

Intermediate Laboratory II:

LabVIEW

(Phys 363)

Spring 2010



What am I doing here? LabVIEW is a graphical programming language used to create data acquisition and control interfaces. In other words, it is used to enable a computer to control other real-world hardware. As a result of completing this course, you will be able to create control and acquisition programs using LabVIEW, you will be able to interface the LabVIEW computer to external hardware using at least three protocols.

Where can I get a textbook? The LabVIEW software comes with excellent documentation, which we will consult in place of a textbook. There are also a number of LabVIEW manuals and texts available in ISC 225 for your use. Please do not remove them from that room. If you want a book of your own, you might consider one of these from ni.com:

Learning With LabVIEW 8 Student Edition, by R. H. Bishop ISBN 0-13-239025-6
Includes LabVIEW 8.2.1 (Student edition): ISBN 0-13-199918-4
LabVIEW for Everyone, by J. Travis and J. Kring: ISBN 0-13-185672-3

If you choose one of the first two options, you might buy it directly from National Instruments, the maker of LabVIEW, at www.ni.com.

How will I be graded? Your grade will be determined by:

Weekly Assignments and quizzes	60%
Project Stages	10%
Final Project Submission	30%

How will I submit assignments? You must drag/copy the code for your weekly assignments into my inbox: \\files\Inbox\Physics\Pogo. A link to this address can also be found on my home page. Or, you can get there from the RUN... menu on your PC. Assignments **must** be titled **##-LastnameFirstInitial.vi**. So, my third assignment would be called "03-PogoE.vi". Sometimes, you may have to add extra files, too. Be careful: once an assignment has been placed into the inbox, it cannot be retrieved, deleted, or changed! Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

What is required for the final project? Final projects must involve interfacing a computer with external device(s). The LabVIEW control system must include active feedback: it must make some measurement(s), and then adjust the timing or nature of the next measurement based on the result(s). Outputs should be non-trivial; in the ideal case, they will involve motion. Simple automation of data-acquisition is not sufficient. State machines are also unacceptable. Also, some portion of the final output of the system must be permanent (i.e., stored in a file rather than merely displayed on-screen). Finals projects should be debugged and "idiot-proof" (i.e., they shouldn't crash if the user makes an input error).

What are these “stages” for the project? Projects will be completed and submitted in stages:

- Stage 1: An abstract of your project’s main idea. It is *your* responsibility to find an idea, not mine!
- Stage 2: A complete written proposal. The project proposal must be a short professional report describing the scope of your project. It must include the following sections:
 - a. The finalized abstract.
 - b. A detailed list of all the hardware you expect to use (including specifics for simple stuff such as wires and cables!).
 - c. A detailed summary of the intended user input. A sketch or screen shot of the user interface should be included.
 - d. A detailed summary of the project output. Again, a screen shot and an example listing from any output text files to be generated should be included.
 - e. A description of the measurement(s) the system will make, including their frequency (e.g., twice each minute), and any unit scales (e.g., 1 volt ↔ 10cm).
 - f. A flowchart diagramming the flow of information in the system, including an **explicit** indication of the necessary feedback.
- Stage 3: A detailed checklist (see also stage 2b) verifying that all the equipment has been obtained.
- Stage 4: An in-class demonstration that each element of external hardware can, at a minimum, send or receive data from the computer, as appropriate.
- Stage 5: A prototype of the final project and front panel. Everything must work to some extent, but some things will not yet be smooth and perfect.

If any of the original sections of the proposal are found to require modifications, an explanation of the changes and their reason is required simultaneously with the next stage. Also, any stage may be completed early.

Schedule of Assignments

Date	Assignments Due	Format
Wednesday, January 27	Assignment #1	inbox
Wednesday, February 3	Assignment #2	inbox
Wednesday, February 10	Assignment #3	inbox
Monday, February 22	Assignment #4	inbox
Monday, March 1	Assignment #5	inbox
Friday, March 12	Assignment #6	inbox
Wednesday, March 24	Project Stage 1: Abstract	inbox
Monday, March 29	Assignment #7	inbox
Wednesday, March 31	Project Stage 2: Full Proposal	inbox & hardcopy
Wednesday, April 7	Project Stage 3: Equipment Inventory	hardcopy
Wednesday, April 14	Project Stage 4: Signal Check	in-class demo
Wednesday, April 28	Project Stage 5: Prototype Demonstration	in-class demo
Monday, May 3	Completed, debugged Final Projects	inbox