Grading rubric for presentations

Clarity and Correctness (10)

10 Students and staff alike learned a huge amount from this stellar presentation.

8–9 The presentation was mathematically correct and could be understood and appreciated on some level by all classmates. The level of detail, difficulty, and formality were appropriate to the audience and to the content; the structure, examples, figures, and explanations were well chosen and led most of the audience to understand not only the statement of the problem but also its motivation and the progress made toward its solution; the language and notations were precise. Carefully structured board work complemented the vocal delivery by emphasizing important points and helped the audience to absorb subtle points, without being distracting. The delivery was carefully prepared, and individual segments were well integrated into the whole.

6–8 Some aspects of the correctness, delivery, visuals, or development were less than optimal, but only for short periods and in ways that didn’t interfere substantially with audience understanding of the presentation as a whole. Alternatively, all the characteristics of 8–9, but with one significant flaw, such as going too fast, or running out of time.

4–6 Only the course staff and the strongest classmates were able to understand and appreciate the presentation, and/or major issues with mathematical correctness.

1–3 Only those already familiar with the material were able to understand and appreciate the presentation, and/or major issues with mathematical correctness.

Audience Engagement (6)

4–6 The presentation was engaging and insightful. For example, it was focused on the most interesting results and motivation, while less important points were de-emphasized or omitted. The presenters adapted well to audience reactions. The delivery was compelling; it was easy for the audience to pay attention.

3–4 The audience had to exert some effort to pay attention to the entire talk.

1–2 Paying attention to the entire talk required significant effort.

Synthesis (4)

4 The presentation provides the audience with greater insight than they would receive by simply reading the book. For example, the presentation successfully refers back to material discussed in previous presentations, or points out the relevance of particular results to the overall structure of the course.