

P510/3  
PHYSICS  
Paper 3  
(Practical)  
Nov./Dec. 2023  
3¼ hours



UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education

PHYSICS

Paper 3  
(Practical)

3 hours 15 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

*Answer question 1 and one other question.*

*Any additional question answered will **not** be marked.*

*Candidates are **not** allowed to use the apparatus for the first fifteen minutes. This time is to enable the candidates read the question paper and make sure they have all the apparatus they may need.*

*Candidates are expected to record on their scripts in **blue or black ink** all their observations as these observations are made and to plan for the presentation of the records so that it is **not** necessary to make a fair copy of them. The working of the answers is to be handed in. Any work done in pencil except graphs will **not** be marked.*

*Marks are given mainly for a clear record of the observations actually made, for their suitability, accuracy and for the use made of them.*

*Details on the question paper should **not** be repeated in the answer, nor is the theory of the experiment required unless specifically asked for. However, candidates should record any special precautions they have taken and any particular feature of the method of going about the experiment.*

*Graph paper is provided.*

*Mathematical tables and silent non-programmable scientific calculators may be used.*

1. In this experiment, you will determine the constant,  $\alpha$ , of the beaker using two methods and the constant,  $\beta$ , of the spring provided. (40 marks)

### METHOD I

- (a) Measure and record the length,  $l_0$ , of the spring as shown in Figure 1

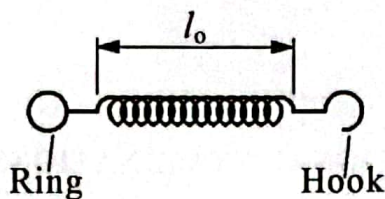


Fig. 1

- (b) Suspend a metre rule from the clamp of a retort stand using a piece of thread.  
(c) Adjust the position of the loop of the thread along the metre rule until the metre rule balances horizontally.  
(d) Read and record the balance point,  $G$ .  
(e) Tie a loop through one end of the spring.  
(f) Suspend the spring from the balanced metre rule at a distance,  $d = 17.5$  cm from the zero end of the metre rule.  
(g) Suspend a mass labelled,  $Q$ , at the other end of the spring and balance the metre rule again as shown in Figure 2.

