chapter1

1. A world-class runner can complete a 100 m dash in about 10 s. Past studies have shown that runners in such a race accelerate uniformly for a time t_u and then run at constant speed for the remainder of the race. A world-class runner is visiting your physics class. You are to develop a procedure that will allow you to determine the uniform acceleration a_u and an approximate value of t_u for the runner in a 100 m dash. By necessity your experiment will be done on a straight track and include your whole class of eleven students.

(a) By checking the line next to each appropriate item in the list below, select the equipment, other than the runner and the track, that your class will need to do the experiment.

____ Stopwatches ____ Tape measures ____ Rulers____ Masking tape

____ Metersticks ____ Starter's pistol ____ String ____ Chalk

(b) Outline the procedure that you would use to determine a_u and t_u, including a labeled diagram of the experimental setup. Use symbols to identify carefully what measurements you would make and include in your procedure how you would use each piece of the equipment you checked in part (a).

(c) Outline the process of data analysis, including how you will identify the portion of the race that has uniform acceleration, and how you would calculate the uniform acceleration.

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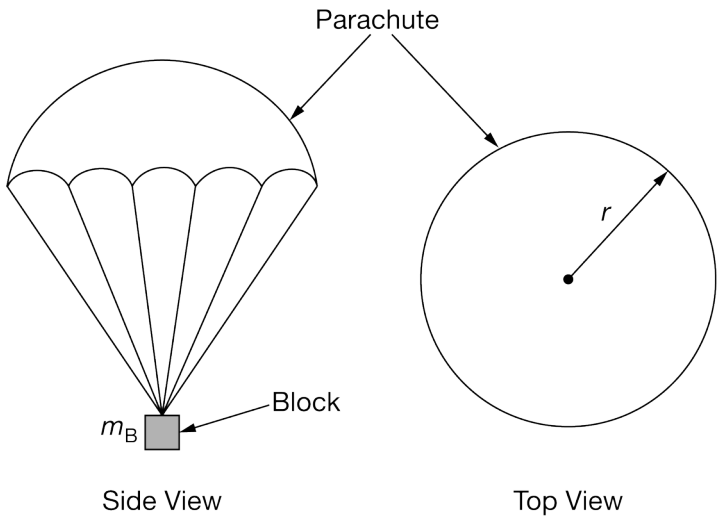
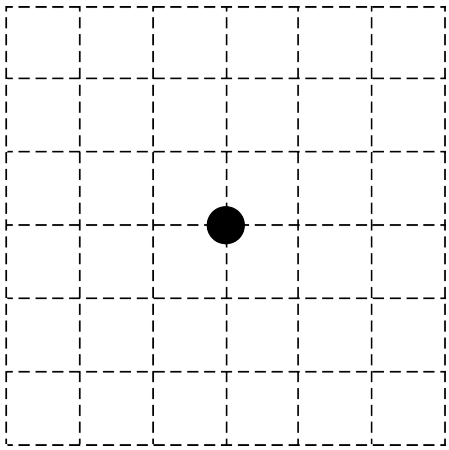
2. This question is a long free-response question. Show your work for each part of the question.



(12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

A block of mass m_B can be attached to a parachute of negligible mass and radius r, as shown in the two views above. When falling, the parachute experiences an upward force of air resistance. This force increases as the speed of the parachute increases. The falling block and parachute speed up at first but eventually reach a constant speed called terminal speed.

(a) The dot below represents the block-parachute system when it has reached its terminal speed and is falling at this constant speed. On the dot, draw and label the forces (not components) acting on the system. Represent each force by a distinct arrow starting on, and pointing away from, the dot.
Note: Draw the relative lengths of all vectors to reflect the relative magnitudes of all the forces.



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A group of students has a collection of parachutes of different radii. They are curious about how the terminal speed depends on the radius of the parachute and find the following equation on the Internet.

$$F_{\text{air}} = Crv^2,$$

where F_{air} is the force exerted by air, r is the parachute's radius, v is the parachute's speed, and C is a constant that has appropriate units.

(b) Determine the units for C.

The units for C are _____ .

