Course Title: NAT

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.

- Plan ahead because there is no real lecture and it can be hard in terms of time management.

  This is always a great idea. The delivery will be a bit different this year, as certain key aspects are going to be taught in class (also on video, no worries) and there will be another hour for inverse-classroom-style discussions.

- It's a fun and easy course.

  Not sure whether this is what is expected from efficient M.Sc.-level teaching, so it might become a tiny bit harder, hoping it still will be fun, but as a 10-point it should consume less of your time than other courses.

- The tutorials were too short!

  The tutorials are held not to explain the exercises, but to check the solutions (and to explain only if necessary). So either before the tutorial some work is required or after the tutorials in order check the hints for solutions provided.

- Unfortunately, the videos were of bad quality.

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

- A more coherent structure for readings may help significantly.

  I'll definitely try to improve this. However, this is partly due to a problem of the field itself: There are no textbooks that actually give an insight why and how natural-computing algorithms work (other than going through a description of their definition).

- [The inverse-classroom hours] end up being mostly silent, not a lot of questions are proposed by the students. Partly because students can't keep up with the content and, also understandably, because it's hard to come up with questions.

  This is a very useful comment, although it is not how I remember the meetings (I did attend them all). You are right that there was not much discussion among the students, instead some students were asking (most of the time really good) questions and the lecturer tried to give an answer (hopefully similarly good). Keeping up with the content was necessary in this course if you choose to answer the quizzes, which most students did. Also the quizzes gave many ideas what questions to ask.

- Furthermore, sometimes I felt a bit overflowed by material because there was an email from Learn every day saying that new quizzes, tutorials, slides etc. are available
- Sometimes there are no notifications in learn when new content is added.

  no comment

Michael Herrmann, 20/05/19