Northwestern

Student Report for COMP_SCI_212-0_20: Mathematical Found of Comp Sci (Aravindan Vijayaraghavan)

Project Title: **Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC Winter 2021**

Courses Audience: **95**
Responses Received: **78**
Response Ratio: **82.1%**

Report Comments

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Creation Date: **Wednesday, June 09, 2021**

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COURSE QUESTIONS

1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction.

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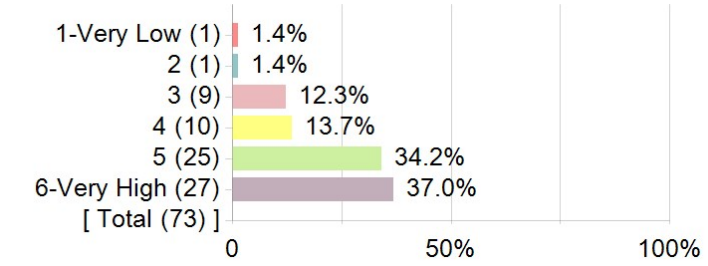
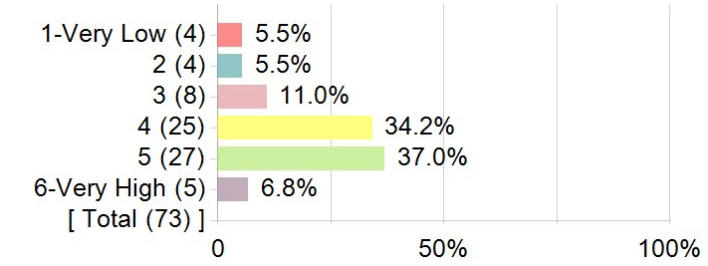


Statistics	Value
Response Count	73
Mean	4.89

2. Provide an overall rating of the course.

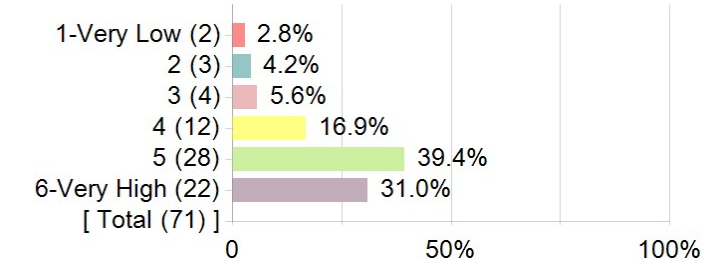
1. Provide an overall rating of the course.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	73
Mean	4.12

3. Estimate how much you learned in the course.

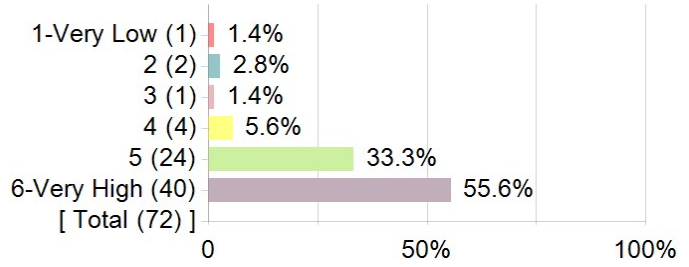
1. Estimate how much you learned in the course.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	71
Mean	4.79

4. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.

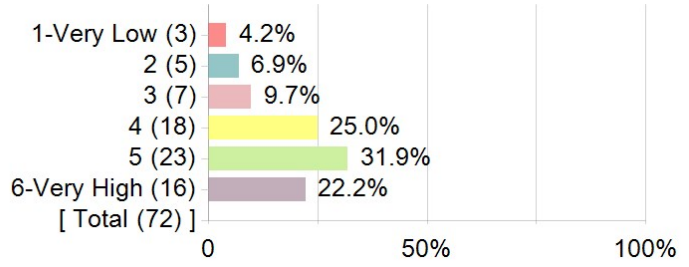
1. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	72
Mean	5.33

5. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.

1. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	72
Mean	4.40

TIME-SURVEY QUESTION

6. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.

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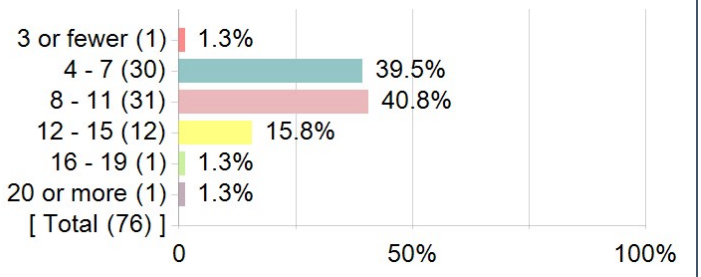


Options	Count	Percentage
3 or fewer	1	1.3%
4 - 7	30	39.5%
8 - 11	31	40.8%
12 - 15	12	15.8%
16 - 19	1	1.3%
20 or more	1	1.3%

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please summarize your reaction to this course focusing on the aspects that were most important to you.