(c)

i. Based on the above equation for F_{air}, derive an equation for the system's constant terminal speed v_t in terms of r, C, physical constants, and other relevant quantities that can be measured with equipment usually found in a school physics laboratory, as appropriate. Assume the mass of the parachute is negligible and that the only nonnegligible forces acting on a block-parachute system are the block's weight $m_B g$ and the force of air resistance F_{air}.

ii. Indicate below what quantities could be measured and then graphed to determine whether the equation derived in part (c)(i) correctly relates the parachute's radius and the terminal speed of the block-parachute system.

Vertical axis: _____ Horizontal axis: _____

iii. On the axes below, sketch a graph showing the relationship between the two quantities indicated in part (c)(ii) and based on the equation derived in part (c)(i).



(d) Design an experimental procedure the students could use to collect the data needed to test whether or not the relationship between the parachute's radius and the terminal speed is described by the graph drawn in part (c)(iii). Assume equipment usually found in a school physics laboratory is available.

In the table below, list the quantities that would be measured in your experiment. Define a symbol to represent each quantity, and also list the equipment that would be used to measure each quantity. You do not need to fill in every row. If you need additional rows, you may add them to the space just below the table.

Quantity to be Measured	Symbol for Quantity	Equipment for Measurement

Describe the overall procedure to be used, referring to the table. Provide enough detail so another student could replicate the experiment, including any steps necessary to reduce experimental uncertainty. As needed, use the symbols defined in the table. Include a simple diagram of the setup. As part of your description, be sure to explain how the students would know that they are measuring the constant terminal speed.

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Diagram of Experimental Setup Description of Experimental Procedure

(e) In another experiment, the students collect the following data showing the height of a block above the floor at different times, where the block is dropped from rest at time $t = 0$ with the attached parachute fully open.

Time (s)	Height of Block Above Floor (m)
0.00	1.35
0.10	1.30
0.20	1.18
0.30	1.01
0.40	0.82
0.50	0.63
0.60	0.43
0.70	0.23
0.80	0.03

Use the data shown above to determine the terminal speed of the block.

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3. This question is a long free-response question. Show your work for each part of the question.

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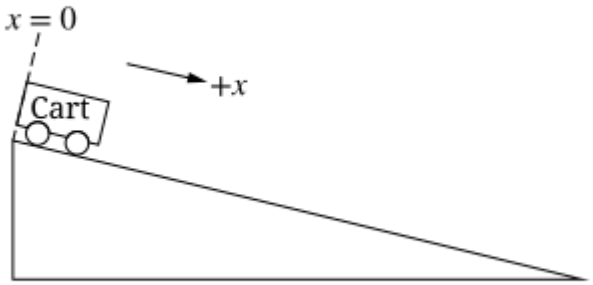


(12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

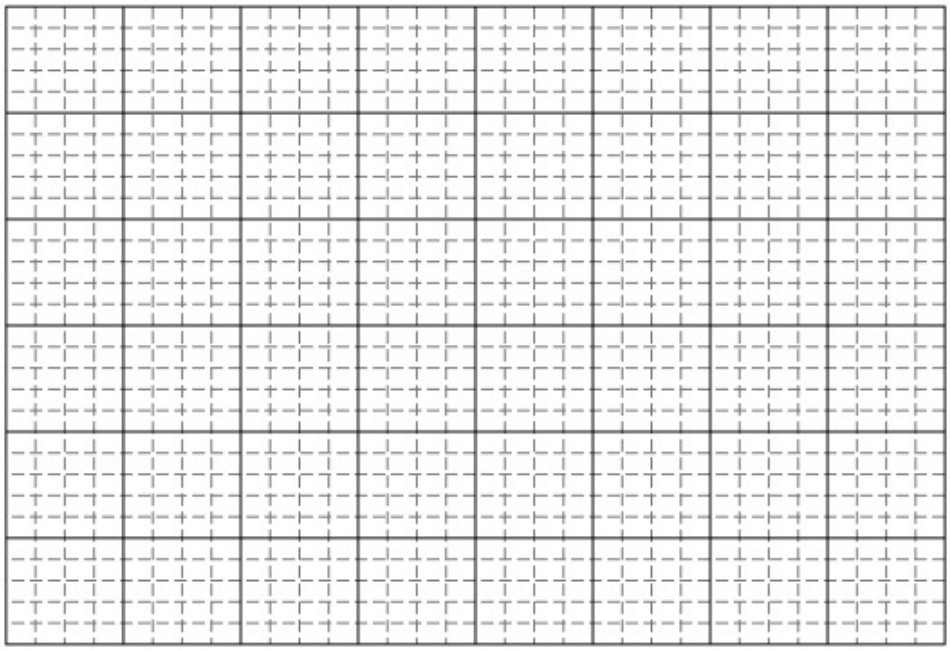
(a) Students conduct an experiment to determine the acceleration a of a cart. The cart is released from rest at the top of the ramp at time $t = 0$ and moves down the ramp. The x-axis is defined to be parallel to the ramp with its origin at the top, as shown in the figure. The students collect the data shown in the following table.

