

Questions and Answers

Vol. 3

or

“The quick and the decaf”

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10 May 2016

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But first...

Some house keeping

Calendar at a glance

Week	Dates	Lecture	Reviews	Demos	Assessment submissions
1	2/3 – 6/3	Introduction			
2	7/3 – 11/3	Principles of Mechatronic Systems design			Problem analysis
3	14/3 – 18/3	Professional Engineering Topics			
4	22/3 – 25/3	Your soldering is (probably) terrible	Progress review 1		
Break	28/3 – 1/4				
5	4/4 – 8/4	Introduction to Teleoperation			
6	11/4 – 15/4	Q&A 1			
7	18/4 – 22/4	PCB Hints	Progress seminar	25% demo	
8	25/4 – 29/4	Q&A2			
9	2/5 – 6/5	WTF??		50% demo	
10	9/5 – 13/5		Progress review		
11	16/5 – 20/5			75% demo	Preliminary report
12	23/5 – 27/5				
13	30/5 – 3/6	Closing lecture		Final testing	Final report and reflection

You are here →

Blimey!

Change to the spec'

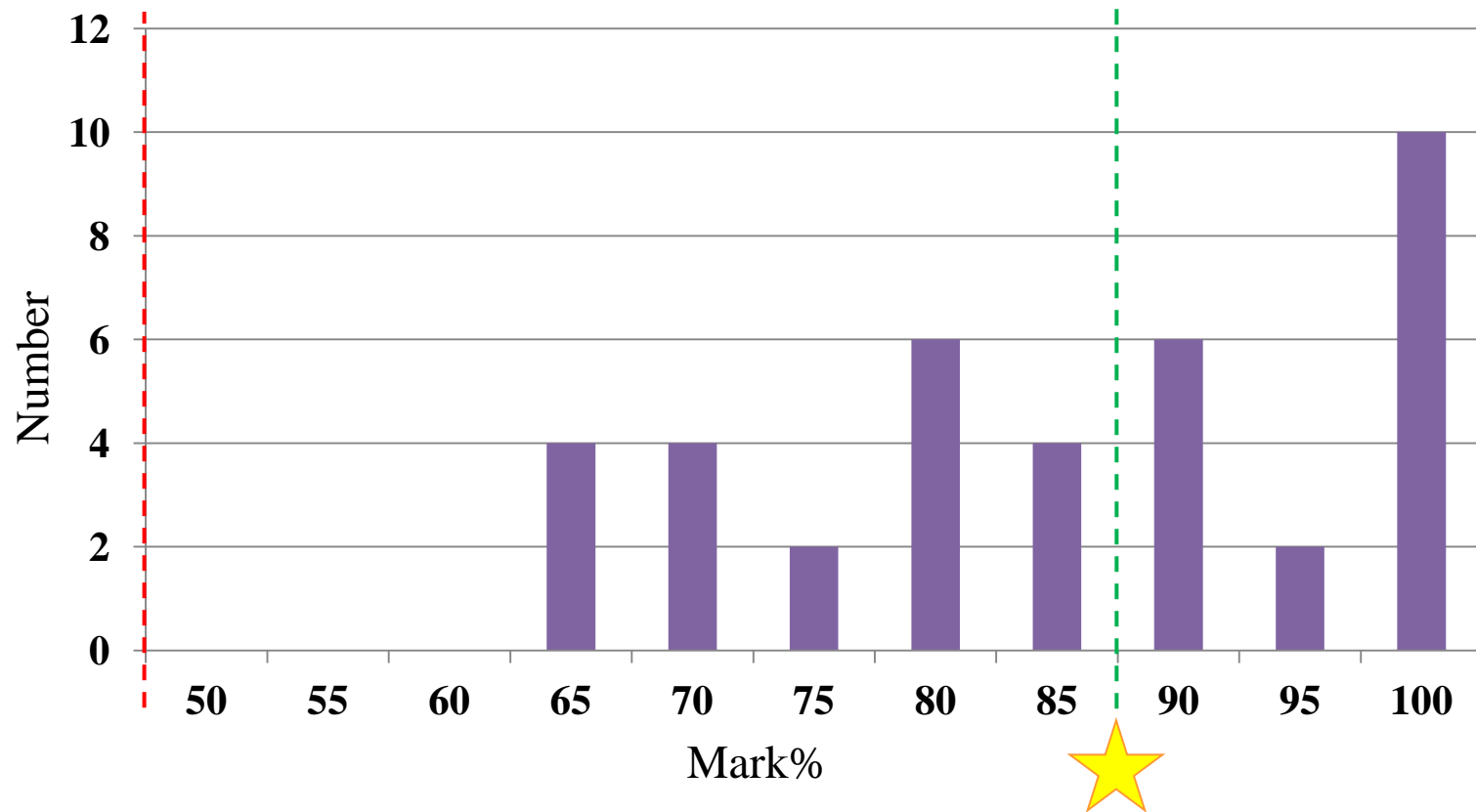
- Revised spec' document is going out today
 - Specifically, it adds details for the borehole entrance and provision for “oops” restarts
 - Otherwise pretty minor
- There will be no more spec' changes
 - Unless something turns out to be seriously unexpectedly broken, which I really doubt

