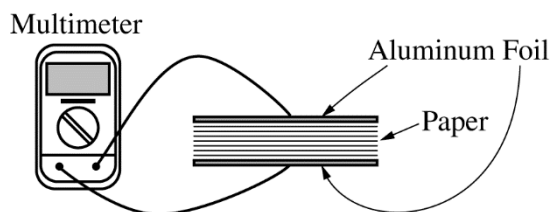


# 2018 AP<sup>®</sup> PHYSICS C: ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS



2. An experiment is designed to measure the dielectric constant of paper that has an area  $A = 0.060 \text{ m}^2$ . Using aluminum foil, two parallel plates are created with the same area as the paper. Five hundred sheets of paper are placed between the aluminum foil plates to create a parallel plate capacitor, as shown in the figure above. Using a multimeter, the capacitance  $C$  of the capacitor is measured. The number of sheets and the total thickness  $d$  of the stack of paper are recorded. The experiment is repeated, reducing the number of sheets of paper each time. The data are recorded in the table below.

Sheets of Paper	$d$ (m)	$C$ (F)		
500	0.045	$6.5 \times 10^{-11}$		
400	0.036	$7.4 \times 10^{-11}$		
300	0.027	$8.9 \times 10^{-11}$		
200	0.018	$11.9 \times 10^{-11}$		
100	0.010	$21.0 \times 10^{-11}$		

- (a) Indicate below which quantities should be graphed to yield a straight line whose slope could be used to calculate a numerical value for the dielectric constant of the paper.

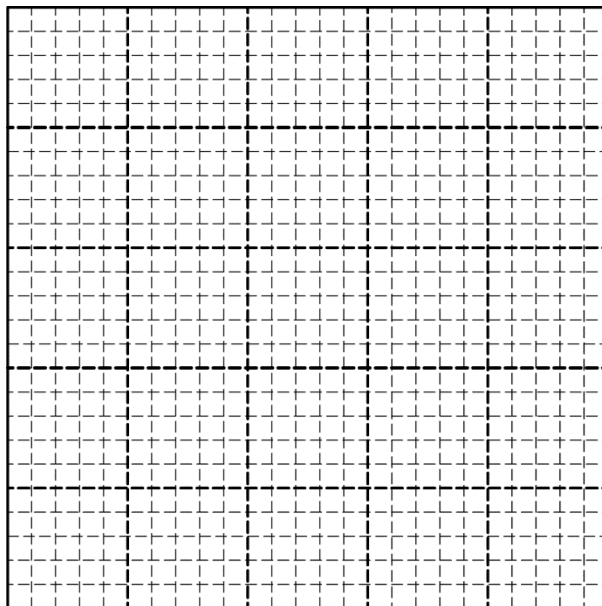
Vertical axis: \_\_\_\_\_

Horizontal axis: \_\_\_\_\_

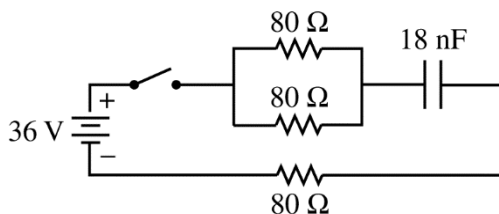
Use the remaining columns in the table above, as needed, to record any quantities that you indicated that are not given. Label each column you use and include units.

## 2018 AP<sup>®</sup> PHYSICS C: ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- (b) Plot the data points for the quantities indicated in part (a) on the graph below. Clearly scale and label all axes, including units if appropriate. Draw a straight line that best represents the data.



- (c) Using the straight line, calculate a dielectric constant for the paper.



The student now makes a capacitor using the same aluminum foil plates and just one sheet of paper. Using the experimentally determined dielectric constant, the student calculates the capacitance to be 18 nF. The student uses this uncharged capacitor to build a circuit using wire, a 36 V battery, 3 identical  $80\ \Omega$  resistors, and an open switch, as shown in the figure above.

