Winter 2016
COMP-250: Introduction to Computer Science

Prof. Claude Crépeau

ME

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TAs

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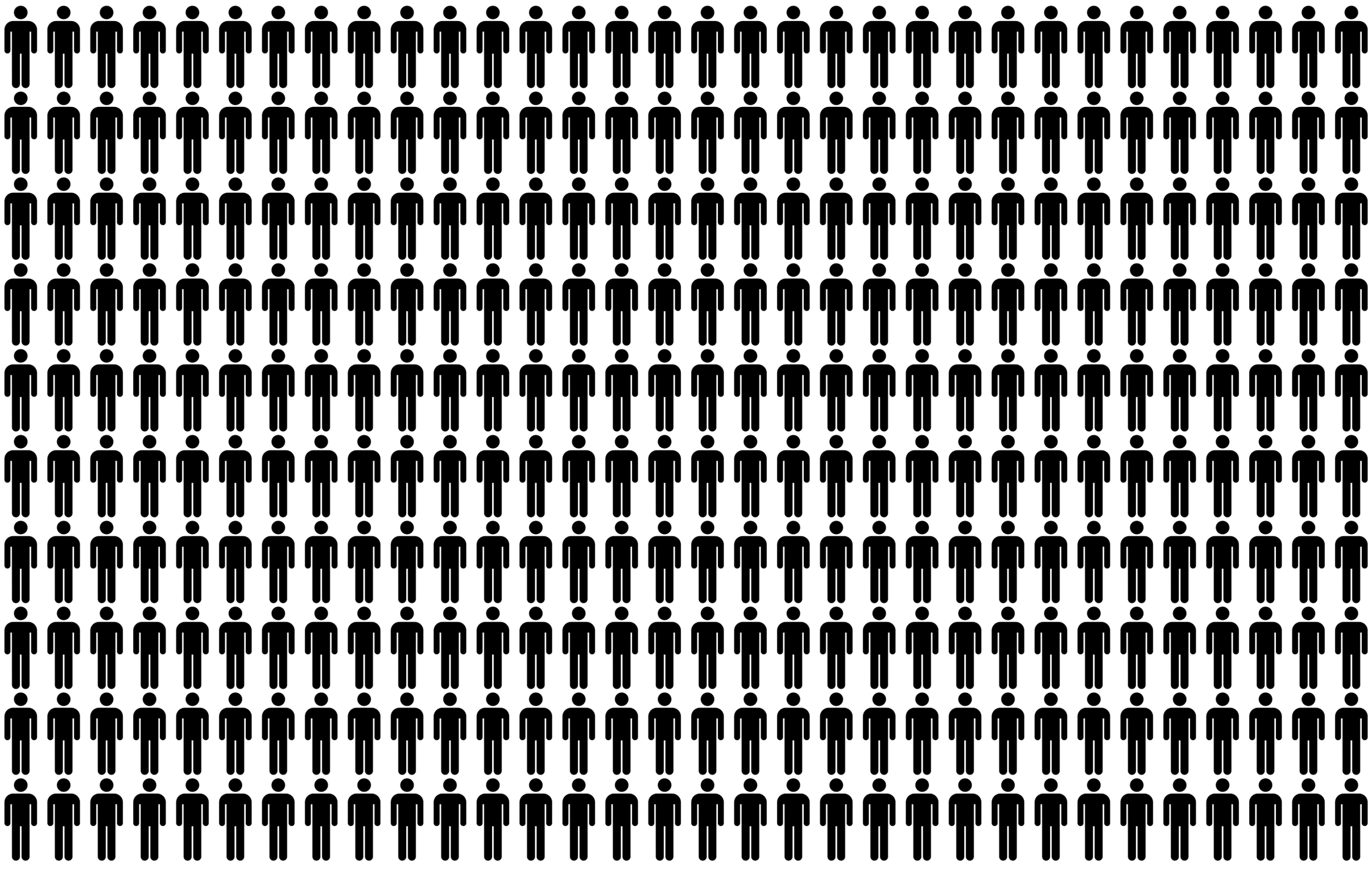
