

5.

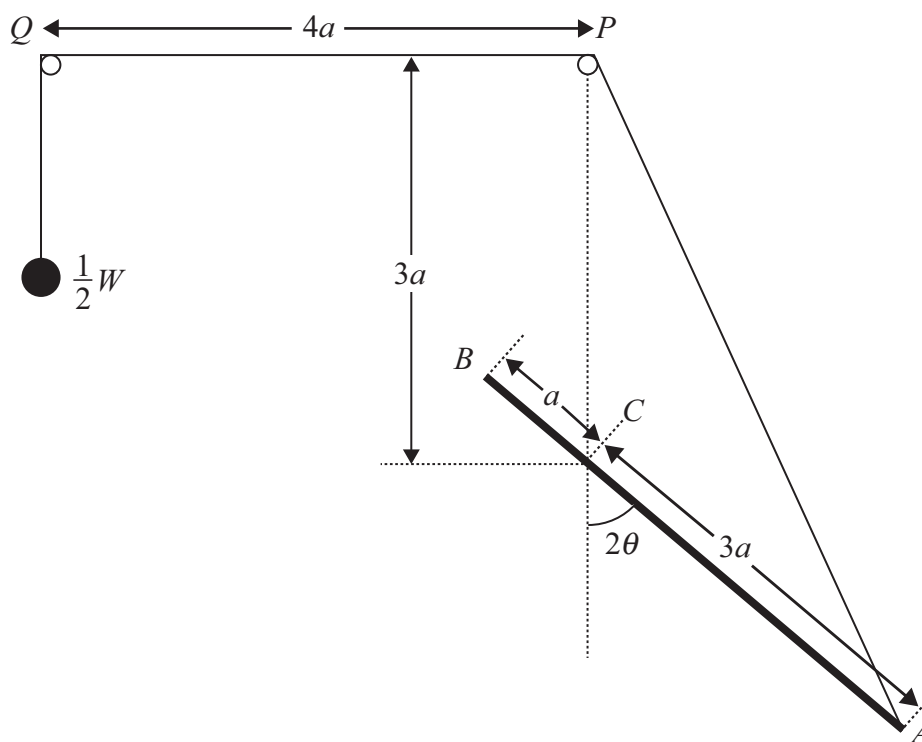


Figure 1

A uniform rod AB , of length $4a$ and weight W , is free to rotate in a vertical plane about a fixed smooth horizontal axis which passes through the point C of the rod, where $AC = 3a$. One end of a light inextensible string of length L , where $L > 10a$, is attached to the end A of the rod and passes over a small smooth fixed peg at P and another small smooth fixed peg at Q . The point Q lies in the same vertical plane as P , A and B . The point P is at a distance $3a$ vertically above C and PQ is horizontal with $PQ = 4a$. A particle of weight $\frac{1}{2}W$ is attached to the other end of the string and hangs vertically below Q . The rod is inclined at an angle 2θ to the vertical, where $-\pi < 2\theta < \pi$, as shown in Figure 1.

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

$$Wa(3\cos\theta - \cos 2\theta) + \text{constant} \tag{4}$$

(b) Find the positions of equilibrium and determine their stability. (8)



