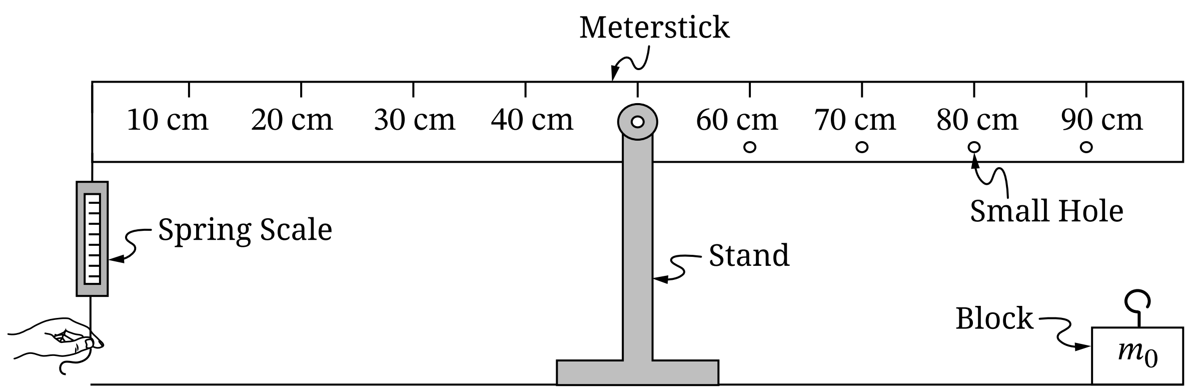
Question 3: Version J

3. Students are investigating balancing systems using the following setup. The students have a spring scale of negligible mass that is fixed to one end of a uniform meterstick. The center of the meterstick is attached to a stand on which the meterstick can pivot. There is a hook of negligible mass fixed to the top of a block of mass m_0. The hook can be attached to the meterstick through one of the small holes in the meterstick, as shown in Figure 1. The students do not have a direct way to measure the mass of the block. The block cannot be attached to the spring scale.

Figure 1



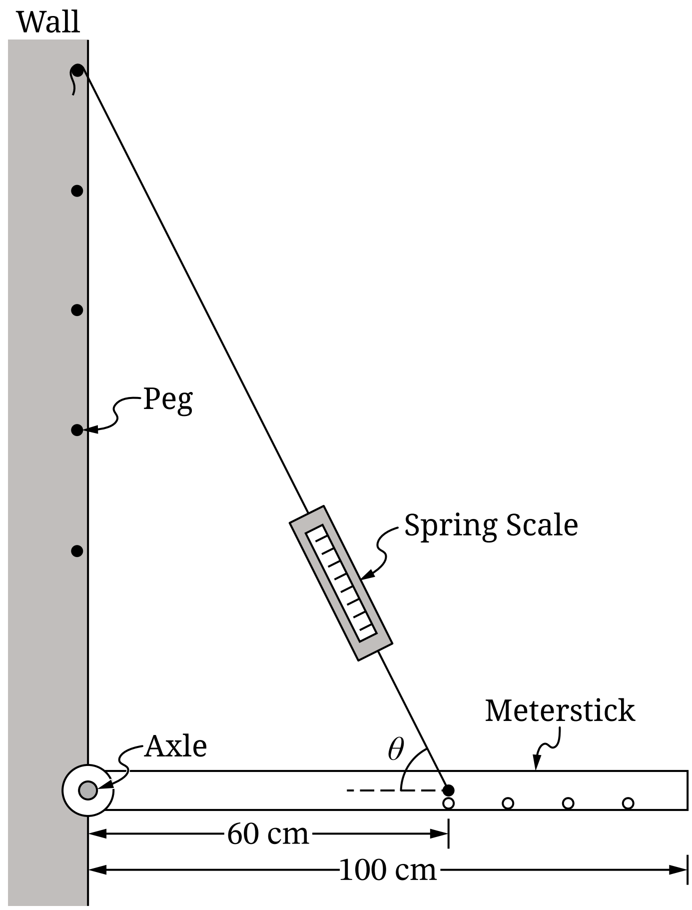
The students are asked to take measurements that will allow the students to create a linear graph whose slope could be used to determine the mass m_0 of the block.

A. Describe an experimental procedure to collect data that would allow the students to determine m_0. Include any steps necessary to reduce experimental uncertainty.

B. Describe how the data collected in part A could be graphed and how that graph would be analyzed to determine m_0.

The students have an identical meterstick of mass M that is now attached to an axle that is fixed to a wall. The meterstick is free to rotate with negligible friction about the axle. The meterstick is suspended horizontally by a string that is connected to a spring scale of negligible mass, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2



The angle θ that the string makes with the meterstick can be varied by attaching the string to one of the pegs located along the wall. The students use the spring scale to measure the tension F_T required to hold the meterstick horizontal. Table 1 shows the measured values of θ and F_T.

