

PHYS328W: Guidelines for Log Books

Your audience is your future self (and in this course, also me, since I am evaluating your log book). Your notes are clear and detailed enough that when you read them in a few weeks, as you're writing a paper on your work, you (and I) will be able to figure out what you did.

Experimental Work and Raw Data

1. Entries include date and time and who was present.
2. Describe the configuration of the apparatus is described in enough detail that a reader could reproduce comparable raw data.
3. Record any dimensions, settings, and other configuration parameters that might be needed to make sense of the raw data.
4. Include clearly-labeled circuit diagrams.
5. Record raw data in the log book if at all practical.
6. Include the units of all physical quantities.

Analysis

1. Perform your entire analysis in the log book.
2. Describe your methods of analysis in enough detail that a reader could perform the same analysis of your raw data and obtain the same results.
3. Include images of derivations of important equations.