- (d) Calculate the current in the battery immediately after the switch is closed.
- (e) Determine the time constant for this circuit.
- (f) Students A and B measure the time it takes after the switch is closed for the voltage across the capacitor to reach half its maximum value and find that it is longer than expected.
- Student A assumes that the capacitance value is correct. Would Student A conclude that the resistance value is larger or smaller than measured?  
\_\_\_\_ Larger than measured      \_\_\_\_ Smaller than measured  
Explain experimentally what could account for this.
  - Student B assumes that the resistance value is correct. Would Student B conclude that the capacitance value is larger or smaller than measured?  
\_\_\_\_ Larger than measured      \_\_\_\_ Smaller than measured  
Explain experimentally what could account for this.

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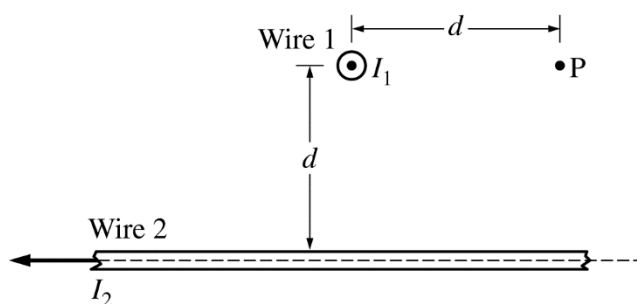


Figure 1. Side view

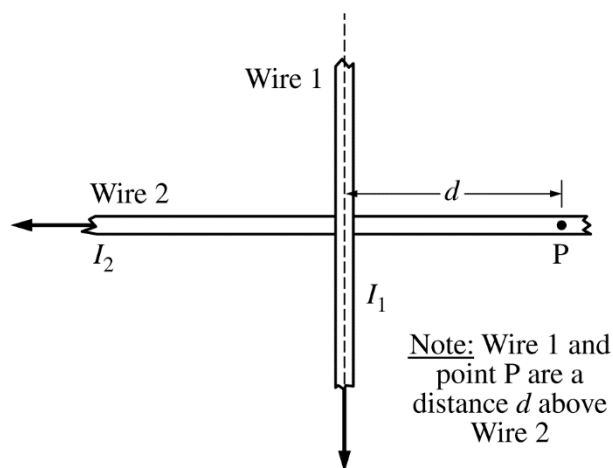


Figure 2. Top view

3. The figures above represent different views of two long, straight, horizontal wires, 1 and 2, carrying currents  $I_1 = I$  and  $I_2 = 2I$ , respectively, in the directions shown. The wires are held in place. In Figure 1, the current in wire 1 is directed out of the page, and wire 1 is a distance  $d$  above wire 2. Point P is a horizontal distance  $d$  from wire 1 and a distance  $d$  directly above wire 2. Express your answers to parts (a) and (b) in terms of  $I$ ,  $d$ , and physical constants, as appropriate.
- Use Ampere's law to derive an expression for the magnitude of the magnetic field at point P due to wire 1.
  - Derive an expression for the magnitude of the net magnetic field at point P.
  - Calculate the numerical value of the angle to the horizontal for the direction of the net magnetic field at point P.
  - Wire 1 is now released. Which of the following best describes the initial motion of wire 1 due to the magnetic field of wire 2? Assume gravitational effects are negligible.
    - ☐ Wire 1 will not move.
    - ☐ Wire 1 will move upward as viewed in Figure 1.
    - ☐ Wire 1 will move downward as viewed in Figure 1.
    - ☐ Wire 1 will rotate clockwise as viewed in Figure 2.
    - ☐ Wire 1 will rotate counterclockwise as viewed in Figure 2.

Justify your answer.

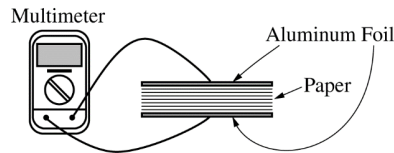
# AP<sup>®</sup> PHYSICS C: ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

## 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 2

15 points total

Distribution  
of points



An experiment is designed to measure the dielectric constant of paper that has an area  $A = 0.060 \text{ m}^2$ . Using aluminum foil, two parallel plates are created with the same area as the paper. Five hundred sheets of paper are placed between the aluminum foil plates to create a parallel plate capacitor, as shown in the figure above. Using a multimeter, the capacitance  $C$  of the capacitor is measured. The number of sheets and the total thickness  $d$  of the stack of paper are recorded. The experiment is repeated, reducing the number of sheets of paper each time. The data are recorded in the table below.

