

**MSC IN MATHEMATICAL AND THEORETICAL PHYSICS
AND
MMATHPHYS IN MATHEMATICAL AND THEORETICAL PHYSICS
2022**

Third Notice to Candidates

This circular contains information about:

1. Hilary term mini-projects;

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Chairman of Examiners
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1. Hilary Term Mini-Projects

Courses:

- Advanced Philosophy of Physics
- C3.9 Computational Algebraic Topology (Approved Subject candidates only)
- C5.4 Networks
- Galactic and Planetary Dynamics
- String Theory I

Collecting Mini-Projects

The list of essay titles to choose from for the Advanced Philosophy of Physics Mini-Project has been released by the Faculty of Philosophy.

The **String Theory I** and **Galactic and Planetary Dynamics** Hilary term mini-projects will open on Inspera from 12 noon (UK time) on **Monday 7th March 2021** (Monday, week 8 Hilary term).

The **C5.4 Networks** and **C3.9 Computational Algebraic Topology** (Approved Subject) will open on Inspera (<https://oxford.inspera.com/>) at midday, 12pm, on Friday week 8 (11th March). Please let Academic Admin (acadadmin@maths.ox.ac.uk) if you are not able to access the Mini-Project.

Guidance on using Inspera is available here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/open-book/online-assessments>

Please note that you may only undertake a mini-project if you have made an exam entry for the particular assessment.

Working on your Mini-Project

The work you submit for your mini-project should be entirely your own. You may use books, articles or other references but must acknowledge these.

Please see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism> for advice on avoiding plagiarism.

You should begin your mini-project with a brief statement of the overall goal of the project, and finish with a conclusion of what you have achieved (or needed to assume) and comment on what other questions your work might lead to.

It is impossible to give precise guidance on length, as this can vary considerably from project to project, depending on how much calculation may be needed. It is unlikely, however, that a project can be completed in fewer than five pages in 'ordinary' formatting, and it will more often be in the 10–15 page range. You will have a window of 3 weeks to work on your project, but projects are designed to be completed in around 3-4 days, though further preparation and revision may be needed beforehand.

Queries about Mini-Projects

If you have any questions about the mini project (e.g., requests for clarification), please email Elizabeth Griffiths at mathematical.physics@maths.ox.ac.uk. These will be passed as

appropriate to the relevant assessor and/or the Chairman of Examiners. Any replies will be sent to all students taking that mini project. You must not communicate directly with the assessor, nor discuss the projects with each other.

Presentation of Mini-Project

Your mini-project should be clearly written in grammatically correct sentences with appropriate punctuation and display of formulae. If the rubric of your mini-project states that you can hand-write your work, it should be clearly written and legible.

You must not write your name or college on your mini project; the only identification should be your candidate number.

Submitting your Mini-Project

The deadlines to submit your mini-projects are as follows:

String Theory I and Galactic and Planetary Dynamics: Monday 28th March 2022, 12 noon (week 11 Hilary term). Submit your work via Inspira

C5.4 Networks and C3.9 Computational Algebraic Topology: Wednesday 30th March 2022, 12 noon (week 11 Hilary term). Submit your work via via Inspira

Advanced Philosophy of Physics: Friday 20th May, 12 noon (week 4, Trinity term)
Submit your work via via Inspira

Please note: British Summer Time will begin from Sunday 27th March, which means that time will go forward by one hour in the UK. You will need to bear this in mind in preparation for submitting your String Theory I and/or Galactic and Planetary Dynamics mini projects online, from outside the UK.

Please follow the steps below:

- Submit the electronic version of your mini-project via Inspira.
- If your mini project requires code to be submitted, and you anticipate your file will be too large, please compress your submission into a zip file before uploading. It is ok if the PDF submission and accompanying code is in one zip file, but please **do not** make a separate submission for your project, and a separate submission for your code.
- Give the file you are submitting your candidate number as its name. You should not include any identifying information other than your candidate number. Remember, your candidate number is different to your student number.

Late Submission of Mini-Projects

Lateness	Penalty, % point reduction
Up to 4 hours	1 %
4–24 hours	10%
24–48 hours	20%
48–72 hours	30%
72 hours – 14 days	35%
More than 14 days late	Fail

Marking

Please see the appendix for qualitative marking criteria.

Appendix

Qualitative Criteria for Mini-Projects and Take-Home-Exams

The mark awarded to a mini-project, whether marked according to model solutions or blind, double marked, or to a take-home-exam should be according to the following qualitative criteria.

70 – 100 marks The candidate has demonstrated an excellent understanding of almost all the material covered with a commensurate quality of presentation, and has completed almost all of the assignment satisfactorily - further subdivided by;

90 – 100 marks The candidate has shown originality or insight that goes beyond a basic completion of the task set.

80 – 89 marks The work submitted shows a near-perfect completion of the task in hand, but does not meet the additional requirements above, or does but has defects in presentation.

70 – 79 marks The work submitted is of a generally high order, but may have minor errors in content and/or deficiencies in presentation.

65 – 69 marks The candidate has demonstrated a very good understanding of much of the material, and has completed most of the assignment satisfactorily.

60 – 64 marks The candidate has demonstrated a good understanding of much of the material, and has completed most of the assignment satisfactorily.

50 – 59 marks The candidate has demonstrated an adequate understanding of the material and an adequate ability to apply his or her understanding.

40 - 49 marks The work submitted, while sufficient in quantity, suffers from sufficient defects to show a lack of adequate understanding or ability to apply results.

30 - 39 marks The candidate, while attempting a significant part of the mini-project, has displayed a very limited knowledge or understanding at the level required.

0 – 29 marks The candidate has either attempted only a fragment of a mini-project or has shown an inadequate grasp of basic material.