

Research Seminar in Probability and Statistics II

— DEPE, 2nd Sem. 2017/18

General info

- **Faculty**

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- **Contacts**

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- **General objectives**

Students are encouraged to attend the research seminars in Probability and Statistics (PS), to get in touch and discuss applications of PS and contemporary research topics in PS with speakers; this will facilitate the integration of the students into the job market and academic/research community.

- **Website**

<https://fenix.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/disciplinas/SIPE1326/2017-2018/2-semester>

Assessment method

The assessment method comprises:

- the attendance of at least 80% of the Probability and Statistics research seminars held until June 24 (Friday);¹
- choosing a theme/bibliography, autonomously or with the help of a professor, until April 15 (Monday);
- the preparation of a report (max. 20 pages) — the pdf file has to be sent by e-mail by July 1 (Sunday), before 12:00AM (i.e. 24:00);
- the public presentation of a seminar on the week starting on July 2 (Monday).

¹In case the Student is not able attend at least 80% of these seminars, he/she has to write a report on one of the papers in the list available at <https://fenix.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/downloadFile/1970943312296784/2018-01-25-MathSciNet-MCM.pdf>

Grading System

Final mark

- Report (60%) — Max. points 200 (see directions below).
Report discussion prior to the presentation, between the student and the professor who suggested the topic of the report.
- Presentation (40%) — Max. points 200 (after a qualitative assessment of all presentations)
Duration: 15/20 min. + 10 min. discussion.

Suggestions and tips to write the report

Adapted/inspired by <https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Report> and <https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Five-Paragraph-Essay>

• Suggestions

1. *Prepare an outline.*

Write an outline on what you would like to emphasize from the seminar/paper. There should be at least:

- an introduction;
- middle or body section with headings, briefly detailing your ideas, impressions and criticisms on the seminar/paper;
- a summary and/or conclusion.

2. *Research the topic.*

Get references/information relating to the seminar/paper, to back any points or arguments you want to make. Look online, in wikipedia, and at the library. Add a short bibliography.

3. *Write a rough draft.*

Proofread it and mark your errors clearly. Errors are not only spelling and grammar but also jumbled ideas and missing points.

4. *Rewrite your report, print and check for final errors.*

Hand/send the report to the teacher.

• Tips

1. The introduction should have a good opener that attracts the reader's attention.
2. Be sure to rely on more than one source for your information.
3. When using information from the internet, make sure it comes from a reputable source. Look on the page and make sure you know who wrote the information and why they are providing it.

4. Never plagiarize (taking someone’s work without giving them credit); it is not fair or ethical.
5. Write a concluding paragraph, making sure you restate (not repeat) your main impression about the seminar/paper.
Try not to start your conclusion paragraph with “To conclude...” or “In conclusion...”.
Try to think of a creative closer (kicker) as well.
6. Ask someone else to proofread your report and offer constructive criticism.

Grading the report

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| 1. Is the title and the abstract of the report appropriate? | 5 points |
| 2. Has the introduction a good opener that attracts the reader’s attention? | 10 points |
| 3. Is the report statistically/mathematically consistent? | 40 points |
| 4. Was the report written in a clear/unambiguous/logical way with no jumbled ideas or missing points? | 30 points |
| 5. Does the report reflect full comprehension of the topic? | 25 points |
| 6. Does the report offer constructive criticism on the topic? | 20 points |
| 7. Did the student avoid plagiarism (i.e., taking someone’s work without giving them credit)? | 20 points |
| 8. Has the conclusion a creative closer (kicker) and did the student make sure he/she did restate (not repeat) his/her main impression? | 5 points |
| 9. Spelling, grammar, presentation. | 35 points |
| 10. Are the references adequate? Did the student rely on reputable/statistically solid sources of information? Are the references/information used to back any points or arguments that the student wanted to make? | 10 points |