

DM582, Spring 2024

comments on the midterm evaluation

Kim Skak Larsen

March 20, 2024

On March 19, 2024, we conducted a midterm evaluation of DM582, Advanced Algorithms, taught by Kim Skak Larsen with TA Mads Anker Nielsen.

The evaluation consisted of a multiple-choice questionnaire (attached at the end) and a Q&A free text evaluation, where students could write any statement which could then be up- or down-voted by fellow students.

Overall Brief Summary

In general, the students think

- the course is hard,
- partly because of lack of training with prerequisites,
- but also find the course interesting,
- and that it's taught well.

In Greater Detail

Some comments based on my impressions from the multiple-choice questionnaire (attached below) and the responses to the free text contributions.

- *Most students like the teaching form using the blackboard, but a fairly large minority would have preferred slides.*

Actually, it seems the great majority would prefer blackboard teaching but also having access to slides as a convenient summary of a lecture.

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

We are always super prepared and have spend time thinking about the pedagogical aspects, so it's good to hear that it works!

- *The students emphasize that it's hard to do the exercises.*

I think it's related to the following.

- *The students don't think they know enough probability theory to easily understand the material.*

Though I don't use any probability theory, discrete math, or algebra that hasn't been on the curriculum in earlier courses, it seems that maybe the material has not been learned all that well. I will discuss this with colleagues to get a clearer picture of how these topics are taught and what can be done to make students more comfortable with them.

- *The students think the TA is fantastic.*

Great to hear!

- *The students would like more information about the exam.*

Coming up soon!

Thanks for participating in the evaluation.

The Multiple-Choice Questionnaire

Midterm Evaluation

Presented by: Kim Skak Larsen

Current run (last updated Mar 19, 2024 2:51pm)

7

Activities

34

Participants

34

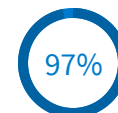
Average responses



Average engagement

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

		Response options	Count	Percentage
Unsatisfactorily	12%	Unsatisfactorily	4	12%
To the unsatisfactorily side	30%	To the unsatisfactorily side	10	30%
To the satisfactorily side	45%	To the satisfactorily side	15	45%
Satisfactorily	12%	Satisfactorily	4	12%



Engagement

33

Responses

Difficulty: How difficult do you perceive the course?

		Response options	Count	Percentage
Easy	3%	Easy	1	3%
To the easy side	3%	To the easy side	1	3%
To the hard side	53%	To the hard side	18	53%
Hard	41%	Hard	14	41%



Engagement

34

Responses

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

		Response options	Count	Percentage
Bad	0%	Bad	0	0%
To the bad side	12%	To the bad side	4	12%
To the good side	47%	To the good side	16	47%
Good	41%	Good	14	41%



Engagement

34

Responses

TA Communication: How good or bad are the TA's abilities to explain the material?

		Response options	Count	Percentage
Bad	0%	Bad	0	0%
To the bad side	0%	To the bad side	0	0%
To the good side	52%	To the good side	17	52%
Good	48%	Good	16	48%



Engagement

33

Responses

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

		Response options	Count	Percentage
Uninteresting	0%	Uninteresting	0	0%
To the uninteresting side	24%	To the uninteresting side	8	24%
To the interesting side	47%	To the interesting side	16	47%
Interesting	29%	Interesting	10	29%



Engagement

34

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	Blackboard	3	9%
Slides	Slides	13	38%
Depends on the course	Depends on the course	17	50%
Don't care	Don't care	1	3%



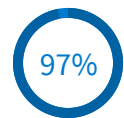
Engagement

34

Responses

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

	Response options	Count	Percentage
Blackbo...	Blackboard	15	45%
Slides	Slides	14	42%
Don't care	Don't care	4	12%



Engagement

33

Responses