



$$\alpha = 30^\circ, m_1 = 4 \text{ kg}, m_2 = 6 \text{ kg}, g = 9.8 \text{ m s}^{-2}$$

Let a_1 be the acceleration of the first particle down the slope and let a_2 be the acceleration of the second particle downwards.

- $m_1 a_1 = m_1 g \sin(\alpha) - T$ (from Newton's second law)
- $m_2 a_2 = m_2 g - T$ (ditto)
- $a_1 = -a_2$ (They must move with the same speed since the cable can't get longer or shorter)

$$\therefore \frac{m_1 g \sin(\alpha) - T}{m_1} = -\frac{m_2 g - T}{m_2} \text{ (sub into last equation from first two)}$$

$$\Rightarrow g \sin(\alpha) - \frac{T}{m_1} = -g + \frac{T}{m_2}$$

$$\Rightarrow g(1 + \sin(\alpha)) = T\left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}\right) \text{ (group terms in } g \text{ and } T)$$

$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{g(1 + \sin(\alpha))}{\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}} \text{ (isolate } T)$$

$$\therefore a_2 = g - \frac{1}{m_2} \frac{g(1 + \sin(\alpha))}{\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}} \text{ (sub in for } T \text{ to our expression for } a_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow a_2 = g\left(1 - \frac{1 + \sin(\alpha)}{\frac{m_2}{m_1} + 1}\right) \text{ (Pull out } g \text{ and multiply in } m_2 \text{ under the line)}$$

Now, we have:

$$\alpha = 30^\circ \Rightarrow \sin(\alpha) = 1/2$$

And:

$$m_1 = 4 \text{ kg}, m_2 = 6 \text{ kg} \Rightarrow \frac{m_2}{m_1} = 3/2$$

$$\therefore a_2 = g\left(1 - \frac{1 + 1/2}{3/2 + 1}\right) = g\left(1 - \frac{3/2}{5/2}\right) = 2/5(g)$$

As a number this is:

$$a_2 = 0.4 \times 9.8 \text{ m s}^{-2} = 3.92 \text{ m s}^{-2}$$

Then a_1 is the same, just in a different direction. The overall movement is so that the more massive particle moves downwards.