	Position x (m)	Time t (s)	
	0.06	0.39	
	0.14	0.59	
	0.24	0.77	
	0.37	0.96	
	0.55	1.20	

i. Indicate which quantities could be graphed to yield a straight line whose slope could be used to determine the acceleration a of the cart. You may use the remaining columns in the table, as needed, to record any quantities (including units) that are not already in the table.

Vertical axis: _____ Horizontal axis: _____

ii. On the following grid, plot the appropriate quantities to create a graph that can be used to determine the acceleration a of the cart as it rolls down the ramp. Clearly scale and label all axes (including units), as appropriate. Draw a straight line that best represents the data.



iii. Using the line you drew in part (a)(ii), calculate an experimental value for the acceleration a of the cart as it rolls down the ramp.

(b) The students are asked to determine an experimental value for the acceleration due to gravity g_{exp} using their data.

i. What additional quantities do the students need to measure in order to calculate g_{exp} from a ?

ii. Write an expression for the value of g_{exp} in terms of a.

(c) The students calculate the value of g_{exp} to be significantly lower than the accepted value of $9.8\ \text{m/s}^2$.

i. What is a physical reason, other than friction or air resistance, that could lead to a significant difference in the experimentally determined value of g_{exp} ?

ii. Briefly explain how the physical reason you identified in part (c)(i) would lead to the decrease in the experimentally determined value of g_{exp} .

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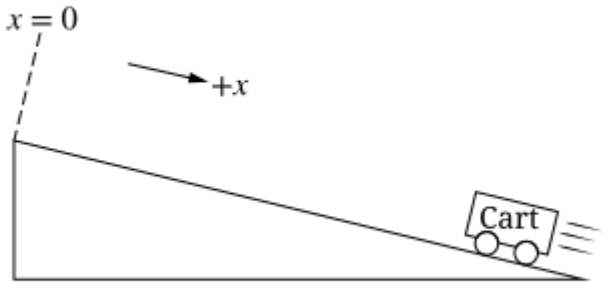
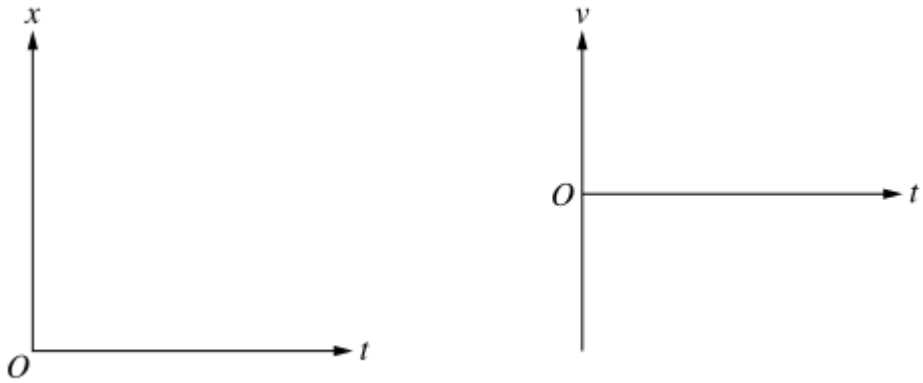


The students want to confirm that the acceleration is the same whether the cart rolls up or down the ramp. The students start the cart at the bottom and give the cart a quick push so that it rolls up the ramp and momentarily comes to rest. The x-axis is still defined to be parallel to the ramp with the origin at the top.

