STEP Mathematics Paper III 1991

14. Consider the ring B

Resolving vertically and horizontally

 $R \sin \theta + T \cos \theta = mg$ and $T \sin \theta - R \cos \theta = m\omega^2 l \sin \theta$ eliminating R we have

$$T\cos^2\theta + T\sin^2\theta = mg\cos\theta + m\omega^2l\sin^2\theta$$

i.e.
$$T = \frac{4}{5}mg + \frac{9}{25}ml \cdot \frac{5g}{2a}$$
 since $\theta = \sin^{-1}\frac{3}{5}$ and $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{5g}{2a}}$

so
$$T = \frac{4}{5}mg + \frac{9}{10}\frac{lmg}{a}$$

compression of spring is a - (2a - l) = l - a

so
$$T = \frac{kmg(l-a)}{a}$$

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hence, $\frac{4}{5}mg + \frac{9}{10}\frac{lmg}{a} = \frac{kmg(l-a)}{a}$

$$\Rightarrow 8a + 9l = 10kl - 10ka \Rightarrow l = \frac{10ka + 8a}{10k - 9} = \frac{(10k + 8)a}{10k - 9}$$
 as required

Now consider the particle A and let the reaction of the rod have horizontal and vertical components R_X and R_Y

so that
$$13R_X = 21R_Y$$

Then
$$R_y - T\cos\theta = mg$$
 and $R_x - T\sin\theta = 2am\omega^2\sin\theta$

i.e.
$$\frac{13}{21}R_X - T\cos\theta = mg$$
 and $R_X - T\sin\theta = 5mg\sin\theta$

eliminating
$$R_X$$
 gives $\frac{13}{21}(5mg\sin\theta + T\sin\theta) - T\cos\theta = mg \Rightarrow \frac{13}{21}(3mg + \frac{3}{5}T) - \frac{4}{5}T = mg$

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$$\frac{13}{21}R_X - T\cos\theta = mg$$
 and $R_X - T\sin\theta = 5mg\sin\theta$
eliminating R_X gives $\frac{13}{21}(5mg\sin\theta + T\sin\theta) - T\cos\theta = mg \Rightarrow \frac{13}{21}(3mg + \frac{3}{5}T) - \frac{4}{5}T = mg$
 $\Rightarrow 39mg - 9T = 21mg \Rightarrow T = -\frac{18mg}{9} = 2mg$ and $T = \frac{kmg(\frac{(10k+8)a}{10k-9} - a)}{a} = \frac{17kmg}{10k-9}$

hence,
$$20kmg - 18mg = 17kmg \Rightarrow k = \frac{18}{3} = 6$$

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from resolutions for B we have $\frac{3}{5}R + \frac{8}{5}mg = mg \Rightarrow R = -mg$

i.e. reaction between rosd and ring B is mg in opposite direction to that shown.

