CSE545, Error Correcting Codes: Combinatorics, Algorithms and Applications Spring 2010

Feedback Form

January 11, 2010

The purpose of this feedback form is to get an idea of the background of students in the class so that the lectures can be prepared accordingly. Please note that using this form is **voluntary**– if you do not want to say anything, do not turn this form in. However, if you do not give your input then you might be losing out on an opportunity to shape the direction of this class. This form is also **anonymous**– please do not put your name on this form. You will have the last five minutes of the lecture to yourself, if you want to fill in this form in class.

The first couple of questions deal with homeworks and some (possible) makeup lectures.

1. Please pick among the following two choices for homeworks. In either case there will be around 8 problems in total and all the homeworks should be graded by the drop date.
   (a) One homework that you will have three weeks to complete.
   (b) Three homeworks (with $2-3$ problems each) that you will have one week to complete. There should be at least a week gap between when one homework is handed in and when the next one is handed out.
2. Unfortunately I will have to miss at least one lecture this semester due to some travel. At some point I would like to have a makeup class of 50 minutes duration. Indicate which of the options below work for you. (If you pick the 30 minute option, note that we will need two of those.)
   (a) Start a Monday lecture early by 30 mins (i.e. from 1:30 pm).
   (b) Have a 50 minute lecture on a Tuesday. Specify time slots that work for you:
   (c) Start a Wednesday lecture early by 30 mins (i.e. from 1:30 pm).
   (d) Have a 50 minute lecture on a Thursday. Specify time slots that work for you:
   (e) Start a Friday lecture early by 30 mins (i.e. from 1:30 pm).

The next few questions are to gauge your background in certain topics that will be used in this course.

1. Scribing of lecture notes should be done using LaTeX. Even updating the Wikipedia entries will need some knowledge about how to typeset mathematical equations in LaTeX. Choose the option below that best matches your experience:
   (a) The first word that I spoke as kid was LaTeX.
   (b) I have written a few mathematical articles in LaTeX.
   (c) I have written a few (not necessarily mathematical) articles in LaTeX.
   (d) I have heard about LaTeX but have never used it: this seems like a wonderful opportunity!
   (e) I have never heard about LaTeX: help!
   (f) Other (Specify):

2. We will be using a few basics of linear algebra in the course. Choose the option below that best matches your experience.

   (a) I have done research that used linear algebra.

   (b) I have taken a course on linear algebra.

   (c) I know what the following are: vector space, dual space, basis elements.

   (d) I hate linear algebra!

   (e) I have no idea what you are taking about but I am looking forward to learning more about them.

   (f) Other (Specify):

3. We will be using a fair bit of finite fields in this course. Choose the option below that best fits your experience.

   (a) I have done research that used finite fields.

   (b) I have taken a course that used a lot of finite fields.

   (c) I have taken a course that used a bit of finite fields.

   (d) I do not know much but I do know what the following mean: irreducible polynomial, extension fields, ring of polynomials.

   (e) I have not heard of finite fields but I want to know more about them.

   (f) All farmers have finite fields.

   (g) Other (Specify):

4. We will be using some elementary probability theory in the course. Choose the option below that is closest to your probability skills.

   (a) I have done research that used probability.

   (b) I have taken multiple courses in probability.

   (c) I have taken a course on probability.

   (d) I do not remember much of probability but I do know what the following mean: probabilistic method, expectation, conditional expectation.

   (e) I hate probability: who needs more randomness in life?

   (f) Other (Specify):

5. We will be studying a few algorithms in this class. Choose an option below that best describes your experience with algorithms.

   (a) I have done research on algorithms.

   (b) I have taken a graduate course on algorithms.

   (c) I have taken an undergraduate course on algorithms.

   (d) I do not know much about algorithms but I do know about the following: asymptotic analysis, big-oh and small-oh notation, omega notation.

   (e) What are algorithms?

   (f) Other (Specify):

6. We *might* touch upon a bit of computational complexity in this class. Choose the option below that is a fair description of your experience:

   (a) I have done research on computational complexity.

   (b) I have taken a graduate course on computational complexity.

   (c) I have taken an undergraduate course on computational complexity.

   (d) I do not know much about computational complexity but I do know what NP-completeness is.

   (e) Nope, never heard of it: what are you taking about?

   (f) Other (Specify):

7. Why are you taking this course?

   (a) A faculty member suggested I take the course.

   (b) I need coding theory in my research.

   (c) The course announcement looked interesting: I thought I should explore more.

   (d) I want to do research on coding theory.

   (e) Other (Specify):

Use the space below to write down any thoughts you might have on the class. For example, if you would like me to cover certain topics in the course, feel free to mention those. If you have any questions/concerns/comments please do mention them here.