

Syllabus

Course: PHYS 170L, Section 6, Mechanics, Spring 2019
Lab Schedule: Thursdays, 9:00 am
TA: Pasha Hashemi
Email: hashemi@hawaii.edu
Office: Holmes 102
Office Hours: Thursdays, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Website: <http://go.hawaii.edu/boG>
Text: The lab manual for the mechanics section can be downloaded from the website listed above.

Student learning outcomes:

- To understand the importance of experiments as the basis of the scientific method.
- Better understand physics concepts covered in lecture by seeing their application in experiments.
- To obtain experience in the techniques employed by scientists in all fields for analyzing data and drawing conclusions from "real world" experiments.
- Report your result in a scientific fashion.

Preparation for the lab:

- Prepare a notebook:
 - On the book's front cover print your name, class, section, and name of your TA.
 - This book will be used to record the data.
- Use a pen for all data recording and quizzes.
- Read the lab instructions for the upcoming lab and bring the lab manual to class.
- Bring a scientific calculator, ruler, and tape.
- Wear closed shoes.

What to expect:

- Each student is expected to perform all experiments. Please see the rules for make-up experiments below.
- The class will start most times with a 10-15min quiz, potentially followed by a quick discussion of the answers.
- This is followed by a ~30min lecture from the TA. It is expected that the students interact a lot and ask questions. This will help to be more efficient when conducting the lab and writing the lab report.
- For the remaining ~2h, the students will conduct the experiments in groups of two and start the data analysis. Students should pay close attention to the instructions of the TA and the lab manual. Careful experimentation will result in better data. If something is unclear the TA is ready to help.
- Every lab is 2:50h long. You are expected to be on time and you are expected to stay until the end of the lab and to not leave early. If you finish early work on the lab report.
- A new random group partner will be assigned every two weeks.
- Nobody should leave without the TA signed data tables.

Lab report:

The idea of the report is that you could go back to report in a few months and would be able

to repeat the measurements without any further instructions by only using your own report.

- Start with writing the experiment's title and your partners' name/s.
- List the date you are writing the report.
- Structure:
 - **Objectives:** The purpose of the lab. The objective part should be very short; it should not be longer than two or three lines. Write it in your own words.
 - **Notes:** Write and explain any derivations of formulas you used in this experiments as well as assumptions we made to modify these formulas. These are not the lecture notes!
 - **Procedure:** Write in your own words each step of your experiment. Do not copy the procedure from the lab manual. Draw a sketch of any apparatus and label the different components used in this experiment.
 - **Data input:** Will include tables, graphs (Before printing any graph ask your TA to check the plot), and charts properly labeled with units. Please tape all extra papers to your notebook. The data should contain the information that was given and measured during the experiment (radii, current, voltage, resistance, etc.).
 - **Calculations:** Transform your data into results. Write the formulas you are going to use in your calculation, explain what is that formula for, and then use it. Write **units** for all physical quantities. Not using units results in a deduction of points for your lab report.
 - **Final Results:** Write all your final results as follows: result \pm uncertainty. Every measurement that you take has to be given with an error. Giving a measurement without the uncertainty has no physical meaning. Write **units** for all physical quantities. Not using units results in a deduction of points for your lab report.
 - **Discussion of errors:** Discuss the systematic and statistical errors involved in your experiment.
 - **Conclusion:** Write a conclusion in your own words. Explain whether the experiment fulfilled its objectives.
 - **Questions:** Answer the questions assigned at the beginning of every class.
- The recorded data will be signed off by the TA. Data that were not signed off by the TA will not be accepted. Unsigned data tables will not be accepted in your report and potentially leads to 0 points for the report (which is equivalent to missing one lab).
- Submission (both conditions have to be fulfilled):
 - Reports have to be submitted on Laulima as a single **pdf** file. Typical test processing software should be used (word, libreoffice, google doc). The pdf file needs to be submitted before the deadline date (at the beginning of the next lab).
 - Printouts of the reports **must** also be handed over to your TA at the beginning of each lab. (During or after lab will be considered as late). Working on previous lab reports in class is strictly prohibited.
- The lab reports make up 60% of the grade. If a lab report is not submitted the grade for the experiment is 0%.
- Penalties for late reports:
 - 1 week – 15% off
 - 2 weeks – The report will not be accepted → **results in one missed lab**

Quiz:

- It will contain about five questions from the current lab and the previous lab.

