

Grading Homework Problems

Each homework problem will be graded on a 10 point scale. At the end of the semester, I will ignore approximately the lowest 10% of the homework problems, and the cumulative scores on the remaining exercises will be scaled to 100 points for your semester homework score. As with the regular exams, a grade curve will be established for use in the computation of your course grade as detailed in the syllabus.

The following things are what I look for in assigning points to an individual problem:

10 Points

To get 10 points, the exercise must be done completely. The exercise must be written in grammatically correct sentences, which can include mathematical symbols. In fact, it is possible for entire sentences to be written in mathematical symbols. The reasoning should be correct and it should be clearly explained to the reader. Mathematical symbols should be used correctly. A common problem, which I particularly bring to your attention, is the excessive and careless use of the equal sign $=$ and the implication symbol \implies . The paper should be neat and easy to read.

8 or 9 Points

A good understanding of the problem should be demonstrated although something required for 10 points will be missing. An error in an answer should not make the answer implausible. For example, an answer of -1 when you are asked to produce a positive number satisfying some condition is an implausible answer. An error in an answer should not indicate a lack of understanding of the problem.

6 or 7 Points

Most of the exercise has been done correctly, or a good procedure was followed, but an error was made in following through the procedure which should have been caught. Some help is probably needed before another such exercise can be completed correctly.

4 or 5 Points

Some part of the exercise has been correctly done.