Course analysis SI1336, 2021 HT

COURSE ORGANISATION

Course responsible and teacher: Berk Hess
Assistants: Michele Pellegrino, Anton Jansen
6 lectures, whole class, 2 hours each (in English)
4 seminars, 8 groups, 1 hour each (in English)
5 räknestugor, each 2 hours
Final project submission online, deadline December 21 2021 or January 24 2022

RESULTS

149 students registered
Results as of 2021-02-19:
PRO1: 120 students submitted at least 1 report out of 4, 108 students passed
PRO2: A: 44, B: 32, C: 13, D: 3, E: 5, Fx: 6 (97 out of 103 submissions passed)
Course: 92 passed

WORKLOAD

From the kursenkät, that unfortunately had a very low response rate, the overall workload in the course did not seem to be too high for most students. When talking with students and the kursnämnd directly, however, it was clear that the first assignment took too much time for many students. This should be addressed for the next round. Like last year, there were few issues do to clashes with other courses. There was one moment that overlapped, but that was adjusted, which was much appreciated by the students.

WEEKLY PROJECTS

There are 4 “weekly” projects. Students present their results during seminars lead by the assistants. The previous year it was clear that the seminars were much less effective over Zoom in learning, in particular, what mistakes one can make. This year which in person seminars the level was back to normal again.
After complaints from the students during previous years that the seminars were too repetitive, it was decided to halve the seminar time for the students to one hour and halve the group size. This setup works much better as there is less repeating and the smaller groups stimulate interaction.
An issue with the questions in the weekly assignments is that many of them are taken from the course book which often have confusing formulations. Also there are a few errors and unclarities in parameters. It might be worth considering rewriting all assignments that are taken from the course book.

PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

For this round all (Python) templates were made more object oriented. This was appreciated by the students. The object orienting makes it much easier to loop over different parameter settings. But there is a trade-off as the objects make the code more difficult to understand. Documentation is present to explain the philosophy of the templates. Still it make take less time, and also be instructive, for students to write their own code from scratch for a few simple assignments, as was the case.

RÄKNESTUGOR

The räknestugor, one for each weekly assignment and two for the final project, showed low attendance. But the students attending were very satisfied with them. The kursnämnd suggested to advertise the räknestugor better, as many students might not be aware of the feedback on the assignments they can get there, as well as feedback on more general questions about simulation and modelling.

FINAL PROJECT

The final projects ran smoothly. The level of the reports was back to that from before the pandemic.

COURSE ASSISTANTS

The two course assistants did a very good job, but complained that their workload was far too high. With the current number of students four assistants are required.