Write-up Guidelines
CSEP 517

Autumn 2013

1 Style

1. Have a clear outline for your paper. For example, you might start with an introduction, then a methodology/algorithms section, experimental setup, results, and conclusion.

2. Make sure your writing is clear. If we can't understand what you meant, we will have to take off points. However, you should also aim for brevity, where possible. One or two sentences is often all that is required to address each of the key points listed below.

2 Content

1. When describing your experiments, please describe *exactly* what you did. This should include what data you ran your experiments on and what you calculated. Someone reading your paper should be able to duplicate your experiments. This includes all relevant details about smoothing, hyper-parameters, how often you ran on the test set, etc.

2. If you say that you implemented a specific algorithm, include a brief description in your paper so we know that you understand it. Also, briefly motivate *why* you choose to use the algorithm/approach that you did, in cases where you chose yourself.

3 Results

1. Generally, graphs are better for conveying information than tables. Please label your axes and include captions.

2. Don't include all of your results in a single graph or table. Split up the information into figures meant to convey one point each, and briefly explain what the point is.

3. Include enough results and discussion to convince us that your code is working correctly. You might, for example, ablate or turn off different aspects of your implementation to demonstrate that they are contributing to the overall results. You might also discuss cases where the algorithm is doing well and what types of failures it is making. If you just include numbers with no discussion, we will assume you don't know wether your algorithms are implemented correctly.

4 General Comments

1. If you have to choose, do not spend all of your time trying to fix small bugs in your code. Your write-up is far more important for your final grade. Instead, try to write up exactly what you did and if you weren't able to get results, write up what you might have expected and why. We will give as much partial credit as we possibly can, but there isn't much we can do if you don't write anything down.

2. Please write your name on your paper!

3. Please follow the page limit! We will stop reading after the number of pages indicated.