

# Brief review of responsible computing pedagogical approaches

University at Buffalo

Atri Rudra

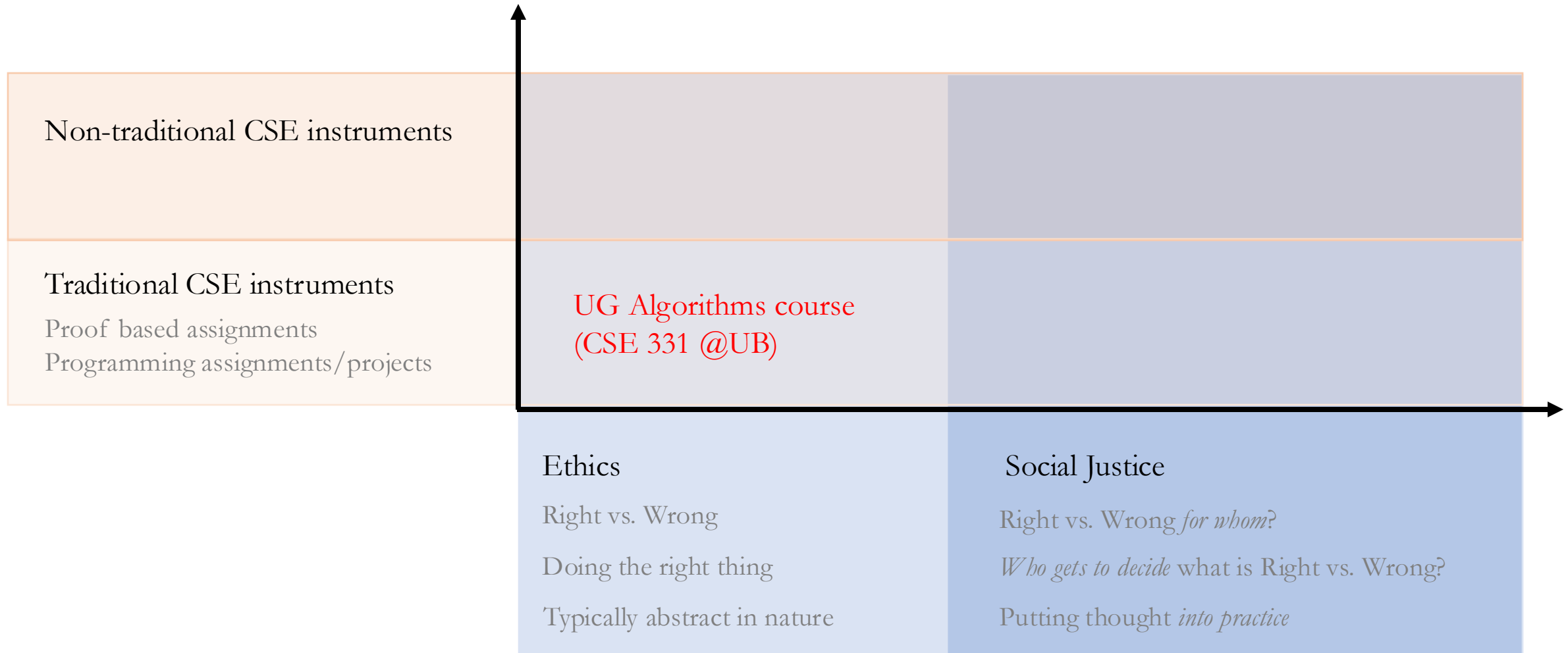
# Actual quote from an algorithms instructor

“I would not want to incorporate such topics into my algorithms course.

I prefer to keep it a technical, politics-free zone,

and I think any discussion of ethics and society would take away from that.”

# Let's dive right in the dimensions....



# UB UG algorithms course overview (CSE 331)

Algorithms and Complexity

Required for **all** BS CS majors

We are in Buffalo, Erie county, NY

# The “hook” is broadband access



moz://a

♥ Donate

Newsletter

Overview

Authors and Contributors

Teaching Materials

User Guide

Topics

→ Access to Technology

Teaching Responsible Computing Playbook

## Access to Technology

*Authors: Atri Rudra*

Perhaps the most common computing solution students and technologists come up with to solve problems in real life is to “build an app.” For many students, this comes from a place of good intentions but students do not always think about who will be *excluded* just from their decision to make an app (which e.g. will target those with smartphones). See e.g. [Kate Crawford’s great example on issues with Street Bump](#) (an app that collects information about potholes in neighborhoods via their app on



<https://assets.bwbx.io/images/users/iqjWHBFdfxIU/iZSjibxE1KJs/v1/800x-1.jpg>

Fast forward to last couple of weeks of class

# Homework 7

Due by **11:30pm, Tuesday, November 29, 2022.**

Make sure you follow all the [homework policies](#).

All submissions should be done via [Autolab](#).

# Question 2 on HW 7

## Question 2 (Accessing Internet at the Library) [25 points]

### The Problem

Unfortunately it turns out that after all the work you put into Q1 of [HW 5](#) to designing optimal placement of cell towers to give Internet access to everyone in [SomePlaceInUSA](#), the funding for putting up the cell towers fell through. Fortunately, there is a small glimmer of hope in that the town was able to secure a small grant to install a high speed Internet connection to one computer in the town's library. In this problem you will explore how effectively the town can share the resource of this one computer among the needy citizens of [SomePlaceInUSA](#) in order to maximize the social good that this computer with high speed Internet connection can provide to the town as a whole.

Residents of [SomePlaceInUSA](#) have applied to use the library's high speed Internet computer. Each of the  $n$  citizens provide the following information. The  $i$ 'th citizen submits a tuple  $(s_i, f_i, w_i)$ , where  $s_i$  and the  $f_i > s_i$  are the start and finish times of when the applicant plans to use the computer every weekday;  $w_i$  is their estimation of the worth of getting to use the terminal from  $s_i$  to  $f_i$ . (Note: the larger the value of  $w_i$  the better for citizen  $i$  and you can assume that  $w_i \geq 0$  are integers.)

Your initial goal is to determine the *maximum worth* among all [valid](#) subset of citizens  $S \subseteq [n]$ . A subset  $S$  is [valid](#) if the start and finish times of any citizen  $i \neq j \in S$  do not conflict (i.e. either  $s_i > f_j$  or  $s_j > f_i$ ). Further, the worth of a subset is

$$w(S) = \sum_{i \in S} w_i.$$

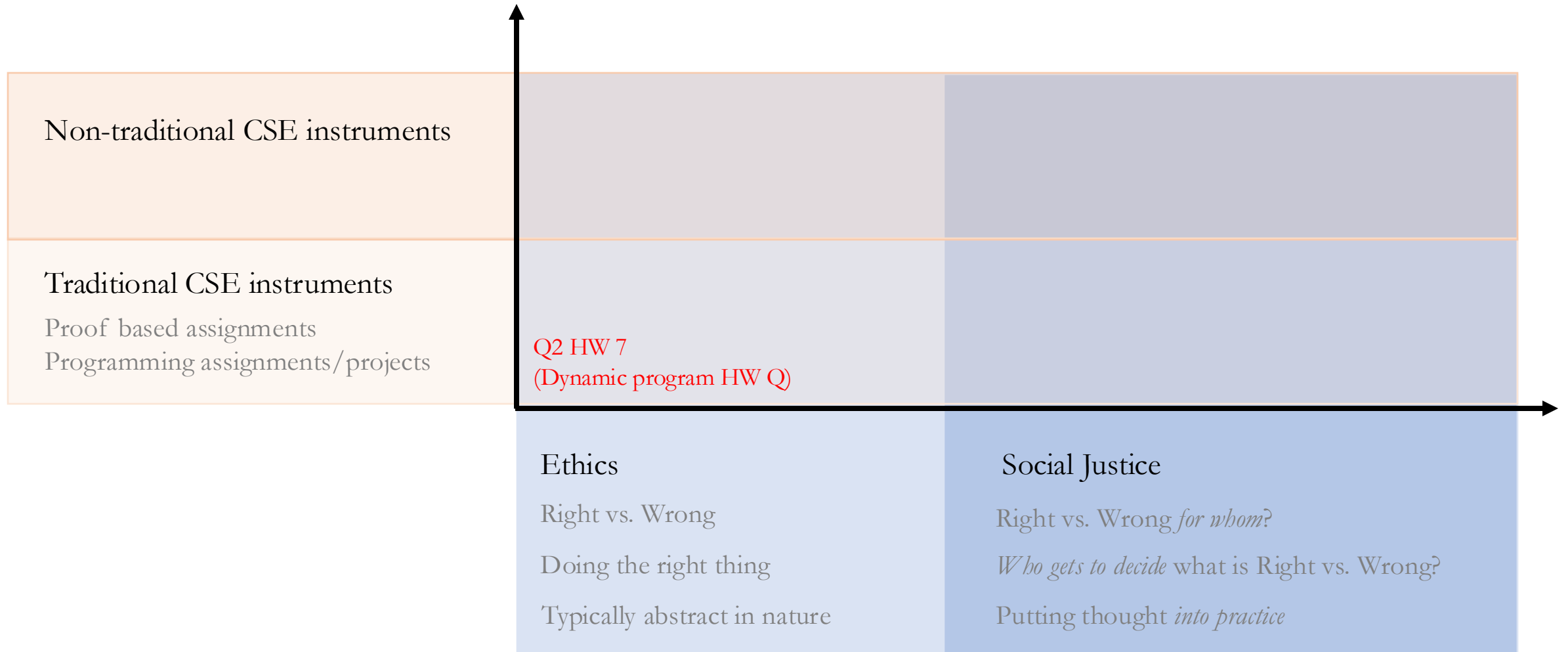
Dynamic  
Program  
question

### Sample Input/Output

Here is a sample input/output pair (the input array is stated as  $[(s_1, f_1, w_1), \dots, (s_n, f_n, w_n)]$  for  $n = 3$ ).

