



A particle P of mass m is attached to one end of a light inextensible string of length a . The other end of the string is attached to a fixed point O . The particle is held with the string taut and horizontal. It is projected downwards with speed $\sqrt{12ag}$. At the lowest point of its motion, P collides directly with a particle Q of mass km which is at rest (see diagram). In the collision, P and Q coalesce. The tension in the string immediately after the collision is half of its value immediately before the collision. Find the possible values of k .

[11]