

Machine Learning Practical 2017/18 semester 1, mid-semester survey

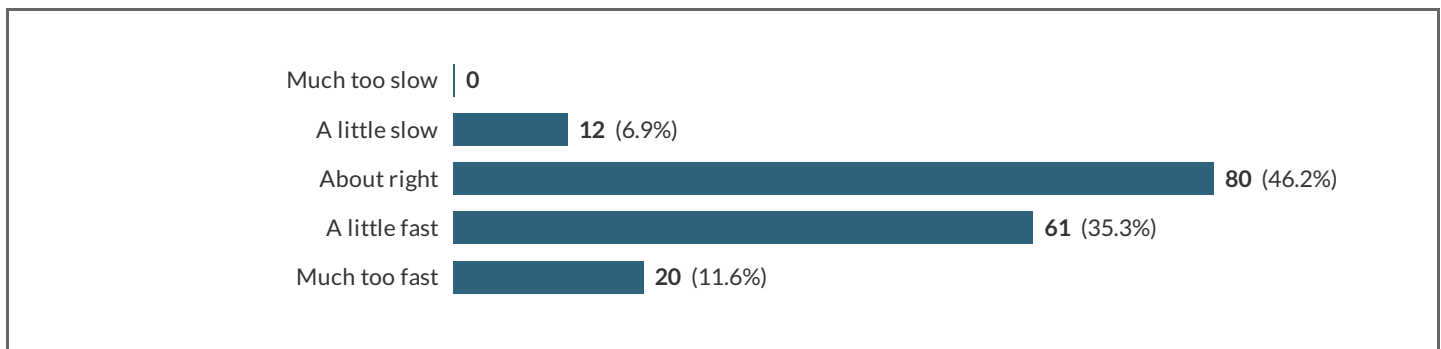
Showing 173 of 173 responses

Showing **all** responses

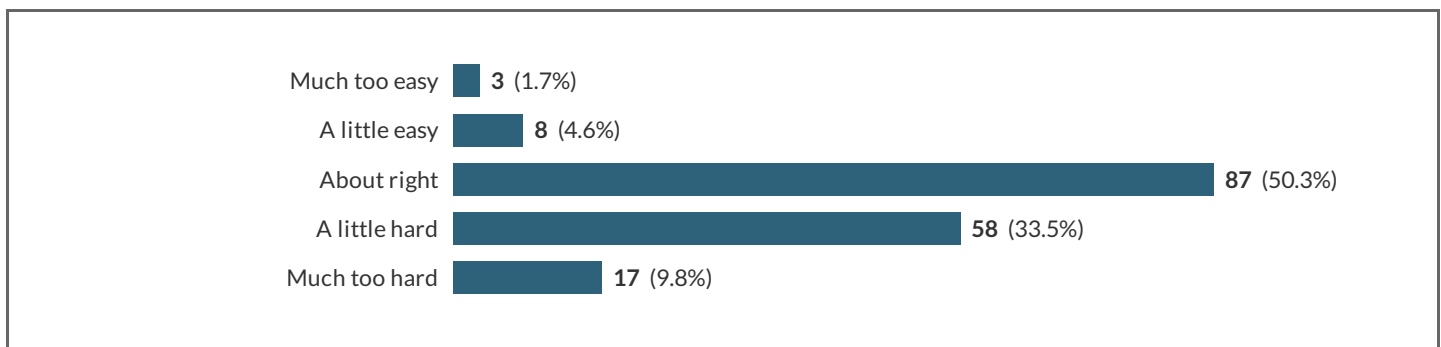
Hiding questions **1, 5 & 6**

Response rate: 49%

2 How was the overall pace of the course in semester 1?

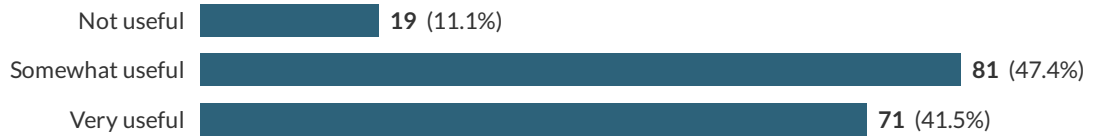


3 How did you find the overall content of the course in semester 1?

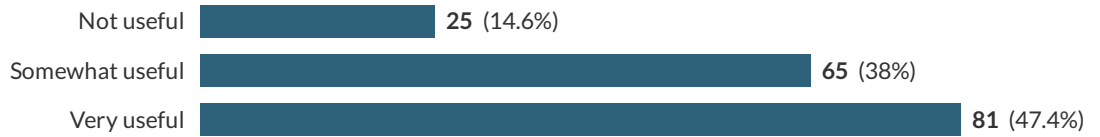


4 How useful were the following aspects of the MLP course?

4.1 Lectures



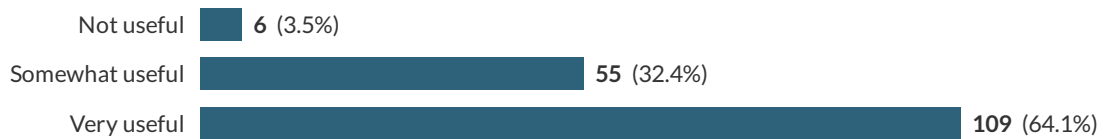
4.2 Lab sessions



4.3 Lecture recordings on the web



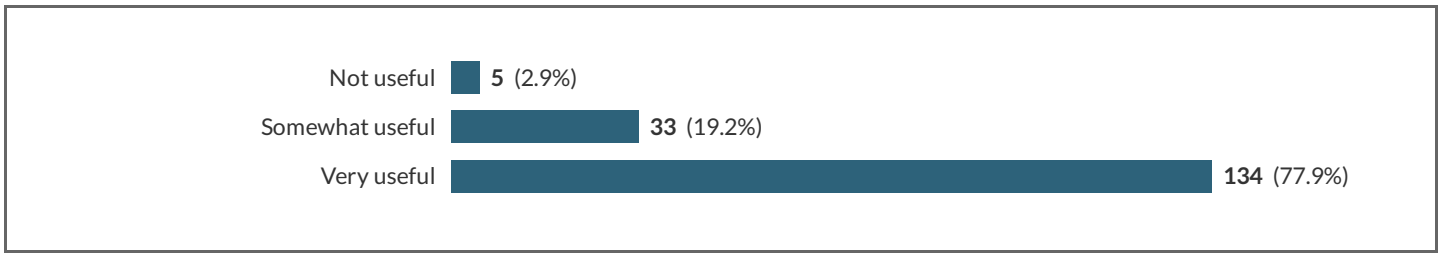
4.4 Lecture slides on the web



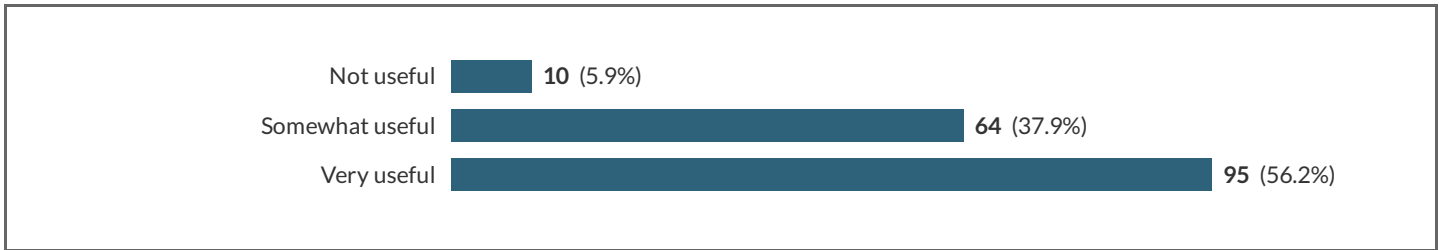
4.5 Recommended reading



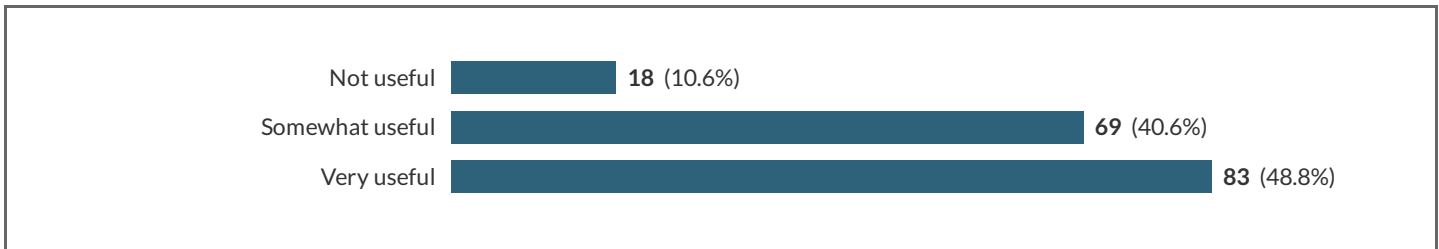
4.6 Lab notebooks (Jupyter)



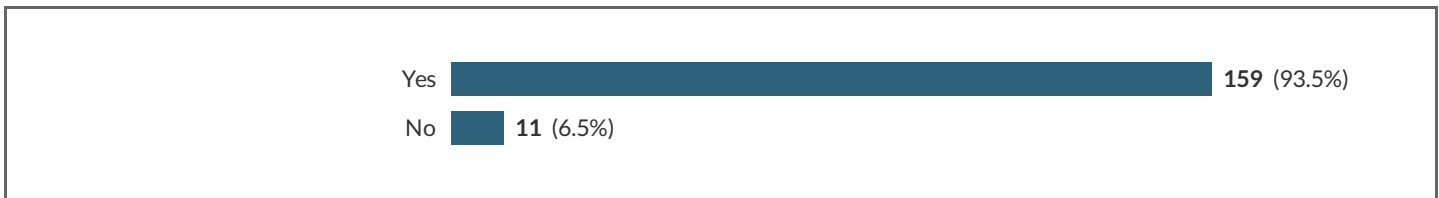
4.7 Github



4.8 Piazza



7 Would you recommend taking this course to someone next year?



MLP MID-SEMESTER SURVEY, SEMESTER 1 2017-18

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

1 November 2017

Content of course

positive (25)
needs more examples (4)
too much (4)
too much maths (4)
