

Rethinking Computing and Statistics Instruction with Vocareum and Gradescope



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colab

vocareum

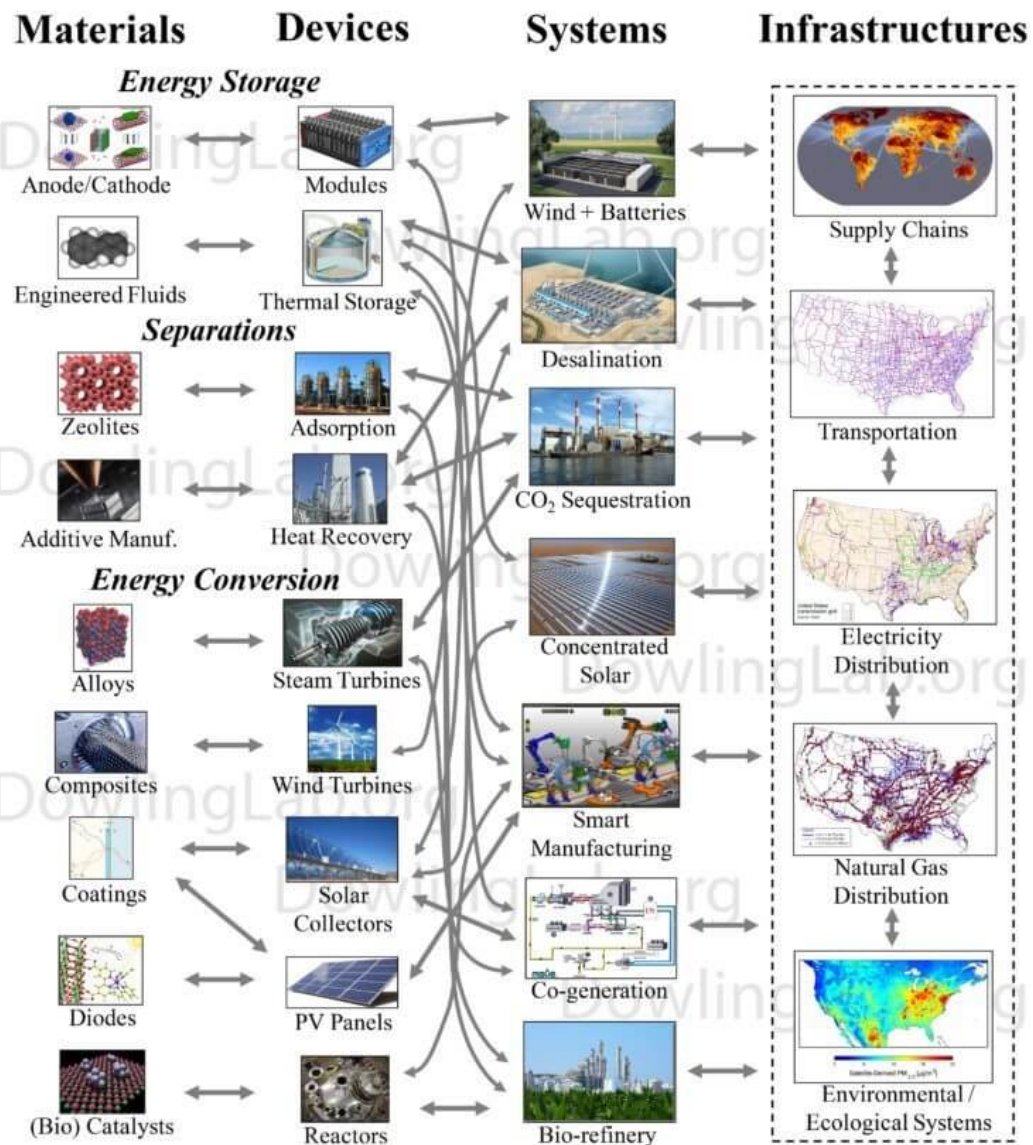
 **python**™

pandas 

 **NumPy**

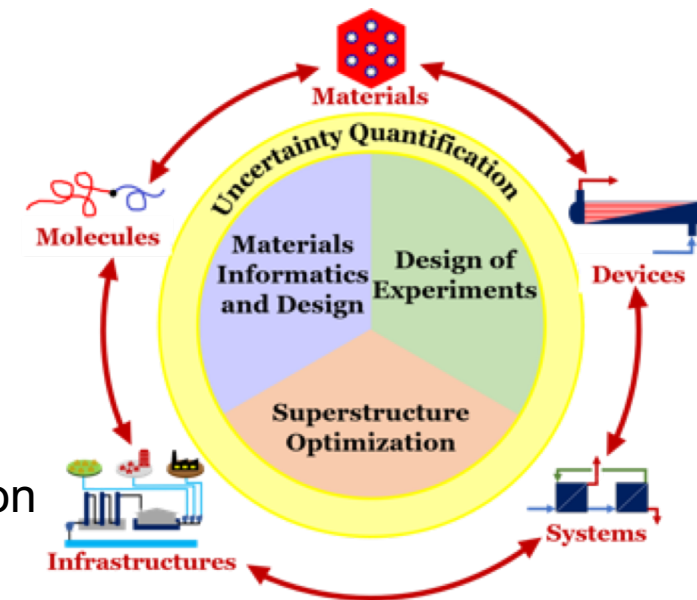
These slides are available at <http://psecommunity.org/LAPSE:2019.1136>

Research: Process Systems Engineering



Themes

- Mathematical Modeling
- Computational Optimization
- Applied Bayesian Statistics and Uncertainty Quantification
- Energy & Sustainability Applications



*Vertically integrate
computing and statistics
throughout the
undergraduate curriculum*



Modernizing Numerical and Statistical Analysis

Backward Course Design Set Clear Learning Objectives

At the end of the semester, you should be able to...