Comments
The concepts showed no real–world applications. Class was hard
The material in this course was quite difficult, but grading was surprisingly lenient. The problem sets were tricky, but the TA's office hours always helped a lot. The class was held on Gather.town, which I found to be very cumbersome and glitchy. We experienced so many problems with it that the TA ended up holding his office hours on Zoom instead. Participation was graded so attendance in Gather.town classes was mandatory, but often fairly useless. There was not much time to work on the in–class exercises, and my group was often stuck waiting for help from a TA.
This course was different from what I expected. It's entirely math – no coding at all. And right from the get–go it can be extremely difficult. I took an entire class on proofs the quarter before, and still some of the early assignments were challenging. There's really a lot to take in those first couple weeks (and I imagine it's way harder if you haven't taken Math 300 like me). After that, things get a bit more manageable, but I have to recommend starting as soon as possible on the assignments because it might take a few days to think of the solutions. Also, the class was taught in flipped format on gather.town. I was unsure about this at first, but I actually think I enjoyed it more than Zoom just because it gives a chance to actually talk to classmates, which is something most virtual classes lack.
Challenging course for those unfamiliar with proofs. Practice brings a lot of improvement.
This class sucks if you hate math, if you enjoy torture take it, good luck.
This class was pretty difficult, definitely one with a steep learning curve and gets more manageable after a few weeks but I'd say slightly easier than CS 213. Aravindan was a good teacher, nothing bad to say about him.
This course is ok. You do have to spend some time on the assignments.
I had a pretty scared reaction to this course, I had never done math like this before and it was really hard to grasp at first. Then it just got harder. I think this class takes a lot of time and effort with the peer mentors/prof to really understand.
This class was pretty solid! I felt like most of the material felt not too complicated. The only two concerns is that you should probably take linear algebra before taking this course even though it isn't formally a pre–req, and also the proof papers themselves take a lot of time to type up (although they aren't generally too difficult). The exams weren't too tough either.
This class is tough, but doable, as long as you take full advantage of office hours. It starts off seeming like too much to handle, but if you persevere it can be a rewarding class.

