

Lab course „Modern Physics I and II“

What does (not) belong in an internship report

- Basically, the report is to show based on what information which results were achieved. Unnecessary long reports are as bad as reports in which fundamental information are missing.
- In terms of style, the report shall be similar to a publication (Abstract/Introduction/Material and Methods or Experiments/Results/Discussion).
- Before starting the report, you shall consider a good structure/appropriate construction of the report (also consider consulting your supervising assistant).
- In the preamble, you shall mention the Physics (Theory) which are used on the tests and not the technical functions of the used devices.
- Pictures of devices, etc. are mostly redundant whereas schematic depictions are essential.
- Error information are crucial in Physics – no measurement is perfect. It should made clear, on what error information are based on and how they were calculated. The authors should have thought about which error calculation is to apply! Mentioning the error limits is also applicable to graphics.
- Every single picture/chart is to be numbered and commented in a manner that every observer can understand the content without further information. Axis shall be commented at any time.
- Description of handling of the lab equipment is not necessary (the Physics behind it is what is interesting and not whether device “xy” allows a max. current of 5 mA or not).
- Source citations (symbol “[]” shall always be stated (books/publications/older internship reports/internet/etc.))! As for internet sources, the date of the extraction is to mention as well.
- Equations and formulas (symbol “()”) are to be numbered at the right edge at same height.
- Inaccurate measurements (outside the fault tolerance) have to be justified, respectively, to discuss.
- The essential results should be discussed in the final words (summarize, compare and draw conclusions).
- Feedback about what has been fun during the experiment should be summarized in a separate chapter.