



Course analysis: DD2417, “Language Engineering”, spring semester 2025, course round 60194

Changes made since previous course offering

The two last assignments had been updated slightly since the previous course round. A fourth and final mandatory quiz had also been added, so there was one quiz associated with each assignment.

Compilation of course evaluation results (required)

Judging from the course evaluation, the course was very well received. Overall, the students who filled in the questionnaire felt the course was well organized, had interesting content and taught useful skills and knowledge. The answer rate was about 25%.

Course coordinator's reflections on what has worked well and what can be developed in the course

This year we had a problem with too many students using generative AI to complete the assignments. I don't think many students aimed to cheat, exactly, but it was very clear that using generative AI leads to a shallower understanding of the important concepts, compared to coding the solutions yourself without such help. This effect is seen even if students devote time to looking through the AI-solutions after they have been generated. When coding the solution oneself, one often tries alternative solutions which turn out not to work in all cases, and such experiences usually bring a very deep understanding of the problem.

The TAs in the course sometimes felt uncomfortable when it was obvious that the students who used AI-generated solutions extensively easily got the highest grade, whereas some students who solved the problems without such help didn't always have time to do the higher-grade problems, and as a result ended up with a lower final grade.

Previously, it has been my opinion that master's level should use programming assignments and projects rather than written exams as examination, but the experiences from this course round instead made me aware that a written exam seem unavoidable to guarantee that each student has attained the desired learning outcomes.

Summary of changes to be introduced for the next course (required)

Both the contents and the form will be updated for next year. Assignment 1 (grammatical approaches) will be scrapped, and a new assignment 4 on either text encoders or some aspect of LLMs will be added instead. The assignments will be graded Pass/Fail (rather than A-F) and will be treated more as formative learning opportunities rather than examination. The quizzes, which were mandatory this year, will instead be optional, turning them into formative learning opportunities. Instead, a written exam (A-F) will be added at the end of the course.

Brief comment on the result of examinations

Of the 84 active students (who fulfilled at least one reported course activity), 71 students completed the entire course, 76 students completed the project, and 73 the assignments.