Inf2-IADS Course Admin

Mary Cryan and John Longley

Monday, 15th September, 2025

Our course structure

Full-year course, running during weeks 1-8 of semester 1 and semester 2.

Our Main Delivery is in-person lectures, front-loaded in each semester:

Schedule for semester 1:

weeks 1-8 Two in-person content lectures Monday 4pm and Thursday 11am.

Schedule for semester 2:

weeks 1-8 Two in-person content lectures Tuesday 10am and Friday 4pm.

Tutorials and Labs

Tutorials: 5 tutorials each semester, in weeks 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.

- Each tutorial is 2 hours, taking place in larger teaching studios allowing 60+ students.
- Work will be a mixture of collaborative problem-solving/prep with fellow-students, and listening to presented solutions.
- Random allocation will be done by Timetabling.

Labs: 

- We will run 1 hour "drop-in" Labs in weeks 7 and 8 (each semester) to support coursework. There will be 4 1-hour slots each of these weeks, attended by a demonstrator.
- For general help coding Algorithms and Data Structures in Python (including the programming sheets we issue early each semester), assistance is available at InfBase.

Coursework

- coursework 1: Programming coursework on data structures/algorithms.

  Worth 20%, deadline NOON on Friday, week 8, s1.

- coursework 2: Problem-solving and programming coursework on some optimisation problem

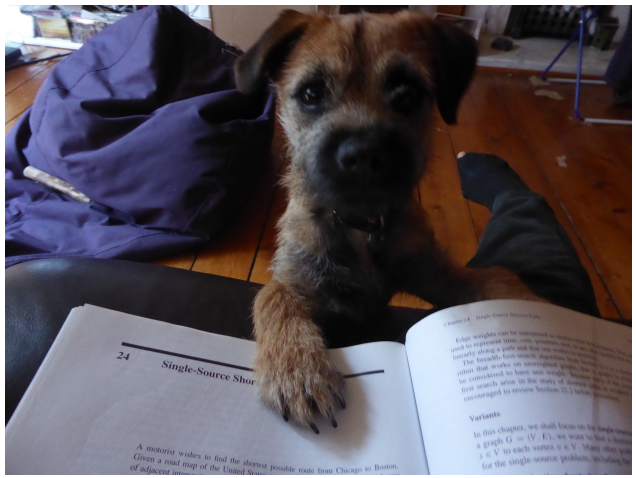
  Worth 20%, deadline NOON on Tuesday, week 8, s2.

The remaining 60% comes from the final exam after we finish.

"formative feedback"
6 short "quizzes" of multiple-choice questions, with deadlines on Mondays of weeks 4, 7 and 9 of both semesters. not for credit.

Course texts

- "Introduction to Algorithms" by Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest and Stein; 4th edition. [CLRS]
- Tim Roughgarden's "Algorithms Illuminated" series. [AI]



Other books which are worth looking at (but not course texts) are:

Sedgewick and Wayne's "Algorithms" (2016 ed). This one is Java-based.

Goodrich, Goldwasser and Tamassia's "Data Structures and Algorithms in Python" (2013)

Keeping in Contact

Most materials and other information will be available from our Open-Course page

Piazza forum for the class will be available as a direct link from Learn (pending!).

- Piazza allows you to discuss and ask questions either in your own name, or under an anonymised "handle", which ever you prefer.
- It has functionality to ask "private questions", only visible to the Lecturers (useful when you have coursework).
- Myself and John will keep an eye on the forum.

For coursework specification, the links will be on Learn. So be aware!

We will also have some "drop-in" hours, TBA (maybe after lectures).

Please ask us questions as you have them.