

October 22, 2015

## Rules for the lecture course “Neural Dynamics”

1. Exercises are the actual platform for learning. To be counted towards the bonus points, exercise sheets and reading assignments need to be turned in at the agreed time, usually until the end of the lecture a week after they have been given out. They will then be corrected, graded, and handed back out, usually a week after we collect them.
  - You can hand in your solutions electronically, via email. Please send them `oliver.lomp@ini.rub.de`.
  - Late delivery is accepted only if announced ahead of time with an excuse. Send an email to me or to `oliver.lomp@ini.rub.de`.
2. The written solutions to exercises and assignments should be written in English or German, using complete sentences. When Matlab code is requested, that code should be sent by email to `oliver.lomp@ini.rub.de`.
  - Structure your answers intelligently, first explaining assumptions and conventions.
  - Make drawings whenever useful.
  - If you use mathematical formalism, define your variables.
3. There will be one *essay* assignment, in which you will be asked to produce a longer text (e.g., on the order of 10 pages) to discuss an issue based on a scientific article that you will have to read.
4. The exercises handed in are corrected and graded (on a % scale). The grades multiply the Bonus points obtained for each exercise. Bonus points for the essay are multiplied by 3. The maximal total number of bonus points for exercises and essay will boost the final mark by 10 percent points (see below).
5. There will be a written or oral exam at the end of the lecture course. In the exam, no written material can be used except for a sheet of paper (size A4), on which you have made hand-written notes as memory aids (you may use both sides and may include drawings, no photocopies or print-outs!).
6. A prerequisite for a passing grade in the course is that the exam achieves a mark of at least 50%. Below that threshold, the mark will be a “fail”.

7. If the threshold is passed in the exam, the final grade for the course is computed by adding the bonus points to the mark of the exam. The bonus points are normalized so that their maximal value is 10% (this includes the essay with its triple valuation).

- So, for instance, if you have a perfect score (100%) on all exercises and do them all (bonus points 10%), and you pass the exam with a 80% mark (“gut”), your final mark will be 90% (“sehr gut”).
- So, doing the exercises and the essay gives you a *substantial* boost for your final mark!
- (Apart from the fact that doing the exercises really helps you understand the concepts and acquire the skills, which are tested in the exam.).