Portfolio Marking: SOR3012

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One of the components of the assessment for this module is a portfolio of work that you must produce over the course of the semester. This portfolio counts for 20 percent of your final module mark. It should contain:

(A) 10 reports describing what you have worked on each week. These reports are due by 16:00 on Tuesday in weeks 2 through 12 of the semester. See the self study section of the markscheme below.

(B) Two attempts at the projects detailed in either the extend or final project sections of the module pages. You should attempt as many of these projects as you can over the course of the semester and hand in the two that you felt were your best attempts by 16:00 on the Tuesday of week 13. You should not hand in the project on random variables that you produced in week 4 for this assessment or the project on continuous time Markov chains that you produced for week 12 to be reassessed as these projects are already assessed as part of a different module component. Furthermore, top marks will only be awarded unless if you hand in the more difficult projects from the final project section of the module. To be clear, however, a weak attempt at one of these more difficult projects will be given a lower mark than a good attempt at one of the easier projects. For more details on the marking criteria see the sections entitled Research and Quality. Also note that you can (and are encouraged to) hand in practise attempts at the projects for feedback during the course of the semester.

Notice that tutorials and the computer classes are compulsory and that you will be awarded a mark of zero for the portfolio project if you do not attend 70 percent of the tutorials and computer classes. In addition, notice that your portfolio will be awarded a mark of zero if it does not contain all of the components detailed above (10 weekly reports and 2 project attempts).

1 Self study

The first component of the assessment is based on how you have studied for the module. You must hand in a report that is at least half a page in length every week in which you detail what, when and how you intended to study during the week and what you actually achieved during the week. You may choose to detail what resources you have used and what parts of the material you found easy and what you found difficult. You might also want to talk about any conversatiosn you had the lecturer/teaching assistants. You should also explain what resources you studied from and what resources were particularly useful. Lastly, you should demonstrate that you have thought about what you did this week and how you might study more effectively in the future.

Classification	Range	Quality
Excellent	5-6	The student outlines a clear plan detailing what and when they will study each week. There is evidence that the student thinks about how well their plan has worked at the end of each week and evidence that they have though how to refine their plans in subsequent weeks. They reflect well on their previous work and feedback and learn by evaluating both positive and negatives. Excellent notes are kept and there evidence that these are used in subsequent work. They contribute fully to the group and offer peers an opportunity for improved performance.
Good work	3-4	The student outlines a clear plan detailing what and when they will study each week but evidence that they have though about how well this plan is working is absent. The student reflects on previous work and feedback and learns by evaluating both positive and negatives. Notes are kept but there is no evidence that these have been used in subsequent work. They contribute to the group but there is little evidence that they have responded to the feedback given.
Adequate	1-2	Some evidence that the student plans what items to study each week. There is some evidence to support reflection although there could be more reference to previous work. Group contribution is inconsistent and offers little opportunity for improved performance.
Fail	0	No evidence of regular self study. No evidence of reflection. Less than 75 % attendance at tutorials and computer lab classes

2 Research

For each of the projects you are expected to discuss the process that you went through in researching for the project. In this document you should discuss what resources you used, any discussions you had with colleagues/the lecturer/the teaching assistants and how these various components helped.

Classification	Range	Quality
Excellent	6-7	The student provides evidence that their research went beyond the material provided.
Good work	3-5	The student demonstrates that they have worked through all the preparatory exercises for this project and that they have mastered the concepts that were introduced.
Adequate	1-2	The student demonstrates that they have only worked through a fraction of the preparatory exercises.
Fail	0	No evidence of any research work is provided. Less than 75 % attendance at tutorials and computer lab classes.

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3 Quality

This part of the mark is for your final attempt at the project. Notice that you get the majority of the marks in the quality section and the research section by demonstrating your process. It is not so important to have a "correct" solution. It is more important to clearly articulate the process you went through in producing your solution.

Classification	**Range**	**Quality**
Excellent	6-7	A piece of working software has been designed that fully solves the problem that was introduced in the brief. The student explains how the information they researched was used when writing the software. The highest marks are reserved for students who extend the project by going beyond the brief.
Good work	3-5	The student provides a working piece of software that addresses most aspects of the problem. The student only provides a partial explanation as to how the information they researched was used when writing the software.
Adequate	1-2	The student demonstrates an incomplete understanding of the problem. A piece of software that only partially works is provided. There is relatively little explanation as to how the ideas that were investigated as part of the research work have been used in the writing of the software.
Fail	0	The student makes no reference to the research work that they performed before writing the software. The student does not complete all of the projects. Less than 75 % attendance at tutorials and computer lab classes.