Performance feedback
In general the students did well on the exam questions. It was encouraging to see that the majority of students provided useful answers to the essay questions. This especially holds for Question 25, which represents very typical aspects of the day-to-day work of the knowledge engineer. Question 25 could be improved by stating more explicitly that the students are required to write down the final ontology after all the suggested changes. Many students have done so while others have made it more or less explicit what changes they want to apply to the initial ontology. This lack of explicitness makes correction more difficult and should be changed.

While Comp 34512 relies on other courses to set a basic level of knowledge in logic and computation some multiple-choice results suggest that the students have great deficits in these areas. Probably the starkest example is Question 6:

“If a predicate logic formula $\alpha$ entails a predicate logic formula $\beta$ then…”

Shockingly, the majority of students (41%) answered that this implies that:

“…the negation of $\alpha$ entails the negation of $\beta$.”

Or, in other words, if cats are animals then dogs aren’t. Even in the absence of any computer science education, let alone one including mathematical logic, this question should be very easy to answer for anybody with a little bit of common sense. The results on this and some other questions suggest that for Comp 34512 nothing should be taken for granted w.r.t. logic and algorithms even though the students should have some basic knowledge of these topics.

Independently of this, the numerical analysis of the exam results looks very healthy. Please see details and distribution below.

Blackboard Item Analysis

Test Summary

- Possible points: 40
- Possible questions: 27
- Completed Attempts: 39
- Average score: 22.91
- Median score: 23.75
- Average time: 1hr 33min
Distribution

Difficulty of questions:

- Easy: 6
- Medium: 19
- Hard: 2