

What are the things that you think I could improve this semester in the time that is left (seven weeks)?

I find that I can learn a lot from samples (i.e. code examples). Especially if there are some commands that I've never used before. So I hope there will be more examples available on the class website. May not be something that closely relevant to homework, just some good examples of coding.

Another thing I feel, just a little bit. The time we spend on question is a little bit too much. It is good to let students ask questions, but sometimes I feel like it is better if we have 10%~20% less question time.

Overall I have enjoyed the class but it is certainly in a different category than most classes I take, where theories and analysis are the norm and knowledge is easy to measure. In other words, I feel ME759 has been much more conversational, both in class topics and in content. Maybe I was expecting a computer science course where algorithms are streamlined.

Additionally, the major theme of the class has been the gpu and memory access of the gpu. Will there be a discussion on using multiple cpus or even a different language (I've heard fortran is faster than C and it's what I have used in the past)? Is there a cuda parallel for multiple processors? Both of these are way more accessible to me than a gpu. I still feel ignorant when I call something I write "high performance" and if I had to write a CFD code tomorrow I don't know if it would be very different from a code I wrote at the beginning of the semester. I.e I still have to put together a sparse matrix and solve it (both of which have numerous algorithms designed by mathematicians).

In terms of grading, it would be nice if there was some way to differentiate between CS and MEs. I would imagine most of the programming is remedial for the CS people but for someone like me, this was the first time I've used cmake, for instance. In short, I like the grading as long as I get an A (I've put a lot of effort into this class).

Again, I like the class a lot. Thanks for teaching it.

1. Can you email us lecture slide earlier? So we can review the material in advance.

2. It seems that we ~~we~~ (at least for me) spend a lot of time to make the things (like cmake, sbatch) work. Explaining all this things at very beginning may be better.

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Once we start trying to optimize programs for parallel performance, it will be a nice idea to spend some time discussing the impact of various optimizations (that we would have actually made in our assignments) on performance. The forum should certainly be the primary platform for such discussions. But, if time permits, some in-class discussion on this can be really insightful.

What should I do next time I teach this class?

Letting students know beforehand, about the resource constraints would be nice. Case in point: Euler Interactive jobs. It was unfortunate, but it was probably due to most of us not realizing the impact.

A question on homework which needs us to use a Profiler would be nice.

Is grading fair and done ok?

The grading has been exceptional. Ang has provided us with really thoughtful and helpful feedback; both individual and collective. And his turn-around time is also very short, so the homework is still fresh in our minds to think about his feedback. Many thanks to him. Also, thanks to Colin and Hammad for their help with the forum, Euler and course overall.

Is the Forum helpful?

It absolutely is. And I think it will get more helpful in the next half of the semester. Some of us (including me) have been consumers predominantly; will try to change that.

Are the assignments meaningful?

Assignments till now have been rather straightforward. But they are great at helping us understand the concepts and familiarize us with our tools. They still demand a decent amount of time. I expect them to get more challenging in the future, though.

Are any of the statements I made in class inappropriate or offensive?

No. They are fun. I think we can compile a list of your comments at the end of the semester!

It has been a great course till now. One can learn as much as they want to, depending on their interests and the time they have.

- What are the things that you think I could improve this semester in the time that is left (seven weeks)?

Everything is wonderful !
I can't think of anything to improve!

- What should I do next time I teach this class?

Keep the same.

- Is grading fair and done ok?

Yes, it's fair. And TA is helpful, and provide good feedbacks!

- Is the Forum helpful?

Yes, some classmates are helpful.

- Are the assignments meaningful?

Yes, it's not too hard. But I can still learn a lot from it.

- Are any of the statements I made in class inappropriate or offensive?

No.

ME 759 Feedback

I think the homework in this class is very helpful. It provides us with hand-on experience of using CUDA, which might be the best way for us to learn CUDA. We also have opportunity to run CUDA on Euler. I believe when doing the project we can get more practice about CUDA and parallel programming. Besides, as a hardware person I also learned to use CMake and gdb from homework. They are very useful.

The course is well-organized – starting from basic computer architecture to CPU-GPU system architecture, then move to parallel programming. However, we are always told to keep hardware model in mind when doing parallel programming. I feel this is very important for us to write good parallel programs.

