

Lab Report Guidelines

A scientific laboratory report should contain the following sections, typically in the order given.

Introduction

What is the purpose of this lab? What do you expect to learn?

Hypothesis

Predict the outcomes of the experiment. These predictions will be based on the theoretical analyses we did of the various sorting algorithms in class.

Materials

What equipment and materials did you need for this lab assignment? The equipment in this case is the computer you are running on and its operating system.

Procedures

Describe the steps you took to gather your data. These should be listed in chronological order.

Data Recording

Place your result graphs here.

These next two sections are frequently combined.

Discussion

Explain your data in words. Discuss anything that happened while conducting the tests. Pay particular attention to anything that went wrong. What factors might account for any variance in your data or from your hypotheses. You should also answer any questions asked in the assignment writeup.

Conclusion

What did you learn? What conclusions can you draw from your results? How do your results compare with your hypothesis?

Future Work

What questions occurred to you while doing this lab? What additional experiments might you run to answer them?