

14. The period of oscillation of a simple pendulum is $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$. Measured value of L is 20.0 cm known to 1 mm accuracy and time for 100 oscillations of the pendulum is found to be 90 s using a wrist watch of 1s resolution. The accuracy in the determination of g is :

- (1) 1%
- (2) 5%
- (3) 2%
- (4) 3% ← *Correct*

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$

For error analysis, take log on both sides and differentiate

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta L}{L} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta g}{g} \quad (\text{I ignore the signs})$$

$$\therefore \frac{\Delta g}{g} = 2 \frac{\Delta T}{T} + \frac{\Delta L}{L}$$

$$\Delta T = 1/100 \text{ s}, \quad T = 0.9 \text{ s}$$

$$\Delta L = 1 \text{ mm}, \quad L = 20.0 \text{ cm}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\Delta g}{g} = \frac{1}{90} \times 2 + \frac{10^{-3}}{20 \times 10^{-2}} = \left(\frac{2}{90} + \frac{1}{200} \right)$$

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\Delta g}{g} \times 100 = 3\%$$