

- 1 The speed v of a transverse wave on a uniform string is given by the expression

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{Fl}{m}}$$

where F is the tension of the string, l is its length and m is its mass.

An experiment is conducted to determine the speed v of the wave. The measurements are shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1

quantity	measurement	uncertainty
F	1.8 N	0.1 N
l	126 cm	2 cm
m	5.1 g	0.2 g

- (a) (i) Using the data in Table 1.1, determine the percentage uncertainty in the calculation of the speed v of the transverse wave.

percentage uncertainty = % [2]

- (ii) Using your answer in (a)(i) and the data in Table 1.1, determine the value of v , with its absolute uncertainty, to an appropriate number of significant figures.

$$v = \dots\dots\dots \pm \dots\dots\dots \text{ m s}^{-1} [2]$$

- (b) Another student used a different set-up to determine the value of v . His values of v are as follows:

$$20.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}, 21.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}, 20.4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

- (i) With reference to the value of v obtained in (a)(ii), comment on the accuracy of the values of v that the second student obtained.

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..... [1]

- (ii) State the type of error that is present in the measurements obtained by the second student.

Suggest a possible way to minimise or eliminate the error.

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..... [2]

