

STEP II, 2015, Q9

- 9 An equilateral triangle ABC is made of three light rods each of length a . It is free to rotate in a vertical plane about a horizontal axis through A . Particles of mass $3m$ and $5m$ are attached to B and C respectively. Initially, the system hangs in equilibrium with BC below A .
- (i) Show that, initially, the angle θ that BC makes with the horizontal is given by $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{7}$.
- (ii) The triangle receives an impulse that imparts a speed v to the particle B . Find the minimum speed v_0 such that the system will perform complete rotations if $v > v_0$.



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