How to prepare the coming midterm exam

FAQs

Q. What is the format of the midterm?

A. Part A – Homework related, Part B – Lecture Related, Part C – Project Related, Part D – Challenging Problem(s)

Q. What should be my strategy?

A. 80-20 Rule. 80% of your time/resource should be spent on the top 20% of the concepts/topics. Don’t do the “blanket coverage” as your first attempt.

Q. What have we learned so far?

A. Computer architecture, addressing modes and their corresponding assembly instructions, IEEE std 754, RISC philosophy, adding and subtracting using 2’s complement representation and so on.

Q. We did not learn too many fancy things. Right?

A. Although we did not try to cover lots stuff in a superficial fashion, we did learn something in a very deep way. At this point of your career, you need the skills of learning things in a very deep way.

Q. Do I need to worry about the project?

A. Yes. Part C of the exam will cover the project.

Q. What are the important topics we covered in our project?

A. Timer, Memory Architecture (ROM, RAM and Flash Memory), and UART.

Q. Can I bring the “green sheet” and a simple calculator to the exam?

A. Yes. Please do.

Q. Am I responsible for the textbook materials we did not cover in class?

A. No. You are not responsible for the textbook materials that we did not cover. For Part A, B and C, all problems were covered in the lectures. Part D is the challenging part. The best way of preparing Part D is to understand the thinking process (Learning by Thinking) we went through in class.

Q. Does the midterm cover Chapter 4?

A. Yes – up to the lectures we covered before the midterm.

Q. When will I receive the result of my midterm?

A. I will try my best to return your midterm result on Thursday 10/19. Please attend the class on that day.