

Referee: _____

Author: _____

Physics 430I Peer Evaluation

1 Important Information

Length \geq 1 typed, double-spaced page (\sim 300 words)

Due: February 11, 2011

2 Description of Assignment

Write a peer evaluation of a fellow student's Long Paper. Your primary goal in this assignment is to help the other student make his or her paper better. Therefore you should be polite, but honest. If there is something wrong with the paper, or even something that could just be done better, say so. If there is something that was done particularly well, you should feel free to comment on that too. In your evaluation you should focus on the following factors:

- **Content:** Do the experimental results sound correct and are the experiments properly explained? Are all questions answered and answered correctly? Do you see any flaws in the arguments presented by the author?
- **Creativity:** What do you think of the author's Experiment 8? Was it an interesting experiment, or was it just a slight variation on one of the earlier experiments? Did you learn something new from this paper, or were the results of the Experiment obvious?
- **Organization:** Is the paper well organized? Do the paragraphs seem to fit together? Does the introductory paragraph do a good job of setting up the problem? Does the concluding paragraph do a good job of summarizing the results?
- **Style:** Is the writing clear and concise? Could the paper say the same thing in fewer words? Are there places where additional detail or explanation is needed? Is the paper easy to read?
- **Grammar:** Are there grammar or spelling mistakes in the paper?

If you were evaluating a paper for publication in a professional journal, content and creativity are of the utmost importance. Organization is also an important (although secondary) criteria for most physics journals. From what I have read it seems that very few physics journals (with the exception of the *American Journal of Physics*) pay much attention to style and grammar (unfortunately). I want you to pay attention to all of these aspects of technical writing, because I believe they are all important. Although content and creativity may be the most important scientific criteria, if no one can read the paper then it will not be of much use to the scientific community.

Remember that your score on the Long Paper assignment will be partially determined by this Peer Evaluation. So try to give an honest and thorough evaluation of your fellow student's paper.