Table 1

θ (degrees)	F_T (N)
22	21
31	17
36	13
45	12
80	8

The students correctly determine that the relationship between F_T and θ is given by

$$F_T = \frac{5Mg}{6\sin\theta}.$$

The students create a graph with $\frac{1}{\sin\theta}$ plotted on the horizontal axis.

C.

i. **Indicate** what measured or calculated quantity could be plotted on the vertical axis to yield a linear graph whose slope can be used to calculate an experimental value for the mass M of the meterstick.

Vertical axis: ______ Horizontal axis: $\frac{1}{\sin\theta}$

ii. On the blank grid provided, create a graph of the quantities indicated in part C (i) that can be used to determine M.

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

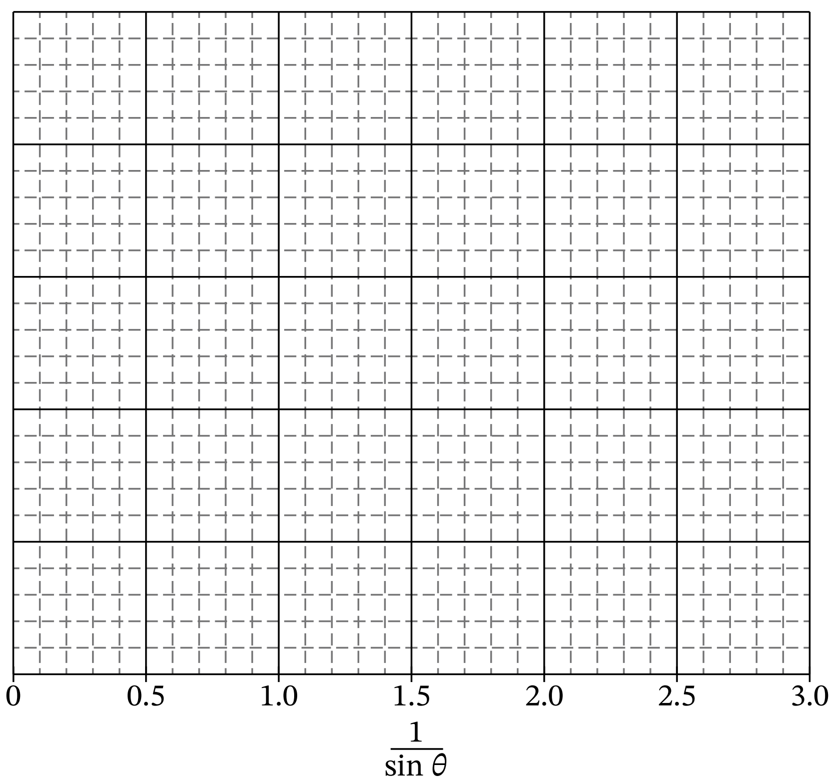


Figure 3

iii. **Draw** a straight 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 the mass M of the meterstick.

Question 3: Experimental Design and Analysis (LAB) — 10 points

A	For describing a procedure that includes **both** of the following: • Attaching the block to the meterstick • Measuring the force exerted on the left end of the meterstick while the block is attached	**Point A1**
	For a procedure that indicates a reasonable method of reducing experimental uncertainty Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • Repeating the force measurement for one location of the block • Collecting force measurements for multiple locations of the block	**Point A2**
	Example Response *Attach the block of unknown mass* m_0 *through one of the small holes in the meterstick. Measure the distance from the stand to the block. Record the force reading from the spring scale when the meterstick is horizontal. Repeat data collection by attaching the block to the meterstick through a different small hole in the meterstick. Repeat the measurements by attaching the block at each of the small hole locations numerous times.*	

Example Response

A graph of the force as a function of the distance from the stand to the block could be used to determine the unknown mass. The slope of the graph times the distance from the stand to the spring scale divided by g will result in the value of the unknown mass m_0.

C **(i)** For listing a quantity that could be plotted on the vertical axis to produce a linear graph whose slope can be used to determine the mass of the meterstick[1] **Point C1**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- F_T
- $\frac{F_T}{g}$
- $\frac{6}{5}\frac{F_T}{g}$
- $\frac{6}{5}F_T$

Scoring Note: Any response that correctly identifies the functional dependence between tension and angle earns this point, regardless of any coefficients that contain numbers or physical/fundamental constants.

Example Response

Vertical axis: F_T

(ii) For labeling the vertical axis (including units) with a linear scale **Point C2**

For correctly plotting data points consistent with **one** of the following: **Point C3**

- The quantities indicated in part C (i)
- The quantities indicated on the axes
- The quantities indicated in Table 2

(iii) For drawing an appropriate best-fit line that approximates the trend of the plotted data **Point C4**

Scoring Note: If the graph produced is nonlinear, then a line or curve that approximates the trend of that data can earn this point.

[1]Update made post-scoring to correct typo that did not impact scoring.