Computing Science Course Outlines

CMPT 701 - G100 Computability and Logic

Instructor(s): Eugenia Ternovska

Calendar Objective/Description:
Computability and Logic

Instructor's Objectives:
Cross-listed with CMPT 409

This course is on theoretical foundations of Computer Science. It provides insights into the nature and limitations of computation and logical reasoning.

The first part deals with fundamental theoretical results in logic. It includes first-order logic (syntax and semantics), the completeness theorem for first-order logic, undecidability of first-order logic, Peano Arithmetic, compactness, and Lowenheim-Skolem theorems.

The second part focuses on the strength and limitations of computations. It starts with Register machines as a model of computation and proceeds to the theory of primitive recursive, and then recursive, functions and relations. We study the existence of algorithms for solving decision problems. In particular, we learn about the halting problem, for which we prove that no algorithm can solve it. We show that non-computability of many problems follows from a single result, Rice's theorem. We consider Universal functions and Decidability theorem.

The course culminates with several result illustrating incompleteness phenomena in mathematics and theory of computation including Tarski's theorem and Godel's Incompleteness Theorems.

There is no required textbook. A list of recommended references will be provided. As the main reference, we will use the lecture notes of Stephen A. Cook which will be posted on the course website.

Prerequisites:
see go.sfu.ca

Topics:
- Syntax and semantics of propositional and predicate calculus
- Completeness of Gentzen proof systems
- Formal theories, nonstandard models
- Recursive and primitive recursive functions, Computability
- Church-Turing thesis
- Computationally unsolvable problems
- Recursively enumerable sets
- Godel Incompleteness Theorems

Grading:
To be announced in the first week of classes.
Reference Books:

Academic Honesty Statement::
Academic honesty plays a key role in our efforts to maintain a high standard of academic excellence and integrity. Students are advised that ALL acts of intellectual dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the SFU Academic Honesty and Student Conduct Policies (http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html).