

Physics 170 Week 6, Lecture 1

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Textbook Chapter 8:Section 1

Learning Goals:

- Learn about the force of static friction.
- Learn how to analyze systems in the state of “imperfect motion”.
- Learn about the “coefficient of static friction” and the force of friction”.
- Solve an example which illustrates how the coefficient of static friction can be used to gain information in a statics problem.
- Learn how to incorporate the force of friction into a problem which has both forces and moments.
- Solve an example using the force of friction and the conditions of equilibrium for a static rigid body.

The Force of friction:

The “force of friction” is a force which resists slippage at an interface between two materials.

It depends on the details of

- the shape and nature of the surfaces
- the materials involved

We will **model** friction and use it to get information about a system.

The threshold force needed to begin slippage at an interface is proportional to the normal force between the two surfaces is N is

$$F_f = \mu_s N$$

where μ_s is the “*coefficient of static friction*”

The state of impending motion

Before the box begins to move, force of friction cancels \vec{P}

$$\vec{F}_f = -\vec{P}$$

At “impending motion”, the force \vec{P} is just enough so that the box begins to move: $F_s = |\vec{F}_f|_{\max} = |\vec{P}| = \mu_s N$

Once it starts moving, friction obeys a different formula

$$F_k = |\vec{F}_f| = \mu_k N \text{ with } \mu_k \text{ is “coefficient of kinetic friction”}$$

Usually $\mu_k < \mu_s$.

Coefficients of static friction

μ_s	Contact materials
0.03-0.05	metal on ice
0.30-0.70	wood on wood
0.20-0.50	leather on wood
0.30-0.60	leather on metal
1.10-1.70	aluminum on aluminum

Example: The block of weight W is being pulled up the plane of slope α using a force \vec{P} . If \vec{P} acts at an angle ϕ to the plane, show that for slipping to occur $P = W \sin(\alpha + \theta) / \cos(\phi - \theta)$, where θ is the angle of friction $\theta = \arctan \mu_s$.

In order to understand what the “angle of friction” is, we can start by putting $\vec{P} = 0$ and asking at what angle the block will slide?

We will assume the situation of “impending motion” that has been increased from zero to its current slope with acceleration where it is just about to start sliding.

We will begin by analyzing the forces acting on the block.

The Forces acting on the block are:

- Gravity: $\vec{F}_G = -W\hat{j}$
- $\vec{P} = 0$.
- Normal reaction force: $\vec{N} = N \left(-\sin \alpha \hat{i} + \cos \alpha \hat{j} \right)$
- Friction force: $\vec{F}_f = \mu_s N \left(\cos \alpha \hat{i} + \sin \alpha \hat{j} \right)$

Equilibrium of forces, $\sum_i \vec{F}_i = 0$ implies

$$\vec{F}_G + \vec{N} + \vec{F}_f = 0$$

$$\left(-W\hat{j}\right) + N\left(-\sin\alpha\hat{i} + \cos\alpha\hat{j}\right) + \mu_s N\left(\cos\alpha\hat{i} + \sin\alpha\hat{j}\right) = 0$$

Or, in components:

$$\sum_i F_{ix} = 0: -N\sin\alpha + N\mu_s\cos\alpha = 0$$

This is all we need for now! N cancels from this equation

The remaining equation can be written as

$$-\sin\alpha + \mu_s\cos\alpha = 0, \quad \mu_s = \frac{\sin\alpha}{\cos\alpha}$$

or $\boxed{\mu_s = \tan\alpha}$ but remember $\mu_s = \tan\theta = \tan$ “angle of friction”
 α is equal to the angle of friction $\alpha = \theta$! The angle of friction is the
angle to which you can increase the slope of the plane before the
block starts to slide. This is independent of W or N !

We can measure the coefficient of friction μ_s by

A. Lifting the ramp until the block slides, then measuring angle α

Then compute $\mu_s = \tan \alpha$.

Back to the example:

The block of weight W is being pulled up the inclined plane of slope α using a force \vec{P} . If \vec{P} acts at an angle ϕ as shown, then for slipping to occur $P = W \frac{\sin(\alpha + \theta)}{\cos(\phi - \theta)}$ where θ is the angle of friction $\theta = \arctan \mu_s$.

Strategy for finding a solution:

- This is a two-dimensional problem: we shall take the x-coordinate as horizontal and y-coordinate as vertical.
- The z-direction is toward the viewer out of the page and will not be used here – z-component of all vectors will be zero.
- We recognize that this is a situation of “impending motion”. The force needed to begin sliding should be that which just overcomes the force of static friction plus gravity.
- The force of static friction is equal to the coefficient of static friction, $\mu_s = \tan \theta$, times the normal force.

