

guidelines for the final project

The final project in mcs 572 resembles the second project, except for three points, elaborated below.

1. Individual Report

While this last project can build upon the experiences and efforts of your second project, you should write a self contained technical report by yourself and also conduct all computational experiments on your own.

When you recycle older work, you should explicitly cite the source. It is also very good if you can connect with the topics and methodology of the course. For example: does the textbook address related methods? Use the same techniques to analyse a parallel algorithm as we did in the course: compute the computational speedup, computation and communication cost, and the computation/communication ratio to determine whether the parallelization effort is worthwhile.

There are three types of parallel computers at your disposal: the Rocketcalc cluster, UIC's Argo, and the NSCA supercomputer copper. Please try to make good use of these resources.

2. Oral Presentation

The last three lectures are reserved for presenting a *quick* overview of the results of your project. Prepare no more than seven slides for a presentation of no longer than ten minutes. The style of your presentation is like an executive summary: explain to your busy colleagues what you learned and achieved.

While everybody is very busy at the end of the semester, your attendance at all presentations (including your own of course) is appreciated.

An acceptable excuse to hand in your report after the deadline is that you attended all project presentations.

3. Your Choice of Topic

The amount of material we could not cover in this introductory supercomputing course is infinite. We only scratched the surface so there is much left to be discovered in the book. Also, you could elaborate in greater depth some of the topics from the papers listed in the second project description.

What could be most exciting is a topic regarding your own research.

4. The deadline is Friday 28 April 2006 at 1PM.

The main deliverable of this project is a written report, complemented with computational results and data. Please provide the source code of your programs as an appendix.

At the very least, a preliminary report is needed on the deadline. The ultimate deadline for the report is Monday 1 May at 1PM (the time of the final exam). But handing in so late will allow no time for revisions or corrections.