18.310C Recitation 7: Writing for your Audience

Due in recitation

Before recitation, read the following two newsarticle from MIT News:

"First Improvement of Fundamental Algorithm in 10 Years" [1]
"Explained: Graphs." [2]

Also read the description of the purpose of MIT News at

http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/about.html

After completing the reading, consider and answer the following questions:

- Who do you think is/are the expected audience(s) of the news articles?

- How much do they know/not know? *What is the audience's background?*

- Why are they reading the articles? *What is the audience's purpose?*

- Why was the article written? *What is the author's purpose?*

- The article provided few details–what would be the advantages/disadvantages of providing more detail? If you were to include more detail, what would you include?

Notice how the article "First Improvement of Fundamental Algorithm in 10 Years" communicates the "essence" of the maxflow problem. Keeping in mind the questions above, write a brief and rough draft of how you would communicate the "essence" of the following topic in an MIT News article:

- Generating functions (if you have been assigned to Problem 1 for your term paper),

- Union bound (Problem 2),

- The maxflow-mincut theorem (Problem 3)

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[1] http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2012/explained-graphs-computer-science-1217.html
[2] http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2010/max-flow-speedup-0927.html

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