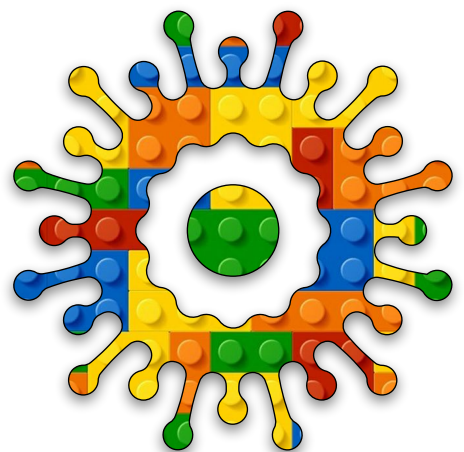


Physics
Simulation
Module B
Unit #2
pendulums





Module A Unit #2 pendulum

Sketch A2.1	the arm and the bob
Sketch A2.2	adding variables
Sketch A2.3	using sine and cosine
Sketch A2.4	angular velocity and acceleration
Sketch A2.5	gravity
Sketch A2.6	realism



Introduction to the pendulum

Making a simple pendulum, which might sound simple enough, but has many factors to consider. An exercise that uses the code you have learnt and then applies it to a simple simulation. This is from Coding Challenge #159 simple pendulum (coding train YouTube channel).



Sketch A2.1 the arm and the bob

Creating an arm (line) and a bob (circle), very simple.

```
function setup()
{
  createCanvas(400, 400)
}

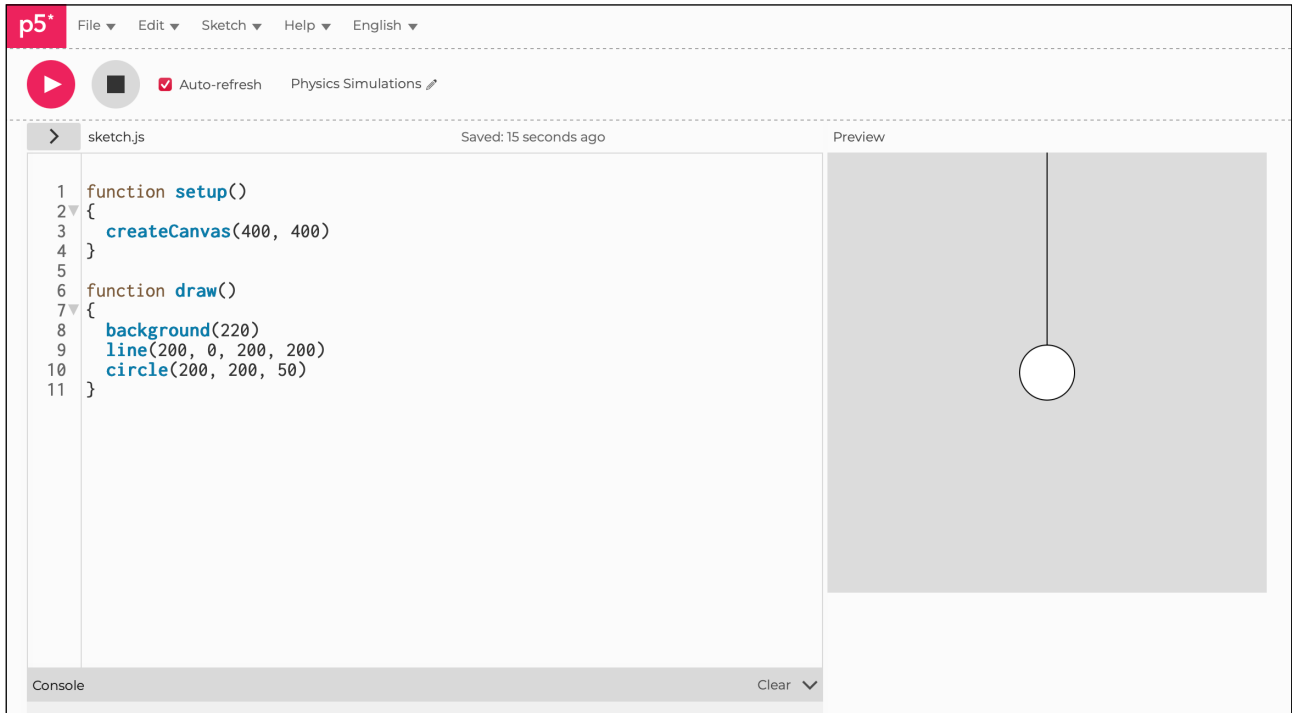
function draw()
{
  background(220)
  line(200, 0, 200, 200)
  circle(200, 200, 50)
}
```



Notes

A static pendulum.