(d) On the following graphs, sketch the position x and velocity v as functions of time t that correspond to the scenario shown while the cart moves up the ramp.



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4.

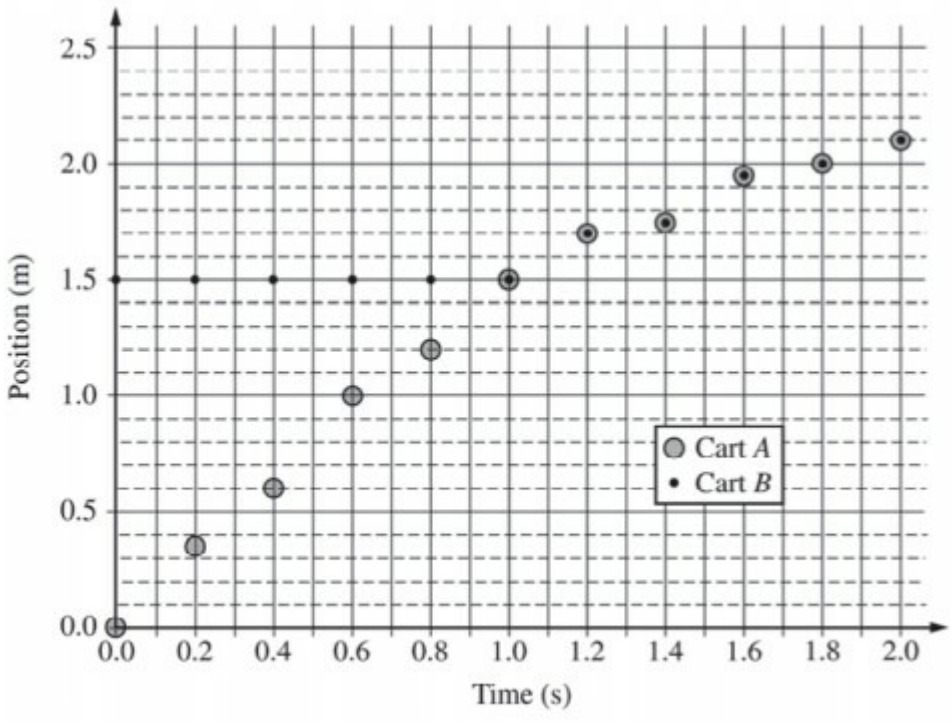


A group of students has two carts, *A* and *B*, with wheels that turn with negligible friction. The carts can travel along a straight horizontal track. Cart *A* has known mass m_A. The students are asked to use a one dimensional collision between the carts to determine the mass of cart *B*. Before the collision, cart *A* travels to the right and cart *B* is initially at rest, as shown above. After the collision, the carts stick together.

(a) Describe an experimental procedure to determine the velocities of the carts before and after a collision, including all the additional equipment you would need. You may include a labeled diagram of your setup to help in your description. Indicate what measurements you would take and how you would take them. Include enough detail so that another student could carry out your procedure.

(b) There will be sources of error in the measurements taken in the experiment, both before and after the collision. For your experimental procedure, will the uncertainty in the calculated value of the mass of cart B be affected more by the error in the measurements taken before the collision or by those taken after the collision, or will it be equally affected by both sets of measurements? Justify your answer.

A group of students took measurements for one collision. A graph of the students' data is shown below.



(c) Given m_A = 0.50 kg, use the graph to calculate the mass of cart *B*. Explicitly indicate the principles used in your calculations.

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(d) The students are now asked to consider the kinetic energy changes in an inelastic collision, specifically whether the initial values of one of the physical quantities affect the fraction of mechanical energy dissipated in the collision. How could you modify the experiment to investigate this question? Be sure to explicitly describe the calculations you would make, specifying all equations you would use (but do not actually do any algebra or arithmetic).