Free body diagram

Find the forces:

- Gravity: $\vec{F}_G = -W\hat{j}$
- Pull: $\vec{P} = P \left(\cos(\phi + \alpha)\hat{i} + \sin(\phi + \alpha)\hat{j} \right)$
- Normal reaction force: $\vec{N} = N \left(-\sin \alpha\hat{i} + \cos \alpha\hat{j} \right)$
- Friction force: $\vec{F}_f = -\mu_s N \left(\cos \alpha\hat{i} + \sin \alpha\hat{j} \right)$

Equilibrium of forces:

$$\vec{F}_G = -W\hat{j} \quad , \quad \vec{P} = P \left(\cos(\phi + \alpha)\hat{i} + \sin(\phi + \alpha)\hat{j} \right)$$

$$\vec{N} = N \left(-\sin \alpha \hat{i} + \cos \alpha \hat{j} \right) \quad , \quad \vec{F}_f = -\mu_s N \left(\cos \alpha \hat{i} + \sin \alpha \hat{j} \right)$$

$$\vec{F}_G + \vec{P} + \vec{N} + \vec{F}_f = 0$$

$$-W\hat{j} + P \left(\cos(\phi + \alpha)\hat{i} + \sin(\phi + \alpha)\hat{j} \right) + N \left(-\sin \alpha \hat{i} + \cos \alpha \hat{j} \right) - \mu_s N \left(\cos \alpha \hat{i} + \sin \alpha \hat{j} \right) = 0$$

components:

$$P \cos(\phi + \alpha) - N \sin \alpha - \mu_s N \cos \alpha = 0$$

$$-W + P \sin(\phi + \alpha) + N \cos \alpha - \mu_s N \sin \alpha = 0$$

components:

$$P \cos(\phi + \alpha) - N \sin \alpha - \mu_s N \cos \alpha = 0$$

$$-W + P \sin(\phi + \alpha) + N \cos \alpha - \mu_s N \sin \alpha = 0$$

Solve the first equation to get

$$N = P \frac{\cos(\phi + \alpha)}{\sin \alpha + \mu_s \cos \alpha}$$

Then, use the second equation to find

$$P \left[\sin(\phi + \alpha) + (\cos \alpha - \mu_s \sin \alpha) \frac{\cos(\phi + \alpha)}{\sin \alpha + \mu_s \cos \alpha} \right]$$

Bringing forward the last equation from the previous page

$$P \left[\sin(\phi + \alpha) + (\cos \alpha - \mu_s \sin \alpha) \frac{\cos(\phi + \alpha)}{\sin \alpha + \mu_s \cos \alpha} \right]$$

Now we solve for P :

$$P = W \frac{(\sin \alpha + \mu_s \cos \alpha)}{(\sin \alpha + \mu_s \cos \alpha) \sin(\phi + \alpha) + (\cos \alpha - \mu_s \sin \alpha)}$$

Now we substitute $\mu_s = \tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}$

$$P = \frac{W(\cos \theta \sin \alpha + \sin \theta \cos \alpha)}{(\cos \theta \sin \alpha + \sin \theta \cos \alpha) \sin(\phi + \alpha) + (\cos \theta \cos \alpha - \sin \theta \sin \alpha)}$$

Remember the double angle formulas:

$$\cos(a \pm b) = \cos a \cos b \mp \sin a \sin b$$

$$\sin(a \pm b) = \sin a \cos b \pm \cos a \sin b$$

$$P = \frac{W(\cos \theta \sin \alpha + \sin \theta \cos \alpha)}{(\cos \theta \sin \alpha + \sin \theta \cos \alpha) \sin(\phi + \alpha) + (\cos \theta \cos \alpha - \sin \theta \sin \alpha) \cos(\phi + \alpha)}$$

Using

$$\cos(a \pm b) = \cos a \cos b \mp \sin a \sin b$$

$$\sin(a \pm b) = \sin a \cos b \pm \cos a \sin b$$

we get

$$P = W \frac{\sin(\alpha + \theta)}{\sin(\alpha + \theta) \sin(\phi + \alpha) + \cos(\alpha + \theta) \cos(\phi + \alpha)}$$

Finally

$$P = W \frac{\sin(\alpha + \theta)}{\cos(\phi - \theta)}$$

Equivalent systems and resultant normal force:

Normal force is usually distributed.

A distributed normal reaction force on flat interface = force at a single point.

- Consider a flat interface with a variety of forces \vec{F}_i all normal to the interface. (For simplicity, take the forces to be parallel.)
- The forces can all be moved to a single point by adding a couple moment.
- The point can then be adjusted until the additional moment vanishes. The point at which the force is the same is the **“location of the resultant normal force”**

Example:

The crate has a weight of 200lb and a center of gravity
Determine the horizontal force P required to tow it. Also
the location of the resultant normal force measured from
 $h = 4ft$ and $\mu_s = 0.4$.