- **Input:**  $[(1, 4, 10), (5, 10, 20), (1, 10, 100)]$ .

# Going back to our 2D space....





Now, let's push the ethical angle more....

# Coding Problems for Project

*Problem 1 (Coding)* due at **11:59pm, Friday, October 29, 2021.**

*Problem 2 (Coding)* due at **11:59pm, Friday, November 5, 2021.**

*Problem 3 (Coding)* due at **11:59pm, Friday, December 3, 2021.**

*Problems 4 and 5 (Coding)* due at **11:59pm, Friday, December 10, 2021.**

All submissions should be done via [Autolab](#).

## Acknowledgment

The development of the project was supported by a [Mozilla Responsible Computer Science award](#). The support is gratefully acknowledged.

# The context for the project

**FILED: NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 02/01/2017 12:05 AM**

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 450318/2017

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 02/01/2017

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK**

-----X  
**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
by ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN, Attorney General of the  
State of New York,**

**Plaintiff,**

**-against-**

**CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC. and SPECTRUM  
MANAGEMENT HOLDING COMPANY, LLC  
(f/k/a TIME WARNER CABLE, INC.),**

## **SUMMONS**

**Index No.: 450318/2017**

**Plaintiff designates New  
York County as the Place  
of Trial**



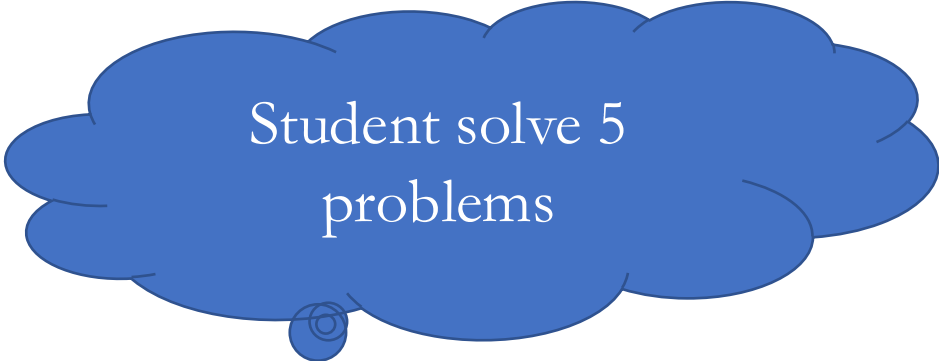
The image shows a screenshot of the Spectrum website's top section. At the top is a navigation bar with links for 'Spectrum', 'Shop', 'Manage Account', and 'Support'. Below this is a 'CHECK AVAILABILITY & OFFERS' section with input fields for 'Street Address', 'Apartment', and 'Zip Code', and a 'GO' button. A secondary navigation bar lists 'Packages', 'Internet', 'Cable TV', 'Home Phone', 'Mobile', 'Latino', and 'Business'. A banner for 'Spectrum Internet®' features a laptop displaying speed test results (100, 300, 940 Mbps) and a smartphone. Text on the banner promotes 'Spectrum Internet®' with speeds up to 940 Mbps, a price of '\$49.99/mo for 12 mos\*', and a 'SHOP NOW >' button. A small circular badge says 'Need more speed? Upgrade to Internet Ultra'. At the bottom of the banner, it says 'Stuck in a contract? We'll buy it out up to \$500\*'. An 'Ask Spectrum' button is in the bottom right corner.

# Very high level overview

## The Basic Problem

### The Problem

Essentially, **Spectrum** used unethical and fraudulent ways to make profits. Now imagine that you just graduated from UB with a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering/Computer Science and got hired by **ForProfitOnly** Internet provider. You're recruited into **ForProfitOnly** as a junior software engineer. It's your first day at work and your first assignment/task is to come up with routing algorithms to generate paths that will be used to route packets in **ForProfitOnly's** network topology. Since it's your first day at work, you're very eager to please your superiors by delivering as much revenue as possible to **ForProfitOnly**. Below is a detailed description of your task and the various problems that you need to solve.



Student solve 5  
problems

# Allegation #10 against Spectrum

## Problem 3

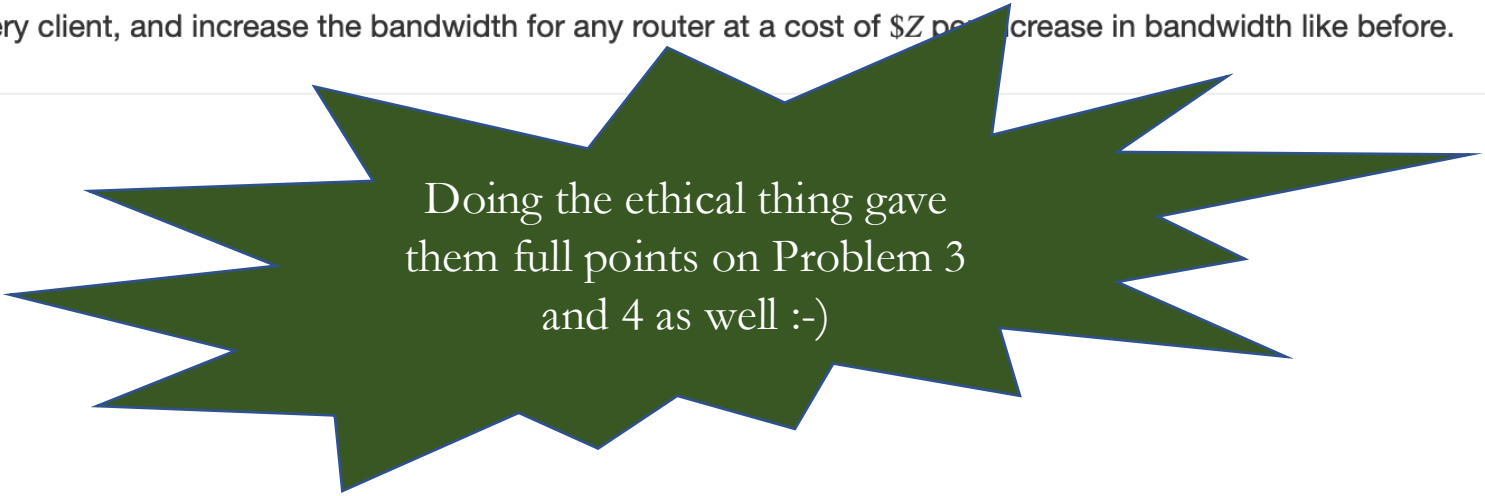
10. To conceal this failure, Spectrum-TWC assured the FCC in or about July 2013, that it would replace its older-generation modems for *all* of its subscribers, but in fact it did not. The FCC relied on that commitment to exclude the poor results of the speed tests on those modems in the FCC's subsequent public reports. Had these modems' results been included in the FCC's testing program, they would have revealed Spectrum-TWC's deceptive practices.

# Problem 5: Do the ethical thing

## The Problem

Like **Spectrum**, **ForProfitOnly** gets hit with multiple lawsuits and you decide it is a good time to work for another company where profit is not the only motive. Luckily for you, a new startup **EthicalInternet** promises to keep customers first and then worry about profit. More precisely, **EthicalInternet** will guarantee that no customer would complain/drop-out. You apply for a position at **EthicalInternet** and you get the job: congratulations! You have a similar problem to solve as you did when you were at **ForProfitOnly** but now your objectives are different.

For this problem, there is **no** notion of a complaining client (but see the definition of penalty for how we will ensure that no customer would dropout). You are still **allowed** to set/change the priority for every client, and increase the bandwidth for any router at a cost of \$Z per increase in bandwidth like before.



Doing the ethical thing gave  
them full points on Problem 3  
and 4 as well :-)

# For each problem, students submit code

## Problem 3

[Download Python Skeleton Code](#)

Method you need to write:

```
def output_paths(self):  
  
    """  
    This method must be filled in by you. You may add other methods and subclasses as you see fit,  
    but they must remain within the Solution class.  
    """  
  
    paths, bandwidths, priorities = {}, {}, {}  
  
    return (paths, bandwidths, priorities)
```

### You are provided a subset of the test suite!

For the third problem, there are four testcases on Autolab. The first one, `input1.txt` in conjunction with `input1.txt-info` is provided to you. The other testcases will use the same graph from `input1.txt` but with different info files.

