Solution



If the cord is stressed the cylinder and the block are moving with the same acceleration a. Let F be the tension in the cord, S the frictional force between the cylinder and the inclined plane (*Fig. 2*). The angular acceleration of the cylinder is a/r. The net force causing the acceleration of the block:

$$m_2 a = m_2 g \sin \alpha - \mu m_2 g \cos \alpha + F \, ,$$

and the net force causing the acceleration of the cylinder:

$$m_1 a = m_1 g \sin \alpha - S - F \, .$$

The equation of motion for the rotation of the cylinder:

$$Sr = \frac{a}{r} \cdot I$$
.

(*I* is the moment of inertia of the cylinder, $S \cdot r$ is the torque of the frictional force.) Solving the system of equations we get:

$$a = g \cdot \frac{(m_1 + m_2)\sin\alpha - \mu m_2 \cos\alpha}{m_1 + m_2 + \frac{I}{r^2}},$$
(1)

$$S = \frac{I}{r^2} \cdot g \cdot \frac{(m_1 + m_2)\sin\alpha - \mu m_2 \cos\alpha}{m_1 + m_2 + \frac{I}{r^2}},$$
(2)

$$F = m_2 g \cdot \frac{\mu \left(m_1 + \frac{I}{r^2}\right) \cos \alpha - \frac{I \sin \alpha}{r^2}}{m_1 + m_2 + \frac{I}{r^2}}.$$
(3)

The moment of inertia of a solid cylinder is $I = \frac{m_1 r^2}{2}$. Using the given numerical values:

$$a = g \cdot \frac{(m_1 + m_2)\sin\alpha - \mu m_2 \cos\alpha}{1.5m_1 + m_2} = 0.3317g = 3.25 \text{ m/s}^2,$$

$$S = \frac{m_1 g}{2} \cdot \frac{(m_1 + m_2) \sin \alpha - \mu m_2 \cos \alpha}{1.5 m_1 + m_2} = 13.01 \text{ N},$$

$$F = m_2 g \cdot \frac{(1.5 \mu \cos \alpha - 0.5 \sin \alpha) m_1}{1.5 m_1 + m_2} = 0.192 \text{ N}.$$

Discussion (See Fig. 3.)

The condition for the system to start moving is a > 0. Inserting a = 0 into (1) we obtain the limit for angle α_1 :

$$\tan \alpha_1 = \mu \cdot \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{\mu}{3} = 0.0667, \quad \alpha_1 = 3.81^\circ$$

For the cylinder separately $\alpha_1 = 0$, and for the block separately $\alpha_1 = \tan^{-1} \mu = 11.31^{\circ}$.

If the cord is not stretched the bodies move separately. We obtain the limit by inserting F = 0 into (3):

$$\tan \alpha_2 = \mu \cdot \left(1 + \frac{m_1 r^2}{I}\right) = 3\mu = 0.6, \quad \alpha_2 = 30.96^\circ$$

The condition for the cylinder to slip is that the value of S (calculated from (2) taking the same coefficient of friction) exceeds the value of $\mu m_1 g \cos \alpha$. This gives the same value for α_3 as we had for α_2 . The acceleration of the centers of the cylinder and the block is the same: $g(\sin \alpha - \mu \cos \alpha)$, the frictional force at the bottom of the cylinder is $\mu m_1 g \cos \alpha$, the peripheral acceleration of the cylinder is $\mu \cdot \frac{m_1 r^2}{I} \cdot g \cos \alpha \, .$

