

# Stanford University

## Winter 2025 Section Feedback

**Course:** W25-ME-335A-01: FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS  
**Instructor:** Hanfeng Zhai \*  
**Response Rate:** 22/23 (95.65 %)

1 - In what way did you interact with this instructor most?					
Hanfeng Zhai					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
In section meetings	(1)	5	23.81%		
In lab	(2)	0	0.00%		
During office hours	(3)	13	61.90%		
Via a class website	(4)	2	9.52%		
Email	(5)	0	0.00%		
In class	(6)	1	4.76%		
Other	(7)	0	0.00%		
Response Rate					
21/23 (91.30%)					

2 - During the quarter, about how many hours on average per week did you interact with this instructor in section, class, lab, office hours, and other meetings?						
Hanfeng Zhai						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
1	(1)	7	33.33%		3.00	
2	(2)	8	38.10%			
3	(3)	1	4.76%			
5	(5)	3	14.29%			
8	(8)	1	4.76%			
14	(14)	1	4.76%			
Response Rate				Mean		STD
21/23 (91.30%)				3.00	3.11	2.00

3 - How much did you learn from this instructor?						
Hanfeng Zhai						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
A great deal	(5)	16	76.19%		4.48	
A lot	(4)	2	9.52%			
A moderate amount	(3)	0	0.00%			
A little	(2)	3	14.29%			
Nothing	(1)	0	0.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
21/23 (91.30%)				4.48	1.08	5.00

4 - Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this instructor?						
Hanfeng Zhai						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Extremely effective	(5)	16	76.19%		4.57	
Very effective	(4)	2	9.52%			
Moderately effective	(3)	2	9.52%			
Slightly effective	(2)	1	4.76%			
Not effective at all	(1)	0	0.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
21/23 (91.30%)				4.57	0.87	5.00

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### 5 - What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve from this instructor?

**Hanfeng Zhai**

**Response Rate** 10/23 (43.48%)

- I improved upon my understanding in 1D, 2D variational problems as well as convergence.
- finite element
- Deep understanding of theoretical concepts
- How to solve more complex FEA problems efficiently
- The instructor should prepare us to solve the problems we are given. Throughout the quarter, that was fairly well covered. However, neither he nor the professor prepared us for the final exam scenario that was presented.
- Hanfeng helped me a lot in explaining complicated and unfamiliar course concepts in a easy to understand manner.
- The real question is what I didn't learn! Without Hanfeng I would have been very lost. Yes the textbook is great, and the lecture is mostly followable, but Hanfeng was able to answer all of the areas that I was uncertain about. He was always prepared, and went above and beyond every week. From holding extra office hours, to staying past his scheduled hours, to making himself available over slack he is definitely the best TA I have ever had (undergraduate or graduate). He is knowledgeable in this area and wants the students to succeed.
- Literally every bit of confusion I had with the course, whether it involved a homework problem, coding issue, confusion from the lectures, or had questions about the FEA qualification exam, Hanfeng would always be there to help and helped fill all the gaps in my knowledge of the course.
- Thanks to him, I learned important aspects of how to set up an FEA problem in a simulation, and he also clarified many concepts for me. I don't know how I would have managed to pass the class without consulting him.
- Hanfeng was very helpful in explaining the basics of the lectures and how to solve problems

### 6 - What aspects of this instructor's teaching were most helpful to you?

**Hanfeng Zhai**

**Response Rate** 10/23 (43.48%)

- Extremely helpful in explaining the big picture of homework problems as well as in depth information pertaining to the class. Went out of his way to help the students to understand and excel in this class,
- helpful knowledgeable patient
- Aspect 1: Rigorous mathematically Aspect 2: Very available, and ready to help Aspect 3: Knows the homework in details
- Always available to help students with homework and debugging code
- Clarity. Openness and Availability
- Homework help, conceptual explanation, giving helpful hints and guidance
- 1: Extremely approachable and easy going 2: Clearly a master with this content 3: Talented at conveying tough concepts in a more simple manner
- He was always willing to help with anything we needed, sometimes even meeting with me on days outside of scheduled office hours. He'd stay over an hour or sometimes two hours after office hours to help me and a few other students with our assignments. He also had a plethora of example problems he would use to help build our knowledge, and he hosted very helpful problem sessions each week.
- Aspect 1: Clear explanations of complex concepts. He would explain complex concepts done in class in a very easy way. He would also include examples during 'Problem session', to help us understand how to go through the concepts explained in class, in order to use them to solve the homework problems. Aspect 2: Support outside of class. Office hours and problem sessions were extremely beneficial for addressing doubts. He would also host a Zoom call time, the day before the homework due. You could see how he cared about the students and about their understanding of the subject. Aspect 3: Availability and kindness. He was always available to reply to my emails and to explain me concepts multiple times. His way of interacting with students was really polite and kind.
- problem sessions, practice problems, review of lecture material in more depth

### 7 - How can this instructor's teaching be improved?

**Hanfeng Zhai**

**Response Rate** 6/23 (26.09%)

- no room for improvement
- -
- Knowing more on the topic. Being more prepared to solve complex problems in the board.
- N/A. Thank you for all of your help this quarter!!
- I can't think of any ways for Hanfeng to have taught better! He did an amazing job as our TA.
- I think he's just great. I don't think the needs to improve something in his way of teaching.