

65. The rotational inertia for an axis through A is $I_{\text{cm}} + mh_A^2$ and that for an axis through B is $I_{\text{cm}} + mh_B^2$. Using Eq. 16-29, we require

$$2\pi\sqrt{\frac{I_{\text{cm}} + mh_A^2}{mgh_A}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{I_{\text{cm}} + mh_B^2}{mgh_B}}$$

which (after canceling 2π and squaring both sides) becomes

$$\frac{I_{\text{cm}} + mh_A^2}{mgh_A} = \frac{I_{\text{cm}} + mh_B^2}{mgh_B} .$$

Cross-multiplying and rearranging, we obtain

$$I_{\text{cm}}(h_B - h_A) = m(h_A h_B^2 - h_B h_A^2) = mh_A h_B (h_B - h_A)$$

which simplifies to $I_{\text{cm}} = mh_A h_B$. We plug this back into the first period formula above and obtain

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{mh_A h_B + mh_A^2}{mgh_A}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{h_B + h_A}{g}} .$$

From the figure, we see that $h_B + h_A = L$, and (after squaring both sides) we can solve the above equation for the gravitational acceleration:

$$g = \left(\frac{2\pi}{T}\right)^2 L = \frac{4\pi^2 L}{T^2} .$$