

## 9 Rules for Professional Typography in Physics

1. **Avoid:**  $2kg$ **Instead use:** 2 kg

There is a space between the number and the unit (the number and the unit are separate “words”). Units are *not* italicized. This helps distinguish between 2 kg (two kilograms) and  $2kg$  (2 times  $k$  times  $g$ ).

2. **Avoid:**  $10^{12}$ , or 1E12**Instead use:**  $10^{12}$ 

In scientific writing, you have to use superscript. The notation 1E12 is specific to computer coding. The notation  $10^{12}$  is a shortcut that might be appropriate for an informal email message.

3. **Avoid:** VLED or V\_LED or  $V_{LED}$ **Instead use:**  $V_{LED}$ 

In scientific writing, you have to use subscripts. Note that subscript text such as “LED” is *not* italicized. In LaTeX you can code this as  $V_{\text{LED}}$ . The notation V\_LED is a shortcut that might be appropriate for an informal email.

4. **Avoid:** wavelength= $d*\sin(\theta)$ **Instead use:**  $\lambda = d \sin \theta$ 

Algebraic variables are italicized. There are spaces on either side of the equals sign. The sine function is *not* italic. LaTeX and Microsoft Equation Editor will manage much of this for you.

5. **Avoid:** 10 Ohm**Instead use:** 10  $\Omega$ 

In Microsoft word you can use the font called “Symbol” to get Greek letters. Alternatively, Latex and Microsoft Equation Editor also take care of Greek letters by typing ( $\Omega$ ).

6. **Avoid:** Voltage (v)**Instead use:** Voltage (V)

Units are case-sensitive. The symbol for the volt unit is capital V.

7. **Avoid:**  $\theta = 0.674740942$ **Instead use:**  $\theta = 0.67$  or  $\theta = 0.675$ 

It is unlikely your solution will require more than 1% accuracy.

## 8. Algebraic variables are defined in the text the first time they are used.

## 9. Use a consistent font size for equations and text.