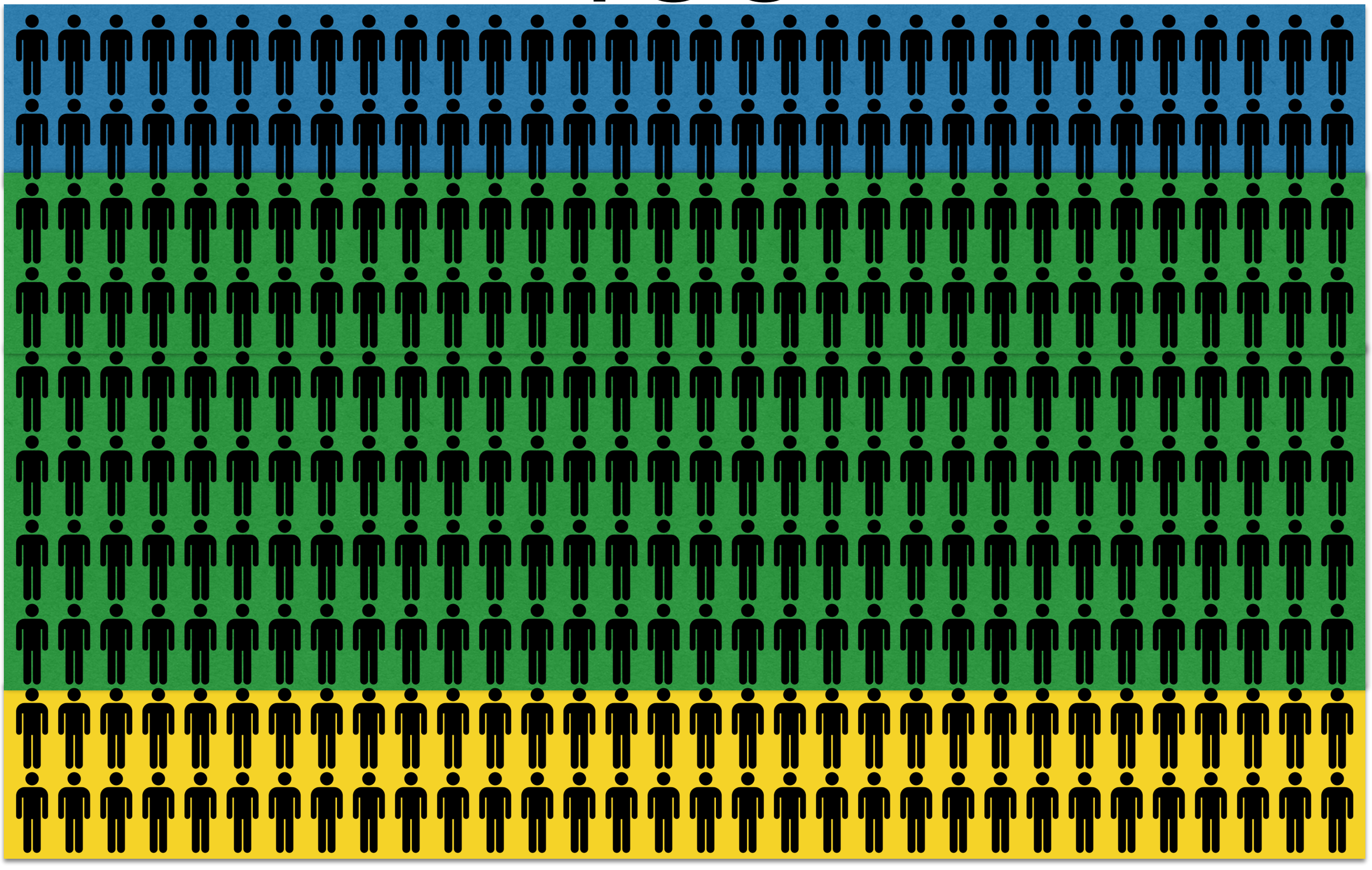
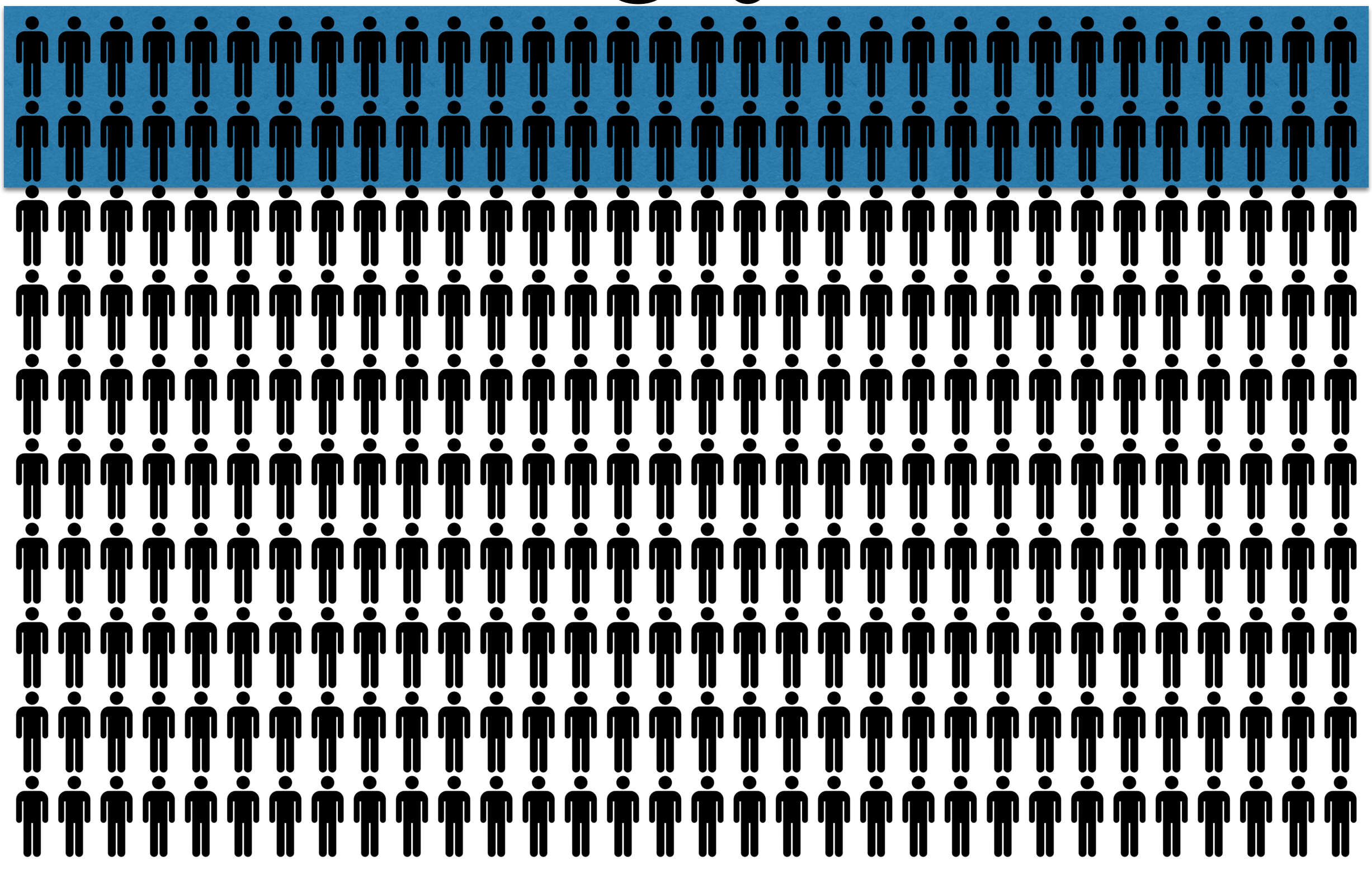
YOU