Figure A2.1





Sketch A2.2 adding variables

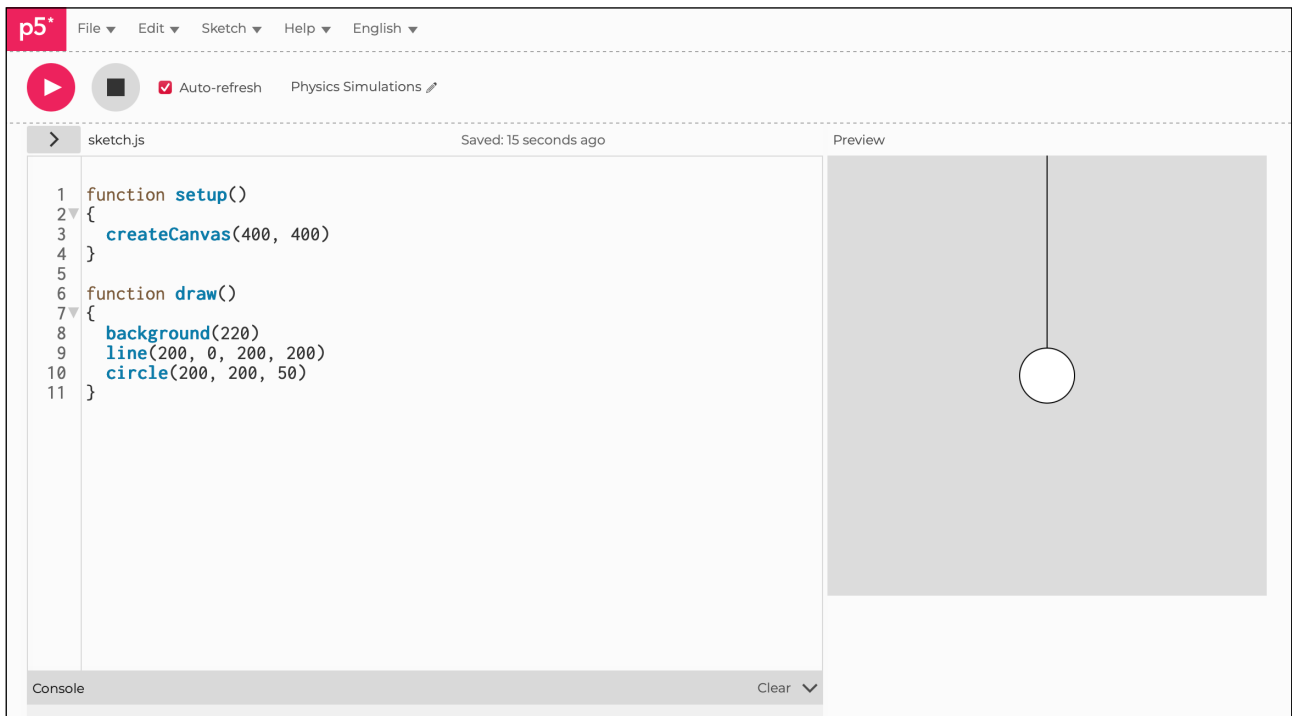
The angle to the vertical is $\text{PI}/4$ ($\pi/4$), the length (`len`) is 200, the `bob` is a vector and the origin is a vector at (200, 0).

```
let angle
let bob
let len
let origin

function setup()
{
  createCanvas(400, 400)
  angle = PI/4
  bob = createVector()
  len = 200
  origin = createVector(200, 0)
}

function draw()
{
  background(220)
  line(200, 0, 200, 200)
  circle(200, 200, 50)
}
```

