CONSTRAINT PROGRAMMING, 10 C

Course code: 1DL440, Report code: 11012, 33%, DAG, NML, week: 36 - 03 Semester: Autumn 2014 - Autumn 2014

Result

This evaluation is answered by 56% (23/41) 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: 23

Answer options: Median: 5 Mean: 4.3 / 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.	4 responses	17%	
4.	7 responses	30%	
5. Fully agree	12 responses	52%	

2: My lecturers were extremely good at explaining things Answers: 23

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.	2 responses	9%	
4.	5 responses	22%	
5. Fully agree	16 responses	70%	

3: The teachers made it clear right from the start what they expected from the students Answers: 23

Answer options: Median: 5 Mean: 4.7 / 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	13%	
4.	2 responses	9%	
5. Fully agree	18 responses	78%	

4: My total workload was as follows. Remember that the teachers aim at complying with the definition of 5 credits, namely 133 hours of work expected.

Answers: 23

Answer options:

0. Do not know/not relevant/do not wish to answer	5 responses	22%	
1. < 220 hours	3 responses	13%	
2. 220..260 hours	2 responses	9%	
3. 260..270 hours	1 responses	4%	
4. 270..310 hours	9 responses	39%	
5. > 310 hours	3 responses	13%	

Final comments

When answering the following questions, keep in mind that all teachers have worked unpaid overtime hours on this course.

5: What do you think was the best thing about this course? Answers: 22

The quality of the lectures.
It keeps the students engaged with the constant lab assignments. Also important is that the labs actually count towards the final grade
Piere
The teacher and the whole structure of the course.

The focus on thinking about the problem and how to model it rather than on thinking about an algorithm to solve it.
The help sessions for solving the assignments. AND NO FINAL EXAM !!!
The Assignments were interesting and educative and made good use of what was talked about during the lectures. Also the grading of each assignment was done quickly and the assistants were of good help.
The structure of the course, with much focus on the assignments and the projects. The head teacher and the lab assistans did a great job! The slides makes a huge help to understand the different topics, I really enjoyed that there was both mathematical and regular expressions for almost every definition. That everything that is requested for you as a student is crystal clear, regarding the assignments and the projects.
The assignments and projects have had clear instruction as to what was expected of us to do. The lectures have been good and interesting. I liked it.
Overall the course was very good. I am very satisfied with Pierre.
* Clear instructions for every assignment/project part. * Lectures were interesting and gave much for the assignments.
The assignments and lectures were all great. The subject was made both fun and interesting by the lecturer. There was plenty of help available for the the assignments/project.
Consistency of the deadlines and the helping session. Also that deadlines where on Thursdays.
the dirst period
Clear instructions, meaningful assignments, engaging lecturer and interesting subject! This is definitely one of the classes where I gained the most knowledge.
I think all the teachers have been very good, like really super good. I attended maybe 50% of the lectures (because of lectures/assignments in other courses), and those I did attend was very good and you (Pierre) explained stuff very well. I feel like I got a close contact with the TAs and they have been really good. I could ask about anything and they would have the answer.
The interesting content.
learning a very new and sweet subject
- The course was well-organized and presented a very interesting introduction to constraint programming. - The efforts made by the TAs in the help sessions are highly commandable. My hats off and gratitude to them.
Fun problems to solve. The structure of the course was very very good. It was good to know that Assignment 1 would take the most time. Otherwise the students would have been mentally broken after it.
The concepts were easy to understand as explained, the course is not as difficult as popular belief says.

The lectures are good and the same go for assignments and projects.