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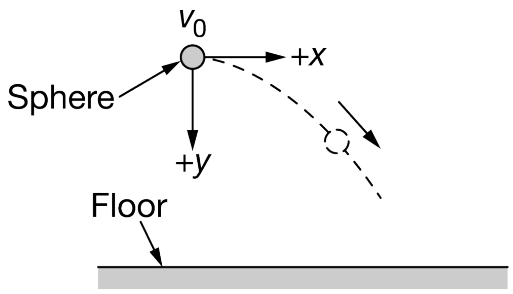
5. This question is a long free-response question. Show your work for each part of the question.

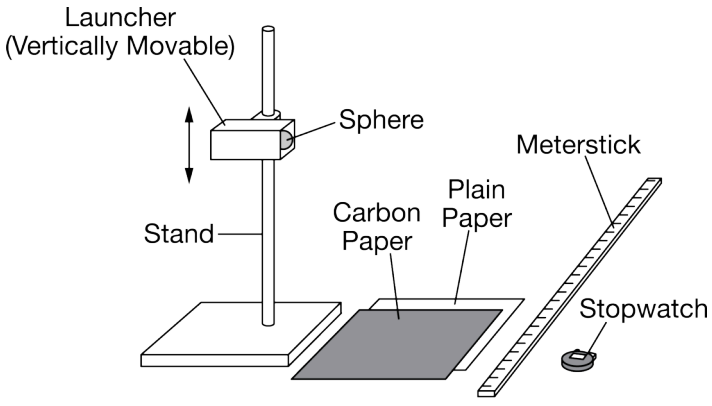


Motion of a Sphere

Students are studying the two-dimensional motion of objects as they move through the air. Specifically, they are examining the behavior of a sphere that is launched horizontally from a location above the floor with an initial velocity v_0 in the $+x$ direction, as shown in the figure. The students assume that the positive directions are along the sphere's initial velocity for horizontal motion and downward for vertical motion.

The horizontal displacement of the object from its starting point is x, and the vertical displacement of the object from its starting point is y. One of the students derives an equation for y in terms of x and other quantities. After examining the equation, the student claims that y is proportional to x^2.

(a) Derive an equation for the vertical coordinate y of the sphere as a function of x, v_0, and physical constants, as appropriate.



Experimental Apparatus

The students have access to the experimental apparatus shown in the figure. Besides the sphere, the apparatus consists of the following.

A launcher that launches the sphere horizontally, always with the same unknown speed v_0
A stand that can be used to adjust the height of the launcher above the floor

The students also have several sheets of plain paper, several sheets of carbon paper, a meterstick, and a stopwatch. Whenever the sphere bounces off of the carbon paper, the carbon paper produces a visible mark on the sheet of plain paper that is under the carbon paper, as shown in the figure.

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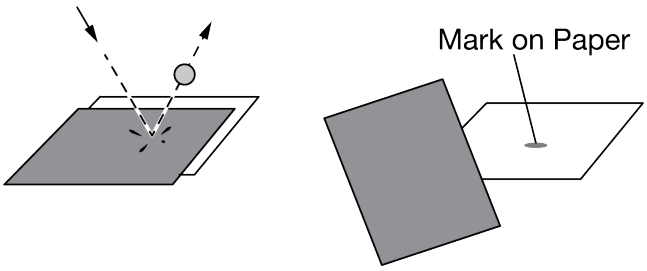


Marking the Paper with the Sphere

(b) Design an experimental procedure that the students could use to test the claim that y is proportional to x^2. In the table below, list the quantities and associated symbols that would be measured in your experiment and the equipment used to measure them. Also list the equipment that would be used to measure each quantity. You do not need to fill in every row. If you need additional rows, you may add them to the space just below the table.

Quantity to Be Measured	Symbol for Quantity	Equipment for Measurement

Describe the overall procedure to be used, referring to the table. Provide enough detail so that another student could replicate the experiment, including any steps necessary to reduce experimental uncertainty. As needed, use the symbols defined in the table and/or include a simple diagram of the setup.

The students' teacher has a video camera, which is not available for use in the experimental procedure described in part (b). The teacher uses the camera and video analysis software to generate the data shown in the table below. The table shows the sphere's horizontal and vertical displacements x and y, as measured from the location of the sphere's launch point.

