

DM582, Spring 2026

comments on the midterm evaluation

Kim Skak Larsen

March 16, 2026

On March 16, 2026, we conducted a midterm evaluation of DM582, Advanced Algorithms, taught by Kim Skak Larsen. The evaluation consisted of a multiple-choice questionnaire (attached at the end), with a separate questionnaire for the TAs. In addition, there was a free-text suggestion opportunity, where students could write any statement on the blackboard during the break (while the lecturer was away), followed by up- or down-voting by fellow students, but it wasn't used.

Overall Brief Summary

In general, the students think that although

- earlier courses have established reasonably good prerequisites,
- the course is pretty hard,
- but also quite interesting,
- and that it's taught well by the lecturer/TA team.

In Greater Detail

Here follows some comments based on my impressions from the multiple-choice questionnaire (attached below).

- *Most students think earlier courses have prepared them reasonably well for this course.*

It should be added that 15% of the students disagree. However, the results on this issue is better than last year, and we believe this is due to assuming less with regards to discrete probability theory, teaching that early in this course, and taking a one-week break to process this before applying it.

- *The course is hard but interesting.*

This is not too surprising. The students have learned about proofs in discrete math but it's the first time they really have to do proofs and apply proof techniques in more complicated settings. To some extent, this probably reflects that a proof can be very convincing and intuitive when presented but it's another matter to start the process yourself. The fact that students mostly find the course material interesting will hopefully help students to get the energy and spend the necessary time to get into "proof mode".

- *Most students like the teaching form using the blackboard, but 31% would have preferred slides.*

Actually, 23% of the students *always* prefer slides, independent of which kind of course it is. So, most other students prefer the blackboard for this particular course.

- *The students think that the lecturer and the TA do a good job explaining the material.*

We're always super prepared and have spent time thinking about the pedagogical aspects individually, as well as together at the TA meeting, so it's good to hear that it works!

I don't want to make the TA evaluations public, but I'm happy to say that all marks were in the "Good" or "To the good side" categories.

Thank you for participating in the evaluation.

The Multiple-Choice Questionnaire

Midterm Evaluation: DM582, Spring 2026

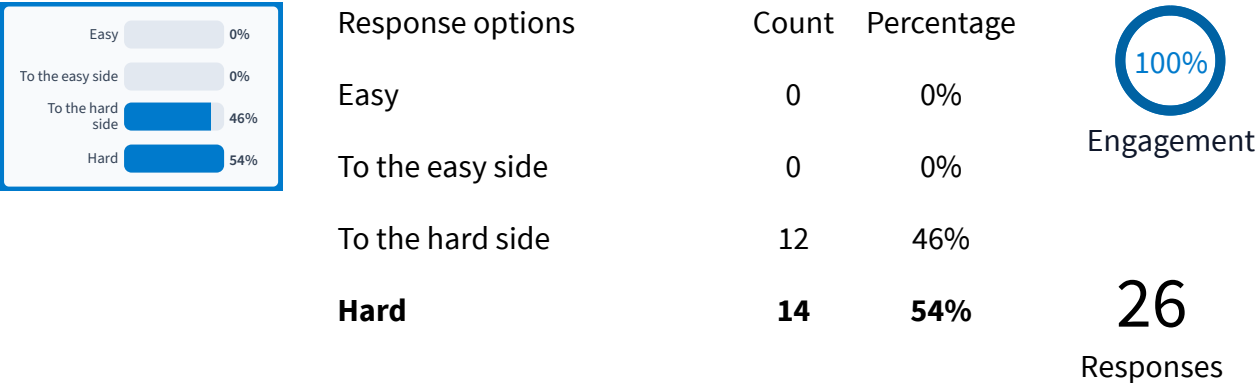
Presented by: Kim Skak Larsen
Current run (last updated Mar 16, 2026 1:35pm)



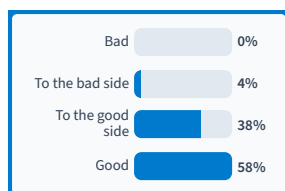
Prerequisites: How do you feel your earlier courses have prepared you for this course?



Difficulty: How difficult do you perceive the course?



Lecturer Communication: How good or bad is the lecturer's abilities to explain the material?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Bad	0	0%
To the bad side	1	4%
To the good side	10	38%
Good	15	58%

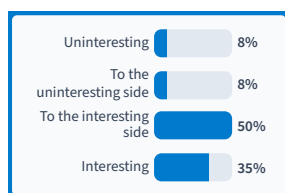


Engagement

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Responses

Interest: How interesting do you find the topics so far?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Uninteresting	2	8%
To the uninteresting side	2	8%
To the interesting side	13	50%
Interesting	9	35%

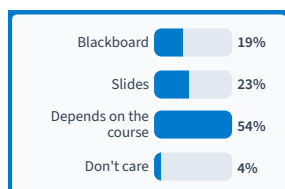


Engagement

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Responses

Media: For courses in general (don't focus on this course; the next question will do that), do you prefer blackboard teaching or slides?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Blackboard	5	19%
Slides	6	23%
Depends on the course	14	54%
Don't care	1	4%

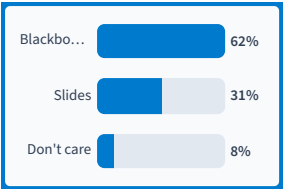


Engagement

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Responses

For this course, do you think you would prefer blackboard or slides?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Blackboard	16	62%
Slides	8	31%
Don't care	2	8%

100%

Engagement

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Responses