CSE 390B, Autumn 2022

Building Academic Success Through Bottom-Up Computing

Midterm & Exam Reflection

CSE 390B Midterm, Midterm Debrief and Discussion

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Test-taking Strategies

❖ Survey the entire exam before beginning
  ▪ Helps plan how much time to allocate for each problem

❖ Read exam directions and question statements carefully
  ▪ Use highlights, underlines, circles on important details

❖ Answer the questions you feel the most confident in first

❖ If stuck on a problem, make a mark on the problem and revisit the question later

Test-taking Strategies

❖ Prioritize how you will answer questions
   ▪ Do this based on confidence level for each type of question or how long you think each will take

❖ Rely on a methodological approach for each question
   ▪ Helps make taking the test feel more systematic

❖ If stuck on a question, demonstrate what you know
   ▪ Many exams reward partial credit

❖ If time allows, double check your answers
   ▪ Catches any small mistakes that may have been made earlier

Technical Details for Midterm

❖ For Boolean expressions, use &, |, and ~ to specify And, Not, and Not, respectively
  ▪ ^ is a symbol for XOR
  ▪ If you use different symbols, explicitly specify what they mean if unclear

❖ When using a Mux or DMux gate, explicitly show or describe the select bits that the inputs are connected to
  ▪ E.g., the a input of the Mux is connected to the select bit of 0

❖ We will show any additional clarifications on the board

CSE 390B Midterm Instructions

❖ This exam is closed-note, closed-software
  ▪ You may only use the midterm reference sheet

❖ You will have 60 minutes to complete the exam
  ▪ We will give you a 30-minute, 10-minute, and 5-minute warning

❖ If you have a question, please raise your hand and the course staff will get to you shortly

❖ When you are finished, please hand your exam to the course staff

CSE 390B Midterm

❖ The exam will end at:

Midterm clarifications:

Congrats! You did it!

Midterm Reflections

❖ Exams are not an objective measure of your learning or abilities
  ▪ They are one type of evaluation and favor certain learning styles
  ▪ They reflect priorities of instructor and are one view of material
  ▪ Performance on an exam doesn't determine your capability

❖ Our goal is to help you improve your skills related to preparing, taking, and reflecting on exams

❖ You may submit midterm corrections in Project 7 and earn back up to 50% of the points you lost

CSE 390B Midterm Debrief

Discuss the following reflection questions in groups:

❖ How did the midterm go? Were you able to apply the metacognitive strategies you've learned to this exam?

❖ How did you prepare for this midterm? What aspects of your preparation were most effective for the midterm?

❖ What test-taking strategies did you utilize during the exam? Which ones were most helpful for the midterm?

Post-Lecture 13 Reminders

❖ Up next in CSE 390B: The Assembler and Compiler!

❖ Project 6: Mock Exam Problem & Building a Computer due next Thursday (11/17) at 11:59pm

❖ Course Staff Support
- Eric has office hours in CSE2 153 today after lecture
- Feel free to post your questions on the Ed board as well