Lecture 25: Advice on life in Computer Science

Administration
- Project due Sunday May 2 at 10pm
- Hard copy documents due in class Tuesday May 4
- Homework Due Thursday May 6 (posted soon)

Today
1. Feed back on class content and execution. Turn this questionnaire in for quiz credit.
2. Self reflection: what are you doing with your life and why? Keep this one.
3. Advice for now and your future
   1. How to squander your time as an undergraduate
   2. Scheduling, setting goals & achieving them
   3. Consider graduate school
   4. Persevere!

Top Ten Ways to Waste Your Time at UT

1. Never attend class.
2. Watch Utube videos or text your SO during class.
3. Never read the book or otherwise prepare for class. You can remember everything the instructor says!
4. Never take notes.
5. Never write down any due date. You can do the assignment at midnight when you remember it is due tomorrow!
6. Never predict how long an assignment will take and never divide a long assignment into parts.
7. Never schedule time to read, study, or do homework.
8. Never schedule any fun activities.
9. Never go to office hours or send email to the TA or Professor. What do they know anyway?
10. Never ever do unassigned problems to help you understand a concept or to help prepare for a test.

Scheduling

- Keep a calendar.
- Put everything in your calendar.
- Classes, due dates, work, fun, exercise, study plan.
- Study plan – what is it!?
  – Activities?
  – Timing?
  – How to make progress on big projects & little
  – The psychology of staying motivated

Goals

- Set some goals
  – Get an A in this or some other class
  – Find an exciting internship
  – Get a master's degree
  – Become a compiler expert
  – Become a computer architect
  – Become a game programmer
- What skills do you need to achieve your goals?
- What steps do you need to take to get these skills?

Famous Quotes

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

-- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

Famous Quotes

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

-- Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

d i g i t a l

Famous Quotes

"640K (of RAM) ought to be enough for anybody."
-- Bill Gates, 1981

How can these smart guys be so wrong?

You are the future of an exciting field!

- Understand the intersection of social and technical issues
  - Electronic voting
  - Security
  - Privacy
  - . . .

You are the future of an exciting field!

Persevere
- Find the parts of CS that interest you most NOW!
- Look forward to
  - CS starting salaries up to $105,000
  - The rate of technology change will make your job interesting for your entire life
- CS combines well with any other interests

Why get a Masters Degree?

- Some institutional financial support to study
  - If you might want a PhD, apply for the PhD program
- Gives you the opportunity to study topics in depth
- Course work Masters
- Research masters thesis
  - test out research here or as an undergraduate
- Increases your total lifetime earnings (more than a PhD)
- Starting jobs more technical (vs. testing for an undergrad degree)
- More instant respect

Why get a PhD?

- They pay you
  - TA: Teaching Assistant
  - RA: Research Assistant
- What do you do?
  - Work with one professor & perhaps other students for 6 to 7 years
  - Become the world expert on one topic
  - Invent (design, prove, &/or build) new technology
  - Publish papers
  - Give talks
- Job opportunities
  - Professor! Industrial research. Start ups. Development.

Summer Reading: Prophets of The Future?

- The Future According to Ray Kurzweil
  - The rate of technology change is increasing
  - Kurzweil has a great track record
- The World is Flat by Thomas L. Friedman
  - Technology has leveled the world
    - Eliminating the gap between developed and 3rd world
  - The world is moving to a new integrated global economy