1. **Create mathematical models** and **apply computational methods** to analyze systems using basic principles of chemical engineering (e.g., mass and energy balances, thermodynamic equilibrium, etc.)
2. **Analyze data** and **quantify uncertainty** using standard statistical techniques and mathematical models grounded in engineering fundamentals
3. Independently plan, implement, and debug short (100 to 300 lines) **Python computer programs** to analyze data, solve engineering mathematical models, and visualize results

Major Changes

Reorganized class topics

- Removed advanced topics (QR factorization, compression with SVD, trust regions, BVPs, PDEs)
- Emphasized fundamentals, especially probability & statistics
- Added mass and energy balance examples

Switched to **Python**, with great student buy-in

Incorporated **active learning** into lectures

Shortened assignments

Active Learning is Essential for Computing and Statistics

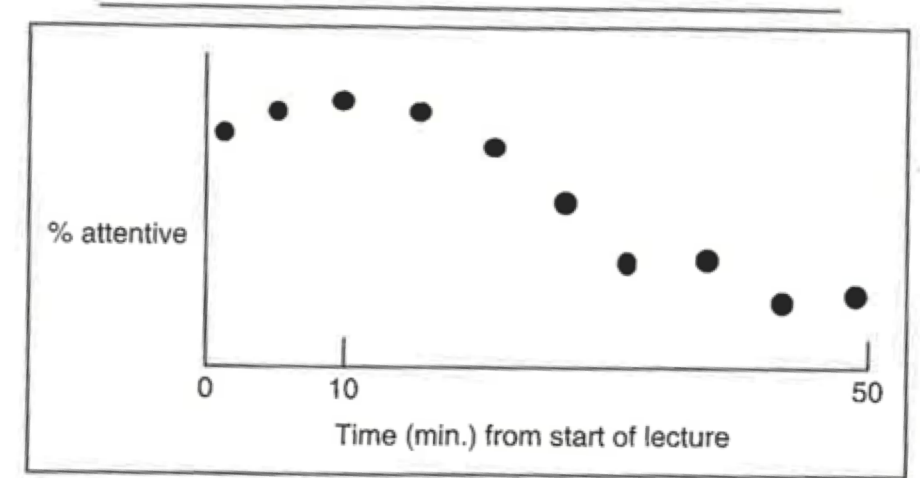


Figure 6.3-1: Attentiveness versus Time in Lecture—No Activities

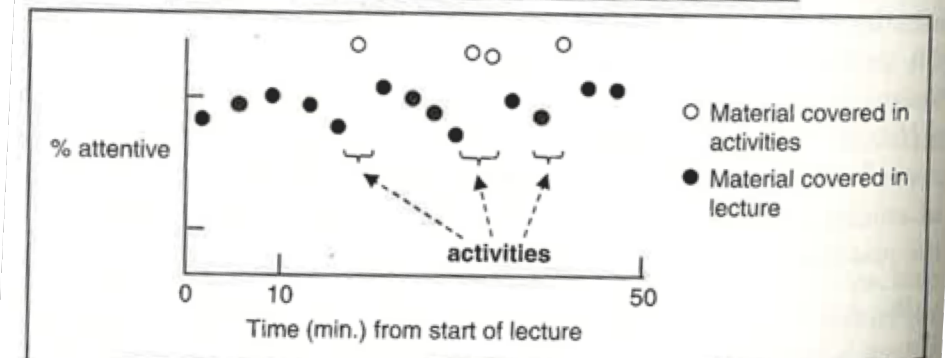


Figure 6.3-2: Attentiveness versus Time in Lecture—Activities Interspersed

Spring 2019: Cloud-based Google Colaboratory (Jupyter Notebooks)

`colab.research.google.com`

Benefits of Google Colaboratory:

Like Google Docs, but for code

Integrated with **Google Drive**:
automatic versioning, easy sharing

Removes barriers to access:
students can complete assignments
from **any internet connect computer**
– no need to support 80+ local Python
installations

Facilitates **active learning**

Free

The screenshot shows a Google Colaboratory Jupyter Notebook titled "L18-Error-Rates-Statistical-Power.ipynb". The interface includes a top menu bar with "File", "Edit", "View", "Insert", "Runtime", "Tools", and "Help". Below the menu is a toolbar with "CODE", "TEXT", "CELL", and "DOWN" buttons. The main content area displays a text cell with the following text:

Based on this analysis, your team concludes that improving yield from 80 to 81 percent of theoretical maximum performance is not worth the capital investment. Upper management will only approve the new process if it has a **mean yield of at least 84 percent**.

With a partner, copy the code from above and repeat the analysis. Answer two questions:

1. What is the statistical power with $n = 50$ if we assume the mean yield of the new process is 84 and same standard deviation of the current process?
2. Using the same assumptions, what is the smallest sample size with a statistical power of at least 99.9%?

