

5 — PHY 494: Homework assignment (34 points total)

Due Thursday, Feb 23, 2018, 11:59pm.

Submission is now to your **private GitHub repository**. Follow the link provided to you by the instructor in order for the repository to be set up: It will have the name *ASU-CompMethodsPhysics-PHY494/assignments-2018-YourGitHubUsername* and will only be visible to you and the instructor/TA. Follow the instructions below to submit this (and all future) homework.

Read the following instructions carefully. Ask if anything is unclear.

1. `cd` into your assignment repository (change *YourGitHubUsername* to your GitHub username) and run the update script `./scripts/update.sh` (replace *YourGitHubUsername* with your GitHub username):

```
cd assignments-2018-YourGitHubUsername
bash ./scripts/update.sh
```

It should create three subdirectories¹ `assignment_05/Submission`, `assignment_05/Grade`, and `assignment_05/Work`.

2. You can try out code in the `assignment_05/Work` directory but you don't have to use it if you don't want to. Your grade with comments will appear in `assignment_05/Grade`.
3. Create your solution in `assignment_05/Submission`. Use Git to `git add` files and `git commit` changes.

You can create a PDF, a text file or Jupyter notebook inside the `assignment_05/Submission` directory as well as Python code (if required). **Name your files `hw05.pdf` or `hw05.txt` or `hw05.ipynb`**, depending on how you format your work. Files with code (if requested) should be named exactly as required in the assignment.

4. When you are ready to submit your solution, do a final `git status` to check that you haven't forgotten anything, commit any uncommitted changes, and `git push` to your GitHub repository. Check on *your* GitHub repository web page² that your files were properly submitted.

You can push more updates up until the deadline. Changes after the deadline will not be taken into account for grading.

Homeworks must be legible and intelligible and on-time or may be returned ungraded with 0 points.

This assignment contains **bonus problems**. A bonus problem is optional. If you do it you get additional points that count towards this homework's total, although you can't get

¹If the script fails, file an issue in the [Issue Tracker for PHY494-assignments-skeleton](#) and just create the directories manually.

²<https://github.com/ASU-CompMethodsPhysics-PHY494/assignments-2018-YourGitHubUsername>

more than the maximum number of points. If you don't do it you can still get full points. Bonus problems and bonus points are indicated with an asterisk “*”.

For problems 5.1 – 5.2: If you implement the function as specified you can run the tests in the file `Submission/test_hw04.py` with `pytest`

```
cd Submission
pytest -v test_hw04.py
```

and all tests should pass (you will see “*PASSED*” or just a dot “.”). If you have errors (failures, indicated by “*FAILED*” (“*F*”) or “*ERROR*” (“*E*”)), have a look at the output and try to figure out what is still not working. Having the tests pass is not a guarantee that you will get full points (but it is generally a very good sign!). The bonus problem 5.3 also has tests but they are not counted against your failures (they will say “*xfail*” (“*x*”) or “*XPASS*” (“*X*”)).

5.1 Exponential function (20 points)

The exponential function has the series expansion

$$\exp x = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} \quad (1)$$

An algorithm to compute $\exp x$ makes use of the iterative solution³

$$a_n = \frac{x^n}{n!} \quad (2)$$

$$a_{n+1} = a_n q_{n+1} = \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} = \frac{x^n}{n!} \frac{x}{n+1} \quad (3)$$

$$q_n = \frac{x}{n+1} \quad (4)$$

- (a) Create a function `exp_series(x, eps=1e-15)` in a file `problem1.py` that computes the $\exp(x)$ function based on the series expansion Eq. 1 and the iterative solution Eq. 2–4. The function should only return the value of $\exp(x)$.

The function should take an argument `x` and optional convergence criterion `eps` with default `1e-15`.

The iteration should stop when the convergence criterion $|a_N / \sum_{n=0}^N a_n| \leq \epsilon$ is fulfilled. [12 points]

- (b) Show results for $\epsilon = 10^{-15}$ and $x = -9.2103437, 0, 1, 100$ [4 points]

- (c) Show results for $\epsilon = 10^{-4}$ and $x = -9.2103437, 0, 1, 100$ [4 points]

³Similar to the iterative solution for the $\sin x$ function that was discussed in [Lecture 08](#).

5.2 Counting Vowels (14 points)

Given a string `s`, count how often each of the 6 vowel letters in the English alphabet (A, E, I, O, U, Y we include Y here) occurs. You can ignore case by converting the string to lowercase with `s.lower()`.

- (a) Write a function `count_vowels(s)` and put it in a file `problem2.py`. It should take a string `s` as input and return an array (let's call it `counts`) with 6 elements, where `count[0]` is the count for letter A, `count[1]` for E etc. ⁴[10 points]
- (b) Apply your function to the string

```
s = """'But I don't want to go among mad people,' Alice remarked.  
'Oh, you can't help that,' said the Cat, 'we're all mad here. I'm  
mad. You're mad.' 'How do you know I'm mad?' said Alice. 'You  
must be,' said the Cat, 'or you wouldn't have come here.'"""
```

and report the counts. [4 points]

5.3 Bonus: Double factorial (+12* bonus)

The [double factorial](#) is defined by

$$n!! = \begin{cases} n \cdot (n-2) \cdot (n-4) \cdots 5 \cdot 3 \cdot 1, & n > 0 \text{ odd} \\ n \cdot (n-2) \cdot (n-4) \cdots 6 \cdot 4 \cdot 2, & n > 0 \text{ even} \\ 1, & n = 0, -1 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

- (a) BONUS: Create a function `double_factorial(n)` that computes the double factorial Eq. 5 for an integer `n`. The function should only return the value of `n!!`. Put the function in a file `problem3.py`. [bonus +8*]
- (b) BONUS: Show results for the integers $n = -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 20$. [bonus +4*]

⁴Hint: you can iterate through a string like a list using `for letter in s:` and then analyze the letter.