

Homework Assignment #8, Referee Report

In addition to your joint journal-club presentation on March 29, each team member must *individually* prepare a 300-word to 400-word “referee report” that critically analyzes the paper, using the *Physical Review Letters*’ [criteria for acceptance of manuscripts](#). You may also wish to review the Institute of Physics’ excellent “[Introduction to Refereeing](#)” before you begin this assignment.

Your referee report should comment on the following aspects of the paper and provide examples and evidence to support your evaluation:

1. Validity—the work reported is free of detectable error and provides sufficient detail so that its validity can be determined.
2. Importance—the results reported substantially advance a field, open a significant new area of research, or solve—or take a crucial step toward solving—a critical outstanding problem, and thus facilitate notable progress in an existing field.
3. Broad Interest—the results reported represent a major advance in a field of physics or have significant implications across subfield boundaries. A manuscript may also be of broad interest if it is exceptionally pleasing science, aesthetically.
4. Adequacy of the Introduction—Review “[The Aim of a Good Introduction](#)” and comment specifically on the adequacy of the introduction of the paper.

Due: **Friday, April 5, 6:30 PM**. Put your completed assignment in the PHYS 496 homework box. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be downgraded and will be ineligible for rewrite points.

Total—50 points