

Department of Computer Science, University of Houston
COSC 3340 - Term Paper Guidelines Fall 2008, Due Dec. 2 at 5pm

All work **must** be your own. No discussion with anyone (except the TA and instructor) is allowed on the term paper.

The task is to:

1. Survey the literature on Theory of Computation in the last two decades (1988-2008).
2. Identify a problem that is directly related to the models of this course and was solved in this period.
3. Write a one page outline due Nov. 13, 2008 (2.30pm) of your term paper. You will need to discuss the outline with me during office hours Tuesday (Nov. 11) and on Thursday (Nov. 13).
4. Write a term paper describing the problem, its relevance to the course, its general significance, its solution, and any remaining open problems that are related to the solved problem.

If the problem is not deemed satisfactory for any reason in Step 3 above, you will have until Nov. 14 to come up with a satisfactory alternative. Hence you are strongly encouraged to choose the problem carefully and to hand-in and discuss your outline well before the Nov. 13 deadline.

Formatting. The term paper must be typed on no more than six letter-size pages. Use: only one side of each sheet, single spacing and 1 inch margin on all sides with no less than 10 point font. You may attach an appendix of up to one additional page if you wish, but the term paper must be understandable without reading the appendix. The appendix may be read at the discretion of the instructor so do not put any required reading material in the appendix. **Staple** all sheets together. No unstapled term papers will be accepted.

Some starting points. The following journals and conferences are known to publish theoretical CS research and may be used as starting points (this is not an exhaustive list): Theoretical Computer Science journal, Journal of Symbolic Computation, Information and Computation journal, Journal of the ACM, Journal of Computers and System Sciences, Algorithmica, International Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming, Rewriting Techniques and Applications (tree automata works appear here), IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science, and ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing.

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