Sheets of Paper	$d$ (m)	$C$ (F)		
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200	0.018	$11.9 \times 10^{-11}$		
100	0.010	$21.0 \times 10^{-11}$		

(a) 1 point

Indicate below which quantities should be graphed to yield a straight line whose slope could be used to calculate a numerical value for the dielectric constant of the paper.

Vertical axis: \_\_\_\_\_

Horizontal axis: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the remaining columns in the table above, as needed, to record any quantities that you indicated that are not given. Label each column you use and include units.

For indicating variables that will create a straight line whose slope can be used to determine the dielectric constant of the paper		1 point
<i>Example: Vertical axis: <math>C</math></i> <i>Horizontal axis: <math>\frac{1}{d}</math></i>		
Note: Student earns full credit if the axes are reversed or if they use another acceptable combination.		

# AP<sup>®</sup> PHYSICS C: ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

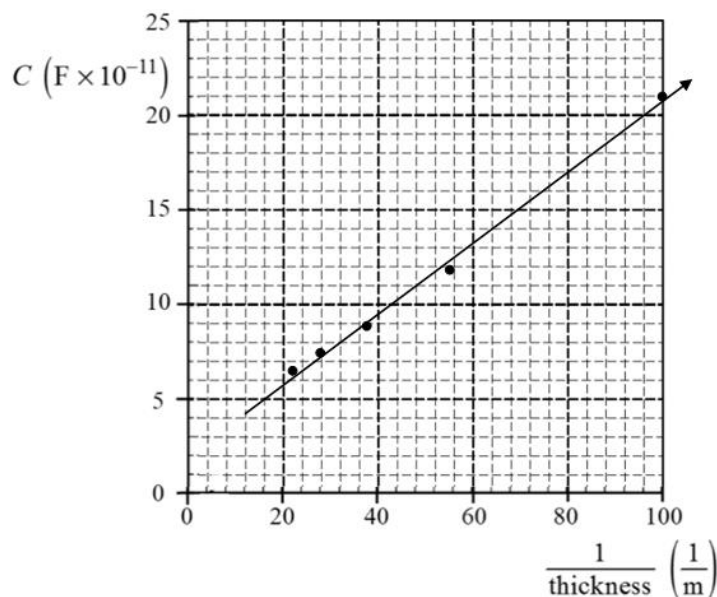
## 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 2 (continued)

**Distribution  
of points**

(b) 4 points

Plot the data points for the quantities indicated in part (a) on the graph below. Clearly scale and label all axes, including units if appropriate. Draw a straight line that best represents the data.



For a correct scale that uses more than half the grid	1 point
For correctly labeling the axes including units	1 point
For correctly plotting the data	1 point
For drawing a straight line consistent with the plotted data	1 point

(c) 3 points

Using the straight line, calculate a dielectric constant for the paper.

For correctly calculating the slope from the best-fit line and not the data points unless the points fall on the best-fit line	1 point
$\text{slope} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{(17 - 8)(\text{F} \times 10^{-11})}{(80 - 32)(1/\text{m})} = 0.19 \text{ F} \cdot \text{m} \quad (\text{Linear regression} = 0.187 \text{ F} \cdot \text{m})$	
For correctly relating the slope to the dielectric constant	1 point
$\text{slope} = \kappa \epsilon_0 A$	
$\kappa = \frac{\text{slope}}{\epsilon_0 A} = \frac{(0.19 \text{ F} \cdot \text{m})}{(8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2/\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2)(0.060 \text{ m}^2)}$	
For a correct answer	1 point
$\kappa = 3.58 \quad (\text{Linear regression} = 3.52)$	