I think this course is already good enough. The grading of homework is fair and grades get posted very quickly. The forum is very helpful since we can get solutions for our problems from instructors or classmates within several hours.

I would definitely recommend this course to other graduate students.

Thank you!

feedback

1. The forum is not good enough to find the resources we want, because the posts are sorted by the time of recent reply. I think it would be easier to communicate if the posts are sorted by topics or have directories, or the forum has filters. I would like to recommend piazza.

2. I think the slides and the class is good. But I wonder if it is possible to write something on board in this classroom, especially when talking about graphs.

ME759 feedback

I am very satisfied with the class content and the difficulty of the homework, as well as the kindness from the instructor and the classmates. One thing I think we can improve is that there are too many overlaps between two slides with close class dates.

→ Things to improve

I think all is good for me

→ Next time

Again, same content is good.

→ Grading

Maybe, & more strict?

→ Forum.

Very useful.

→ assignment

Yes, i learn a lot

→ statements

I dont think any are offensive.

ME759: Feedback

What should I do next time I teach this class?

Video recording of the classes has been a very useful addition this semester. You can go back in time to the lecture classes and revise what was precisely discussed. I have a suggestion regarding what could be done more. Since this is a very dynamic field, maybe the course content can incorporate more contemporary readings/articles as a part of a reading assignment every week.

Is grading fair and done ok?

Yes, the grading has been done fairly and accurately for all the past three homework assignments that I have submitted.

Is the Forum helpful?

Yes, the forum has been quite helpful and collaborative means of answering doubts/questions related to assignments, as well as, taking some of the discussions beyond the classroom walls.

The only feedback that I have regarding forum is that the web interface can be more modernized, so as to make it more easily accessible. Sometimes it is difficult to follow the posts/topics of interest- like when a new post is made, etc. Besides, there is no means to tag/group assignment related topics with the non-assignment ones. Maybe moving to some other tools like Piazza, etc may also help.

Are the assignments meaningful?

Although, I would consider the assignment 3 as the first assignment that gave real flavor of the parallel computing, I think the assignments have been worth the time so far, esp. assignment 3 and 4.

Are any of the statements I made in class inappropriate or offensive?

No, nothing of that sort. Dan has a good humor and I like that all the classes are interactive and more open to discussions/QAs.

ME/ECE 759 Comments

-What are the things that you think I could improve this semester in the time that is left (seven weeks)?

I always like seeing more code examples. These have been fairly light over the whole course, but the lecture covering the code for matrix multiply tiling was excellent and very useful.

-What should I do next time I teach this class?

Perhaps cover topics such as CMake, slurm, Euler, etc in one lecture. As a computer engineering student, a lot of the first couple weeks were slow, with various important bits spread throughout. I don't know if this was on purpose, but from my standpoint it would have been preferable to get all the new topics at once, and then lightly review the rest.

-Is grading fair and done ok?

No complaints with the grading

-Is the Forum helpful?

I love the forum. Simple/straightforward questions are much easier to get answers for than having to wait until office hours. The five meaningful replies requirement may be difficult to achieve for everyone in the class, however, at the current rate the questions are being asked.

-Are the assignments meaningful?

They've been very useful at getting started with parallel programming. Should be a good base to work off of when doing our projects.

-Are any of the statements I made in class inappropriate or offensive?

I have found nothing to be inappropriate. Everything said all seems to be in good fun.

I am intrigued to METS9 so far.

Dan is really inspiring and welcoming.

The forum is very help in term of facilitating discussions.

The homework is valuable for gaining hand-on programming experience, although it's really time-consuming.

→ Dan and METS9 are both amazing!

→ I do have a suggestion though.

It would be helpful if there are some demos in class, especially at the early weeks when we are all new to Euler.

Demos on How to write a CMake file, How to debug using GDB, How to compile and run GPU program on Euler, etc would be very helpful for me to get started.

If there were simple demos on these, I would not have spent so much time on just figuring these things out mostly by trial and error.

- Being from a non ECE/CS background, I find the interactive nature of the lectures very useful. Dan is a great teacher and I commend the effort he puts into clarifying doubts. But, I would like to comment that getting familiar with the 'technical vocabulary' of the course has been a bit of a challenge.
- With respect to the assignments, I have had a lot of fun doing them although they were time consuming. Initially, I did feel a disconnect between the theory taught in class (being mostly a review of computer architecture) and the nature of the assignments; but I definitely believe that the assignments have enriched my knowledge especially in gauging the performance of my programs.
- The forum has been very useful thanks to all the kind souls who take the time out to clear doubts and some of the discussions have really helped with my understanding of certain concepts.
- No complaints regarding grading; the feedback is much appreciated!
- Overall, I am more than happy with the way the course has proceeded so far.

