

CSC 301: Analysis of Algorithms

Lecture 5: Proof Writing

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Reminders

- Homework 0 is due Tonight
- Homework 1 has been released on gradescope, it is due next Wednesday
- Starting with Homework 1, I am asking that you do your best to submit a document that has been typed in L^AT_EX
- Tokens: Let me know if you have any events you would like me to add
- Office Hours: 1604 Wednesday and Friday 1-2:50

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Proof Writing

- Hopefully everyone read the reading for today
- Discuss with each other (3-5min) what makes for a good proof

Proof Writing Basics

- Know your audience: what background can you assume?
- Set an invitational tone: present tense, we not I, gentle commands
- Use complete sentences: white space is important, English text is easier to read than a series of symbols, make it easy to parse
- Avoid shorthand: see above $\exists$ vs There exists
- Etiquette: don't start phrases with a symbol or number, emphasize unfamiliar words

Proof Writing Improvements

- Don't be too wordy (or too brief)
- Use formatting to help structure the proof and make it easier to read
- Give an example if it will help
- Omit irrelevant details
- Simplify (see contradiction in text)
- Iterative process

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L^AT_EX

- Why L^AT_EX?
 - It is easier to read
 - It is standard when writing papers for submission
- Introduction to L^AT_EX available on Overleaf
- Why Overleaf?
 - Data is not stored on your computer (can access in multiple places)
 - Easy sharing (in the future)
 - Many helpful guides
- If you get stuck, feel free to stop by my office hours or send me an email

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Python

- The final project and any programming assignments (if they occur) in this course will require Python
- You are all mature Computer Science Students, you should be able to learn it on your own (if you do not already know it)
- If you need help with finding resources, let me know

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Maximum Element

- Given: Array of integers
- Return: Maximum Element
- To do:
 - Create Algorithm
 - Prove Correctness (loop invariant)
 - Argue Runtime

UnknownFunction

Algorithm 1: Unknown(n)

Input: Integer n

Output: Value y

```
1  $y=0$ 
2 for  $i$  in  $1:n$  do
3   |  $y+=2^i$ 
4 return  $y$ 
```

- To do:
 - What does this algorithm do?
 - Prove Correctness (loop invariant)
 - Argue Runtime