Course Report AS7003 VT17

. Teacher

Teacher

Markus Janson (assistant: Johannes Puschnig)

. Number of students who took the exam

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11

. Number of students who passed the course

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10

. Description of changes since the previous time the course was given.

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A stronger emphasis was placed on statistical concepts, since this is the area that has been most challenging to students in previous years. The detector lecture was updated to reflect recent developments.

. What are the course's strong points according to the students (summary based on the numerical results as well as their free text answers)

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The numerical evaluations were particularly positive regarding receiving constructive feedback and understanding what was being taught. Several students expressed enthusiasm over the opportunity for hands-on work with observations and data analysis from the AlbaNova telescope.

. What are the course's weak points according to the students (summary based on the numerical results as well as their free text answers)

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The course covers a lot of material in little time. Some students expressed that they would have liked more information /exercises directly related to preparations for the exam.

. The teacher's analysis of the course

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Overall satisfaction is good, and it is clear from both the evaluations and student interactions in general that courses involving hands-on observational exercises are highly sought after by the students. Meanwhile, it is also clear that the course as a whole, and the book in particular, are comparatively extensive for a 7.5p course. On one hand, this does not seem to be a big problem in practice -- the students did quite well on the exam, and according to the evaluation they understood what was being taught, while they also do not seem to have spent more working hours on this course than other courses on average. Nonetheless, there is probably room for optimising the course structure in order to appear a bit less intimidating in terms of extent.

. Conclusions as well as suggestions for improvements

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I will revise the course introduction to spend more attention on the course scope and the examination. I am also considering the option of reducing the material related to Chapter 4 (on catalogues and data bases) in order to save up some space for the other topics.