Reference: O. F. Kabardin, V. A. Orlov, in "International Physics Olympiads for High School Students", ed. V. G. Razumovski, Moscow, Nauka, 1985. (In Russian).

The Experimental Problem

Materials and Instruments: elastic rubber cord (the length of free cord is $l_0 = 150\,\text{mm}$), vertically hanged up to a stand, set of weights from 10 g to 100 g, pan for the weights with mass 5 g, chronometer, ruler, millimeter (scaled) paper.

Note: The Earth Acceleration is $g = 10\,\text{m/s}^2$. The mass of the rubber cord can be neglected.

Make the following study:

1. Load the rubber cord with weights in the range 15 g to 105 g. Put the data obtained into a table. Make a graph (using suitable scale) with the experimentally obtained dependence of the prolongation of the cord on the stress force F.

2. Using the experimental results, obtained in p.1, calculate and put into a table the volume of the cord as a function of the loading in the range 35 g to 95 g. Do the calculations consequently for each two adjacent values of the loading in this range. Write down the formulas you have used for the calculations. Make an analytical proposition about the dependence of the volume on the loading.

Assume that Young's modulus is constant: $E = 2.10^6\,\text{Pa}$. Take in mind that the Hooke's law is only approximately valid and the deviations from it can be up to 10%.

3. Determine the volume of the rubber cord, using the chronometer, at mass of the weight equal to 60 g. Write the formulas used.