Record your answers here: <https://forms.gle/JodRxokLT4hpWGH8>

Below the text cell are two code cells, each containing a list of steps for a question:

```
[ ] 1 ## Question 1
    2
    3 # Step 1
    4
    5
    6 # Step 2
    7
    8
    9 # Step 3
   10
   11
   12 # Step 4
   13
```

```
[ ] 1 ## Question 2
    2
    3 # Step 1
    4
    5
    6 # Step 2
    7
    8
```

On the right side of the interface, there is a sidebar with a "COMMENT" button, a "SHARE" button, and a user profile picture. A comment by Alexander Dowling is visible, dated 10:07 PM Today, with a "Resolve" button. The comment text reads: "Students can add comments to their own local copy - just like Google Docs."

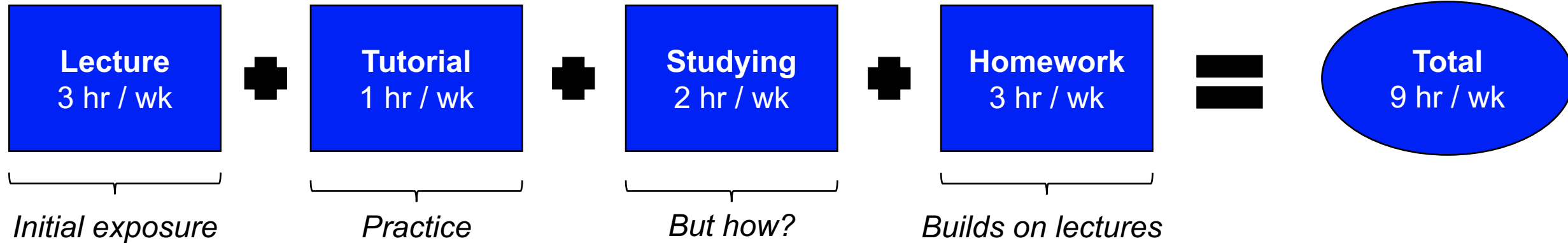
Making your time more effective

Easy

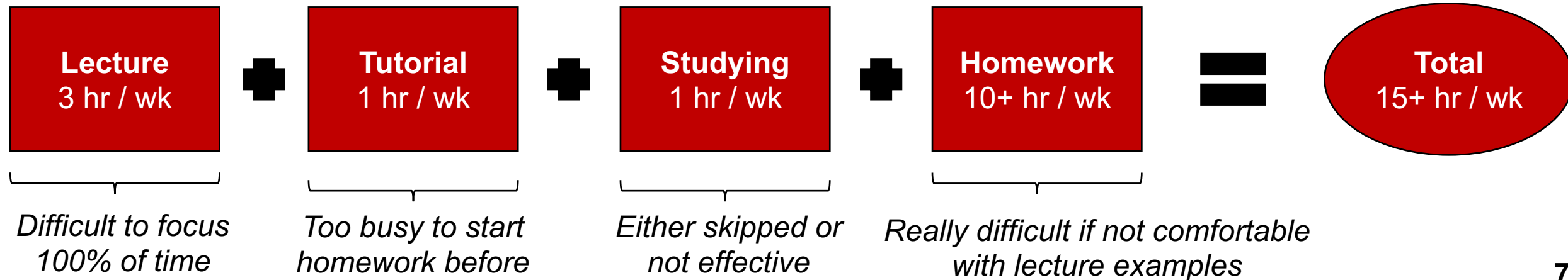
Complexity of Concepts and Applications

Difficult

Traditional Class (plan)

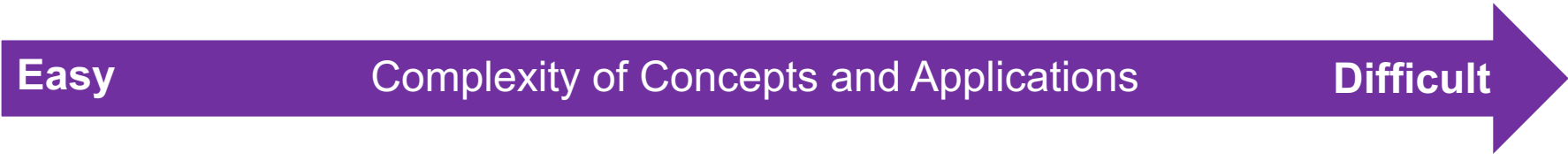


Traditional Class (reality for many)