- Be prepared for those quizzes by reading the relevant chapters from your manual.
- The quizzes make up 40% of the grade.

Grading:

Final grades will be curved over all sections. The typical outcome over all sections is approximately 25% A's, 40% B's, 35% C's and below. Every experiment carries the same weight for the grade calculation.

Cheating:

- No cheating and copying is allowed. This includes copying data from another student.
- The groups will collaborate to conduct the experiment and also to start the initial analysis in the lab room together. However, the final analysis at home has to be conducted individually.
- No collaboration for quizzes.
- A student who was caught cheating would be given a zero for that lab/quiz (may also lead to a direct fail of the course).

Being late:

- This lab has a strict late policy. Missing parts of the lecture can potentially result in safety hazards and damaging behavior to the equipment.
- It is within the discretion of the TA to decide if a late student will be allowed to conduct the experiment or fail the experiment.
- Generally, being late by more than 30min automatically results in a missed experiment. This lab has to be made-up if the late arrival was excused with a reasonable explanation. Without a reasonable explanation the lab cannot be made up and the student receives 0% for the experiment.

Missed Labs:

- To receive full credit, a student must inform (email or call) his/her TA before or immediately after the missed lab. The student is responsible for arranging for a make-up experiment. The TA will assist the student with this process. The TA is not responsible for contacting the student after a missed lab to schedule a make-up experiment.
- If the TA was not contacted on the same day and the student cannot produce a doctor's note or any other evidence the lab cannot be made up. In this case, the student receives 0% for the experiment.
- A total of **two** make-up experiments is allowed. Any further misses, will result in failing the course. Special circumstances requiring to soften this rule should be brought to the attention of the TA as soon as possible and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The lab will be either made up in the other section of the TA or with another TA.
- In case of scheduling conflicts, it is the student's responsibility to make time for the make-up experiment. It cannot be expected that the TA will conduct the experiment exclusively with the student on their own time. Special arrangements will be found for missing a lab in the last week of the semester.
- On a case-by-case basis, the TA will decide if she/he will provide a make-up quiz as well.
- Making-up of missed labs will be in the same week or by the following week. If a student is excused for a longer period special arrangements will be decided on a case-by-case basis. This should be brought to the attention of the TA as soon as possible.

- **Only one lab can be missed without making it up to be able to pass the class.**
This will result in a 0% score for both quiz and report. A second lab that is missed and not made up (see rules for make-ups above) will result in failing the course.

Lab Schedule by Week:

Group II starts in PSB 110

Week		Day	Group 2	Holidays
1/14	1/18	1/17	General Course Information/Dimensional Analysis and Linearization	
1/21	1/25	1/24	Introduction to Vectors/Introduction to Error Calculation	1/21 MLK Day
1/28	2/1	1/31	The Mathematics for Handling Errors/Vector Addition with a Force Table	
2/4	2/8	2/7	The Normal Distribution with Darts	
2/11	2/15	2/14	Gravitational Acceleration on an Inclined Plane	
2/18	2/22	2/21	Gravitational Acceleration with a Pendulum	2/18 Presidents' Day
2/25	3/1	2/28	Conservation of Energy and Momentum in a Collision	
3/4	3/8	3/7	Conservation of Energy with a Pendulum	
3/11	3/15	3/14	Moment of Inertia of a Wheel	
3/25	3/29	3/28	Natural Oscillations with a Spring	3/26 Kuhio Day
4/1	4/5	4/4	Driven Oscillations	
4/8	4/12	4/11	Fluid Drag	
4/15	4/19	4/18	Bulk Modulus of Air	4/19 Good Friday

* Please consider the holidays. These labs will not be made up.