Incremental Demo III

- Final incremental demo will be next week
 - Again, you need to send me an email requesting a slot by Friday.
- Same process as before, but fully rigorous
 - Will be done outside on the railing
 - Basically a dry-run of the final test
 - Be sure to bring all things as per final hand-in

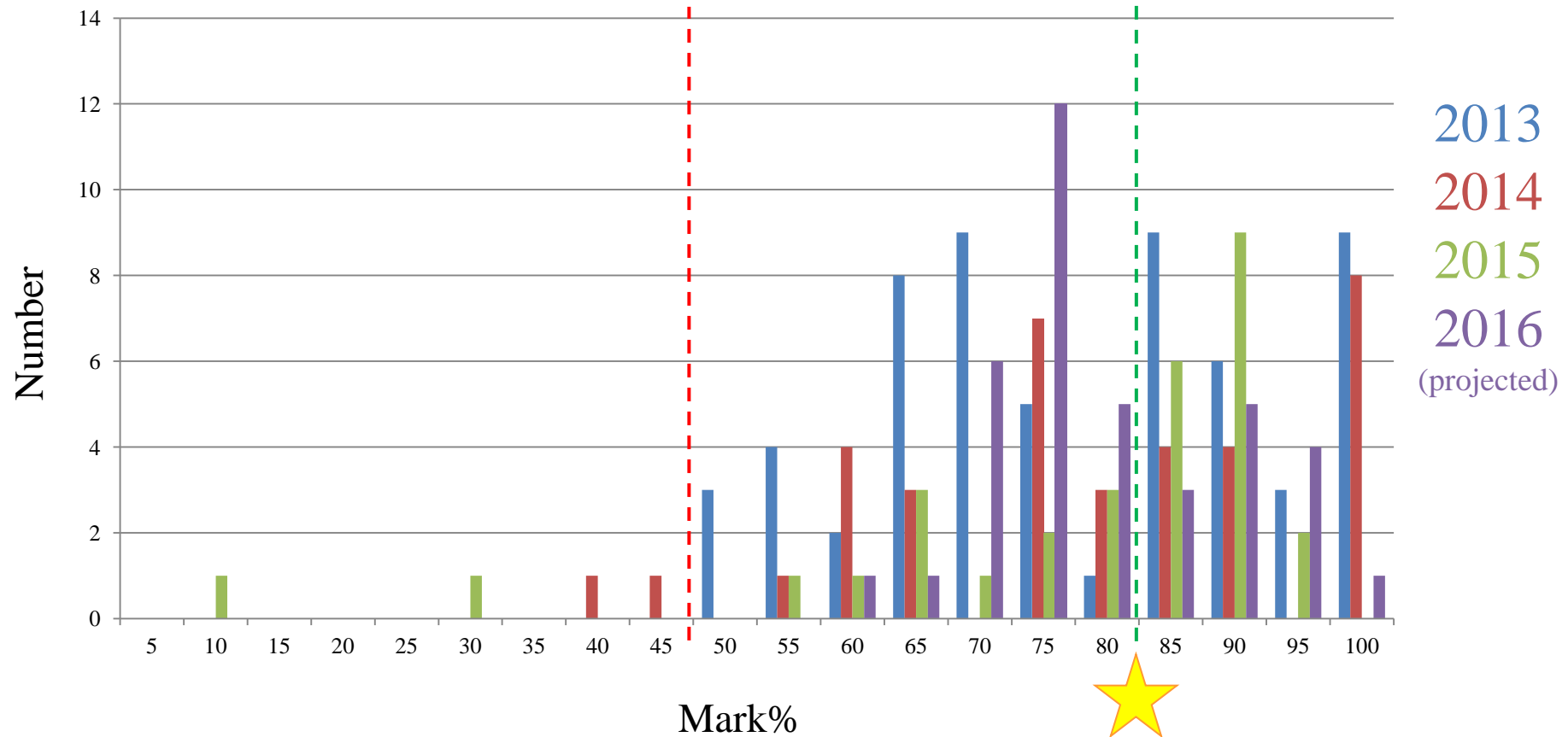
Seminar results

- Interesting spread...



