HW1 Comments

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CPS 271

What to turn in

• Electronic submission is OK, even preferred
• We can’t grade what we can’t read
  – Preferred: Use LATEX or (ick!) Word
  – OK: Legibly handwritten solutions
    • Try a pencil
    • Try a tablet PC
• What not to turn in
  – Pages with lots of failed attempts that make it hard for us to even find your final answer
  – Pictures of your whiteboard
  – Scans of sloppily handwritten homeworks

About Technical Writing

• Writing proofs and other technical things succinctly and clearly is not easy
• You will need to do this:
  – In papers that you write
  – In your thesis/dissertation
  – On tests (and quickly too)
• Use homeworks to practice this skill!
The Textbook

- Reading the textbook before the lecture will help you understand the lecture better
- If you don’t have time to read before
  - skim the textbook before the lecture
  - go back and read after the lecture
- It will be very hard to do the HW w/o reading the textbook! (My lectures aren’t that good!)
- I will assume that you are reading the book!

Reasons not to use Wikipedia

- It isn’t always right
- You won’t learn anything if you copy the answer from Wikipedia
  - The homeworks count very little, so you are only hurting yourself
  - You will do poorly on the exam if you don’t challenge yourself on the homeworks
- I will know that you are using Wikipedia and I will know that you are a slacker

Good uses for Wikipedia

- Checking on the form of standard distributions, equations, or mathematical identities
- Checking on the meaning of terms
- Checking bibliographic or historical info

- Caveat: Wikipedia isn’t always right. If you find something on Wikipedia you should:
  - Think: Does this make sense?
  - Corroborate: Is this consistent with other sources?