

Early Course Feedback 10-610

- There are several options for structuring the KDD Lab in future years. Please let me know which one you think is most appropriate, and why.
 - (a) Your own research project (current version of the Lab), with the rationale that you get to spend more time on your research.
 - (b) A research project outside your area (as in the most recent 15-781 Machine Learning class), with the rationale that students gain data mining skills outside your research area.
 - (c) Several different problems and data sets, with the rationale that students acquire skills handling different types of data.

Response: a: 7, b: 1, c: 8 (plus skills for data mining tools, as mentined in one response).

Action item: Sebastian will pass this on for future years.

- So far, the Lab has had a strong emphasis on presentation skills. The rationale is that these skills are important for you scientific career. Should the focus be different? Any suggestions?

Response: focus right: 12, diferent focus: 4

Particular suggestions: software tools (2 response) and readings (1 response). One student already learned all these skills in another course, another suggests a special seminar course.

Action item: Sebastian will proceed as planned, with a shift towards the scientific phase of the course.

- For the present course, would you be interested in an introductory session that demonstrates existing data mining software in CALD?

Response: yes: 16, no: 0

Action item: Let's do it!

- For the present course, would you be interested in a session on scientific methods for assessing the outcomes of machine learning research?

Response: yes: 15, no: 1

Action item: Let's do it! It was in the plans anyhow.

- For the present course, would you be interested in corporate presentations on specific data mining problems?

Response: yes: 7, somewhat: 3, no: 4, undecided: 2

Was generally perceived less important.

Action item: I'll keep my eyes open for possibly interesting industrial people.

- For the present course, would you be interested in homework assignments involving other data sets (of course, this would be very doable assignments, such as visualization exercises)?

Response: yes: 5, no: 9, undecided: 2

Action item: Hmm. Looks like a clear majority vote. I'll think about that.

- Are you a first year or a second year KDD student?

- Other suggestions or comments:

Response: Pizza mandatory during class.

2 students reinforced their suggestion to make this class more of a lab. Action item: I'll order pizza.