On the final mark for Knot Theory, MiM, Spring 2014

Learning is hard to estimate. But without estimation and encouragement, however imperfect, it is almost impossible to support enthusiasm.

The final mark is

A+, if $L \geq 300$

A, if $L \geq 270$

A-, if $L \geq 250$

B+, if $L \geq 220$

B, if $L \geq 200$

B-, if $L \geq 180$

The specific values above could be decreased depending on the number of homework problems and tests.

Here the Lagrangian L consists of the following.

(1) The final exam, the midterm exam or test of N minutes is $[2N/3]$ points worth. Tests for 10-15 minutes will take place almost every other week.

(2) Oral solution of a problem is 1 to 4 points worth (depending on complexity).

(3) Before each seminar a student can submit a list of homework problems. If a problem from this list is not checked, then it is 1 point worth. If a problem from this list is checked, then it is from -4 to 4 points worth (depending on the complexity, how serious errors are and whether they are corrected during discussion).

(4) Finding a bug in a book or in a handout is 1 point worth (if the bug was not previously found by another student).

(5) A 'perfect' written solution is 5 or 6 points worth. If a written solution is not recognized as 'perfect', then after receiving critical comments it is recommended to write a new version (and so on until the current version is recognized as 'perfect'). You can submit one written solution per week as a candidate to 'perfect' solution.

Comments.

• You can ask any questions on Tuesdays at 17.30-19.00 (and at 15.40-17.30 upon agreement).

• *You are encouraged* to solve home assignment problems by yourself. *It is allowed* to take some hints (from books or fellow students). *It is not recommended* to take many hints (and, moreover reading solutions before their discussions). This will spoil your chance to train your brain, that is, to learn how solutions are invented. This would also be harmful for exams, which would contain some problems requiring certain experience of solving problems by oneself. *It is recommended* to read (and critisize!) complete solutions *after* the problems were discussed at the seminar.

• A 'perfect' solution is 0 points worth if it is obtained from a book or a text of another student by certain geometric transformation.