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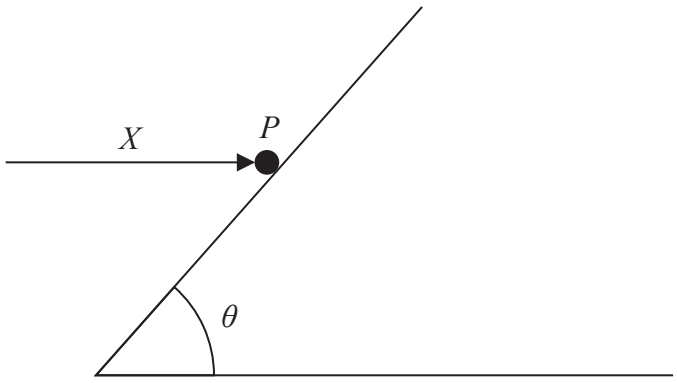


Figure 1

A particle, P, of mass km lies on a fixed rough plane. The plane is inclined to the horizontal at an acute angle θ. A horizontal force of magnitude X acts on P, as shown in Figure 1. The line of action of the force lies in the vertical plane which contains the line of greatest slope of the inclined plane that passes through P. The coefficient of friction between P and the inclined plane is μ.

When $X = mg$, the particle P is in equilibrium and on the point of sliding down the plane.

(a) Show that $\mu = \dfrac{k\tan\theta - 1}{k + \tan\theta}$

(10)

(b) Deduce that, when $k = 1$, θ must be greater than 45°

(2)

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Q4