

A particle P of mass m is placed on a fixed smooth plane which is inclined at an angle θ to the horizontal. A light spring, of natural length a and modulus of elasticity $3mg$, has one end attached to P and the other end attached to a fixed point O at the top of the plane. The spring lies along a line of greatest slope of the plane. The system is released from rest with the spring at its natural length.

Find, in terms of a and θ , an expression for the greatest extension of the spring in the subsequent motion.

[3]