8.592J–HST.452J: Statistical Physics in Biology

**Final Project** Due: **10/17/25 & 12/8/25**

The Final Project for the class consists of a short paper (around four pages in Physical Review format) and a presentation during the final week of the semester. The subject of the project, relevant to topics of the class, is your choice. A good project will involve a combination of literature review, discussion/extension of an analytical or computational model, and/or application/analysis of experimental data. The project ideally includes some novel elements (not necessarily substantial) beyond what is available in current literature.

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• Students are *very strongly encouraged* to collaborate in groups but to clearly indicate contributions of the participants. If needed, *psetpartners.mit.edu* can be used to connect to other class students.
• The paper should be formatted as a regular article with title, abstract, and bibliography. The main text should contain introductory and concluding paragraphs (whether or not they appear as subsections is not important).
• Clearly the initial hurdle is coming up with an interesting project that is doable in a short time. You should thus start thinking of potential topics as soon as possible, and submit a short proposal (two paragraphs; half a page) by the deadline of 10/17/25.
• The proposal will carry 6% points; the Final project 30% points towards the final course grade.

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• It is preferable for you to come up with your idea for a research project. However, the course lecturers are happy to help and advise on specific projects, and/or to put you in touch with colleagues you are willing to assist.
• Examples of projects from previous years are available online in the directory:
*https://web.mit.edu/8.592/www/grades/projects/* .

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