

Score Sheet. 600.445 Homework #1 - Intersession 2008

Name: _____; Email: _____
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- 1. (40 points)
 - A. (20 points) _____
 - B. (20 points) _____
- 2. (60 points)
 - A. (20 points) _____
 - B. (20 points) _____
 - C. (10 points) _____

TOTAL _____

I/we worked alone on this assignment and followed all other guidelines:

signature date

signature date

signature date

signature date

600.145 Homework # 1 - Intersession 2008

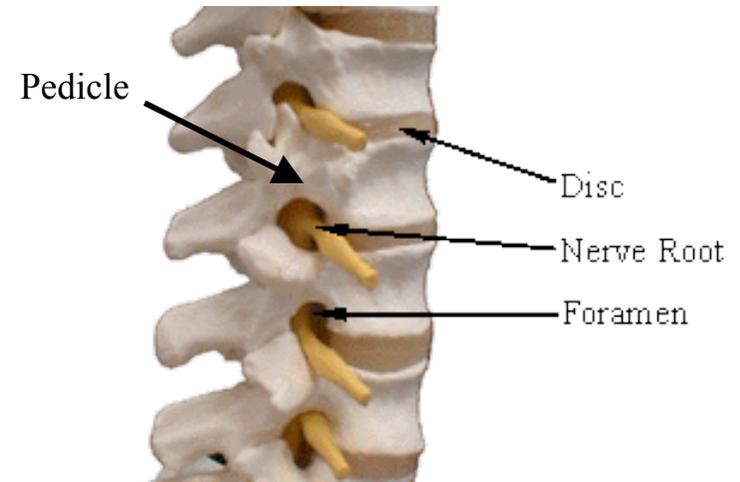
General Notes and Instructions

1. I would really appreciate typed, double spaced and READABLE output that is firmly attached together. Sketches can of course be hand drawn. I am not looking for beauty, just legibility and room to mark them up. Generous margins are also nice.
2. Put your **name and email address** on each sheet and number the sheets
3. Attach the grade sheet as the first sheet and attach all sheets together.
4. You must include a self-addressed, seal-able 8 ½ x 11 inch envelope if you expect to the homework to be returned (per JHU's interpretation of FERPA).
5. You should work in teams of at most four on this exercise.
6. You are encouraged to make free use of any published materials, the web, etc. in developing your answer but a) you must give full and proper citations to any references consulted and b) you may not consult, discuss, or otherwise communicate about this assignment with any human being except your lab partners, the course instructor, or the TAs.
7. I do not expect truly expert answers at this point, nor am I expecting a great deal of clinical expertise beyond that included in the referenced book chapters. The main purpose of this exercise is to get you thinking analytically about the relationship between systems, application needs, and technology.

Problem Scenario: Percutaneous Vertebroplasty

Consider the problem of percutaneous vertebroplasty, as discussed in class.

- Injection of cement into vertebral bodies using large needle inserted through pedicle
- Indications include fractures, osteoporosis, tumors
- Often relieves pain
- Typically performed freehand under x-ray guidance
- CDs will be on reserve in library



Question 1 – Analysis of existing procedure

- A. (20 points) Develop an outline for evaluating this procedure, including such factors as “cost”, “safety”, “effectiveness of pain relief”, “accuracy”, “time”, etc. For each such criterion, include:
- Short definition or explanation of the criterion
 - Short discussion of how that criterion should be assessed (e.g., units of measure, means of gathering information)
 - Short discussion of how important each criterion is to each relevant group affected (patient, surgeon, hospital administrator, insurance company, employer, etc.)
- B. (20 points) Use this outline to evaluate the existing manual methods using these criteria.

Question 2 – Identifying alternatives

- A. (20 points) Sketch an alternative approach using computer assistance to enhance this procedure. Do not write a book. I am looking for 1-2 pages maximum, possibly with a sketch or two.
- B. (20 points) Sketch a second, distinct approach using computer assistance, with the same sort of information and discussion included in Part 2.A.
- C. (20 points) Develop an outline evaluating the two approaches using the criteria developed in Question 1. Your analysis should compare your approaches to each other and to existing manual practice.

Important NOTE

- There is no single “right” answer to these questions, and I am well aware that people may not have either the experience or the knowledge to make highly credible estimates of things like schedules and costs. The purpose of the exercise is to get you to think.
- In grading the answers, we will be looking more at your reasoning and your approach to the problem than at the specific “correctness” of any technical solutions you come up with.
- At the same time, do try to keep sight of the specific goals of the application, and don’t simply resort to science fiction. An answer proposing well trained termites is not likely to score very well.