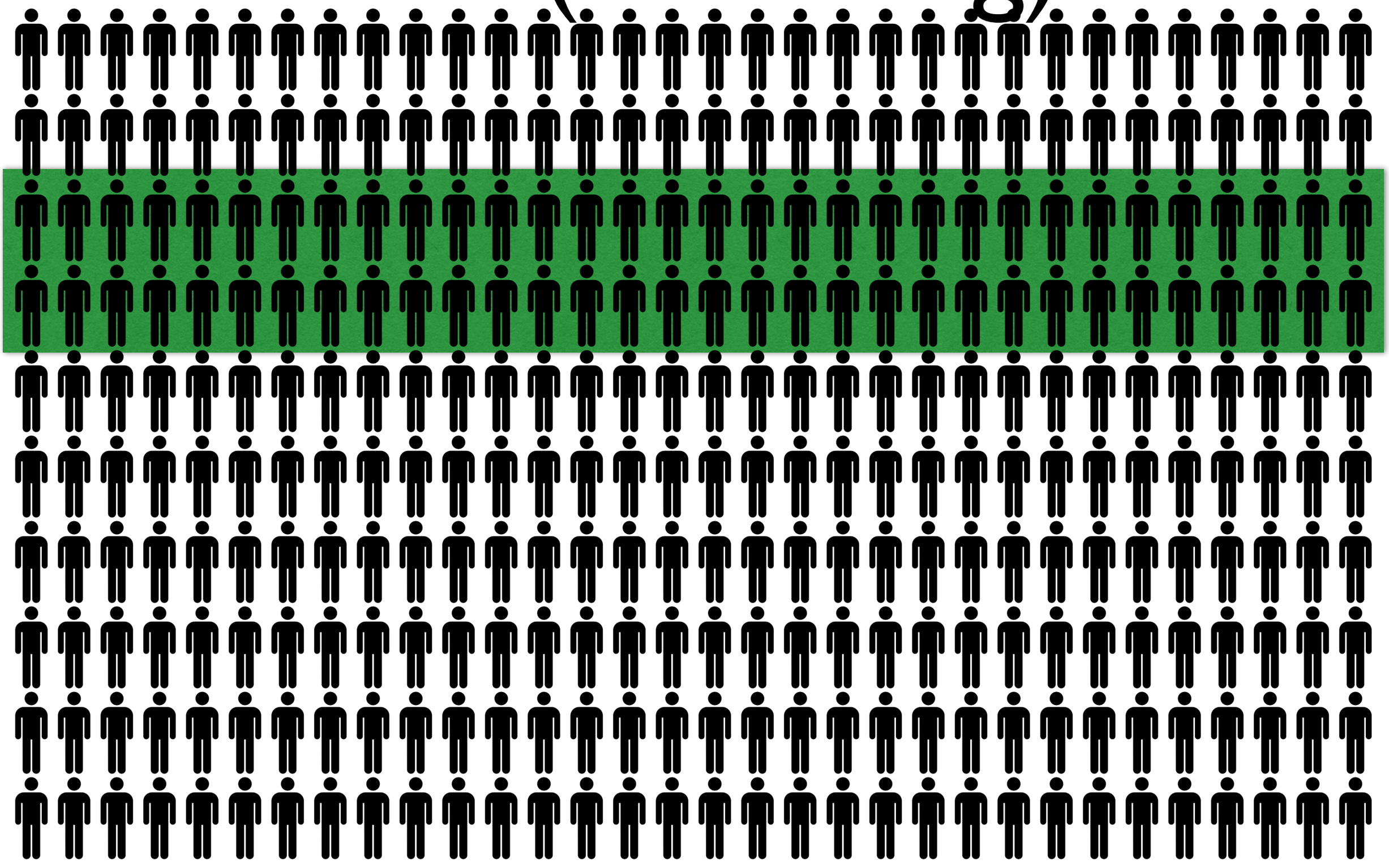
YOU