### Do not modify the output!

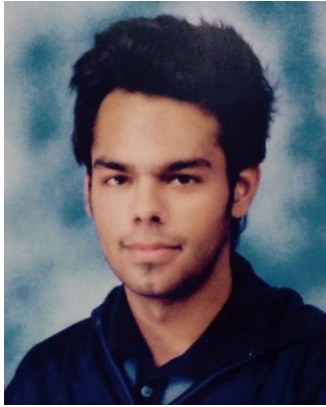
Please do not change the return statement. All the problems return the same tuple, but `priorities` should be set to the empty dictionary for this problem. You need to assign a value to the `paths` and `bandwidths` variables as your solution.

### What's the difference in the zips?

The templates for the different problem are essentially the same except that `Driver.py` sets the appropriate `problem` value. So while you can modify the zip from another problem to work for Problem 3, to be on the safe side, we still encourage y'all to download the zip for this problem and work on it separately from your work on other problems.



# Coding project was built by CSE 331 UTAs



Sanchit Batra



Elijah Einstein



Sean Mackay



Supratik Neupane



Tom Sherwood



Veronica Vitale



Alex Fernandez

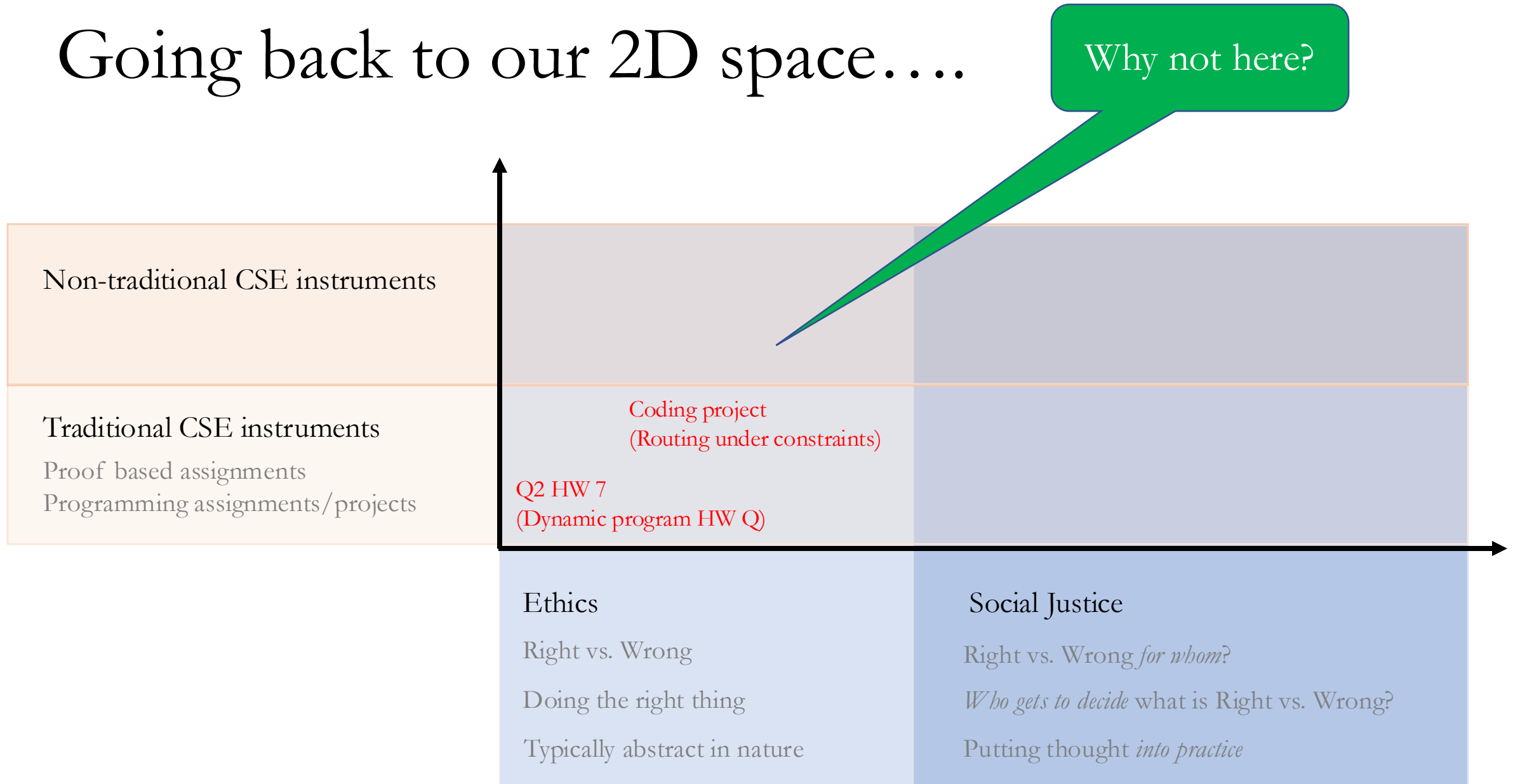


Snigdha Motadaka



Aman Timalina

# Going back to our 2D space....





# Student submissions were autograded...

## Grading Guidelines

### The grading works a little differently for this project.

Each testcase is worth 5 points. The number of testcases for each problem depends on the maximum points (*max\_points*) achievable, and is equal to  $\frac{\text{max\_points}}{5}$ . For eg. Problem 1 has one testcase, since it is worth 5 points, Problem 2 has two testcases, since it is worth 10 points and so on.

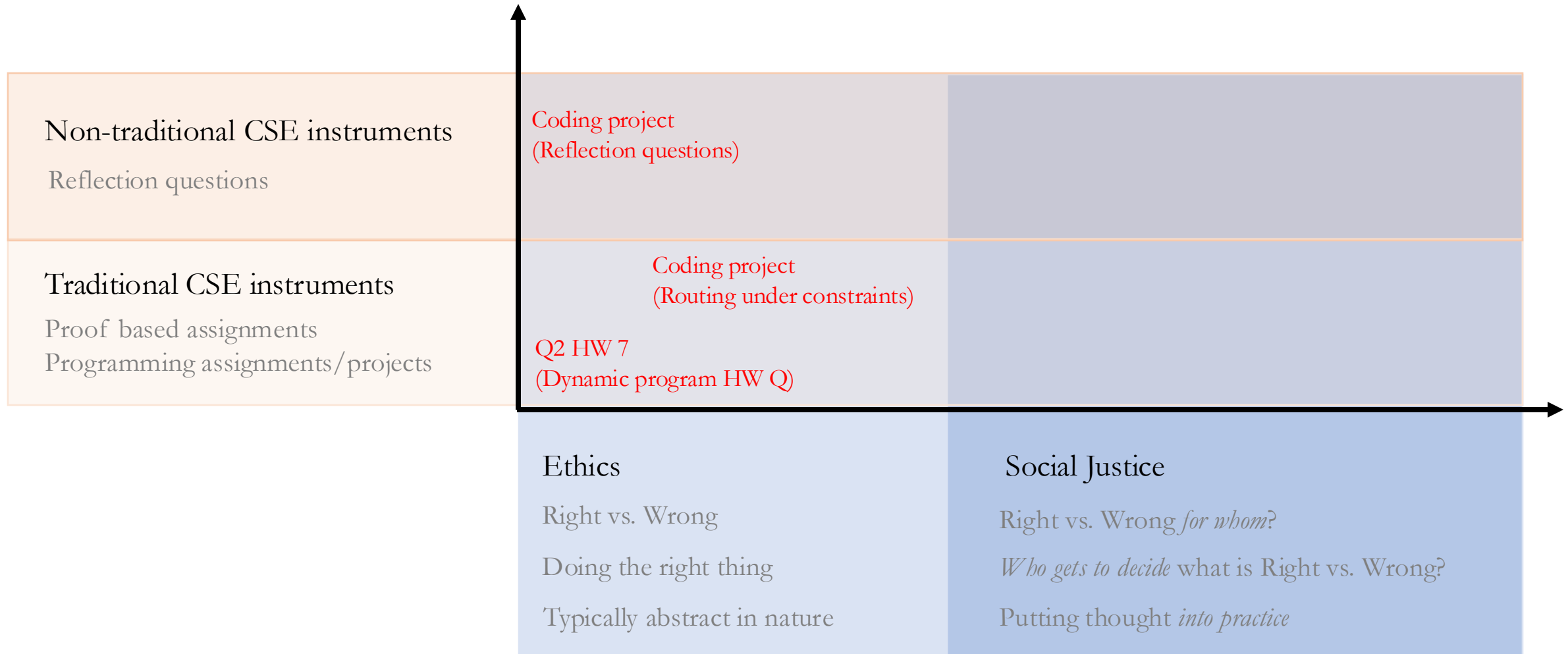
For Problem 1, you get the full 5 points if your revenue matches ours and 0 otherwise.

Except for Problem 1, there is partial grading for each testcase. The number of points awarded to you depend on how well your solution's revenue compares with our revenue.

