



Assume a point mass m at radius r from a pivot point attached by a massless arm with length r . The angle of the arm is θ , a function of time. The torque applied to the arm is T , positive in the counterclockwise direction. The moment of inertia is given by

$$I = mr^2.$$

The angular version of Newton's second law is

$$T = I\ddot{\theta}.$$

The torque due to gravity is given by

$$T_g = -mrg \cos(\theta),$$

where $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ is the acceleration of gravity at sea level. The net torque is $T - T_g$. Hence,

$$\ddot{\theta} = \frac{T}{mr^2} - \frac{g \cos(\theta)}{r}.$$