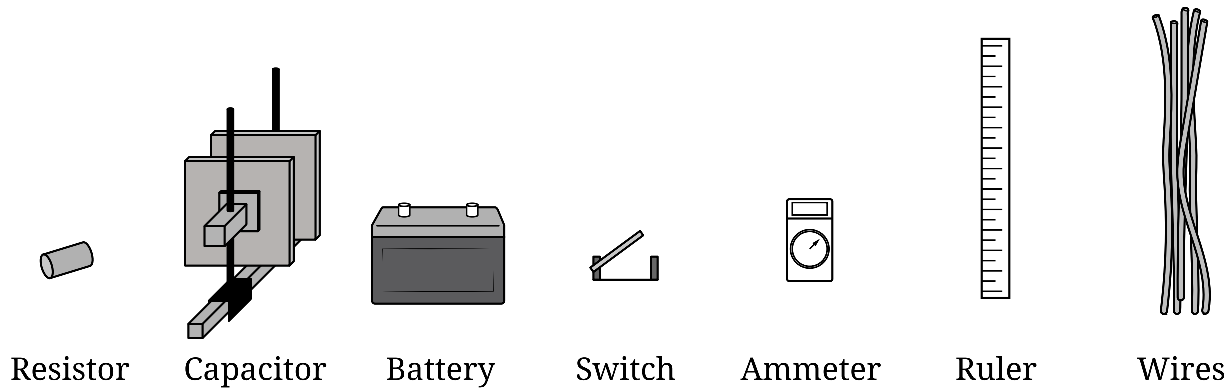
Question 3

3. In Experiment 1, a student is given a resistor of unknown resistance and an air-filled parallel-plate capacitor of unknown capacitance. The student is asked to predict the expected time constant τ of a circuit if these two circuit elements were connected in series with a battery. The student has access to a battery of known emf, a switch, an ammeter, a ruler, and wires, as shown in Figure 1. The plates of the capacitor are square, and the separation between the plates is small compared to the dimensions of the plates. The capacitor is initially uncharged. Assume that the dielectric constant of air is 1.

Figure 1



Note: Figure not drawn to scale.

A. Describe a procedure for collecting data that would allow the student to determine the expected time constant τ. In your description, include the measurements to be made. Include any steps necessary to reduce experimental uncertainty.

B. Describe how the collected data could be analyzed to determine τ. Include references to appropriate equations and to relationships between measured and known quantities.

C. In Experiment 2, the student is asked to determine the capacitance *C* of a new parallel-plate capacitor. For each trial, the absolute value $|\Delta V|$ of the potential difference across the capacitor is varied and the charge *q* stored on one plate of the fully charged capacitor is measured. Table 1 contains the data collected.

Table 1

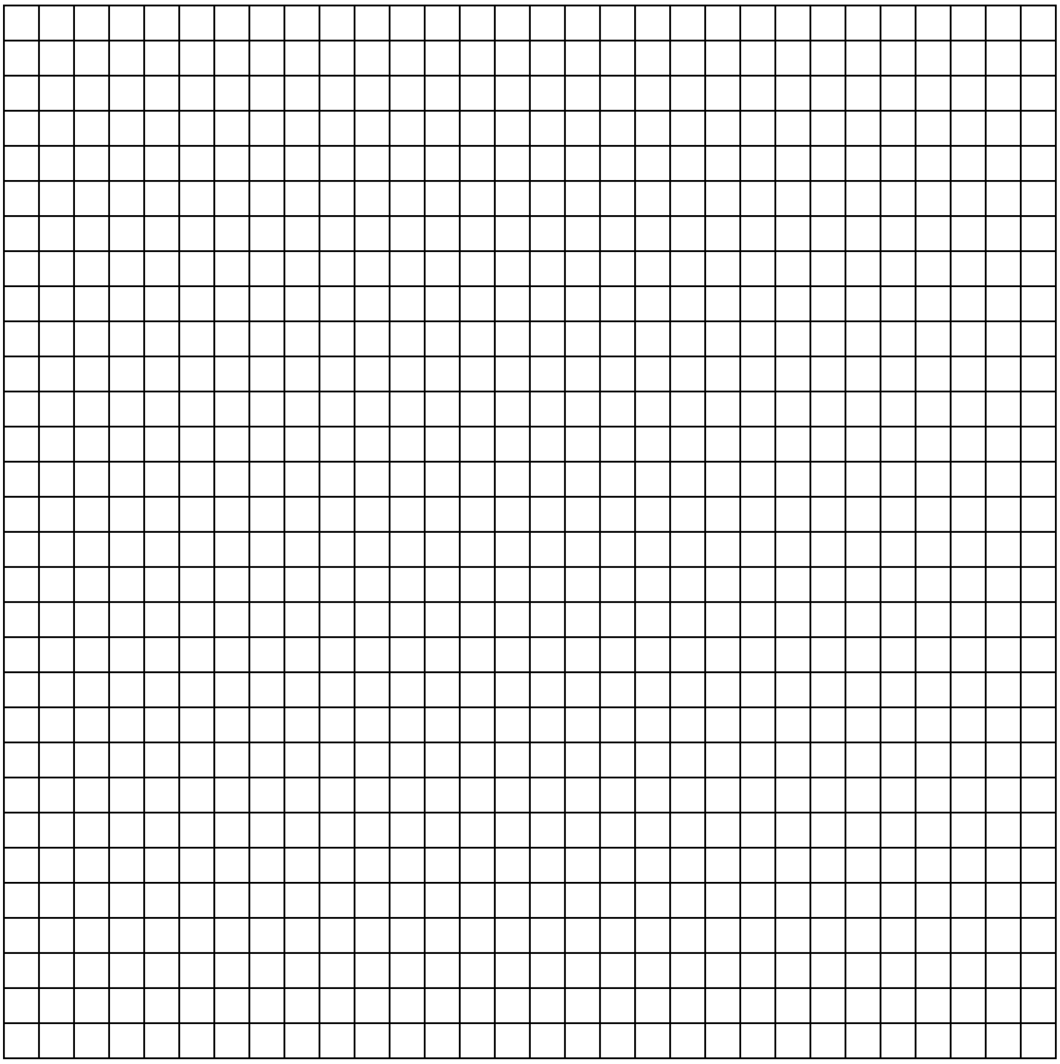
$\lvert\Delta V\rvert$ (V)	$q\ (\times 10^{-10}\ \text{C})$
3.0	2.4
5.0	4.2
7.2	5.6
8.0	6.6
10.0	8.0

