

12.30. Model: The rocket attached to the end of a rigid rod is a rotating rigid body. Assume the rocket is small compared to 60 cm.

Visualize: Please refer to Figure EX12.30.

Solve: We can determine the rocket's angular acceleration from the relationship $\tau = I\alpha$. The torque τ can be found from the thrust (F) using $\tau = Fr\sin\phi$. The moment of inertia (I) can be calculated from equations given in Table 12.2. Specifically, $I = I_{\text{rod about one end}} + I_{\text{rocket}}$ becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{3}M_{\text{rod}}L^2 + ML^2 &= \frac{1}{3}(0.100 \text{ kg})(0.60 \text{ m})^2 + (0.200 \text{ kg})(0.60 \text{ m})^2 \\ &= 0.012 \text{ kg m}^2 + 0.072 \text{ kg m}^2 = 0.0840 \text{ kg m}^2 \\ \Rightarrow \alpha &= \frac{\tau}{I} = \frac{Fr\sin\phi}{I} = \frac{(4.0 \text{ N})(0.60 \text{ m})\sin(45^\circ)}{0.0840 \text{ kg m}^2} = 20 \text{ rads/s}^2\end{aligned}$$

Assess: The rocket will accelerate counterclockwise since α is positive.