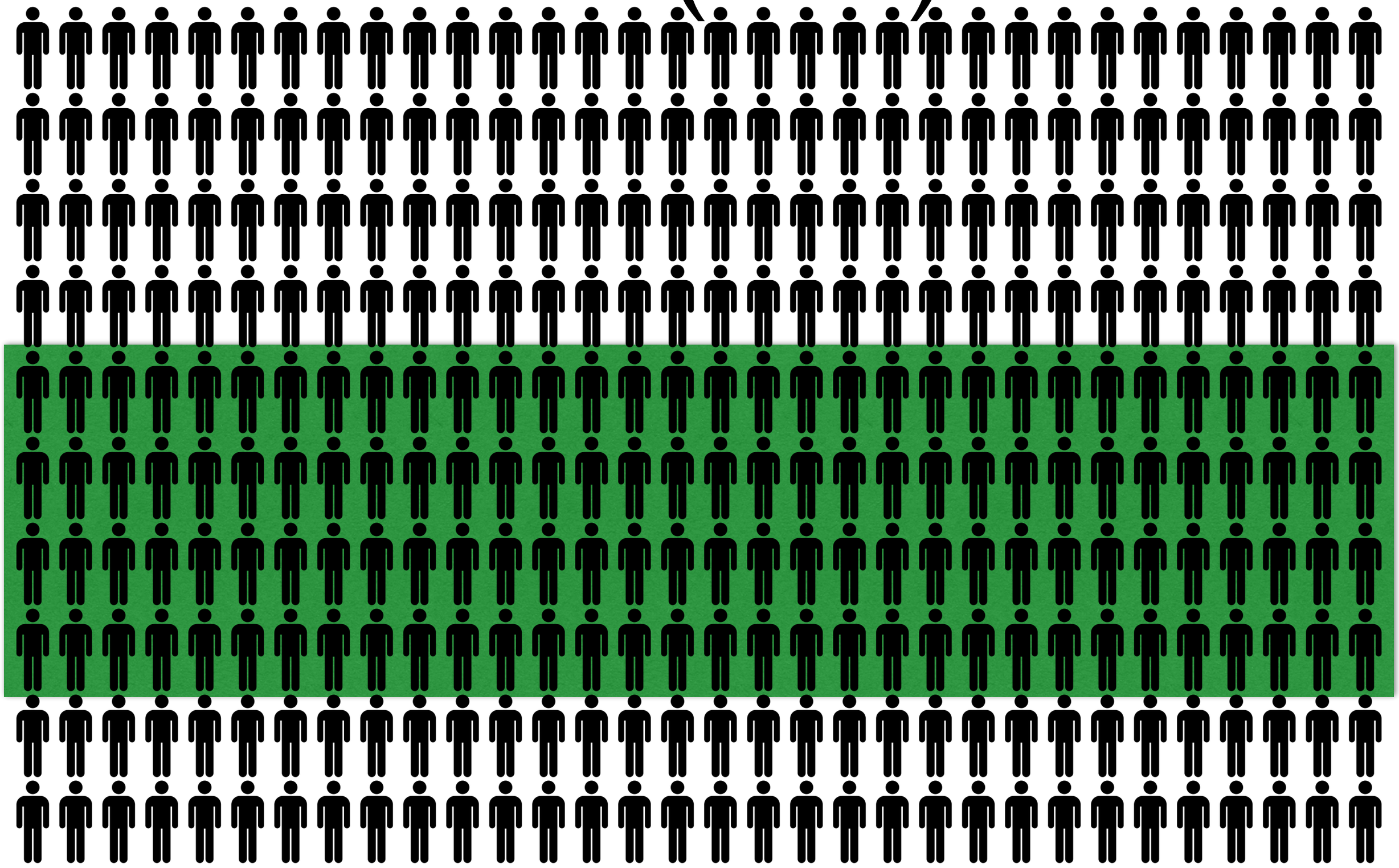
U-0



U-1 (returning)



U-1 (new)

