

October 11, 2017

Rules for the lecture course “Neural Dynamics”

1. Exercises are the actual platform for learning.
2. We will do some “life” interactive exercises in the exercise session. Active participation earns bonus points (see below).
3. There are assignments (homework), based on exercise sheets handed out after a lecture. To receive bonus points, the answers to those exercise sheets and reading assignments must be turned in at the time announced on the sheet, usually the week after they have been given out. They will be corrected and graded.
 - Late delivery is accepted only if announced ahead of time with an excuse. Send an email to `jean-stephane.jokeit@ini.rub.de`.
4. 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 `jean-stephane.jokeit@ini.rub.de`.
 - Structure your answers intelligently, first explaining assumptions and conventions.
 - Make drawings whenever useful.
 - If you use mathematical formalism, define your variables.
5. 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.
6. 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 provide for up to 1/3 of the grade of the course.
7. Bonus points for active participation in “life” exercise sessions will be announced each time.
8. 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 notes as reminders (you can use both sides, can be hand-written or printed, can include drawings).

9. 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”.
10. If the threshold is passed in the exam, the final grade for the course is computed from the mark of the exam with a weight of $2/3$ and the mark from the bonus points with a weight of $1/3$ as long as this grade is better than the mark of the exam. Otherwise, the final grade is the mark obtained in the exam.