

63. We use ℓ to denote the length of the stick. Since its center of mass is $\ell/2$ from either end, its initial potential energy is $\frac{1}{2}mg\ell$, where m is its mass. Its initial kinetic energy is zero. Its final potential energy is zero, and its final kinetic energy is $\frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$, where I is its rotational inertia about an axis passing through one end of the stick and ω is the angular velocity just before it hits the floor. Conservation of energy yields

$$\frac{1}{2}mg\ell = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2 \implies \omega = \sqrt{\frac{mg\ell}{I}} .$$

The free end of the stick is a distance ℓ from the rotation axis, so its speed as it hits the floor is (from Eq. 11-18)

$$v = \omega\ell = \sqrt{\frac{mg\ell^3}{I}} .$$

Using Table 11-2 and the parallel-axis theorem, the rotational inertia is $I = \frac{1}{3}m\ell^2$, so

$$v = \sqrt{3g\ell} = \sqrt{3 \left(9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \right) (1.00 \text{ m})} = 5.42 \text{ m/s} .$$