**Q1 Technology to Explore**

**10 Points**

Grading comment:

Because Tuesday, May 6th, is HMC's *Projects Day*, we will **not** hold class that day.

**Instead** we will take advantage of *Projects Day* by asking each student in Fintech to

* visit at least one [project-talk](http://www.cs.hmc.edu/~zdodds/ProjectsDayPresentationSchedule2025.pdf) (20 minute talks, various rooms at HMC)
* OR visit at least one [poster presentation](http://www.cs.hmc.edu/~zdodds/PosterSession_230_to_4pm_May_6_2025_in_Platt.pdf) (in HMC's Platt center, all together)
* THEN share a short, 4-5 sentence reflection on the project you visited:

**Details**

* Project talks are in various auditoriums around HMC, listed on the schedule. They're 20 minutes each, from 9am to 12:40pm.
* Poster sessions are all together in the Platt Center, from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.
* There are 4-5 projects that are specifically Fintech, *however* ***any*** project is ok.
* The goal is to engage deeply enough to be able to take away the main goals and progress from the project.

**Then** submit a *project reflection*, a 4-5 sentence overview of

* the project's motivations and goals
* the progress made -- and, perhaps, some of the limits reached
* a personal reflection or two on the effort and the context overall

I attended the FedEx Statistical Quality Control (SQC) Talk. Their main objective was to distinguish between systematic and distinct fluctuations in the time between when a package is recieved and delivered. They used a Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM) to fit multiple "normal distributions" onto the distribution of pacakge travel times and also used Shewhart charts to highlight the outliers. They had issues with data from FedEx and filtered out duplicates and packages that had mutliple labels. I think they provided great context, but did not have a good justification for why they used the GMM—in fact the data looked right skewed, and I personally thought the GMM was not a good idea. They also did not look into the outliers; I was interested to see if a pattern appeared explaining why these packages were especially late. Overall, I appreciated their clear background and walkthrough of the logic. I was exposed to SQC which I found quite interesting.

Grading comment:

**That's it!** A complement to *your* Fintech final projects.

(Once I've separated the feedback from your presentations, I will be sending that via email: Sunday, I hope.)

As ever,

Thoughts / concerns welcome! ( *Not* required :)