

First-Year Physics Labs

COVID-19 protocol

1.- Face-to-Face activities include

1. Helping students setup equipment to collect data.
2. Helping students troubleshoot processes while collecting data.
3. Helping students make connections between data and theory.

2.- Procedures to minimize the likelihood of COVID-19 transnission

To maximize the hands-on aspect of the Lab and maintain safe distancing among students, we are making the following adjustments to our labs.

Each laboratory section has been capped at 12 students, and the three-hour lab sessions divided into two parts. We will have half of the students joining each subsection.

We are also limiting the number of students present in the Lab to four. Lab groups are limited to a maximum size of three students, but only two members are allowed in the Lab. The rest are expected to join the lab discussions remotely. The students' role will be rotated so that all of them have hands-on participation in the Lab.

We will use zoom.us (video conferencing software) to facilitate the remote participation and require that every student registered for the Lab has access to a portable personal computer (laptop or another device) capable of connecting to the campus wireless internet, where they can work at the Lab or away.

Also, the following procedures are implemented in the Lab:

1. Lab windows are to remain open during lab sessions.
2. Students are seated in the back of the room –see Figure 1 below.
3. Every person entering the Lab must wear a mask and anti-splash goggles (preferably with non-direct ventilation).
4. Upon entry, students will go to their designated station, wash their hands, and put on disposable gloves.
5. At the end of the Lab, students will use the provided disinfectant to wipe down their working area, and reset the equipment.
6. Before leaving the Lab, students will disposed of their gloves, and wash their hands.

Note: Students are expected to procure their own masks and anti-splash goggles. NMT will provide disposable gloves, soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and surface disinfectant.

3.- Required Interactions that break safe distancing

These interactions are limited to

1. Emergency assistance.
2. Setting up and troubleshooting equipment. Students, including TAs, are allowed to work together at distances of less than six feet, but for time intervals no longer than fifteen minutes.

For contact tracing purposes, records of each interaction that breaks the mandated safe distance of 6 feet are kept in a log maintained by the lab supervisor. Entries in the log document include the 900 ID of all the participants and how long the interaction lasted. TAs are responsible for reporting such interactions to the supervisor.

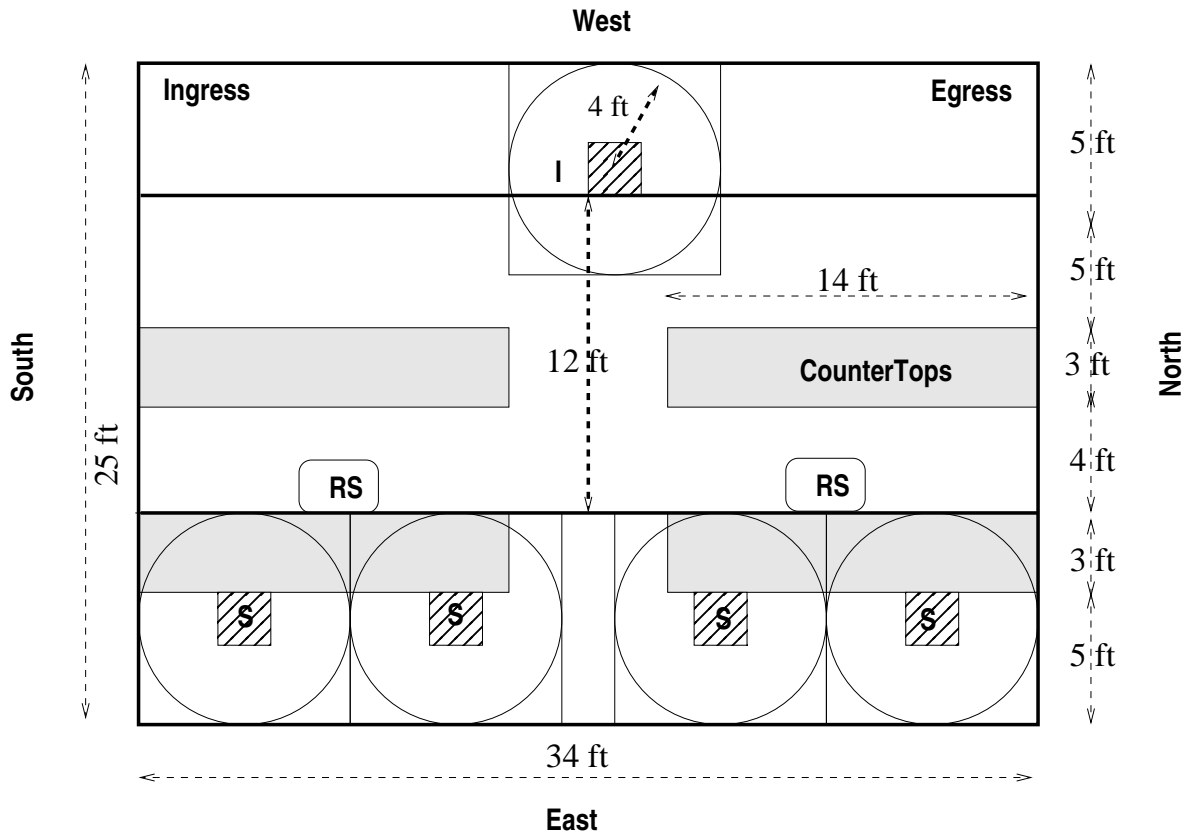


Figure 1: Schematic showing seating in the lab. Students are seated in the back of the lab with windows open. The spaces marked **RS** represent students joining the lab discussion Remotely.