Changes to Computer Science Undergraduate Degree Requirements
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The Problem

Current Computer Science degree requirements for upper level classes require that students take seven total courses at the 300 or 400 level (in addition to CMSC330 and CMSC351). Moreover, five of those courses must be across at least three areas (areas are denoted by the middle digit in the course number) with no more than two in any area, with the other two courses electives that can be any 300 or 400 level course.

Two areas, information processing (numbered CMSC42X) and Theory (CMSC45X) currently have additional restrictions on which classes students can take to count toward their five required upper level courses. For information processing, the requirement is that CMSC420 must be one of the maximum two, and for theory CMSC451 must be one of the maximum two. However, for several years these requirements have not been enforced for graduating students, mainly because of high enrollments in all upper level classes but also because no one has been able to articulate good reasons for those requirements.

Proposed Change to Computer Science Degree Requirements

The first proposed change is to eliminate the requirement that CMSC420 must be one of the maximum two upper level courses from the information processing area that can be counted toward the five required courses from at least three areas.

The second proposed change is to eliminate the requirement that CMSC451 be one of the maximum two upper level courses from the theory area that can be counted toward the five required courses from at least three areas.