LUNDS UNIVERSITET

Matematikcentrum
Matematik NF

Compilation Report for Foundations of Algebra, Spring 2020

Module leader: Kjell Elfström
Other teachers: Douglas Svensson Seth
Number of students: 79.
Grades in the original examination: 21 V, 33 G, 1 U

Evaluation

Compilation of the evaluation: See the following pages.
Teacher's comments: Owing to the pandemic, I replaced the lectures with written guides posted on Canvas. The seminars were held online by Douglas. This is clearly reflected in the diagrams. It came as a surprise, however, that so many students gave good reviews to the number of teacher lead activities. Their opinions about the lectures and seminars were as one could expect. Apart from that and from their opinions about to what extent the course increased their ability to communicate the subject orally, the students seem to be pleased.

The course literature, written by me, also seems to be appreciated with one notable exception. The book contains terms that that student never heard before. This is correct. The students are after all expected to learn new things. There was apparently a need for googling terms. This is wrong. All terms used are meticulously defined. It is, after all, a course on the foundations of algebra and in fact of mathematics.

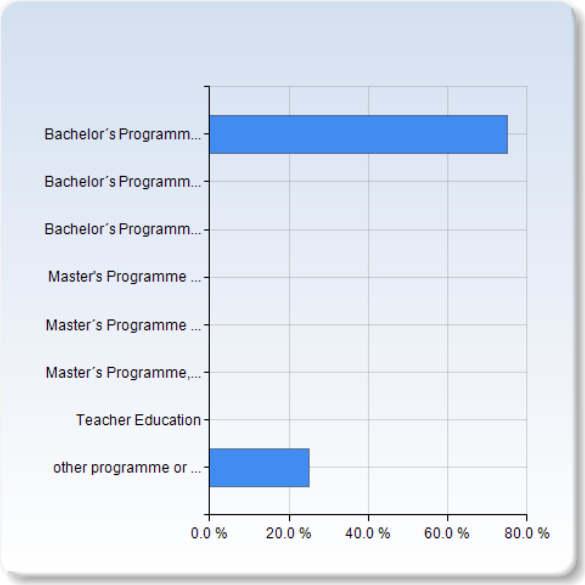
Douglas's work was appreciated.
Evaluation of changes since the last time the module ran: The previous evaluation did not cause any changes.
Suggestions for changes prior to the next time the module will be offered: Because of the special circumstances this term, the result of the survey does not call for any change.
Compiler and date of compilation report: Kjell Elfström, 8 June 2020.

Foundations of Algebra, Spring 2020

Answer Count: 12

I have studied this course as part of

I have studied this course as part of	Number of Responses
Bachelor´s Programme in Mathematics	9 (75.0%)
Bachelor´s Programme in Physics, Theoretical Physics, Astronomy	0 (0.0%)
Bachelor´s Programme, other specialization	0 (0.0%)
Master's Programme in Mathematics	0 (0.0%)
Master´s Programme in Mathematical Statistics	0 (0.0%)
Master´s Programme, other specialization	0 (0.0%)
Teacher Education	0 (0.0%)
other programme or as stand alone course	3 (25.0%)
Total	12 (100.0%)

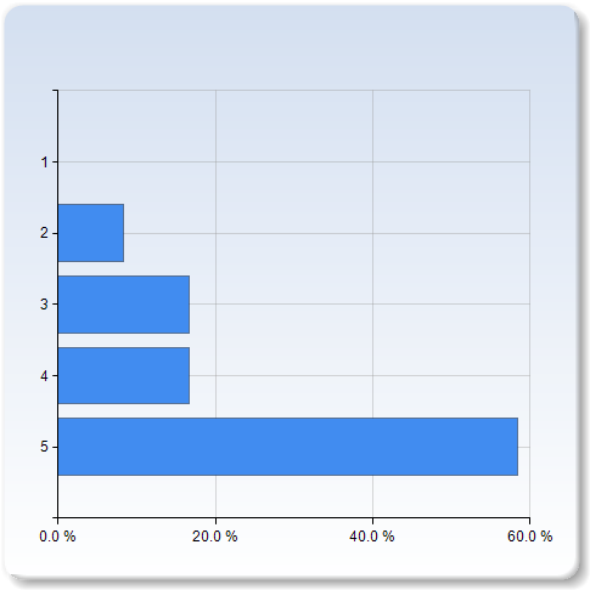


	Mean	Standard Deviation
I have studied this course as part of	2.8	3.2

On the scale 1-5 select the option that best matches your opinion: 1= disagree completely → 3= partly agree → 5= agree completely

2. My prior knowledge has been sufficient to assimilate the contents of this course.

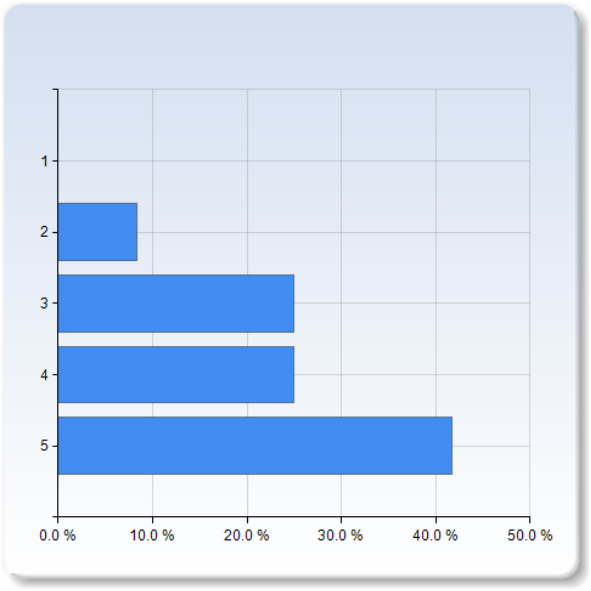
2. My prior knowledge has been sufficient to assimilate the contents of this course.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	2 (16.7%)
5	7 (58.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
2. My prior knowledge has been sufficient to assimilate the contents of this course.	4.3	1.1

