

LABORATORY NOTEBOOKS

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What is a Lab Notebook?

A book in which to keep lab notes!

- ❖ CS version – a documented program (documented in the form of comments integrated with code)

Why keep a Lab Notebook?

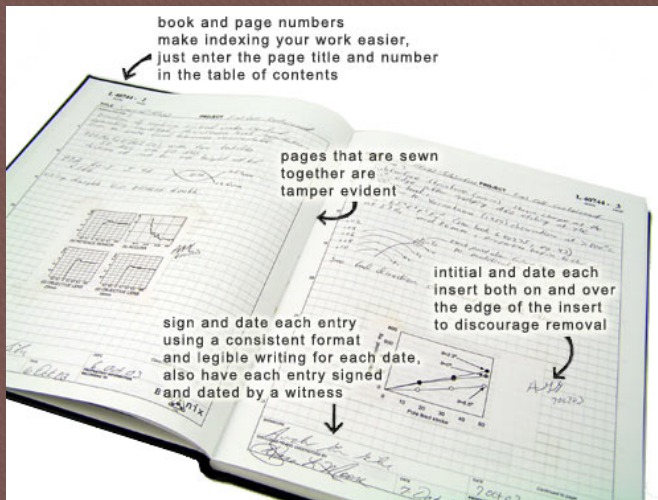
- ❖ Primary reason

So you can remember what you did on a given day. You record study parameters to reproduce an experiment or understand what you did.

- ❖ Secondary reason

- Original Patent system relied on first to invent. Before Mar 16, 2013, it was **first to invent** regardless of patent application date. Whoever invented it first wins! How do you decide who invented it first? Properly maintained lab notebooks!
- In other countries (under pure **first to file**), someone overhears a conversation, they reproduce the invention, they file. In our country, patent law is enshrined in the constitution. Rights go to the inventor. To move closer to pure first to file, now we have **first inventor to file**. Lab notebooks are used to **show** you invented it (even if you didn't).

RULES



✓ Bound

Can't tear out pages; no spiral bound notebooks or 3-ring binders

✓ Entries dated

✓ Witnessed

Notebooks witnessed periodically (\approx weekly) by a group member; provides some legal security

✓ Use pen (indelible)

If you make a mistake, the original text needs to be legible. If you make a correction, draw a single line through the erroneous text and initial the replacement entry.

✓ Pages numbered

No blank areas; Draw a line through any blank pages or blank areas

✓ Auxiliary paper (e.g. printed data)

Has to be pasted (not taped, not stapled)

✓ Everyone in a group keeps a separate notebook

✓ Record all experiments, even bad ones