

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Physics Department

Physics 8.286: The Early Universe
Prof. Alan Guth

May 25, 1998

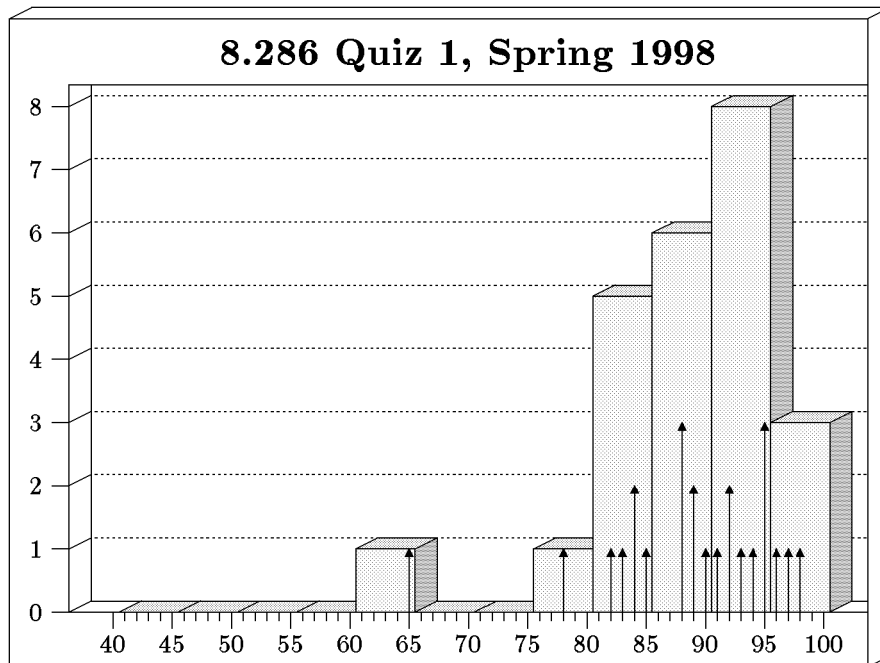
COMPLETE GRADE HISTOGRAMS

I don't mean to encourage grade point anxiety, nor do I mean to imply that the grades in this course will be determined by any strict formula based on the distribution of quiz and homework grades. Nonetheless, I don't like to keep secrets, and I thought that some of you might like to know what the grade distribution looks like. Besides, I've got this neat program for drawing histograms.

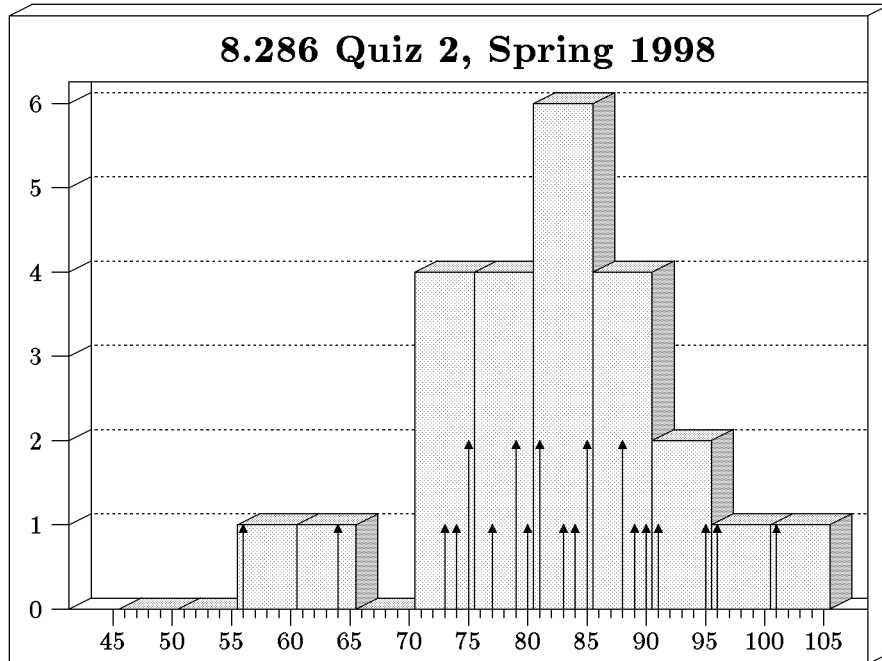
The following graphs show the histograms of grades for students currently in the course. The bars show the grades in bins of 5, while the thin arrows show the grades in bins of 1. For the integer-valued quiz grades the bars have been offset relative to the scale by half a point, so that each bar covers the set of grades that it includes.

