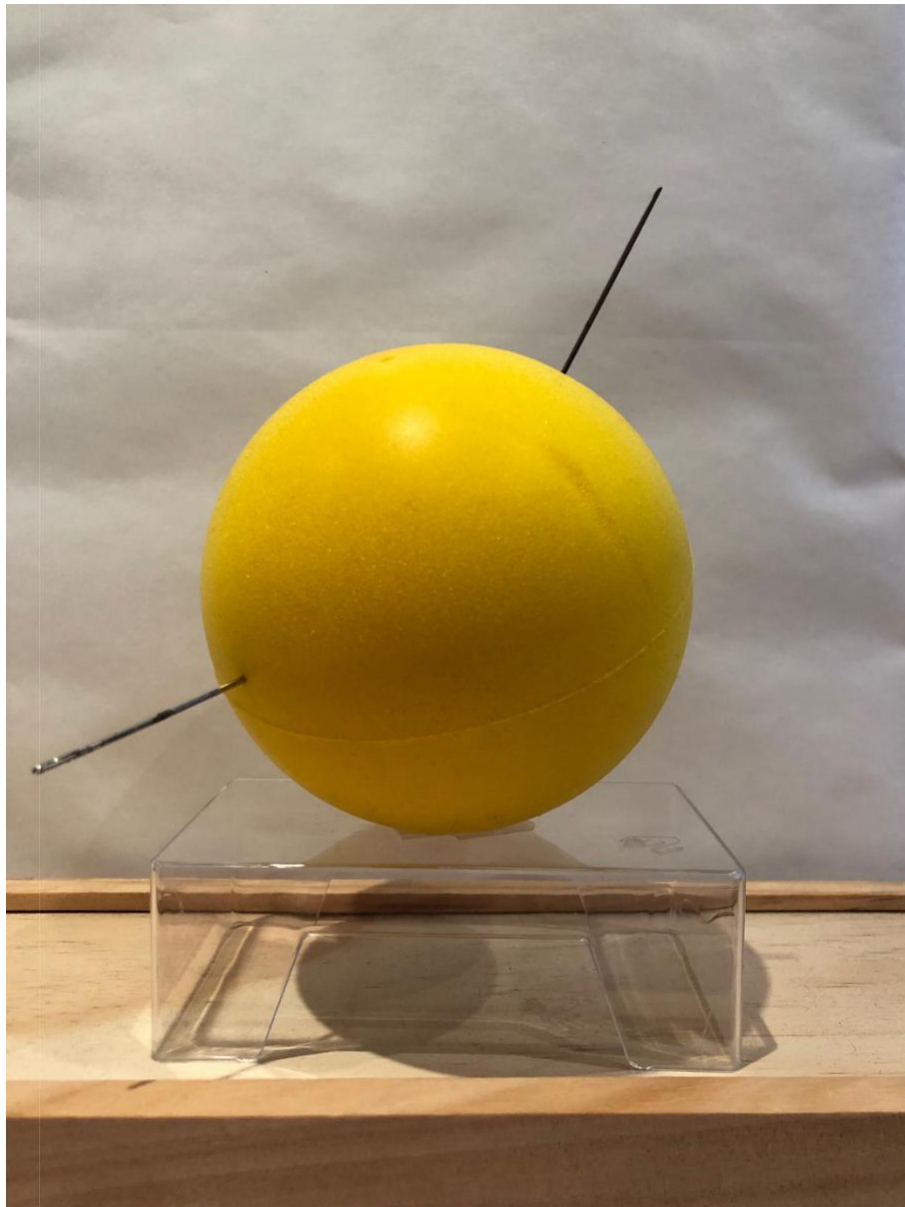
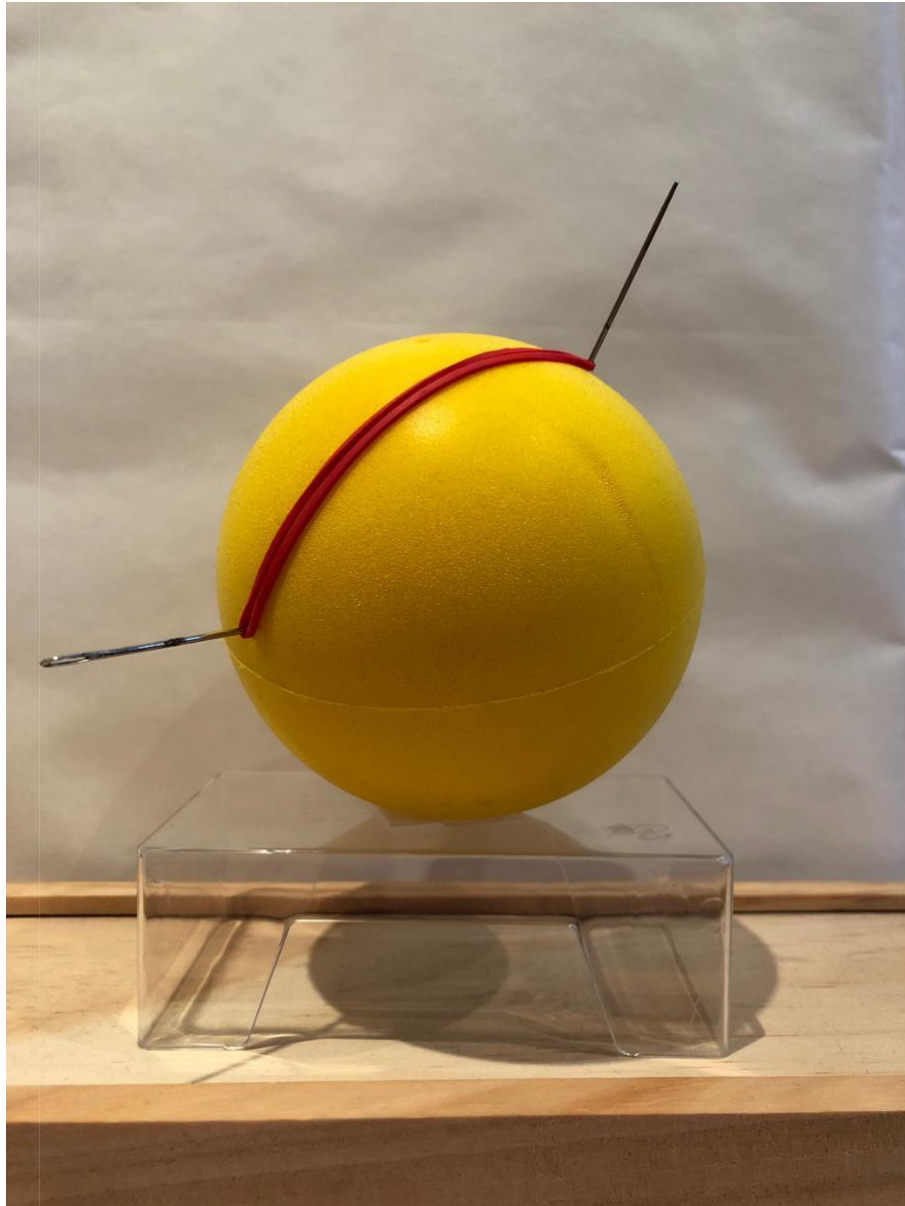