6: What do you think is most in need of improvement? Answers: 17

The creation of a book would help the students with the material.Slides are generally OK but tough to understand even when attending the lectures
The 1st assignment needs more guidelines.
I think that perhaps the first assignment should be split in two.
Possibly a bit more help with the first assignment.
The assignments had a steep learning curve and as a result of this, took very long time to complete. Especially the first one where many of us though that a lot of "unnecessary" work was required for the report, for example testing every different variable/value selection and including runtime tables of this. Also a brief introduction to each assignment/project part would be nice in order to get a smoother start.
I believe that it would be good to have more information about what propagators, branching e.t.c is in the beginning of the course. I think that it was really hard in the beginning, of course it got easier later on. But for the first assignment, i didn't know very much about what was doing what. For example, what does the var_range_min do? I remember that we were told to read the MPG documentation, and we did, but it is hard to get all of the information in such a small time due to the complexity of everything. Constraint programming is a very complicated, or at least very hard to understand, but we've felt that the time burden for this course have taken time from the other courses that we've taken.
The workload is very high. Might need to dampen it a bit, remember that it is only 5hp per period. We worked every other week full time with constraint and every other week with whatever else we had. With two courses this size would make it impossible to have a third. Just because it was said that the first assignment have a very high workload, does not mean that it is ok that it has a high workload. We are supposed to do other things as well.
It is not ok to think that just because you state that the first assignment will take alot more time thats fine. The first assignment did take alot of time which meant that the other courses we had during the same time had to suffer alot. There is a reason we have an expected workload per week and if this turns out to be much higher something will suffer from it.
The first assignment were way too time consuming. Simply saying that it's going to be so is not an excuse for handing out an assignment that took ~50 man hours. Can easily be shorted down.
The help sessions seemed a bit stressful for the lab assistants although they did a great job. I think another assistant would be good.
more numbers examples
Workload adjustments, especially for the first assignment. I was just lucky that my other two classes

where pretty relaxed the first couple of weeks.

I not sure how to improve this, but I think the workload on the first assignment was very high (even though you mentioned it in the lectures). It was very hard since Gecode was all new and it took a while before I could understand simple things. If I did the first assignment today it would probably (and hopefully) not be as hard. Maybe it would be possible to split up the first assignment in two parts with a shorter deadline? Not sure if this is better, but it was hard to realize the amount of work that should be done.

The last assignment was a bit difficult, and would have needed some more guidance (in written format, without wasting teacher time budget).

- The explanations in class were a bit hard to follow at times. It might thus be helpful to supplement more parts of the course with complete examples that could be followed step by step. (eg: the black hole patience was a great one). - Manipulating set variables is extremely tricky in Gecode, as we experienced in the last assignment, and we could not take full advantage of the help sessions since it coincided with the exam period. It would be preferable to schedule the assignment earlier, or at least have a small introduction to sets using Gecode in a short workshop a few weeks prior. - We have been introduced to some nice real-life applications during the course. However, it might be even more interesting if one of them could be taken from a field in science.

The time you need to spend on this course is way too much. You are supposed to be able to handle three courses at the same time, but it would be impossible if all three courses would take up the same amount of time. Even two courses of the same amount of time would be extremely hard.

The speed of a few of the example lectures could be a bit faster. Otherwise, I would only suggest that the advice given about the time needed for the first assignment emphasizes that writing the report is what takes the most time (some might finish the programming part quickly and wrongly assume the same applies to the report).

7: Comment on the experimental feature of yellow and red cards, whose main purpose is to show leniency the first time a student forgets that the teachers are on a time budget.

Answers: 17

no comments
I dunno, never got one. They seem fair for time issues but less good for semantic issues in the report, I quess.
They sound reasonable. I have no objections.
Can't comment as I did not use them.
It felt a bit harsh and i think many students, including myself, thought that the card system was a bit scary. If something happens and i fail a specific part, will i get a red card and fail the entire course? I understand the intentions but it felt uncomfortable! :)
I think that it is a good way to say that laziness isn't accepted. But at the same time, in the beginning it was a feeling that one would get one if you didn't do a great job. Later on of course, this fear was out of the way.
Not an issue for me.
I had no problem with this feature
A little threatening, and probably a little too much. Didn't suffer from it, but it seems a little bit over the limit.
Seems fair enough. It didn't really affect me so I can't comment.
too much bad system
I was not affected, except for the fear in my hart.. which was probably a good thing.
No comment about this.
Did not have any experience with them. Nor did I know we had them.
Fortunately, I did not experience it. However, it seems like a fair feature to give a second chance to some students.
I believe it is a fair system.
It is good to grip the students from the beginning.

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