Final Report Guide

Research Frontiers in Computer Graphics
Lecturer: Kevin Novins

Why a final report?

The purpose of the final report is to allow me to assess your level of understanding of the paper that your group has studied. I will do this by reading your own explanations and analyses of different aspects of the paper.

The final report is not directly about your implementation work. That's assessed separately, through the source code that you submit and your final presentation and demo.

> *The final report must all be your own writing. No quotes or paraphrases. All group members are responsible for checking that the report you submit is not copied or paraphrased from elsewhere.*

Quotes and paraphrases are not allowed because I want to assess how much *you* understand, not what someone else understands.

What is the format of the final report?

I'm constraining the format to make it simpler for you to construct your report. Your report should contain the following sections:

1. A brief explanation of the problem that the SIGGRAPH paper attempts to solve. What is claimed about this particular technique that is not true of previously published techniques? (1-2 paragraphs)
2. A brief explanation of the solution to the problem that the SIGGRAPH authors propose. How does it solve the problem that it is supposed to solve? What is new about it? (1-3 paragraphs)
3. An in depth explanation of one theoretical aspect of the SIGGRAPH paper or its background knowledge *that isn't explained well in published material*. You should explain it in terms that an average 715 student can understand. Use diagrams as appropriate. If you use complex formulas or maths that an average 715 student won't understand, be sure to explain them carefully. (Length will vary depending on topic; probably 4-6 pages.)   (If your group did not succeed as well in their implementation as they hoped, you can try to make up for this by including more than just one theoretical explanation. The length of your report will expand in proportion.)
4. A listing of aspects of the SIGGRAPH paper that you still don't understand. Include formulas and algorithms that you know how to use but don't understand how or why they work. It's perfectly respectable not to understand some things; just don't claim that you understand more than you do.   If you seem to be claiming more than you understand, I may query the group about this.   (Length will vary, but probably not more than a page.)
5. An evaluation of the testing of the algorithm that the authors report in the SIGGRAPH paper. Is their testing adequate and do their results back up their claims? (1-2 paragraphs)
6. A discussion of the limitations or flaws of the technique as published. Are there limitations or flaws to the technique that the SIGGRAPH authors don't make clear, or don't report at all?

(You may want to include the findings of your own experiments here.) (Length depends on how many limitations and flaws you find, and how hard it is to explain them. Probably a page or two.)

7. Your overall assessment of the paper and the impact it will have on the field (1 paragraph)
8. A complete list of references (electronic and otherwise) that you used in learning about the paper, annotated a brief statement for each reference indicating what it was useful for..

The lengths above are only rough indications. Do not resort to superficial efforts to meet the length guidelines, such as using a tiny font, or padding your text with unnecessary phrases.

The overall length is not a lot considering the number of hours you put into the project. Be sure that the report is dense with original insight and adequately reflects what you learned about the paper in three weeks of investigation.

When is the final report due?

The final report is to be submitted to the assignment drop box by team leaders by 11:55am on 9 October. But to account for minor illnesses and other small catastrophes, submissions will be accepted without penalty until 5:00pm on 11 October. No submissions accepted after 5:00pm on 11 October.

What about other things that are due?

Source Code – This will be due at the same time as the final report. Details will follow in a separate document.

Final Presentation – These will occur in Week 5. Your presentation will focus on your implementation work, including a demo. Details will follow in a separate document.

Individual assessment – This will focus on your contribution to the group work. *An earlier handout listed the due date for this as 9 October. However, I've decided to extend that to 17 October because some of the group work will be involved with the presentations in Week 5.* Details will follow in a separate document.