

Scientific Report

General Form

The report should be approximately five Word/LaTeX processed pages long, not including titlepage, contents and appendices. All diagrams and graphs should be included in the body of text, not as separate pages. It should be written in scientific English/German. Scientific reports are written in the 3rd person or the third person plural, for example: “the temperature was measured” or “we measured the temperature” NEVER: “I measured the temperature” (even though this may be true!) Avoid using long sentences, and make every word count. HOWEVER, don’t worry, the standard of English/German will not be considered, only the scientific content and layout.

Structure

A scientific report should include the following sections:

1. Abstract

About 50 words briefly describing the main features of the report, such as type of apparatus used, the parameters varied and finally the final value with errors.

2. Introduction

This should explain the historical background of the experiment and the reason for doing it.

3. Theory

This section explains briefly all the relevant theory. Equations should be numbered and appropriate references should be given.

4. Experimental Procedure

Start with a drawing of the experiment, correctly annotated. Following the image should be an explanation of the apparatus and the procedure used. Possible error sources should be addressed and quantified.

5. Results

This section should only include the presentation of the results that have been processed, most commonly results in graph form. Excel/Origin/gnuplot can be used for the graphs and then imported into the document. Do not include tables of raw values, if you want to include them put them in the appendix.

6. Discussion and Conclusion (sometimes these can be separate sections)

This section draws the conclusion of the experiment. It should quote the values found in the experiment, including errors. This value should be compared to the commonly accepted “literature value”. Any differences between the two values should be explained.

7. References

Reference all books or other sources of information (eg. Internet pages...) used to write the report.