

A rigid, uniform disc of mass m , radius a , magnetic moment \mathbf{M} , is about to roll under gravity from a stationary position on a step, as shown, when it is brought to equilibrium by a vertical magnetic field B . \mathbf{M} makes an angle θ with the vertical, and is oriented perpendicular to the radius vector from the disc center to S at the step corner, which exerts a net force \mathbf{F} on the disc at S .

- For the particular case when $MB = mga$, draw a sketch showing the gravitational potential energy U_g and magnetic potential energy U_m as functions of θ for $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$.
- Explain why the equilibrium is stable, neutral or unstable, as the case may be.
- For the general case find how the equilibrium value of θ depends on m , \mathbf{M} , g , B and a .
- Calculate the smallest coefficient of friction μ at the step required for stability.

