
Project 4: Five-page Paper

Scholarship Skills, Winter 2020

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First Draft Due Monday, 17th February; final version due Wednesday, 26th February

Prepare a *review* or *research* paper on a technical topic of about 2500 words — roughly five pages when double spaced, depending on the format and how many figures you include. The bibliography does not count towards the 2500 words. It should be a complete paper with abstract, introduction, conclusions and bibliography.

If you choose to write a review, your paper should be more than a string of summaries of prior work. You should try to place results in a common framework, present them with a uniform terminology, and explain how they relate to each other. A review paper should be based on at least six sources. (I expect that you will start with the sources from your annotated bibliography, but it's OK to add or delete if you find that other sources tell your story better.)

If you choose to write a research article, be sure to place your work in the context of prior work. This requirement means being explicit about how your contribution is an advance on that prior work. Note that in a paper of this length you probably can't cover all aspects of your work.

For your audience, assume a reader who has completed the core courses for an MS degree in your field. For formatting, use the ACM Master Article Template, and the “ACM Small” article format. (See <https://www.acm.org/publications/proceedings-template>).

A first draft of your paper is due Monday, 17th February. Bring **two** hard copies of the draft to class; make sure that it is **double-spaced** (use option `format=manuscript`) and has room for us to write in the margins. Students will reverse-outline each other's drafts as an exercise assigned that day.

The final paper is due on Wednesday, 26th February, in class. Make sure this also is **double-spaced**, and has room for me to write in the margins. Turn in the feedback you received, too. Try to keep to the 2500-word limit. Write less, say more! If you are over-length, revise to be more concise. **Put the word count on your final paper.**

This project will be graded using the rubric on the next page. Read it and make sure that you understand what I will be looking for when I grade your work.

Scholarship Skills	%
Grading for Project 4	
Article states, on the first page, both the problem it addresses and why it matters.	8
Paper states its contribution(s)—either research contributions, or expository contributions.	10
Complete Paper: abstract, introduction, several sections that develop story, conclusion, references. Section headings are appropriate.	8
Plot: the paper must tell a story, and the story must be clear to the reader. Each section and subsection should explain how it moves the plot along. Organization is explained and cross-references are used where necessary.	10
Review of prior work establishes state of the art and is sufficient to provide a basis for the contributions of the article.	12
Uses enough graphics to illustrate the story.	8
Uses Examples to explain, or in place of, definitions, algorithms or formulae.	10
Is Concise. Each paragraph moves the story along, with minimal repetition. No superfluous words.	6
Clear and simple language. Prefers simple words.	5
Core Rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses active voice • defines terms and notation before use • puts key ideas in lead positions, • doesn't make unsubstantiated statements, • uses a consistent lexical set, in text and in formulae • defines terms when first used. 	10
Grammar & Mechanics: correct use of punctuation, articles, sentence structure. Nouns and verbs agree.	8
Bibliography Format	5

