

CS6380 Lab Report Format¹

Laboratory reports should reflect clear writing style and obey proper rules of grammar and correct spelling. Write in a manner that can be understood by another person who has not done the assignment. Use the following format for the reports:

1. Introduction

Briefly summarize the nature of the system, the basic numerical or other algorithm, and the interesting or relevant questions.

2. Method

Describe the algorithm and how it is implemented in the program. In some cases the explanation can be given in the program itself. Give a typical listing of your program. Simple modifications of the program can be included in the Appendix, if necessary. The program should include your name, date, and name of your source file and be annotated in a way that is as self-explanatory as possible. Be sure to discuss any important features of your program.

3. Verification of Program

Confirm that your program is not incorrect by considering special cases and by giving at least one comparison to a hand calculation or known result.

4. Data

Show the results of some typical runs in graphical or tabular form. Additional runs can be included in the appendix. All runs should be labeled, and all tables and figures must be referred to in the body of the text. Each figure and table should have a caption with complete information, e.g., the value of the set parameters.

5. Analysis

In general, the analysis of your results will include a determination of qualitative and quantitative relationships between variables, and any necessary numerical estimates.

6. Interpretation

Summarize your results and explain them in simple physical terms whenever possible. Specific questions that were raised in the assignment should be addressed here. Also, give suggestions for future work or possible extensions.

7. Critique

Summarize the important simulation concepts for which you gained a better understanding and discuss the specific techniques that you learned. Make specific comments on the problem and your suggestions for improvements or alternatives.

8. Log

Keep a log of the time spent on each problem and include it in the report.

¹Taken from Appendix 1A: An Introduction to Computer Simulation Methods, H. Gould and J. Tobochnik, Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1996