

Figure 1: A boxcar is towed *without friction* up a track at an angle  $\theta_1$  with respect to the horizontal. The mass inside the boxcar hangs at an angle  $\theta_2$  with respect to the top of the boxcar.

**Problem 1: Boxcar on a Hill**

In the figure, a boxcar of mass  $M$  is being towed up a hill by train car *without friction*. It is accelerating *up* the slope with a constant acceleration  $a$ . Inside the boxcar, an object of mass  $m$  hangs on a string attached to the boxcar's ceiling. While the car is moving, the string makes an angle  $\theta_2$  with the normal to the boxcar's ceiling.

Your goal is to find the magnitude of the boxcar's acceleration ( $a$ ) in terms of the angles  $\theta_1$ ,  $\theta_2$  and acceleration due to gravity  $g$ . Do this by answering the following questions:

1. **System** - Begin by choosing the mass as the system
2. **List all forces on the system**
3. **Draw a Free Body Diagram** - Draw a free body diagram for the system labeling all forces and identifying angles  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$
4. **Apply the momentum principle** -  $\vec{F}_{net} = m\vec{a}$ 
  - Write out separate equations for the momentum principle in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions for the system
  - Solve these two equations for the magnitude of the acceleration –  $a$
5. **Choosing an Appropriate System** - We chose the mass as the system, but we could have chosen the boxcar and hanging mass inside. Was the mass the best choice for a system or would the boxcar and mass system have been just as useful? Explain.

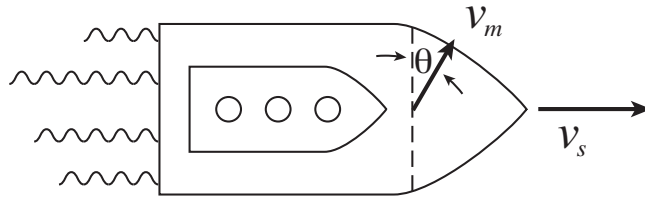


Figure 3: A speedboat moves at a constant velocity  $v_s$  with respect to the water as a man moves at a constant velocity  $v_m$  at an angle  $\theta$  with respect to the boat.

### Problem 2: Walking on a Ship

A ship cruises forward at  $v_s$  relative to the water. On deck, a man walks diagonally toward the bow such that his path forms an angle  $\theta$  with a line perpendicular to the boat's direction of motion. He walks at  $v_m$  relative to the boat.

- What is the man's acceleration in terms of the known quantities?
- Determine an algebraic expression for the man's speed relative to the water in terms of the known quantities.