

How do I calculate your grades?

1) Pin the high score on each exam or the homework to 100%

(Divide by the high score.

Call this new set of scores “pin1.0”.)

2) Find the average of each new set of scores.

(Call each average avgpin1.0)

3) Scale all the rest of the scores to have a mean of 65%.

(Call this new set of scores “mean65”.)

$$mean65 = 100 \left\{ pin1.0 - \left[\frac{1 - pin1.0}{1 - avgpin1.0} \right] (avgpin1.0 - 0.65) \right\}$$

(Note: In the rare case that the class mean is higher than 65% and a student has a zero for any of the exams (or a very low score), the resulting number can be negative! That’s o.k. It still works.)

4) Make a table of the “mean65” scores of the following five:

homework

midterm1

midterm2

final

final

Note that the same score on the final exam is counted twice.

5) Drop the lowest one of the five.

(Set the lowest one equal to zero.)

6) Add the remaining four.

7) Divide by the high score to get a final curved score on a scale from 0-100.

8) Set the mean to 2.8 (usually). Each standard deviation in score corresponds to roughly 1.0 change in the grade.