Horizontal Displacement $x\ (m)$	Vertical Displacement $y\ (m)$		
0.50	0.065		
1.00	0.245		
1.50	0.560		
2.00	0.990		

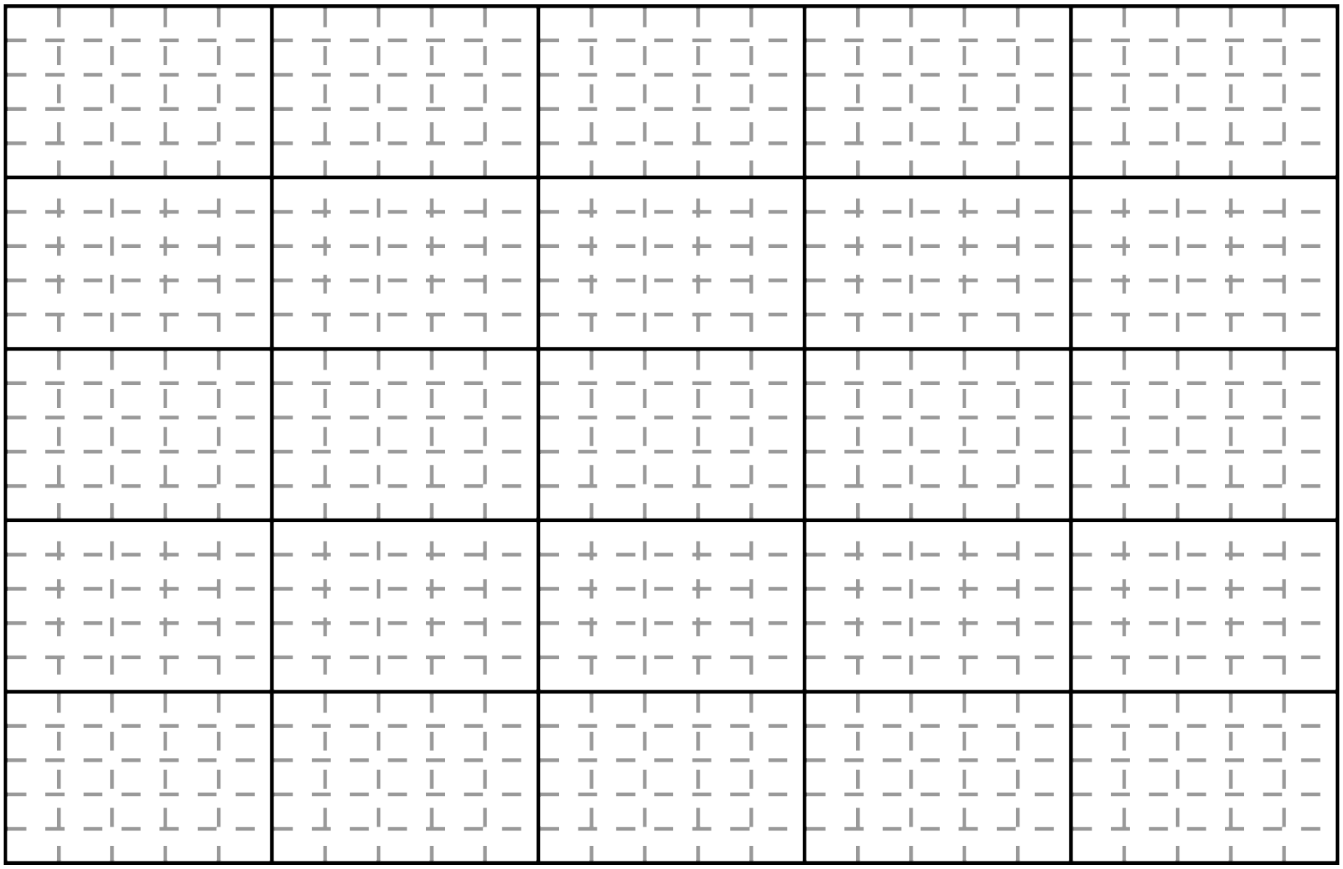
(c) The students want to use the teacher's data to determine whether the claim that y is proportional to x^2 is true.

i. Indicate below which quantities could be graphed to determine whether the claim is true. You may use the remaining columns in the table, as needed, to record any quantities (including units) that are not already in the

table.

