
Math 195: Demystifying Mathematics

HOMEWORK GRADING RUBRIC AND GUIDELINES

Each graded homework problem is worth 5 points. The rubric for assigning these points is below, as is more information about the late homework policy. On the back of the page are the guidelines for homework problems and some further information on academic honesty.

Rubric

5 points The solutions are well written with clearly expressed ideas. There are practically no grammatical or spelling errors. Mathematically all steps are justified with only very minor errors, if that (for example a simple copying error).

4 points The solutions are well written however excessive ideas and details are included or the argument is not concisely formed. Alternatively a few mathematical details may be missing. There are few, if any, grammatical or spelling errors.

3 points The writing is missing key information which makes it hard for the reader to understand the arguments. There may be gaps in the logic or missing descriptions of key symbols or notation. Mathematically the solution may contain a more serious error (something that is clearly a misunderstanding of a crucial concept). Overall the grammar and spelling errors are minimal.

2 point The writing is difficult to follow at times and may include small grammatical errors, some incorrect spelling, or a couple of unclear sentences. Mathematically the problem started on the right track and then things went bad. Perhaps a major error was made, or wild claims with no justification, or the point of the problem was misunderstood.

1 points The writing is poor and the ideas are not clearly expressed. It may include poor grammar, incomplete sentences, or bad spelling. Mathematically only trivial consequences of the problem were stated.

Late Policy

Assignments are due *at the beginning* of class every Friday. If you type the problems, they may be turned in on PWeb instead. Late homework incurs a letter grade deduction per day late. So if you earned a B on an assignment but you turned it in to me 20 minutes (or even 1 minute) into class, it would be recorded as a C. Similarly if you turn it in a 10 AM on Saturday morning it will be a C.

Note that because homework is due on Fridays and I am not usually in the office on the weekends, if you want to turn a homework in on Saturday, before 3 PM be sure it is typed and submitted on PWeb. Otherwise, I will assume you turned it in Monday morning when I return to the office. This would mean the homework incurs a 2 day penalty.

Guidelines

- I. Assume you should always justify why your answer is valid or correct, even if the problem doesn't explicitly say that. For "Find a blah ..." or "Give an example of blah ..." problems you should always implicitly add an "...and explain why" to the problem.
- II. All your solutions should be written in complete sentences and in paragraph form.
- III. List where appropriate the names of anyone with whom you worked or any source (animate or inanimate) from which you received assistance.
- IV. While you are writing your solutions, don't think about writing them for me. Think about writing explanations for the other students in the class.

Academic Honesty

You are allowed (and even encouraged) to work together to solve the mathematics underlying any homework problem, but everyone must write their own solutions. For problems where you need to find an explicit example, if you work together, you each need to come up with *substantially* distinct examples.

Consulting any completed solutions is academically dishonest. Never search the internet for a solution to a problem. Reading a math solution is much easier than figuring it out yourself. It only hurts your learning to find solutions online or in other books. Generally I am grading the quality of your answer ideas, not the absolute "rightness" or "wrongness" of your answers.

In mathematics, there is not one universally applied citation style. Each journal has its own style and the typesetting program LaTeX can be easily programmed to create the style required for a particular journal. For this class, it is imperative that you are explicit when ideas come from other sources, but I will give some leeway in how you choose to acknowledge those sources. If at any point in the semester you are unsure how to cite any results, just ask me.