i. **Indicate** two quantities, either measured quantities from Table 1 or additional calculated quantities, that could be graphed to produce a straight line that could be used to determine *C*.

Vertical axis: ______ Horizontal axis: ______

ii. On the grid provided, create a graph of the quantities indicated in part C (i).

- Use Table 2 to record the measured or calculated quantities that you will plot.
- Clearly **label** the axes, including units as appropriate.
- **Plot** the points you recorded in Table 2.



iii. **Draw** a best-fit line for the data graphed in part C (ii).

D. Using the best-fit line that you drew in part C (iii), **calculate** an experimental value for capacitance C.

Begin your response to **QUESTION 4** on this page.

4. (10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

Two particles, 1 and 2, have different mass and charge as described by the following.

- Particle 1 has mass M and negative charge $-Q$.
- Particle 2 has mass $\frac{M}{2}$ and positive charge $+2Q$.

In separate trials, a device is used to accelerate each particle in the $-y$-direction from rest through a potential difference of absolute value $|\Delta V|$. The polarity of the potential difference can be adjusted so that a particle with either positive charge or negative charge can be accelerated in the $-y$-direction by the device. Gravitational effects are negligible.

After moving through the potential difference, particles 1 and 2 exit the device with kinetic energies K_1 and K_2, respectively.

(a) **Calculate** the ratio $\frac{K_2}{K_1}$.

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Continue your response to **QUESTION 4** on this page.

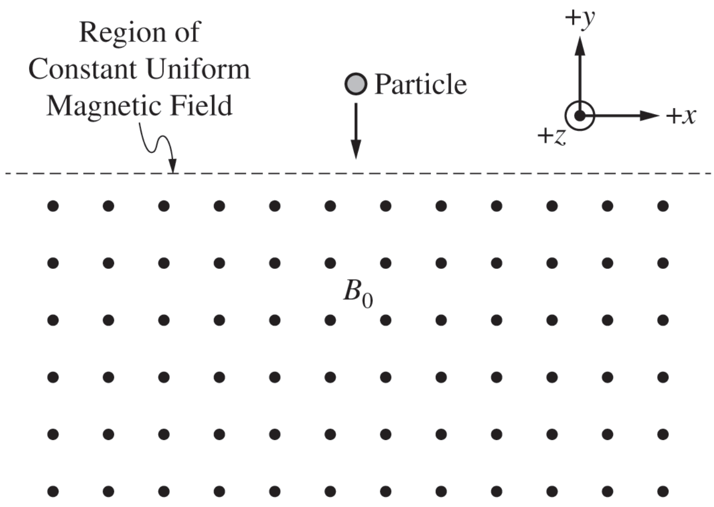

Figure 1

After exiting the device, the particles enter a large region of constant uniform magnetic field of magnitude B_0 that is directed in the $+z$-direction (out of the page), as shown in Figure 1. Each particle is moving in the $-y$-direction when entering the region, and each particle is moving in the $+y$-direction when exiting the region.

(b)

i. **Determine** an expression for the speed of Particle 2 in the region. Express your answer in terms of M, K_2, and physical constants, as appropriate.

ii. **Derive** an expression for the horizontal distance Δx between the locations where Particle 2 enters and leaves the region. Express your answer in terms of M, Q, K_2, B_0, and physical constants, as appropriate.

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Continue your response to **QUESTION 4** on this page.

