



COMP 412
FALL 2009

Your Lab Report
Lab 1
Comp 412

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Contents of the Lab Report

Lab reports are due Friday

- Lab report forms the basis for grading your lab
 - Must convey the breadth and depth of your work
 - *Communication skills are as valuable as programming skills*
 - Will be judged as a document
 - *Use tools to write it (not emacs)*
 - *Produce a 5 to 10 page document in PDF or Word format (.doc)*
 - *Worry about grammar, punctuation, clarity*
 - *Use a spelling checker*
 - *Read it out loud to yourself*
- Your directory of code serves as a backup for the TA to verify aspects of the report
 - With a well-written report, the TA should only run the code to verify correctness of the output... (*& veracity of the student*)



Contents of the Lab Report

What should the report include?

- Description of the problem
 - Every lab report starts with a description
- Method
 - Explain your algorithms, their asymptotic complexity, and their expected case complexity
 - Explain any approximations or heuristics that your algorithms use and why you believe that they are reasonable
- Experience
 - What did you learn by implementing the algorithms? Did the implementation change your plans or your algorithms?
 - Did you try (and, possibly, abandon) other schemes?
 - What was easy? What was hard?

Contents of the Lab Report



What should the report include?

- Results
 - How did the algorithms perform in practice on the various blocks given for the lab? On other blocks you created or tried?
 - Give one or more concise tables to illustrate performance
 - How did the algorithms you implemented compare to each other?
 - *Was one clearly superior? If so, why do you think it happened?*
 - Was the allocator's actual running time reasonable? Did it conform to your expectations?
 - Answer any questions raised by your report