

*Solution:*

In equilibrium, the cord is stretched in the direction of resultant force of  $\vec{G} = m\vec{g}$  and  $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$ , where  $\vec{E}$  stands for the electric field strength of the ring on the axis in distance  $x$  from the plane of the ring, see Figure 3. Using the triangle similarity, one can write

$$\frac{x}{R} = \frac{Eq}{mg}. \quad (11)$$

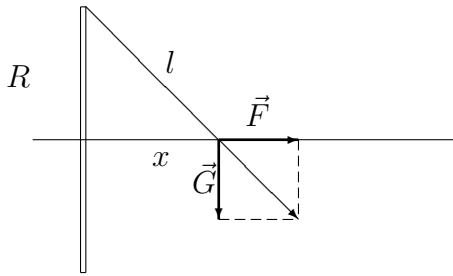


Figure 3:

For the calculation of the electric field strength let us divide the ring to  $n$  identical parts, so as every part carries the charge  $Q/n$ . The electric field strength magnitude of one part of the ring is given by

$$\Delta E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 l^2 n}.$$

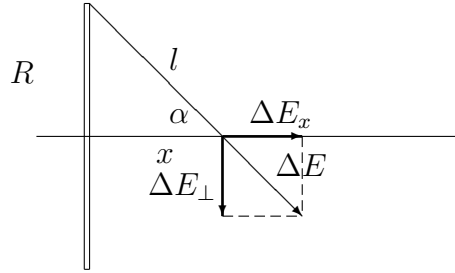


Figure 4:

This electric field strength can be decomposed into the component in the direction of the  $x$ -axis and the one perpendicular to the  $x$ -axis, see Figure 4. Magnitudes of both components obey

$$\Delta E_x = \Delta E \cos \alpha = \frac{\Delta E x}{l},$$

$$\Delta E_{\perp} = \Delta E \sin \alpha.$$

It follows from the symmetry, that for every part of the ring there exists another one having the component  $\Delta \vec{E}_{\perp}$  of the same magnitude, but however oppositely oriented. Hence, components perpendicular to the axis cancel each other and resultant electric field strength has the magnitude

$$E = E_x = n \Delta E_x = \frac{Q x}{4\pi \varepsilon_0 l^3}. \quad (12)$$

Substituting (12) into (11) we obtain for the cord length

$$l = \sqrt[3]{\frac{Q q R}{4\pi \varepsilon_0 m g}}.$$

Numerically

$$l = \sqrt[3]{\frac{9.0 \cdot 10^{-8} \cdot 9.0 \cdot 10^{-8} \cdot 5.0 \cdot 10^{-2}}{4\pi \cdot 8.9 \cdot 10^{-12} \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot 9.8}} \text{ m} = 7.2 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}.$$