MADE EASY PUBLICATIONS

POSTAL BOOK PACKAGE 2026

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

CONVENTIONAL Practice Sets

CONTENTS

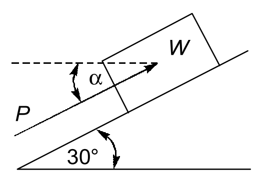
ENGINEERING MECHANICS

1
CHAPTER

Equilibrium of Forces and Moment

Practice Questions

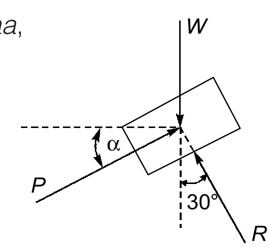
Q.1 Determine the magnitude and direction of the smallest force P, which will maintain the body of weight $W = 300$ N on an inclined smooth plane as shown in figure is in equilibrium.

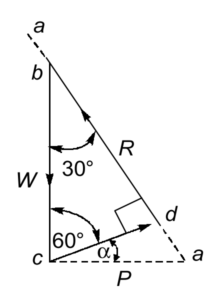


Solution:

The body is acted upon by three forces, namely the action of gravity force W, the applied force P and the reaction R. Since these three forces are in equilibrium, the vectors representing them must build a closed triangle, we begin with the known vector $\overline{bc}$ representing to a certain scale, the weight of the body, and then draw the line aa parallel to the R.

The side $\overline{cd}$ will be minimum if it is perpendicular to line aa, that is P will be minimum, if it is perpendicular to aa.





From the triangle bcd, $\angle c = 90° - 30° = 60°$

$$\therefore \quad \alpha = 90° - 60° = 30°$$

and using the triangle bcd, we obtain,

$$P = W \sin 30° = \frac{W}{2} = 150 \text{ N}$$

Alternate solution: After drawing the free-body diagram of the body of above, then applying the Lami's theorem to the free-body diagram of the body as shown in figure we get

$$\frac{W}{\sin(90° - \alpha + 30°)} = \frac{P}{\sin(\pi - 30°)} = \frac{R}{\sin(90° + \alpha)}$$

Using the first two of the equation we obtain

$$\frac{W}{\cos(30° - \alpha)} = \frac{P}{\sin 30°}$$

$$P = \frac{W \sin 30°}{\cos(30° - \alpha)}$$

From equation, P will be minimum, if the denominator is maximum, i.e.

$$\cos(30° - \alpha) = 1$$

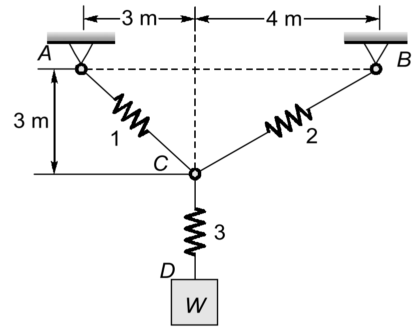
$$\Rightarrow \quad 30° - \alpha = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \alpha = 30°$$

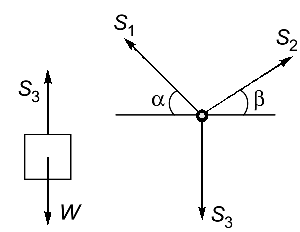
and substituting this value into equation, we get the value of

$$P = W \sin 30° = 150 \text{ N, as before}$$

Q.2 Determine the stretch in each spring for equilibrium of the weight $W = 40$ N block as shown in figure. The springs are in equilibrium position. The stiffness of each spring is given as: $k_1 = 40$ N/m, $k_2 = 50$ N/m, and $k_3 = 60$ N/m



Solution:



Draw the free-body diagram of the body as shown in figure.

Only two forces are acting on the body, gravity force W and the reactive force caused by the spring S_3. Since the body is in equilibrium, from the law of equilibrium of two forces,

$$S_3 = W$$

Now, draw the free-body diagram of the point C. At the joint, C three forces are acting all are reactive forces caused by the springs. The angles that springs S_1 and S_2 make with the horizontal are calculated as below:

$$\tan\alpha = \frac{3}{3} = 1 \Rightarrow \alpha = 45°$$

$$\tan\beta = \frac{3}{4} \Rightarrow \beta = 36.87°$$

Since the joint C is in equilibrium, applying Lami's theorem, we obtain

$$\frac{S_1}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}+\beta\right)} = \frac{S_2}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}+\alpha\right)} = \frac{S_3}{\sin(\pi-\alpha-\beta)}$$

