

Constraint Programming, 10 c

Course code: 1DL440, Report code: 11001, 33%, DAG, NML, week: 36 - 43 Semester: Autumn 2012 - Autumn 2012

Course evaluation

Result

This evaluation is answered by 69% (22/32) of the respondents.

Below are statistics on single- and multiple-choice answers and freeform text. Additionally, the summaries for freeform text responses that students will see are also shown.

Statements

Please answer by marking the alternative that best corresponds with your opinion.

1: Overall, I am satisfied with this course			Answers: 22
Answer options:			Median: 5 Mean: 4.8 / 5
0. Do not know/not relevant/do not wish to answer	0 responses	0%	
1. Not agree at all	0 responses	0%	
2.	0 responses	0%	
3.	0 responses	0%	
4.	4 responses	18%	<div style="width: 18%;"></div>
5. Fully agree	18 responses	82%	<div style="width: 82%;"></div>

2: My lecturers were extremely good at explaining things			Answers: 22
Answer options:			Median: 5 Mean: 4.6 / 5
0. Do not know/not relevant/do not wish to answer	0 responses	0%	
1. Not agree at all	0 responses	0%	
2.	0 responses	0%	
3.	3 responses	14%	<div style="width: 14%;"></div>
4.	2 responses	9%	<div style="width: 9%;"></div>
5. Fully agree	17 responses	77%	<div style="width: 77%;"></div>

3: The teachers made it clear right from the start what they expected from the students			Answers: 22
Answer options:			Median: 5 Mean: 4.9 / 5
0. Do not know/not relevant/do not wish to answer	0 responses	0%	
1. Not agree at all	0 responses	0%	

2.	0 responses	0%	
3.	0 responses	0%	
4.	2 responses	9%	<div style="width: 9%;"></div>
5. Fully agree	20 responses	91%	<div style="width: 91%;"></div>

4: The workload has been much too heavy (remember that 10 ECTS credits = 267 hours of work expected) **Answers: 22**

Answer options: **Median: 2 Mean: 2.6 / 5**

0. Do not know/not relevant/do not wish to answer	0 responses	0%	
1. Not agree at all	2 responses	9%	<div style="width: 9%;"></div>
2.	10 responses	45%	<div style="width: 45%;"></div>
3.	7 responses	32%	<div style="width: 32%;"></div>
4.	0 responses	0%	
5. Fully agree	3 responses	14%	<div style="width: 14%;"></div>

Finishing comments

5: What do you think was the best thing about this course? **Answers: 15**

Show free-text answers

This course is really thought through and never have I had such a well prepared lecturer. The last guest lecture really rounded of the material nicelly. It will be one course that I will recommend to other students!
Because of all the well though-out assignments I learned more in this course than in any other course I've taken.
Upplägget med både praktik och teori
The assignments where very good.
many assignments, help sessions
Pierre's lectures, modelling examples in particular. Assignemnts where we were supposed to come up with our own models.
That we were able to skip the exam, really helped out with having time to complete assignments for other courses as well. Interesting guest lectures.
6 quite big assignments and no exam.
Excellent teaching clarity.
Very nice layout. Good assignments.

The slides, the fact that we didn't have to take an exam, and the lectures

Inspiring lectures (particularly the one regarding flight optimization), interesting assignments (the projects in particular). Learning constraint programming has been mind-opening in many ways.

Pierre has been an extremely good lecturer on this course. Also, the guest lectures were very good. Both assistants were very good, both friendly and helpful I found the exercises to be very rewarding. Overall i am VERY pleased with the course and I'm extremely happy to have taken it!

Pierres föreläsningar är noggranna och pedagogiska. Lärarassistenterna var hjälpsamma och kunde de inte direkt svara på något så mailade de ut det bara någon dag efter vilket jag uppskattade väldigt mycket. Tre st hjälptillfällen var väldigt bra då det tillät en att komma igång tidigt på en uppgift och ändå kunde fråga frågor kring rapporten och liknande.

The project part, has been really interesting to see the program developed in part 1 improve as much as it did over the other two parts.

6: What do you think is most in need of improvement?

Answers: 12

Show free-text answers

The MPG is not very easy to use, further examples about GCC and elements constraint would be helpful. Further ease of use examples of using a custom driver would be useful.

It's hard to find something concrete to improve since all snags we have encountered are because of ourselves prioritizing other courses in some periods. However after this course I feel that we have talked about som other techniques that are related that I want to know more about. For example would I like a course in Integer programming.

The lecture scheduling on the University. It seems like every course have lectures on Monday 10-12.

Kan inte komma på nått

Alter deadline's so that assignment 3 gets most preparation time and projects a little bit less time (I think no one starts a new homework before finishing the previous one). It would have been fun to be able to implement more ideas we had on assignemnt 3.

Although we had several opportunities to design models for solving certain problems, these were mostly defined by the project/assignment framework. More discussion on what makes a good model and how to infer which models will be more performant than others would be welcome.

Some more examples of gecode.

The Gecode documentation is terrible. The TAs were bad at communication. Perhaps it was a language issue but most of the time it was very hard to know if they understood the question, even then the answers were almost always very cryptic and not very helpful.

I seriously think there could have been a more comprehensive guide/tutorial to using Gecode for building command-line scripts. Passing Var, Val branching options, how to use timeout, threads, iterations, seed for random and so on. This would make the first assignment less of a headache.

The total work load didn't feel like too much, but over the course it did feel somewhat uneven. While the first and last assignments felt very large compared to the others, i don't feel that it was necessarily a bad thing that the first one was heavy. It made the rest of the course feel much lighter, and opened up the area of the course in a good way. Also, most other courses are fairly light in the beginning, so it's easy to balance the studies. However, even though the last assignment was made available early (and we were advised to get started early) and the project parts were not that heavy, other courses also put their biggest assignments at the end of the semester and it was honestly difficult to find enough time. With the extension it worked, but without it we would have been very hard pressed to get it done on time. I don't think the problem is necessarily that this particular course was poorly balanced, but rather that this is a general problem when several courses are in parallel. Even if each of them put just a little extra strain on the student towards the end, the total sum of it can become significant. I am not a friend of multiple parallel courses, and i want this feedback to be considered rather as possible aid to students than suggestion for a change in the structure of the course. I suggest perhaps having some way of showing the relative workload for the assignments to make it easier to plan ahead. Perhaps having somewhat tighter deadlines on the project parts, which felt smaller anyway, could be a good idea. I want to note that i was not overall shocked about the workload, and in general it worked very well.

Enda som jag vill gnälla på är att sista handledningstillfället kom en bit ifrån deadline, så om man hade några sista frågor eller problem så kunde man inte gå dit och fråga. Jag förstår att det var för ändringen av deadline så det är egentligen inte så viktigt. En sak som jag dock saknade var att på genomgångstillfällena så visades det endast en lösning. Jag skulle gärna velat se olika sätt som problemet kunde lösas på. Antingen att man visade andra personers kod (skulle få folk att skriva snyggare kod) och lösningar (efter att ha frågat om tillåtelse förstås) eller att man bara gick igenom abstrakt hur nån annan har gjort. Gärna eventuella fördelar och nackdelar. Dessutom skulle jag vara intresserad av ett sista genomgångstillfälle för den sista inlämningsuppgiften.

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Summary of free-text responses/comments for the whole course evaluation

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