For other problems, the thresholds are outlined below, the numbers on the left indicate the ratio of (your solution's revenue - revenue of optimal Solution for Problem 1) and (our revenue - revenue from optimal Solution for Problem 1) in percentage, and the right half indicates the points achieving that ratio will award you.

- [100, 80] -> 5 points
- [80, 60) -> 4 points
- [60, 40) -> 3 points
- [40, 20) -> 2 points
- [20, 5) -> 1 points
- [0, 5] -> 0 points

# Business/assessment as usual will not work....



# Students reflect on their design choices

## Problem 3 (25 points)

### Your Task

Listed below are **seven** questions. The first question is to present the algorithm idea of the code that you submitted for the third [coding problem](#). For the rest of the questions, you group has to answer each question and **justify** your answers.

Coding problem three raises the question: When an algorithm doesn't work as advertised, who is responsible? Accountability for proprietary informational technologies can be difficult to assign. As you've seen in the problem description, both the Office of the Attorney General and the Federal Communications Commission have assigned responsibility to your **ForProfitOnly** employer based on customer complaints and their own bandwidth tests.

Obviously, as a software engineer, you have little control over how your **ForProfitOnly** company advertises its products. However, as O'Neil and Gunn argue, both designers and deployers of algorithms bear an ethical responsibility for the consequences of their designs. Developers, in particular are "in a unique position of responsibility over the design of the algorithm as they are typically the only ones in a position to understand how the algorithm functions and are responsible for rendering the design goals into the algorithm" (242). As you no doubt saw in the problem description, most of the customers who complained didn't know (or even really need to know) why their internet did not meet advertised speeds, only that it did not meet them. And while it might be tempting to assign responsibility to customers for leasing older model routers, they are not responsible for ensuring a paid service works. In this case, you are responsible.

For reflection three, please answer the following questions about designers' responsibility for how their algorithm works:

### Algorithm Idea (2 points)

State the algorithm idea behind the code that you submitted for the third [coding problem](#). This would be similar to an usual algorithm idea submission in a homework (though it does not really have to longer than one paragraph)

### Lawsuit threat (2 points)

How did the threat of a lawsuit change your group's algorithm idea from the second [coding problem](#) to this problem? Specifically, which changes were motivated by the lawsuit threat, and why did you choose those adjustments as opposed to others?

### FCC fine threat (2 points)

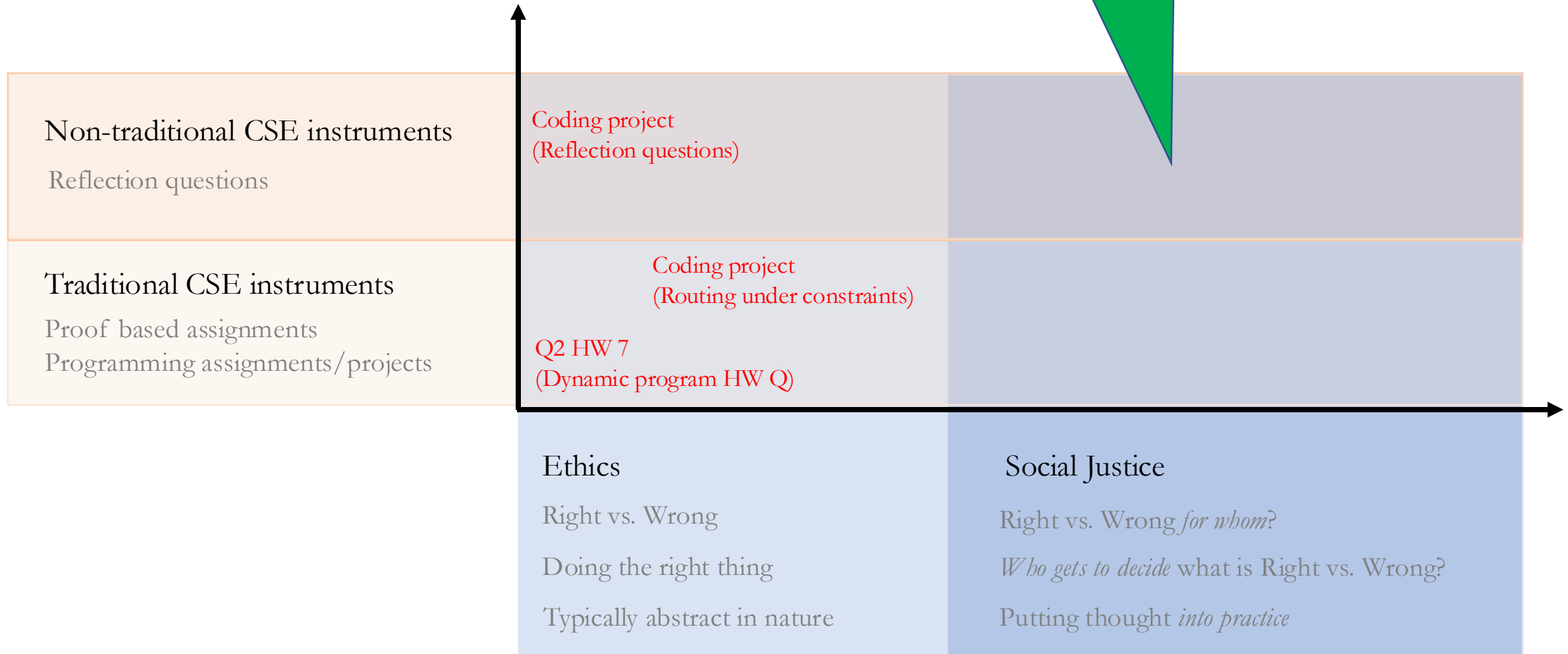
How did the threat of an FCC fine change your group's algorithm idea from the second [coding problem](#) to this problem? Specifically, which changes were motivated by the FCC fine, and why did you choose those adjustments as opposed to others?

### Which customers are favored? (3 points)

Which clients did the **changes to the bandwidth** values favor? Show how your answer follows from the algorithm idea above.

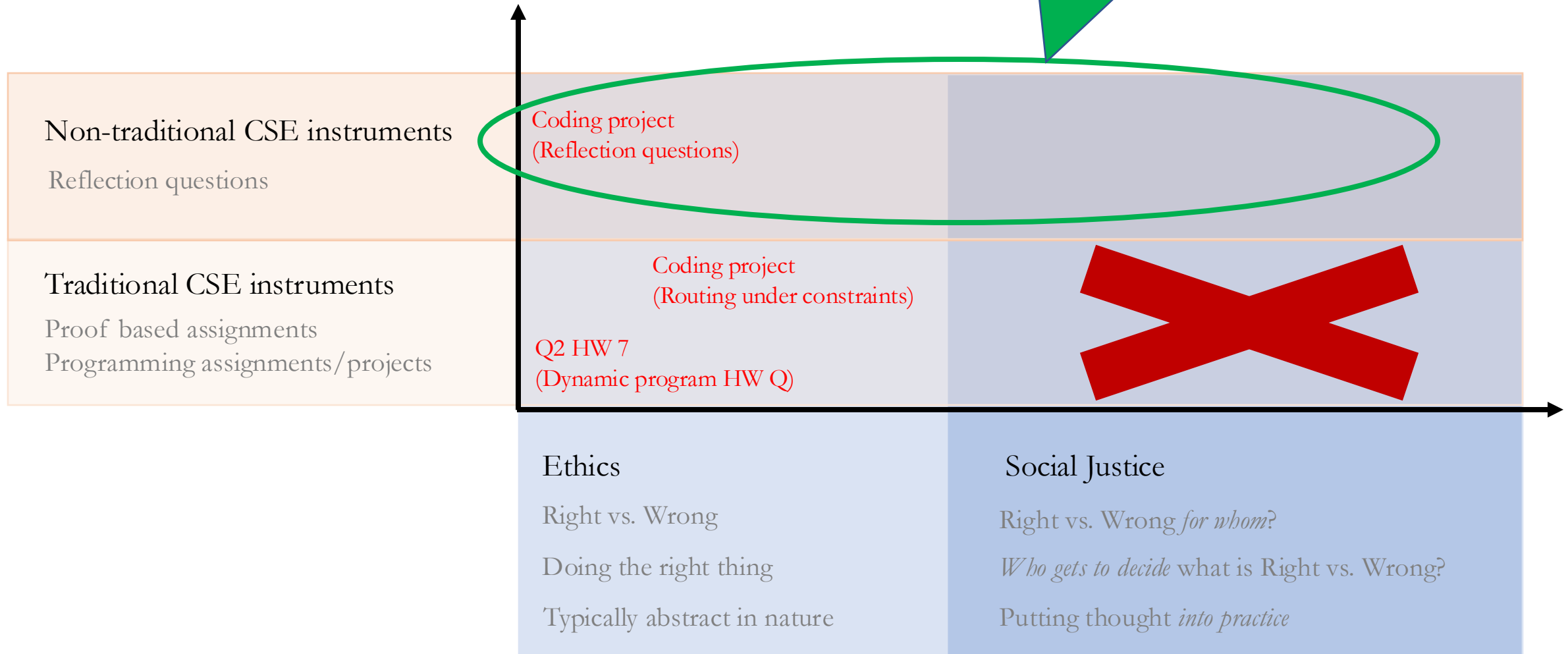
# The next Question

How do we get here?



