

3.

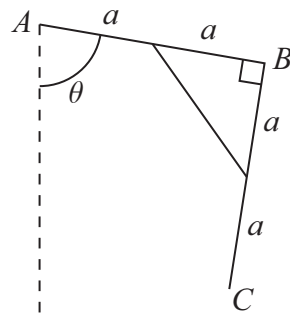


Figure 1

A framework consists of two uniform rods AB and BC , each of mass m and length $2a$, joined at B . The mid-points of the rods are joined by a light rod of length $a\sqrt{2}$, so that angle ABC is a right angle. The framework is free to rotate in a vertical plane about a fixed smooth horizontal axis. This axis passes through the point A and is perpendicular to the plane of the framework. The angle between the rod AB and the downward vertical is denoted by θ , as shown in Figure 1.

(a) Show that the potential energy of the framework is

$$-mga(3 \cos \theta + \sin \theta) + \text{constant.}$$

(4)

(b) Find the value of θ when the framework is in equilibrium, with B below the level of A .

(4)

(c) Determine the stability of this position of equilibrium.

(4)



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