

A uniform thin rod of length L and mass M sits attached to a pivot at the origin.

What is moment of inertia around the pivot?

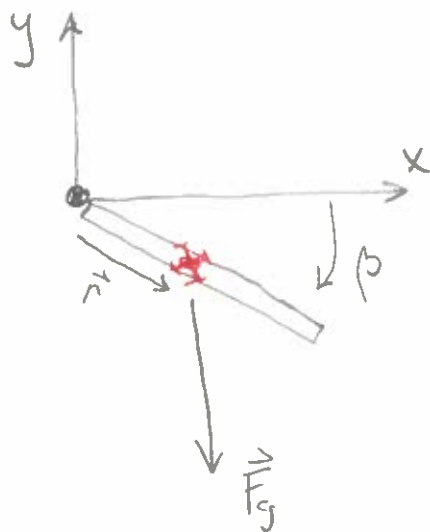
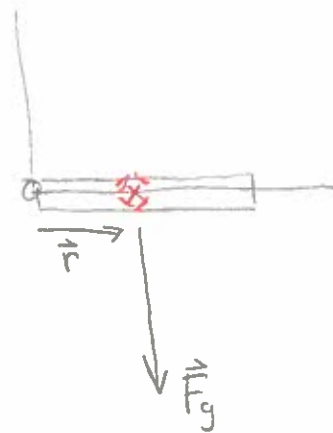
$$I = \frac{1}{3} ML^2$$

Where is the center of mass of the rod? At the geometric center of the rod, marked with an \times in figure above.

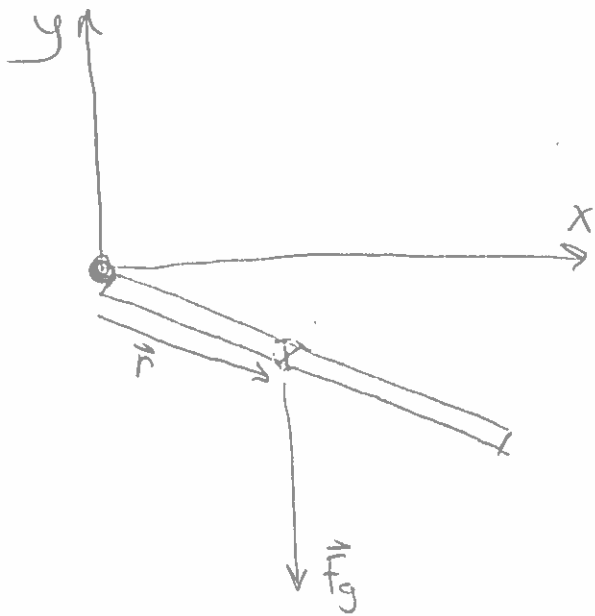
$$\text{Center of mass} = \frac{L}{2} \hat{i} + 0 \hat{j}$$

Gravity acts on the center of mass of the rod, so the torque around the pivot P is

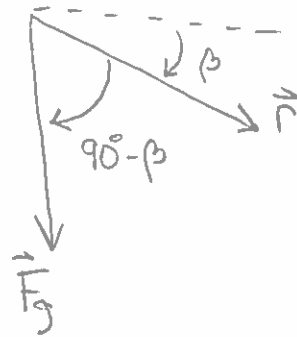
$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\tau} &= \vec{r} \times \vec{F} \\ &= \left| \frac{L}{2} \right| |mg| \sin 90^\circ \text{ into} \\ &= \frac{L}{2} Mg \text{ into page} \end{aligned}$$



Now the rod swings down due to this torque. At one moment, the rod has swung by angle β .



The angle between \vec{r} and \vec{F} is $90^\circ - \beta$



Position of center of mass is now

$$\text{CoM } x = r \cos \beta = \frac{L}{2} \cos \beta$$

$$y = -r \sin \beta = -\frac{L}{2} \sin \beta$$

The torque on the rod now is

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\tau} &= \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = |\vec{r}| |\vec{F}| \sin(90^\circ - \beta) = |\vec{r}| |\vec{F}| \cos \beta \\ &= \left(\frac{L}{2}\right) (Mg) \cos \beta \quad \underline{\text{into page}} \end{aligned}$$

If the rod swings from $\beta = 0^\circ$ to $\beta = 40^\circ$, the work done by the gravitational torque is

$$\text{Work} = \int \vec{\tau} \cdot d\vec{\theta} = \int \left(\frac{L}{2} Mg \cos \beta \underline{\text{into}}\right) \cdot (d\theta \underline{\text{into}})$$

$$= \int_{\beta=0}^{\beta=40^\circ} \frac{L}{2} Mg \cos \beta \, d\beta \cdot 1 \quad \leftarrow \text{both vectors point in same direction}$$

$$= \frac{L}{2} Mg \int_{\beta=0}^{\beta=40^\circ} \cos \beta \, d\beta$$

$$= \frac{L}{2} Mg \sin \beta \Big|_0^{40^\circ} = \frac{L}{2} Mg (\sin 40^\circ - \sin 0^\circ)$$

The angular velocity of the rod is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Work} &= KE_f - KE_i \\ &= \frac{1}{2} I \omega_f^2 - 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{2} I \omega_f^2 = \text{Work} = \frac{L}{2} Mg \sin 40^\circ$$

$$\rightarrow \omega_f^2 = \frac{\frac{L}{2} Mg \sin 40^\circ}{\frac{1}{2} I} = \frac{\frac{L}{2} Mg \sin 40^\circ}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} ML^2}$$

$$\omega_f^2 = \frac{3g \sin 40^\circ}{L}$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\omega_f = \sqrt{\frac{3g \sin 40^\circ}{L}}}$$