COMP 40 Laboratory: Speed Dating for Programmers

COMP 40 Staff

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1 Introduction

The primary purpose of this lab is to give you the opportunity to learn from classmates with whom you have not done any pair programming. The lab is modeled on "speed dating," which was invented to enable members of an ethnic minority to meet similar people whom they might marry. Computer scientists are a different kind of minority, and we don't expect any of you to get married, but we do think you'll find it helpful to talk with people you haven't worked with yet. Please take the opportunity to

- Talk about the profiling assignment

- Talk about COMP 40 more broadly

- Scope out potential programming partners for the last two assignments

2 Procedure

You'll meet with five people for eight minutes each. After each eight-minute meeting, you'll have two minutes to find the next person. Your schedule will tell you whether to stay put or to move, and if you need to move, where to go. To help you navigate, the seats each lab have been labelled as rows A through H.

Your schedule has been generated by computer, and you should be able to collect it from Professor Ramsey.

If you have trouble finding your partner, ask people's names, or get help from the course staff. If your scheduled partner is not at the lab, don't be a wallflower—join with other people that you have not partnered with before.

3 Suggested questions

Eight minutes is a short time; to focus your conversation, here are some questions you might discuss:

1. What "bottlenecks" or "hot spots" in your code have surprised you?

2. Which has given you the most speedup for your effort: tuning code or changing data structures?

3. If you could travel back in time to September and talk to your younger self how about to succeed in COMP 40, what is the one thing you would most want to teach your younger self?

4. The wall in 118 is covered with slogans. Which one most applies to you—or have you learned the most from?

5. In a jousting tournament, who wins, Norman Ramsey or Ming Chow?