# Not so fast.....

Need help from non-CSE folks!



More about that in Dalia's talk

# The direct impetus for this workshop

arXiv > cs > arXiv:2502.10856

Search...

Help | Advance

Computer Science > Computers and Society

[Submitted on 15 Feb 2025]

## Multiple Approaches for Teaching Responsible Computing

Stacy A. Doore, Michelle Trim, Joycelyn Streator, Richard L. Blumenthal, Atri Rudra, Robert B. Schnabel

Teaching applied ethics in computer science has shifted from a perspective of teaching about professional codes of conduct and an emphasis on risk management towards a broader understanding of the impacts of computing on humanity and the environment and the principles and practices of responsible computing. One of the primary shifts in the approach to teaching computing ethics comes from research in the social sciences and humanities. This position is grounded in the idea that all computing artifacts, projects, tools, and products are situated within a set of ideas, attitudes, goals, and cultural norms. This means that all computing endeavors have embedded within them a set of values. To teach responsible computing always requires us to first recognize that computing happens in a context that is shaped by cultural values, including our own professional culture and values.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight current scholarship, principles, and practices in the teaching of responsible computing in undergraduate computer science settings. The paper is organized around four primary sections: 1) a high-level rationale for the adoption of different pedagogical approaches based on program context and course learning goals, 2) a brief survey of responsible computing pedagogical approaches; 3) illustrative examples of how topics within the CS 2023 Social, Ethical, and Professional (SEP) knowledge area can be implemented and assessed across the broad spectrum of undergraduate computing courses; and 4) links to examples of current best practices, tools, and resources for faculty to build responsible computing teaching into their specific instructional settings and CS2023 knowledge areas.

Comments: This work was done as part of ACM/IEEE-CS/AAAI Computer Science Curricula 2023 ([this http URL](#))

Subjects: **Computers and Society (cs.CY)**

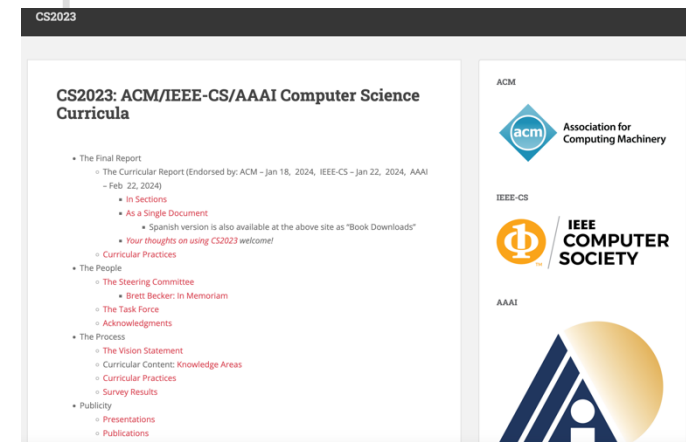
ACM classes: K.3.2; K.4.2

Cite as: arXiv:2502.10856 [cs.CY]

(or arXiv:2502.10856v1 [cs.CY] for this version)

<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2502.10856> 

Submission history



# Five kinds of instruments

Individual Assignments or Problems

Self-contained Lesson/Module

Integrated Lesson/Module

Responsible Computing Theme

Dedicated Course

Example  
instrument first

Some general  
thoughts second



# Individual Assignments or Problems

## [Conditionals] Developers as Decision-Makers



*What are the consequences when we turn people into numeric scores for algorithms? Who benefits and who are disadvantaged by our decisions?*

- **Scenario:** Develop a scoring algorithm to determine which classmates are prioritized for housing on campus. Students use a human-centered design process to reflect on the ways in which different scoring algorithms can advantage or harm different groups of people.
- **Practice:** Conditionals ( `if/elif/else` ), Input ( `input()` ), Difference in strings vs. ints
- **Material:** [Google Doc assn \(2021\)](#) | [Nifty Assignments 2020 Page](#)
- **Author:** [Evan Peck \(Bucknell University\)](#)
- **Context:** 2 hour lab setting. Small student groups.
- **Instructor Guidance:** [Guidance provided by Jaye Nias and Marty Wolf](#)
- **Supplementary Reading:**
  - [New algorithms to score candidates for lifesaving organ donations](#)
  - [We created poverty. Algorithms won't make that go away \(Virginia Eubanks\)](#)
  - [What Happens When an Algorithm Cuts Your Health Care](#)

Evan Peck

CS 1 assignment



Ethical CS

Resources

## Ethical Reflection Modules for CS 1

- [Evan M. Peck](#), Associate Prof. of Computer Science, Bucknell University
- [email me](#) | [find me on Twitter](#) | [visit my website](#)

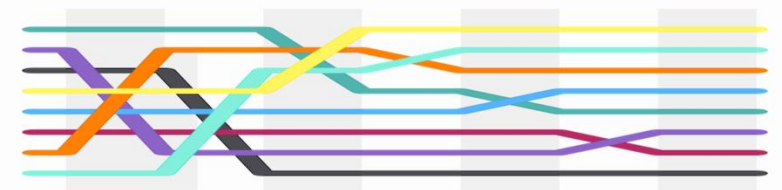


Image by [Balu Ertl](#)

# Individual Assignments or Problems

## [Conditionals] Developers as Decision-Makers



*What are the consequences when we turn people into numeric scores for algorithms? Who benefits and who are disadvantaged by our decisions?*

- **Scenario:** Develop a scoring algorithm to determine which classmates are prioritized for housing on campus. Students use a human-centered design process to reflect on the ways in which different scoring algorithms can advantage or harm different groups of people.
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  - [What Happens When an Algorithm Cuts Your Health Care](#)

Responsible Computing provides the “motivation”/ “story”

Least amount of prep work

Recommended for beginners

# Self-contained Lesson/Module

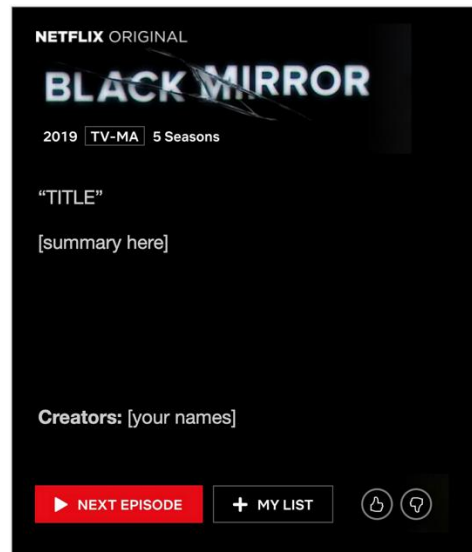
## Black Mirror Writers Room

Let your imagination run wild in this creative speculation activity that helps computing students think through possible consequences of technology.

[View Slides](#)



Casey Fiesler



**Replace  
This  
Image**

Students create their own  
Black Mirror episode!



# Self-contained Lesson/Module

## Black Mirror Writers Room

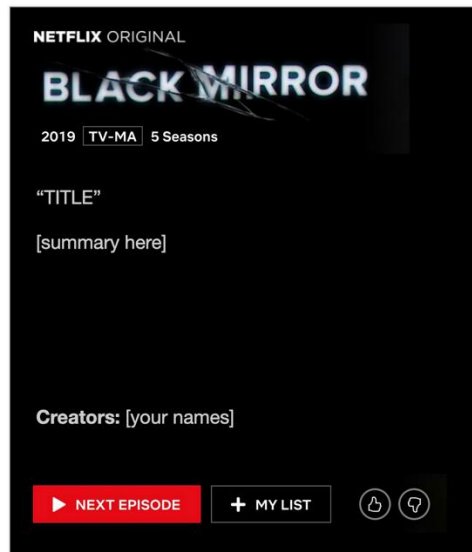
Let your imagination run wild in this creative speculation activity that helps computing students think through possible consequences of technology.

