

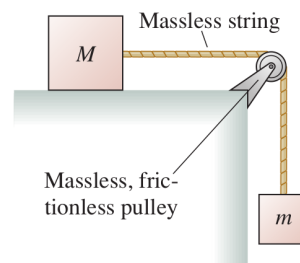
HOMEWORK 4

DUE IN RECITATION ON FRIDAY, MARCH 4

NOTE: For all problems, in order to receive credit, you must draw force diagrams for all relevant objects. These diagrams must be at least two inches tall to receive full credit. This is for your benefit, not mine; carefully drawing clear diagrams will help you with these problems more than anything else.

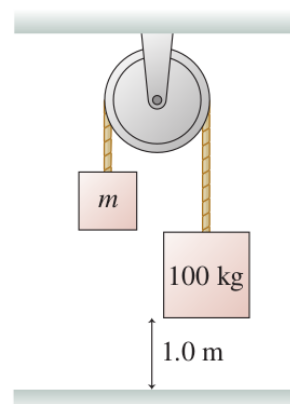
1. An object of mass M sits on a frictionless table; it is connected by a light string to a hanging mass m . (See figure.)

- (a) Find both the tension in the string and the acceleration of the masses in terms of M , m , and g .
- (b) What is the tension in the limit where $M \gg m$ (that is, the mass on the table is very heavy)? Is this what you expect it to be?
- (c) What is the acceleration in the limit where $m \gg M$ (that is, the hanging mass is very heavy)? Is this what you expect it to be? Think about two cases: (i) M is a bowling ball and m is a feather, and (ii) M is a feather and m is a bowling ball.

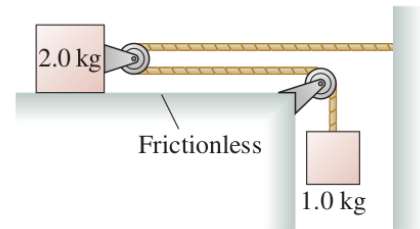


2. Two masses are connected by a light string and draped over a light, frictionless pulley. One has mass m , which you will find; the other has mass $M = 100$ kg. (See figure.)

- (a) Find an expression for the acceleration of the mass M in terms of M , m , and g .
- (b) If it takes a time $\tau = 7$ s to hit the ground after it is released, what is the value of m ?



3. A rope-and-pulley system is set up as shown.



- (a) How does the acceleration of the two blocks relate? (*Hint: If the hanging mass moves downward by one meter, how far does the block on the table move?*)
- (b) What is the acceleration of the 2 kg block sitting on the table?
4. A block of mass $m_1 = 5$ kg rests on a table. Two ropes connect that block to two masses: one hangs off the left side of the table, and the other hangs off the right side. The coefficient of static friction μ_s between the block and the table is 0.2.

If one of the hanging masses has mass $m_2 = 3$ kg, for what range of values of the other block's mass m_3 will the system not move?

HINT: What happens if m_3 is very small? What happens if it is very big? Does this affect your force diagram in any way? How do you know what direction static friction will point? Does this depend on the sizes of the masses? You will need to think carefully about this, possibly making two diagrams depending on the direction of friction.

5. Two blocks connected by a cable slide down an incline angled at 30° above the horizontal, connected by a cable. The top block has a mass of $m_1 = 1$ kg, and the bottom one has a mass of $m_2 = 2$ kg. The coefficients of kinetic friction are $\mu_{k_1} = 0.2$ (top block) and $\mu_{k_2} = 0.1$ (bottom block). What is the tension in the cable that connects them?
6. A hiker with a mass of 75 kg wants to drag a 180 kg sled over snow at a constant rate. She does this by tying a rope to the sled (at ground level) and running it over her shoulder. The rope running between her and the sled makes a 45° angle with the horizontal.

If the coefficient of friction between the sled and the snow is 0.1, what must the coefficient of friction between her boots and the ground be for her to move the sled?

- HINT 1: Think carefully about which way the force of friction points on the hiker.

- HINT 2: This problem will quickly get out of hand if you are not organized. Start by drawing force diagrams for both objects. Then write down $\sum F = ma$ in each direction for each object. This will generate a system of four equations with four unknowns which you will need to solve **by substitution**.
- HINT 3: Solving this system is easiest to do “back to front”, starting with the y –equation for the sled, then the x –equation for the sled, then the y –equation for the hiker, and finally the x –equation for the hiker.