Strategy for finding a solution:

- This is a two-dimensional problem. We take the x-coordinate horizontal and y-coordinate vertical with origin at C. The z-direction is toward the viewer out of the page.
- We recognize that the force needed to begin towing should be that which puts it in a state of impending motion where the force of friction is $|\vec{F}_f| = \mu_s |\vec{N}|$.
- We will assume that the reaction normal force acts at a point which is a distance x along the horizontal from the bottom right-hand corner of the crate. As we have discussed, the normal force is distributed over the contact surface. Placing it all at a single point is the same as finding an equivalent system which has the same total force and the same total moments on the object.

- We must also decide where to place the point of action of the force of friction. We remember that we can consider an equivalent system with this force moved to any point along its line of action. For a flat interface, we can thus think of the force as acting at any point on the interface.
- Similarly for the towing force, it is exerted by a rope that surrounds the crate and is likely distributed over the entire surface. Since the rope is located along the line of action of the force, we can consider it a single concentrated force at any point along its line of action.
- We will find a mathematical expression for all of the forces acting on the crate, including the reaction normal force and the force of friction.
- We will compute the moments of each of the forces.

- We will then impose the conditions of equilibrium, $\sum_i \vec{M}_{\mathcal{O}_i} = 0$
- There are three equations which we can use to solve unknown quantities.

Free body diagram

Find the forces and the position vectors of points where they act:

- Gravity: $\vec{W} = -(200lb)\hat{j}$ acting at $\vec{r}_G = \vec{0}$
- Towing: $\vec{P} = P\hat{i}$ acting at $\vec{r}_P = (h - (3ft))\hat{j}$
- Reaction: $\vec{N} = N\hat{j}$ acting at $\vec{r}_N = ((2ft) + x)\hat{i} - (3ft)\hat{j}$
- Friction: $\vec{F}_f = -\mu_s N\hat{i}$ acting at $-(3ft)\hat{j}$

Equilibrium of forces:

We can find P and N from the force equations:

$$\vec{W} + \vec{P} + \vec{N} + \vec{F}_f = 0$$

$$-(200lb)\hat{j} + P\hat{i} + N\hat{j} - \mu_s N\hat{i} = 0$$

In components:

$$P = \mu_s N \quad , \quad N = W = 200lbs$$

$$\boxed{N = (200lb)} \quad , \quad \boxed{P = (80lb)}$$

To find the point of action of the resultant normal force analyze the moments.

Equilibrium of Moments “in two dimensions”:

Moment due to Friction = $-3\mu_s N$

Moment due to Weight = 0

Moment due to Normal = $(2 + x)N$

Moment due to Pull = $-(h - 3)P$

Total moments $M = -3\mu_s N + (2 + x)N - (h - 3)P$

Also, we know that $N = W$. $P = \mu_s N$ so $M = (-h\mu_s +$

$M = 0 \rightarrow \mu_s h = (x + 2)/\mu_s$

Note that this equation is independent of W !

Computation of Moments using vectors:

For completeness, let us also compute the moments using vector techniques. We compute moments about G :

- Gravity: $\vec{M}_G = \vec{0} \times (-(200lb))\hat{j} = \vec{0}$
- Towing: $\vec{M}_P = ((h - (3ft))\hat{j}) \times P\hat{i} = -(h - (3ft))P\hat{k}$
- Reaction:
 $\vec{M}_N = (((2ft) + x)\hat{i} - (3ft)\hat{j}) \times (N\hat{j}) = ((2ft) + x)N\hat{k}$
- Friction: $\vec{M}_f = (-(3ft)\hat{j}) \times (-\mu_s N\hat{i}) = -\mu_s(3ft)N\hat{k}$

Equilibrium of Moments using vectors:

$$\sum \vec{M} = 0$$

$$\vec{M}_G + \vec{M}_P + \vec{M}_N + \vec{M}_f = 0$$

Explicitly substituting the moment vectors gives

$$\vec{0} - (h - (3ft))P\hat{k} + ((2ft) + x)N\hat{k} - \mu_s(3ft)N\hat{k}$$

or, remembering that $N = W$ and $P = \mu_s N$,

$$[-(h - 3)\mu_s + 2 + x - 3\mu_s]N\hat{k} = 0 \rightarrow h\mu_s = x$$

with x and h in ft. We are given that

$$h = 4 \text{ ft} , \mu_s = 0.4$$

$x = -.400 \text{ ft}$

Example:

The crate has a weight of 200lb and a center of gravity
Determine the height h of the tow rope so that the crate
tips at the same time. What horizontal force P is required
this?

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Strategy for finding a solution:

- The crate will slip and tip at the same time when the normal reaction force is at A and when the force of P is just compensated by P so that the crate is in a state of impending motion.
- In the previous problem, we found that

$$h\mu_s = x + 2$$

Now, we set $x = 0$ and we get $h = 2/\mu_s = \frac{(2)}{(0.4)} =$

*For the next lecture, please
Textbook Chapter 8:Section 8.1*