Vertical axis:_____ Horizontal axis: _____

ii. On the grid below, plot the appropriate quantities to determine whether the claim is true. Clearly scale and label all axes, including units as appropriate.



iii. Do the data in the above graph support the claim that y is proportional to x^2 is true?

_____ Yes _____ No

State your reasoning.

(d) The graphs show the sphere's horizontal and vertical velocity components, v_x and v_y, as functions of time t, where $t = 0$ at the instant the sphere is launched. On the same graphs, sketch what v_x and v_y would look like for a different launcher that has a launch speed less than v_0.

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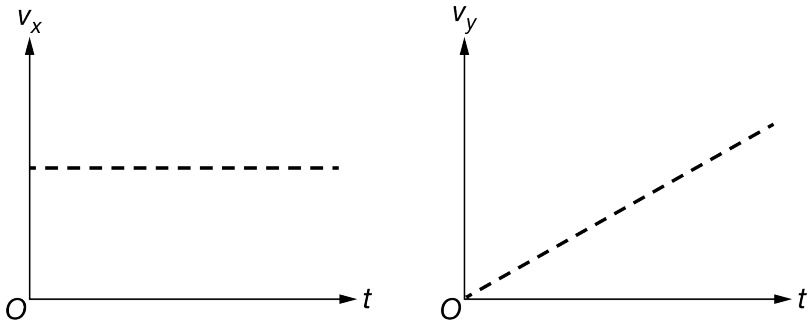

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6. This question is a long free-response question. Show your work for each part of the question.

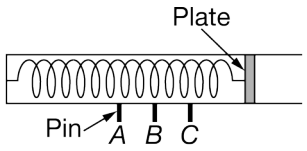

Figure 1. Uncompressed spring

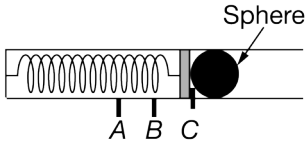

Figure 2. Compressed spring

(12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

A projectile launcher consists of a spring with an attached plate, as shown in Figure 1. When the spring is compressed, the plate can be held in place by a pin at any of three positions A, B, or C. For example, Figure 2 shows a steel sphere placed against the plate, which is held in place by a pin at position C. The sphere is launched upon release of the pin.

A student hypothesizes that the spring constant of the spring inside the launcher has the same value for different compression distances.

(a) The student plans to test the hypothesis by launching the sphere using the launcher.

i. State a basic physics principle or law the student could use in designing an experiment to test the hypothesis.

ii. Using the principle or law stated in part (a)(i), determine an expression for the spring constant in terms of quantities that can be obtained from measurements made with equipment usually found in a school physics laboratory.

(b) Design an experimental procedure to test the hypothesis in which the student uses the launcher to launch the sphere. Assume equipment usually found in a school physics laboratory is available.

In the table below, list the quantities and associated symbols that would be measured in your experiment. Also list the equipment that would be used to measure each quantity. You do not need to fill in every row. If you need additional rows, you may add them to the space just below the table.

Quantity to be Measured	Symbol for Quantity	Equipment for Measurement

Describe the overall procedure to be used to test the hypothesis that the spring constant of the spring inside the launcher has the same value for different compression distances, referring to the table. Provide enough detail so that another student could replicate the experiment, including any steps necessary to reduce experimental

uncertainty. As needed, use the symbols defined in the table and/or include a simple diagram of the setup.

(c) Describe how the experimental data could be analyzed to confirm or disconfirm the hypothesis that the spring constant of the spring inside the launcher has the same value for different compression distances.

(d) Another student uses the launcher to consecutively launch several spheres that have the same diameter but different masses, one after another. Each sphere is launched from position A. Consider each sphere's launch speed, which is the speed of the sphere at the instant it loses contact with the plate. On the axes below, sketch a graph of launch speed as a function of sphere mass.