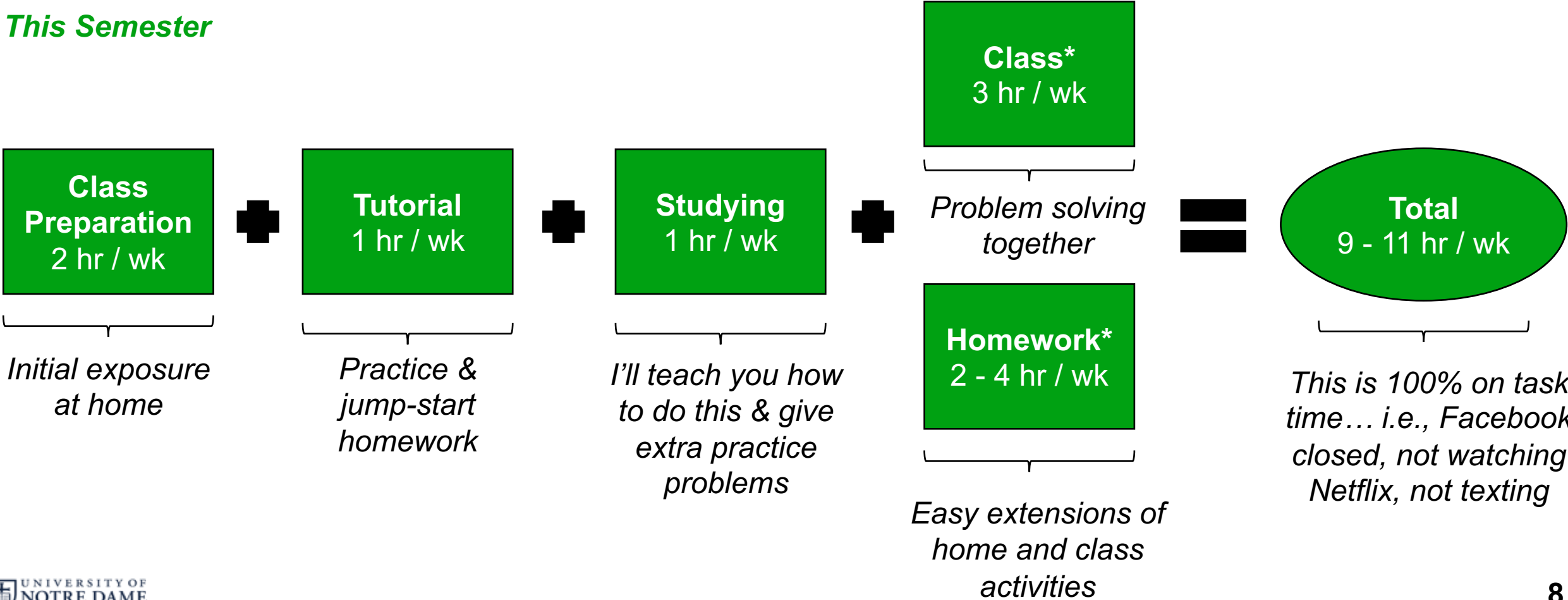
Making your time more effective

I show this slide on day 1.



**We'll start some homework problems during class.*

This Semester



Fall 2019: Cloud-based Vocareum (Jupyter Notebooks)

www.vocareum.com

Benefits of Vocareum:

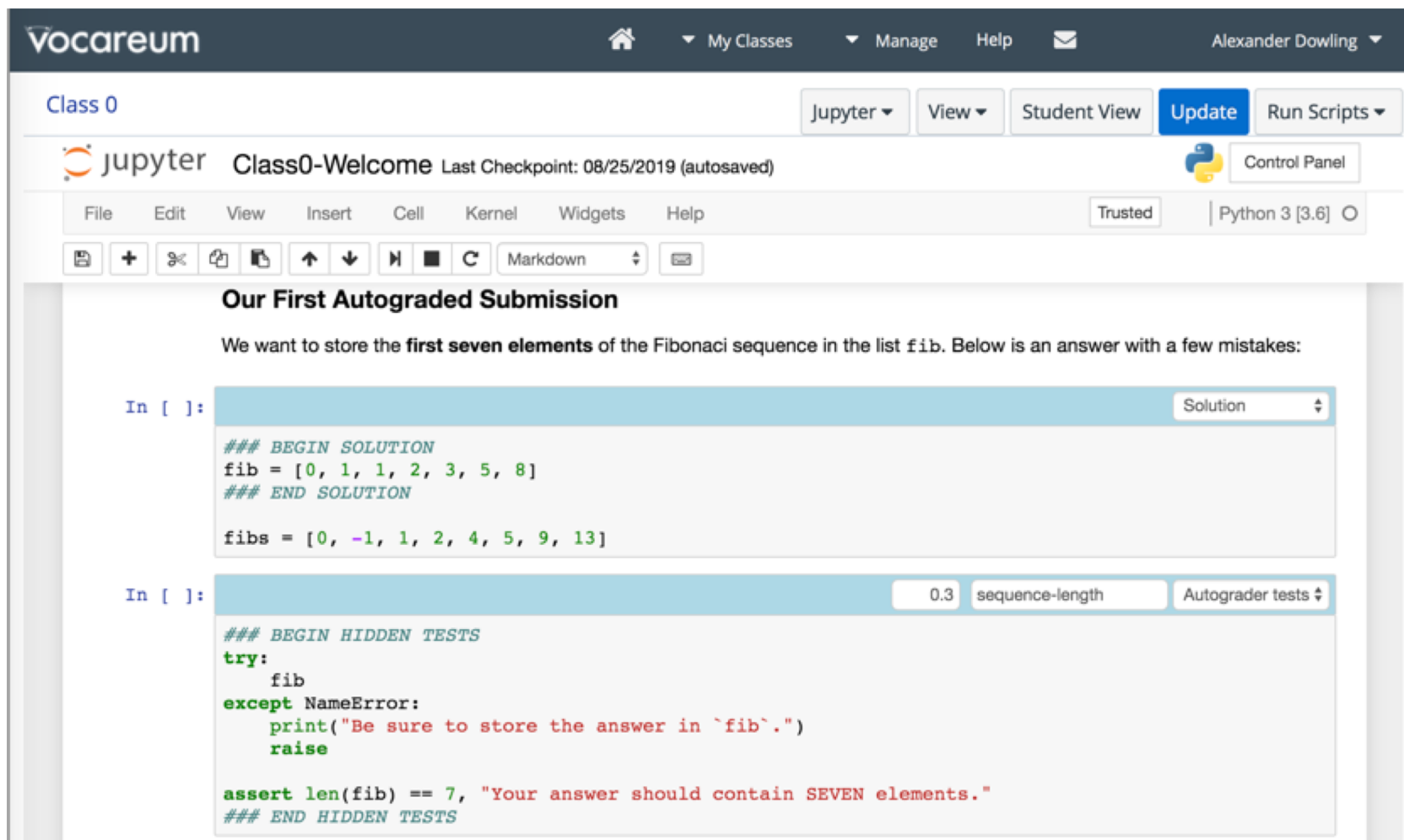
Many of the same cloud-based benefits as Colaboratory