[View Slides](#)



Incorporated into a traditional CSE course

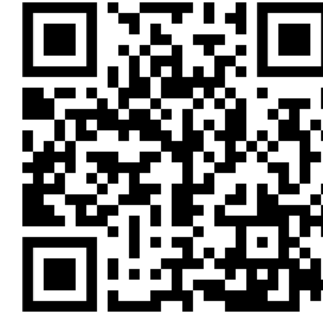
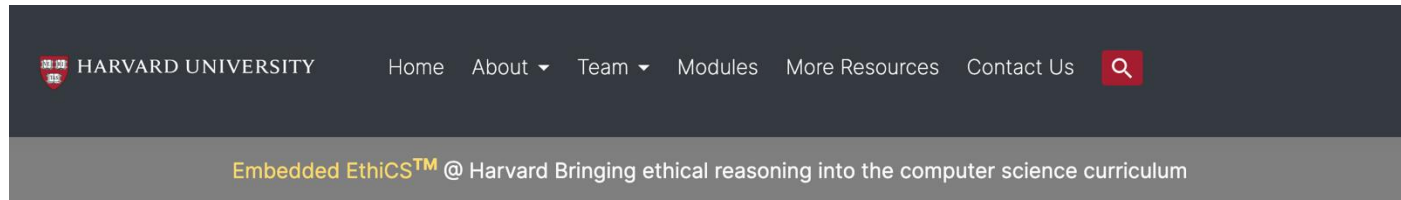
Somewhat disconnected to rest of the course



**Replace  
This  
Image**

Can be created by an expert  $\neq$  instructor

# Integrated Lesson/Module



Embedded  
EthiCS@Harvard



Collaboration between philosophers  
and computer scientists

## Modules

### **Advanced Computer Vision (CS 283) – Fall 2023**

**Module Topic:** The Ethics of Emotion Recognition  
**Module Author:** Dasha Pruss

### **Research Topics in Human-Computer Interaction (CS 279r) – 2023 Fall**

**Module Topic:** Contextual Pressures in Human-AI Interaction  
**Module Author:** Dasha Pruss

### **Advanced Computer Networks (CS 243) – Fall 2023**

**Module Topic:** Fairness and Federated Learning  
**Module Author:** Camila Hernandez Flowerman

### **Introduction to Computational Linguistics and Natural-language Processing (CS 187) – Fall 2023**

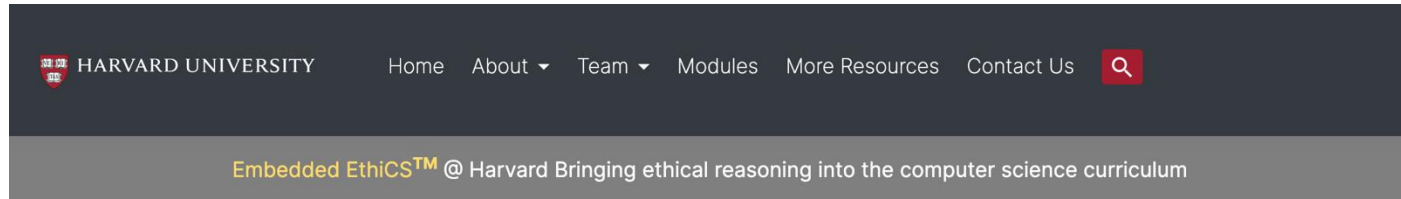
**Module Topic:** Uncertainty, Moral Responsibility, and the Precautionary Principle  
**Module Author:** Camila Hernandez Flowerman

### **Artificial Intelligence (CS 182) – Fall 2023**

**Module Topic:** AI, Responsibility, and Impact  
**Module Author:** Anni Rätty

Philosophy postdocs work  
w/ CS instructors to create  
modules

# Integrated Lesson/Module



Module tightly coupled with rest of the course

Embedded  
EthiCS@Harvard



Needs instructor to (co)develop the module

## Modules

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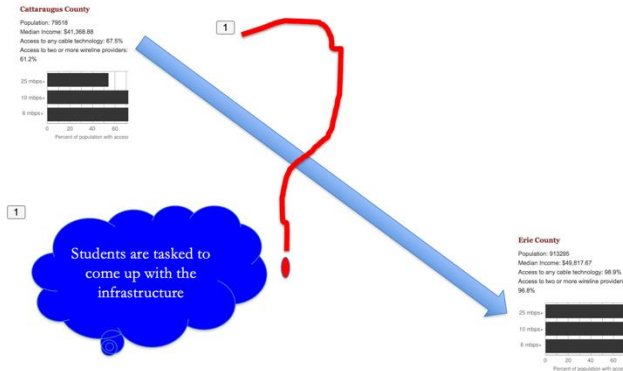
### **Artificial Intelligence (CS 182) – Fall 2023**

**Module Topic:** AI, Responsibility, and Impact  
**Module Author:** Anni Rätty

Best option if one wants to not mess with course structure

# Responsible Computing Theme

## Week 1: Make broadband more available



## Question 1 on HW 4

### Question 1 (High Speed Internet) [50 points]

#### The Problem

We come back to the issue of many USA regions not having high speed internet. In this question, you will consider an algorithmic problem that you would need to solve to help out a (fictional) place get high speed Internet.

You are the algorithms whiz in the effort to bring high speed internet to **SomePlaceInUSA**. After lots of rounds of discussions and public feedback, it was decided that the most cost-effective way to bring high speed internet to **SomePlaceInUSA** was to install high speed cell towers to connect all houses in **SomePlaceInUSA** to high speed internet. There are two things in your favor:

1. It just so happens that all of the  $n$  houses in **SomePlaceInUSA** are on the side of a straight road that runs through the town.
2. The above implies that you only need cell towers that only need to broadcast their signal in a narrow range, which means one cell tower can provide high speed internet access to all houses within 100 miles ahead (rather than the usual 45 mile range ☹️) on the road from its location (we are assuming that these cell towers will be on the side of the road). These cell towers are unidirectional so they can provide connection to only houses that are ahead of it.

Due to various logistical reasons, the cell towers have to be on the side of the straight road and right next to a house.

None of your team-mates attended the class on greedy algorithms, so in this problem you will have to figure out which houses should have cell towers installed next to them so as to use the minimum number of towers.

With an eye on the future, the cell towers have to be placed so that there is continuous cell coverage along the road. I.e. it should never be the case that you are on the road (between the first and the last house) such that you cannot reach a cell tower. You can assume that you have to put a cell tower at the first house on the road in **SomePlaceInUSA**.

Greedy Algorithm question

Note



Multiple assignments through the semester related to access to Internet

## Question 2 on HW 7

### Question 2 (Accessing Internet at the Library) [25 points]

#### The Problem

Unfortunately it turns out that after all the work you put into Q1 of HW 5 to designing optimal placement of cell towers to give Internet access to everyone in **SomePlaceInUSA**, the funding for putting up the cell towers fell through. Fortunately, there is a small glimmer of hope in that the town was able to secure a small grant to install a high speed Internet connection to one computer in the town's library. In this problem you will explore how effectively the town can share the resource of this one computer among the needy citizens of **SomePlaceInUSA** in order to maximize the social good that this computer with high speed Internet connection can provide to the town as a whole.

Residents of **SomePlaceInUSA** have applied to use the library's high speed Internet computer. Each of the  $n$  citizens provide the following information. The  $i$ 'th citizen submits a tuple  $(s_i, f_i, w_i)$ , where  $s_i$  and  $f_i$  are the start and finish times of when the applicant plans to use the computer every weekday;  $w_i$  is their estimation of the worth of getting to use the terminal from  $s_i$  to  $f_i$ . (Note: the larger the value of  $w_i$  the better for citizen  $i$  and you can assume that  $w_i \geq 0$  are integers.)

Your initial goal is to determine the maximum worth among all **valid** subset of citizens  $S \subseteq [n]$ . A subset  $S$  is **valid** if the start and finish times of any citizen  $i \neq j \in S$  do not conflict (i.e. either  $s_i > f_j$  or  $s_j > f_i$ ). Further, the worth of a subset is

$$w(S) = \sum_{i \in S} w_i$$

Dynamic Program question

#### Sample Input/Output

Here is a sample input/output pair (the input array is stated as  $[(s_1, f_1, w_1), \dots, (s_n, f_n, w_n)]$  for  $n = 3$ ):

- **Input:**  $[(1, 4, 10), (5, 10, 20), (1, 10, 100)]$ .
- **Output:** 100 (for the subset  $\{3\}$ ).

## Coding Problems for Project

Problem 1 (**Coding**) due at 11:59pm, Friday, October 29, 2021.

Problem 2 (**Coding**) due at 11:59pm, Friday, November 5, 2021.

Problem 3 (**Coding**) due at 11:59pm, Friday, December 3, 2021.

Problems 4 and 5 (**Coding**) due at 11:59pm, Friday, December 10, 2021.

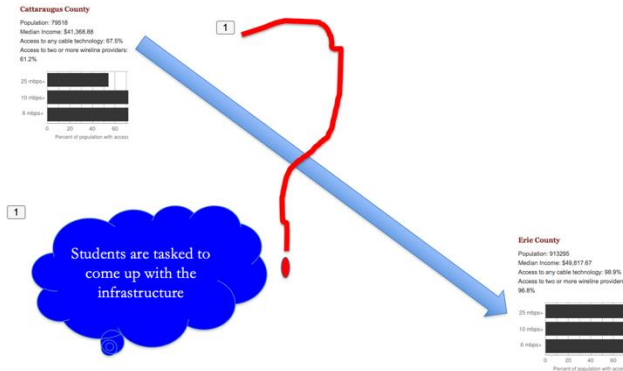
All submissions should be done via [Autolab](#).

#### Acknowledgment

The development of the project was supported by a [Mozilla Responsible Computer Science award](#). The support is gratefully acknowledged.

# Responsible Computing Theme

## Week 1: Make broadband more available



## Question 1 on HW 4

### Question 1 (High Speed Internet) [50 points]

**The Problem**

We come back to the issue of many USA regions not having high speed internet. In this question, you will consider an algorithmic problem that you would need to solve to help out a (fictional) place get high speed Internet.

