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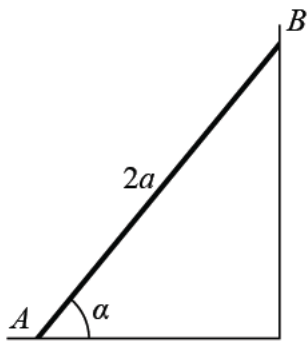


Figure 1

A uniform ladder AB , of length $2a$ and weight W , has its end A on rough horizontal ground.

The coefficient of friction between the ladder and the ground is $\frac{1}{4}$.

The end B of the ladder is resting against a smooth vertical wall, as shown in Figure 1.

A builder of weight $7W$ stands at the top of the ladder.

To stop the ladder from slipping, the builder's assistant applies a horizontal force of magnitude P to the ladder at A , towards the wall.

The force acts in a direction which is perpendicular to the wall.

The ladder rests in equilibrium in a vertical plane perpendicular to the wall and makes an angle α with the horizontal ground, where $\tan \alpha = \frac{5}{2}$.

The builder is modelled as a particle and the ladder is modelled as a uniform rod.

(a) Show that the reaction of the wall on the ladder at B has magnitude $3W$.

(5)

(b) Find, in terms of W , the range of possible values of P for which the ladder remains in equilibrium.

(5)

Often in practice, the builder's assistant will simply stand on the bottom of the ladder.

(c) Explain briefly how this helps to stop the ladder from slipping.

(3)