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Field Trip Report Outline

Sections should be as follows, for a report with a maximum of 8 pages in 12 point font, including figures. Marking criteria at the end

Title

Abstract

- A brief summary of your report

Introduction

- What scientific problem you are addressing.
- Background to targets observed.

Methods

- Choice of targets, if your entire report isn't about a pre-chosen object.
- Calibration images
- Data collection, including weather and seeing.
- Data analysis techniques used.

Results

- For WiFeS observations, a plot of spectra (possibly convolved if SNR was too low) of objects, showing key lines, e.g. Fraunhofer lines.
- For imaging observations, photometric data in magnitudes or astrometry in arcsec.

Discussion

- Classification of objects or features in spectra.
- Critical analysis of experimental technique - what limited data quality in the end?
- How better data could be obtained if the experiment was to be repeated.

Conclusions

- A very brief (1-3 paragraph) summary of any results, or if final results couldn't be obtained, why they couldn't be obtained.

References

- Ideally, references should be cited in Harvard style and then listed in the bibliography.

Marking Criteria - based on honours and according to the scope above.

50-59. The student:

- Demonstrated some knowledge of the relevant background literature (especially as relevant to the textbook and course content), but with serious gaps, and limited understanding
- Applied relevant techniques and carried out research work, but needed considerable assistance and showed limited understanding of the procedures employed;
- Presented their results, though in a somewhat muddled and/or incomplete way.

60-69. The Student

- has demonstrated a reasonable knowledge of the relevant background literature (especially as relevant to the textbook and course content), with only a few gaps, albeit in a somewhat uncritical way;
- demonstrated that they had learned many of the relevant skills of data acquisition and basic data reduction.
- presented their results in an appropriate format, and communicated them effectively.

70-79. The Student

- has demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the relevant background literature, though still with limited critical appreciation;
- demonstrated reasonable technical mastery of data acquisition and reduction;
- worked hard, efficiently and carefully;
- presented their results and/or data clearly and succinctly.

- Critically analysed the relevant background literature, including research beyond the lecture notes and textbook.
- Produced a report that demonstrates a clear appreciation of how their work fits in to the larger field of research;
- Demonstrated considerable technical mastery of all the relevant skills;
- Showed some appreciation of the limitations of the experimental design, including why they may not have chosen the best targets and how to plan observations better next time.
- Put forward their own useful and valid ideas relating to the project;
- showed the ability to work effectively in the presence of others.

>90

Additionally,

- obtained concepts and procedures independently and at least discussed a use for them in the study;
- demonstrated impressive data reduction skills beyond what was explicitly taught in tutorials;
- demonstrated a good understanding not only of the techniques they employed, but other alternative techniques and the reasons for choosing between them;
- Outlined possible future directions which are not merely feasible but which show some originality;

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◀ Field Trip Report

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