

Physics 300L Fall 2008 Guidelines

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Office hours: Fridays 2-4 PM D-116, or by appointment through fparaan@ic.sunysb.edu

I. LABORATORY POLICIES

- Lab writeups should be printed out by the students and read through before each lab session.
- One question pop quizzes *may* be given at the beginning of the lab session to ensure that students have read the writeup.
- Lab data will be signed only after students have tidied up their stations.
- Lab reports are to be submitted by placing them in the corresponding PHY 300L box in the A-131 Help Room.
- Lab reports should be handed in by 5 PM of the following Monday for full credit. Submissions on Tuesday will receive a 20% deduction and later submissions an additional 20% penalty per week late.

II. LABORATORY REPORTS

Introduction (1 point)

- Your introduction should explain *briefly* (in one paragraph) the objectives of the experiment and how these objectives are to be met. These objectives usually involve specific physical principles or concepts.
- Full credit will be given to exceptionally clear introductions in simple yet accurate language.
- A quarter of a point will be deducted for introductions that take me longer than a few minutes to read.

Procedure (1 point)

- This section should be an outline of specific procedures that do *not* appear on the lab writeup. Write this section with the assumption that the reader has access to the writeup.
- Highlight important addenda or deviations from the writeup procedure, if any, and briefly explain why these were necessary.

Data (2 points)

- Acquired data should be presented neatly in clearly labeled tables and/or graphs. Errors in measurements should appear in both.
- One point will be deducted for messy work.
- Half a point will be deducted for each case of a missing unit, error bar, etc.
- Data must be signed by the TA for any credit.

Analysis (5 points)

- Explain the physical relevance of your data and the information extracted from it.
- Discuss how your results demonstrate or clarify the physical concepts and phenomena you are investigating.
- Discuss whether or not your results agree with theoretical expectations. Resolve any discrepancies carefully.
- Answer questions in the writeup that the TA requires. As much as possible, blend the answer into your discussion.

Conclusion/Summary (1 point)

- Your summary should state how your experimental results accomplish the objectives you enumerated in the introduction. One paragraph will suffice.

III. LECTURE HOMEWORK

- Homework must be turned in to the lecturer on the stated deadline for full credit.
- Each problem is worth one point. Marks will be on the following effort-rewarding scale: 0–no effort, 0.5–wrong, 0.7–slightly wrong, 1.0–correct.
- Late homework must be submitted in the corresponding PHY 300L box. Homework arriving a day late will receive a 20% deduction. Additional 20% deductions will be incurred for each week beyond the deadline.