

PHYS 1BA3 LABS Winter 2009

HEAD TA:

Pat Clancy, clancyjp@mcmaster.ca, ABB-249A, x21323

LAB TAs:

L01 (Fri): Prasanna Balasubramanian, balasupv@mcmaster.ca

L02 (Wed): Rachel Anderson, anderre@mcmaster.ca

L03 (Wed): Caitlin Mills, millsce@mcmaster.ca

TAs are here to help you. Your lab TA should be available for questions during the lab, and your head TA at the beginning of the lab. Your lab TA should also be giving you feedback on your lab reports, and suggestions to help you improve. If you need help from either TA after the lab, please email him/her to arrange for a mutually agreeable time to meet.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE LAB:

- ✓ **In order to pass the course, you have to attend the lab, hand in your demonstrator copy and submit a lab report for every lab. If you fail to do so, you will fail the course.**
- ✓ Before the lab, you are expected to read through the corresponding section of the lab manual and complete your pre-lab. You should hand in your pre-lab to the head TA at the beginning of the session before the lab starts.
- ✓ Your **reports are due one week after the lab** before 2:30pm. Put your lab report in the drop-box across the hall from BSB-B110.
- ✓ If you are caught cheating, for example if you have copied part or all of your lab report on someone else's or lie about the date your report has been handed in, your mark will be reduced, potentially to 0, depending on the gravity of the offence. Repeated offenders might not be allowed to pass the course.
- ✓ Pointing out clear mistakes in marking is perfectly acceptable and encourage. On the other hand, arguing about your mark just because you are unhappy with the outcome is undesirable and pointless.
- ✓ **If you miss a lab or know you will be missing a lab**, email your head TA as soon as possible to arrange for a make-up session, ideally by attending the lab of another 1BB3 section right away. If this is not possible, you will have to make-up for the lab at the end of the semester.
- ✓ **If you miss the lab report deadline**, email your head TA, before handing in your late lab, and let them know that you will hand in your report late. He/she will let you know where to hand in your late lab. **DO NOT** hand in your late lab in the BSB drop box and contact your head TA after, this will cause you to lose more late marks. In general each day past the deadline will cost you 10% of your mark unless there is a good reason for you being late.

MARKING:

Detailed guidelines on how to write a good lab report can be found at the beginning of your lab manual, please read those carefully.

When evaluating your work, we look at a set of different criteria (presentation, purpose, method, data, data analysis, graphs, discussion, conclusion), and assign a certain weight to each of them. Here is the total number of points associated with each of these criteria, which is slightly different for each lab experiment:

Lab /Criteria	Conical pendulum	Moment inertia	Electrical potential	Stefan's law	Hydrogen atom
Pre-lab	N/A	1	1	1	1
Purpose	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Method	0.5	1	1	1	1
Data	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Data analysis	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Graphs	1	3	3	3	0.5
Discussion	1	3	3	3	5
Conclusion	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Presentation	0.5	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	6	11*	11*	11*	11*

** Note that the first lab report will be marked on out of 6. All following reports will be marked out of 10. If you hand in your complete pre-lab you will get a small bonus mark. For example, if you get 8/10 for your report and hand in your pre-lab your final mark will be 9/11. But if you do not hand in your pre-lab you will not be penalized and your final mark will be 8/10 the same mark you got for your report.*

How many points you get for each criteria is decided according to the rubric shown on the following pages. For each criterion, what you need to get the full mark is listed in the column "satisfactory". The column "borderline" list the characteristics of reports for which only a half-mark would be assigned, while the column "unsatisfactory" lists characteristics of reports for which a zero mark would be assigned (for that particular criterion). In the last column, "unacceptable", are things that will automatically result in a mark of zero for the all report. In the first column, "distinguished", you will find a list of things that will make your report even better than expected. You will get a "star" each time a criterion of your report fall in that category. At the end of the semester, the five students with the most stars will get bonus points on their final mark for the course.