
Newton's Ring Experiment

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1 AIM

To determine the radius of curvature of the lower surface of a plano-convex lens by using Newton's rings apparatus.

2 APPARATUS

A plano-convex lens of large radius of curvature , optical arrangement for Newton's rings, plane glass plate, sodium lamp, spherometer and a travelling microscope.

3 THEORY

- Light from Na lamp(which is monochromatic) is made to fall on convex lens through which we get the parallel beam of light.
- This is reflected by glass plate kept at 45° and made to fall normally on the plano convex lens.
- There is a thin film of air between its convex surface and glass plate.
- Both beams after reflection observed through travelling microscope.

4 PROCEDURE

- Adjust the lens to obtain ring pattern.
- Central ring will appear to be dark as we are observing reflecting system.
- Note the least count of travelling microscope used.
- Slide the microscope knob from left to right and right to left to ensure that the readings are within the scale.
- Set the cross wire at k^{th} ring then move towards 20^{th} and note down the reading.

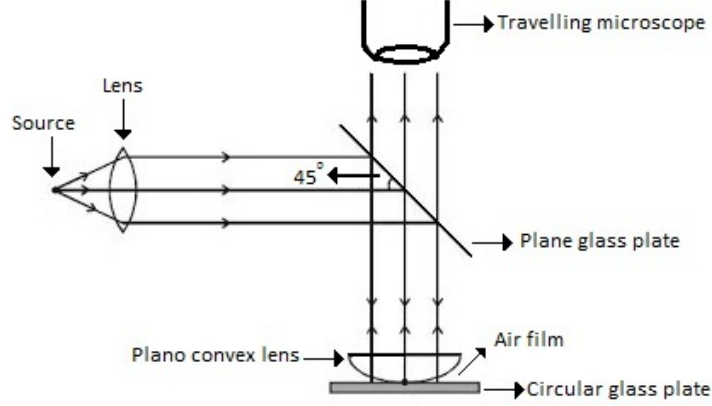


Figure 1: Newton's Ring Experiment

- Then start moving back towards k^{th} ring and then keep on sliding microscope and take readings till you reach 20^{th} ring on the left side.

5 FORMULA

Radius of curvature, $R = \frac{\text{slope}(m)}{4\lambda}$

where, l = wavelength of light (Sodium lamp, $l=5893 \text{ \AA}$)
 m = Slope of line drawn between D_n^2 and n

$$= \frac{D_{n+p}^2 - D_n^2}{p}$$

Here, D_{n+p} is the diameter of $(n+p)^{th}$ ring and D_n that of n^{th} ring.

6 OBSERVATIONS

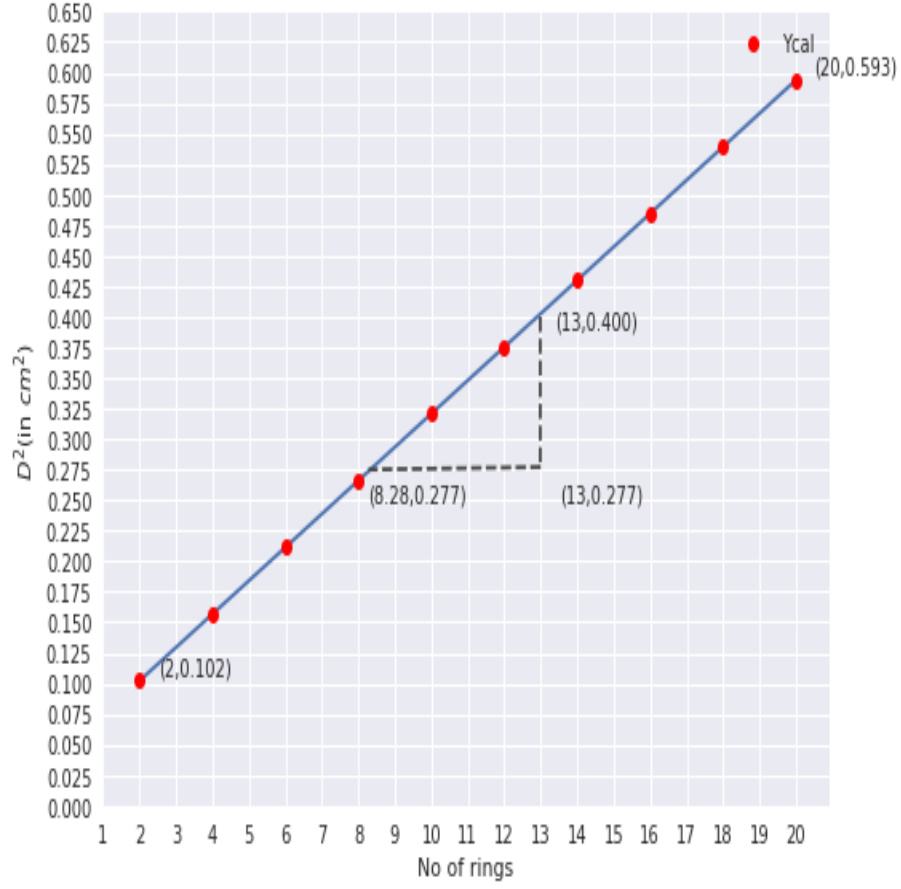
Table 1: Table for determination of diameter(D) of rings

