

The Blue Kinetics Lab left you feeling anything but blue! Most of you got done early and left with excellent results. So what is there to say about writing this one up?

1. Always double check the rubric and use it as a checklist.

Section 2 of Part A (Spectrometer details): Here you give λ_{\max} (to the correct number of significant figures), as well as some mention of how you calibrated your spectrometer.

Section 3 of Part A (Proper use of significant figures and units). These calculations were done in Excel this time. One can display Excel numbers to any number of significant figures as one wants, but the calculations are always done using as many digits as Excel has available. It's like using your calculator display with ten digits to do the next calculation. Anyway, don't worry about sig figs in your printed Excel spreadsheets table.

2. What you include in your notebook? Well since you can always state, "We followed the procedure as provided in the laboratory manual," one obvious thing to include in your lab notebook is, "with the following exceptions: (and then list them)". Remember that we used Excel.

3. Your Excel sheet summarizes all of the data, so no need to copy that into the lab report notebook. In other words, this lab will not use too many notebook pages. We will be entering data into Excel and writing equations and making graphs and adding a trendline. As usual, you will work in pairs. However, you will be doing this by yourself the following week in the quiz (using your own laptop to create graphs and add a trendline), so I suggest that you work up your own data this week — I will even let you use the spreadsheet you create on the quiz next week — so all you have to do is plug in the data I give you and answer a few questions about the results.

4. The most common ways to lose points: wrong units on rate constant and significant figure issues.