

# CS 240 – Data Structures and Data Management

## Module 0: Administrivia

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Based on lecture notes by many previous cs240 instructors

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## What is this course about?

“*merge-sort* is a recursive algorithm that solves the Sorting Problem in  $O(n \log n)$  worst-case time”

- These terms should all be familiar to you.  
(But we will review them briefly, and review ‘ $O$ ’ in-depth.)
- This statement should be familiar from CS136/CS145.
- Predecessor courses: Solve problems somehow, don’t care much about run-time.
- This course: Want to be *efficient*.
  - ▶ Also: more problems, more algorithms, more data structures, more ways to analyze algorithms.
  - ▶ Focus on how to store data and how to manipulate it.
  - ▶ Strong emphasis on theoretical arguments, proofs.

# Course information

- Course Webpage: <http://student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs240/>  
Primary source for up-to-date information for CS 240.
    - ▶ Lecture slides / Course notes (basically a textbook)
    - ▶ Assignments / Solution sketches
    - ▶ Course policies
  - Main learning resource: Lectures and course notes
  - Course notes available in protected area of web page
    - ▶ Chapter X roughly corresponds to Module X.
    - ▶ Watermarked; do not share the files.
- Other relevant textbooks listed on the webpage under Resources

# Electronic Communication in CS240

Piazza: (link to it will be posted on web page)

- A forum that is optimized for asking questions and giving answers.
- You must sign up using your uwaterloo email address.
  - ▶ You can post to Piazza using a nickname though
- Posting (partial) solutions publicly is forbidden.

What to read how often?

- piazza is the main place for announcements. Read it daily.
- Web page updates occasionally (modules/chapters/assignments). Check every few days or when you need the material.
- LEARN used for optional material. Ignore if not interested.

Email: [cs240@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cs240@uwaterloo.ca)

- For private communication between students and course staff.
- Send email from your uwaterloo email address, give Quest ID

## Course information

- Instructors: Armin Jamshidpey, Éric Schost
  - ▶ armin.jamshidpey@uwaterloo.ca  
eschost@uwaterloo.ca
  - ▶ Lectures, assignment design, modules, course notes
- Coordinator (ISC): Karen Anderson
  - ▶ kaanders@uwaterloo.ca
  - ▶ Main contact for paperwork (VIF, SDA, etc.)
- Assistants (ISAs): Jewon Ah, Haris Ahmed
  - ▶ cs240@uwaterloo.ca
  - ▶ Main contact for questions, piazza, tutorial design and delivery
- Apprentices (IAs): Taebin Kim, Sriram Gopalakrishnan, Andrew Luo, Jiahao Zhang
  - ▶ cs240@uwaterloo.ca
  - ▶ consulting, tutorials

# Course information

- Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - ▶ Éric: 8:30-9:50, 10-11:20 (MC 4045)
  - ▶ Armin: 11:30-12:50, 1-2:20 (MC 2054)
  - ▶ Same content, same material
- Tutorials
  - ▶ Fridays. Schedule → web page
  - ▶ Questions released beforehand (on webpage)
  - ▶ Sample solutions post-tutorial (on webpage)
  - ▶ Tutorial 0:  $\text{\LaTeX}$  (for Assignment 0)  
delivered via videos on LEARN (Assignment 0 to learn  $\text{\LaTeX}$  → 6 bonus marks on assignment 1)
  - ▶ First in-person tutorial on Module 01 topics

## Mark breakdown

- Final Exam: 45%
  - ▶ TBA
- Midterm Exam: 25%
  - ▶ June 23
- Written Assignments 20%
  - ▶ 5 assignments each worth 4%, approximately every 2 weeks
  - ▶ All assignment to be submitted electronically via Crowdmark
- Programming Questions: 5%
  - ▶ 2 assignments, approximately week 5 and 11
- Participation (tutorials): 5%
- Due dates: Tuesdays at 5:00pm (plus a grace period to **8:00pm**). See web page for dates; enter in your calendar now. No lates allowed. [VIF or SDA → credit transferred]
- Follow the **assignment guidelines** (on web page) Marks may be deducted for hard-to-read solutions.

You **must pass** the weighted average of the midterm and the final to pass the course

# Cheating

- Cheating includes: copying work of someone else or from internet, letting another student copy your work, excessive collaboration.
- Do *not* take notes during discussions with classmates. Wait  $\geq 30$  minutes before writing or typing.
- Standard penalties: a grade of 0 on the assignment you cheated on, and a deduction of 5% from your course grade. You will also be reported to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
- Cheating punishes **YOU!**
  - ▶ Assignments are mainly meant as training for exams.
  - ▶ Assignments have relatively little weight.
  - ▶ Cheating on assignments  $\Rightarrow$  do badly on exams  $\Rightarrow$  fail course.
- Academic Integrity Declaration
  - ▶ Must be signed and submitted by student (twice in the term)
  - ▶ Not signed?  $\rightarrow$  no credit for those assignments

# Courtesy

- Cardinal rule: Do nothing that keeps your classmate from learning and understanding.
- Please silence cell phones before coming to class.
- Questions are encouraged—what is unclear to you probably is unclear for others as well!
- Avoid using laptops and other gadgets in class except for taking notes. Think about whether bringing your laptop to class will help you pay attention or not.

Don't play games or watch videos that will distract your classmates.

# Advice

- Attend the lectures and pay attention!
- Study the slides before the lectures, and again afterwards.
- Read the notes for details, and to get different perspectives on the course material.
- Keep up with the course material! Don't fall behind.

If you're having difficulties with the course, seek help – don't wait!