Cooper
Oct. 23, 2026

Physics 596 – Fall 2026

Mini-Assignment #2: Writing an Abstract

Each group should choose one of the well-known papers from the following list:

1. Discovery of the Antiproton
2. Bose-Einstein Condensation
3. Structure of DNA
4. Time-dependence of the Fine Structure Constant
5. Superfluid Transition in Liquid Helium
6. Observation of Microwave Background Radiation
7. Discovery of the Positron

These papers can be downloaded from the Phys 596 website:

https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys596/fa2026/abstracts.html

All of these papers either had their abstracts removed or never had abstracts. The purpose of this assignment is for each group member to read and understand the paper (not a bad assignment in itself) and then write an appropriate abstract following the Abstract Lecture discussed in Phys. 596. Each group should select one of the papers above, but all members of the group should develop abstracts on their own. Once each member has developed a draft abstract, group members should exchange drafts with another group member and provide feedback on that draft abstract. Based upon this feedback, each member should write a final version of their abstract.

Friday, November 13: Each group should submit—as a package and electronically if possible—the final versions of the abstract from each group member.