3. I have participated actively in the course.

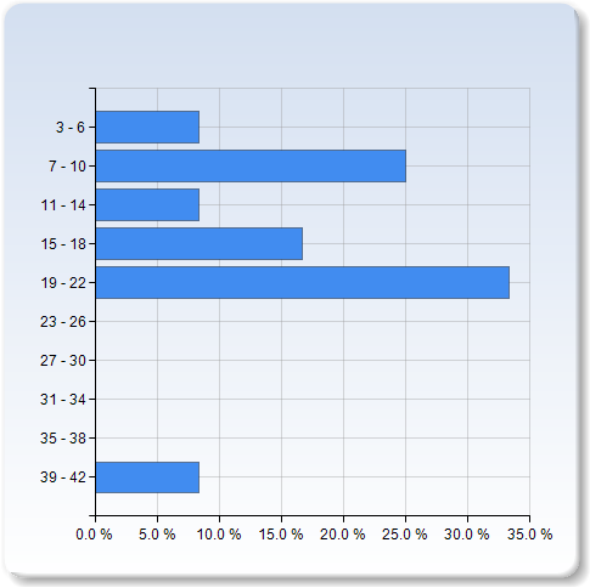
3. I have participated actively in the course.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	3 (25.0%)
4	3 (25.0%)
5	5 (41.7%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
3. I have participated actively in the course.	4.0	1.0

Average number of hours spent in total on the course per week (including scheduled activities):

Average number of hours spent in total on the course per week (including scheduled activities):	Number of Responses
3 - 6	1 (8.3%)
7 - 10	3 (25.0%)
11 - 14	1 (8.3%)
15 - 18	2 (16.7%)
19 - 22	4 (33.3%)
23 - 26	0 (0.0%)
27 - 30	0 (0.0%)
31 - 34	0 (0.0%)
35 - 38	0 (0.0%)
39 - 42	1 (8.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



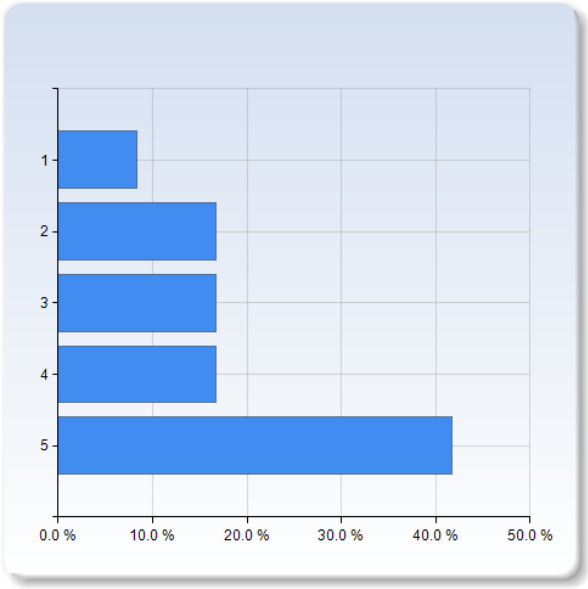
	Mean	Standard Deviation
Average number of hours spent in total on the course per week (including scheduled activities):	16.6	9.3

The course in general

On the scale 1-5 select the option that best matches your opinion: 1= disagree completely → 3= partly agree → 5= agree completely

The way the course was taught and organised suited me.

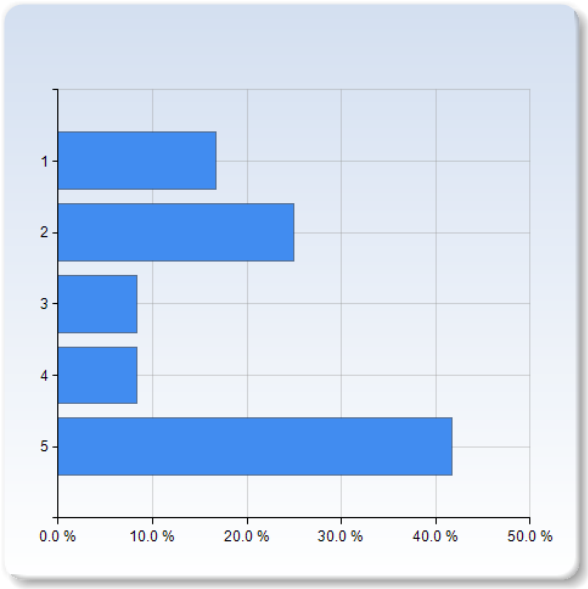
The way the course was taught and organised suited me.	Number of Responses
1	1 (8.3%)
2	2 (16.7%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	2 (16.7%)
5	5 (41.7%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The way the course was taught and organised suited me.	3.7	1.4

The number of teacher lead activities (lectures, seminars etc.) has been satisfactory.

