Dear ECE 314 students,

The final exam (on coming Wednesday, May 24) is approaching fast. In the following, I give some advice.

The final exam will be a comprehensive exam. The material you need to prepare covers, in principle, the entire course, with the exception of chapter 1.8 (counting methods) and stochastic processes, which were touched only in the last lecture. Chapter 8 (significance testing and hypothesis testing) will be restricted to the topic of significance testing. Chapter 9 (estimation of a random variable) will be restricted to the linear mean square error (LMSE) estimator.

Topics that were not covered in class or in the homework assignments will not be part of the exam.

As in the 2nd midterm exam, there will be a number of binary/multiple-choice questions. So make sure that you are well prepared to answer conceptual questions.

Do your best to develop a big-picture perspective of the course material.

Here is the same advice that I offered before the two midterm exams. It also applies to the final exam:

• Go through the examples covered in class, the homework assignments, and the homework solutions and think about how you can approach the types of problems listed in the “checklist” in a systematic fashion.
• Once you have recognized a solution pattern, write down or sketch a “roadmap” that includes the relevant definitions and theorems.
• Before the exam, make sure that you have understood the relevant concepts, definitions and theorems. (If you have to think about the meaning of definitions and theorems during the exam, you may run out of time!!!)

For the final exam, you will be allowed to bring only

• Pens, pencils, erasers
• A single one-sided, letter-size, handwritten page (no Xerox!!!) that includes definitions, theorems, “roadmaps”, etc. that you don’t want to memorize.

Best wishes,

Andreas Muschinski