



Demonstrator # 23

The gravitational pendulum

Teacher notes

Activity title:

Oscillating motion

Theme:

Study of the gravitational pendulum

Student age:

17 years

Estimated time:

100 min

Scientific content

gives needed science background (concepts, definitions, laws etc) including pre-requisite knowledge required and science concepts developed in the activity, includes relevant students' difficulties,

Concepts: period, frequency, gravitational acceleration, elastic constant, oscillation, graphical representation, dependent variable/independent variable;

Basic and development skills: observation, variables identification, graphic representation, register and interpret the significance of measured/registered data

Learning Objectives

At the end of the lesson the pupils will be able to:

- define and characterize the oscillation motion and its characteristic physical quantities;
- establish the causes and effects;
- describe and compare the oscillations of gravitational pendulum;
- use elements of digital system for registering data for different dynamics experiments specific respecting the role of the main components of such a system;
- investigate properties of different physical systems using the InLot system, the virtual instrumentation designed in such a way to facilitate the command of a data acquisition device

Character of inquiry based activity

highlights the IBSE character of the activity, specifies a type of inquiry and lists inquiry-based skills (for details, definitions and terminology to use see 'Short guide for designing inquiry-based teaching materials')

Guided investigation; Blended investigation

Teacher guided discovery

Applied technology (if necessary)

Materials needed

- movie sequence showing a child or youngster on a swinging play, computer, videoprojector, elastic pendulum, gravitational pendulum, experimental activity sheet

Methodical guide

Project Number

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describes method, student learning activities (discussions, investigations, data analysis, reflections etc.) and leading questions, includes a suggested time outline

Anticipation

- **Examples of contextualized problems** – pretext: the motion of a wall pendulum watch, children playing on different games in a park, registration of an earthquake etc

Building knowledge

- Teacher ask pupils to carefully watch the movie sequence and to identify and define the type of the observed motion.
- Pupils are organized in groupes of four, each group hase the needed materials from the physics kit in order to realize the specific settings for the comparative study of elastic and gravitational pendulum. In this configuration pupils accomplish the experiments described in the experimental activity worksheet, fixing on each pendulum, one after other, the accelerometer and registering their own data.
- The Caffeeshop methode (1 stay 3 go around): Each pupil recieve an experimental activity worksheet with the following tasks:
 - to realize the experiments with the elastic pendulum and with the gravitational pendulum;
 - to interpret the graphics obtained by mean of the accelerometer;
 - to compare the elastic and gravitational pendulum;
 - to realize a poster in which they should present the summary/scheme/squetch of activities, results and discovered explanations.

After about 15 min activity in the group of four the teacher introduces a motion. In order to have a good reorganization of the groups of pupils it is important that the initial number of groups to be equal with the number of pupils in the group. Pupils count inside of each group, and the pupil with number 1 stay at his/her place in the initial setting; the pupil with number 2 goes to the next, closest neighbour group; the pupil with the number 3 goes ito the second next group away and so on in such a way that, at the end, in the new setting all members, except one, come from different groups. The pupil which kept his/her initial place presents to his/her colleagues what they accomplished in the first 15 min, in the first setting; the other pupils ask questions, suplimentary information, explanations, arguments in order to find out as much as possible new aspects of the studied theme. This sequence take about 20 min, time during which the teacher monitor the quality of discussions between the pupils, their focus on the investigated subject, the relevance, pertinence and acuracy of the scientific language and approach. The final step, pupils come back to their initial places – first setting – where they share their impressions, information, explanations learned/discovered in the previous sequence and they have about 10 min more in order to finalize and present/expoze the poster with the results they obtained together with the corresponding arguments.

Reflection/Consolidation

- **Assessment methode:** galery *tour* – the groups of four pupils expose the A3 paper sheets on which they synthetizeied the common negociated answers; each group receive a number of paper sheets (post-it) equal with the number of exposed posters, except for their own poster and they read the conclusions of their colleagues and after that they write down a question for each group. As a function of the time remaind, it is possible that each group to answer in classroom at all the questions that they received or every group take its questions and solves them as homework.
- **Evaluation instruments:** worksheets fill in; the classroom map/observation grid for the group activities

Assessment

provides suggestions how to asses the activity, preferable with concrete questions and expected student answers

- ⇒ Observation of group activities;
- ⇒ oral, conversation;
- ⇒ written ending sheets.

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Activity title:

Oscillation motion

Introduction

states a driving (research) question and outlines objectives

Experimental activity scope:

- determining the oscillation periode for an elastic pendulum/gravitational pendulum by means of 3 different methodes, identification of advantages/desadvantages and applicability limits for each method.

Thinking about the question

if needed provides information about the science addressed

Materials needed

- gravitational pendulum
- chronometer
- liner
- mass marked discs

M3: - accelerometer
- PC with InLOT soft

If needed lists warnings and cautions concerning the investigation

Investigation

Depending on the type of inquiry involved provides guidance on how to carry out the investigation
Measure the time interval (t) during which occurred n oscillations (10, 15, respectively 20).

Calculate the oscillation period of the pendulum with the formula: $T_e = \frac{t}{n}$.

Write the data obtained in the table with experimental data and calculate the average value for the period with the formula: $\bar{T}_e = \frac{T_1 + T_2 + T_3}{3}$.

- measure the length of the gravitational pendulum L
- calculate the oscillation period with the formula:

$$T_e = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}, \quad (g = 9,8 \text{ m/s}^2)$$

- write down the value such obtained in the table with the experimental data.

M3:- fix the accelerometer to the gravitational pendulum;

- using the tutorial of InLOT determine the oscillation period of the pendulum (measure the time interval between n maxima and divide by n)

- write down the value such obtained in the table with the experimental data.

Analysis

If needed suggests analysis that can help interpret data

Table with experimental data:

Gravitational pendulum		
M1	M2	M3



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nr. ms.	t (s)	n	T_e (s)	\bar{T}_e (s)	L (m)	T_c (s)	t (s)	n	T_a (s)
1.									
2.									
3.									

Further investigation

If needed provides suggestions for a next possible investigation or additional, deeper investigations

Assessment

If needed includes student assessment

Interpretation of the obtained results (advantages/disadvantages, applicability limits specific for each method):

Errors sources:

Suggestions for further use of InLOT system: