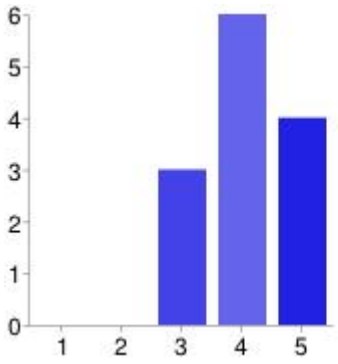
structMetrics 2013: Class Survey

What grade would you give this class?



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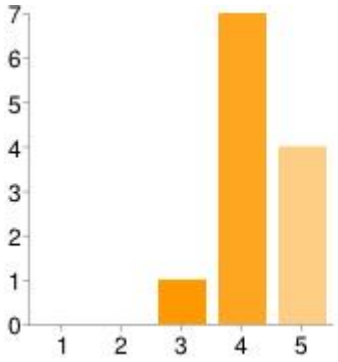
Relative to your other classes, how useful was this course?



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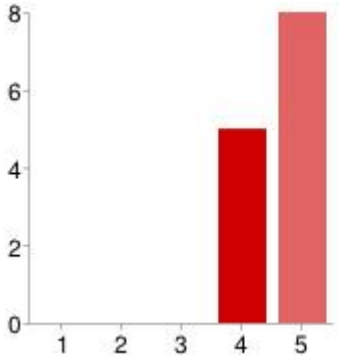
4	**7**	58%
5	**4**	33%

If you dropped the class, what were the main motivations for that decision?

I do not expect to use much python programming.

Philipp Eisenhauer Feedback

Was Philipp organized?



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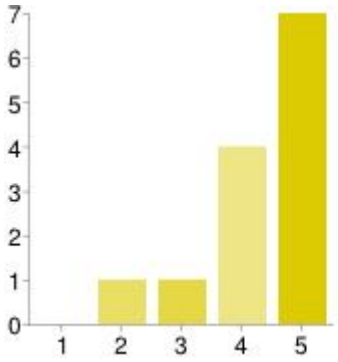
4	**5**	38%
5	**8**	62%

Did Philipp clearly explain the objectives of the course?



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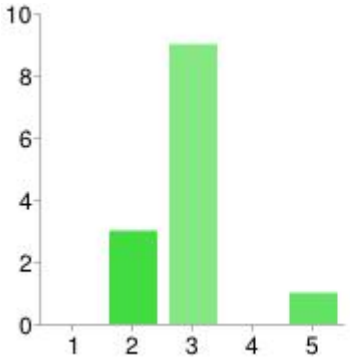
Did Philipp present the material at the right speed?



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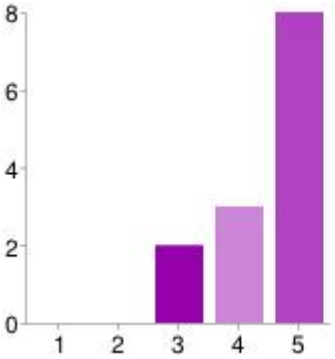
Did Philipp stress the importance of understanding ideas rather than memorizing facts?



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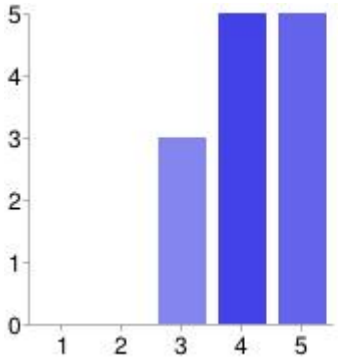
5	**8**	62%

Were Philipp's lectures clear and understandable?



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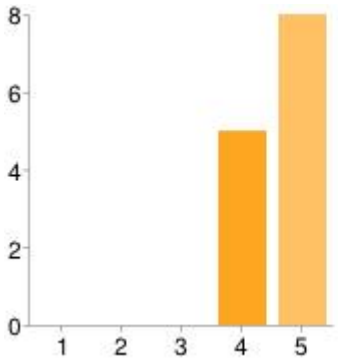
5	**5**	38%

Was Philipp accessible outside of class?



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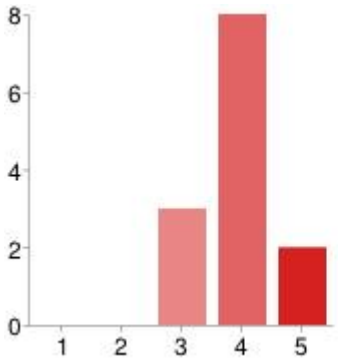
5	**8**	62%

What are your recommendations for Philipp?

Sometimes too technical. It is hard to follow. I feel like it is very useful that we coded together in class. But maybe it is not necessary that we do that all the time in class. After students become more familiar with the fundamentals, it might be good to speed up a bit by only explaining the codes in details, rather than coding all the details together. Perhaps spend less time on small technical less important details (even at a cost of ignoring some of the students' questions). you are sometimes too technical, it was really hard for me to follow and pay attention on class. However, you were always available to help and answer my stupid in/outside the class.

Stefano Mosso Feedback

Was Stefano organized?



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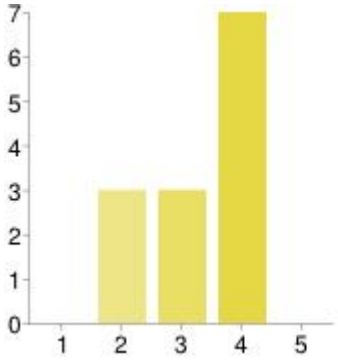
Did Stefano present the material at the right speed?



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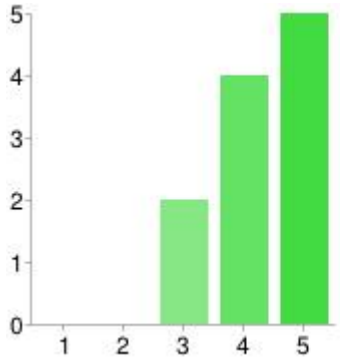
Did Stefano stress the importance of understanding ideas rather than memorizing facts?



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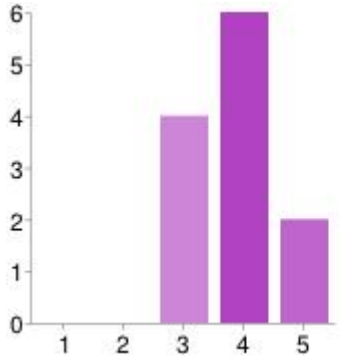
Were Stefano's lectures clear and understandable?



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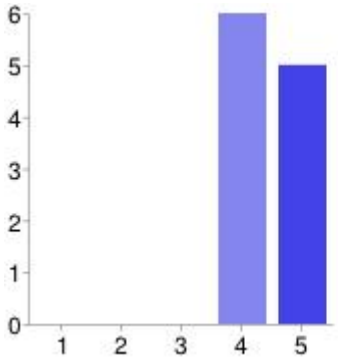
Was Stefano accessible outside of class?



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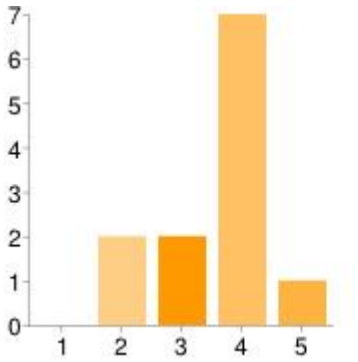
4	**6**	55%
5	**5**	45%

What are your recommendations for Stefano?

I hope Stefano could share more about his own experience of learning Python, and the motivation of learning it, although he already did a lot of this in class. For his lecture on Git, it would be great if there are notes that summarize this lecture, which would make it much easier for students to follow.

Homework Feedback

Were the homework assignments were useful, appopriate, reasonable esp. with regards to research?



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3	**2**	17%
4	**7**	58%
5	**1**	8%

What would you change about the homework?

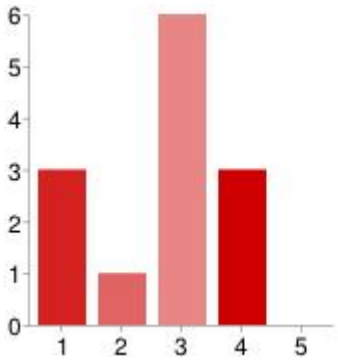
I would put more clear objectives (in bullet form, for example) in the assignment. computing the gradient by hand wasn't a good idea. There could be more homework exercises. There could be some readings assigned, and the homework is used to practice what we read, which i think might be an efficient way to learn. Homework shouldn't be very time consuming, but could be assigned more often to make sure the marginal return of each homework is very high. I would suggest for more frequent but smaller projects.I think we should have had shorter, but weekly or bi-monthly homework to learn the material. It might be useful to try to do more, smaller assignments, rather than just a couple larger projects. Maybe a couple larger homeworks, but then some smaller ones mixed in that are more focused on an individual concept. hard to understand the question

What did you like about the homework?

They built off of what what was covered in class. And they were later integrated into what was done later. It was great. We were asked to extend what we coded in class for the generalized roy model, which helped me to understand the identification and estimation issues of Roy model so much better!

Guest Lectures

How useful was the guest lecture from the Social Science Computer Services (SSCS)?



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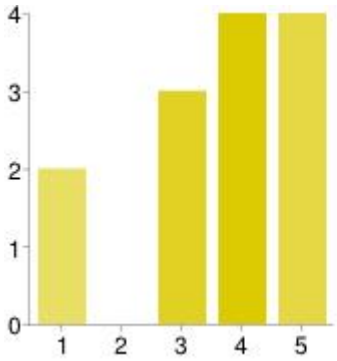
How useful was the guest lecture from the Research Computer Center (RCC)?



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Final Thoughts

What aspects of the course should be changed?

1. would be great if the students are required to read something outside of the class to complement what have been covered in class. 2. could save some time by not coding all the details together, but spend more time on explaining the insights behind the codes and the strengths of this software which Matlab/R does not have. more practice, more practice, more practice. The class took a while to get started, and I think that ended up rushing the class at the end. I think it would be very helpful to try to do some of the basic Python setup outside of class. Perhaps have additional classes before the start of the quarter or at the beginning of first week so that we don't spend so much time with basic installation. The additional time might be used to either go through some additional tools (more in-depth github or parallelization) or explain some of the concepts better (in particular, I think recursion was a bit rushed), or go through the last model in a bit more depth, which was also a bit rushed. Perhaps presenting specific useful libraries (your own or written by somebody else). For instance, on automatic differentiation, integration etc. -We spent too much time installing ecplise. I think the class should look like: 1)Introduction to github and introduce the RCC/SSCS server 2) Installation of text editor (Not vi, hard to understand for me), text wrangler was easier for me 3)Make sure everyone has unix on his/her machine I think if do 1), 2), 3) at the beginning you ll save time and can focus more on the content than the logistic.

What aspects of the course should be retained?

Philipp and Stefano are great instructors and very helpful! They are doing a great service for introducing these methods to the students for which there was no readily available sources before. Using generalized roy model as the main focus of the class is good.Going through a long piece of prepared code / writing part of the code in class. This is a very useful experience that is more fun when done in group rather than alone on your laptop. really good class, even if I wanted drop it more than once