DROPPING LOWEST GRADES

by
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Abstract:

Some teachers will drop one or more grades earned during a course in order to help raise students’ grades and encourage students to improve their scores. In this talk we consider the problem of finding the best $r$ grades to drop from a collection of $k$ grades. This seems like an easy task, but many examples will be given showing that when the $k$ grades are not all worth the same number of points, the optimal solution can be non-intuitive and very difficult to identify. Many of our intuitive assumptions about how to find the best solution prove to be wrong. A brute-force algorithm for finding the best grades to drop would be to calculate the average grade for each subset of $k - r$ grades of the $k$ grades. This algorithm is inefficient and impractical to use. The talk will include a very efficient algorithm which works well in practice.

Thursday, October 8, 2015
2:50-3:00 Refreshments
3:00-4:00 PM
ENG 290
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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