You are the algorithms whiz in the effort to bring high speed internet to **SomePlaceInUSA**. After lots of rounds of discussions and public feedback, it was decided that the most cost-effective way to bring high speed internet to **SomePlaceInUSA** was to install high speed cell towers to connect all houses in **SomePlaceInUSA** to high speed internet. There are two things in your favor:

1. It just so happens that all of the  $n$  houses in **SomePlaceInUSA** are on the side of a straight road that runs through the town.
2. The above implies that you only need cell towers that only need to broadcast their signal in a narrow range, which means one cell tower can provide high speed internet access to all houses within 100 miles ahead (rather than the usual 45 mile range ☹️) on the road from its location (we are assuming that these cell towers will be on the side of the road). These cell towers are unidirectional so they can provide connection to only houses that are ahead of it.

Due to various logistical reasons, the cell towers have to be on the side of the straight road and right next to a house.

None of your team-mates attended the class on greedy algorithms, so in this problem you will have to figure out which houses should have cell towers installed next to them so as to use the minimum number of towers.

With an eye on the future, the cell towers have to be placed so that there is continuous cell coverage along the road. I.e. it should never be the case that you are on the road (between the first and the last house) such that you cannot reach a cell tower. You can assume that you have to put a cell tower at the first house on the road in **SomePlaceInUSA**.

**Note**

Greedy Algorithm question

Pick a theme and use it across multiple lectures and assignments

## Question 2 on HW 7

### Question 2 (Accessing Internet at the Library) [25 points]

**The Problem**

Unfortunately it turns out that after all the work you put into Q1 of HW 5 to designing optimal placement of cell towers to give internet access to everyone in **SomePlaceInUSA**, the funding for putting up the cell towers fell through. Fortunately, there is a small glimmer of hope in that the town was able to secure a small grant to install a high speed internet connection to one computer in the town's library. In this problem you will explore how effectively the town can share the resource of this one computer among the needy citizens of **SomePlaceInUSA** in order to maximize the social good that this computer with high speed internet connection can provide to the town as a whole.

Residents of **SomePlaceInUSA** have applied to use the library's high speed internet computer. Each of the  $n$  citizens provide the following information. The  $i$ 'th citizen submits a tuple  $(s_i, f_i, w_i)$ , where  $s_i$  and  $f_i$  are the start and finish times of when the applicant plans to use the computer every weekday;  $w_i$  is their estimation of the worth of getting to use the terminal from  $s_i$  to  $f_i$ . (Note: the larger the value of  $w_i$  the better for citizen  $i$  and you can assume that  $w_i \geq 0$  are integers.)

Your initial goal is to determine the maximum worth among all **valid** subset of citizens  $S \subseteq [n]$ . A subset  $S$  is **valid** if the start and finish times of any citizen  $i \neq j \in S$  do not conflict (i.e. either  $s_i > f_j$  or  $s_j > f_i$ ). Further, the worth of a subset is

$$w(S) = \sum_{i \in S} w_i$$

Dynamic Program question

#### Sample Input/Output

Here is a sample input/output pair (the input array is stated as  $[(s_1, f_1, w_1), \dots, (s_n, f_n, w_n)]$  for  $n = 3$ )

- **Input:**  $[(1, 4, 10), (5, 10, 20), (1, 10, 100)]$ .
- **Output:** 100 (for the subset  $\{3\}$ ).

## Coding Problems for Project

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Most extensive intervention in a traditional CSE course



# Dedicated Course

HOME COURSE

## About

*Algorithms for the People is a blog that accompanies [Brown University](#)'s CS 2952v which surveys, critiques and addresses the ways in which computer science & technology affect marginalized communities.*

## Related Work

[Algorithmic Fairness](#)  
[OSU CS175](#)  
[MD4SG](#)

## Tags

[Responsibility](#) [COINTELPRO](#)  
[CS2950v](#) [Surveillance](#) [FBI](#)  
[Primer](#) [Research](#)

# Algorithms for the People

*Computer Science & Marginalized Communities*

## COINTELPRO

📅 2020, Jun 26 👤 [Seny Kamara](#) ⌚ 10 mins read



**COINTELPRO**  
THE FBI's former Spy Program targeting  
citizens of the USA

Seny Kamara



Entire semester on how  
CSE tech affects marginalized  
communities

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**COINTELPRO**  
THE FBI's former Spy Program targeting  
citizens of the USA

Entire course

Longer and more  
nuanced discussions  
in class

Traditional CSE  
don't work well

# Rest of the workshop/Questions

10:20-10:40am: **Richard Blumenthal**

*How Regis University is addressing CS2023 in their curriculum*

10:40-11:00am: **Stacy Doore**

[Computing Ethics Narratives project](#)

11:00-11:20am: **Dalia Muller**

[Impossible Project](#)

11:20-11:30am: Break

11:30am-12:30pm: **Hands on Activities** (in parallel)

*Activity 1: Richard Blumenthal (Regis University and CS2023)*

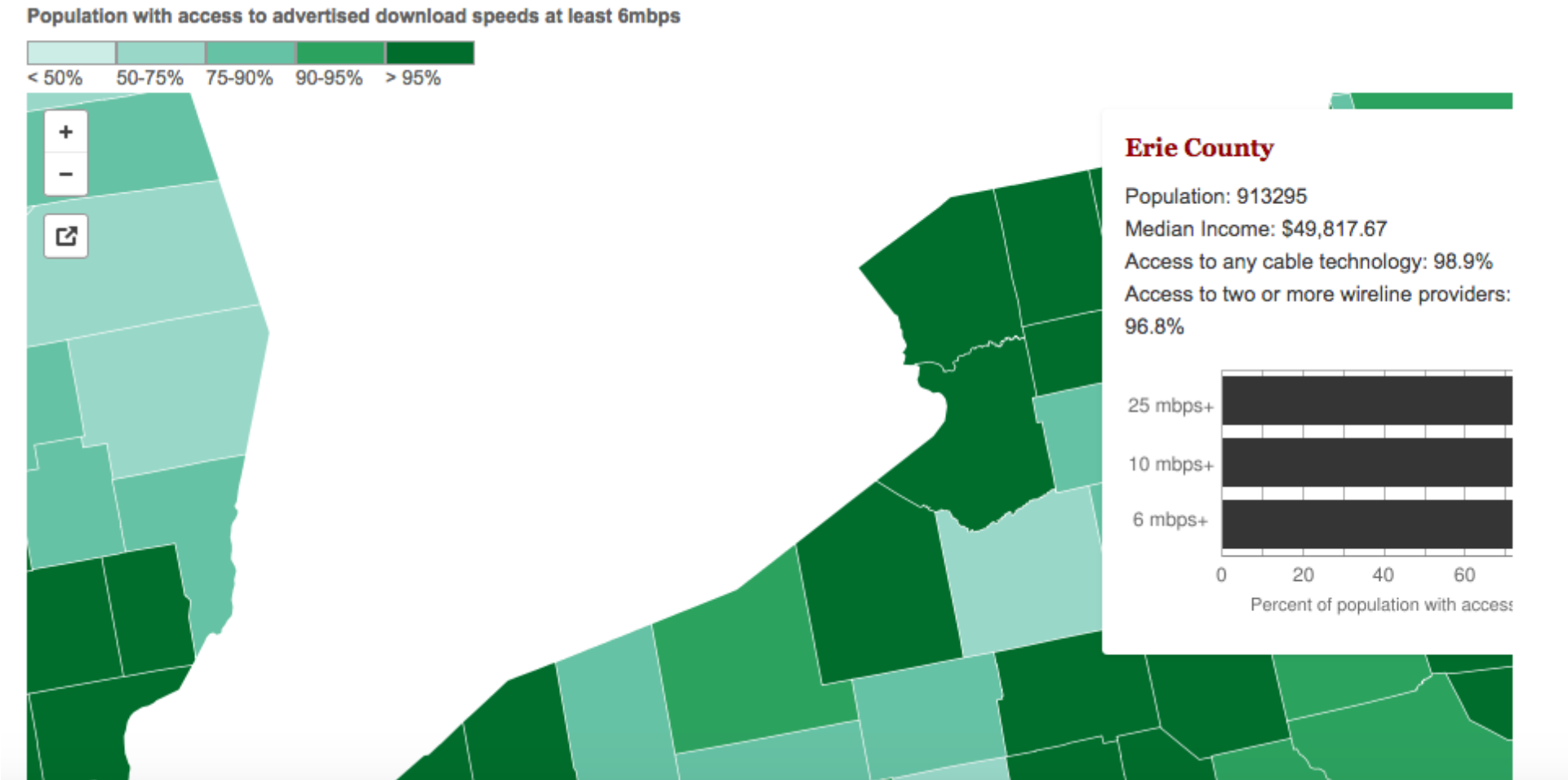
*Activity 2: Stacy Doore (Computing Ethics Narratives project)*