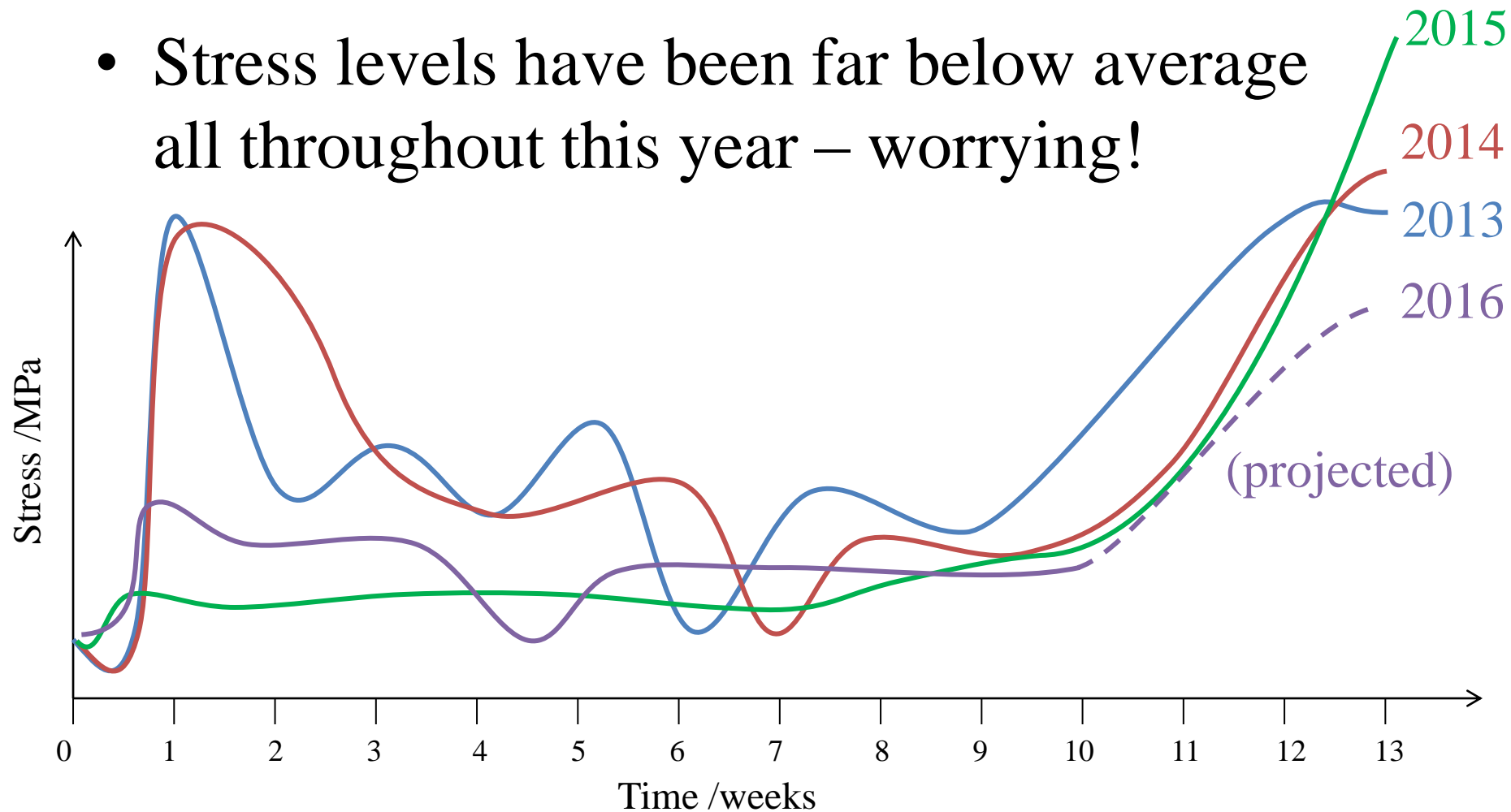
Overall class progress

- Moving to the right!



Managing your stress levels

- Stress levels have been far below average all throughout this year – worrying!



Coming up soon

Preliminary report is due end of next week

The reports

- The final report is the major written assessment piece of the class:
 - Detail work done to make your system function
 - Detail the analytical approach you used
 - Convince me that you followed a sane and considered approach in finding your solution
- The preliminary report is just the same
 - Only sooner!

The preliminary report

- The preliminary report allows us to give you useful feedback prior to assigning marks
- Once handed in, we will endeavour to return useful comments to you the next week
 - Use the comments to improve the final report!
- Pass/fail assessment – **10 per cent.**

The preliminary report

- The preliminary report must:
 - Contain the majority of content and structure of the final report
 - Constitute a complete, polished report in its own right (preliminary, *not draft.*)
- The preliminary report must not:
 - Be an unstructured jumble of material
 - Be an incomplete, feeble effort

The preliminary report

- Preliminary report due in Week 11
 - That's next week
 - That's only *ELEVEN* days away!
- The final report is due in Week 13
 - Last day of semester

OMG! Get started now!!

The preliminary report

- Comments back on the preliminary report are only intended to be suggestions for improving your writing and construction.
- They are **NO** indication of the mark you can expect on the final report.
- Mindlessly following the comments alone will not guarantee 100% on the final report.

FAQ Roundup

- **Can we recycle parts of our design analysis for the report?**
 - Sure. However, it's worth noting that a design analysis and a project report are two different types of document for two different purposes. You should think very carefully about what parts are recyclable and why you might choose to reuse them.
