Physics (6)562: Term Project Discussion groups

Christopher L. Henley

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On Monday 3/24 you’ll need a “pre-draft” of your term paper, and on Wednesday 3/26 during class period you will present your ideas to your peers. The presentations will be in groups of 3, with a 15 minute block allocated for each presentation. We will pass out the list of students in each group. Each group has a diverse list of topics.

The discussion is marked on participation and on making the deadline, not on quality. I assume all of you are able to attend. If anyone gets sick, etc., email Chris Henley in advance: I will scramble to rearrange groups, forward pre-drafts, etc.

Students who miss the presentation, or who are judged (based on pre-draft and presentation ratings) to be essentially unprepared, will be asked to schedule a make up 15 minute during the next week or two, with consisting listeners of CLH and/or Sethna and/or other students making up. (With luck, this won’t be necessary.)

1. Write pre-draft

Reminder: the “pre-draft” is a document of at least 1, up to (and more likely) 2 pages, in the TeX format for the paper. It is expected to be a draft of the introduction/conclusion parts of your term paper.

You’ll make your “pre draft” (as pdf if possible) to the two others in your group and also to CLH and JPS, by Monday 3/24 at 6PM.

2. Read pre drafts

Please look for two pre-drafts in your incoming email and skim them (maybe print them out) before class Wednesday. No one expects you do look up any references! But think of what basic question you would ask, to understand what the topic is about.

3. Preparing your story

I would guess you have the equivalent of ~ 8 minutes to explain and the rest is answering questions. You should make a brief outline including the ~ 3 main points you need to make. All you really have time to do is explain what are the main questions, and (secondarily) tell the answers; you don’t have time to show how you get there.
4. Discussion

Each of you has a 15 minute block (10:15-10:30, etc.) to present the basic point of your topic, and answer others’ questions. Time will be strictly enforced so we get out in time.

5. Evaluation

Every listener will fill out an anonymous form, for each presentation, asking for ratings on two questions.

- Were they sufficiently prepared? (If there is agreement a student was extremely un-prepared, they’ll be asked to make up as explained above.)
- Is it accessible at the level of the course? (If the consensus is no, I’ll warn the student before they turn in the draft, otherwise this has no effect on marks.)