

ASTRONOMY 25

FORMAL LAB WRITE-UP

In this course we will perform several labs. The student is responsible for accurately recording all observations and summarizing her/his findings in a formal write-up. Each student in a lab group is responsible for preparing their own lab write-up. The write-up should include the following:

1.0 Purpose:

This section includes a brief description (1-2 sentences) of the lab purpose. What are we trying to measure or prove?

2.0 Theory

Give a brief description of the theory (if any) involved for this particular lab.

3.0 Procedure

In your own words, describe the procedure of this lab with sufficient detail to allow duplication by a colleague. The student shall take notes on the lab procedure while executing the lab.

4.0 Data

This section should include all of the measured values. Do not include any calculations here.

5.0 Results and analysis

This section includes any values calculated from data, graphs, and answers to questions. This section should also include any quantitative errors calculated from known or previously measured values.

6.0 Conclusion

The conclusion is the most important section of the lab write-up. This section provides a brief overview of the entire lab. The conclusion should address the purpose of the lab - did you do what you started out to accomplish? Do your results support the theory? If not, why?

7.0 Errors

This section should summarize your procedural errors which could have introduced some inaccuracies in your results. Examples of such errors are poor reflexes, poor seeing conditions, etc...

8.0 Improvements

Recommend any procedural improvements which will better the accuracy of your measurements.