

# Some comments on midterm 1



# General Comments

- My apologies for the “definition questions” + the “no Smalltalk” confusion
- The majority did well (one student 15/15)
  - 10-15 : you are doing well, keep it up
  - 05-10 : need to work harder
  - 00-05 : danger – get your act together
  - All questions answered correctly > 10 students
- Problems
  - Too short answers, many tautologies
  - Bad pacing
  - Memorization instead of understanding
  - Bad writing

# Practicalities

- Midterms returned at the end of class
- Any grade complaints ASAP
  - Warning: grades can go up as well as down
- Sample midterm answers will be posted on the web directly from student midterms (no editing)
- Grading typography
  - + indicates a very well-written answer (just karma points)
  - Circles are used for total grade of part
  - Individual numbers are for subparts

# Question 1

- Usability and User experience Goals for web browser and programming language/IDE
- Common errors
  - Designers have usability goals and users have user experience goals
  - Abstract usability goals/user experience goals (learnability is not an answer)
  - Differences between browser/IDE that have nothing to do with interaction

# Question 2

- Conceptual models based on activities – car navigation system – flight booking system
- Common errors
  - Very little justification
  - Tautological definitions
  - Enumeration of conceptual models without explanation
- Not a problem if explained
  - delegation

# Question 3

- Importance of Smalltalk for HCI, memex
- About 1/3 of students answered the Smalltalk question
- 2-3 the memex question
- Common errors:
  - Smalltalk is the first OO language
    - Not true Simula is
    - How is that important for HCI ?
  - Random sentences about Smalltalk, Memex
    - You are not graded based on random text

# Question 4

- Anthropomorphism
- Most students answered this one correctly
- Some errors:
  - Emulates human behaviour – Deep blue
  - Confusion with agents
  - Confusion with interface metaphors

# Question 5

- External Cognition
- A lot of students answered correctly
- Common errors:
  - Confusion with interface metaphors
    - Recycle bin
  - Confusion with affordance
    - Door knob invites you to turn
  - Wrong definitions