	A1	
	M1	Attempt an equation which can be used to find P
$P = 3.92$	A1	
Second alternative method for Q3		
[Triangle with sides 2, 3, P and angles opposite of 30, 90 - θ , 60 + θ] $\frac{P}{\sin(60 + \theta)} = \frac{2}{\sin 30} = \frac{3}{\sin(90 - \theta)}$	M1	Attempt two terms from the triangle of forces which can be used to find θ
$\theta = 41.4$	A1	
	M1	Attempt an equation which can be used to find P
$P = 3.92$	A1	

6 - (9709/43_Summer_2018_Q3) - Forces & Equilibrium

	M1	For resolving forces in any one direction
E.g. $X = 18 + 12 \sin 60^\circ - 8 \sin 30^\circ$ $14 + 6\sqrt{3}$	A1	One correct equation or expression
E.g. $Y = 8 \cos 30^\circ + 12 \cos 60^\circ$ $6 + 4\sqrt{3}$	A1	Second correct equation or expression (X and Y may denote components of resultant of given 3 forces or may be components of the fourth force that would produce equilibrium)
$[(14 + 6\sqrt{3})^2 + (6 + 4\sqrt{3})^2]$ or $[\tan^{-1}(6 + 4\sqrt{3}) / (14 + 6\sqrt{3})]$	M1	Use of Pythagoras or appropriate trig to find magnitude or angle
Magnitude is 27.6 (N)	A1	Not for resultant
Direction is 27.9° below 'negative x-axis'	A1	Not for 27.9° only; direction must be clearly specified
Total:	6	

7 - (9709/42_Summer_2018_Q5) - Forces & Equilibrium, Newton's Laws Of Motion

$R = 20g \cos 60$ [= 100]	B1	
$F = \mu \times 20g \cos 60$ [= 100 μ]	M1	Use $F = \mu R$
	M1	Resolve along plane in either case
$(P_{\max} =) 20g \sin 60 + F$	A1	One correct equation
$(P_{\min} =) 20g \sin 60 - F$	A1	Second correct equation
$20g \sin 60 + F = 2(20g \sin 60 - F)$	M1	Use of $P_{\max} = 2P_{\min}$ to give four term equation in F or μ or P
$\mu = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} = 0.577$	A1	
	7	
Iterative solution for final 3 marks if P_{\min} is taken as acting down the plane		
$P_{\min} = F - 20g \sin 60$	A1	
$20g \sin 60 + F = 2(F - 20g \sin 60)$	M1	
$\mu = 3\sqrt{3} = 5.196$	A1	