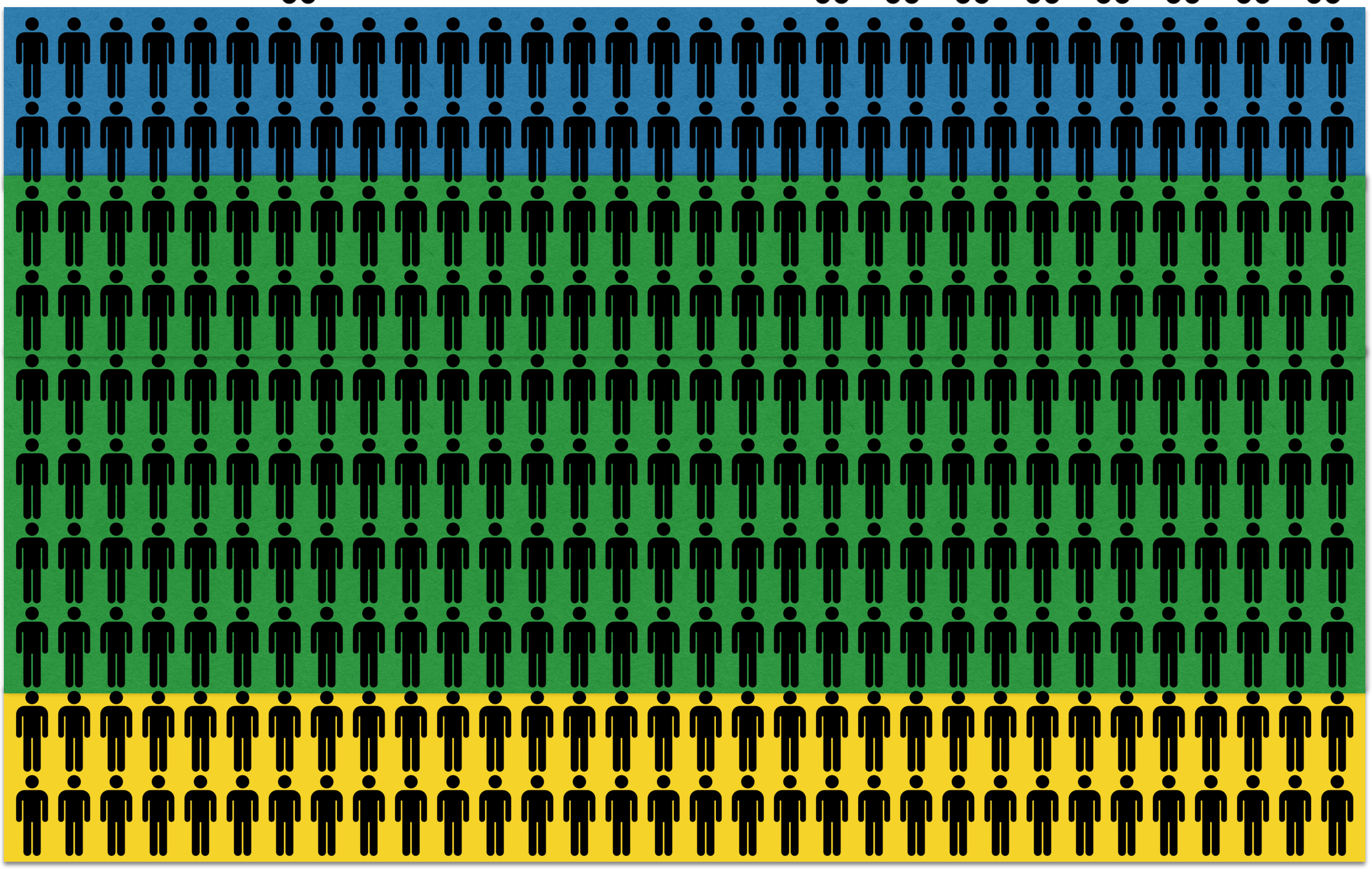


U-N, N≥2

YOU

- 114 Bachelor of Science
- 74 Bachelor of Engr
- 54 Bachelor of Software Engr
- 43 Bachelor of Arts
- 12 Bachelor of Arts and Science
- 9 Bachelor of Commerce
- 3 B SC Agricu and Envir Sc
- 2 Bachelor of Music
- 1 Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
- 1 No Degree

I US



COMP-250

- **Description**: (3 credits; 3 hours) An introduction to the design of computer algorithms, including basic data structures, analysis of algorithms, and establishing correctness of programs. Overview of topics in computer science.

