

## Answer on Question #38115, Physics, Other

Let  $\varphi$  denote the angle between vertical line and position of the pendulum. Then, from one side, torque is  $\vec{M} = \vec{L} \times \vec{r}$ , and  $M = mgl \sin \varphi$ . From the other side, according to equations of rigid body dynamics,  $\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = \vec{M}$ , and  $L = I\omega$ , where moment of inertia of pendulum is  $I = ml^2$ .

Hence  $M = I \frac{d\omega}{dt} = ml^2 \beta = ml^2 \ddot{\varphi}$  ( $\beta$  is angular acceleration).

Thus,  $mgl \sin \varphi = ml^2 \ddot{\varphi} \Rightarrow \ddot{\varphi} - \frac{g}{l} \sin \varphi = 0$ . For small oscillations  $\sin \varphi \approx \varphi$ , hence  $\ddot{\varphi} - \frac{g}{l} \varphi = 0$ .

General solution of this differential equation is  $\varphi(t) = C \sin(\omega t - \delta)$ , where  $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{g}{l}}$ , so motion of pendulum is harmonic. This ends the proof.

For infinite length of pendulum,  $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \rightarrow \infty$ , hence period is infinite (independent of length).