# Project Report Guidelines

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## Fall 2015

**Report Due: 1:00 am Thursday, 12/10**

It's the homestretch now, folks! It is almost time to generate and submit a final project report. Please submit **one report per group** via email to me, by the due date.

# The Project Report

As we have discussed, you can generate the final project report by refining the progress report. You will do so by including additional details, your final results and conclusion and incorporating any feedback I may have given you.

## Format

Your final project report should be 7-8 pages (including citations), typeset in LaTeX, with 10pt font and margins set by
`\usepackage{fullpage}`. You may use the same template that you used to generate your proposal document.

## Structure of the Paper

A rough structure of your final paper is given below:

**Abstract:** A 1-2 paragraph summary of your project.

**Introduction:** This approximately one page section should clearly indicate the following:

- The key research problem and its significance. Make especially sure that you motivate the problem well!
- What were the key *results* that the authors claim to have achieved in your core paper(s)? Which of these are of particular interest to you and which parts of the paper have you either replicated or plan to replicate?
- Include a survey of recent *related work* and indicate their significance. You should be able to clearly identify the contributions of about 3-5 other related papers and situate this against the contributions of your core paper(s).
- A road-map of the rest of the paper including the section with your most significant findings.

**Background** This section will include definitions, models and any other background the reader will need to fully appreciate your results and findings.

**Results and Discussion** This section contains the meat of the paper and is where you will show off all the hard work you have put into understanding your core paper(s) and designing your experiment or replicating the proofs. Also identify what portions of your results align with the original paper's, and what parts do not. If they did not agree, do you have a well thought out hypothesis as to the source of disagreement? Can you test your hypothesis?

**Extensions (optional)** Had you identified extensions of the original work? If so, list these out in detail. Be sure to include what the extension is, why it was useful to do, and what progress you have made on it and what conclusions you have drawn.

**Conclusion** This is where you summarize your findings and identify future work you would have found interesting to undertake, given the time.

**Contributions** You should indicate the contribution of each group member to the project, including the write-up.

**Bibliography** Make sure you have used BibTeX to generate your citations!

## A Note on Readability and Style

Make sure that there is a clear top-down structure to your project report. This means that the first 2-3 sentences of every section and subsection should motivate and summarize the key points of that part of the paper.

As with your progress report, your write-up should not assume familiarity with your core paper(s); a good rule of thumb is to keep the write-up comprehensible to your peers. This does not mean that you should leave out technical details. In fact, I will be especially impressed if you can demonstrate an intuitive grasp of technical material by working out simple examples.

Your writing should be clear, so make sure you have thoroughly proofread the report. For instance, it might be a good idea to have one person write a part of a section and for another person to look over that part for clarity and correctness.

# The Final Presentation

Each group will give a 20 minute progress presentation, with an additional 5 minutes for questions from the audience, during Week 13. Divide speaking time amongst your group members roughly evenly. The presentation schedule is on the class website.

Given time constraints, we will adhere to the time constraint pretty strictly. This means you may not have time to get into all the details you have worked through. So make sure you provide highlights of your contributions. In particular, the presentation should include:

- a concise overview of your project where you identify the key research question and its significance.

- a summary slide with the list of results you have achieved.

- a more detailed analysis of different parts of your results.

# Grading

As a reminder, the grade distribution on the project is listed in Table 1. As always let me know if there is any part of what is expected that is unclear to you. Good luck!

|  | Weight | Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| **Proposal** | 10% | 1:00 am Wednesday, 10/28 |
| **Progress Report** | 10% | 1:00am Monday, 11/16 |
| **Presentation** | 10% | *In Class*: 11/30 − 12/4 |
| **Final Paper** | 15% | 1:00 am Thursday, 12/10 |

Table 1: Project Grade Distribution