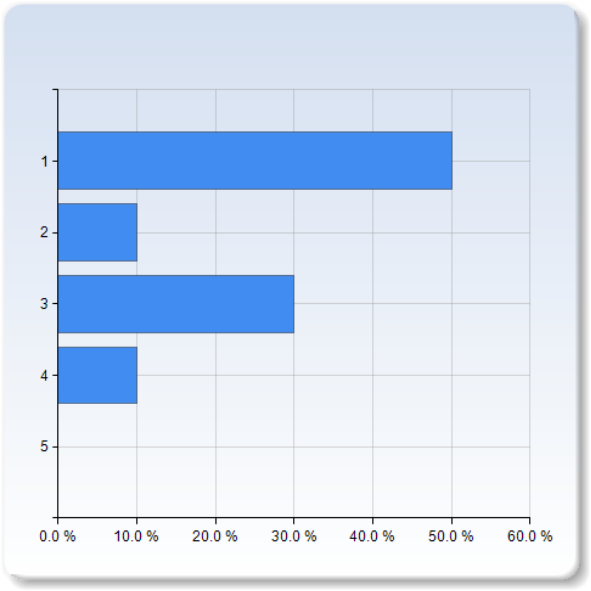
The number of teacher lead activities (lectures, seminars etc.) has been satisfactory.	Number of Responses
1	2 (16.7%)
2	3 (25.0%)
3	1 (8.3%)
4	1 (8.3%)
5	5 (41.7%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The number of teacher lead activities (lectures, seminars etc.) has been satisfactory.	3.3	1.7

The lectures were valuable for my learning.

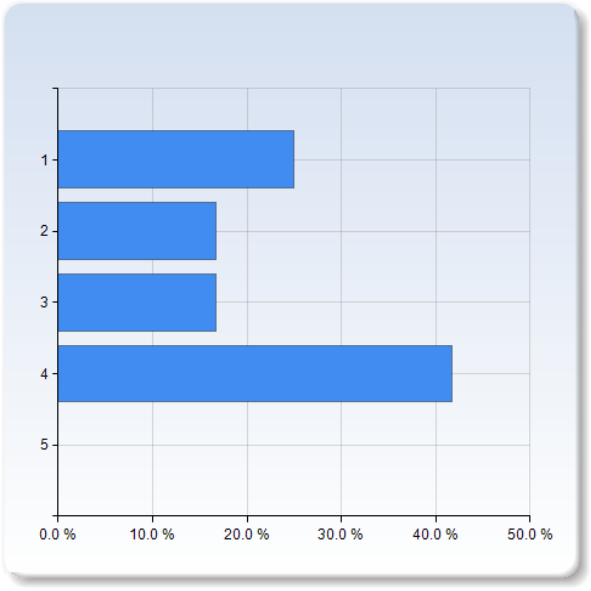
The lectures were valuable for my learning.	Number of Responses
1	5 (50.0%)
2	1 (10.0%)
3	3 (30.0%)
4	1 (10.0%)
5	0 (0.0%)
Total	10 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The lectures were valuable for my learning.	2.0	1.2

The seminars were valuable for my learning.

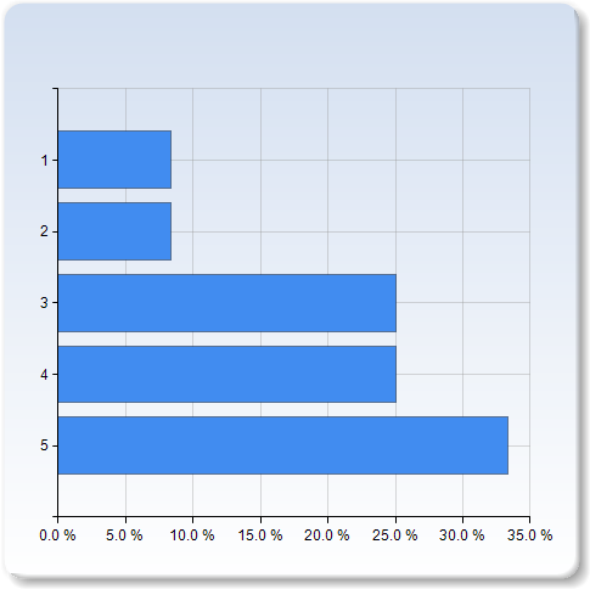
The seminars were valuable for my learning.	Number of Responses
1	3 (25.0%)
2	2 (16.7%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	5 (41.7%)
5	0 (0.0%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The seminars were valuable for my learning.	2.8	1.3

The project was valuable for my learning.

