

Grading Rubric for 18.821 Papers

September 17, 2013

Mathematical Correctness and Vision (4)

- 4 The students discover something interesting and substantial within the available scope of the project and the identified phenomena are convincingly explained (i.e., proofs are rigorous; conjectures are supported with convincing evidence).
- 3 Some notable progress is made within the available scope of the project and explanations are suggested for identified phenomena (i.e., claims are rigorously stated and support goes beyond a few specific examples).
- 2 A good expository description of the problem and of the most interesting aspects of how it appears to behave (e.g., conjectures are stated).
- 1 Description of the problem and of some immediately apparent aspects of its behavior.

Exposition (4)

- 4 The paper is carefully crafted to ease reading and understanding for the target audience (peers of the authors). For example, the paper is consistent and cohesive (not just 3 parts pasted together); the paper is carefully focused and structured and the structure is communicated to readers; new ideas are concisely introduced or motivated before being used; displays and examples are carefully crafted to aid understanding; mathematical language and notation are used appropriately; citations clearly acknowledge any sources used; writing is appropriately concise and carefully proofread.
- 3 Many of the criteria for a grade of 4 are met. The paper is sufficiently carefully crafted that peers can easily discern what was intended whenever expository roughness is encountered.
- 2 Peers must expend some effort to discern what was intended when expository roughness is encountered.
- 1 Substantial effort is needed to discern what was intended.

Research and Writing Process (3) All teammates contributed substantively to the research and to the writing and attended all meetings. The draft was complete and carefully written, and the revision took into account but was not limited to the feedback of course staff and of teammates.

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