

96. (a) One particle is on the axis, so  $r = 0$  for it. For each of the others, the distance from the axis is  $r = (0.60 \text{ m}) \sin 60^\circ = 0.52 \text{ m}$ . Therefore, the rotational inertia is  $I = \sum m_i r_i^2 = 0.27 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^2$ .
- (b) The two particles that are nearest the axis are each a distance of  $r = 0.30 \text{ m}$  from it. The particle “opposite” from that side is a distance  $r = (0.60 \text{ m}) \sin 60^\circ = 0.52 \text{ m}$  from the axis. Thus, the rotational inertia is  $I = \sum m_i r_i^2 = 0.22 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^2$ .
- (c) The distance from the axis for each of the particles is  $r = \frac{1}{2}(0.60 \text{ m}) \sin 60^\circ$ . Now,  $I = 3(0.50 \text{ kg})(0.26 \text{ m})^2 = 0.10 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^2$ .