Figure A2.2





Sketch A2.3 using sine and cosine

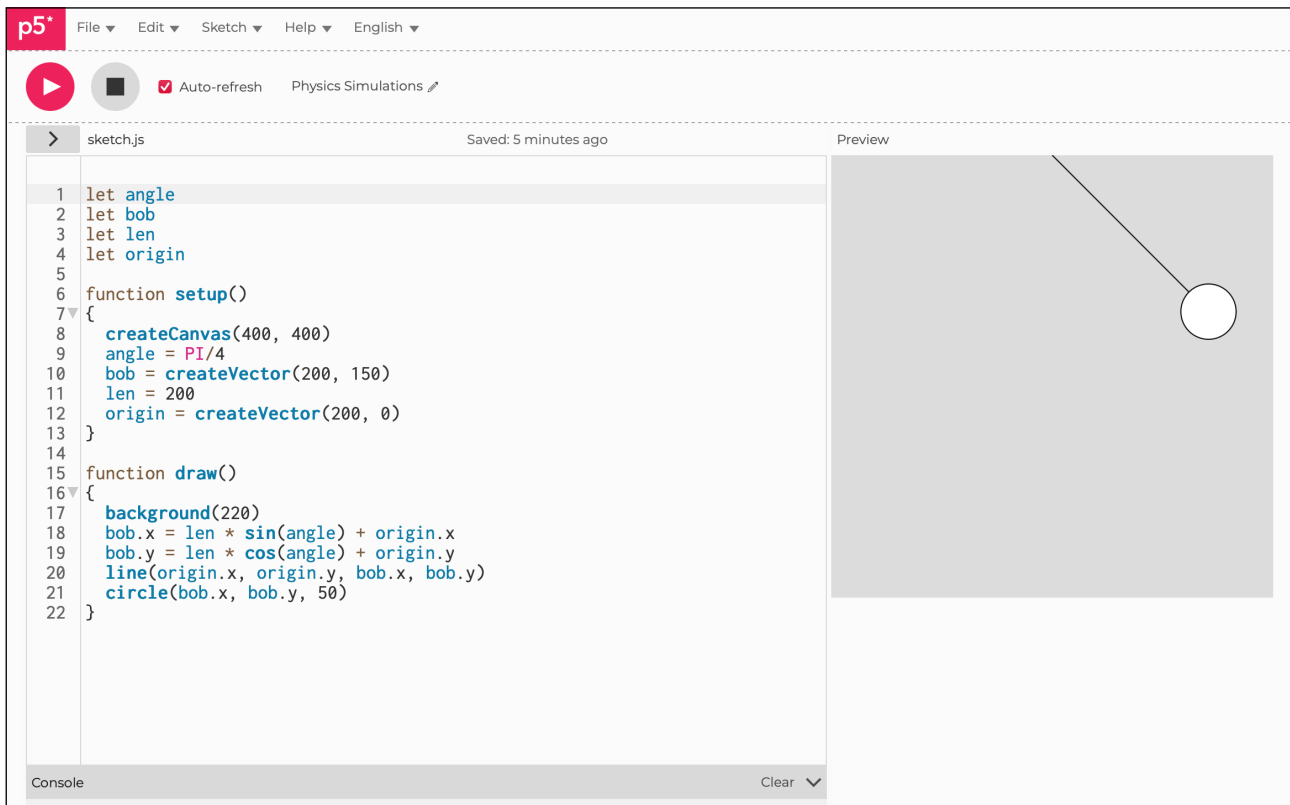
Now to add in the calculations for `bob.x` and `bob.y` using `sin(angle)` and `cos(angle)`. We add the `origin.x` and `origin.y` because the angle is measured from `(300, 200)` and not `(0, 0)`.

```
let angle
let bob
let len
let origin

function setup()
{
  createCanvas(400, 400)
  angle = PI/4
  bob = createVector(200, 150)
  len = 200
  origin = createVector(200, 0)
}

function draw()
{
  background(220)
  bob.x = len * sin(angle) + origin.x
  bob.y = len * cos(angle) + origin.y
  line(origin.x, origin.y, bob.x, bob.y)
  circle(bob.x, bob.y, 50)
}
```

Figure A2.3





Sketch A2.4 angular velocity & acceleration

Let's add angular velocity (**angleV**) and acceleration (**angleA**).

```
let angle
let bob
let len
let origin
let angleV = 0
let angleA = 0

function setup()
{
  createCanvas(400, 400)
  angle = PI/4
  bob = createVector(200, 150)
  len = 200
  origin = createVector(200, 0)
}

function draw()
{
  background(220)
  angleV += angleA
  angle += angleV
  bob.x = len * sin(angle) + origin.x
  bob.y = len * cos(angle) + origin.y
  line(origin.x, origin.y, bob.x, bob.y)
  circle(bob.x, bob.y, 50)
}
```



Notes

Same as before. Now to add some forces...

Challenges

1. Give a small value to `angleA`.
2. Give a small value to `angleV`.



Sketch A2.5 gravity

Now add **gravity** to make the simulation realistic. The mass will be **1**, also we create our own value for **gravity** ignoring Newton! This is getting there but still needs more maths applied to this in the next sketch after this one.

```
let angle
let bob
let len
let origin
let angleV = 0
let angleA = 0
let gravity = 0.01

function setup()
{
  createCanvas(400, 400)
  angle = PI/4
  bob = createVector(200, 150)
  len = 200
  origin = createVector(200, 0)
}

function draw()
{
  background(220)
  let force = gravity * sin(angle)
  angleA = -1 * force
  angleV += angleA
  angle += angleV
  bob.x = len * sin(angle) + origin.x
  bob.y = len * cos(angle) + origin.y
```

