Answer on Question #77457, Physics -Mechanics -Relativity:

Question: A Block Q of mass M is placed on a horizontal frictionless surface AB and a body P of mass m is released on its frictionless slope. As P slides by a length L on this slope of inclination theta (θ) the block Q would slide by a distance ------.

Solution:



Here, mass of block Q = M

mass of block P = m

angle of inclination = θ

Since there is no external force in horizontal direction in block Q + mass system, so center of mass of block Q + mass system will not move.

Let, x1 is the centre of mass of block Q from origin and x is the distance moved by block Q.

Now, initial centre of mass of the total system = $\frac{(Mx_1 + m L \cos \theta)}{(M+m)}$

And final centre of mass of the total system = $\frac{[M(x_1+x)+m x]}{(M+m)}$

So, $\frac{(Mx_1+m L \cos \theta)}{(M+m)} = \frac{[M(x_1+x)+m x]}{(M+m)}$ [As the centre of mass not change] Or, $x = \frac{m L \cos \theta}{(M+m)}$ Answer: Distance is $\frac{m L \cos \theta}{(M+m)}$.

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