Algorithms II - first half
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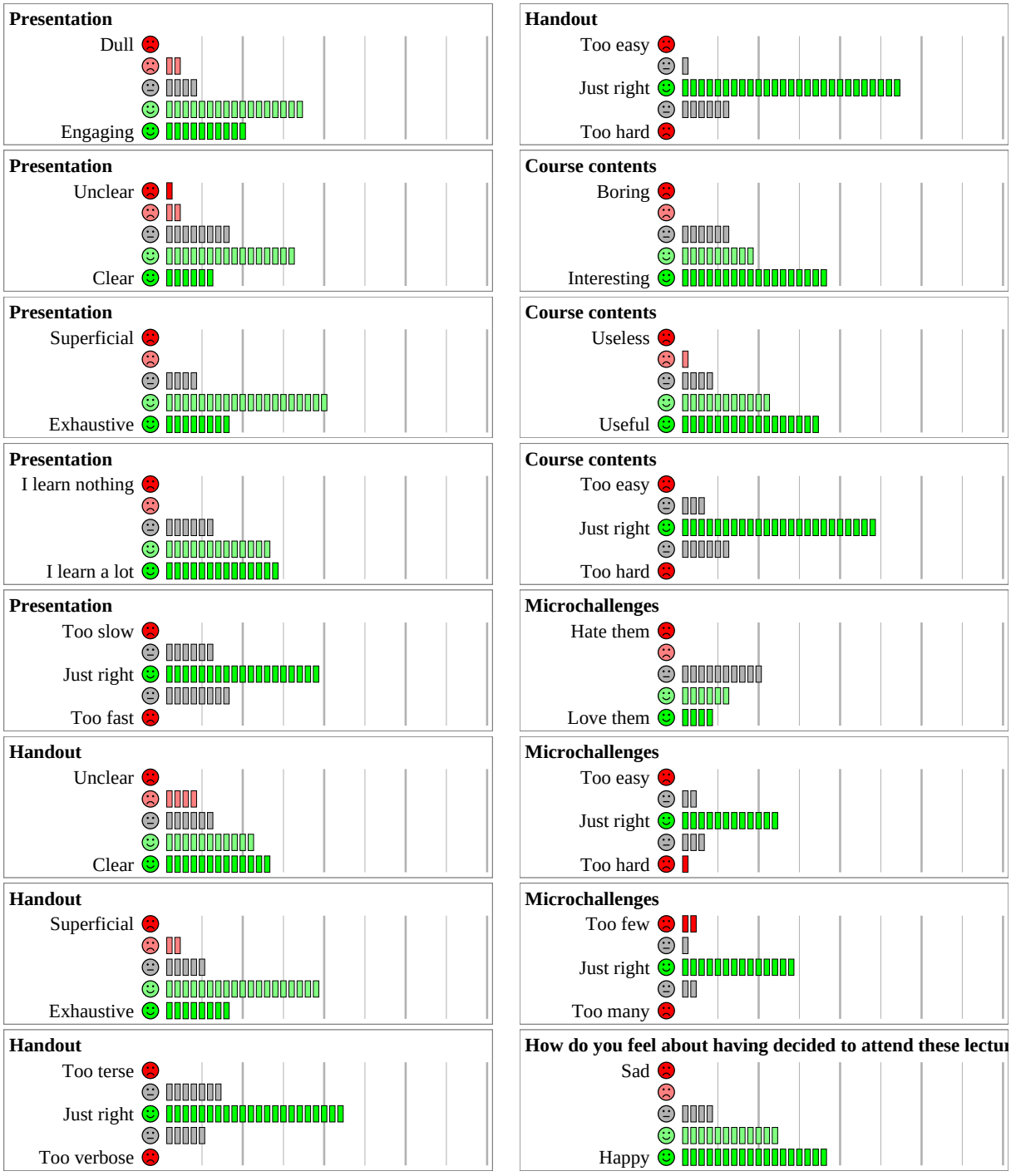

34 respondents.

Positive comments: what's good?

- Mixture of digital and analog medium to play to strengths. Redrawing and annotating paper slides rather than just pointing at pre-existing ones. Shows method and thought pattern.
- Hand drawing through algorithms are useful
- Very applicable to real life. Can see where each algo/data structure is useful.
- The notes are awesome

- The lectures are engaging and the content is interesting. The content is sufficiently concrete (somewhat more so than IA) that algorithms are easy to implement and still abstract enough to write proofs for. The diagrams (are good). The pseudocode syntax (is good).
- Lectures give good overview - but I need to read the textbook afterwards to fully understand. Lecturer is enthusiastic and works hard to make difficult concepts understandable.
- Handout quite comprehensive, very easy to follow
- VEB trees - much more interesting than the usual algorithms stuff
- Good use of examples makes topics more clear
- Good examples of complex ideas/structures
- Actual content quite interesting
- Engaging and well presented. Generally fantastic notes, except a certain thing missing. Enjoy the lectures, keep it up :)
- Bullshit alarms
- But fortunately the notes are good.
- Transfer of enthusiasm. The handout (although a 1-up printing would certainly make it easier to read)
- Dragons!!!

Negative comments: what's bad?

- Disorganised paperwork sometimes causes delays in showing next paper slide on screen
- I would REALLY appreciate some context/use (real-world use) to vEB trees and Fibonacci trees
- Some algorithms are only listed in the text book; it would be convenient to reproduce them in the notes or at least provide a page reference
- Not well explained vEB/protovEB trees in notes. Poorly documented anywhere online. Version of book in college library doesn't have the chapter in it! (Do these exist outside Cambridge?!)
- The data structures don't seem that useful, maybe they would be sometimes though.
- In some instances the notes can explain a situation faster than is conveyed during the lectures and they are very clear at the same time (certainly clear enough for me to go away and implement things) and proofs are usually either omitted or clear (and quite approachable).
- Would like to do microchallenges but don't have any time with 6-8 supervisions per week (in 2nd half of term), 2 labs and anything else extra-curricular
- Presentation sometimes a bit confusing and hard to follow
- The watermark on the notes in PDF format is unnecessary
- Notes aren't very thorough. Forces use of book.
- Handout lacks many listings shown in lectures which would be useful for quick reference in revision
- More detail in notes on proto-vEB and vEB trees please. Example diagrams in notes or on course pages would be good.
- Lecture material does not follow notes, awkward to follow the course
- Need more examples for Fib heaps and vEB trees
- Explanations for Fib heaps and vEB trees are unfortunately very unclear, esp that for Fib heaps. Explanations for simpler structures are fine.
- Lots of time spent flicking through paper to find slides / fiddling with microphones / other technology can really disrupt the flow of lectures. More worked examples / demonstrations of implementations could improve clarity.
- More dragons!!! Don't add dragons. Regards, his neighbour