

Term paper: Methods in Molecular Biophysics, Spring 2014

Each student will prepare a written paper, describing the application of three different methods covered in this course. You should choose one or two recent research papers that have a “materials and methods” section (or equivalent) giving details of how biophysical methods were used. (You are encouraged to choose papers relevant to your area of research.) For each of three different methods, provide a careful analysis that addresses the following points:

1. Give a brief but clear summary of what was done; it is appropriate to include figures or tables taken from the paper you chose. This should be 1-2 pages in length.
2. Describe (in your words this time, and in one or two paragraphs) what was learned, and how this data was useful to the overall paper
3. Provide (again, in one or two paragraphs) a careful analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the method as used in this example. Were alternatives available? How much effort went into doing the analysis? Were there unusual requirements for amount of sample or for its purity?

The description of each method should take 2-3 pages of text (including material you might copy from the original source); hence the total length of your report (describing three methods) should be 7-10 pages.

The paper is due on **May 5** (the last day of class). Before you start writing, send an email to Joe and Dave, giving information about the paper(s) and methods you have chosen. We will approve of your choices or make suggestions.