

General Rubric for Grading Group Documents

[Note: not all of these are relevant for each of the labs]

- A: Outstanding.
B: Exceeds expectations
C: Satisfactory
D: Below Satisfactory
F: Nothing to Assess

Exercises:

- All exercises are completed.
- each problem is **set up correctly**
- any figures are **clear** and **relevant**; variables are either standard usage or clearly **defined**.
- arguments and/or calculations are **correct** and **easy to follow**.

Description of the experiment

- The diagrams + annotations **succeed in communicating how the apparatus works** and how it was used.
- Diagrams are **functionally clear**: the diagrams would make sense to other students in the course.
- Diagrams and annotations are **correct**.

Data reduction

- Raw data are **correct**: no significant mistakes in collection/reduction of data. Data have correct **units**.
- The data set is **complete**: sufficient to calculate all important results and random uncertainty.
- Relevant conditions pertaining to collected data (e.g., sample type, run number, equipment settings) are present.
- Tables of data include an **estimate of uncertainty** for each data point along with reasons for assigning that uncertainty.

Graphs:

- Graphs are appropriately sized to highlight the relevant results.
- **Legends** are given for graphs with multiple data sets and/or curves
- Data points are bare—point symbols not connected with lines
- When applicable, points include **error bars**
- Theoretical curves and/or fits are shown as lines (not points).
- Axes are **labeled** with quantity and correct units, and each graph is **titled**.

Data Analysis:

- **All** data taken are analyzed
- Analysis of data is **correct**
- All calculations and/or fitting performed are **fully and clearly described**, including any **formulas** used.
- Variables are either obvious (e.g., standard constants) or **defined**.
- Statistical **uncertainty** is calculated for numerical results
- Numerical results are stated with correct format, **units**, **significant digits** and **uncertainty**.
- Final results are **critically evaluated** – different results are compared to each other, noting trends or patterns; results are compared to literature or expected values and agreement is discussed.
- **Sources** for literature values are cited in sufficient detail.

General Rubric for Individual Reports

First Read		Second Read (or post due-date)	
A = accept	A or A– level work	A = accept	A-level work
AwR = accept with revision	B or B+ level work	AwR = accept with revision	B-level work
R = Rejected	Below B level work	B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D-	As appropriate
	Reverts to F if not resubmitted	F	Not (re)submitted.

Overall

- It is clear the writer **understands** the experiment.
- Writing is **clear** and **logically structured**
- **English is correct** in terms of spelling, grammar, word choice and usage.
- **Style** of writing follows conventions **appropriate** to a scientific journal or meeting abstract.
- Conforms to **formatting** rules (11-12 pt font, 1 inch margins) and **length** limits (1-4 pages).

Summary Abstract:

- First Paragraph states the **purpose** of the experiment in a **general way**, highlighting the **essential physics**.
- Second Paragraph describes the main techniques and experiment in a **general way**; **highlights the connection** to the measured physical property and **important conditions** that impact interpretation of results; **trivial details are omitted**.
- Third Paragraph states the results clearly, **with correct units and significant figures**; **compares** results to each other and/or literature.

Answers to Prompts:

- All prompts are addressed
- Answers are **self-contained**, in complete sentences.
- Any figures are **clear** and **relevant**; variables are either standard usage or clearly **defined**.
- Arguments and/or calculations are **correct** and **easy to follow**.
- Answers are **correct**, and cover all aspects of the prompt.

General Rubric for Individual Analysis

- A: Outstanding.
B: Exceeds expectations
C: Satisfactory
D: Below Satisfactory
F: Nothing to Assess

Code structure

- Code is **commented** within the code boxes and/or Markdown boxes
- Variable names make sense; a comment accompanies when they are introduced.
- Code is original (although built from templates is fine).

Graphs of Final Fits and Results:

- *A Markdown box and/or Labels on the graph make it clear what is being addressed in the graph.*
- *Graphs are appropriately sized to highlight the relevant results.*
- **Legends** are given for graphs with multiple data sets and/or curves
- *Data points are bare—point symbols not connected with lines*
- *When applicable, points include **error bars***
- *Theoretical curves and/or fits are shown as lines (not points).*
- *Axes are **labeled** with quantity and correct units, and each graph is **titled**.*

Data Analysis:

- **All** data taken are analyzed
- **All** relevant analyses in the template are carried out (note: it is OK to do them in a different order or using a different approach)
- Analysis of data is **correct**
- All calculations and/or fitting performed are **fully and clearly described**, including any **formulas** used.
- Variables are either obvious (e.g., standard constants) or **defined**.
- Statistical **uncertainty** is calculated for numerical results
- Numerical results are stated with correct format, **units, significant digits and uncertainty**.