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Experiment 1: How to Write a “How to Write a Lab Report”

1 Introduction

In this lab we will learn how difficult it is to write a report on how to write a lab report. Hopefully we will realize that a lack of creativity brings rise to a non-humorous sample experiment, and the lengths at which a TA will go to please his students.

2 Procedures/Data

Please find attached data in lab book (ok so pretend that I have actual data along with comments for each part of the procedure such as “wow that is difficult” or “no, that idea is stupid”)¹

The first step of this lab was to try and find something online that seemed like a humorous experiment. This proved to be more challenging than expected as is shown by the lack of data in the table.

Next we sat down and thought hard about something which could bring a smile to our student’s face, but most ideas were not politically correct and as such were dismissed.

We then resorted to our fellow physic-nerd friends for comical ideas only to find none of them have humor. Finally we gave into desperation (or had a revelation) and decided to find something that was more true to life.

3 Analysis

Ok so again, no creativity. We couldn’t possibly think of any error analysis or calculations to do on this subject...but you know they would go here. But if we had, we would talk about the errors we found from error analysis and what we think caused them. Also, we would comment on which error would cause the data to move which way. For example, if we were to make

¹Do NOT use these examples in your lab write-up. They are situation specific to this silly example.

a measurement of a current going through a resistor and we get some value less than expected. We can blame this error on the resistor's resistance not being what it is stated to be; however we would also have to say that an increase/decrease in resistance would cause a decrease/increase in current.² Remember, all data would include units as well as errors!

Also, any graphs of our data would have been put here.

Table 1: Ideas From Various Sources

Source	Ideas
Online	Blowing things up in a Microwave Making Marshmallows Shrink with Pressure Dropping 50lbs of Silly Putty from a Roof
My Brain	Midget Tossing
Physics-Nerds	Something with a Spherical Chicken Something with a Spherical Cow A Frictionless Bear Being Tranquilized
Desperation/My Brain	This Document

4 Conclusion/Discussion

In this lab we learned all the difficulties of attempting to write the perfect sample lab. We also learned the lengths at which a TA will go to please his students. We realized that there normally would be errors and error analysis with our data along with an explanation for these errors. We found all errors in this lab to be due to a random human error in judgement which lead to the catastrophic failure of intelligence.³

Also we learned that sheer desperation can prevail in certain circumstances. As someone once said, if it weren't for the last minute, nothing would ever get done!

²You will see this when you do Ohm's Law, so don't worry about the specifics just yet!

³Just to point out, physicists often assume something is spherical (such as a chicken, cow, atom, etc.) to simplify the equations of motion.