Course and Section: _____   Names: _____

Date: _____   _____

TA name: _____

Lenses and Mirrors

In this experiment you will study lenses and mirrors by creating images on screens. By doing so you will study the laws describing them. _____ rewrite

1   Equipment

- Optical bench
- Converging lens, diverging lens
- Light source (as an object)

- Viewing screen
- Mirror
- Half-screen

2   Procedure

2.1   Converging lens

Take a *converging lens* and examine it. Is it thicker or thinner in the center? What do objects look like through it? Could it be used as a magnifying glass? Try the lens both close to objects and far away.

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If a lens is used to form an image of something infinitely far away, the distance from the lens to the image is defined to be the focal length. This is because the rays from an infinitely remote object are essentially parallel, thus converging at the focal point.

Use the lens to form an image of "something far away". To do this, place the lens on the optical bench and move the screen on the bench until a sharp image is formed on it.
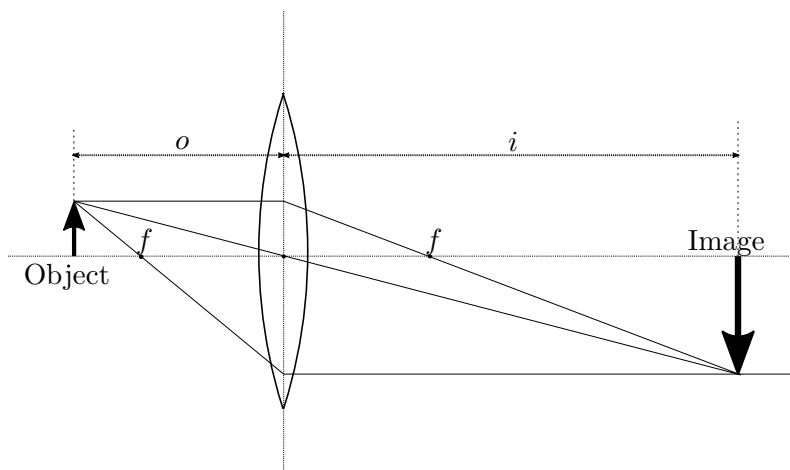
Focal length = _____cm

Figure 1: Converging lens

2.2 Image-Object Relationship of a Converging Lens

In this part, use the light box as the object; the lens will form an image of this box on the screen. Place the object and the screen at opposite ends of the bench such that the distance between them is 110 cm. Place a white sheet of paper in front of the white screen. Move the lens between them until a sharp image is formed on the screen. You should note that there are two positions for the lens which give sharp images. *Why* is that so?

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Take measurements for each of these positions. Repeat these measurements for $L = 100$ cm and $L = 90$ cm. Record the distance p from the lens to the object and the distance q from the lens to the image. Also measure the height h' of the image and the height h of the object.

$$h = \text{_____}\text{cm}$$

L (cm)	p (cm)	q (cm)	h' (cm)	f (cm)	h'/h	q/p
110						
110						
100						
100						
90						
90						

Missing
figure

Show what p,q,f are
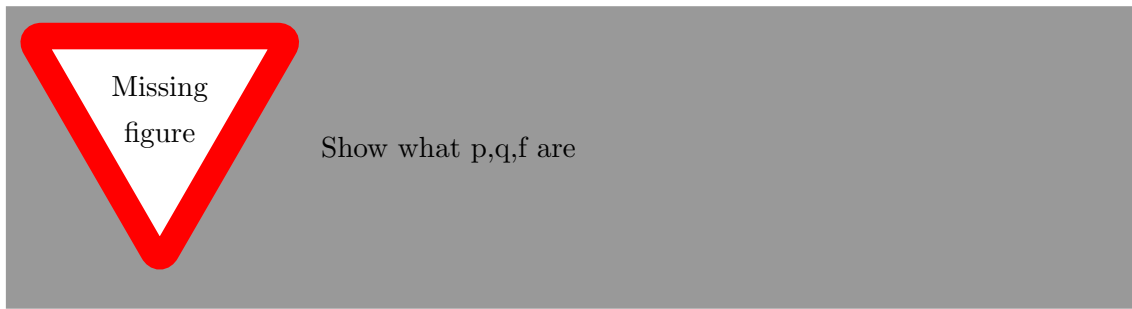
The equation relating the image and object distances of a *thin lens* is

$$\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{f} \, . \tag{1}$$

Use equation (1) to calculate the *focal length f* from each set of data in the table and fill in that part of the table.

- Do you get consistent values for the *focal length f*?

- Do these results agree with the focal length you found in the *first part* of the experiment?

- Which method do you think is the most *accurate*?

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Finally, look at the *last two columns* of the table. Do you find that the two ratios are equal? If so, why?

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2.3 Diverging Lens

A diverging lens will produce a virtual image of a real object. To observe this, place the lens on the optical bench about 20 cm from the light box. Move the screen on the bench, can you find the image on the screen? Now, look at the light box through the lens, can you see the image?

- Is this image smaller or bigger than the object?

- Is the image you are viewing *inverted*?

- Is it *virtual?*

- Is it located in *front* or in the *back* of the lens?

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Missing figure — measurement of f', diverging lens
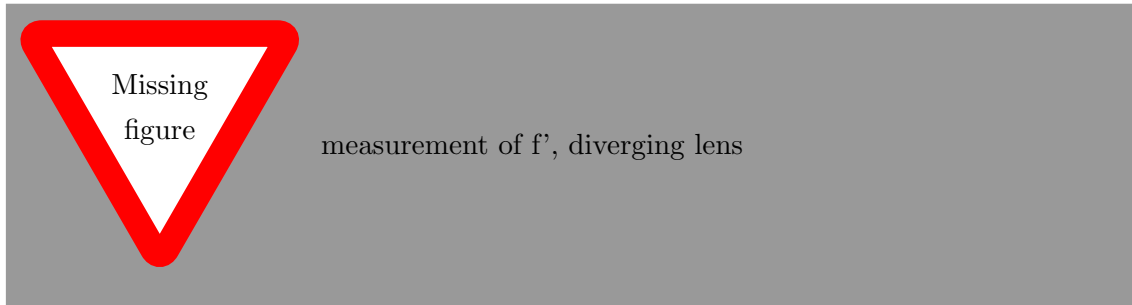
In order to produce a real image you also need to use converging lens. This image can be produced by placing a converging lens between the diverging lens and the source. By suitably adjusting the distances of the two lenses and the screen, a real image is produced on the screen. Use this method to determine f', the focal length of the diverging lens, as follows:

Using the thin lens equation, calculate distance of the image q formed by the converging lens

$$q = \text{_____cm}.$$

This image created by the converging lens, becomes the object for the diverging lens. Next, measure the distance d between the two lenses.

$$d = \text{_____cm}.$$

The "new" object distance p', with respect to the diverging lens, is given by the difference between the two distances q and d,

$$p' = q - d = \text{_____cm}.$$

Measure the distance q' between the screen and the diverging lens

$$q' = \text{_____cm}.$$

Finally, using the thin lens equation for p', q' and f',

$$\frac{1}{p'} + \frac{1}{q'} = \frac{1}{f'}, \tag{2}$$

find the focal length f' of the diverging lens,

$$f' = \text{_____cm}.$$

Note: In equation (2.3) p' has to be negative, since the image formed by the converging lens is behind the diverging lens. ───────────────────── clarify