FNLP as 10 credit course – S. Goldwater

I'd like to add an agenda item for FNLP, to make it fit the 10pt workload model, which requires very little change (just changing th number of assignments from two to one). Bjoern said the following information is sufficient for this item:

Rationale for FNLP as 10 points:

I am currently teaching FNLP for the first time, so haven't seen it all the way through, but based on the planned lectures, labs, and assignments (which are largely similar to last year), I believe the course is very close to the workload model for a 10 point course, and I would argue to keep it that way. Several factors lead me to think
so:

- Although only a very small sample of last year's students filled out the course survey (5 out of about 50), four of these put "strongly agree" that the workload is manageable.

- There are two lecture hours per week for nine weeks, but the amount of new material covered is very reasonable. Two of the lectures are the intro and review sessions, and four or five of the other lectures are revisiting material they have seen in previous courses (mainly inf2a, also a bit from inf2b), just adding some new context, motivation, and examples that they would not have been ready for in the earlier courses.

- There are weekly labs that are very manageable (designed for a 1-hour lab slot) and feed rather directly into the assessed work.

The only aspect at the moment that doesn't follow the workload model is that there are two assessed assignments (again, both very manageable). It would be straightforward to reduce that to one assessed assignment. I would probably convert part of the other one to a formative assessment, since there is an automarker available for some of the questions and it would be possible to hold a feedback session after doing the automarking if students have questions about the solutions or their implementation.

--AuH2O