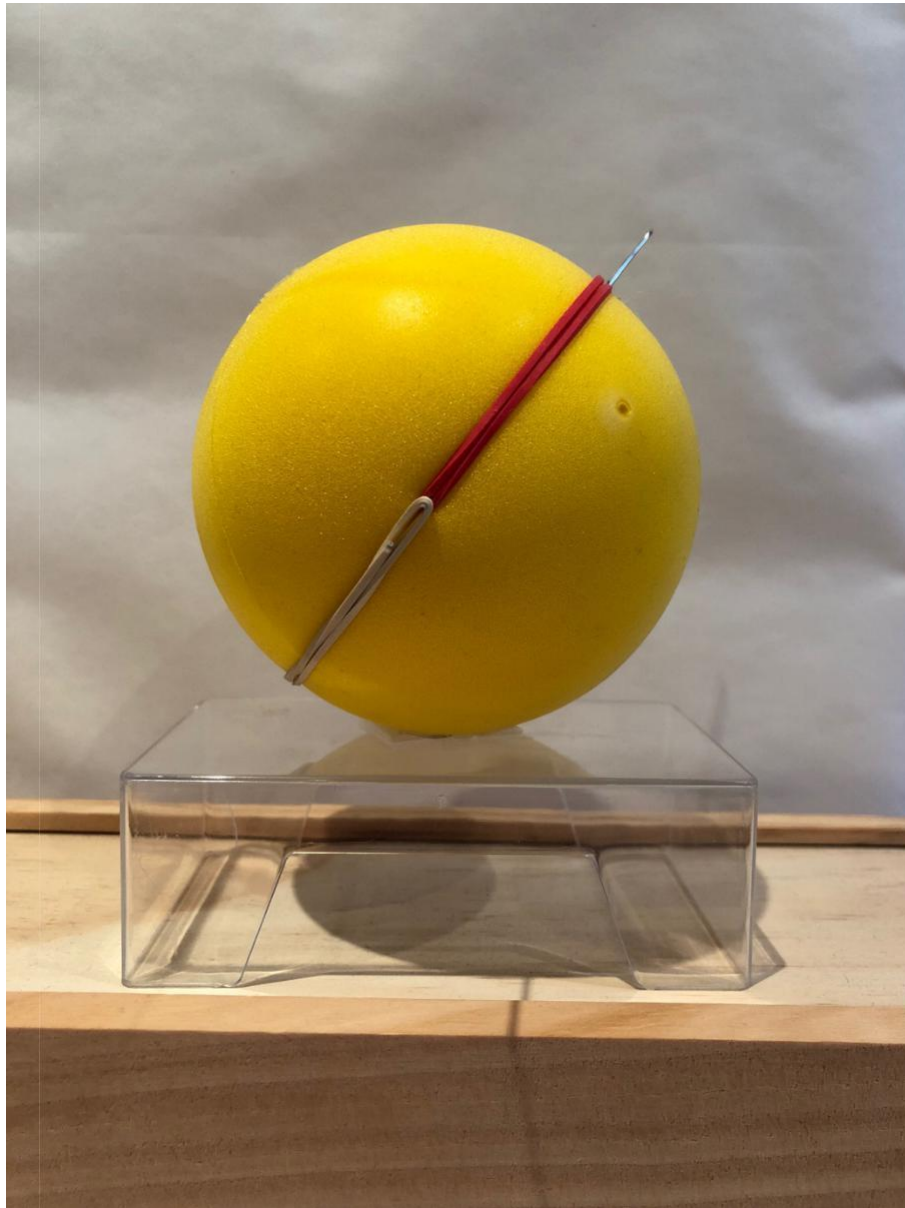
Let's consider two points on the sphere.



If the two ends of a rubber band are attached to each of these two points, the rubber band, which seeks to minimize its tension, aligns itself on a straight line joining the two points: it does not make a "detour". If we extend this line, we obtain a straight line on the sphere.



What line do you get if you extend this path? To find out, the two points can be joined in the same way by another rubber band "on the other side", as shown below:



It can be seen that the two elastic bands, placed end to end, form a great circle.