(c) On the following diagram in Figure 2, **sketch** and clearly **label** the paths of both particles 1 and 2 in the region.

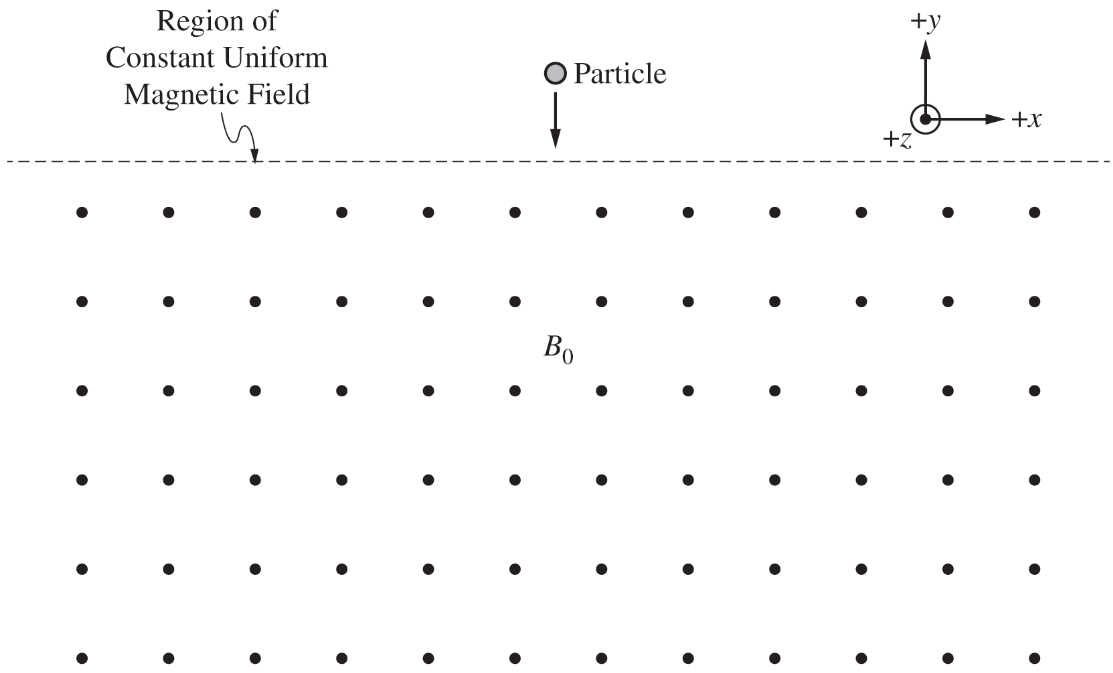

Figure 2

(d) A uniform electric field is added to the region such that Particle 1 of negative charge $-Q$ travels with constant speed in a straight line through the region. **Determine** the direction of the electric field.

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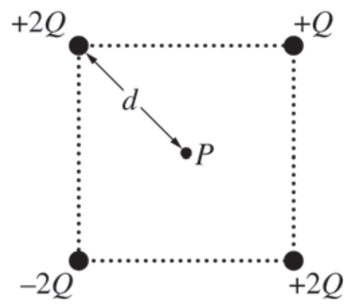
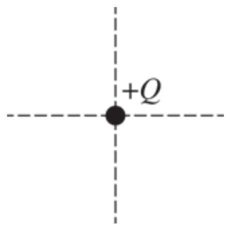
END OF EXAM



4. (10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

The figure above represents four objects, with charges as shown, that are held in place at the corners of a square. Point P is at the center of the square, a distance d from each of the objects. Express all algebraic answers to the following in terms of Q, d, and physical constants.

(a) On the dot below, draw an arrow that represents the direction of the net electric force exerted on the object with charge $+Q$ by the other three objects.

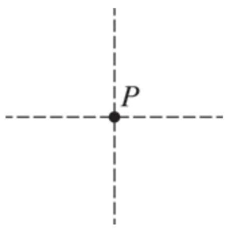


(b)

i. Calculate the magnitude of the electric field at point P due to all four objects. On the dot below, draw an arrow to indicate the direction of the net field at point P.

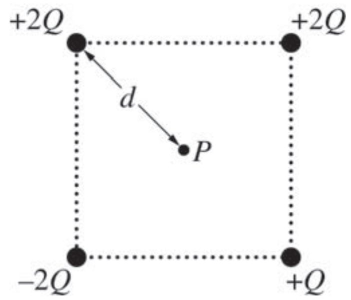
Draw Arrow

Calculate Electric Field



ii. Calculate the electric potential at point P due to all four objects.

(c) In a coherent, paragraph-length response, briefly describe the meaning of electric potential energy and explain qualitatively how electric potential energy can be related to work. Also explain qualitatively how the electric potential energy of the four-object system would change if the $+Q$ and $+2Q$ objects on the right side of the square now switch positions as shown in the figure below. Support your explanation using appropriate physics principles.



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