

University Physics 1A

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December 1st, 2017

Pendulum Lab

For a large physical pendulum:

$$-Lmg \sin \theta = I \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2}$$

For small angles θ in radians, we can approximate this to:

$$\sin \theta \approx \theta$$

$$-Lmg\theta = I \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2}$$

We know that:

$$\theta = A \cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = -A\omega \sin(\omega t + \phi)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} &= -A\omega^2 \cos(\omega t + \phi) \\ &= -\omega^2\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$-Lmg\theta = I(-\omega^2\theta)$$

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{Lmg}{I}}$$

You can find all my notes at <http://omgimanerd.tech/notes>. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at alvin@omgimanerd.tech