

A particle P of mass m is attached to one end of a light inextensible rod of length $3a$. An identical particle Q is attached to the other end of the rod. The rod is smoothly pivoted at a point O on the rod, where $OQ = x$. The system, of rod and particles, rotates about O in a vertical plane.

At an instant when the rod is vertical, with P above Q , the particle P is moving horizontally with speed u . When the rod has turned through an angle of 60° from the vertical, the speed of P is $2\sqrt{ag}$, and the tensions in the two parts of the rod, OP and OQ , have equal magnitudes.

- (a) Show that the speed of Q when the rod has turned through an angle of 60° from the vertical is $\frac{2x}{3a-x}\sqrt{ag}$. [2]
- (b) Find x in terms of a . [5]
- (c) Find u in terms of a and g . [4]