ME 402: Common Mistakes

Lab 1

These are some common mistakes observed in the reports from Lab 1. These are by no means ubiquitous. The intention is to provide some guidance for future improvement. See the other documents on the course website listing common mistakes.

- Please organize your document with a title, section/subsection headings, etc.

- As stated in the Written Assignment Checklist, avoid standalone qualitative statements such as “looks similar”, “very close”, etc. without giving specifics. If you say that the experimental temperature response “looks like” the model prediction please be specific. For example, are you saying that the experimental response seems to be an exponential curve? If so, are there significant differences? Providing detail in this assessment of the results is critical.

- In general avoid vague statements. Instead, backup your statements with evidence. If you say that “human error” may have influenced your results, be specific about what kind of error and how that is manifested in the results/data.

- Avoid putting multiple figures/tables one after another. Instead put each figure/table just after it is needed (and cross-reference) in the text. It is better practice to break up blocks of multiple figures with short paragraphs that refer to each figure than to have one paragraph followed by a series of figures without text.

- Please read the “Short Notes Specific to ME 402” posted on the course website and follow the guidelines for including figures, tables, numbers and equations in your report.