

Inf2D: Reasoning and Agents

Response to student feedback in 2020/21 course survey

I/We have taken note of the feedback from students in this course survey, and have the following comments in response.

- Students are reluctant to do CW1 in Haskell, even though this is the programming language used in first year courses. We plan to address this in three ways. Firstly, we will (re)introduce the Haskell Refresher lecture to help remind the basic patterns that they will need for the coursework, such as using lists, recursion, and simple types. Secondly, we plan to tone down the Haskell features used in the coursework. Last year many students struggled just to get Cabal, Stack, and the necessary libraries working. We will aim to simplify the setup and structure of the coursework and ensure it is in line with what students have learned in the first year. This also addresses some of the comments made, that CW1 was much harder than CW2. Thirdly, we can look into adding some more structure to the labs (particularly the early ones, leaving more room for Q&A in the ones closer to the coursework deadline) to try and make them more useful and engaging. One thought is to do live coding sessions solving some relevant Haskell exercises.
- There are some comments that CW1 was harder than CW2. As explained above, we plan to make CW1 a bit easier.
- There is a demand for coding labs. Pre-covid, there were coding labs (2 hours a week). Post-covid, we plan to re-introduce them, as campus policies allow. For the time being, we have to replace in person coding labs with virtual interactions.
- Students have mentioned they felt overloaded. We have removed engagement marks in an attempt to mitigate this.
- Revising Haskell over Christmas, and keeping up with the readings, are both really good pieces of advice!
- I'm not sure why people are complaining about 1 hour 30 minute lectures. The maximum length video was around 25 minutes.
- Some students found virtual tutorials unsatisfying. They will be in person this year, thanks to the easing of restrictions on campus.

Alex Lascarides, Petros Papapanagiotou, 28th July 2021