

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Department of Computer Science

Guidelines for MSc(CompSc) Dissertation Report

1 Regulations Governing the Format of the Report

- 1.1 Paper must be International A4 size (297 mm high x 210 mm wide).
- 1.2 Report must be typewritten or printed, double-spacing, single-sided.
- 1.3 The length of the report should be between 80-150 pages, excluding appendices.
- 1.4 Margins must not be less than 38 mm on the left-hand edge of each page. There is no stipulation for the top and bottom margins, but it is recommended that they should be 25 mm.
- 1.5 Use a font such as Times New Roman or Palatino which are easy to read. Use a standard font size (12 pt).
- 1.6 A declaration, a new page containing an abstract should precede the page containing the Table of Contents.
- 1.7 The pages should be numbered consecutively, starting after the Table of Contents.
- 1.8 The main text should preferably be sectionalized and numbered, using the decimal system.
- 1.9 Diagrams and tables should be numbered and captioned and equations should be numbered in sequence.

1.10 The cover page should contain the following:



The University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Engineering
Department of Computer Science

COMP7704

Dissertation Title
XXXXX

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the admission to
the degree of Master of Science in Computer Science

By
Student name
HKU student no.

Supervisor's title and name:
Date of submission: dd/mm/yyyy

2 Organisation of Dissertation

2.1 The organisation and the contents of the report will depend on the nature and the areas of the dissertation work. It is highly recommended that students should discuss this in detail with your supervisor. Some general items are suggested below for possible inclusion in the report.

- Cover page
- Abstract
- Declaration
- Acknowledgments
- Table of Contents
- Introduction
- Analysis of problem
- Theoretical principles
- Method of investigation
- Design and construction of hardware/software system
- Theoretical/Algorithmic/Experimental results
- Discussion/Analysis of approach/results
- Conclusions
- Appendices - software, programme listing, operation manual, data sheets, etc.
- References

2.2 The abstract should not be more than 200 words.

2.3 A list of symbols with definitions will often add to the clarity of the report. Symbols and units used should conform to the recommendations of the International System of Units (SI) and the British Standards Institution (BS).

2.4 The principal functions of the Introduction are to introduce (i) the subject matter and the scope of the investigation, (ii) the purpose of the dissertation, and (iii) the organisation of the report. If applicable, a brief survey of previously published work and current trends may be included in this section.

- 2.5 The main body of the report should be **divided logically into sections and subsections**. There should be a steady unfolding of the argument as the report progresses. Theoretical background of information on the design of the experiment should ordinarily precede presentation of data and results that stemmed from that theory, or were obtained with that experiment. Emphasis should be placed on work that the student has accomplished.
- 2.6 In the Discussion and Conclusions sections, critical evaluation of the techniques employed and results obtained should be carried out. Observations derived from the results should be compared with theoretical predictions. The conclusions should follow logically from the argument and results presented in the report. Recommendations for further investigations may also be included. Supplementary information not essential to the report's main thesis is best included under the heading of Appendices.
- 2.7 References should be numbered and referred to in the text by placing a number after the word or the sentence where the reference is cited. Some acceptable patterns of citation are as follows:
- (a) Sequence for book or monograph:
Author, Title, Publisher, Publisher Location, Edition, Year published, Page no.
e.g. Harvey, A.F., *Microwave Engineering*, Academic Press, New York, 2nd ed., 1965, p. 21
 - (b) Sequence for periodical papers:
Author, Title of article, Journal, Volume, Issue No., Year published, Page nos.
e.g. Fall, J.V. and W.C. Lee, "*Computer Control of Space Vehicles*", Journal of Computer Engineering, Vol. 26, No. 2, 1976, pp. 415-420.
- 2.8 Please run a spell and grammatical check of your report before submission.

3 Length

- 3.1 The dissertation report should be concise but complete in presentation.
- 3.2 The individual report should not normally exceed 150 pages, excluding appendices.

4 Originality, Copyright Declaration and Dissemination

- 4.1 The report should be definitive in stating your own contribution.
- 4.2 Plagiarism will be penalized severely.
- 4.3 As a rule, all copied materials included in the report must be properly acknowledged and copyright permission cleared by the copyright owner if the proportion or nature of work reproduced carries a risk of copyright infringement.
- 4.4 In law the dissertation report has the status of an unpublished manuscript and its copyright holder remains the author, you. You can therefore retain your general copyright, which prevents others from publishing material from your dissertation report without your written permission.
- 4.5 The Programme Office will put the soft copy of your dissertation report on the MSc Intranet for the general reference of all students and staff, and your hard-copy report will also be an item in the Programme Office's Resource Collection.
- 4.6 For details of the aspects of copyright law, please refer to: <http://www.asa.hku.hk/handbook/tpg/2015/policies/policies.html> (Theses or Dissertations)

5 Submission

- 5.1 The final report should be submitted by the deadline approved by the Faculty. Each student has to submit one hard copy to the Programme Office and an electronic copy.
- 5.2 The electronic copy of the report must be stored in PDF format and submitted to Moodle. The name of the pdf file should be <your u. no.>.pdf; e.g. if your HKU no. is 2003123456, the file name should be 2003123456.pdf.