Institut for Matematik og Datalogi
Syddansk Universitet, Odense

October 6, 2015
KSL

MIDTERM EVALUATION OF DM819 – FALL SEMESTER 2015

Evaluation Form

Notes were made available and students were asked to write one statement on a note and put it in a jar.

In a second round, all notes from the jar were passed around and each note was annotated by all other students, using the following symbols, with the stated meaning:

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
What?!	Disagree	Disagree some	Indifferent	Agree some	Agree

Actually, it appears I forgot to mention the "indifferent" option, so I forced a bias in some direction.

Everything was anonymous and the lecturer received all the annotated notes at the end.

I realize that answers are biased towards being at least somewhat positive from the outset, since the students showing up at 8 AM are probably the ones who like the lectures in the first place. Thus, I'll be particularly careful not to over-interpret the positive comments.

Below is a list of all the comments (mixed Danish and English) with a count of annotations and the lecturer's remarks, if any. The order is arbitrary – whatever was pulled out of the jar first.

Thank you for your feedback!

Results

The textbook could benefit from having more paragraphs, rather than sections being almost one continuous paragraph.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
2	0	5	0	2	0

The text portions are somewhat "solid"; maybe because most of their illustrations are in the margin. However, as textbooks come, I'm pretty pleased with this one.

I really like the content of the course, but I would have loved the exam as a project instead of oral exam.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	0	1	0	6	3

In the CS group, we think you should be exposed to different exam forms, and a lot of courses of been changed to project evaluation (you cannot know this without knowing the history of the education, of course). I don't have anything against project exams as such, but it's difficult to focus on the algorithmic problems; instead, the focus will be much more on implementation aspects (as in the obligatory assignments), not really reflecting the focus of the course.

There's a lot of agreement among you, so I'll definitely discuss this point further with (some of) you to understand it better.

If your opinion is mostly due to being concerned with the stress of an oral exam, I can assure you that I'm extremely aware of the examiners rôle, and I consider it an art form to examine students such that they are helped in the best possible way to show their potential. If you completely "freeze" during the 30 minute sessions, there's a limit to what can be done, but I will try my best to help you along.

The algorithms/problems are nice, but sometimes a bit too loosely defined ("How would I implement this?").

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	2	0	0	8	0

I'll think about this. Maybe we can discuss implementation details of some of these algorithms during exercise sessions. However, my intention is also that this gap between algorithms and implementations will be filled by the obligatory assignment experiences.

The course is great, lectures are easy to follow. Good literature. If you didn't pass the English exam, they made a mistake.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	0	0	0	2	7

Thanks. And I did pass. In fact, /∗ begin bragging ∗/ I got the top grade (out of 6 possible grades). ☺ /∗ end bragging ∗/.

I like the course, especially the proof part of theory.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	1	1	0	4	4

Great!

I like that Kim is very good at explaining and illustrating things during the lecture.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	0	0	0	1	9

Who am I to disagree...

Really good pace.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	0	0	0	1	9

I'll try to stick to it.

I like that lectures contain many sketches/illustrations.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	0	0	0	0	10

It is a course that calls for it; and when I don't have to draw moving intersecting parabolas, it's mostly not too hard. ☺

Classes start a bit slow, especially for an 8 AM class.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
1	4	4	0	0	1

I just have to say to that one person: I cannot be a substitute for caffeine! Allow time for a visit to Starbucks on the way to the lecture...

Jeg kan godt lide kurset, fordi det bliver undervist godt. Det er sådan et rigtigt datalogikursus og har både gode elementer af teori og praksis.

?	÷	(÷)	—	(✓)	✓
0	0	0	0	0	10

This is also what I think: This is really the core of what computer science is!