Course Title: NAT-DL

Response to student feedback in 2018/19 course survey

I have taken note of the feedback from students in this course survey, and have the following comments in response.

- It felt a little ad-hoc at the beginning, although I understand that this was a new course. Could definitely be polished up a little but in general the structure was ok. I liked the breadth of the content.

  Thank you for the comment. The course will definitely be improved in its second year, but it should also be considered that Natural Computing is by no means a homogeneous field, it consists of a large number of seemingly unrelated algorithms and it does take some effort (that is, a few lectures) to understand the common theme within this field that is both fascinating and multifarious.

- I had no time to attend the live sessions

  This is a pity. While questions for the class room sessions could also be sent by e-mail with the answers being available in the recordings, the on-line tutorial was flexibly timed according to the availability of the students, and it offered also time for questions. There are several ways to study with good success on this course, but I agree that it is difficult if there is no time for a weekly engagement.

- The quizzes were good and forced you to fill in blanks in your knowledge/understanding

  Thank you for the comment. It is good to hear that the quizzes worked well. I will try to make them a bit easier and to choose from a larger set of questions (though the number of questions that will be asked will stay the same).

- Also, the quality of the videos was at times very poor.

  A large part of the videos will be re-recorded.

- There should be more practical aspects to the course.

  Point taken, thank you very much. We will provide more sample programs as part of the tutorials, such that the numerical exercises can be solved with less effort. Nevertheless, practical experience requires also own activity, time and passion.

Michael Herrmann, 20/05/19