

PHY300 lab rules

I. LABORATORY POLICIES

- Lab writeups should be printed out by the students and read through before each lab session.
- Please prepare & bring along a short (1/3-page) summary of the main idea of the lab. 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. Alternatively, reports may be handed to the TA in person (check with your TA)
- Lab reports must be handed to the TA **seven days** after the lab (i.e. bring your report along to the next lab if scheduled one week after). Late submissions on day 8 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.