Integrated with **Learning Management System** (e.g., Sakai) and gradebook

Supports **autograding** via nbgrader (with some enhancements)

Supports plagiarism detections (if you want it)

Paid service, but responsive technical support



The screenshot displays the Vocareum web interface for a Jupyter Notebook. The top navigation bar includes the Vocareum logo, a home icon, and links for 'My Classes', 'Manage', 'Help', and a user profile 'Alexander Dowling'. Below this, the notebook is titled 'Class 0' with buttons for 'Jupyter', 'View', 'Student View', 'Update', and 'Run Scripts'. The Jupyter interface shows a 'Class0-Welcome' header with a 'Last Checkpoint: 08/25/2019 (autosaved)' and a 'Control Panel' button. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Insert', 'Cell', 'Kernel', 'Widgets', and 'Help'. The toolbar shows various icons for file operations and execution. The main content area is titled 'Our First Autograded Submission' and contains a text prompt: 'We want to store the **first seven elements** of the Fibonacci sequence in the list `fib`. Below is an answer with a few mistakes:'. Below the prompt, there are two code input areas. The first area, labeled 'In []:', contains a solution snippet:

```
### BEGIN SOLUTION
fib = [0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8]
### END SOLUTION

fibs = [0, -1, 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 13]
```

. The second area, also labeled 'In []:', shows a hidden test snippet:

```
### BEGIN HIDDEN TESTS
try:
    fib
except NameError:
    print("Be sure to store the answer in `fib`.")
    raise

assert len(fib) == 7, "Your answer should contain SEVEN elements."
### END HIDDEN TESTS
```

. To the right of the second code area, there are buttons for '0.3', 'sequence-length', and 'Autograder tests'.

Fall 2019: Cloud-based Vocareum (Jupyter Notebooks)

