

# Neural Information Processing (NIP)

Response to student feedback in 2018/19 course survey

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

- Mathematics: As also explained in the course description, students will get most out of this course if they have a good command of basic analysis and algebra. In the past, much of the content was taught on the whiteboard, but as this cannot be recorded in most lecture venues, some of the derivations were moved to slides. In future incarnations of the course I will use the document camera more. I will also provide additional exercises, with solutions covered in later sessions. Many of the techniques shown here are very useful in machine learning problems, and I plan to dedicate more time to explaining derivations in full.
- Cohesion and flow: There is a common thread in the material covered, which I will try to make more clear by re-arranging some of the content, and explaining this more clearly in the lectures.
- Exam questions: Exams will test understanding of the concepts and models covered in the course, at a higher level, and through relatively easy mathematical analysis. The additional exercises I plan to give will help to better prepare for the latter.
- Further material: I will ensure all slides contain clear pointers to the relevant book chapters.
- Finally, I am happy about the positive, encouraging feedback, and believe this is a good basis to further improve the course. Student questions during the lectures are most valuable, as this gives me immediate feedback about the pace of the presentation.

**Matthias Hennig, 26. June 2019**