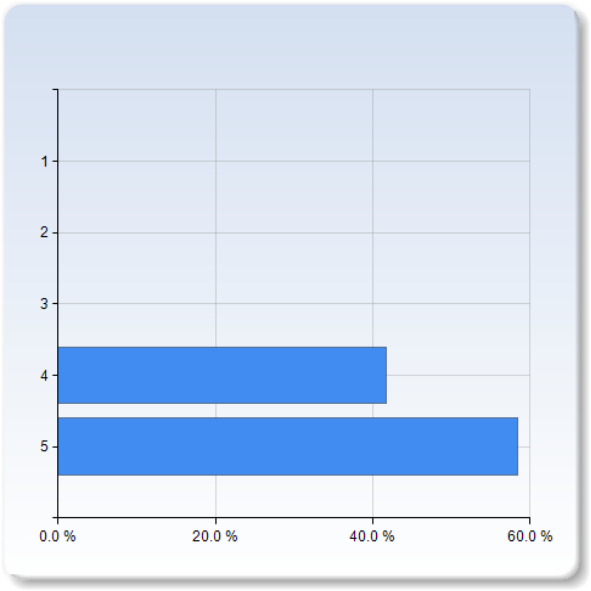
The project was valuable for my learning.	Number of Responses
1	1 (8.3%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	3 (25.0%)
4	3 (25.0%)
5	4 (33.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The project was valuable for my learning.	3.7	1.3

Studying on my own was valuable for my learning.

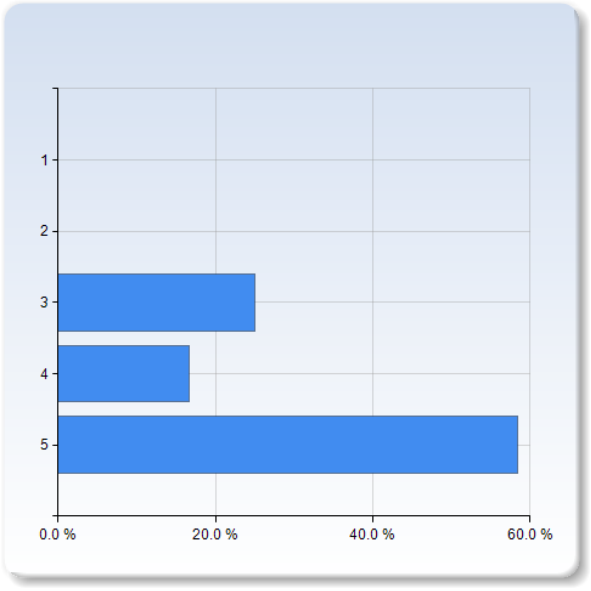
Studying on my own was valuable for my learning.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	0 (0.0%)
4	5 (41.7%)
5	7 (58.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
Studying on my own was valuable for my learning.	4.6	0.5

The course literature/material was a valuable learning resource.

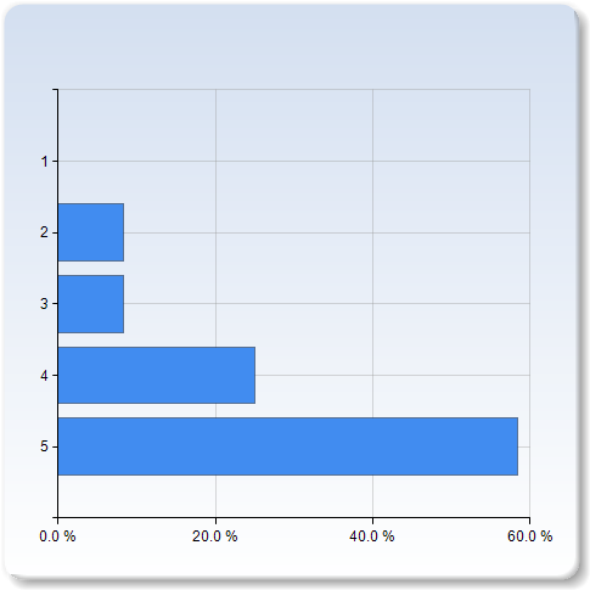
The course literature/material was a valuable learning resource.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	3 (25.0%)
4	2 (16.7%)
5	7 (58.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course literature/material was a valuable learning resource.	4.3	0.9

The information I received before the course start was satisfactory.

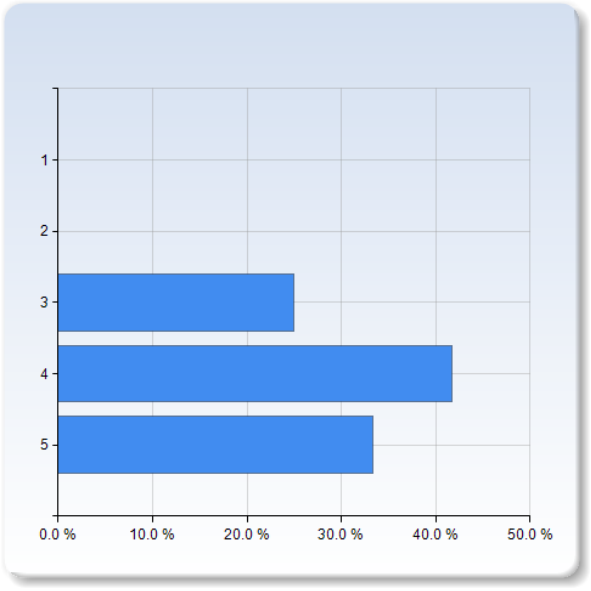
The information I received before the course start was satisfactory.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	1 (8.3%)
4	3 (25.0%)
5	7 (58.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The information I received before the course start was satisfactory.	4.3	1.0

The communication with the teaching staff during the course was good.