www.vocareum.com

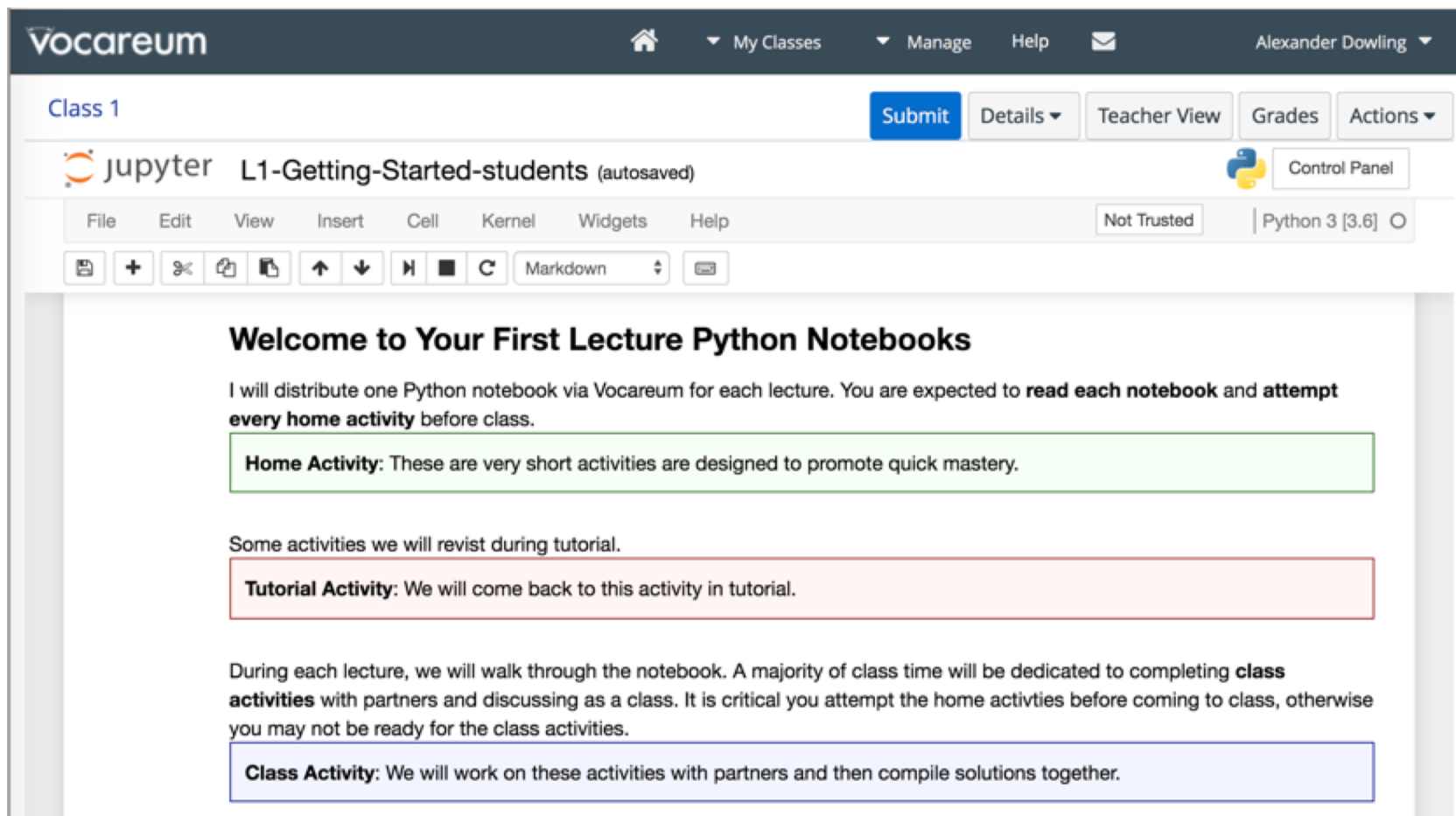
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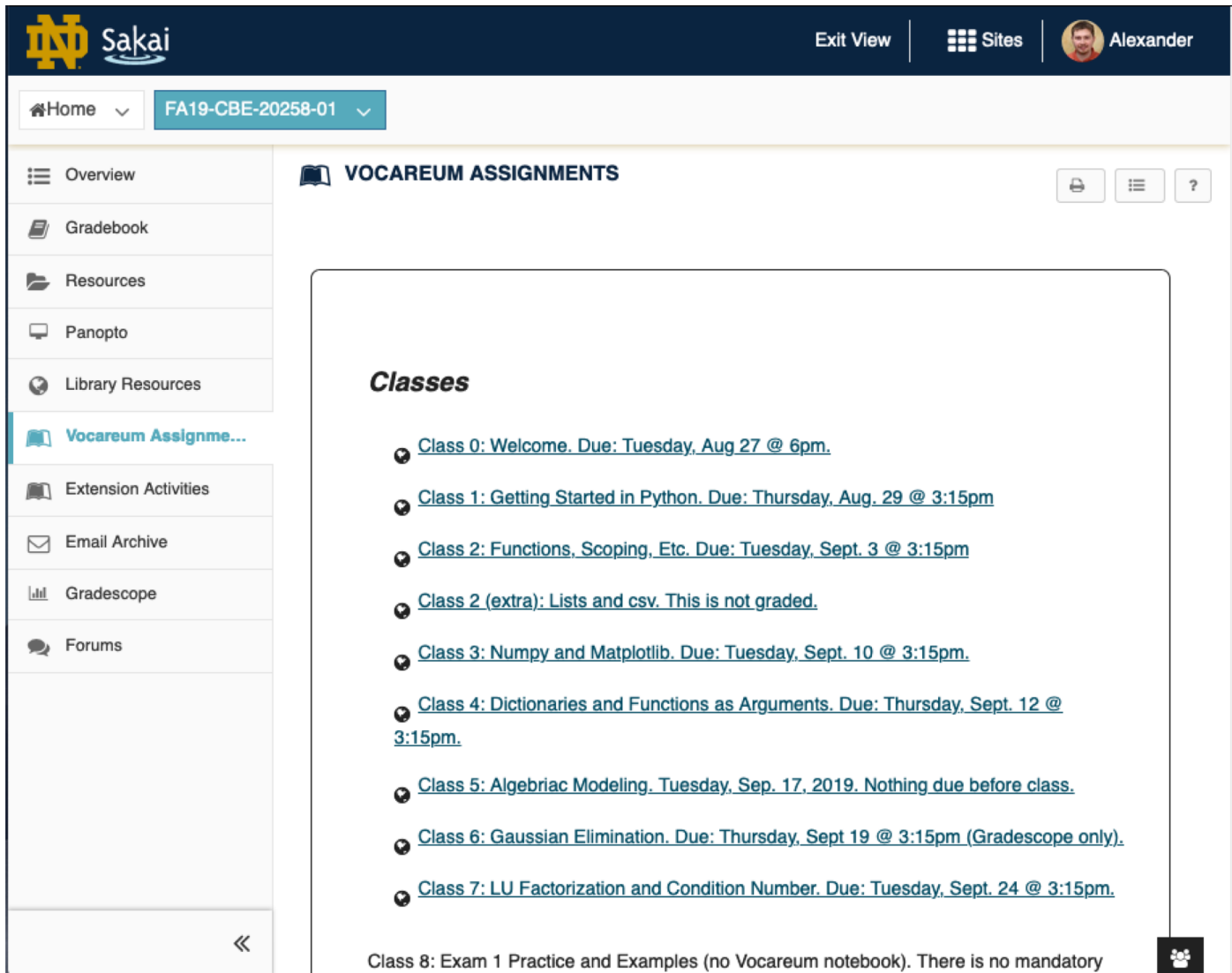
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The screenshot displays the Vocareum web interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Vocareum logo, a home icon, and links for 'My Classes', 'Manage', 'Help', and a user profile 'Alexander Dowling'. Below this, a 'Class 1' header is visible with buttons for 'Submit', 'Details', 'Teacher View', 'Grades', and 'Actions'. The main content area shows a Jupyter Notebook titled 'L1-Getting-Started-students (autosaved)'. The notebook's toolbar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Insert', 'Cell', 'Kernel', 'Widgets', and 'Help'. A 'Control Panel' button is on the right. The notebook content begins with a heading 'Welcome to Your First Lecture Python Notebooks' followed by a paragraph: 'I will distribute one Python notebook via Vocareum for each lecture. You are expected to **read each notebook** and **attempt every home activity** before class.' Below this, three colored boxes contain instructions: a green box for 'Home Activity' (short activities for mastery), a red box for 'Tutorial Activity' (reviewed during tutorial), and a blue box for 'Class Activity' (work with partners and compile solutions). The interface also shows a 'Not Trusted' warning and 'Python 3 [3.6]'.