From equation we get

$$\Rightarrow \quad S_1 = \frac{S_3\cos\beta}{\sin(\alpha+\beta)} = \frac{W\cos\beta}{\sin(\alpha+\beta)}$$

$$S_2 = \frac{S_3\cos\alpha}{\sin(\alpha+\beta)} = \frac{W\cos\alpha}{\sin(\alpha+\beta)}$$

$$EF = EC + CF = r_1 + r_2 = 100 + 50 = 150 \text{ mm}$$

and $$EH = OI - OG - BI$$

$$OI = a = 200 \text{ mm}$$

and $$OG = r_2 = 50 \text{ mm}$$

$$BI = EI\sin\frac{\alpha}{2}\left[\because EI = \frac{BE}{\cos\frac{\alpha}{2}} = \frac{r_1}{\cos 30°} = \frac{100}{\cos 30°} = 115.47 \text{ mm}\right]$$

$\therefore$ $$BI = 115.47\sin 30° = 57.74 \text{ mm and}$$

$\therefore$ $$EH = 200 - 50 - 57.74 = 92.26 \text{ mm}$$

$$\cos\beta = \frac{EH}{EF} = \frac{92.26}{150} = 0.615$$

$\therefore \qquad \beta = 52.05°$

$$R_c \cos\beta = R_d$$

$$R_c \sin\beta = Q$$

Substituting the values for β and Q in the above equations and solving for R_c and R_d, we obtain

$$R_c = \frac{Q}{\sin\beta} = \frac{800}{\sin 52.05} = 1014.52 \text{ N}$$

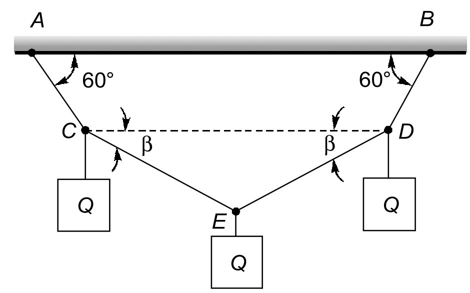
$$R_d = R_c \cos\beta = 1014.52 \times \cos 52.05° = 623.9 \text{ N}$$

$$R_a = R_c \frac{\cos\beta}{\sin\alpha} = 1014.52 \times \frac{\cos 52.05}{\sin 60} = 720.42 \text{ N}$$

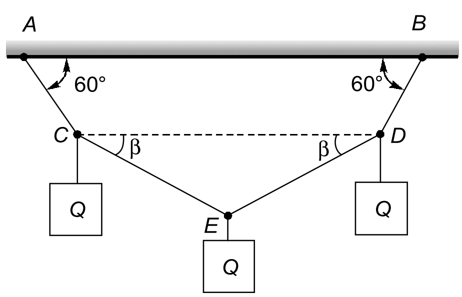
$$R_b = R_c \sin\beta + P - R_a \cos\alpha$$

$$= 1014.52 \times \sin 52.05° + 2000 - 720.42 \cos 60° = 2439.79 \text{ N}$$

Q.3 On the string *ACEDB* are hung three equal weights Q symmetrically placed with respect to the vertical line through the mid-point E. Determine the value of the angles b if the other angles are as shown in the figure.

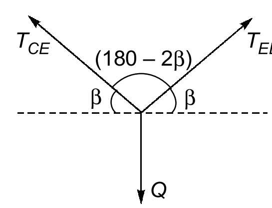


Solution:



At point E,

By symmetry,

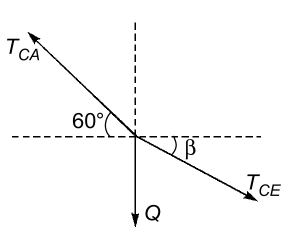


$$T_{CE} = T_{ED}$$

Lami's theorem
$$\frac{T_{CE}}{Sin(90+\beta)} = \frac{T_{ED}}{\sin(90+\beta)} = \frac{Q}{\sin(180-2\beta)}$$

$$T_{CE} = \frac{Q\cos\beta}{\sin 2\beta} = \frac{Q}{2\sin\beta} \qquad \text{...(i)}$$

At point C:



Lami's theorem
$$\frac{T_{CA}}{\sin(90-\beta)} = \frac{T_{CE}}{\sin 150} = \frac{Q}{\sin(120+\beta)}$$

Now,
$$T_{CE} = \frac{Q \times \sin 150}{\sin(120+\beta)} \qquad \text{...(ii)}$$