

INF4820:Algorithms for AI and NLP (Fall 2008)

(Mid-Way Evaluation Results)

First, please reflect a little on your prior programming experience (before taking INF4820), and on how much of your time and effort (on average) you have been able to use on our course this fall.

- (a) *prior use of programming languages* (1) one, (2) two, (3) up to five, (4) more than five.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
		3	3	3.5

- (b) *experience (lines of code)* (1) hundreds, (2) thousands, (3) tens of thousands, (4) more than that.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
	3	2	1	2.7

- (c) *lecture attendance* (1) (almost) all, (2) most, (3) some, (4) (almost) none.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
3	1	2		1.8

because _____

- I feel I get more from studying the lecture notes myself in a quiet environment; I attend the lectures when I am not very busy;
- fun
- illness; in parts familiar material;

- (d) *laboratory attendance* (1) (almost) all, (2) most, (3) some, (4) (almost) none.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
	3	2	1	2.7

because _____

- I get a lot from these sessions; the lecturers have been very helpful and eager to teach in an understanding way;
- initially I had a conflict with another class; now fixed;
- time constraints;
- illness;

- (e) *average weekly hours of self-study* (1) below two, (2) below five, (3) below ten, (4) more than ten.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
	2	2	2	2.0

On a scale from one to four (inclusive), please rate our course according to the following dimensions:

(f) *organization* (1) crystal clear, (2) mostly clear, (3) somewhat unclear, (4) mysterious.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
2	4			1.7

(g) *content* (1) highly relevant, (2) mostly relevant, (3) somewhat irrelevant, (4) irrelevant.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
4	2			1.3

(h) *difficulty* (1) a lot easier than average, (2) a bit easy, (3) a bit hard, (4) really difficult.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
	2.5	3.5		2.6

(i) *pace of instruction* (1) too slow, (2) leisurely, (3) at times too fast, (4) all too fast.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
	5	1		2.2

(j) *preferred style* (1) board only, (2) more board, (3) more slides, (4) slides only.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
	2	4		2.7

(k) *first assignment* (1) trivially easy, (2) a bit easy, (3) a bit hard, (4) above my head.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
2	2	2		2

(l) *second assignment* (1) trivially easy, (2) a bit easy, (3) a bit hard, (4) above my head.

1	2	3	4	ϕ
	3	3		2.5

Please give free-text feedback, minimally in a couple of sentences, to the following general questions:

- (m) What have you learned so far and expect to be useful? What had you expected, but miss so far?
- a lot of Lisp programming and building and using FSAs; had expected more use of different algorithms, so hoping we will still get to some;
 - unsure about what I ‘expect to be useful’; nothing particularly missed so far;
 - learned basic Lisp and NLP; not missing anything;
 - Lisp and some linguistics, most seems relevant; Lisp sufficiently different from my other programming languages that it takes time to work it out;
 - have learned Lisp and some theory; expecting more search algorithms;
 - expected more AI material.
- (n) If you were to teach the course yourself, what would you do differently?
- actually very satisfied with course so far;
 - have fewer embarrassing silences :-);
 - have a few more classes on Lisp, not expecting students to find out most of it on their own during the first exercise;
 - perhaps provide more motivating applications.