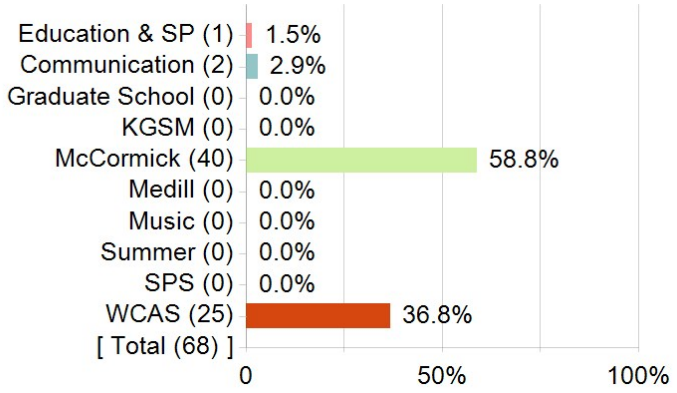
Comments
This class was not a good experience. The flipped classroom format the professor used made me feel less engaged in the lectures and the class time felt somewhat pointless because most of it was spent on group problems so I just felt lost a lot of the time. I am also not entirely sure what the point of the class was since it was never explained why the things we were doing would be relevant in computer science.
This course is really interesting and well taught, and the professor lectures very well and engages the class despite the online format. The homework isn't too intensive and the exams are challenging but fair. The only thing I would say is that the class goes over many topics in a short amount of time, so there's a lot to remember.
the class pretty hard but it was managable. i like the prerecorded lectures but gather.town was a terrible platform and the lectures there were a waste of time because no one wanted to talk in the groups. the midterm and final were not as hard as the problem sets and they are open notes
If you're not too good at math, you're in for a fun time. Honestly, this class is pretty doable coming from someone who isn't too great at math. The psets took a lot of time and I went the office hours pretty often which were helpful. Just put in the time/effort and this class will be alright. The class can get a bit overwhelming towards the end though. It started to feel like every class we'd be doing a new topic whereas in the beginning we would spend a week learning the topic (2 classes). The midterm/final were also pretty doable. If you're just aiming to pass this class it's very doable, getting an A/A– though I think is pretty tough though.
This course was not fun. The assignments are very difficult and time consuming, and the material is very dense and at times fairly abstract. That said, I thought the professor did about as good of a job as possible of teaching the information in lecture. I would've rather he just lectured live though, instead of in recordings.
The problem sets were fairly difficult to do without any hints/help. Once my group realized how big of a difference office hours made, we started going multiple times a week to get help with the problem sets. The exams were a bit easier than the problem sets because they mainly dealt with things similar to examples from lecture. Aravindan was a good professor and I think he explained things fairly well. He was also very nice.
the professor is amazing. the hw assignments are hard. watch the lectures, do the quizzes and hw —- B+/A– guaranteed
Hard class.
Grading is very fair. Aligns pretty well with the curriculum for 214 so if you need to double in the core I'd recommend this combo. Overall, not as bad as people say. Go to office hours!
Professor is amazing and the TA was super nice. Great class, take it with this professor
Class covered a lot of content but not deeply, problem sets were incredibly time consuming and flipped classroom + mandatory participation during live class time was frustrating as the problem sets already ruined my Saturdays.
I felt that this course taught me a lot about problem solving and thinking abstractly.
This is a hard class and they did it in the flipped format so it was hard getting the motivation to go to classes but you needed the participation grade. I think they could've been more helpful in preparing for exams like giving more examples or having a review session with TAs. But overall TAs were super helpful
CS212 is a challenging, but interesting class. Aravinda is a great professor as he explains the concept clearly and the class discussion time is an opportunity to take more exercise. Be prepared to spend a lot of time on problem set and going to office hour is very helpful. Final is challenging as well, but this class is overall rewarding.
This course packs about 3 courses worth of content in a very short time frame – it’s extremely fast paced! Office hours are crucial for successfully completing the homework.
This class requires a lot of time. The problem sets take a really long time but they're the primary way to learn the material for the class. If you did ok on the problem sets you'll probably do fine on the exams. Also, the class seems really impossible during the first two weeks since most people have never taken a proofs class before. Stick it out and it'll get easier over time.
Fast–moving class but managable
It isn't super fair, but good internet will really help you to do well in this class. You need to watch the lectures on your own time, but the class meetings are on gather.town. The platform is so glitchy and it can be hard to understand people if your wifi is bad. You do practice problems in each class meeting, and it is really important to know how to do those problems...and a small part of the grade is based on attendance and participation. You should try to speak and have your camera on; if your internet connection is bad, get in contact with the prof about it ASAP. Once I saw him call someone out over not having their camera on, so that wasn't great. ALSO: BE SURE TO FIND A GOOD STUDY GROUP! I don't know if i would have gotten through without my team <3
This course was definitely hard but manageable if you keep up with the lectures and do the problem sets. The professor is very reasonable and helpful!
Course was good. Just that the 9 weeks quarter made organization a little compromised and hence we had to rush over a few topics and not really delve into them in detail
It was just really hard, I didnt like the proofs, like idk its just not the class I would like to take on my own, but to be fair I don't think there was a kid in the room who was excited about the class. Not to dig on the teacher though because he was amazing and is

Comments
probably the best teacher I have had on zoom.
I definitely didn't enjoy this class at all. There were a couple problem sets that were just ridiculously invovled, and the fact that everything was due at 5pm on Sunday was horrible. The instruction was pretty decent, but in the later sections they assumed a ton of knowledge about linear algebra especially, which meant that we basically took a linalg class in 2 weeks, which was very ineffective. Also, often TA's would give contradictory answers that just confused things even more, because it felt like each ta just had their own opinions that were different the professor's.I liked the gather.town flipped format though, it felt like a good use of class time.
Overall, good course & not as bad as I had expected going into it. Almost all of the problem set questions are pretty doable based on the examples from lecture and from class, and the midterm/final exams were alright as well. Just be prepared to ask for help if needed and make sure to stay on top of the work. Also, the actual mathematics required for this course isn't too intense, so even if you aren't the most mathematically–inclined person, as long as you are a good algorithmic and logical thinking, I think you can do well in this course.
Office hours are keyyyyy. Make sure you understand what’s happening in class and don’t rely on your team too much. It really comes down to actually understanding what you’re learning and not just replicating it on a service level. With that said the problem sets take forever and this isn’t an easy course.
I was concerned this class was going to be super hard, but it was not nearly as bad as expected due to the great teaching staff. The TA Adiao was great, and same with the PMs. The homework was hard, but gong to office hours made it much easier—definitely use them! The exams were also pretty straightforward, as the proofs were typically very similar to ones shown in class. Overall a great course, would definitely recommend taking with Aravindan
The course throws a lot of (sometimes difficult) concepts, each of which will be used in proofs, which are core to the class. Regardless of how well you understand the concepts themselves, the problems in the coursework will still sometimes be challenging and require creativity and thinking.
Overall fine. Math isn't particularly hard, but some concepts can be tough. Take time to think things through and practice writing proofs. Arivindan is good, tried to keep class engaging, and felt pretty lenient in grading
It was hard and a lot of work
This is a very hard and time consuming course, but Professor Vijayaraghavan is extremely nice, teaches well, and tries to help his students succeed as much as possible. I'd recommend taking 212 with Professor Vijayaraghavan.
Basically covers a little bit of everything you need. Math isn't too bad, but getting used to writing proofs takes a little work.
This class is challenging in terms of the amount of content that is covered in lectures. Students must stay on top of the material because it is hard to catch up if they fall behind. Instructors could do a better job of providing examples of formal proofs and their format.
This course was tough but the topics were interesting.
This class was really well done for an online class, by using gather town.
The flipped classroom was interesting. I liked that I could pick my own pace.

