
 Quiz – 4 - SOLUTION

Problem: Determine the height d of cable AB so that the force in cables AD and AC is one-half as great as the force in cable AB . What is the force in each cable for this case? The flower pot has a mass of 50 kg.

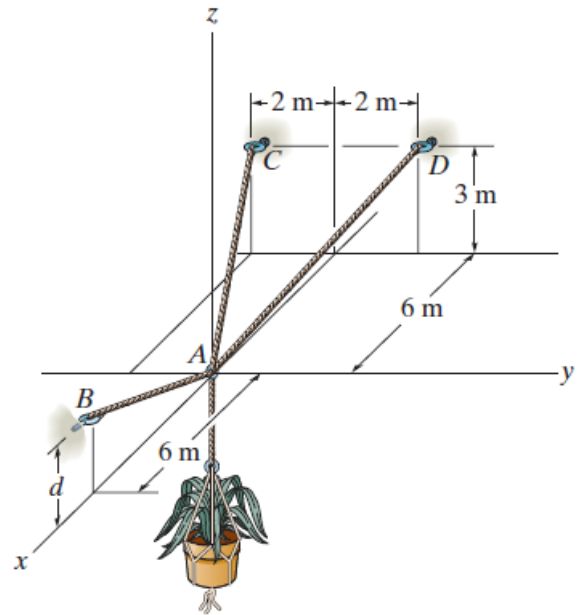
Solution:

The point A is chosen as a particle. Eqs. of equilibrium can be written as follows:

$$\sum F_y = -\frac{2}{7}T_C + \frac{2}{7}T_D = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\sum F_x = -\frac{6}{7}T_C - \frac{6}{7}T_D + T_{B_x} = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\sum F_z = \frac{3}{7}T_C + \frac{3}{7}T_D + T_{B_z} = W \quad (3)$$



Additional expressions are needed to solve this set of equations because the number of unknowns (four) is greater than the number of equations (three). [this is also true when T_B and θ (angle of T_B with the x -axis) or T_B and d are chosen to express the force in cable AB]

$$\frac{T_{B_z}}{T_{B_x}} = \frac{d}{6}, \quad \frac{|AB|}{6} = \frac{T_B}{T_{B_x}}, \quad T_C = T_D = T_B/2 \quad (4)$$

The results for the unknowns become:

$$d = \sqrt{13} \text{ m}, \quad T_C = T_D = 260 \text{ N}, \quad T_B = 520 \text{ N}$$