combine lectures and notebooks (4)
more introductory material needed (5)

Notebooks

positive (13)
too easy, just filling in little bits, rather than writing the whole thing (5)

Labs generally

positive (24)
need more lab sessions (5)

Practical focus

positive (9)
negative

Lectures

positive (12)
too fast (6)
don't like style (3)

Lecture recordings

positive (9)

Assignment

positive (3)
MNIST too easy (3)

Reading

positive (7)
too much (4)
too little (1)

Infrastructure

like git (2)
dislike git (4)

There are one or two interesting suggestions that I would like to comment on further:

“Combine the lectures and jupiter notebooks”. This is a very interesting suggestion. At the moment they are loosely tied, although I do hope the link between them is clear. I'll look into how we might make the connection closer. I can also consider linking a bit more between the material covered in lectures and the codebase.

“This is advertised as the practical and more real-life machine learning course, rather in contrast to the other theoretical courses offered. However, as it turns out from the first assignment, the emphasis of the course is on report writing (rather than coding), which is fine from a research perspective, however, as a student looking for practical skills for the actual industry, this is uninteresting and not that useful.” I understand this point of view, but disagree with it for two main reasons: (1) practical machine learning isn't just about the code, but also concerns signing

experiments, testing hypotheses, drawing conclusions - i.e. the “why” as well as the “how” - and the assignments through the course try to address that; (2) be able to communicate what you have done, why you did it, and what you learned is extremely important in many areas, not just academic research.

“Introductory session or a workshop of some kind on using GitHub and its applications.” I wish we had done this, particularly as it would impact several courses. Too late for this year but we could certainly do it next year: my initial list of things includes git, bash, numpy, conda. Please let me know if you have any suggestions.

“So it will be nice if there's a guide for some prereading before the first week started, just to give a brief starting point for students who lacks the background but interested in the course.” This is a good suggestion, I'll do it for next year.