ME 759 General Feedback

- Sometimes homework and lecture contents don't track each other very well. Fortunately adjustments are made to due dates when lecture is too far behind, but I wouldn't mind having a few more days between lecture coverage of a topic or technique and the due date for the homework implementing this topic or technique.
- In future courses, dedicate a small section of lecture- early on- to cluster etiquette. Fortunately we made adjustments quickly to improve job management, but getting people accustomed right away to working properly on a shared resource.
- In the future, I wonder how we will do CUDA debugging with no interactive sessions?
- Grading so far has seemed fair.
- Forum has been very useful, I like this feature!
- Assignments are meaningful and instructive, though as noted above, not always well-timed. I appreciate having even the little snippets of feedback provided by the TA, beyond those of just our numerical grade. Homework grading is surprisingly prompt.
- I've never personally felt offended by comments in class. In general it is both instructive and entertaining.

I feel like it's better to talk about hardware by listing some examples. I really like the way that how matrix multiplication is derived step by step in the slides. However, during the first few weeks, most of the material covered is about hardware, which is not easy to grasp without any "proves". It also makes me want to sleep... I think it's probably better to directly jump into GPU programming and then talk about hardware during the process.

Homework is great. Grading is great!

Another thing I think you may want to consider is about the tools (C, C++, CMake, SLURM, vim, etc.) used in the course. I know you already done a great job of providing documents to explain these tools. However, as a non-CS student, it's overwhelming to learn all these things at the beginning of the semester. I think it's better to provide a step by step example document to show how to do the HW, project on Euler.

ME 759 FEEDBACK

- 1 → Improve → some more explanation on CUDA, maybe a discussion session
- 2 → Next time ⇒ focus on something newer tool, if there is one that catches up.
- 3 → Grading done Jass - Yes
- 4 → Forum: forum is extremely helpful, especially when you get stuck on some basic thing
- 5 → Assignments: are pretty good, they are doable, a little extra work but good exercise to learn.
- 6 →

Course structure is good. I like the course.
Maybe include a small quiz every 2 weeks
to make students go over the slides. It's just
too much information in a week = 3 lectures every
week so a quiz will make students go
through the slides frequently.

can we switch over to Piazza.

I don't like how the forum works
when somebody replies. The notification
system is not very good. with our
current forum.

CS 759 Class Evaluation

This class is very challenging and requires a lot of work, especially if you are not familiar with computer architecture. However, Dan teaches the class in a way that is easy to follow if you continuously study the material. Moreover, the homework difficulty is ok for a 700 level class, and the grading is done in a very nice way. Not to mention that the class forum is extremely useful to do the homework assignments.

I think the class would be easier to follow if some of the slides had less text and more diagrams. Another suggestion is that it would be nice to see the actual hardware we are talking about in class. (Bringing it one day to class and showing where each piece is located or doing a 'trip' to EULER one day (even if it is after class)).

Feedback - ME 759 Fall 2015

- What are the things that you think I could improve this semester in the time that is left (seven weeks)?

We usually do not have enough time during class to go through all the slides we are planning to. This is because people asks a lot of questions, which is okay and actually useful sometimes. However, it is better once in a while to just postpone the answers or solve the questions to the students after class in order to cover the material properly.

It is important to have an understanding of the hardware and numbers/stats, especially in this class, but I think it could be more interesting to focus more on how each piece of code from CUDA affects/interacts with such hardware. like october 7/2015 class.

- Is grading fair and done ok?

Yes, it is actually done very well since a good individual feedback is given to the student in private through learn@UW

- Is the Forum helpful?

Very helpful! Since many of us have different backgrounds, the forum helps to level up everybody and make useful information available to all.

- Are the assignments meaningful?

Yes, the assignments help a lot to actually put the concepts learnt at class into practice.

- Are any of the statements I made in class inappropriate or offensive?

Not at all, they actually make the class entertaining

- Consider using a whiteboard, it could be useful to explain some concepts besides having the support from the power points.