

WHAT NOT TO DO WITH YOUR LAB REPORT

PHY 117N (Spring 2008)

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- **Messed up units** : All measured physical quantities should be expressed in the approp units. Writing down angles in cm, for ex, is madness.
- **Graphs without scales** : There will be specific cases where you are asked to plot data on a graph sheet. It is important that you indicate the scale that you choose to use for both axes.
- **Significant digits** : I am sure you have heard this before, but it doesnt hurt to hear it again : DO NOT give final answers like 4.5678900456 cm for a length when your initial measurements themselves have a least count of, say, 0.1 cm.
- **Error Analysis** : Do not forget to include an analysis of error propagation when it has been explicitly asked for. An Appendix explaining the basics is available in your lab manual. Note : Knowing your error bars is *as important* as the actual measurement.
- **Messed up format** : Please stick to the format suggested. Most importantly, DO NOT resort to separating the observational data and the calculations. Include them along with the main discussion.
- **Late submissions** : No late submissions of the lab reports will be accepted. So, make sure that you print your reports sufficiently early.