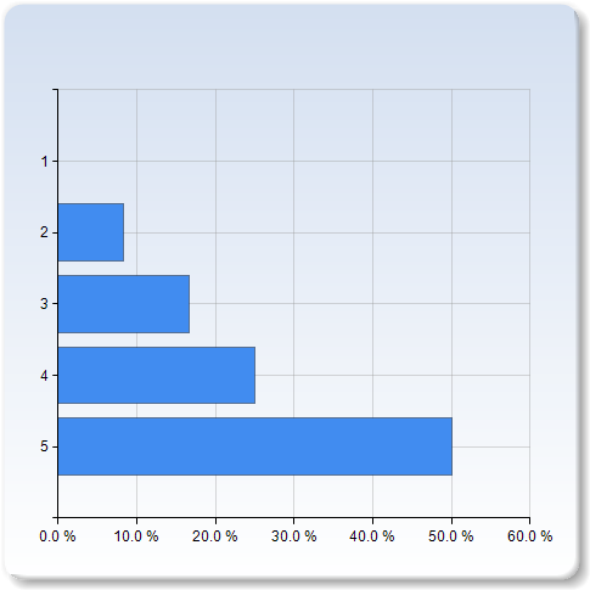
The communication with the teaching staff during the course was good.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	3 (25.0%)
4	5 (41.7%)
5	4 (33.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The communication with the teaching staff during the course was good.	4.1	0.8

It was clear throughout the course what was expected of me.

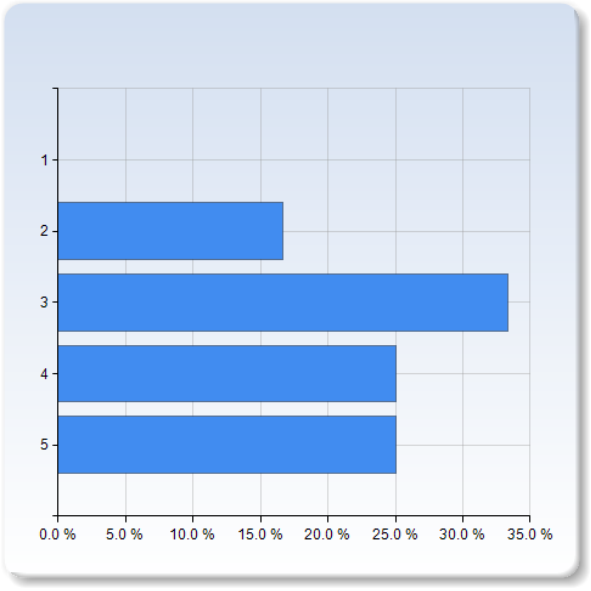
It was clear throughout the course what was expected of me.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	3 (25.0%)
5	6 (50.0%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
It was clear throughout the course what was expected of me.	4.2	1.0

I have received valuable feedback from my teacher/teachers during the course.

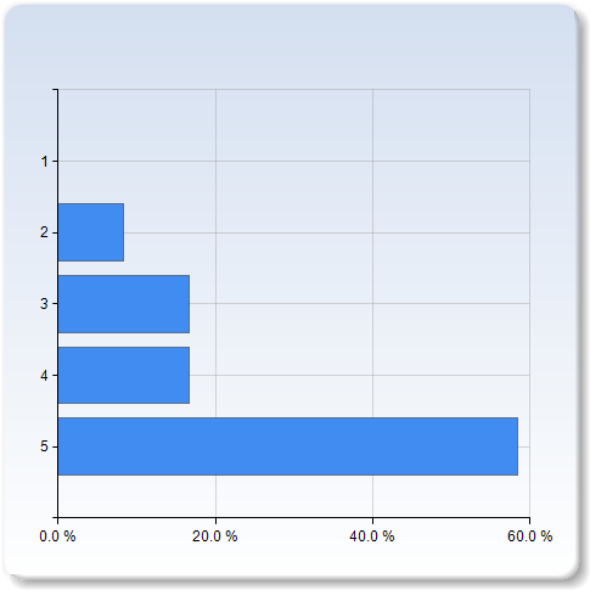
I have received valuable feedback from my teacher /teachers during the course.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	2 (16.7%)
3	4 (33.3%)
4	3 (25.0%)
5	3 (25.0%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
I have received valuable feedback from my teacher/teachers during the course.	3.6	1.1

The course had a reasonable workload.

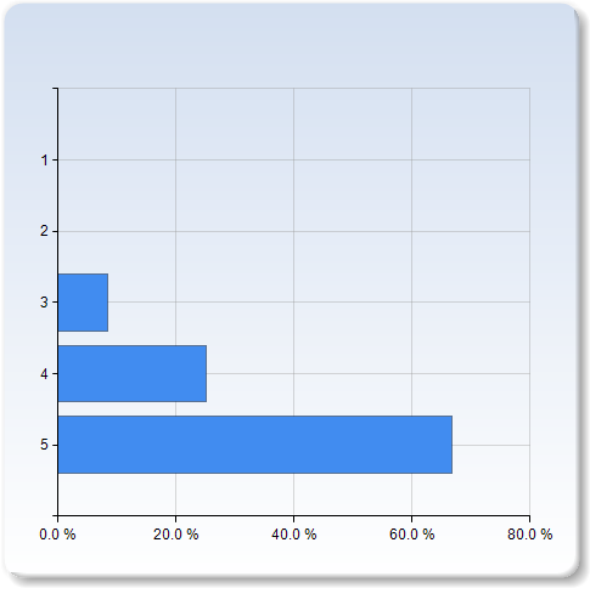
The course had a reasonable workload.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	2 (16.7%)
5	7 (58.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course had a reasonable workload.	4.3	1.1

The workload was evenly distributed throughout the course.