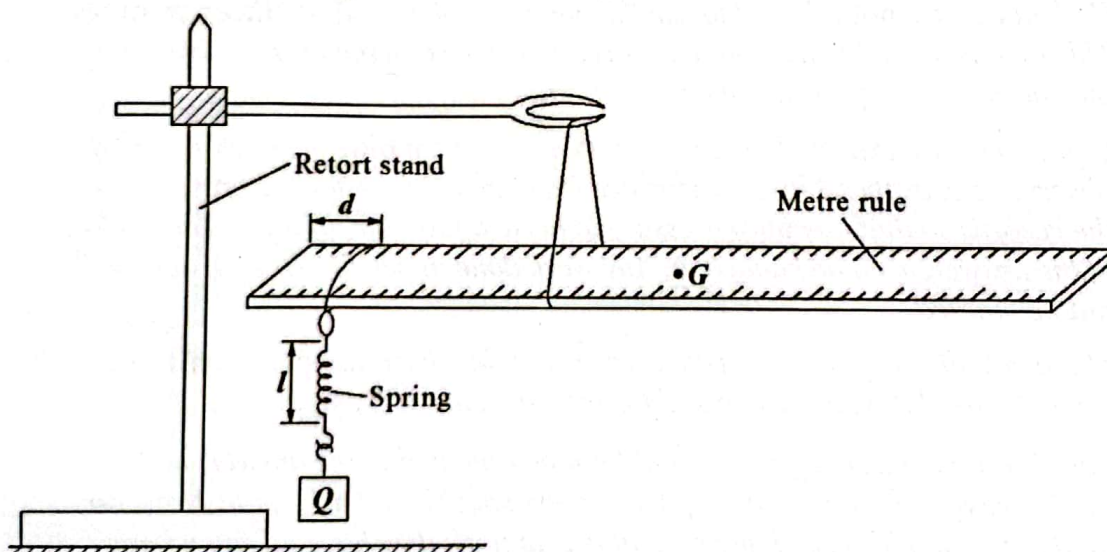
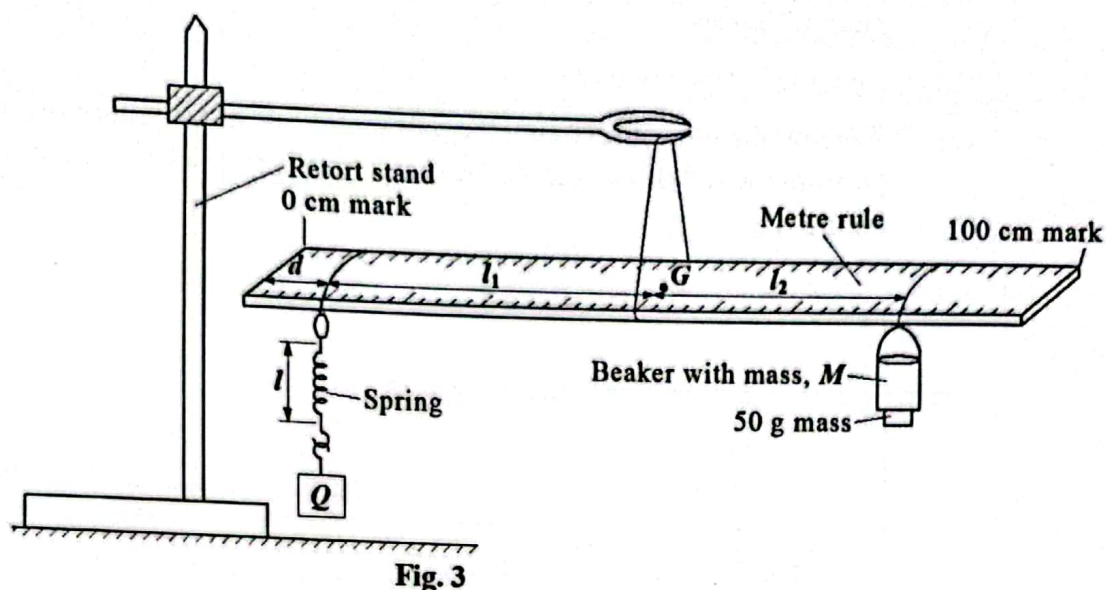


Fig. 2

- (h) Measure and record the new length,  $l$ , of the spring.  
(i) Calculate the value of the extension,  $e$ , in metres from the expression,  $e = l - l_0$ .  
(j) Adjust the position of the loop suspending the metre rule to  $G$ .  
(k) Record the length,  $l_1$ , of the spring from point  $G$ .

- (l) Attach a mass of 50 g to the bottom of the beaker provided using sellotape.
- (m) Suspend the beaker from the metre rule as shown in Figure 3.



- (n) Place a mass,  $M = 0.100$  kg into the beaker.
- (o) Adjust the position of the beaker until the metre rule balances horizontally.
- (p) Measure and record the balance length  $l_2$ .
- (q) Repeat procedure (n) to (p) for values of  $M = 0.200, 0.300, 0.400, 0.500$  and  $0.600$  kg.
- (r) Tabulate your results including values of  $\frac{l_1}{l_2}$  and  $y = e^{\frac{l_1}{l_2}}$ .
- (s) Plot a graph of  $y$  against  $M$ .
- (t) Determine the slope,  $S$ , of the graph.
- (u) Calculate the value of the constant,  $\beta$ , from the expression;

$$\beta = \frac{g}{S}, \text{ where } g = 9.81 \text{ ms}^{-2}.$$

- (v) Read and record the intercept,  $C$ , on the  $y$  - axis.
- (w) Calculate the constant,  $\alpha_1$ , from the expression;