- **But what about self-plagiarism??**
 - Sigh....

Allow me to explain.

Self-plagiarism

- “Self-plagiarism” is almost certainly does not mean what you think it means.
 - Only tangentially about copying your own work

Self-plagiarism is about *misrepresentation*.

Self-plagiarism

- In the rarefied airs of academic publishing, it is of utmost importance whether the material you publish is ‘novel’
 - Ie. never before seen nor published anywhere

“Nobody will pay for old news.”

Self-plagiarism

- Thus, if you take old academic work and try to pass it off as new research, the publishers will *destroy* you.
 - Or just sue you, or whatever.
 - Either way, your career is over.

Self-plagiarism

- In an educational context, rehashing old work does not fulfil the educational goal.
 - We want to know what you can do now, in the constraints imposed, rather than what you did last year without restrictions.

Self-plagiarism

- So, educators and academics care a great deal about self-plagiarism and warn students against it's sinful nature.
- Of course, most engineers live and work in the real world...

Self-plagiarism

- In engineering practice, replicating work needlessly is unprofessional and inappropriate.
- So long as you only take credit for your own work and credit others' appropriately (using their work by permission, of course) employers do not care if you copy

Self-plagiarism

- This course is structured like a professional design and build project.
 - Your reporting should reflect this.
- Consequently, I have zero qualms about you reusing your own past work from the course.
 - Cite small quotes/extracts, but replication is ok.
 - Of course, do not copy the work of others without proper attribution, though.

Questions



Tune-in next time for...

Questions and Answers Vol. 4

or

“The end is nigh”

Fun fact: Fun fact: There are now more drones than cars.