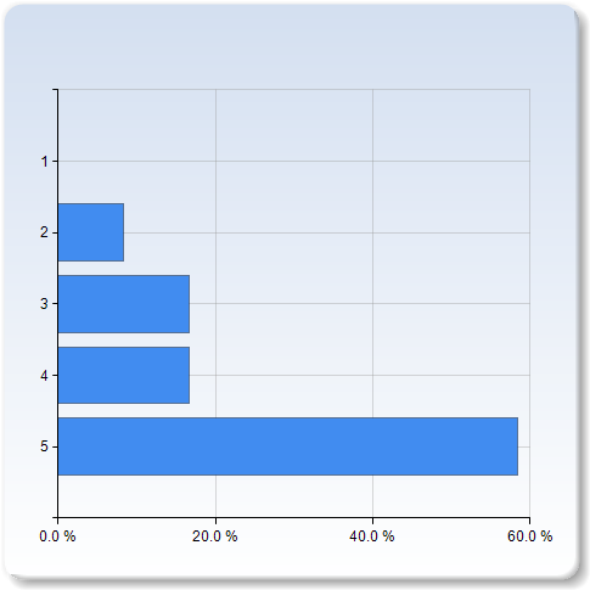
The workload was evenly distributed throughout the course.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	1 (8.3%)
4	3 (25.0%)
5	8 (66.7%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The workload was evenly distributed throughout the course.	4.6	0.7

The examination matched the contents and level of the course.

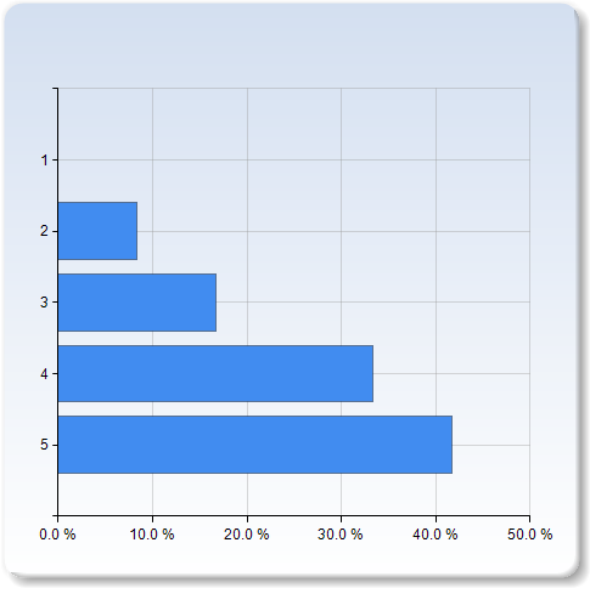
The examination matched the contents and level of the course.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	2 (16.7%)
5	7 (58.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The examination matched the contents and level of the course.	4.3	1.1

Overall, I am satisfied with the course.

Overall, I am satisfied with the course.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	4 (33.3%)
5	5 (41.7%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



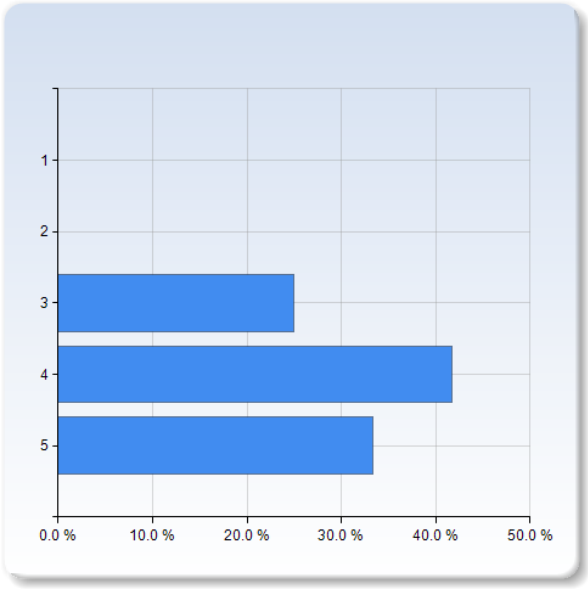
	Mean	Standard Deviation
Overall, I am satisfied with the course.	4.1	1.0

On the development of generic skills

On a scale 1-5 select the option that best matches your opinion: 1= disagree completely → 3= partly agree → 5= agree completely

The course has increased my ability to read a mathematical text.

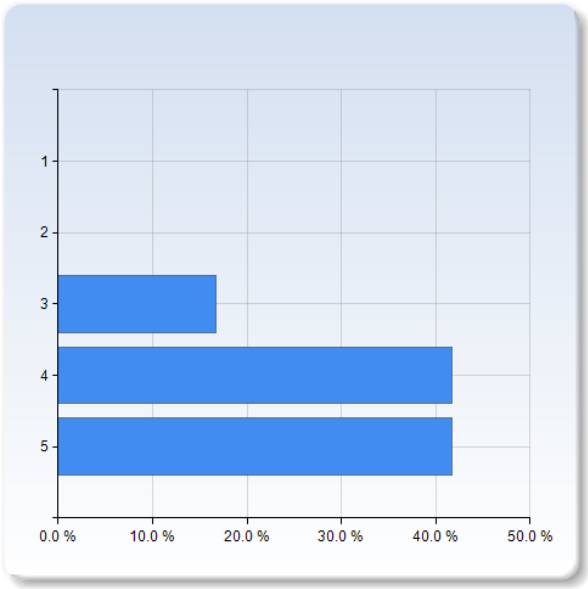
The course has increased my ability to read a mathematical text.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	3 (25.0%)
4	5 (41.7%)
5	4 (33.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course has increased my ability to read a mathematical text.	4.1	0.8

The course has increased my ability to communicate the subject in writing.