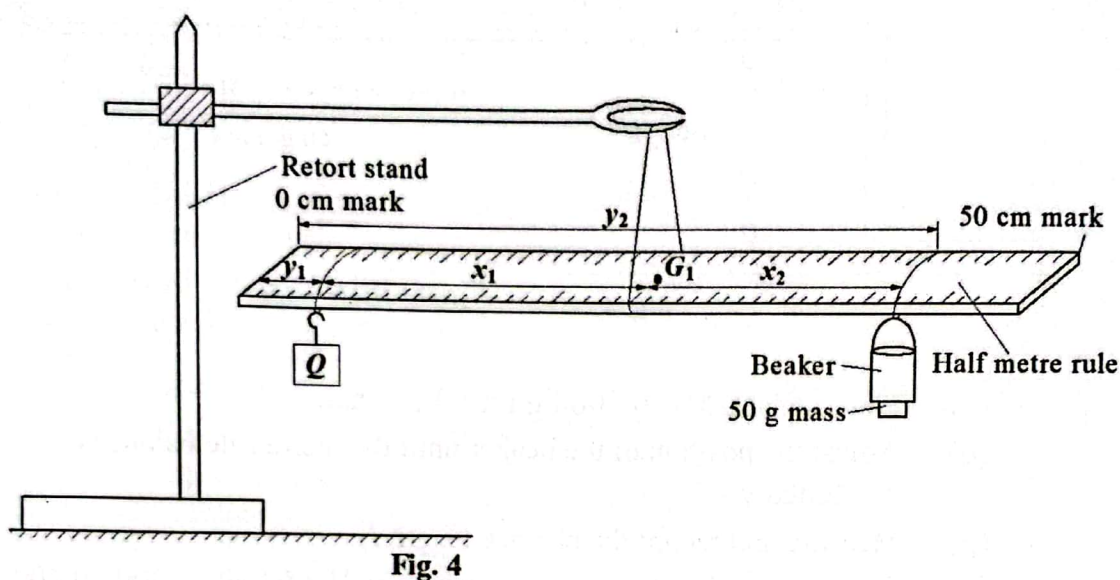
$$\alpha_1 = \frac{C\beta}{g} - 0.050.$$

**DISMANTLE THE SET-UP**



## METHOD II

- Suspend the half metre rule from the clamp of a retort stand using a piece of thread.
- Note the balance point  $G_1$ .
- Keeping the loop suspending the half metre rule at  $G_1$ , suspend mass  $Q$ , from the left of  $G_1$  and the beaker from the right of  $G_1$  as shown in Figure 4.



- Adjust the positions of  $Q$  and of the beaker until the half metre rule balances horizontally.
- Read and record lengths  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  from the zero end of the half metre rule.
- Calculate the value of  $x_1$  from the expression  $x_1 = G_1 - y_1$  and  $x_2$  from the expression  $x_2 = y_2 - G_1$ .
- Calculate the value of,  $\alpha_2$ , from the expression;

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{0.150 x_1 - 0.050 x_2}{x_2}.$$

- Calculate the value of,  $\alpha$ , from the expression;

