CS 154 - Introduction to Automata and Complexity Theory

Spring Quarter, 2000

Handout 1 (3/29/00) – Administrative Information

Lectures: MW 3:15 – 4:30 (GATES B01)

CS 154 URL `http://cs154.stanford.edu`

Instructor: Prof. Rajeev Motwani (`rajeev@cs.stanford.edu`) GATES 474, 723-6045.
Home Page URL `http://theory.stanford.edu/~rajeev`
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30–2:30 pm, or by appointment.
Secretary: Sondra Horn (`sondra@cs.stanford.edu`) GATES 495, 723-4377.

Teaching Assistants: There are five TAs for this course.

1. **Xavier Boyen** (**xb@cs.stanford.ed**), GATES 130, 725-8782.
2. **Arix Gionis** (`gionis@cs.stanford.edu`), GATES 468, 723-1658.
3. **Kiran Goyal** (`kgoyal@stanford.edu`) 497-3508.
4. **Kevin Lee** (**kevinlee@cs.stanford.edu**) 497-1316.
5. **An Zhu** (`anzhu@cs.stanford.edu`) GATES 470, 723-1787.

Online Registration: Each of you must sign up for the class at the web site mentioned above. Instructions on how to register can be found there. **Please note that this is only for the purposes of setting up a grades database, so you still need to register for the class through AXESS.**

Discussion Sections: There will be two discussion sections but only one of these will be televised. The same TA will teach both sections during a given week. The discussion sections will start the week of Monday, April 5.

1. Friday 12:00–12:50 pm [Gates B01, TV Channel E1].
2. Monday 6:00–6:50 pm [Gates B03, not televised].

No new material will be presented at the discussions and attendance is optional. However, it is strongly recommended that you attend the discussions in any case.

Electronic BBoard and Mailing Lists: The mailing list `cs154@cs` will reach all the TAs and the instructor. Use this only if you want to reach all of us together and not any one individual.

We will be using the newsgroup `su.class.cs154` to communicate late-breaking news about the course. You may also use this forum to ask questions of general interest and seek clarifications about administrative stuff.

Handouts: Handouts and graded homeworks not picked up in class will be placed in the "Handout Hangout" which is located on the fourth floor of Gates Hall, just beyond the elevator in the hallway leading to the B wing. Postscript versions of all handouts will be available at the course home page `http://cs154.stanford.edu`.

Lecture Notes: I will be preparing lecture notes containing the material I will be covering in each lecture.

CS154N: This is for the people who are enrolled in CS154N. You are only required to attend the last half of the course. The midterm exam will mark the end of the first half and you will be required to work on all subsequent homeworks and some portion of the final exam. If you wish to be informed of the time when you are expected to start attending the classes, please send in your electronic address to the TAs within the first two or three weeks of classes.

Homework, Exams and Grading

Grading Policy: Weekly Homeworks (approx. 50%), Midterm Exam (approx. 15%), and Final Exam (approx. 35%). We will omit the worst homework grade obtained by you during the quarter while computing the overall homework grade.

Examinations: The tentative schedule for the mid-term exams is given in the calendar below; for the finals, refer to the schedule of classes. An important note is that both exams will be **open book and notes**, which means that you can refer to your text-book, class handouts, and notes during the examination.

Homework Policy: There will be a weekly homework. The homeworks will be handed out every Wednesday and will be due the following Wednesday **before the end of the lecture**. We will also adopt the following policy concerning late homeworks: *You are allowed a late submission of at most 2 homeworks in the entire course. The deadline for a late homework is 5 pm on the Friday following the due date.* Use this "credit" well, since we will absolutely refuse to grade any additional late homeworks.

Honor Code and Collaboration Policy: Under the Honor Code at Stanford, each of you is expected to submit your own work in this course. In particular, I explicitly disallow the use of any material outside of the prescribed text-book and my handouts in class in solving the homeworks or exams. While you are also not permitted to receive aid from other people, I will make the following exception. On many occasions, it is useful to ask others (the TA, the instructor, and other students) for hints and debugging help, or to talk *generally* about problem-solving strategies and presentation. Such activity is both acceptable and encouraged, but *you must indicate on your assignments any assistance you receive.* Any assistance received (from human or inanimate sources) that is not given proper citation may be considered a violation of the Honor Code.

In any event, you are responsible for understanding and being able to explain all of the statements in your homework and exam solutions. *Most importantly, the solutions must be written up independently of the other students.*

Reading Assignment: Each homework will specify a set of readings to supplement the lectures and discussions. The required reading will cover the material presented in class, and the suggested reading will provide further background information. The readings (indeed, the lectures and the homeworks) will be based on the course reader below, and sometimes from the text-book below:

- Hopcroft-Motwani-Ullman. *Introduction to Automata and Languages,* Course Reader.
- Hopcroft-Ullman. *Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation,* Addison-Wesley, 1979.

Course Calendar

Class Schedule: MWF 3:15 – 4:30, GATES B01
18 Lectures

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   April 2000
 S  M Tu  W Th  F  S
                   1          * Classes begin March 29
 2  3  4  5  6  7  8
 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30


   May 2000
 S  M Tu  W Th  F  S
    1  2  3  4  5  6          * Midterm exam (Tentatively: Wed, May 3)
 7  8  9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31                   * No class: Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day)
                              * Last Class on Wednesday, May 31
                              * End-Quarter Period (May 26 -- Jun 1)

   June 2000
 S  M Tu  W Th  F  S
             1  2  3          * Final Exam on Friday, June 2
 4  5  6  7  8  9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30
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