Bottom Line: Autograder (Vocareum) enables accountability for meaningful home activities before class, which translates to more engaging class sessions.

Enabling Technologies: Sakai, Gradescope, Vocareum



The screenshot displays the Sakai LMS interface. At the top, the Sakai logo is on the left, and 'Exit View', 'Sites', and a user profile for 'Alexander' are on the right. Below the header, there's a navigation bar with 'Home' and a dropdown menu showing 'FA19-CBE-20258-01'. A left sidebar contains a menu with items: Overview, Gradebook, Resources, Panopto, Library Resources, Vocareum Assignme..., Extension Activities, Email Archive, Gradescope, and Forums. The main content area is titled 'VOCAREUM ASSIGNMENTS' and features a list of classes under the heading 'Classes'. Each class entry includes a checkmark icon and a link to the assignment page, along with its due date and time. The classes listed are Class 0 through Class 7. At the bottom of the list, it states 'Class 8: Exam 1 Practice and Examples (no Vocareum notebook). There is no mandatory'.

Classes

- Class 0: [Welcome. Due: Tuesday, Aug 27 @ 6pm.](#)
- Class 1: [Getting Started in Python. Due: Thursday, Aug. 29 @ 3:15pm](#)
- Class 2: [Functions, Scoping, Etc. Due: Tuesday, Sept. 3 @ 3:15pm](#)
- Class 2 (extra): [Lists and csv. This is not graded.](#)
- Class 3: [Numpy and Matplotlib. Due: Tuesday, Sept. 10 @ 3:15pm.](#)
- Class 4: [Dictionaries and Functions as Arguments. Due: Thursday, Sept. 12 @ 3:15pm.](#)
- Class 5: [Algebraic Modeling. Tuesday, Sep. 17, 2019. Nothing due before class.](#)
- Class 6: [Gaussian Elimination. Due: Thursday, Sept 19 @ 3:15pm \(Gradescope only\).](#)
- Class 7: [LU Factorization and Condition Number. Due: Tuesday, Sept. 24 @ 3:15pm.](#)

Class 8: Exam 1 Practice and Examples (no Vocareum notebook). There is no mandatory

Sakai provides a single access point to Gradescope & Vocareum

Home Activities

Either Vocareum (3/4) or Gradescope (1/4)

Problem Sets & Mini-Projects

Both platforms for each assignment

Vocareum: check answers

Gradescope: plots, discussion, pseudocode, derivations

Positive Impact:

- Reduced grading time
- Faster feedback to students
- Regular accountability

Vertical Integration: Opportunities and Challenges

Numerical Methods

Equation solving (thermo., separations)
Optimization (controls, design)
Numeric integration (transport, reactions)

Statistics and Data Analysis

Probability (physical chemistry)
Visualization
Regression
Error Analysis
Uncertainty Propagation

