

Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition (MLPR)

Response to student feedback in 2019/20 course survey

The vast majority of student feedback was positive. In particular, students highlighted the lectures, the lecture notes, the tutorials, the Hypothesis system for discussions and the lecturers being available for questions after lectures. We thank all students providing feedback in the survey and in the class during the year.

The vast majority of responses also advise you to look at what the class is, and work out whether you should actually take it. We will continue to listen to feedback, and do what we can to teach the wide variety of students that machine learning attracts. However, this class is not for everyone.

Before the start of the course in 2020/21, please try to look at the background material in the notes on the [course website](#), and work out if MLPR is a good fit for you.

Given the COVID-19 crisis, MLPR will transition to hybrid teaching in 2020/21. Instead of having a mainly exam-based assessment like in previous years, we will have regular assessed hand-ins and a time-limited class test. As before, many of the assignments/questions are technical/mathematical and conceptual, which some students find disproportionately hard. We also find less time for practical details and case studies than other courses. There are other, more practical machine learning courses on offer; please take those if that is what you want.

In their comments for improvements, many students suggested to have more feedback and more time for tutorials. We will take these suggestions into account when adapting the course for hybrid teaching. In particular, we will have in-notes feedback to questions and we will restructure tutorials.

Given the transition to hybrid teaching, please keep an eye on the [course website](#) for the latest updates.

Iain Murray and Arno Onken, August 2020