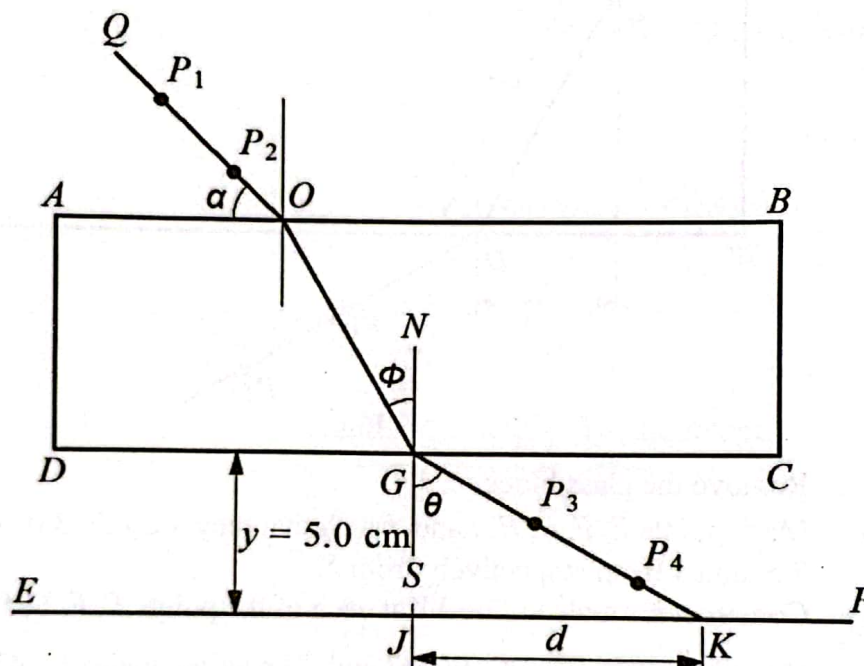
$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2).$$

## DISMANTLE THE SET-UP

2. In this experiment, you will determine the constant,  $\gamma$ , of the glass block provided using two methods. (40 marks)

### METHOD I

- Fix a plain white sheet of paper on the soft board using drawing pins.
- Place the glass block in the middle of the plain sheet of paper with the broadest face upwards and trace its outline  $ABCD$ .
- Remove the glass block.
- Mark a point  $O$  on  $AB$ , 4.0 cm from  $A$  and draw a normal at  $O$ .
- Draw a line  $QO$  such that angle  $\alpha = 40^\circ$  as shown in Figure 5.

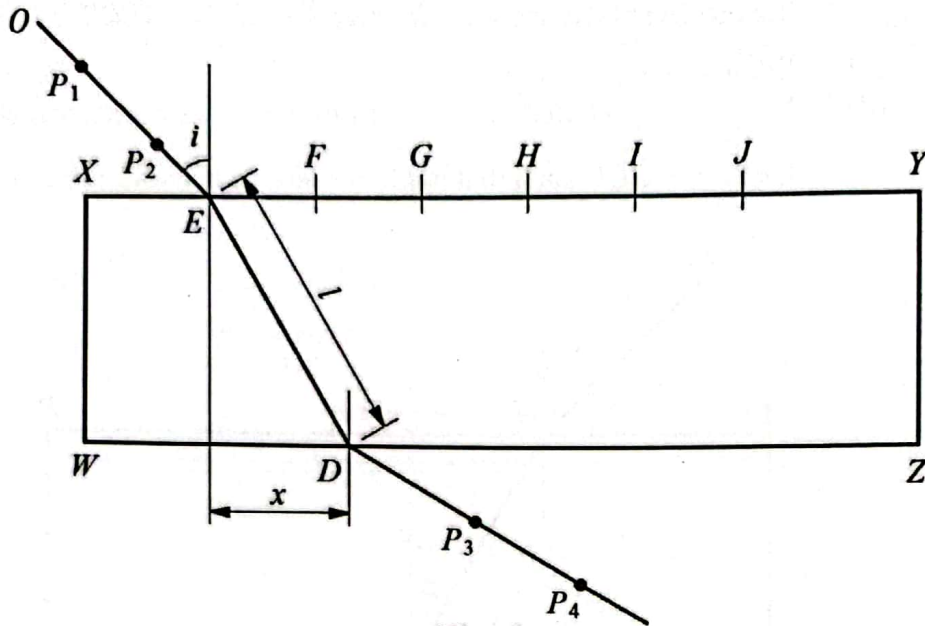


**Fig. 5**

- Draw a line  $EF = 15.0$  cm long parallel to  $DC$ , a distance  $y = 5.0$  cm.
- Fix two optical pins  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  vertically on the line  $QO$ .
- Replace the glass block on its outline.
- While looking through the glass block from side  $DC$ , fix two optical pins  $P_3$  and  $P_4$  such that they appear to be in line with the images of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .
- Remove the glass block and the pins.
- Draw a line through  $P_3$  and  $P_4$  to meet  $DC$  at  $G$  and  $EF$  at  $K$ .
- Join  $G$  to  $O$ .
- Draw a normal  $NS$  to  $DC$  at  $G$ .
- Measure and record angles  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ , and distance  $d$ .
- Calculate the value of,  $\gamma_1$ , from the expression;  $\gamma_1 = \frac{y \sin \phi}{d \cos \theta}$ .

