

Informatics Student Course Feedback 2017/18

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/surveys/2017-18>

This report contains feedback from students about a course taught in the School of Informatics during the 2017/18 academic year, in response to the following questions:

- What would you say to students interested in taking this course?
- What did you find most valuable about the course?
- What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?
- Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

Each course organiser receives this report as well as statistics on multiple-choice responses. All these reports, together with student feedback about individual members of teaching staff, are collected and sent to the Director of Learning and Teaching.

Please note that these are personal responses from individual students: some courses only have a few responses and a small sample can be unrepresentative.

Stereotyping and bias, especially unconscious bias, is a serious concern in any survey gathering personal responses. All students received the rubric below before completing the surveys, and you can read a brief introduction to issues of unconscious bias on the university web pages at <http://edin.ac/2iypZBv>

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Rubric given to all students taking the end-of-course feedback survey

We value your opinions on the courses you take here at the University, as they allow us to shape future delivery and development. We welcome constructive comments about your courses, whether positive or negative, and ask you to give details about any issues in order to help the course organiser to understand and address them.

We encourage you to be aware of the potential for bias in the completion of these questionnaires, so we have developed resources which may be helpful to you:

- Equality, Diversity and Unconscious Bias (<http://edin.ac/2iypZBv>)

You also have a responsibility to provide feedback in a manner which does not breach the University's Dignity and Respect Policy:

- University of Edinburgh Dignity and Respect Policy (<http://edin.ac/1Cq0VZY>)

The results of the questionnaires will never be analysed in a way that seeks to identify individual students from their responses. However, should you wish to remain anonymous, please do not identify yourself in your answers to the survey questionnaire implicitly or explicitly.

Comments Report

What advice would you give to a student taking this course in future?

- If you haven't taken Speech Processing, review materials from that course if possible. It's highly relevant.
- Take speech processing as a pre-requisite.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Doing the assignment.
- Great lectures, the lectures were interesting, readings were relevant and helped better understand the material covered.
- Some pointers to state-of-art research questions.
- Working through the coursework was frustrating (because Kaldi is frustrating), but it really helped solidify the material that was covered in class

Comments Report

What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?

- I hasn't really improved my understanding of asr beyond the content covered in speech processing in semester 1, apart from adding a bit of extra maths, and some neural network content that is repeated from other informatics courses this semester.
- I really dislike the idea of using last year's video capture to make up for the strike. Each year, the research in this field changes and advances quickly. Considering the aim of this course, last year's material was somehow out of date. Bit of irresponsible to do so as either lecturer or the university.
- I would prefer having two assignments for 50% and final exam for another 50%.
- Labs should have more tasks, instead of just typing (or copying/pasting) commands. There should also be more labs. Kaldi and its documentation are very confusing.
- The coursework did not really improve my understanding of any aspect of ASR. Kaldi feels very much like a black box still, so I couldn't really do much that was interesting with it. It didn't enhance my learning any more than the readings had. There were a few instances where Hiroshi asked if we had any questions, and then when someone had one, just said "OK we don't have time for that" and moved on, even though the questions were directly related to what he had just presented. It was frustrating.
- Tutoring sessions with exercises would be helpful because we don't really know what to expect for the exam

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- The tutors for this course were really, really helpful. However, the labs were mostly just copying commands into Kaldi and I didn't find that very helpful for learning about ASR.
- We should have covered the alignment step in Kaldi before the coursework as it was relevant for gender dependent models.