Position of d1					Position of d2					D=d1-d2	$D(cm)$	$D^2(cm^2)$
n1	MSR (in mm)	VSD	VSR (VSR*LC)	d1 (MSR+VSR)	n2	MSR (in mm)	VSD	VSR (MSR*VSR)	d2 (MSR+VSR)			
20	40	47	0.47	40.47	-20	48	19	0.19	48.19	7.719	0.771	0.595
18	40	81	0.81	40.81	-18	48	2	0.02	48.02	7.21	0.721	0.519
16	40	98	0.98	40.98	-16	47	87	0.87	47.87	6.89	0.689	0.474
14	41	19	0.19	41.19	-14	47	69	0.690	47.69	6.5	0.65	0.422
12	41	35	0.350	41.35	-12	47	52	0.52	47.52	6.17	0.617	0.38
10	41	40	0.4	41.4	-10	47	33	0.33	47.33	5.93	0.593	0.351
8	41	69	0.690	41.69	-8	47	16	0.16	47.16	5.469	0.546	0.299
6	41	76	0.76	41.76	-6	46	93	0.93	46.93	5.17	0.517	0.267
4	42	90	0.9	42.9	-4	45	67	0.67	45.67	2.77	0.277	0.076
2	42	21	0.21	42.21	-2	45	33	0.33	45.33	3.11	0.311	0.0973

6.1 Data Plotting

Table 2: Data For Graph Plotting

x	y	slope	intercept	Ycal
20	0.595	0.027321	0.047466	0.593890909
18	0.519			0.53924848476
16	0.474			0.48460606052
14	0.422			0.42996363628
12	0.38			0.37532121204
10	0.351			0.3206787878
8	0.299			0.26603636356
6	0.267			0.21139393932
4	0.076			0.15675151508
2	0.097			0.10210909084



7 CALCULATIONS

Least count for vernier of microscope = $0.01m = 0.001cm$

From Excel sheet, slope: $= \tan \theta = 0.027321 \text{ cm}^2$ and $\lambda = \frac{\tan \theta}{4R} \Rightarrow$

$$R = \frac{\tan \theta}{4\lambda} = \frac{0.027321 \text{ cm}^2}{4 \times 5893 \times 10^{-8} \text{ cm}} = 115.904 \text{ cm}$$

Log Error: $R = \frac{\tan \theta}{4\lambda} \Rightarrow \log R = \log \tan \theta - \log 4 - \log(\lambda)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta R}{R} = \frac{\Delta \tan \theta}{\tan \theta}$$

but

$$\frac{\Delta \tan \theta}{\tan \theta} = \frac{\Delta PQ}{PQ} + \frac{\Delta QR}{QR}$$

$$\Delta PQ = 2 \times (\text{least count of y axis}) = 2 \times 0.0025 = 0.0050 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$\Delta QR = 2 \times (\text{least count of x-axis}) = 2 \times 0.1 = 0.2$$

$$PQ = (0.400 - 0.277) = 0.123 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$QR = (13 - 8.28) = 4.72$$

$$\therefore \frac{\Delta \tan \theta}{\tan \theta} = \frac{0.0050}{0.123} + \frac{0.1}{4.72} = 0.0406 + 0.0211 = 0.0617$$

$$\text{and } \frac{\Delta R}{R} = \frac{\Delta \tan \theta}{\tan \theta} = 0.0617 \text{ cm}$$

8 RESULT

Radius of curvature of plano convex lens is $(115.904 \pm 0.061) \text{ cm}$