*Activity 3: Dalia Muller (Impossible Project)*



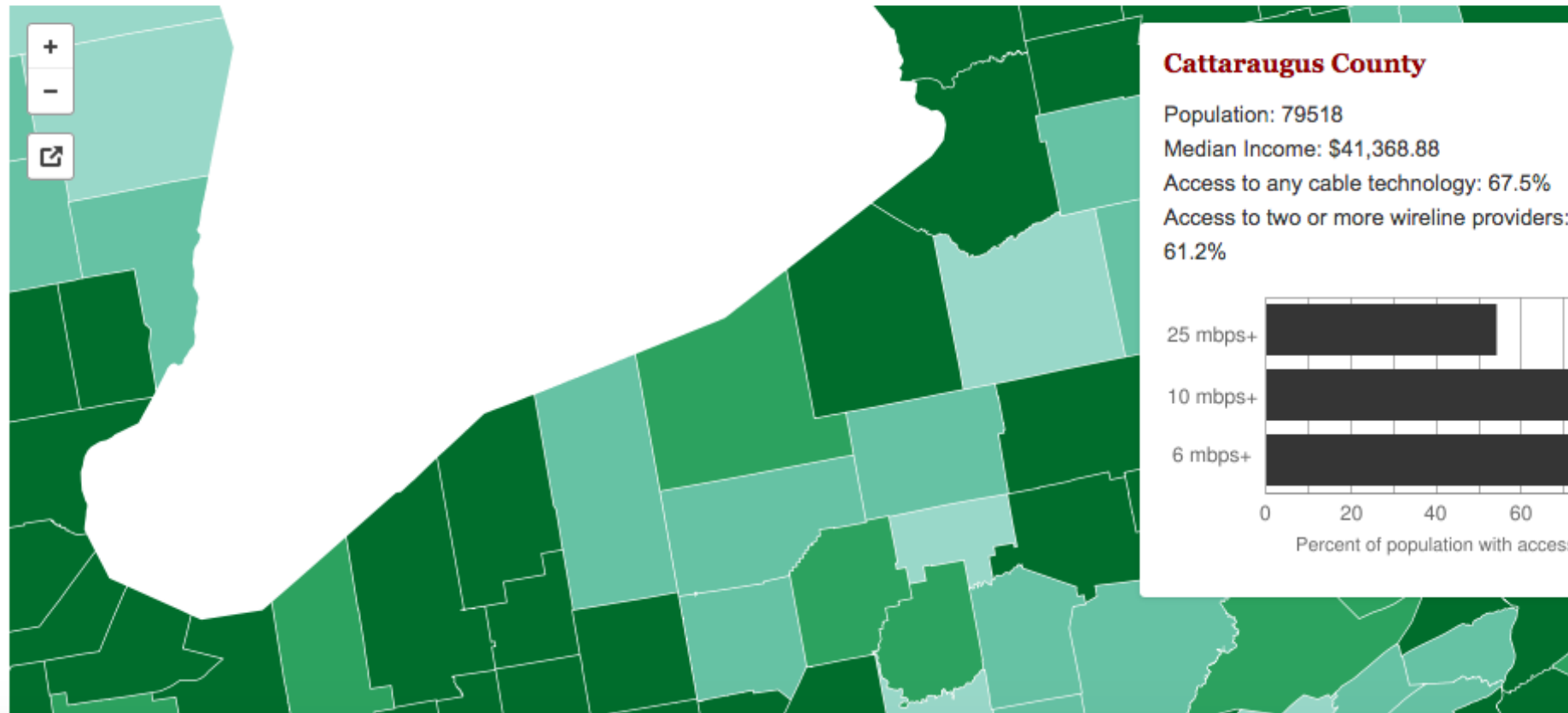
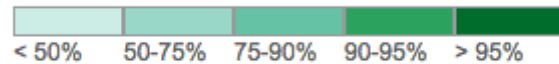
Backup slides

# Erie county is reasonably good



# One county over

Population with access to advertised download speeds at least 6mbps



# Week 1: Make broadband more available

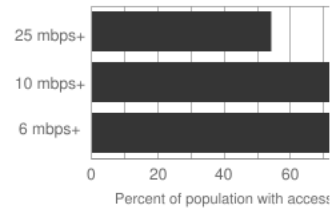
## Cattaraugus County

Population: 79518

Median Income: \$41,368.88

Access to any cable technology: 67.5%

Access to two or more wireline providers: 61.2%



Students are tasked to come up with the infrastructure

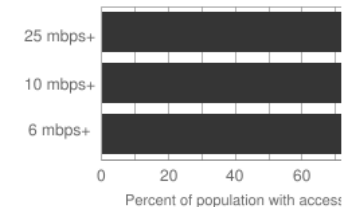
## Erie County

Population: 913295

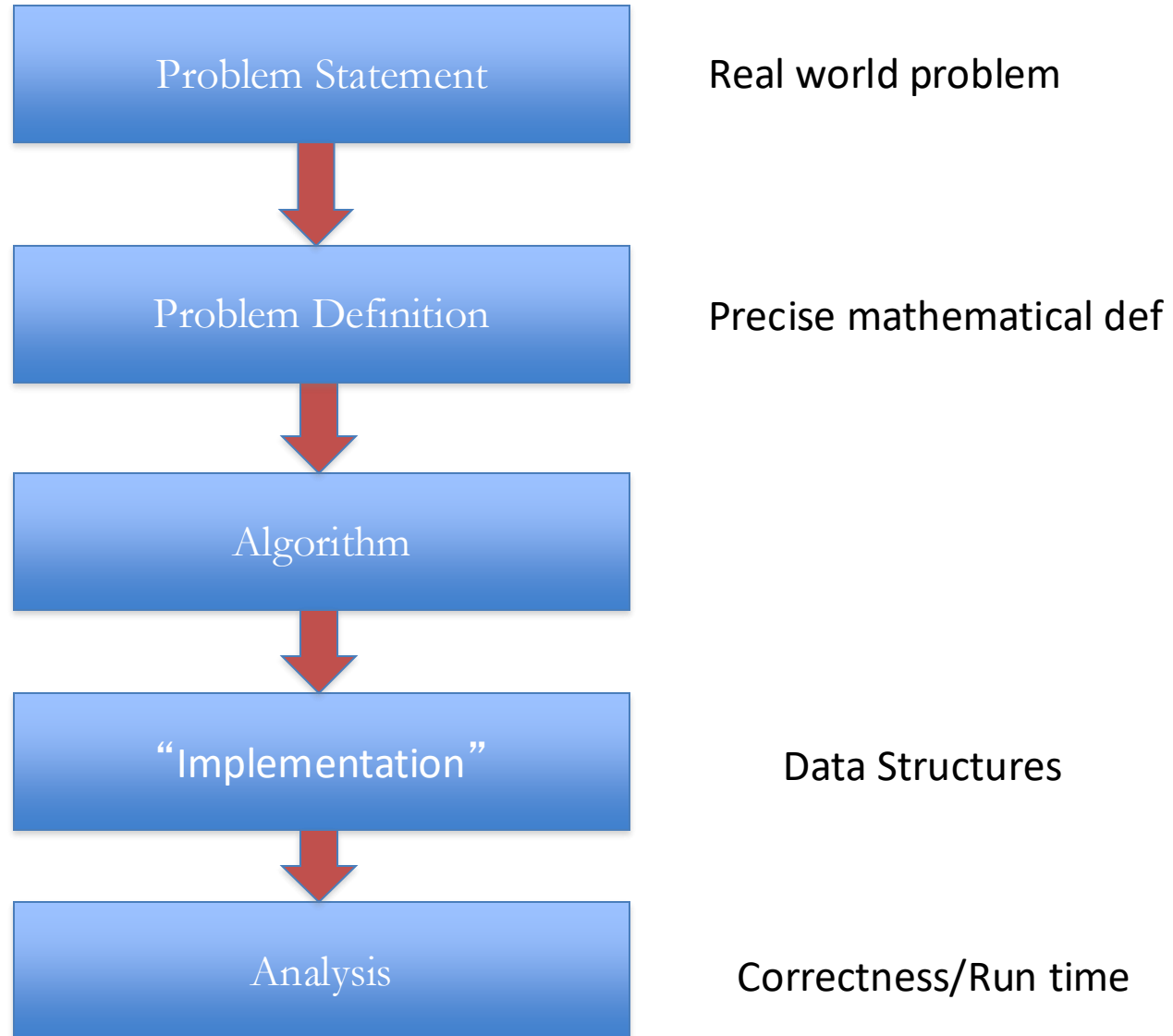
Median Income: \$49,817.67

Access to any cable technology: 98.9%

Access to two or more wireline providers: 96.8%



# Main Steps in Algorithm Design





Fast forward  $\sim 1.5$  months

# Homework 4

Due by **11:30pm, Tuesday, October 18, 2022.**

Make sure you follow all the [homework policies](#).

All submissions should be done via [Autolab](#).

The [care package on minimizing the maximum lateness problem](#) would be useful for Q3 and *might* be useful for Q2(b) as well.

# Question 1 on HW 4

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Greedy  
Algorithm  
question