Final Student Survey

Programming for Scientists
Lecture 25 (April 14, 2009)

Abstract

Please fill out this survey. This will help me understand what was good and bad about this class. Try to be as precise and complete as possible. The surveys are anonymous, but I may make some results of it public.

§1 OVERALL

Did this class fulfill your expectations?

☐ It surpassed them by a mile.

☐ It surpassed them.

☐ It fulfilled my expectations.

☐ I was a bit disappointed.

☐ It was a total waste of my time.

The goal of this class was to make you 20% more productive. How would you estimate the productivity increase from the methods and tools you learnt?

☐ I'm actually a worse programmer now.

☐ Zero.

☐ Just a bit, less than 20%.

☐ Around 20%.

☐ More than 20%.

☐ More than twice as productive.

If you replied "Zero" or "Just a bit," why do you think so:

☐ I still haven't gone over the initial energy barrier of using new tools, but I think they are going to be helpful in the future.

☐ The tools don't help with the kind of problems I work on.

☐ I didn't really understand what was being taught.

Or something else:

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1.1   Expectations

Here are the particular expectations that I had listed on the website. Let me know if you think that you fulfill them:

(i) Software carpentry: source control, unit testing, profilers. Students should know how to use Subversion, nosetest, and the Python profiler as well as understand the concepts behind these tools (which will enable them to use them with a different implementation).

☐ I understand this perfectly.

☐ I understand most of it.

☐ I have a vague idea.

☐ I don't really get it.

☐ What are you talking about?

Additional comments: _____

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(ii) Modern programming paradigms: object oriented. Students should know how polymorphism works and understand when and why it can be useful.

☐ I understand this perfectly.

☐ I understand most of it.

☐ I have a vague idea.

☐ I don't really get it.

☐ What are you talking about?

Additional comments: _____

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(iii) Students should know how floating-point numbers are represented and their limitations. Detailed knowledge of specific formats is not required.

☐ I understand this perfectly.

☐ I understand most of it.

☐ I have a vague idea.

☐ I don't really get it.

☐ What are you talking about?

Additional comments: _____

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(iv) Technologies: Python including numpy. Students should be able to comfortably write medium-sized programs (a few thousand lines of code) using these technologies in an effective way.

☐ I understand this perfectly.

☐ I understand most of it.

☐ I have a vague idea.

☐ I don't really get it.

☐ What are you talking about?

Additional comments: _____

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1.2 Particular Technologies & Tools

These are the tools that were taught in this class. I would like to know if you think they were useful.

Would you use the following tools/technologies on your projects?

	Never	Sometimes	On Most Projects	Always
Python	☐	☐	☐	☐
shell	☐	☐	☐	☐
testing	☐	☐	☐	☐
version control	☐	☐	☐	☐
debugger	☐	☐	☐	☐
numpy	☐	☐	☐	☐
matplotlib	☐	☐	☐	☐
sqlite	☐	☐	☐	☐
Qt	☐	☐	☐	☐

§2 Homeworks & Project

Did you think that the homeworks were a good use of your time?

☐ Yes, they helped a lot.

☐ Generally helpful.

☐ Mixed bag.

☐ Mostly a waste of time.

☐ Not helpful—just something more to do.

Is the project getting you to understand the material better?

☐ Yes, is helping a lot.

☐ Generally helpful.

☐ Mixed bag.

☐ Mostly a waste of time.

☐ Not helpful—just something more to do.

☐ I haven't worked enough on the project to answer this question.

Any further comments on homeworks and project?

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§3   Bugs

In this section, I ask what you believe was wrong with this class. It is one of the more important sections of the questionaire.

3.1   Missing

What do you think was missing in this course? Feel free to mention particular technologies, techniques, or subjects.

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3.2   Too Much

What did you think was too much in this class? Was there a subject/lecture that you didn't see the point of?

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3.3 Badly Explained

Were there any topics you felt were particularly badly explained (hopefully not the whole course)?

§4 COMMENTS

Please add any other comments you feel might be helpful.