

1. INTRODUCTION

Laboratories offer an ideal opportunity to learn and strengthen, by means of actual observations, some of the principles and laws of physics that are taught to you in general physics lectures. You will also become familiar with measuring equipment and learn the fundamentals of preparing a report describing the procedure undertaken and the results obtained.

Science is different from other subjects because the answers to scientific questions are not found in a textbook. The basis of what scientists believe is the result of careful collection and analysis of laboratory evidence. In any physics class, the *distinctness* of science will be most evident when it comes to laboratory sessions.

In physics courses, laboratory experience is central. The laboratory is the place where physics students do physics. It is in the laboratory that physics students learn to practice the activities of scientists – asking questions, performing procedures in a rigorous scientific manner, collecting data, analyzing data, answering questions, and thinking of new questions to explore.