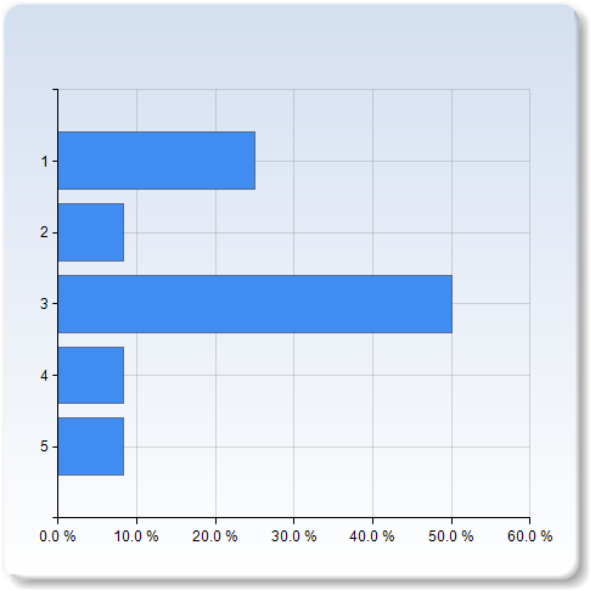
The course has increased my ability to communicate the subject in writing.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	2 (16.7%)
4	5 (41.7%)
5	5 (41.7%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course has increased my ability to communicate the subject in writing.	4.3	0.8

The course has increased my ability to communicate the subject orally.

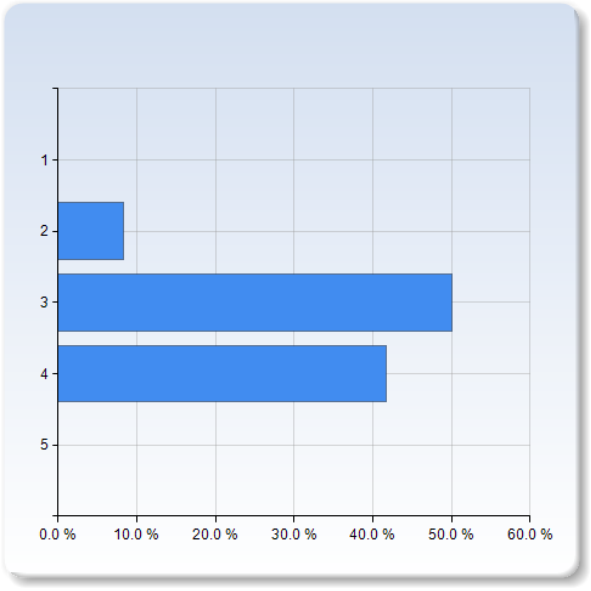
The course has increased my ability to communicate the subject orally.	Number of Responses
1	3 (25.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	6 (50.0%)
4	1 (8.3%)
5	1 (8.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course has increased my ability to communicate the subject orally.	2.7	1.2

The course has increased my ability to cooperate.

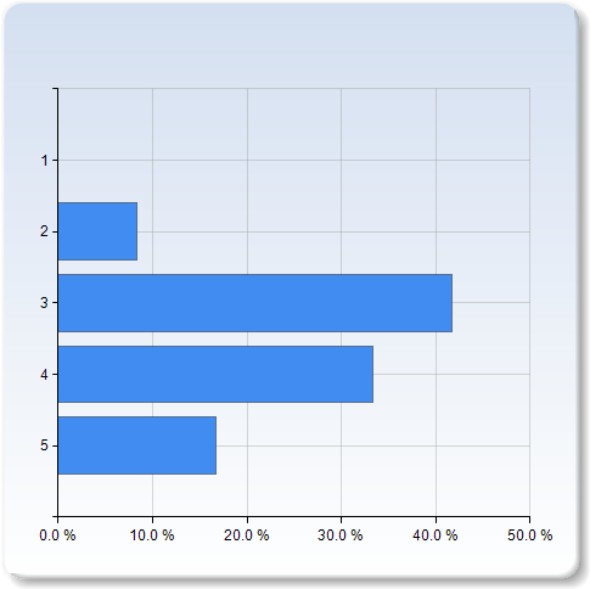
The course has increased my ability to cooperate.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	6 (50.0%)
4	5 (41.7%)
5	0 (0.0%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course has increased my ability to cooperate.	3.3	0.7

The course has increased my ability to search and process information.