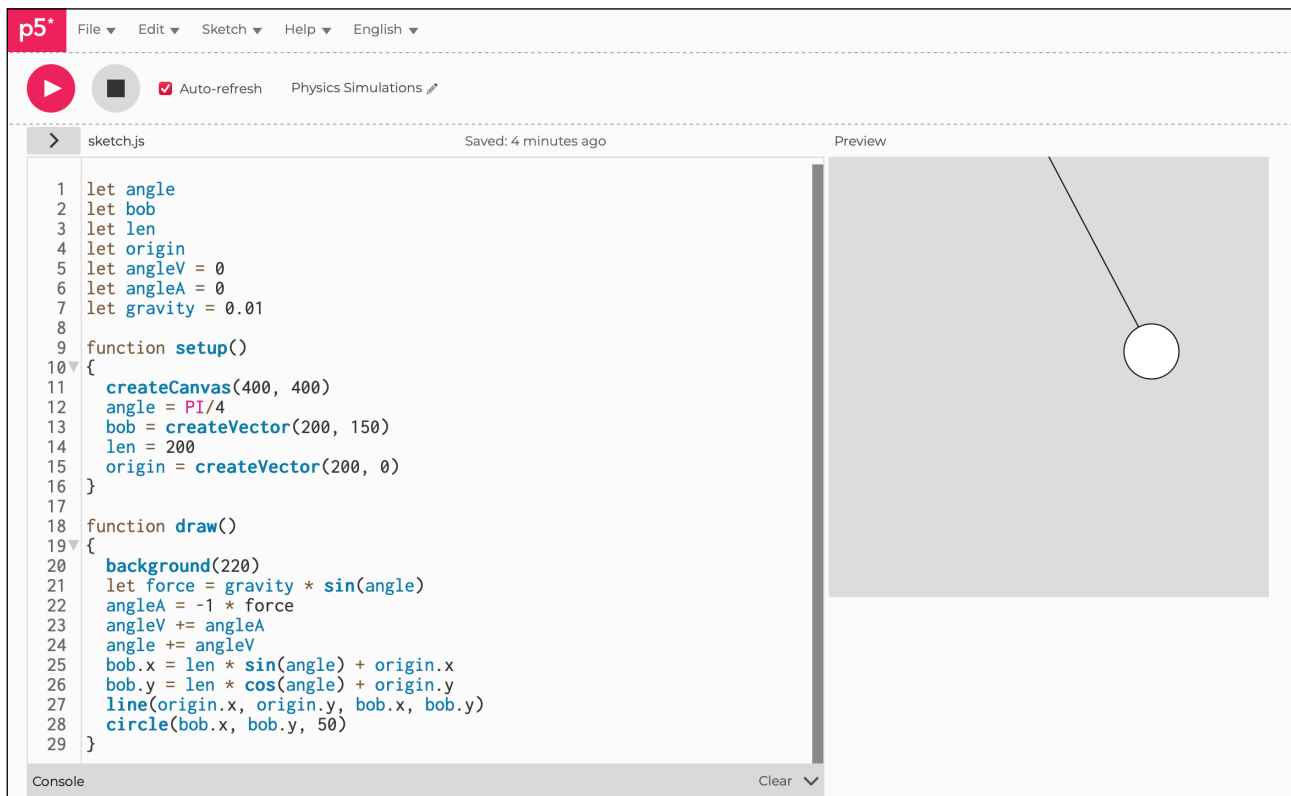
```
line(origin.x, origin.y, bob.x, bob.y)
circle(bob.x, bob.y, 50)
}
```



Notes

You should now see it swinging backwards and forwards, but not very realistically. There is no loss of energy.

Figure A2.5





Sketch A2.6 realism

We improve the angular acceleration to be more realistic. We add **gravity** and give it a value of **1** (this is just for starters - you can play around with that value). The angle acceleration is divided by its length (**len**). Also adding some dampening with:

angleV *= 0.995

This helps it to decay by a small amount each swing.

```
let angle
let bob
let len
let origin
let angleV = 0
let angleA = 0
let gravity = 1

function setup()
{
  createCanvas(400, 400)
  angle = PI/4
  bob = createVector(200, 150)
  len = 200
  origin = createVector(200, 0)
}

function draw()
{
  background(220)
  let force = gravity * sin(angle)
  angleA = (-1 * force) / len
  angleV += angleA
```

```
angle += angleV
angleV *= 0.995
bob.x = len * sin(angle) + origin.x
bob.y = len * cos(angle) + origin.y
line(origin.x, origin.y, bob.x, bob.y)
circle(bob.x, bob.y, 50)
}
```



Notes

So just when you thought that making a simple pendulum would be simple... This is a simulation and has to take into account the necessary forces to be anywhere near a physics engine; by that, I mean it simulates physics in the real world.



Challenges

1. Change the amount of dampening/decay or comment it out completely.
2. Try different lengths of string - is it still realistic?

Figure A2.6