} labs

Challenges

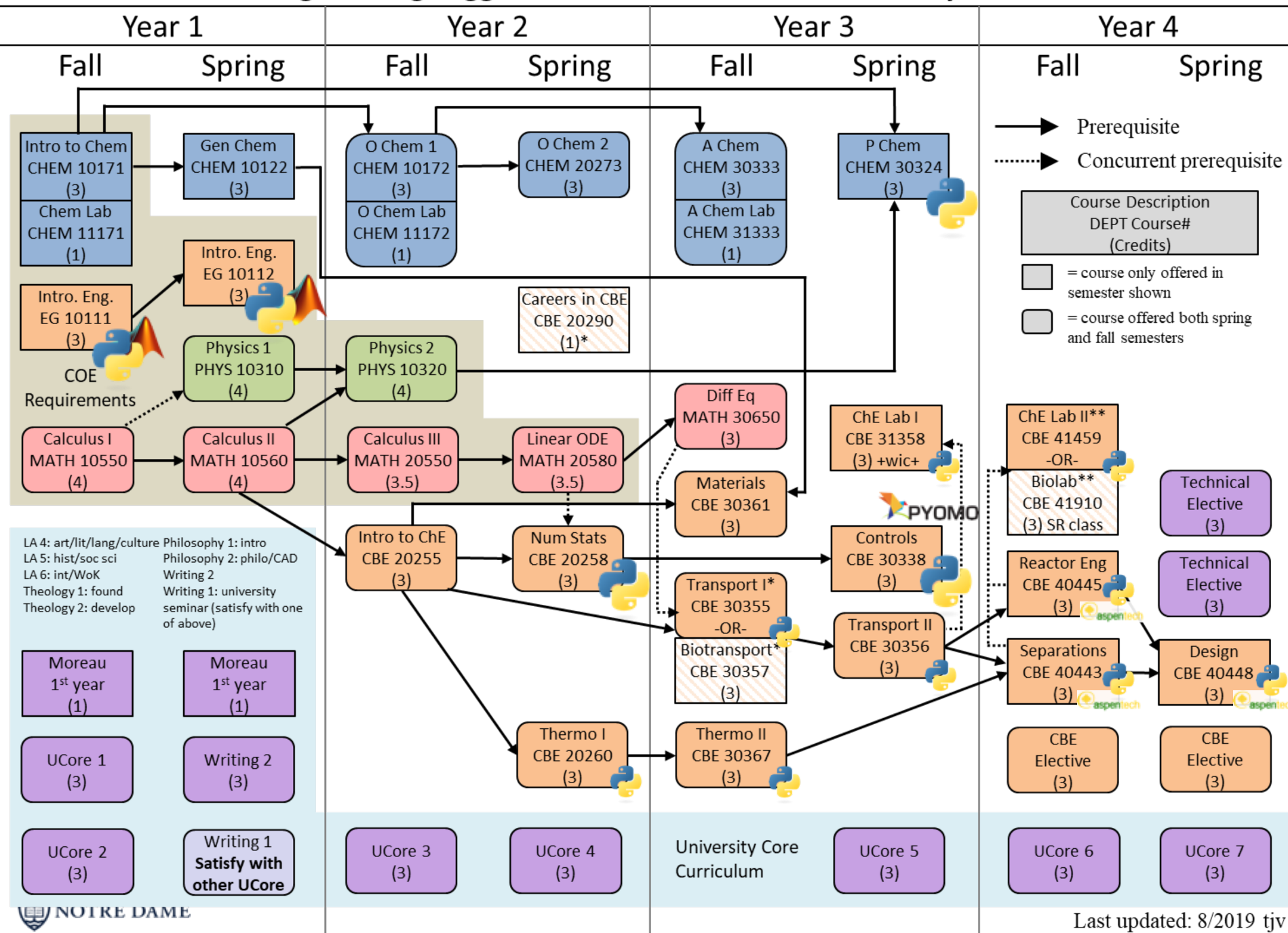
Difficult to learn advanced topics sophomore year (e.g., PDEs, BVPs)

“Brain drain” without repeated exposure

Common software tools?

How to avoid burdening all faculty?

Chemical Engineering Suggested 4 Year Curriculum University of Notre Dame



Vision

Vertically integrate computing and statistics throughout the undergraduate curriculum

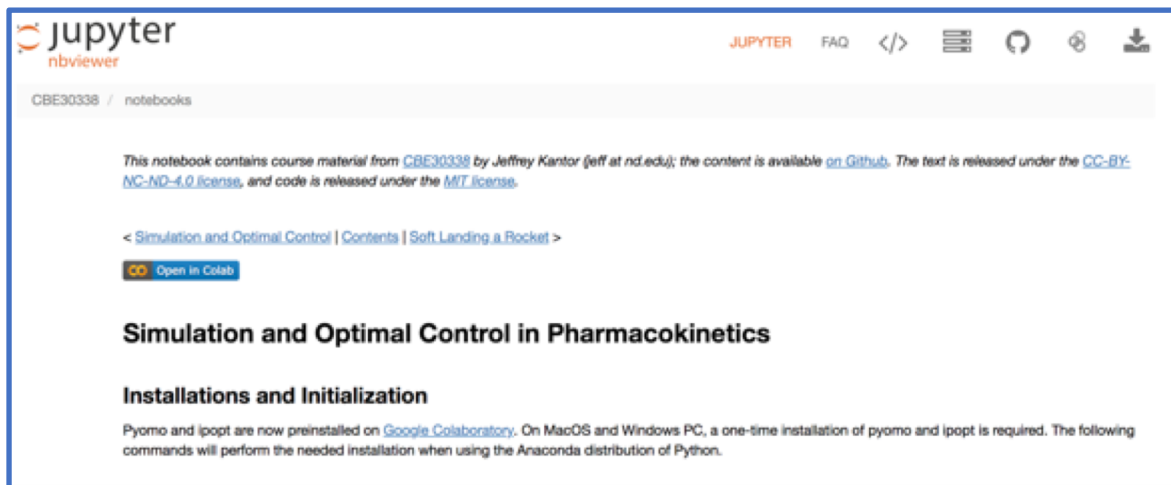
Library of Cloud-based Jupyter Notebooks

Complement existing core CBE classes with examples that use computing and statistics for problem solving

colab

vocareum

Special Thanks



<https://github.com/jckantor>

Chemical Process Control

Introduction to Chemical Engineering Analysis

Introduction to Operations Research

Process Operations

Prof. Jeff Kantor



Elvis Eugene

Kanishka Ghosh

Jialu Wang



Xian Gao

Bridgette Befort

Alejandro Garciadieago

Vocareum Pilot

Pat Miller

Xiaoqing Duan

Kaneb Center

Kevin Barry

Dan Hubert

Kristi Rudenga

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