- **Prerequisite**: Familiarity with a high level programming language and CEGEP level mathematics. Computer Science Major and Honours students are advised to take MATH 240 simultaneously with COMP 250 or with COMP 251. Although it not a prerequisite either, COMP 202 will provide you a solid background for programming in Java.

COMP-250

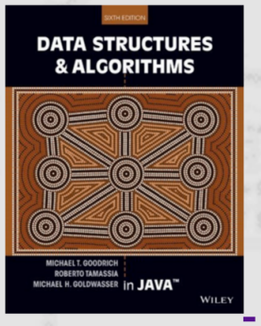
Required Textbook:

Allen B. Downey,

How to think like a computer scientist - Java version.

Recommended Textbook:

Michael T. Goodrich, Roberto Tamassia



Data Structures and Algorithms in Java (6th Edition)

John Wiley and Sons; ISBN: 9781118771334

COMP-250 : EVALUATION

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- 40% for 5 assignments (8% each)
- 10% for the midterm
- 50% for the final exam
- The exams are open book, No electronic devices will be allowed (this includes noise-cancelling headphones).

COMP-250 : Collaborations

Policy on collaborations

- We greatly encourage you to discuss the assignment problems with each other.
- However, these discussions should not go so far that you are sharing code or giving away the answer.
- A rule of thumb is that your discussions should be considered public in the sense that anything you share with a friend should be sharable with any student in the class.
- We ask you to indicate on your assignments the names of the persons with whom you collaborated or discussed your assignments (including the TA's and instructors).

COMP-250 : Discussion

Policy on discussion Board

- We will use a new forum system available at:
  https://cs250qanda.cs.mcgill.ca/
  (i.e. we will not use the forum in MyCourse).

- You will be automatically registered in this forum and will have the possibility to vote for the most useful questions and answers.

- Please follow common sense rules and etiquette for discussion board postings: be polite, avoid texting shorthand ("ur" instead of "you are", ...), choose a suitable subject line for your posting and use multiple postings for multiple subjects, keep your postings brief, etc.

COMP-250 : Grades

Policy on re-grading

- If you wish us to re-grade a question on an exam (or assignment), we will do so. However, to avoid grade ratcheting, we reserve us the right to re-grade other questions on as well.

Policy on final grades

- We will use the same rules and formula for calculating the final grade for everyone. We understand that your performances may be influenced by many factors, possibly out of your control. However, that is the only way we can be fair. The only exceptions will be medical exceptions. In that case, I will require a medical note, which has to be also reported to McGill, and to be informed as early as possible. Failure to comply to these rules, may results in the impossibility to invoke a medical exception.

COMP-250 : Assignments

Policy on Assignments

- Due date/time, location/mode for returning your solutions, and accepted formats will be announced in class and indicated on the course web page.

- Failure to return your assignment in time will results in penalties or even absence of grading. Late submission of 24h or less will receive a penalty of 20%. In all other cases, your assignment will be refused and not graded.

- Importantly, solutions that do not follow the requested format will receive a penalty. By default, we only accept PDF or TEXT files. Images (if any) must be embedded in a PDF. Do not compress your files. All files must open on LINUX SOCS workstations.

- The quality of the presentation of your solution is very important. Unreadable material, cryptic notations, or bad organization of the material will results in penalties, and potentialy even an absence of grading. If you scan your hand-written solutions, it is your responsability to ensure that you submit a high-quality image (i.e. excellent luminosity, contrast, focus and resolution). The clarity of your explanations will also be an integral part of your final grade.

COMP-250 : Assignments

Policy on programming code

- Questions in assignments may require you to write a Java program. We will provide, as much as possible, input and output data to test your programs. However, it will be your duty to ensure that your Java files compile on LINUX SOCS workstations. We will not grade programs that do not compile on these machines.

- Submission of class files (instead of Java source files) will be considered as an absence of submission. Do not compress your files.

COMP-250 : @McGill

McGill Policies

- In accordance with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in French as well as in English any written work that is to be graded.

- McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.
  See this link: http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/

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Lecture 1, January 12, 2016