

Analysis of the course SI1162 given in spring 2020

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The course attracted about 40 students in total (new students and the students that took this course in the shape SI1161 and SI1162 in the past years). Provided the course is elective, the number of students is rather high. However, given the importance of statistical physics in the frame of physics curricula the number of students could be higher. Certain action towards better advertising might be needed.

The number of students who failed the examination is under 15 percent which is considered to be normal. The attendance of students at lectures and problem solving events could be higher. On the past occasions when the course was compulsory and the level of students on average was lower, the accent was taken on the technical issues. The lectures and problem solving concentrated around conceptual and technically difficult problems. We, so to speak, digged deeper. The students who came for the elective course have higher mathematical and physical background. The demand is mostly on the breadth rather on the depth.

The textbook is sufficient for these students to get a deeper understanding by self studies. The lecture (and to some extent problem solving) have to concentrate on the putting the subject of the lecture in a broader perspective. I am currently exploring whether a complementary (secondary textbook) could be recommended as a supplementary materials. From the discussion with the students and the course board members such corrections will be met favorably.

Comparably minor issue (yet important) was lecturing technique - it has to be more systematic and comprehensible for students.