Lab Report Expectations

ELEC 433 is a hands-on course. There are no homework “problem sets” or exams. As such, the only way for us to to gauge the progress of each student is via the quality of the submitted lab reports.

There is no set length for a report. The report needs to convince the us that you have fully understood the material. Here are some rules of thumb that will help make that happen:

1) If a specific question is asked in a lab assignment, make sure to answer it. That said, *only* giving the correct answer will not give you full points. Explain *why* the answer is that way. On the flip side, if you happen to get the answer wrong but your discussion of the problem is generally correct, you will receive a substantial amount of partial credit.
2) In most assignments, you will be asked to design and develop certain systems that make up a digital communications processor. These designs will be submitted alongside your reports. If your design works but the report inadequately describes its operation, you will lose points. In general, try to make sure that your design can be evaluated on the merits of the report alone. Don’t make us guess at what you were thinking as we explore your submitted design; tell us explicitly.
3) When you submit a design, it should be ready-to-go so all we have to do is click the “start” button. There shouldn’t be any intricate and/or undocumented initialization requirements for your design to run.
4) Include screenshots and plots to help aid the discussion in your report. If you want to focus our attention on a particular part of your design then take a screenshot of that piece and write about it.

Lab reports are your primary opportunity to demonstrate your command on the material taught in the class. Each lab in this class builds on the previous-- it is easy to get behind if you aren’t on top of the material. Detailed lab reports are critical for us to keep an eye on everyone’s progress so we can step in and help if there are any gaps in understanding. Thank you for understanding! We’re looking forward to this semester.

Michael Wu and Evan Everett