

33. The work required is the change in the gravitational potential energy as a result of the chain being pulled onto the table. Dividing the hanging chain into a large number of infinitesimal segments, each of length dy , we note that the mass of a segment is $(m/L) dy$ and the change in potential energy of a segment when it is a distance $|y|$ below the table top is $dU = (m/L)g|y| dy = -(m/L)gy dy$ since y is negative-valued (we have $+y$ upward and the origin is at the tabletop). The total potential energy change is

$$\Delta U = -\frac{mg}{L} \int_{-L/4}^0 y dy = \frac{1}{2} \frac{mg}{L} (L/4)^2 = mgL/32 .$$

The work required to pull the chain onto the table is therefore $W = \Delta U = mgL/32$.