## METHOD II

- (a) Fix a fresh plain white sheet of paper on the soft board using drawing pins.
- (b) Place the glass block in the middle of the plain sheet of paper with the broadest face upwards and trace its outline  $XYZW$  as shown in Figure 6.



**Fig. 6**

- (c) Remove the glass block.
- (d) Mark points  $E, F, G, H, I$  and  $J$  such that they are 1.5, 3.0, 4.5, 6.0, 7.5 and 9.0 cm respectively from  $X$ .
- (e) Construct normals to line  $XY$  at each of the points  $E, F, G, H, I$  and  $J$ .
- (f) Draw lines  $OE, PF, QG, RH, SI$  and  $TJ$  making angles  $i = 45^\circ, 40^\circ, 35^\circ, 30^\circ, 25^\circ$  and  $20^\circ$  with the normals at  $E, F, G, H, I$  and  $J$  respectively.
- (g) Put back the glass block onto its outline.
- (h) Fix two optical pins  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  vertically on the line  $OE$ .
- (i) While looking through the glass block from side  $ZW$ , fix two optical pins  $P_3$  and  $P_4$  such that they appear to be in line with the images of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .
- (j) Remove the glass block and the pins.
- (k) Draw a line through  $P_3$  and  $P_4$  to meet  $ZW$  at  $D$ .
- (l) Join  $D$  to  $E$ .
- (m) Measure and record the lengths  $l$  and  $x$ .
- (n) Repeat procedure (h) to (m) for each of the line  $PF, QG, RH, SI$  and  $TJ$ .  
(Ensure that you measure the displacement  $x$  from the respective normals.)



- (o) Tabulate your results including values of  $\frac{1}{\sin^2 i}$  and  $\left(\frac{l}{x}\right)^2$ .
- (p) Plot a graph of  $\frac{1}{\sin^2 i}$  against  $\left(\frac{l}{x}\right)^2$ .
- (q) Determine the slope,  $S$ , of the graph.
- (r) Calculate the value of,  $\gamma_2$ , from the expression  $\gamma_2 = \sqrt{S}$ .
- (s) If the expected value of  $\gamma$  is 0.667, assess the accuracy of the two methods.

**HAND IN YOUR TRACINGS TOGETHER WITH YOUR SCRIPT.**

3. In this experiment, you will determine the constant,  $\rho$  of the bare wire labelled,  $W$ , using two methods. (40 marks)

