Instructions for Using CALM
Computer Assisted Learning Method

Accessing the CALM program

Use a computer with either Netscape 6.2 or Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.1 browsers (or higher). Such computers can be found in the Student Technology Centers or in other campus computer clusters. You can also dial in from home if you have access to the Internet and one of the above browsers or America Online’s browser. The instructions below assume you are using Netscape.

Start Netscape and choose the Open button from the button bar or choose Open Location from the choices under File in the menu. Enter the address for CALM:

https://calmweb.chem.indiana.edu/P105_Fall

and click on Run the CALM Program to access the CALM-Login Screen and the IU authentication screen.

Or, you may select CALM by clicking on Fall 2007 CALM Homework Link at the P105 homepage:

http://www.physics.indiana.edu/~courses/p105/fa07/

The Calm Banner Toolbar allows you to select Tutorial, Menu, Trouble Report, or Exit. If you are a beginner with CALM, select the Tutorial option and learn more about the CALM environment. Please use the Trouble Report option and fill out the linked Trouble Report form if you are having trouble with the CALM system. Always use Exit to make a clean logout from the CALM website.

Login Screen for CALM-P105

Students enrolled in P105 can enter their UITS Username and password. If you do not have an active UITS Username, you must get one and e-mail it to your P105 instructor ASAP. Your password is the same one that you use with all of the IU authentication screens. If you are unable to proceed beyond this point, contact your P105 instructor by e-mail.

Selecting a Homework Assignment and Section

At this point you are presented with a selection of Homework Assignments in a Menu Tree. Suppose you want to work on Homework Assignment #1. Click on HW #1 and the menu tree will expand into a list of the two assigned sections, Questions and Problems.

Each section with a green [+] contains active questions to be answered for credit. A section with a yellow [+] contains questions that have passed their due date. Click on the Section of interest and the menu tree will expand to show a list of questions and their due dates. To vary the CALM display, click on Enable Low-Bandwidth or Enable High-Bandwidth under User Preferences at the left. If you are accessing CALM by a modem connection, you may find the Low-Bandwidth option more responsive.

Answering a Question or Problem

In the High-Bandwidth mode, each question has a colored LED beside it: green means that the question can be answered for credit, yellow means that the question can no longer be answered for credit, and black means that the problem has not yet been assigned. Hover your cursor over the LED and the due date will appear. If the question has a completed checkmark √, then it has already been answered correctly and your grade for the correct answer has been recorded.

Select a Question or Problem by clicking on question # with your mouse and a new screen containing the question will appear. Answer the question as requested and click on Push Me. Your answer will be graded and the result is provided on the next screen. If you have correctly answered the question, click on Push Me to return to the menu tree. If you have not answered the question correctly, select Back in your browser button bar and try again. Please see the section below on Formatting Your Answers for hints on how to enter both text and numerical answers to the different types of Homework questions.

To view all of the questions that still need to be completed, click on the [+] next to Course at the top of the Menu Tree to expand the entire menu tree. This shows you all of the questions. The completed questions will have a checkmark next to them. Click again on the bracket to collapse the menu tree.

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CALM Adjustments and Reporting Difficulties

If you experience a slow display response, please try the Enable Low-Bandwidth option.

If you are having other difficulties with the CALM system, please file a Trouble Report ASAP. We will make every effort to deal with problems that arise in a timely fashion.

Formatting Your Answers

There are several conventions to keep in mind in entering numerical or text answers to CALM.

Scientific Notation:

If you choose to use scientific notation, your answer should be entered into CALM much like you would enter it into a calculator. For example, to enter the answer \(1.243 \times 10^{-23}\), 1.243E-23 or 1.243E-023 would be acceptable to CALM. In most cases, you may enter your answer in any of several formats. For example, for the answer \(1,030,000\), CALM allows 1030000 or 1.03E6 or 1.03e6 or 1.03e+6 or 103e4. **CALM does not allow 1,030,000 since commas are NOT allowed** in the numerical field.

 Significant Figures:

In the P105 version, CALM does not test your answer for the appropriate number of significant figures. However, in working out the answer to a numerical problem, you will need to include the appropriate number of significant figures in your calculations. CALM tests for answers within an allowed error band that is specified for each problem. The allowed error band might be ±10%, ±5%, ±2%, or ±1%, depending on the nature of the problem and/or the number of significant figures provided.

Text:

For answers to CALM Questions that involve text, CALM requires an exact match for a correct response. Pay attention to whether the answer is singular or plural. Leading or trailing blank spaces in the active field of the box may lead to an incorrect match.

Capitalization, Subscripts and Superscripts:

Capitalization rules are not followed when entering answers into the P105 version of CALM. Suppose the answer to a question involves the abbreviation for the element Sodium, [Na]. While the correct answer is Na, CALM allows “Na” or “na” or “NA” or “nA”.

Subscripts and superscripts are entered as regular numerical text. Suppose the answer to a question is [CO₂]. CALM allows “CO2” or “co2” or “Co2” or “cO2” since capitalization rules are not followed and we can’t specify subscripts or superscripts in the text field.