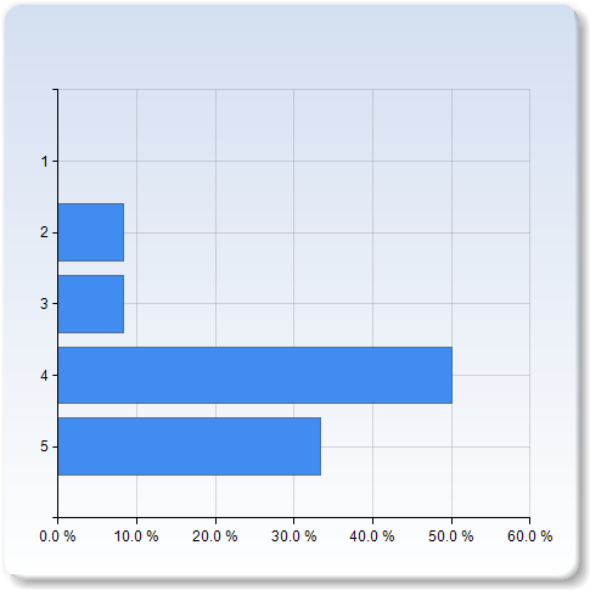
The course has increased my ability to search and process information.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	5 (41.7%)
4	4 (33.3%)
5	2 (16.7%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course has increased my ability to search and process information.	3.6	0.9

The course has increased my ability to analyze and solve problems.

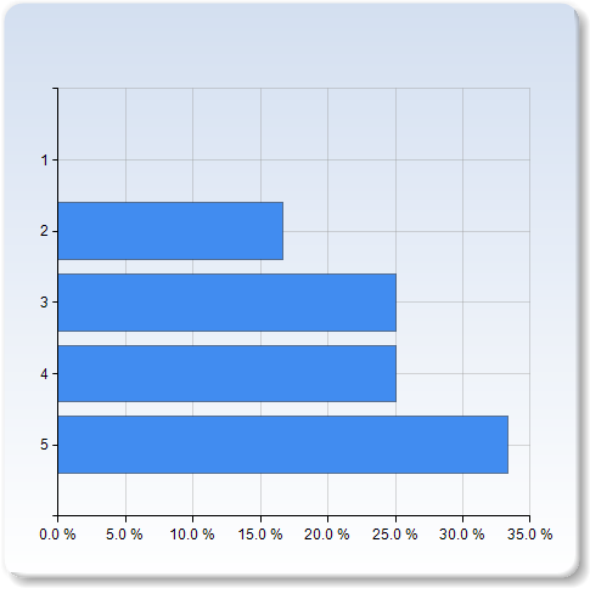
The course has increased my ability to analyze and solve problems.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (8.3%)
3	1 (8.3%)
4	6 (50.0%)
5	4 (33.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course has increased my ability to analyze and solve problems.	4.1	0.9

As a result of this course, I feel confident about tackling unfamiliar problems.

As a result of this course, I feel confident about tackling unfamiliar problems.	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	2 (16.7%)
3	3 (25.0%)
4	3 (25.0%)
5	4 (33.3%)
Total	12 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
As a result of this course, I feel confident about tackling unfamiliar problems.	3.8	1.1

What did you appreciate most with the course?

What did you appreciate most with the course?
I really loved the lecture notes, they are very well structured and organized. It was very useful to have good lecture notes given the coronavirus.
The course textbook is great. I enjoyed the assignment exercises also.
Course literature (as always by Kjell, apreciate that a lot comparing to analysis), schedule was perfectly adjusted to the content, Douglas was always prepared for the seminars, overall organisation and structure was great.
Nice to have a challenging last problem (no 7) in the examination - better than oral exam. The weekly solutions to the seminar problems was also very nice and well written.
Douglas did a good job. He really listened to our requests and took his time for us. He also responded very fast and clearly to an emailed question I had and made sure I understood.
The course litterature.
The projects and the lecture notes
The number of past exams available for the students to revise.
I really appreciated the lectures notes, they were very structured and had great examples. I also thought that Kjell's solutions to the exercises that he posted the same day that they were due was very good and it really helped my learning. I'm thankful that he took the time to do them. Douglas was a good seminar teacher, he always did the exercises that you requested him to do and he explained them well. He always answered questions as well and made sure that you understood.

What do you think should be improved?

What do you think should be improved?
It's hard to say, the course has been so different due to the coronavirus.
The level of experience, preparedness, pace of seminars has definitely room for improvement and can be held to a higher standard (my comparison here is with the level of other seminars in other courses). It was sad that Kjell had decided not to give lectures as he is an inspiring teacher and this was a fun course. Was looking forward to Kjell's classes but i understand that these are strange times and we must adopt to them. Nevertheless, following the textbook, even without a teacher, was a great experience.
One small detail: at the end of the course there was no seminar where we would have a chance to ask questions or request exercises from prior examinations to prepare for our exam.
Looking at past examination papers, the problems are quite similar to each other. The last problem this year was really nice because it was of a new type, but it would have been nice if the other problems could also be more various.
There should definitely be lectures. It is terrible to just have a book and seminars and book wasn't even good. I had a lot of trouble understanding the text. Furthermore, the book is not always clear and sometimes uses terms I have not heard of before and expects me to be able to use them. This resulted in me having to spend a ridiculous amount of time every week to understand everything and google terms. I had to hope there were video's online to see people do some examples and explain concepts. All in all, This was terrible without lectures and the exam was without any surveillance, people can do what they want.
The seminars could be more compact
It was hard to read and understand the course literature, but that probably has to do with the fact that the course was taught online.

Have you during this course experienced course literature, staff or teaching methods to be discriminatory in any way (gender, ethnicity, etc.)?

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No
No
No at all.
no.
No
No
No.
No.