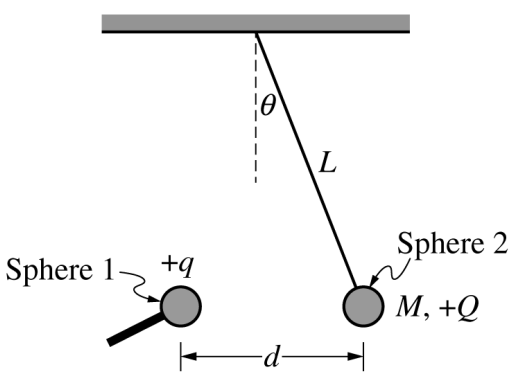
PHYSICS C: ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

SECTION II

Time—45 minutes

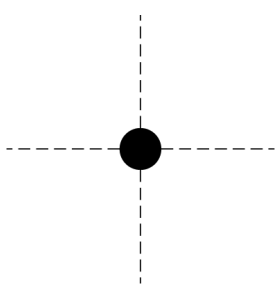
3 Questions

Directions: Answer all three questions. The suggested time is about 15 minutes for answering each of the questions, which are worth 15 points each. The parts within a question may not have equal weight. Show all your work in this booklet in the spaces provided after each part.



. Students perform an experiment to determine the value of vacuum permittivity ε_0. Sphere 1 is nonconducting with charge $+q$ and is attached to an insulating rod. Sphere 2 is nonconducting with charge $+Q$ and has mass M. Sphere 2 is hung from a string of negligible mass and length L. Sphere 1 is brought near, without touching, Sphere 2, as shown. Equilibrium is established when the centers of the two spheres have the same vertical position, are a horizontal distance d apart, and the string is at an angle θ from the vertical.

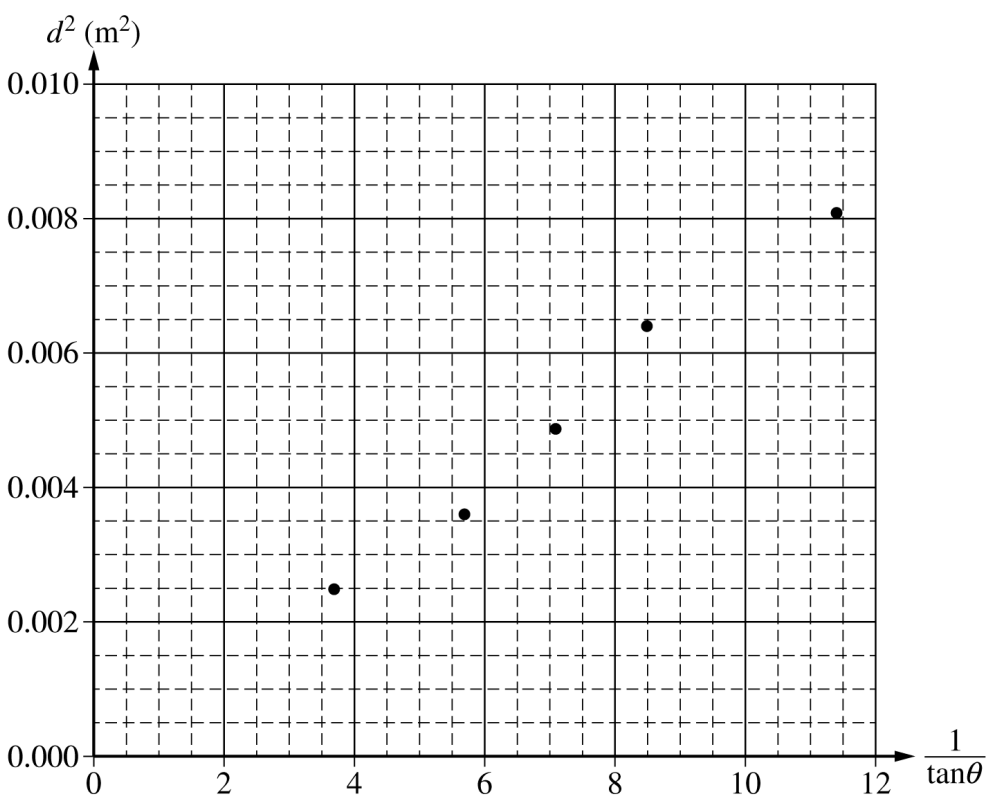
(a) On the following dot that represents Sphere 2 at the position shown in the previous figure, draw and label the forces (not components) that act on Sphere 2. Each force must be represented by a distinct arrow starting on, and pointing away from, the dot.



(b) Derive the relationship between the distance d and the angle θ to show that $d = \sqrt{\dfrac{Qq}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 Mg\tan\theta}}$.

(c) These values are collected in one trial: $Q = q = 6.0 \times 10^{-8}$ C, $\theta = 12°$, and $d = 0.057$ m. Calculate the expected force of tension exerted on Sphere 2 by the string.

(d) The students vary d and measure θ after equilibrium is reached. The students use the collected data to plot the following graph of d^2 vs. $\dfrac{1}{\tan\theta}$.



i. Draw the best-fit line for the data.

ii. Using the best-fit line, calculate an experimental value for the vacuum permittivity ε_0 when $M = 0.0050$ kg and $Q = q = 6.0 \times 10^{-8}$ C.

(e) The students modify the experiment by replacing Sphere 1 with a conducting Sphere 3 that has the same size and charge $+q$. The experiment is repeated.

i. The circle in the following figure represents Sphere 3 when spheres 2 and 3 are at equilibrium. On the circle, draw a single "+" sign to represent the location of highest concentration of the excess positive charges.

Sphere 3

ii. Briefly explain your reasoning for the sketch drawn in part (e)(i).

iii. In the original experiment, when the centers of the two spheres are a horizontal distance d_1 apart, the string makes an angle θ_1 from the vertical. In the modified experiment, when the centers of the two spheres are a horizontal distance d_1 apart, the string makes an angle θ_2 from the vertical.

Is θ_2 greater than, less than, or equal to θ_1 ?

_____ $\theta_2 > \theta_1$ _____ $\theta_2 < \theta_1$ _____ $\theta_2 = \theta_1$

Briefly justify your answer.