

Section 1: Force diagrams and equilibrium

Exercise level 2

1. A car of mass M pulls a trailer of mass m along a straight level road at constant speed. The resistance to motion on the car is 5000 N and the resistance to motion on the trailer is 1000 N.
 - (i) Draw diagrams showing all of the forces acting on the car and on the trailer.
 - (ii) Find the tension in the towbar.
 - (iii) Find the force being produced by the car's engine.

2. Ann and Beryl are both pushing a piano. Ann pushes in the direction $4\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}$ and Beryl in the direction $12\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}$, where \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} are the standard unit vectors. Together they produce a force of $(68\mathbf{i} + 33\mathbf{j})$ N so that

$$p(4\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}) + q(12\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}) = 68\mathbf{i} + 33\mathbf{j}, \text{ where } p \text{ and } q \text{ are constants.}$$

Find the values of p and q and the magnitude of the forces with which each of Ann and Beryl pull.

3. A force of $(20\mathbf{i} - 15\mathbf{j})$ N acts on a particle at O. The vectors \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} are the standard unit vectors.
 - (i) Calculate the magnitude of this force and the angle it makes with the \mathbf{i} direction.
 - (ii) A second force $(5\mathbf{i} - 40\mathbf{j})$ N also acts on the particle at O. What third force is required if the particle at O is in equilibrium with all three forces acting on it?