Math 210 & CS 271  
Tuesday “Lab”  
Fall, 2006

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Class time: Tuesdays, 8:30–10:20am  
Web site: http://personal.denison.edu/~Kretchmar/Tuesdays.html

Description

This weekly component of Math 210 and CS 271 is intended to increase your proficiency and comfort level in effectively communicating Mathematics and/or Computer Science topics to others. The majority of the class will focus on oral communication, but will also cover two tools that effective Mathematicians and Computer Scientists frequently use in their work: a typesetting package called \LaTeX and a symbolic computation system called Maple.

Weekly schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week(s)</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction, talk logistics, and \LaTeX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Critiquing talks and more \LaTeX</td>
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<tr>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>Students give 3-5 minute talks</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wrap-up of first round of talks, preparation for second round, and Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>More Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>7–10</td>
<td>Students give 8-10 minute talks +2 minutes for questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wrap-up of second round of talks and preparation for third round</td>
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<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>Students give 6-8 minute talks +2 minutes for questions</td>
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Grading

Your grade for this part of the course will count as 20% of your Math 210 or CS 271 grade. This 20% will be based on 100 points, distributed as follows:

- 90 points for oral communication
  - 15 points for your first talk
  - 30 points for your second talk
  - 25 points for your third talk
  - 8 points for four outside talk critiques
  - 12 points for three peer critiques and three self critiques
- 10 points for Maple exercises
- Attendance: We will DEDUCT 2 points for the first class to which you are late and 5 points for each subsequent late class.
- \LaTeX: The \LaTeX exercises will not be graded BUT every homework assignment due after week 2 will suffer a 10% penalty if it is not typeset in \LaTeX.

Expectations

You are expected to attend every class meeting on time. As described above, we will deduct points for tardiness. The schedule of talks will be determined randomly. No rescheduling, make-ups, or trading days with a fellow student will be allowed. During the weeks when you are not speaking, you will be assigned to critique another student. These critiques will be submitted online by the next Thursday morning. After reading the critiques from his or her peers, the speaker will be required to submit a self critique online by the subsequent Friday at midnight. Finally, you must submit four talks given outside of class. The FAST TALK series is an excellent place to attend such a talk. All critiques will be given 1 or 2 points for effort.
The three talks

Students will give three talks. Each talk will have a particular focus. All topics MUST be approved in a meeting with the instructor.

- The topic for Talk I will be picked out of a hat. This will be something you are familiar with from a previous class (Calc I and II for 210 students, 171,173,174 for CS students). You will then teach this topic to the class. This is a short talk designed to help you practice the mechanics of giving a talk. Although the topic is assigned, it is left up to you to design the specifics of the talk.

- The topic for Talk II will be chosen by the student. It should be rigorous and involve material that few if any students are likely to have seen. We will provide a handout with many suggestions. The talk should be given at a level appropriate for an undergraduate Math or CS conference but the main points should be understandable to both Math and CS students in our class.

- The topic for Talk III is the same as Talk II but will be given at a level appropriate for an audience of non-majors (for example a presentation at a board meeting). The class will roleplay this.

Accommodations

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. We rely on the Office of Academic Support to verify the need for reasonable accommodations based on documentation on file in their office.