#### METHOD I

- (a) Connect the circuit shown in Figure 7

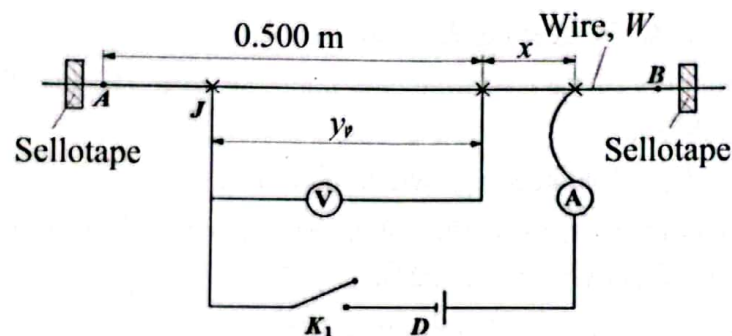


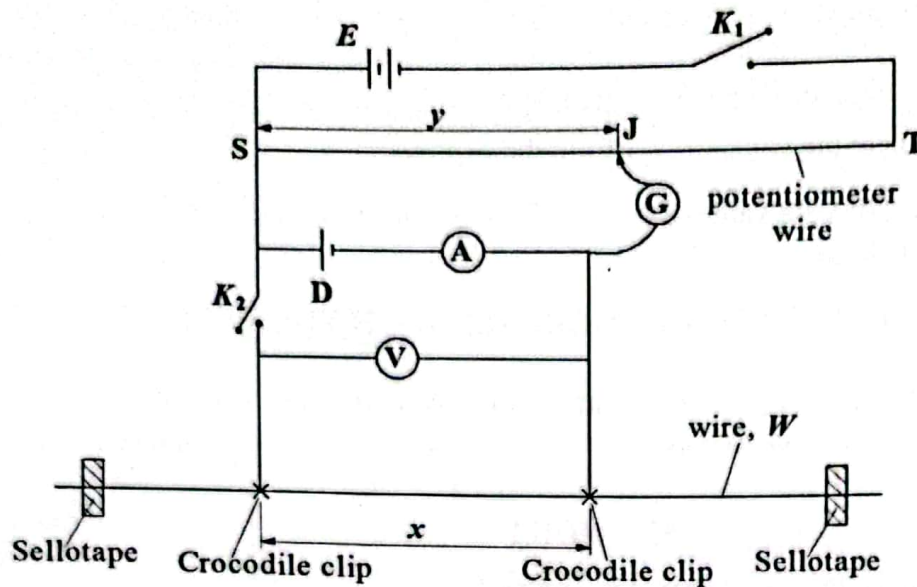
Fig. 7

- (b) With switch  $K_1$  open, adjust the length,  $x$  on the wire,  $W$ , such that  $x_1 = 0.250$  m.
- (c) Close switch,  $K_1$ .
- (d) Move the sliding contact,  $J$ , until the ammeter reading,  $I_1 = 0.26$  A.
- (e) Read and record the voltmeter reading,  $V_1$ .
- (f) Open switch,  $K_1$ .
- (g) Repeat procedure (b) to (f) for values of  $x_2 = 0.500$  m and  $I_2 = 0.20$  A.
- (h) Read and record the voltmeter reading,  $V_2$ .
- (i) Calculate the constant,  $\rho_1$ , of the wire,  $W$  from the expression;

$$\rho_1 = \frac{1}{I_1 I_2 (x_2 - x_1)} [(V_1 I_2 - V_2 I_1) - 1.4 (I_2 - I_1)].$$

## METHOD II

- (a) Connect the circuit shown in Figure 8.



**Fig. 8**

- (b) Close switch  $K_2$  while keeping  $K_1$  open.
- (c) Adjust the position of the crocodile clip along the wire,  $W$ , until the length,  $x = 0.200$  m.
- (d) Close switch,  $K_1$ , while keeping switch,  $K_2$  closed, adjust the position of the sliding contact,  $J$ , along the potentiometer wire  $ST$  until the galvanometer,  $G$ , shows no deflection.
- (e) Read and record the balance length,  $y$  in metres.
- (f) Read and record the readings,  $V$  and  $I$  of the voltmeter and ammeter respectively.
- (g) Open switches,  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ .
- (h) Repeat procedure (b) to (g) for values of  $x = 0.300, 0.400, 0.500, 0.600$  and  $0.700$  m.
- (i) Tabulate your results including values of  $\frac{V}{y}$  and  $\frac{Ix}{y}$ .
- (j) Plot a graph of  $\frac{V}{y}$  against  $\frac{Ix}{y}$ .
- (k) Find the slope,  $\rho_2$ , of the graph.
- (l) If the expected magnitude of the constant,  $\rho$  is 4.41, assess the suitability of the two methods in determining the constant.
- (m) Find the constant,  $\rho$ , of the wire from the expression;
 
$$2\rho = (\rho_1 + \rho_2).$$
- (n) State why step (m) is important.