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**Re: Evaluation of DM534 in 2015:**

I taught the course, DM534, Introduction to Computer Science, in the fall semester of 2015. This is a first-year course, so course evaluations were performed. In the middle of the course, we did an in-class evaluation. Using socratic, I asked the following questions. After each possible response, I give the percentage who gave that answer. Clearly, given the values of the percentages, a large number of students answered.

- Is this course giving you a good overview of what computer science is?
  - A. Very useful. 32%
  - B. Somewhat useful. 45%
  - C. I needed an overview, but this course is not giving it. 9%
  - D. I did not need an overview, but it is still good. 11%
  - E. I did not need an overview and do not want one. 2%
- What is your opinion about the pace of the lectures?
  - A. Much too fast. 6%
  - B. A little too fast. 54%
  - C. Close to right. 27%
  - D. A little too slow. 8%
  - E. Much too slow. 4%
- How difficult is the course?
  - A. Much too difficult. 6%
  - B. A little too difficult. 39%
  - C. A good level. 45%
  - D. A little too easy. 8%



- E. Much too easy. 2%
- What do you think about U50A?
  - A. It's a terrible lecture hall. 60%
  - B. It's still bad, but better with screens and microphone. 33%
  - C. It's OK. 2%
  - D. It's good now. 2%
  - E. (no option given, but 4% chose it anyway)

Then, we informally discussed the following three questions. I have written the responses below the question.

1. What do you like about the course?
  - That it was broad, covering many topics.
  - That there were relevant examples from the real world.
  - Basic understanding of computer concepts: binary, hexadecimal, CPU, ALU

There was quite a large amount of agreement with all of the above.
2. What can be improved?
  - Better explanation of runtime analysis.
  - More about pseudocode early in the course. Drawings for problems on assignments to make them clearer.
3. Any comments I should give your "instruktor"s?
  - More about how to answer assignments.

The final evaluation was a typical questionnaire, and 36 of the students filled out evaluation forms. This is significantly less than the number present for the earlier evaluation.

On the final evaluation there were, unfortunately, a few of students who did not like the course much, but generally the students were positive, except about the lecture room U50A. I agree with the students that this is a terrible lecture hall and lecturers from IMADA (and maybe elsewhere) should avoid it. It would be even better if the university improved it, especially the acoustics, but also the ability to see a blackboard and slides from a computer at the same time.

Next year Rolf Fagerberg will organize the course and have many different lecturers participate. The method of evaluating students is also expected to change greatly. I will send the evaluation results



and this letter to Rolf Fagerberg.

Sincerely,

Joan Boyar

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