The histograms for the final weighted averages show grade cuts, for converting numerical grades into letter grades. Your final letter grade in the course will probably agree with what is shown on the graph, and in no case should it be lower. For a few of you, however, your grade will be higher than what is shown. Such an improvement in grade is intended to reflect a commendable level of class participation, or significant improvement in performance during the term.

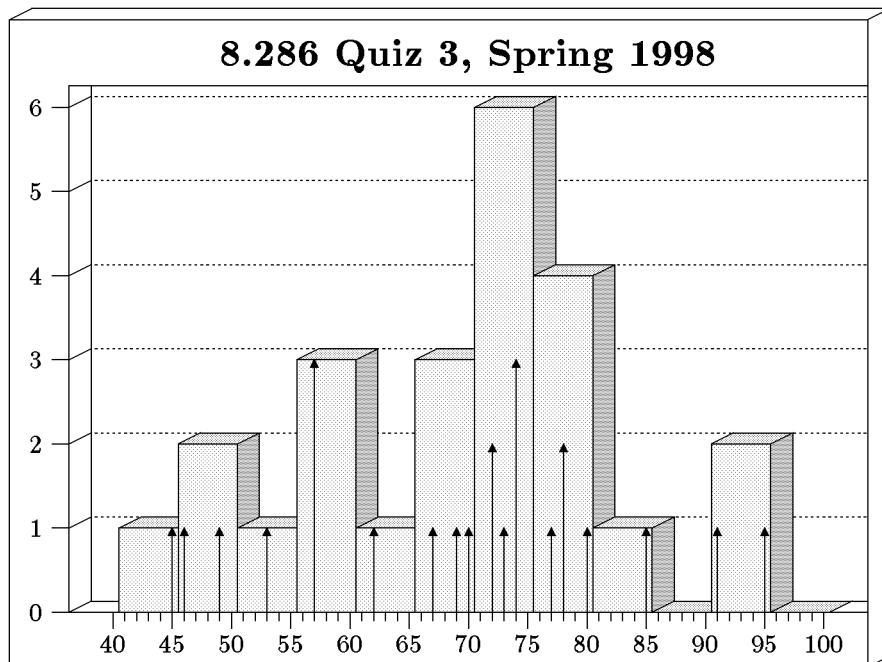
QUIZ 1 (March 3, 1998) Average = 88.8, Standard Deviation = 7.1:



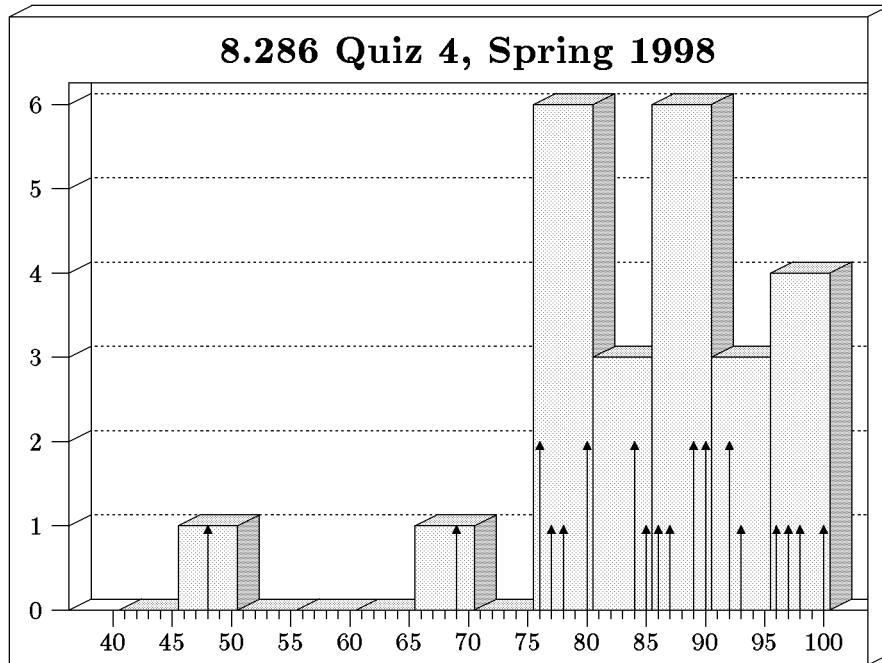
QUIZ 2 (April 7, 1998) Average = 82.0, Standard Deviation = 9.8:



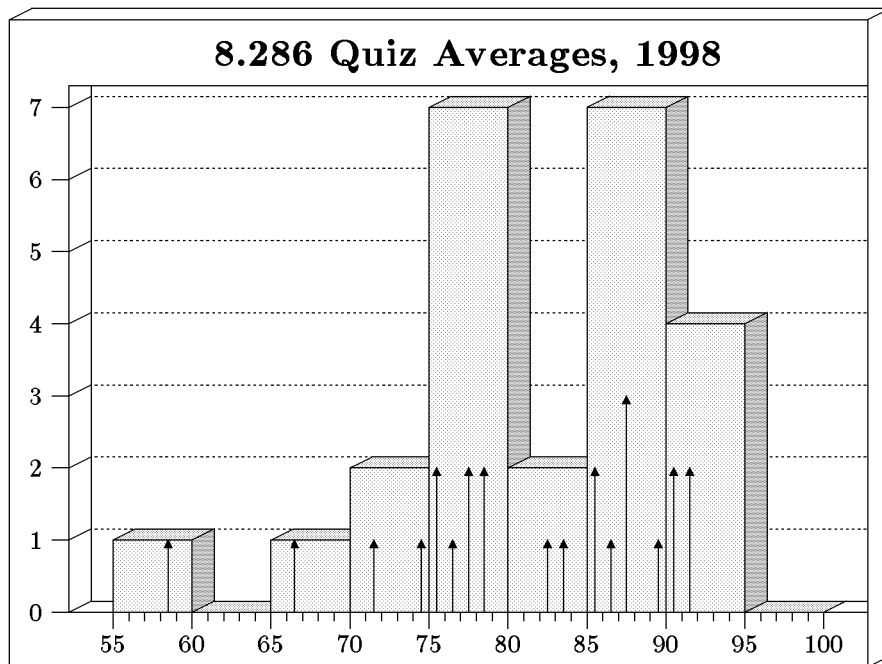
QUIZ 3 (April 28, 1998) Average = 69.0, Standard Deviation = 13.1:



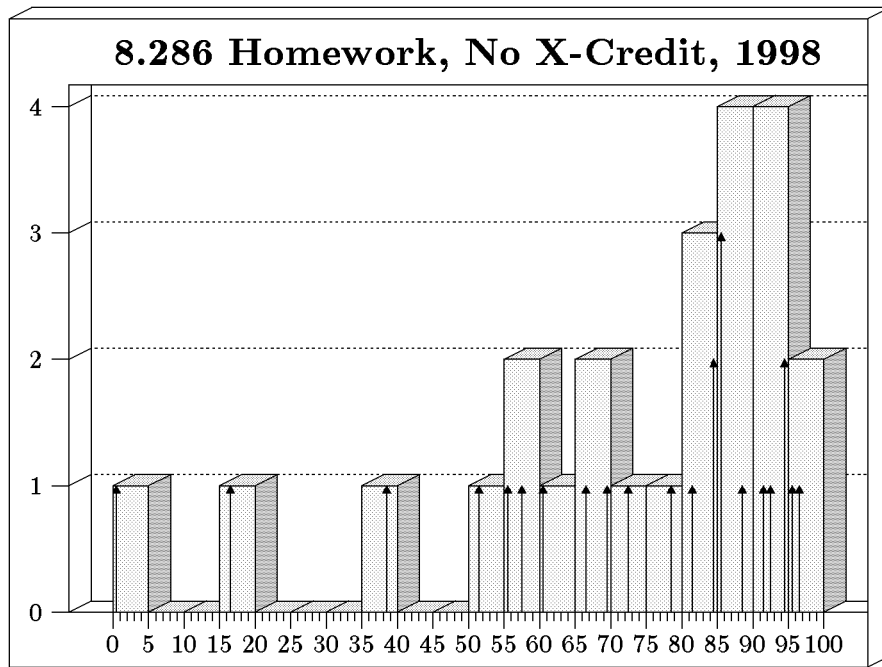
QUIZ 4 (May 14, 1998) Average = 84.8, Standard Deviation = 10.9:



QUIZ AVERAGE Average = 81.2, Standard Deviation = 8.3:

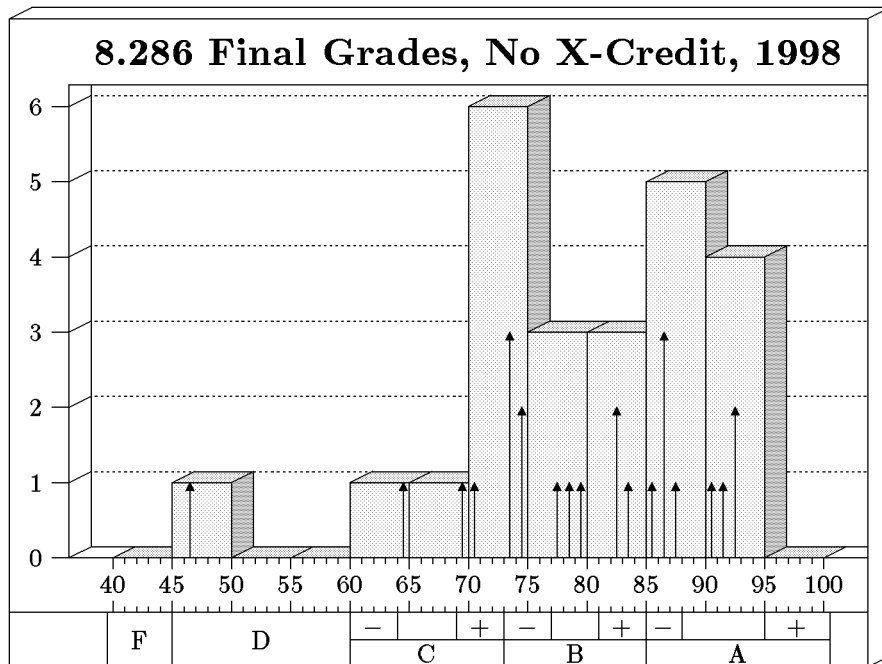


HOMEWORK AVERAGE Average = 71.9, Standard Deviation = 24.7:



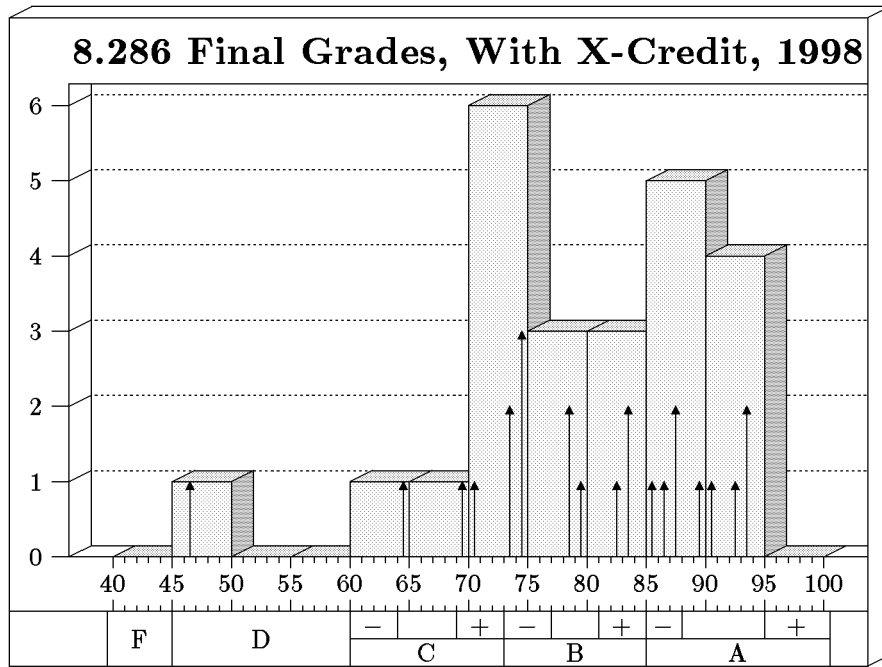
Includes all Problem Sets, but does not include extra credit points on any set.

FINAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE Average = 79.3, Standard Deviation = 10.2:



Includes all Quizzes and Problem Sets. Extra credit is not included here.

FINAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE Average = 79.7, Standard Deviation = 10.5:



Includes all Quizzes and Problem Sets. Extra credit is included in this graph.