

Differential Equations

Research Paper

Due 6 June 2008

Here are some guidelines for your research paper.

- Your paper should be in the format of a peer-reviewed journal of your choice. Your topic should be, in theory at least, appropriate for that journal. Choose a journal from which you've read several papers so that you have a sense of style and format.
- Note that the structure of papers differs somewhat from field to field. Research papers are not lab reports.
- Follow the author instructions for that journal. You can usually find these by going to that journal's home page and clicking *information for authors* or something along those lines.
- The paper should be 5 – 20 pages.
- You should have 5 – 20 references, correctly formatted in the style appropriate for your journal.
- The paper should be a thorough, but not exhaustive, account of what you've done and figured out over the course of your research. It does *not* need to be a complete research paper.
- The most important part of the paper is the introduction and literature review. I'll be looking to see that you clearly state your research question(s), motivate them well, and situate them by dialoging with your references.
- I'd strongly encourage you to take the time to learn some of the software that organize and format bibliographies, format equations, and make figures. Time spent now will pay off in time saved later in other classes and internships and senior projects.
- Proofread, spell-check, and go to the writing center if you wish. Do your best, but don't stress out too much about the writing—writing well is extremely important, but it's not the main emphasis of this particular class.