Lab Book Guidelines

# How to make a lab book entry

1. Date your entry each day (and you should make an entry every lab day)
2. Record pertinent ambient conditions (e.g. room temperature)
3. Document your work *every lab day*
   1. Objective statement: explain why you’re doing what you plan to do
   2. Record what you do, referencing pertinent documents by name/location
   3. Include major equations used for calculations
   4. Summarize progress toward your objective
4. Sign your name at the end of each entry

# Other tips

1. Don’t leave blank spaces or pages
2. It’s okay to tape things into the lab book
3. Pages should be pre-numbered (it’s okay if you pre-number them)
4. Your lab book should be detailed enough for someone else to follow your work
5. If you are only writing the report, a very brief entry may be adequate, but is still required

# Sample entry

Sept 15, 2011 **8**

Lab temp: 20.1°C

Objective: Collect temperature profile data to determine convection coefficient, *h*, of steel and aluminum rods.

Turned on steam to preheat rods at 11:30 am, starting measurements at 1:35 pm. Measuring temperatures with IR gun at 2 inch increments; repeated 3 times (1:35, 1:50, 2:05 pm). The measurements were not very consistent. We’re not sure why. Robby thinks it might be due to some smudges on the metal, affecting its radiative properties. We’re going to try cleaning the rods before our next measurements. Thermocouples were read at the same times as IR temperatures were taken, and saved in “TC\_data\_Sept\_15.xls” in “j:/groups/zuper\_thermos/data”. They were more consistent.

Summary: measured profile which can be used with derivation (see entry: 13 Sep 2011) and practice calculation (see ../zuper\_thermos/calc, calculation.xmcd) to get “*h”*.

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