DEMOGRAPHICS

What is the name of your school?

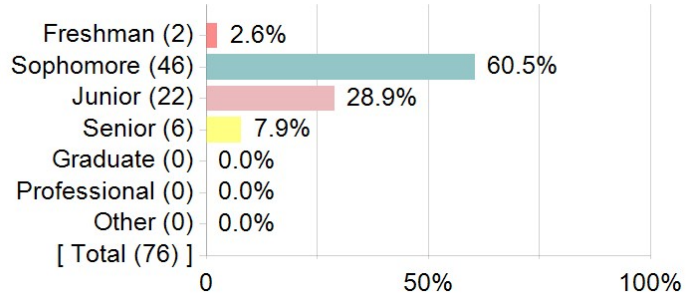
1. Your School



Options	Count	Percentage
Education & SP	1	1.5%
Communication	2	2.9%
Graduate School	0	0.0%
KGSM	0	0.0%
McCormick	40	58.8%
Medill	0	0.0%
Music	0	0.0%
Summer	0	0.0%
SPS	0	0.0%
WCAS	25	36.8%

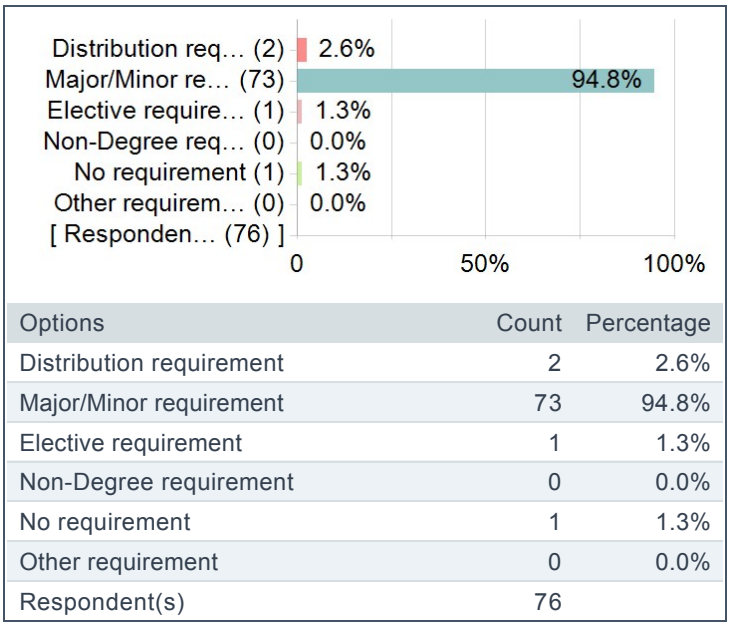
Your Class

1. Your Class



Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	2	2.6%
Sophomore	46	60.5%
Junior	22	28.9%
Senior	6	7.9%
Graduate	0	0.0%
Professional	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

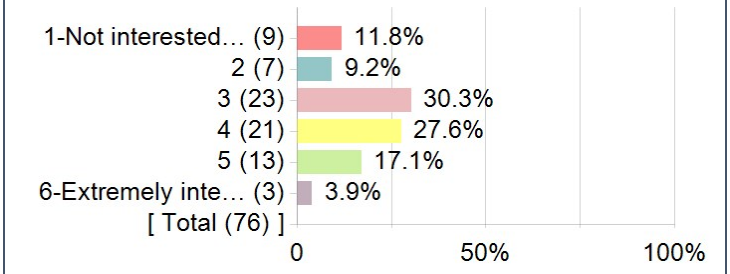
What is your reason for taking the course? (mark all that apply)



Options	Count	Percentage
Distribution requirement	2	2.6%
Major/Minor requirement	73	94.8%
Elective requirement	1	1.3%
Non-Degree requirement	0	0.0%
No requirement	1	1.3%
Other requirement	0	0.0%
Respondent(s)	76	

What was your Interest in this subject before taking the course?

1. What was your interest in this subject before taking the course?



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not interested at all	9	11.8%
2	7	9.2%
3	23	30.3%
4	21	27.6%
5	13	17.1%
6-Extremely interested	3	3.9%